

Official Matchday Programme of Luton Town Football Club



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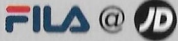
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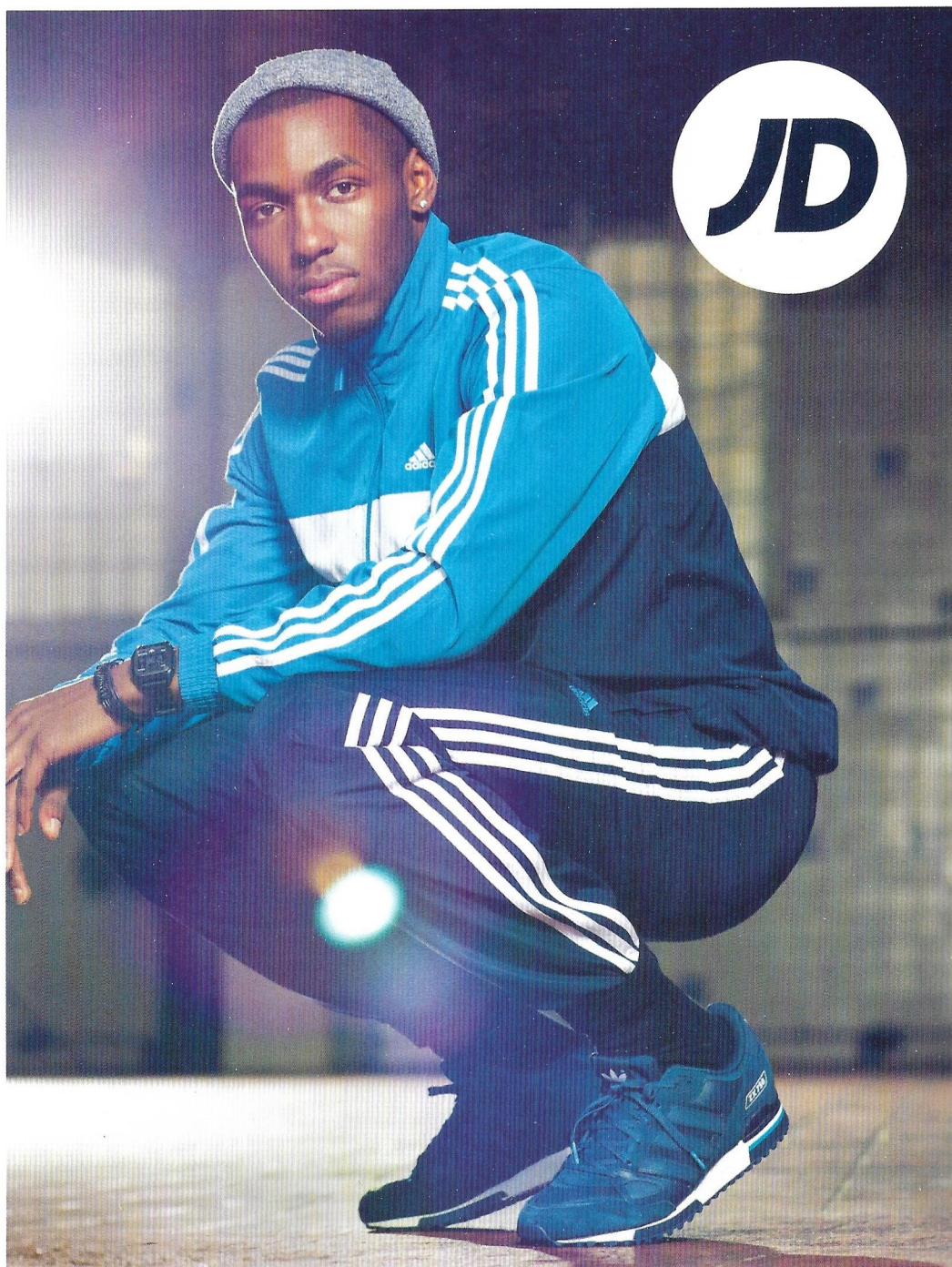


COMPETITION



LUTON TOWN v MANSFIELD TOWN

SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2013 • 3PM



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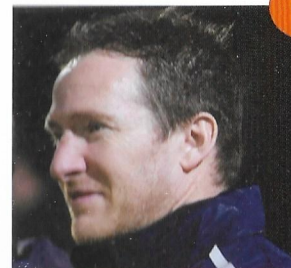
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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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



ALAN

NEILSON

Good afternoon and welcome to Kenilworth Road for today's game against Mansfield Town.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors, including their manager Paul Cox, plus his management team and players.

The past few days have been very difficult following the news that Paul Buckle left the club. I was told by Gary Sweet at the team hotel prior to the Macclesfield game and it goes without saying that it came to a massive shock.

That meant myself, Carl Emberson, Stuart Cash and Dmitri Kharine were placed in charge of the game, as we are again this afternoon.

Decisions

In the lead up to the Macclesfield game we had already worked on and spoken about tactics and team selection for the match with Paul, but we never envisaged that we would be in the position of making the decisions directly without him.

The performance itself was mixed. We started very well, hitting the post early on before Andre Gray put us ahead. Macclesfield had their goalkeeper sent off but we failed to build on our numerical advantage.

Our second half display was less encouraging but we were in for training on Wednesday to assess what happened and went over how we could have improved our performance.

It was hugely disappointing to only earn a point but, if we're looking for positives, we stopped the rot away from home and scored – something we haven't done a lot in recent fixtures away from Kenilworth Road.

Tuesday's second half display highlighted our need for improvement and I am hoping that will be evident this afternoon. Mansfield are doing well themselves, overcoming an indifferent spell of form earlier in the season to now be one of the contenders for promotion.

We should not forget that whilst the last few months have been disappointing, we still have a very good squad of talented players at this club. For me, confidence is the biggest thing in football.

Without it, players can struggle, but with it they can thrive and show their true potential. Myself, Carl, Stuart and Dimi's job is to ensure that the players' belief is there.

But we need to start somewhere. Macclesfield was a point gained. We cannot afford to look back on past results in a negative way as that doesn't help anyone. Positivity and confidence breeds and we need to kick-start that and build momentum today.

Confidence

There is a lot of football still left to be played between now and the end of the season. 17 games, including today's, remain, and we'll be playing twice a week right now until the end. The schedule itself gives us an opportunity to build momentum and lift confidence, and a win this afternoon would work wonders.

With confidence players are quicker, stronger and better on the ball. When the pressure is off – like we showed against Norwich and Wolves – players can enjoy their football. That's what we need to go back to.

I want players playing with confidence because we have some exceptional players at this football club. They are good enough – they just need it coaxing out of them at the minute.

Situations like the one we find ourselves in now are never easy, but now is not the time to just throw in the towel.

We need your support today like we've never needed before. Forget Norwich and Wolves – today is a huge game, so please get behind the players who are selected this afternoon. We all want the same thing, remember – for Luton Town to be a success.

The players' efforts in the FA Cup have installed a lot of pride back into the club and into the town – but now is the time we all join forces to ensure that this pride is not lost.

Thank you for your support and get behind us this afternoon.

All the best,
Alan



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID WILKINSON



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

Having had a disappointing start to the season Mansfield have recently hit form and are now right in the mix for Play-Offs and promotion so we

hope for an exciting and competitive game this afternoon.

As part of my current research I can tell you that we have played each other 28 times since I first came to Kenilworth Road in 1958, which includes the game in 1968 in which Graham French scored what has been voted as Luton's best ever goal – and you can read about that elsewhere in today's programme.

Hopes

They say a week is a long time in politics well what is it in football? A week ago we were about to play in the FA Cup fifth round with hopes of being the first non-league club in almost a century to make the quarter-finals, and now after a disappointing 1-1 draw on Tuesday night, we are once again looking for a new manager.

As on previous occasions, the Board has appointed a committee to put together a list of applicants and potential targets and to refine a shortlist.

The committee for this stage of the process will consist of Gary Sweet, Barry Gold and Billy Jennings. Barry and Billy have been working with us for a little while now, and have vast knowledge of and extensive contacts in the business.

Interviews

They will inquire and research more deeply and the top candidates be invited to interviews. The Board has set out the necessary criteria and the strengths expected from the chosen one.

I believe that the attributes are what most fans would expect, but it has to be said that even Sir Alex might not

tick all the boxes. In other words we are being demanding, but we have a short time scale and we are a Conference football club so some compromises may have to be made.

I also need to say that it is our hope that we can find a man to become part of the "Luton family" and give us some long-term stability.

Fantastic supporter base

We appreciate that the job is not easy and the pressures are much greater than at smaller clubs that lack our history and fantastic supporter base, but we are determined to get it right for the long-term and not have to make this the annual event, which it seems to have become.

Paul Buckle's departure was not expected, and we spent a lot of time making sure that he was comfortable with the decision. It became increasingly clear that he had no option but to depart.

We have promised Paul that, although we now know the full facts behind the decision we will not disclose them until they become public information, at which time it will become clear that his reasons were genuine and not football related.

We have enjoyed working with him, believe that he has made a difference and wish him well in his future endeavours. We are parting on good terms and I hope that we can include him amongst our supporters in the future.

Media storm

On a lighter note in the Boardroom before the Millwall game we were discussing the media storm surrounding it and the revival of memories of 1985, and both sides commented that we had played each other a lot since then with limited problems so I thought I would look up the facts.

We have played Millwall 27 times in all competitions without any significant trouble. In fact since I first came to Kenilworth Road, we have played them over 50 times, and they are second in our most-played-against chart equalling Watford and QPR.

In earlier notes this season I said that I would research the number of away grounds I had visited following Luton, because there cannot be many clubs inside or outside the League, which I haven't been too. Become a Luton fan and see the country!

Since 1958 we have played against 145 different football clubs on their own grounds in all competitions, not counting friendlies. The most visited is Bristol Rovers.

Because of everything else that has been going on this week I haven't completed the job, but I will try to compile a list for a future programme of the number of different grounds we have been to. It has to be getting close to 200.

Approval

In conclusion, we may well have appointed our new manager by the time you read this. We all hope that he meets with your approval and support and we are able to welcome him as only we can.

We are all disappointed with a lot of our league performances this season and losing 10 games is not acceptable, however, the players and management are to be congratulated on a fantastic FA Cup run, culminating in victories over Wolves and Norwich. So we know what they are capable of as a group.

Winning mentality

We will do all we can to help create the right circumstances for Paul's successor to install a winning mentality as soon as possible.

Onwards and upwards.

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:

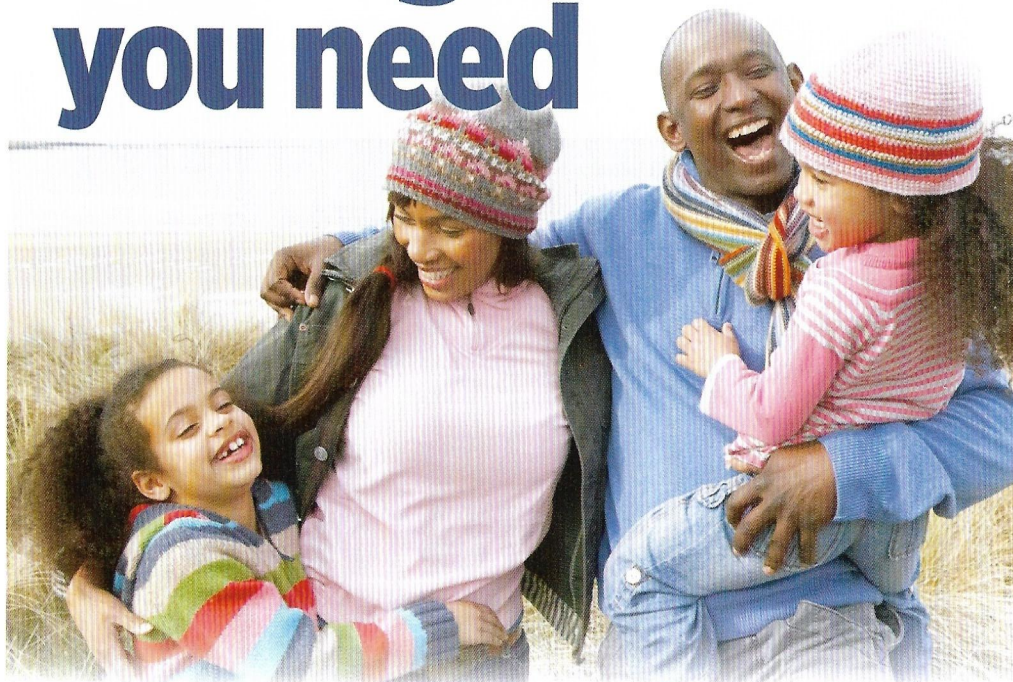
Runners-up 1913/14

United League: Champions 1897/98

Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

Southern Alliance: Runners-up 1913/14

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RONNIE HENRY

The last seven days have been a real whirlwind for everyone involved with Luton Town.

For starters, last Saturday's FA Cup defeat against Millwall was difficult to take. We had done ever so well to get to the fifth round and we were confident of putting in a performance similar to those against Wolves and Norwich.

Of course nobody expected us to beat Wolves and Norwich and to get as far as we did. It was strange afterwards to go back into the dressing room and be so disappointed to lose. Again it was individual error that led to Millwall taking the lead and it came at a time when we were looking as though we would go on and score the first goal.

We knew that the first goal would be vital and, whilst it wasn't to be and we rallied in search of an equaliser, we can't grumble, and we should be proud of reaching the fifth round. For a non-league team that is a fantastic achievement. At times like these it's good to remember the good times and during the cup run we made history by beating Norwich. Moments like these are never forgotten by footballers. That result and the attention we received as a result also helped put the club quite rightly back on the map.

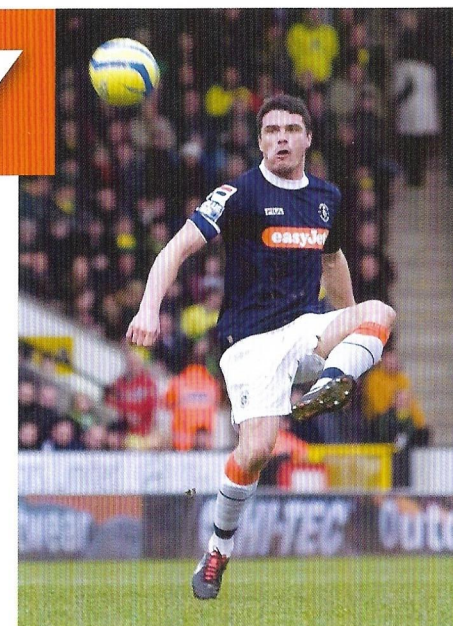
Shock

On Monday we trained as normal in preparation for Tuesday's game at Macclesfield and it came as a massive shock to all of us when we were told at around 4.15 on the Tuesday that Paul Buckle was leaving. It was a massive blow ahead of another important game, but we knew we had to focus on winning three points.

We started the match off very well and should have been a couple of goals up before we eventually took the lead through Andre Gray's goal. Macclesfield had their goalkeeper sent off but, despite having a number of chances, we couldn't find a second goal.

That proved to be costly as our second half performance was below par, and that allowed Macclesfield back into the game and they equalised with about 15 minutes left.

It was fair to say it wasn't a good evening. Paul's departure was totally unexpected; especially considering he only came to Kenilworth Road at the back end of last season.



He was beginning to build a team here, and the squad here is still extremely talented and full of winners. It was completely out of the blue, but on behalf of the rest of the lads, I would like to thank him and wish him the best of luck.

Good form

This afternoon we welcome Mansfield to Kenilworth Road, a team who are currently high on confidence and in good form. They are on the kind of run we need to get on if we are to succeed this season.

There is absolutely no reason why we cannot end this season with something to celebrate. It's important we win today – we need to start somewhere, and we have been in excellent form at home for several months now.

A positive result this afternoon could herald the start of something exciting and, if we're going to achieve that, we need your support too. We need you to keep the faith and really get behind us. The events of the last week have been tough on us all but it's vital we all stick together.

The Play-Offs are in reach and we certainly aren't giving up – not by a long shot. By the time I write my next notes we could have a new manager so, whoever it is, please give them all of your support.

Enjoy the game and get behind us.



AROUND TOWN

THE LATEST NEWS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

BUCKLE LEAVES TOWN

Hours before our match at Macclesfield on Tuesday night it was with much regret that we announced, by mutual consent, and as a result of genuine personal circumstances unrelated to his tenure as manager of Luton Town Football Club, that Paul Buckle had parted company with the Club. The reasons for Paul's departure are fully understood by the Board, who sincerely regret that he is leaving. We are fully aware that achieving managerial stability will create the conditions necessary for success on the football pitch.

We are grateful to Paul for what he has brought to the Club and believe that he has built the foundations necessary for Luton Town to achieve the Board's desire of returning to the Football League as soon as possible.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS UNDER WAY

On Wednesday morning members of the Hatters board met to discuss the process of appointing Paul Buckle's successor and a recruitment panel has been put in place to lead the football club into a new era. This panel includes the extremely experienced duo of Bill Jennings and Barry Gold.

They will undertake the role of football consultants by assisting the board of directors with their football expertise, to complete the process. Jennings and Gold have been working on recruitment and scouting for Luton Town Football Club for some time, are well known to the Club and will ensure the best outcome as their main priority. Once the panel was appointed it drew up the specific characteristics and key skills required to lead Luton Town and to establish the consistency of the interviewing process.

The board were united in the desired qualities needed for the next suitable candidate, however the appeal

of applicants deemed as 'wildcards' would again be assessed if they were confirmed as being suitably fit for the role to ensure the process is explored exhaustively.

A high number of applications have already been received by the panel and a short-list is being created.

The interviewing process will began on Thursday with Gary Sweet, Bill Jennings and Barry Gold conducting the initial stages. If an applicant is successful in the initial stage they will be recommended to other nominated board members to conclude the second and final stage of the interviewing process.

There is unlikely to be any further comment on this situation from the Club until terms have been agreed and a first team manager has been installed into his new position.

THREE UP THREE DOWN MESSAGE

Supporters in the Kenilworth Road were asked to help display an important message prior to our FA Cup tie with Millwall last Saturday.

Coloured cards were held aloft by fans to reveal 'Three Up, Three Down', a message Town chairman Nick Owen hopes can instigate an increase in the number of promotion and relegation places between the Football League and the Blue Square Bet Premier.

"It has become quite apparent over the past decade that the Conference has become a real bottleneck for football clubs wishing and needing to progress," said Owen.

"We are proud to be members of a League which is professionally run and which regularly produces high quality and exciting football being played by a host of professional clubs who boast attendance figures that would put several League sides to shame.

"We feel the current set-up of one automatic promotion spot could have potentially damaging repercussions on a

number of clubs who drop down to this division – there have already been two cases of clubs dropping out of the Football League who have since dissolved.

"The quality of football, allied with the fact promoted clubs from the Conference continue their success once in League 2, is a clear indication that, year-on-year, the Conference is improving and we – Luton Town – believe that should be rewarded by the football family."

If you're on Twitter, remember to continue to keep the #threeupthreedown message going by using the official hashtag to support the proposition.

NOW WE SEE YOU NOW WE DON'T

Town duo Jake Woolley and Alex Lacey were both given special dispensation to be named as substitutes in last Saturday's game with Millwall.

Both players were out on loan spells but, since the Hatters' exit from the competition, they have returned to Hitchin and Eastleigh respectively to continue their time out on loan.

In other developments involving Town players out on loan, winger James Dance scored in two successive games for Nuneaton – both in injury time – to ensure the Boro won their last two fixtures.

THOMAS GRANTED CLEARANCE

The Town's frustrating wait for Wayne Thomas' international clearance was finally put to bed following the granting of a provisional clearance by the Football Association on Wednesday.

Wayne put pen to paper on Monday 4th February and international clearance was immediately applied for from the Greek Football Federation (HFF) as he was last registered with Veria FC in Greece.

Usually international clearance is received within a day or two, but on this occasion the HFF did not respond at all forcing Wayne to sit out four matches including the FA Cup tie with Millwall when the Hatters were without the services of three central defenders through suspension and being cup-tied. Under FIFA regulations, if international clearance is not received within 15 clear days then the Football Association can issue a provisional clearance and this duly arrived today.

Wayne is now available for selection and will no doubt be keen to make his long awaited Hatters' debut.

HUGOFOX TO HELP THE HATTERS

The Hatters are to benefit from a new and unique sponsorship deal struck with the Bedfordshire Football Association.

The Beds FA are delighted to announce a two-year sponsorship with HugoFox.com, an online listings company, that proudly sponsor local sports communities through the companies and businesses that advertise on the site to promote job opportunities, cars and music events. The owner of HugoFox.com, Michael Thompson, kindly uses his advertising budget to sponsor local teams, and now this has grown to include all of Bedfordshire FA's affiliated clubs to at least the end of the 2014/15 season.

The local community will benefit from the sponsorship and the Hatters will be taking up the opportunity to create a page on the site, just like the grassroots clubs. Creating a club page is a great way for local clubs to generate extra funds by promoting the site to local businesses and reaping 20 per cent of the advertising fee that HugoFox.com allow the business to allocate to the clubs.

The sponsorship with HugoFox.com will further strengthen links between the club and county through development of new leagues for the football academy schemes to enter at weekends, as well as through coaching education and refereeing development.

There is a great potential for relationships with local businesses to develop whilst helping to re-invest into grassroots football.

For more information please email James Petty on james.petty@bedfordshirefa.com or email team@hugofox.com.

WINNERS WHERE ART THOU?

Not just one but two golden gambles remain unclaimed from our previous two home fixtures.

A mammoth £1,030 awaits the winner from our Millwall draw. Ticket number 25038 is the one you need to check your wallets for.

And one supporter is missing out on £595 following our draw from the Forest Green game on 9th February. 22656 is the ticket you need to look out for.

If you have either ticket contact our commercial department on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

Supporters get behind the 'Three Up, Three Down campaign

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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.



BRAINTREE TOWN v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

The game is NOT all-ticket. Admission will be by cash at the turnstiles on the night at Braintree. Seats (166 only – first come first served): adults £17, concessions (over 65s, under 16s and students on production of their student ID) £11. Terrace: adults £16, over 65s and students £10, under 16s £5 under 11s £3. Prices: £15 adults, £8 over-65s and 12-17-year-olds, £3 juniors under 11.



STOCKPORT COUNTY v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2013, KICK-OFF 3.00PM

Admission is pay on the day at Edgeley Park. We have an allocation of 1,200 uncovered seats. Prices: adults £16, 16-21 and over 65 £11, disabled and carer £11, under 16 £3



NUNEATON v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Admission is pay on the night at Liberty Way. We have an allocation 1,050 terrace places. Prices: adults £14, concessions £10, 12-16-year-olds £5, 5-11-year-olds £2 Transfer to seated area £2 with concessions or families given priority.



LUTON TOWN v HEREFORD UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



LUTON TOWN v HYDE

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road a week after one of the busiest matches we have overseen in recent seasons, when Millwall were the visitors in the FA Cup.

Whilst the result on the pitch wasn't what we wanted, the feedback we received from guests on the day was excellent, and the overall commercial operation was fantastic.

Today will not be as busy, but that's not to say it isn't any less important. When the fixtures were drawn out in the summer this match was at the top of a lot of people's wish list and I'm delighted to welcome Autotech Controls as match sponsor and Lea Manor High School as matchball sponsors.

Our next three matches after this afternoon's are all away from home before we return here in two weeks time when Hereford are the visitors.

As always, if you're interested in any sponsorship or hospitality for this game or any of the remaining matches at Kenilworth Road, please feel free to get in touch with us on the number or email address at the bottom of this page.

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TODAY'S MASCOTS

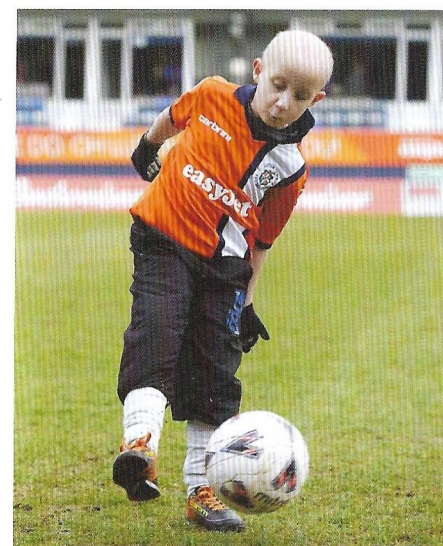
We have the pleasure of welcoming brothers Louis and Ben Twelvetree as our mascots for this afternoon's match.



Eight-year-old Louis is a towering centre-back for Hough End Griffins Under-9s and hopes one day to lead the Hatters out at Wembley. His favourite player is midfielder Alex Lawless.

Ben is 10, and his favourite player is top goalscorer is Andre Gray. Ben believes if the wind is blowing in the right direction he can hear Manchester United scoring, however, he's never wavered from his love for all things Luton Town.

We hope you both have a great day out at Kenilworth Road.



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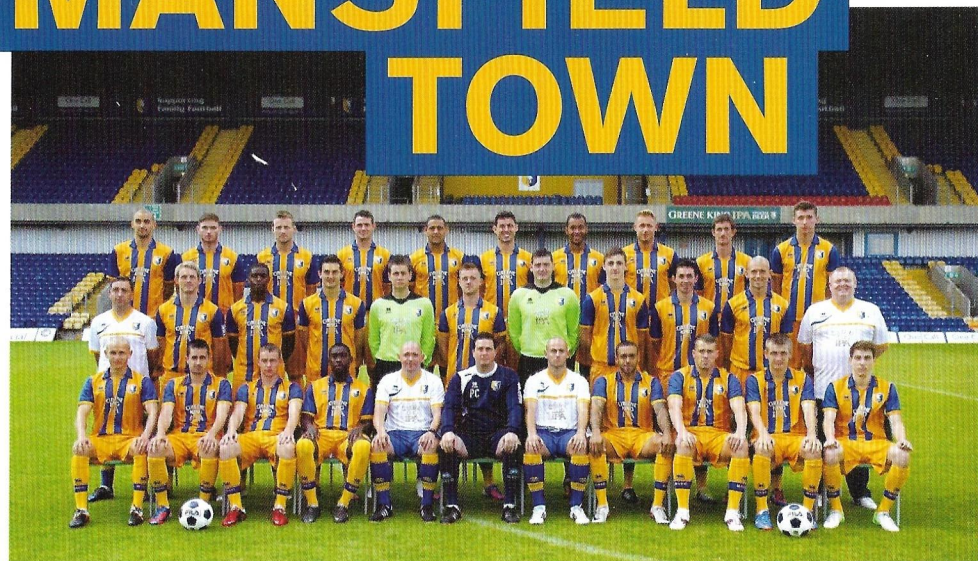
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 JON SHAW HOME: Jacqui Peacock AWAY: Maddie Knight	 SCOTT RENDELL HOME: re-Mark-it AWAY: Richard and Zak Tilley	 JAKE HOWELLS HOME: Neil Ehrenzweig AWAY: Sports 262	 ANDRE GRAY HOME: Tom AWAY: Tom
 STUART FLEETWOOD HOME: Richard Robinson AWAY: Amit Jani	 ADAM WATKINS HOME: The Walsh Family from Marbella AWAY: Kelly Knight	 ALEX LACEY HOME: Peter and Linda Little AWAY: In Memory of Bill Lacey	 JJ O'DONNELL HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Available
 JAMES DANCE HOME: Tommy Lennen AWAY: WHOSH	 LEWIS KIDD HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available	 MATT ROBINSON HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Doug Knight	 JAKE WOOLLEY HOME: Available AWAY: Available
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WELCOME MANSFIELD TOWN



Today the Hatters welcome Mansfield Town to Kenilworth Road for a gripping promotion chasing clash.

Much like the Hatters, Mansfield lie poised and ready to pounce into the top five after results in the week left the Play-Off picture wide open.

Mansfield currently occupy sixth place in the Blue Square Bet Premier and three points off the Play-Off pace but with a run of three away games in the next four outings for the Stags, points this afternoon is of the highest order.

Once again the comparison between the sides comes in to play as Mansfield have had their struggles away from the One Call Stadium. Six defeats away from home could be seen as the reason for Mansfield's position outside the top five, but since the turn of the year Paul Cox' men have looked to resurrect their form away from Nottinghamshire.

Three wins from their last five away matches has seen their form dramatically improve and, after a midweek win away at Hyde, the Stags will want to continue their form in Bedfordshire this afternoon.

In recent years Kenilworth Road has not been a happy hunting ground for the Stags, however, and in a total of 13 meetings on the Hatters home turf Mansfield have retreated with maximum points just twice.

A closely contested fixture is always on the cards between these two non-league giants which has seen the

last five meetings end all square. Earlier in the season the sides met on a Sunday afternoon in Nottinghamshire and as the night drew in Andre Gray stepped up to twice put the Hatters ahead prior to Matt Green's late equaliser to earn a share of the spoils.

A number of former Hatters litter the Stags dressing room. George Pilkington departed Kenilworth Road in the summer and joined up with the Stags to take charge of the defensive line. Despite his highly anticipated move though, he has struggled to nail down a starting spot, unlike fellow former Hatter Adam Murray. He made just seven appearances whilst at Kenilworth Road in 2010 but has found solace at the One Call Stadium and has become an ever present source of experience in the middle of midfield.

A good attentive display is expected from both sides who have not struggled to find the net since the outset of the season.

Both sides have been prolific in front of goal at home this campaign which Barrow duly found out against both clubs in the past few weeks. Firstly their visit to Kenilworth Road ended with Jon Shaw bagging the match ball in a 6-1 drubbing. And just over a month later Mansfield smashed eight past the sorry Bluebirds with five goals netted in the first half. That was enough to win the manager an Aston Martin DB9 from the chairman giving an all new meaning to quick fire goals.

THE STAGS

AN AT-A-GLANCE LOOK AT THE MANSFIELD TOWN SQUAD

PAUL COX

The Stags manager has been in charge since 2011. Recently won a bet with the chairman for his Aston Martin DB9 sports car after the 8-1 demolition of Barrow.

ALAN MARRIOTT

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who began his career at Tottenham Hotspur. Widely regarded as one of the league's top stoppers.

SHANE REDMOND

Republic of Ireland Under-21 international 'keeper who has been with the Stags since 2011.

JAMES JENNINGS

Penned a deal with the Stags in February after three years at Cambridge United. The 25-year-old began his career with Macclesfield Town.

RYAN TAFAZOLLI

Signed with the Stags in the summer and made his debut in a 2-0 win over Braintree Town.

COLIN DANIEL

24-year-old began his career at Eastwood Town before switching to Crewe Alexandra in 2009. He joined the Stags in the summer.

GEORGE PILKINGTON

Former Hatters skipper departed in the summer ending a four-year spell at Kenilworth Road. The former Everton trainee made over 200 appearances for Port Vale before joining the Town in 2008.

JOHN THOMPSON

Former Republic of Ireland international currently in his second year with the Stags.

LEE BEEVERS

29-year-old defender, another new addition to the side in the summer, who has Welsh Under-21 caps to his name.

LUKE JONES

Currently in his second spell with the club after re-joining in the summer.

EXODUS GEOHAGHON

Former West Bromwich Albion defender signed in the summer. Renowned for his long throws.

RICHIE SUTTON

Started his career at Crewe Alexandra but failed to rack up a first-team appearance. He joined Mansfield in 2011.

JOHN DEMPSTER

Kettering-born defender who penned a deal with the Stags in 2012 after being released from Crawley Town. Played for Rushden & Diamonds and home town Kettering before re-locating north.

ADAM MURRAY

Another former Hatter who joined on a permanent deal in the summer. Made just seven appearances for the Hatters in 2010 before departing.

ANDY TODD

Experienced player/coach for the Stags, joined in 2011 after an illustrious career that began with Nottingham Forest in 1996.

ANDY HOWELL

Joined the Stags in 2011 after impressing in Alfreton Town's promotion-winning side.

CHRIS CLEMENTS

Another midfield product of the Crewe Alexandra academy. The 23-year-old signed in 2012 after a two-year stint at Hednesford Town.

JAMIE TOLLEY

The 29-year-old joined the Stags in 2012 from league rivals Wrexham. Tolley has represented the Welsh Under-21 side 12 times.

LEE STEVENSON

Penned a two-year deal with Mansfield in May 2011. Stevenson began his career with Sheffield Wednesday.

BEN HUTCHINSON

Former Middlesbrough, Celtic, Dundee United and Kilmarnock player signed for the Stags in January 2012. Has a Champions League appearance to his name.

JAKE SPEIGHT

Forward who started his career with Sheffield United. The 27-year-old moved to Mansfield for his first stint in 2009 before rejoining in the summer.

LINDON MEIKLE

The 24-year-old made a name for himself last campaign during the FA Cup run where he was voted player of the round. Another England C International.

LOUIS BRISCOE

Versatile attacker signed in 2009 whilst Dean Holdsworth was in charge. Another with England C caps to his name.

MATT GREEN

Started at Newport County before switching to Cardiff. Four stints at Oxford United followed, before a loan deal to the Stags in 2011 became permanent.

MATT RHEAD

Target man signed by Paul Cox after impressing for Corby Town. Notched his first Stags goal in the 7-0 drubbing of Barrow in 2012.

NICK WRIGHT

25-year-old forward started his career with Birmingham City. He joined Mansfield in the summer.



Established: 1910 (as Mansfield Town FC)

Nickname(s): The Stags

Stadium: One Call Stadium

Capacity: 8,186 (Avg. attendance '12/13 - 2,390)

Manager: Paul Cox (1 year, 9 months)

Final league position '11/12: 3rd BSP

DID YOU KNOW?

- Mansfield have only failed to score in four of their 30 BSP games this season
- Attacking midfielder Lee Stevenson has scored seven goals in 12 appearances this term.

Mansfield started the season as one of the favourites for the Blue Square Bet Premier title, but began the campaign poorly with only five wins from their opening 13 games.

However, Paul Cox's team turned things around and are now the division's most in-form team scoring goals at will. In fact, the Stags' run has been so impressive that they now have their eyes firmly fixed on the title again as they are only eight points behind Wrexham with two games in hand and a total of 48 points still to play for.

A CLOSER LOOK AT MANSFIELD'S SEASON SO FAR

Mansfield sit poised in sixth with 53 points having played 30, won 16, drawn five, lost nine, scoring 59 and conceding 41. The Stags are in the hottest form of any team in league currently having won six of their last seven games whilst scoring an incredible 24 goals in that period. Recent 5-0 and 8-1 victories have elevated Cox's team to being among the division's top scoring sides. Mansfield may not look like the imperious outfit they are after a glance at their away record, but that, as you are about to find out, is rather deceiving. The fact that the Stags have lost six of their 14 games away from home may be encouraging to Hatters fans on the face of it, but when you consider they have won six of their last seven games on their travels and have only conceded four goals, there is reason to be concerned.

HOW WILL THEY PLAY? WHO ARE THEIR DANGER MEN?

Expect Cox's side to come out of the blocks quickly at Kenilworth Road today. The Stags boast one of the finest first-half records in the Blue Square Bet Premier having only been behind five times in 30 games going into the break. Mansfield have been leading 13 times going into half-time and, worryingly for the Hatters, they have won 12 when doing so. In terms of playing style, the Nottinghamshire outfit are all about intensity and work-rate. Cox's men are full of industry and will look to swarm Luton with an aggressive pressing game. They will attempt to suffocate the Town denying players the time to settle on the ball and pick a pass. Expect attacks to be



quick and direct with Mansfield's wide men trying to get at the Hatters full-backs in one-on-ones in order to swing crosses in for the aerially-imposing Matt Green.

It will be a big day for Bedford-born goalkeeper Adam Marriott starting for the visitors in the county of his birth. Lee Beevers will start at right-back alongside John Dempster and the vastly-experienced Conference centre-half Luke Jones.

James Jennings, a set-piece specialist who signed in February from Cambridge United, will take the left-back berth.

Louie Briscoe, who dashed Hatters hopes of going to Wembley for the FA Trophy final in 2011 with an extra-time penalty, will be a constant threat from the right with his natural ability to go past players.

On the other flank, the industrious Colin Daniel will look to stifle any adventures forward from Ronnie Henry and Alex Lawless. Ex-Luton midfielder Adam Murray will marshall the Mansfield midfield alongside the militant Anthony Howell whose job will be to destroy any Luton play. Lee Stevenson, who has a reputation as a prolific goalscoring attacking midfielder after tallying 67 goals in two seasons for Eastwood Town, will operate behind the powerhouse that is striker Green. Green will relish a battle with Steve McNulty and their aerial duels should be a constant feature.

THOUGHTS FROM THE OAK ROAD

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

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? Paul Taylor (Honorary President of the Stags Supporters Association)

AGE? 56

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB? 45 years

YOU WERE BIG PROMOTION FAVOURITES BEFORE A BALL WAS KICKED AND IN RECENT WEEKS APPEAR TO BE LIVING UP TO THAT EXPECTATION. HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR SEASON SO FAR? Mixed. We did not start too well but since the end of November we have started to show the kind of form which last year took us to the Play-Offs. A couple of weeks ago we stuffed Barrow 8-1 and were brilliant, but then the following game that midweek we were not so good and lost at Newport - which in some way typifies our season.

GEORGE PILKINGTON WAS A HATTERS' HERO, YET HAS BARELY MADE A HANDFUL OF APPEARANCES FOR YOU SINCE SIGNING IN THE SUMMER. WHAT'S HAPPENED? I am not really sure. Many Stags fans admired George when he played against us but he has only played four times for us and has never been on the winning side (not that he was to blame for that) so it has been difficult to judge him this season.

WHO'S YOUR PLAYER TO WATCH? Lee Stevenson, who is finally having a decent run in the side and showing the kind form we were promised he was capable of when Paul Cox brought him to the One Call Stadium from his previous club Eastwood Town.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THE JOB MANAGER PAUL COX IS DOING? Paul Cox has been our most successful Conference manager as we made the Play-Offs in his first season with 89 points. He is known for having fabulous second halves of seasons so if we make promotion back to the big league he would go down in Stags folklore. That said, it is widely believed he has the best budget ever given to a Stags manager. No doubt he enhanced his reputation globally with the way he conducted himself with the media who were attracted to the club during the Liverpool FA Cup tie.

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES FROM FACING LUTON? Luton have yet to win at our place, so from the first time I saw Luton play there (a 1-0 win for us on Easter Monday 1969, when you were reigning Fourth Division Champions) they've been quite good. At Kenilworth Road it has been a different story, with the trip home after the FA Trophy semi-final second leg

that took us to Wembley a couple of years ago the pick of the lot. I did enjoy one Luton win, I was in the Luton end at Wembley in 1988 when you beat Arsenal to win the Littlewoods Cup.

THIS IS MANSFIELD'S FIFTH SEASON IN THE CONFERENCE. ARE YOU SURPRISED NOT TO HAVE GAINED PROMOTION BY NOW? WHY DO YOU FEEL PROMOTION IS SO DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE? When we

were relegated in 2008 the club was in a very poor state. A month before our first season in the Conference, the club (thankfully) changed ownership, but we had about five players and no manager so I did not have any preconception of an immediate return. With another change in ownership I thought we would do it last year, particularly when we made the Play-Offs. As you yourselves have found out, this is the hardest league to get out of and each year it seems to get more difficult. The Conference should be three up, three down with the Football League.

WHO'S THE BEST PLAYER YOU'VE SEEN PULL ON A MANSFIELD SHIRT? Dudley Roberts, the greatest header of a ball I have ever seen.

IF THERE WAS ONE ASPECT OF MODERN FOOTBALL YOU COULD GET RID OF, WHAT WOULD IT BE? Players who feign injury, dive, handball and basically cheat.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MANSFIELD SONG/CHANT? "My old man said be a Spireite fan" - it's too offensive to continue but I hate Chesterfield with a passion!

WILL YOU GO UP THIS SEASON? WHAT ABOUT LUTON? The jury is still out on that one. It's a tall order for both to do so as one of us would need to win the league. The Play-Offs are a distinct possibility for both clubs so one of us could do it, I hope it's us!

WHAT'S THE SCORE GOING TO BE? 2-1 to Mansfield Town. It's about time we won one here again!



CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS 10 POST-WAR MANSFIELD TOWN CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1950/51

Mansfield Town finished Third Division (North) runners-up in 1950/51. The Stags were unbeaten in their opening six games and maintained their promotion challenge, with the 1-1 draw at home to title rivals Rotherham United in mid-January watched by 18,343. Mansfield failed to catch them despite ending the campaign with 11 wins in a 15-match unbeaten run, but it was their highest placing at that time and they were unbeaten at Field Mill that season. Freddie Steele's side also reached the FA Cup fifth round and Sammy Chessell, John Grogan and Jack Lewis were ever-present, while Billy Coole was leading scorer.

1962/63

Ken Wagstaff and Roy Chapman scored 64 league goals between them as Mansfield Town won promotion in 1962/63. New signing Colin Askey also impressed as the Stags won their opening six Fourth Division games but that winter's 'big freeze' caused widespread postponements and Mansfield resumed their league fixtures in early March with a 4-2 win over rivals Oldham Athletic. Tommy Cummings became player-boss in place of Raich Carter, who resigned to manage Middlesbrough, and the Stags overcame fixture congestion to pip Gillingham to promotion on goal average, with a 1-1 draw at Stockport County in their final game.

1964/65

Mansfield Town were unlucky not to win promotion to the Second Division in 1964/65. Despite the mid-season sale of Ken Wagstaff and Roy Chapman to Hull City and Lincoln respectively, the Stags remained in the promotion race. Newcomers included Shrewsbury pair John Gregson and Harry Middleton, while Bill Curry arrived from Derby County and grabbed a hat-trick in the 8-1 annihilation of QPR. With five games remaining Mansfield were well placed to win promotion but then costly defeats at Reading and title rivals Carlisle United enabled Bristol City to pip Tommy Cummings' side to promotion on goal average.

1968/69

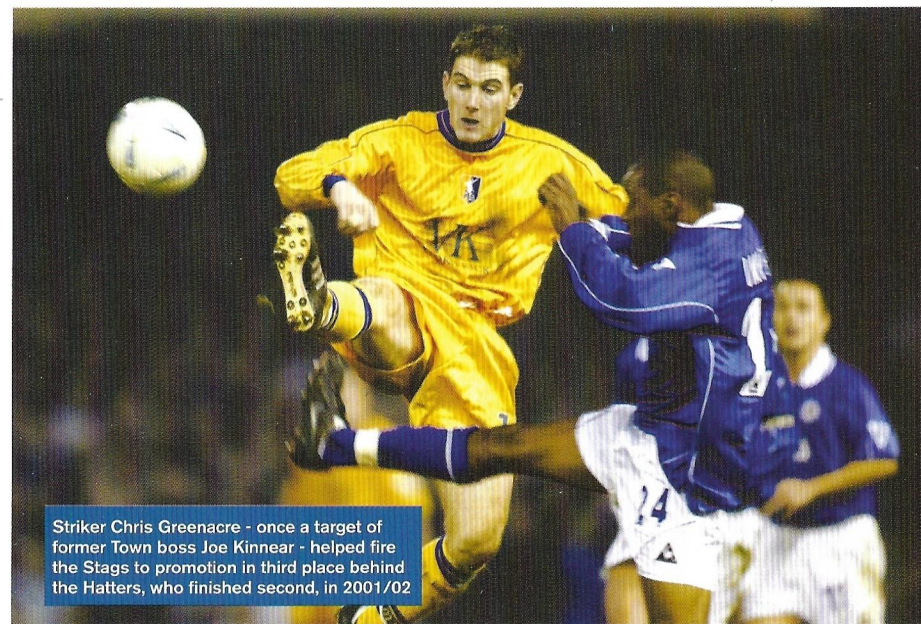
Tommy Eggleston managed Mansfield Town to the FA Cup sixth round in 1968/69. Summer signings included Johnny Quigley from Bristol City and Mick Hopkinson from Derby County, with the Stags winning their first two Third Division games to emerge as early leaders. A disappointing sequence of results saw Mansfield slide down the table after this but they made headlines with their FA Cup exploits. The Stags defeated Tow Law 4-1, Rotherham United 1-0, Sheffield United 2-1 and Southend United 2-1 before an epic 3-0 fifth round win at home to West Ham. They lost 1-0 to Leicester in the sixth round.

1974/75

New manager Dave Smith guided Mansfield Town to the Fourth Division title in 1974/75. Early signings included Gordon Hodgson from Newcastle and Ray Clarke from Swindon, with the Stags winning their opening four Fourth Division games. Kevin Bird returned from injury and a 3-1 win at home to title rivals Shrewsbury enabled Mansfield to open up a four point lead in early December. The Stags reached the FA Cup fifth round and went on to clinch the title with a thrilling 7-0 win over Scunthorpe. Goalkeeper Rod Arnold, Sandy Pate and top scorer Ray Clarke were ever-present as the Stags amassed a record 68 points.

1976/77

Mansfield Town won the Third Division title in 1976/77. Peter Morris returned as player-manager and Johnny Miller followed him from Norwich City. Despite the summer sale of Ray Clarke, the Stags began with a 3-1 win over Preston and their unbeaten run of league matches stretched back to the previous February. Ernie Moss was signed from Peterborough and rekindled his striking partnership with Kevin Randall, while Billy McEwan arrived from Chesterfield. The Stags clinched promotion to the Second Division for the first time with a 2-0 win over Portsmouth, then triumphed 1-0 at Wrexham to win the title.



Striker Chris Greenacre - once a target of former Town boss Joe Kinnear - helped fire the Stags to promotion in third place behind the Hatters, who finished second, in 2001/02

1977/78

Mansfield Town prepared for their first ever Second Division campaign by signing Ian Phillips and Northern Ireland international Pat Sharkey from Ipswich and Dave Syrett from Swindon. The latter two scored as the Stags kicked off with a 2-1 victory at home to newly-relegated Stoke City but the record run of 38 home league matches undefeated ended when Brighton won 2-1 at Field Mill. Mansfield drew both games against high-flying Spurs but despite experienced newcomers like John Aston and Dennis Martin, they failed to consolidate higher status under Billy Bingham who replaced Peter Morris as manager.

1985/86

Ian Greaves guided Mansfield Town to promotion to the Third Division in 1985/86. New signing Keith Cassells scored a hat-trick on his debut as the Stags began with a 4-0 win at home to Hereford United, with fellow newcomer Neville Chamberlain netting the other goal. There were thrilling Milk Cup ties against Middlesbrough and Chelsea, with Mansfield remaining in third place for most of the season. Promotion was clinched with a 4-0 win at home to Hartlepool and the Stags finished third with 81 points. Kevin Hitchcock and George Foster were ever-present, while Neville Chamberlain was top scorer with 16 goals.

1986/87

Mansfield Town played in their first Wembley final in 1986/87. The newly-promoted Stags challenged at the top of the Third Division early in the season, then slipped back into mid-table and finished in 10th position. Ian Greaves' side beat York City 1-0, Bury 2-1, Middlesbrough 1-0 and Chester 2-1 en route to the Freight Rover Trophy final. Mansfield defeated holders Bristol City 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at Wembley: Kevin Hitchcock, Mick Graham, Paul Garner, Tony Lowery, George Foster, Tony Kenworthy, Kevin Kent, Jason Danskin (Gary Pollard), Neil Whatmore (Ian Stringfellow), Keith Cassells, Mark Kearney.

2001/02

Stuart Watkiss achieved instant success as manager by guiding Mansfield Town to promotion in 2001/02. The Stags were early pace-setters under Billy Dearden, remaining unbeaten in their first seven matches, and climbed to second place with a 3-0 victory over Swansea City at the start of December. Assistant-boss Stuart Watkiss succeeded Notts County-bound Billy Dearden in charge early in the New Year and signed Eire international striker David Kelly. The Stags overcame a run of five games without a win to clinch the third promotion slot with a 2-0 victory over Carlisle United. Chris Greenacre was top scorer with 21 goals.



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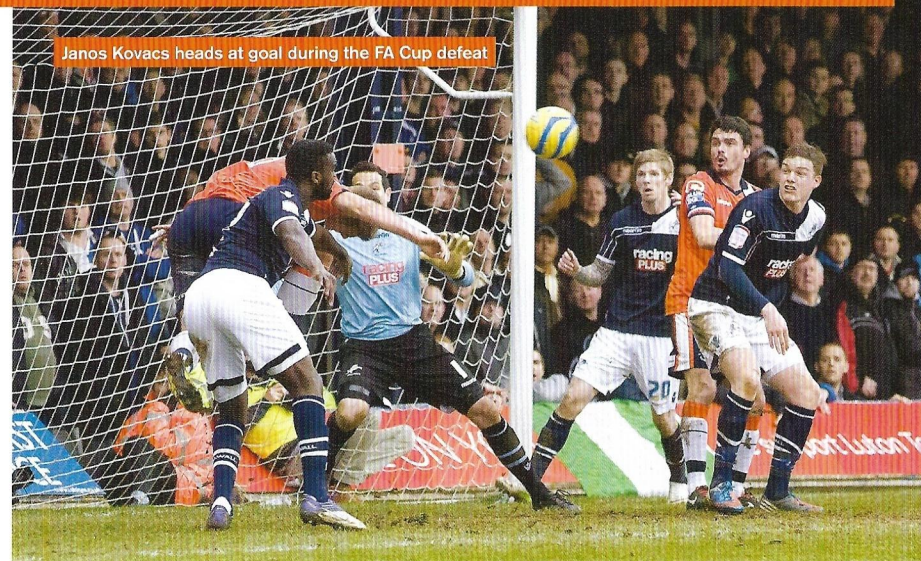


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TOWN 0-3 MILLWALL



Janos Kovacs heads at goal during the FA Cup defeat

CUP DREAM OVER

Once again it was individual errors that Paul Buckle felt cost his team a place in the quarter-final of the FA Cup after defeat at home to Millwall.

In what has been an achilles heel for the Town all season, the manager was frustrated that his side were unable to get their noses ahead after conceding James Henry's 12th-minute strike.

Millwall striker Rob Hulse made it 2-0 10 minutes before half-time and the Lions were able to stifle the Town in the second half and secured a passage through to the last-eight when substitute Dany N'Guessan tapped home with four minutes left.

In truth the Town dominated and 3-0 flattered Millwall but the visitors' ruthlessness in front of goal was the difference on ultimately a day of disappointment.

"I'm disappointed because a big part of today was always that we didn't concede early – and that's what we did," said the manager.

"It was a poor first goal to concede but we recovered well, Arnaud Mendy and Andre Gray went close and their keeper had a good game.

"However, whatever level you're at you can't defend like that against Championship opposition. The first goal meant we were always chasing the game and it meant some desperation crept in. Had we held out or

got it back to 1-1 it would have been a different game. But mistakes have been the story of our season. We need to be honest now starting Monday. We've got to cut them out and move on."

And move on they will – it's back to the bread and butter of the Blue Square Bet Premier for the next two months. "It's Saturday-Tuesday from now on, and we have to deal with it," said Buckle. "We've got to do everything to get promoted.

"The first thing we have to address is keeping clean sheets. I've got to put together a back four that compliments each other. That's what it's all about. The one thing Millwall didn't allow us today was anything sloppy – they were no-nonsense and that is how we need to be."

However disappointing the result, Buckle was in agreement that it had been one heck of a journey in the competition. "It's been unbelievable," said the boss. "It's something I will always remember. There's no better place in football than a full house at Kenilworth Road. I'd like to thank the fans who supported us against Millwall and Wolves here and, of course, that game at Norwich.

"There have been some brilliant times during this cup run which will remain in the memory for a long time to come."



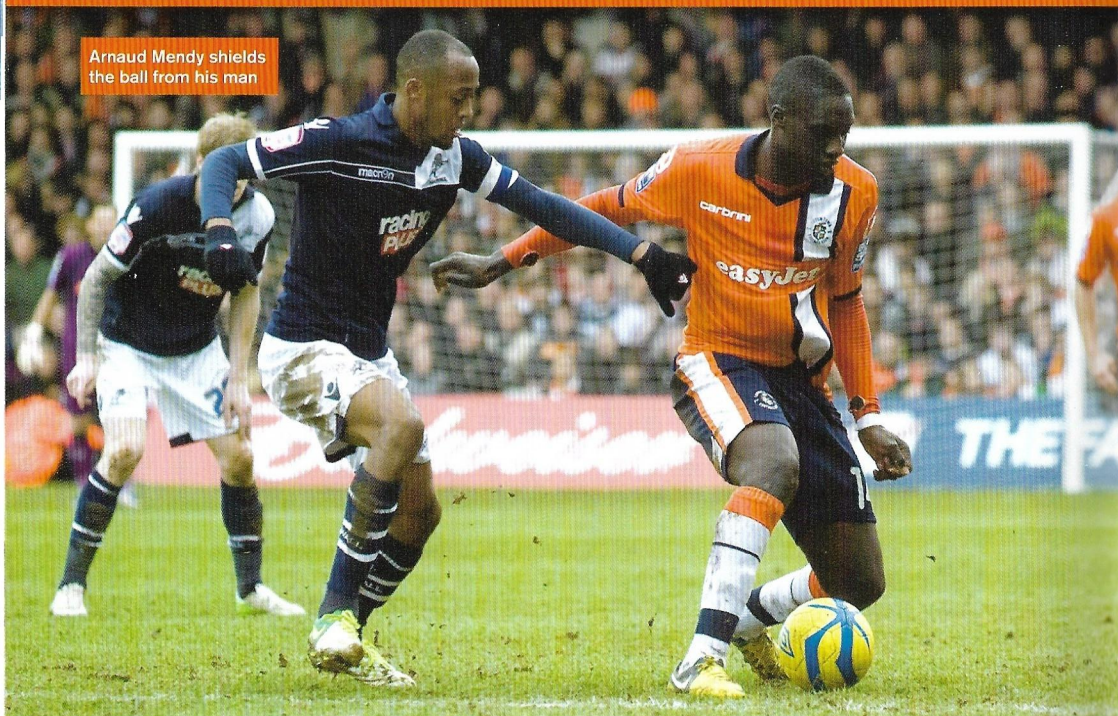
TOWN 0



MILLWALL 3

Henry 12, Hulse 36, N'Guessan 86

Arnaud Mendy shields the ball from his man



Andre Gray battles for possession



Jon Shaw is inches away from connecting to a right-wing cross



POSSESSION

49% 51%

CORNERS

8 2

OFFSIDES

5 4

SHOTS ON TARGET

5 5

SHOTS OFF TARGET

4 11

FOULS

13 15

YELLOW CARDS

1 2

RED CARDS

0 0

TOWN: Tyler, Taylor, Kovacs, Henry, Howells, Lawless, Mendy (sub Shaw 69), O'Donnell (sub Fleetwood 64), Smith, Rendell, Gray. **Subs not used:** Brill, Lacey, Longden, Robinson, Woolley.

MILLWALL: Forde, Dunne, Lowry, Beevers, Osborne, Trotter, Henry (sub Smith 89), Feeney (sub N'Guessan 62), Abdou, Hulse (sub Marquis 70), Keogh. **Subs not used:** Taylor, Goodman, Malone, Wright.

ATTENDANCE: 9,768 (1,530 Millwall)



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MACCLESFIELD 1-1 TOWN

A POINT A PIECE

The Town had to settle for a point on the day Paul Buckle left Kenilworth Road as a Waide Fairhurst goal 15 minutes from time cancelled out Andre Gray's early goal.

It was a frustrating performance from the Hatters which saw a highly contested midfield dominate proceedings despite the hosts having keeper Rhys Taylor dismissed and playing a large spell with 10-men.

The Hatters started instantly with Jon Shaw and Gray again wreaking havoc. Gray retained possession in the middle of the park before slamming an audacious effort goal wards. The outside of his right boot flew the ball goal bound before it slammed off the upright and Shaw couldn't net the follow up from the edge of the area.

Gray then netted to give the Hatters a 15th-minute lead after a comfortable tap in from close range. A looping pass from Smith found Shaw who chested the ball instantly and while the Macclesfield fans roared for an offside flag Shaw's effort was rebuffed by Rhys Taylor. The ball ricocheted to Gray who slotted the ball home to give the Hatters an early advantage.

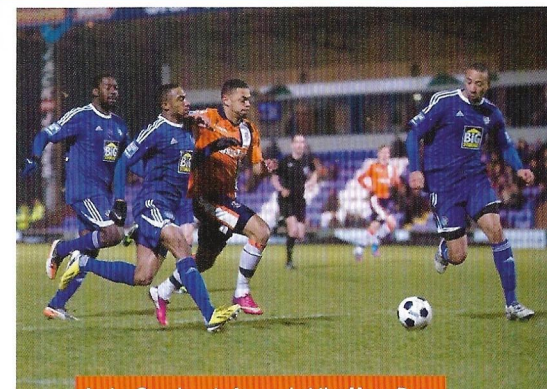
Macclesfield retaliated instantly with a threat of their own. A searching pass toward the far post found Wade Fairhurst unmarked who controlled the bouncing pass and drilled goal wards. With Tyler beaten Henry recovers to clear off the line.

It got worse for the hosts as Taylor saw red on 21 minutes. Gray raced through on goal before being hauled down by the keeper and was instantly dismissed by Mr Kavanagh. Kasim replaced by makeshift keeper, midfield man Peter Winn.

A crunching tackle from Smith retained possession in the middle of the park before shifting the ball to Shaw out on right. His early pass gave Gray a chance to scamper away. The Town goalscorer took a quick look up before ripping his shot early towards the far post. Winn allowed it to bobble past the upright as the Hatters ended the first half 1-0 up.

The Hatters replaced Rendell at the break with JJ O'Donnell on to replace the front man. O'Donnell shifts out to the wide left of midfield for the Hatters.

Both sides took a while to continue the tempo of the first half and 10-man Macclesfield tested Tyler from range 10 minutes into the second period. Kissock tricked his way inside before passing possession to Murtagh who shot from range into the grateful grasps



Andre Gray bursts forward at the Moss Rose

of Tyler between the sticks. Gray continued to run the Macclesfield back line ragged as Smith gave him another searching ball to chase. Gray leapt away from the defenders and prodded the ball towards goal as Winn narrowed the angle. The initial effort looked to have slipped through Winn's legs but clipped up off of his thigh allowing him to cling on to the bouncing ball behind him.

It was end-to-end football at Moss Rose as the hour mark passed as Murtagh again came close. Skipping away from two Hatters challenges the Macclesfield midfielder man flicked the ball into the far corner with the outside of his boot. His effort was seen wide by Tyler who soared across his goal to ensure nothing would creep inside the bottom corner.

But heavy Macclesfield pressure finally paid off when Fairhurst struck with 15 minutes remaining. Patient build-up saw Murtagh play in Fairhurst who shot across Tyler and saw his effort nestle in the corner via the inside of the post.

Stuart Fleetwood was introduced as time closed in on the Hatters and his impact was immediate. A brilliant, quick link-up between the substitute and Gray worked the latter an angle to shoot. His effort could not find the target however, and Winn watched it soar over the crossbar.

As the fourth official held the board aloft Shaw volleyed Fleetwood into an advanced position. Fleetwood dropped the shoulder on Mills and raced past the defender before arrowing his effort towards the top corner. Winn seemed to get the faintest of touches on the ball to deflect it against the crossbar for the final Hatters attack of the evening.



MACCLESFIELD

Fairhurst 76

1



TOWN

Gray 15

Macclesfield get shirty with Alex Lawless

POSSESSION

52% 48%

CORNERS

9 4

OFFSIDES

4 4

SHOTS ON TARGET

9 7

SHOTS OFF TARGET

5 7

FOULS

6 10

YELLOW CARDS

1 3

RED CARDS

1 0

MACCLESFIELD:

Taylor
Jackson
Braham-Barrett
Audel
Mills
Murtagh
(sub Diagne 84)
Wedgbury
Kissock
Kasim
sub Winn 23)
Barnes-Homer
Fairhurst

Subs not used:

Mackreth
Evans
McDonald

TOWN:

Tyler
Henry
Taylor
(sub Fleetwood 86)
McNulty
Rowe-Turner
Howells
Lawless
Smith
(sub Mendy 70)
Shaw
Rendell
(sub O'Donnell 46)
Gray

Subs not used:

Kovacs
Neilson

ATTENDANCE:

1,984 (278 Luton)

Greg Taylor goes shoulder-to-shoulder with his man

Andre Gray fires the Town in front



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RONNIE HENRY

SKIPPER ON CUP EXIT

Captain Ronnie Henry has lead his team through the FA Cup run from Cambridge to Norwich and putting aside his disappointment of the cup exit, Henry maintains a sense of pride for his side's achievements.

"I feel like we have thrown away a great opportunity to get into the quarter finals of the FA Cup and that's massive for any player," said the Town skipper after the 3-0 defeat to Millwall last Saturday.

"I'm proud of the players and proud of anyone at Luton Town because we've had a great cup run and gave it a great go, but now we need to concentrate on the league."

Clinical display

The Hatters mistakes were ruthlessly capitalised on by the Lions as a clinical display in front of goal set the sides apart on the afternoon. Henry spoke of his side's frustration at how the cup run came to an end.

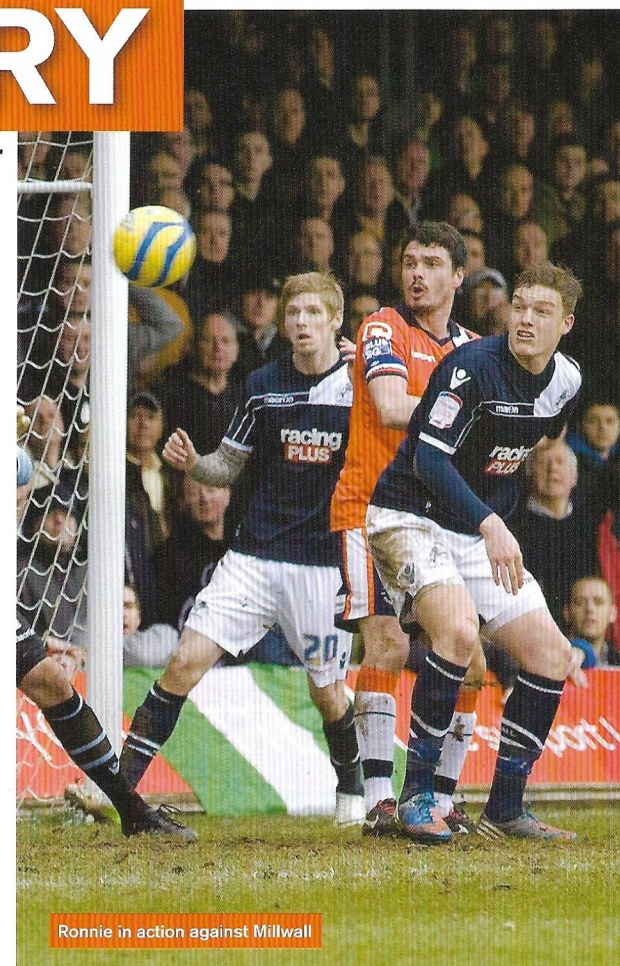
"We will be punished by sides of higher opposition if we make mistakes and we have done," he said.

"We've got to nip them in the bud as soon as possible because it could cost us in the end and we all knew that in the dressing room after the game.

"That's why you see most of the players so disappointed because we lost 3-0 to Millwall.

"People think that's not that bad but we know we played well and should have got something out of the game but individual mistakes cost us.

"They're a good side from the Championship but we gave it a good go and I don't think we've disappointed many people with the way we have played, it's just the goals that were very disappointing and if it wasn't for those mistakes we would have come out with a lot of credit.



Ronnie in action against Millwall

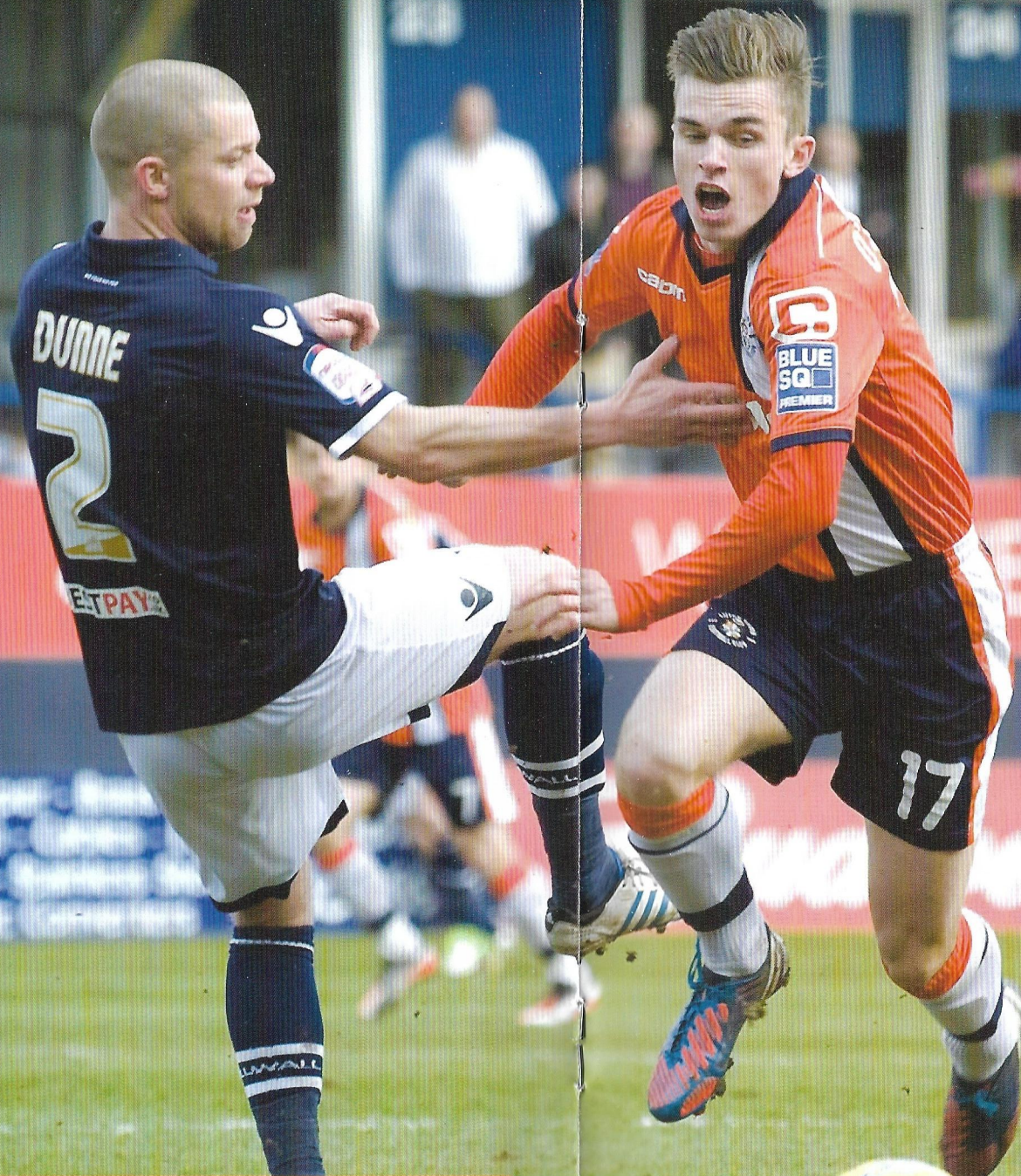
"Some people may think it's a good thing we were out of the FA Cup, but for me personally I wish we were still in it. However, we've got to focus on the league and really go for it."

Finally Henry put his disappointment to one side as he issued a rallying cry to his fellow Hatters in ensuring this season is marked as a success.

"Everyone in the changing room has got to give it 100% to get out of this league," said the skipper.

"If we can get out of this league it will be a fantastic season getting so far in the FA Cup and getting into League Two."

JJ O'Donnell dashes past Millwall right-back Alan Dunne during last Saturday's fifth round FA Cup tie



CENTRE SPOT

PICTURE THE PAST

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



Ron Futcher heads home during the 1-1 draw with Mansfield at Kenilworth Road in December 1977.

This Division Two (now Championship) encounter saw the Stags needing to wear the Town's second strip due to a clash of colours!



TOWN TREASURES

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




We have a random sample of Luton Town badges through the ages this week.

From plastic star badges, popular in the 1950s, through to more modern issues including the white one in the centre which I wore on my school blazer from 1963 to 1968!

Perhaps some badge aficionado (you know who you are!) could tell me the age of the one at seven o'clock to the 1959 FA Cup final steward's badge?


THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Kenilworth Road became the second ground to see an artificial surface when, in 1985, £335,000 was spent on an 'En-Tout-Cas' pitch which was said, due to advances in technology, to be far superior to the 'Omniturf' laid at QPR four years previously.

The photo shows the strips being glued together.



GREAT GAMES

ROGER WASH **RECOUNTS MATCHES TO REMEMBER IN THE TOWN'S HISTORY**

FRENCH IN FOOTBALL PARADISE WITH WONDER GOAL AGAINST THE STAGS.

LUTON TOWN 4-2 MANSFIELD TOWN
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE.
18TH SEPTEMBER 1968.

Newly promoted Luton Town started the 1968/69 season just as they had finished the previous campaign - in winning form.

The huge sum of £90,000 had been spent that summer on Mike Harrison, Laurie Sheffield and Brian Lewis and the new boys made their debut in a 4-0 hammering of Oldham on the opening day. The sun shone down on the 14,747 crowd who watched Harrison, Lewis, Keith Allen and Fred Jardine score the goals that brought about a good humoured pitch invasion at the end.

A hard fought 0-0 draw at Barrow followed, which set up a home game against relegated Rotherham. Another sun drenched crowd saw Bruce Rioch score twice in the first 15 minutes to set up a sparkling 3-1 win as the Hatters became early season League leaders.

Fever pitch

With the Town support at fever pitch the lead at the top was consolidated the following Wednesday night when Barnsley were seen off 5-1 before a crowd of 15,899. The game included a goal from Rioch, who beat four men in a run from his own half, which will be fondly remembered by those fortunate enough to be there.

The good form continued with a 3-1 win at Gillingham, a 0-0 draw at Orient and another home victory, this time against Tranmere, leading up to the long awaited home clash with second place Mansfield.

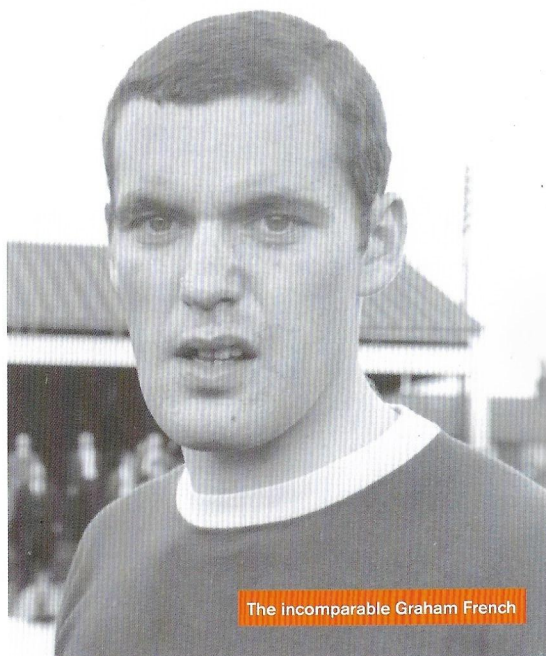
Enthusiasm had reached a high point and a crowd of 19,315 was present to see the game open in amazing fashion when 'golden boy' Rioch was dismissed for allegedly striking an opponent following a goalmouth mele.

The local evening newspaper carried a series of photographs in its next edition in an attempt to vindicate Rioch, but a simple reference to the 5,000 behind the Oak Road goal would have saved all the bother!

The sense of injustice felt by the team and the crowd, who were to be deprived of a player for 87 minutes, meant that the rest of the match was played in an unreal atmosphere which bordered on the belligerent.

As so often happens in these cases the ten men fought like twelve and their sheer persistence was rewarded by a doubtful penalty duly tucked away by Mike Harrison midway through the first half.

The second period opened with Mansfield determined to make the extra man tell and with the Town tiring, Doug Jones netted an equaliser. With the Town down to nine men for periods when both John Moore and Terry



The incomparable Graham French

'Golden boy' Bruce Rioch in action against Mansfield in the return game that season



Branston had to leave the field for running repairs they were beginning to look a sorry sight, but were than thrown a lifeline by the inconsistent referee.

Mansfield's Phil Waller was sent off for an innocuous tackle on Brian Lewis and it appeared at the time that the official was attempting to level the sides up once more.

Fresh reserves

The Hatters now found fresh reserves of energy and four minutes later Laurie Sheffield headed home a Harrison cross before Lewis scored a solo goal to put the game beyond doubt.

The drama was not yet over, though, with French collecting the ball in his own penalty area and then proceeding to lope the length of the pitch, beating three players and the goalkeeper in the process before firing home. A fantastic goal on a fantastic evening.

Finest

Many say that the goal was the finest seen on the Kenilworth Road pitch and that if the cameras were there they would still be replaying it today. Certainly I have never seen a better goal but credit should be given to Brian Lewis who took defenders with him on a mazy decoy run.

Luton Town: Read, Dougan, Jardine, Slough, Branston (McDerment), Moore, French, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Harrison.

Mansfield Town: Hollins, Roberts, Hopkinson, Quigley, Boam, Waller, Frude, Partridge, Ledger, Goodfellow, Jones.

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JONATHAN SMITH

HEART OF A LION

It was another tireless, all out action-packed performance from the Town midfield maestro Jonathan Smith which installed the heart and fight needed to combat the Lions last weekend. Despite he and his team-mates' best efforts the Hatters finally succumbed to defeat and put an end to their fairytale cup journey.

"I think it's a big chance gone to be honest," said an emotional Smith after the full-time whistle had been blown on their cup exploits.

"On the day I thought we had a real chance to get through. We had our chances but I thought it was important we kept it solid and we didn't. It's poor goals that have cost us. I think if you keep it at 0-0 anything can happen so I'm obviously down at the moment.

"Millwall were tough and physical because they're a big side but I thought we competed well. I'm just disappointed because I thought on another day we could have won the game and 3-0 flatters them a lot."

Smith was the heartbeat of the battlefield as he led by example competing in every corner of the Kenilworth Road turf and spoke of his physical and emotional drain after the game.

"My legs have taken a bit of a beating to be honest," the 26-year-old said. "It was a bit more physical than the Norwich or Wolves matches but was what we expected. I'm just disappointed because I think it's a real chance gone missing because you don't get these chances that often."

Honesty is something we have come to expect from Smith who wears his heart on his sleeve and with recent results having not been the best, it is something Smith will ensure won't continue without a fight.

"We've just got to keep working hard," he said. "We're disappointed results haven't gone our way but you have times like that you've just got to get on with it and keep working to come out of it which I'm sure we will. They hurt me a lot these defeats. With the quality we've got we should be doing better and we know that. We're working hard, all together to sort it out and that's what we need to do."

Since his first debut for the Hatters in November his rapport with the fans has been incredulous. His never-say-die attitude from whistle to whistle ensures cult hero status was soon on the cards.



Smith in action against Millwall

"I love the club," Smith said. "The club and the fans are amazing, it's a big club to me and I'm desperate to get promotion. I didn't come here to play Conference, I came here to get this club up so I'm doing everything I can to do that."

"I'm really impressed with the supporters to be honest, they get behind me and that's the biggest thing. The fans are amazing even at 3-0 down they keep pushing. I'm a winner I don't like losing and 3-0 at home whoever it's against makes me sad and down but I've got to pick myself up and be ready to go again."

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SCOTT RENDELL

RENDELL REFLECTS ON CUP DEFEAT

It was contrasting rounds in the FA Cup for Scott Rendell who wrote his name in the history books in the fourth round when Hatters won against Norwich only for the Town to be put to the sword against a clinical Millwall side last weekend.

Despite the disappointment, Rendell looked back on a hard fought game with pride and a different look on what could have been.

"It was a tough shift for everyone and to come out losing 3-0 is even harder," he said after the hoards of journalists had evacuated Bedfordshire.

"We've given it a good go and we've had a good run. We had our chances. If it wasn't for their goalkeeper I think we would have scored at least one or two.

"I think we held our own across the 90 minutes but individual errors have cost us. That's where we are at the minute as a group and we need to cut them out quickly if we want to get anywhere in the league."

Hatters hearts fluttered at the possibility of an FA Cup quarter final and dared to dream it was on the cards when Millwall were drawn against them to Kenilworth Road. But with no fairytale ending for the Hatters, Rendell said that realistically the challenge was always going to be a tough one to combat.

"If everyone was realistic it was probably going to end pretty soon," said the 26-year-old Hatters forward who has found the net four times in the competition this season.

"Saying that, we were on a good run in the FA Cup and we've enjoyed every step of the way. It's been a good ride but now we need to focus on the league which is the most important thing."

The Hatters team sheet has been ever changing with suspension, injury and cup ineligibility limiting defensive options. Now the cup campaign is put to bed, Rendell says the team will benefit from consistency in the squad.

"It's been hard having five, six, seven players coming in that couldn't play with them being cup tied so it now gives us one squad for every game we play," he said. "That might make it easier for us to stop chopping and changing and see how we get on."

Rendell was one of the four changes to the side that lost to Dartford the previous Tuesday and the striker was happy to be given a leading role in proceedings.

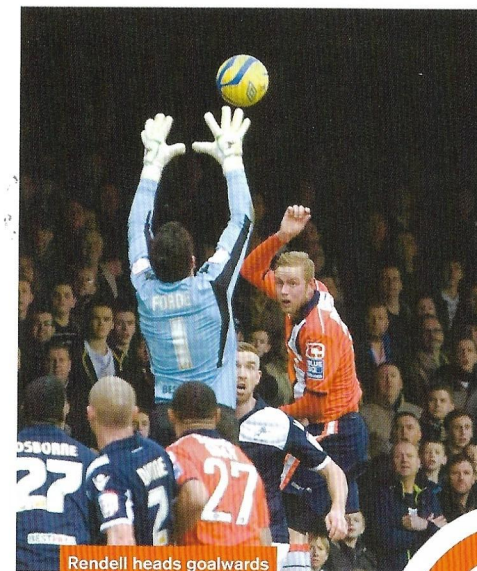
"I've had to be patient because I haven't started a league game since New Year's Day," he said. "I've been champing at the bit trying to get back in, working hard in training and the gaffer gave me the shout for the game.

"Me and Andre struck up a good partnership earlier in the season when we had a good run playing together and we know how each other plays; we're on the same wavelength. Sometimes it didn't show but it's a one off game.

"We all know the quality we have here as strikers at the club and as soon as you've got the shirt you've got to keep hold of it."

Now everything is focused back on the league the Hatters look to make a later surge for promotion. With cup antics taking centre stage the Town forward reassured fans the league was, and always has been the main priority.

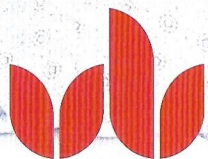
"It was the only aim. Now we can take the FA Cup and trophy out of it we can knuckle down and focus on every league game and give it our all."



Rendell heads goalwards against the Lions

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RONNIE HENRY

MACCLESFIELD MAYHEM

After a turbulent evening filled with drama, captain Ronnie Henry spoke to Talk of the Town about the series of events surrounding the players.

"It was a shock to us in the hotel before the game because we didn't really have any clue what was going on," said the Town skipper.

"When we heard Paul had resigned, it wasn't nice to hear because we had a lot of respect for him and we felt we had something going here."

Henry said despite the off field issues hampering their preparation there are no excuses for their missed opportunity on the pitch that evening that saw Macclesfield play 70 minutes with a man less and a midfielder in goal.

"It is difficult but we are professionals and we have to do a job," he said. "We couldn't have had a better start really, we scored the goal and then their goalkeeper gets sent off early. They are down to 10 men with an outfield player in goal so there are no excuses. We were purely not good enough, that's the bottom line. When they've got an outfield player in goal and we haven't scored."

"We should be good enough as professionals to deal with whatever situation comes ahead. Tonight is an all time low, we can't beat 10 men and we don't deserve to be where we are."

"We weren't brave enough, and didn't express ourselves enough and in the end they got the goal. It wasn't to be and we have got to regroup now and see what the future holds for us."

"We will go on the training pitch and we will work again there's nothing else we can really do. We have to wait for the new manager to come in, maybe he won't be here by the weekend but we will work with the management staff we have got and try to get the three points against Mansfield."

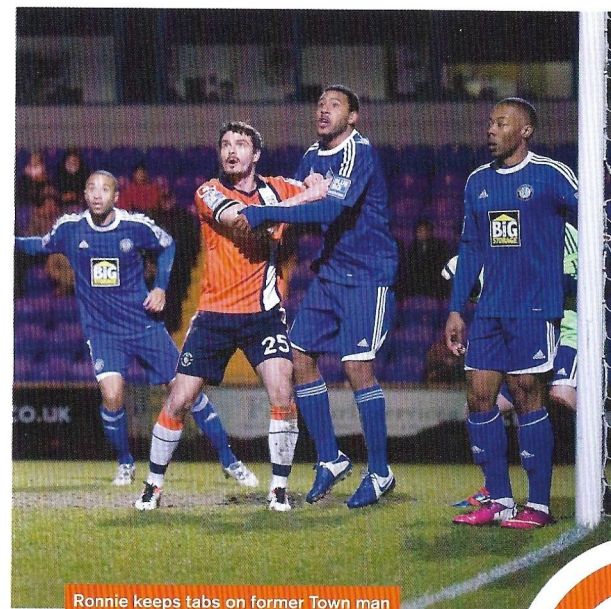
Rumours and speculation swarms across the club about who will be installed as Buckle's successor but Henry is focusing on the next game and believes having Alan Neilson, Carl Emberson and Stuart Cash in charge can help proceedings.

"They know us and we know how they work," continued Henry. "I just hope the board make the right decision on who to appoint next, I hope the fans and the club gets behind them and we can push on in the league."

With the uncertainty that looms and a recent run of results that does darken the mood more, club captain Henry is ensuring a positive attitude can maintain they stay on track for their season's target.

"There is no point us going out there and not thinking we can make the play-offs and we can't get promoted, stranger things have happened," Henry said.

"We will go out there positive and hopefully we can get the managerial situation resolved sooner rather than later and hopefully make a late run on the Play-Offs."



Ronnie keeps tabs on former Town man Matthew Barnes-Homer on Tuesday

FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH THE LUTON NEWS' MIKE SIMMONDS

Travelling up to Macclesfield on Tuesday night, I certainly didn't expect to hear the news with about an hour of the journey to go, "Buckle's gone."

Although the boss had been under pressure from certain sections of supporters recently due a stuttering league campaign, after witnessing Thursday's pre-FA Cup press conference, there was absolutely no sign of his impending departure.

There, flanked by managing director Gary Sweet, the pair put on a united front with Buckle being spoken about as being here for the 'long term'.

Five days later though, and that was to change due to personal circumstances, although at the time of writing, the reasons behind that decision still hadn't been made public.

Good value

A breath of fresh air for the media when arriving, Buckle was always happy for a chat and just the willingness to ring back for a few words quickly endeared himself to us at the News/Gazette.

He was good value too, as the boss was never afraid to answer questions about a potential signing, or whatever speculation had arisen that week.

I'm still racking my brains as to how it has gone quite so wrong this campaign as the squad assembled was without doubt the one of the best, if not the best, in the Blue Square Bet Premier back in August.

Consistency I guess is ultimately the watchword as, while Town were excellent away from home early on, form at Kenilworth Road dipped, and while once they had got the latter sorted, on the road, Town could barely buy a goal, let alone a win in recent times.



So on to the new manager. And again, while writing this, his identity remains unknown.

Running a poll on the Luton News website, out of the candidates named, Steve Robinson was the favourite from over 700 votes cast, Graham Westley second, although the option 'someone else' took the overall honours as there doesn't appear to be a stand out name for supporters.

Whoever does come in has a monumental task on their hands as Luton look like struggling to even make the Play-Offs this season, something that really should be a given.

Any fans who think the players aren't hurting through these hard times though only needed to witness skipper Ronnie Henry's emotional interview at Moss Lane on Tuesday to know that is not the case.

He and the rest of the players know that talking isn't what's needed now though, it's results, starting with Mansfield this afternoon.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY STEVEN CONEY

It's that time of the year again when Non-League clubs start looking at league tables and calendars with dread while trying to work out when exactly they'll fit in their remaining fixtures.

January, by anybody's standards, was a treacherous month that provided little in the way of football. Freezing temperatures and snow caused havoc across the country and meant that fixture backlogs got a little bit more crammed. It's not until you start looking at some league tables across Non-League that the problem really hits you – and a problem it definitely is.

If you start in the Blue Square Bet North, FC Halifax Town – who had a great run in the FA Trophy – had played 21 league games before today's fixtures. That means they've still got another 21 to play before April 27. Even if the Shaymen play Saturday, Tuesday until that date, they'll still have two fixtures remaining. That could well mean that Neil Aspin's men will have to play three games in a week to allay the congestion. And considering they are firmly in the BSB North play-off race, it's far from ideal.

The Southern League's Step 4 divisions have also been hit hard. South & West side Bridgwater Town have played only half of their games while Sholing still have 20 matches to cram in. Central division side Slough Town also have 20 of their 42 games left to play.

But that's nothing compared to the Ryman League. Premier division strugglers Thurrock have played just

21 times in the league, with Lowestoft Town having played just one more.

And in the Ryman North, Brentwood Town have over half of their fixtures left having played just 20.

The weather is not the only culprit though, with Step 5 sides enjoying a run in the FA Vase falling behind with their league games.

Combined Counties Premier outfit Guernsey are through to the quarter-finals but have a staggering 25 league matches left to play.

With away sides on the mainland not fancying a trip in midweek – and who can really blame them – it'll take something special for the Green Lions to complete their league programme.

Another side still in the Vase and not on the mainland is Wessex League Premier Newport IoW. With 22 of their 40 league games still to go, it will be an uphill battle for the Port too.

So, how do we try to combat the backlog? Obviously you can't legislate for the weather. What you can do is start Non-League seasons earlier, giving teams more time to get their games in.

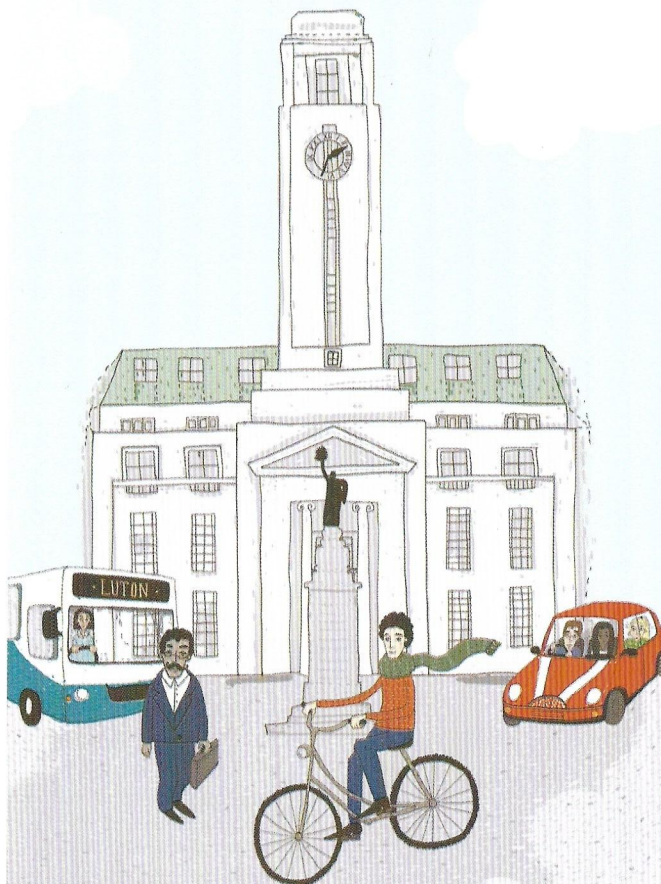
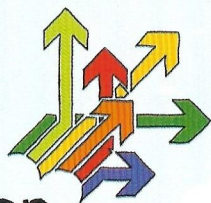
By starting seasons on the first Saturday in August, and making sure teams play Saturday, Tuesday while the weather is still reasonable, teams could have seven or eight games ticked off before they enter September.

There's no foolproof way to stop fixture backlogs but with the option there to give everybody a better chance, it would be silly not to take it.



The cold weather across the country has been one reason many clubs face a fixture pile-up

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FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH FORMER LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR BRIAN SWAIN

On a visit back down memory lane earlier this season, I reminisced on this page about one of the many players who have given me great pleasure over six decades of following Luton Town.

Brian Horton was a great leader and motivator, and while he was playing for the Town in the 1980s he struck up a friendship with another player, which became one of football's most enduring partnerships.

The pair also played major roles in taking the Town into the old First Division (now the Premier League) in 1982, although when we heard four years earlier that David Pleat had signed a 26-year-old winger from Third Division Swindon we wondered if it was a bit of a gamble.

The Town's board had taken a gamble when they promoted Pleat from the coaching staff to replace Harry Haslam, who resigned in January 1978.

Pleat's first game in charge was a 4-0 FA Cup thrashing at Millwall, but we finished in Second Division mid-table, with Bolton, Southampton and Spurs taking the three automatic promotion places.

In the summer of 1978, we saw the early examples of Pleat's incredible ability to identify and recruit talent. He started his first full season in charge with seven men making their debuts in the opening match, at home to Oldham: Kirk Stephens, Steve Sherlock, Mark Aizlewood, Mal Donaghy, Bob Hatton, Chris Turner and David Moss.

Hero

Personally, I have always loved to see players getting down the flanks and knocking over quality crosses, and I have seen a few of those in my time: think Brian Stein's decisive cross for Raddy Antic to score at Maine Road in 1983, or Ashley Grimes setting up Stein's Wembley winner, five years later.

As a boy, my hero was left-winger Bert Mitchell, and in the 1970s wingers I loved were headed by John Aston and Jim Ryan.

But Moss was the best winger I ever saw in Town colours. He turned out to be a lot better than Third Division, able to operate on either wing but particularly effective on the left. He was the best I ever saw at crossing the ball while running at full speed, and he had pace in abundance. He packed a powerful shot and was a dead-ball expert, especially with his left foot.



And the Pleat 'gamble' of seven debuts in 1978? At half-time we were one down to Oldham, and moaning over our beer. But then the new team clicked to devastating effect, whacking in six goals without reply. Moss and Hatton got two apiece, with Stein and Lil Fuccillo (penalty) also on target.

Top flight

It was the start of the best period in Luton Town's history, with Pleat insisting on entertaining and winning football, which took us into the First Division in 1982. Moss was a crucial part of that happy band, reaching the top flight at 30, before returning to Swindon in the summer of 1985.

He had netted 88 goals for the Town in 221 appearances as a winger.

He became a regular manager's assistant to Horton after that and is now scouting for Liverpool's academy. If he finds a winger as good as he was, he will have done an amazing job.

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 12 Milton Keynes Dons	H	L 2-3	Magarushe, Pittfield
Sat 26 Leyton Orient	H	D 2-2	Banton, Smith

FEBRUARY

Sat 09 Stevenage	H	W 2-0	Amu, McKenzie-Lowe
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	

A SEASON'S STORY

PART NINE BY DAVID CAIN

NEARLY

If one word sums up Millwall, Paul Buckle's departure, and indeed our whole season, it is *nearly*.

Sometimes in life *nearly* is not quite good enough, and like ancient kings deposed to make way for their successors, managers depart with a heartfelt thank you but no backwards glance. Football moves on.

The king is dead, long live the king!

The hardest part of being a fan is that we are powerless to change the outcome of a match. Apart from our superstitions and our songs there is really nothing we can do to change *nearly* into victory.

This is what makes our wins so sweet and our defeats so hard to take.

And when it *nearly* happens, well, then it is even harder to understand.

If we had not seen such riches, we could live with being poor.

So it's back to the league, with a change at the top, and it almost feels as though we are starting this season again. It is a surprise to look at the fixture list and realise we still have 17 matches left. That's a third of the season to play and fifty-one points up for grabs.

What we need to do is turn those *nearly* points into real ones. So until promotion is out of reach I will keep my faith in the team, and the new manager. Trust them to win against Mansfield today and to bring us one step closer to the Promised Land.

Oh, and one thing is not a *nearly* at all. This I know for sure. The Hatters may be *nearly* many things, but we were never being boring.

EXTRA TIME by Elliott Quince



By retuning his headset the referee's assistant could also run an I.T. helpline

2012/13 YOUTH TEAM

KIT SPONSORS

 ZANE BANTON HOME: First Capital Connect AWAY: Available	 TINASHE CHABATA HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 LEEROY MAGARUSHE HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 AREL AMU HOME: DW Sports AWAY: Available
 JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 IAN REES HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 CHARLIE SMITH HOME: Peter Mitchell AWAY: 2MB	 BEN MCFARLANE-BARNES HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES: 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	 NICK BURTENSHAW HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 JERRY NASH HOME: Moira Spain AWAY: Available	 ZAK STEPHENS HOME: Available AWAY: Available		 BRETT LONGDEN HOME: Mike Tearie AWAY: Available

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ACADEMY

UPDATE

WITH MATT STANNARD

ELITE PLAYER PERFORMANCE PLAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

In the summer of 2011 a new set of rules were developed to revamp youth development in this country.

In essence, the majority of the changes I agree with. It will make the game more professional and accountable for the development of all players within the programme. It will raise standards with regards facilities and coaching staff and it will, in the long term, be better for player development in this country.

The major change that is having an effect on clubs already this season is the ability of scouts and clubs to recruit players from other clubs for reduced compensation.

Whilst it is our ultimate aim to push players all the way through our development programme, we would never stand in the way of a player who wishes to move on. Obviously, deals have to be right for all parties and we as a Club would always ensure the welfare and future development of the child before entering into discussions with any club.

With the implementation of these new rules, players moving from club to club will take place more frequently as the rules have shifted the power to the buying club.

In the new rules, clubs will receive payment of £3,500 per year at the club, for players aged Under-9-11. This then rises to £12,500 for players at Under-12-16. These figures are some way off the players' actual value and could potentially leave lower league clubs worse off in the long term.

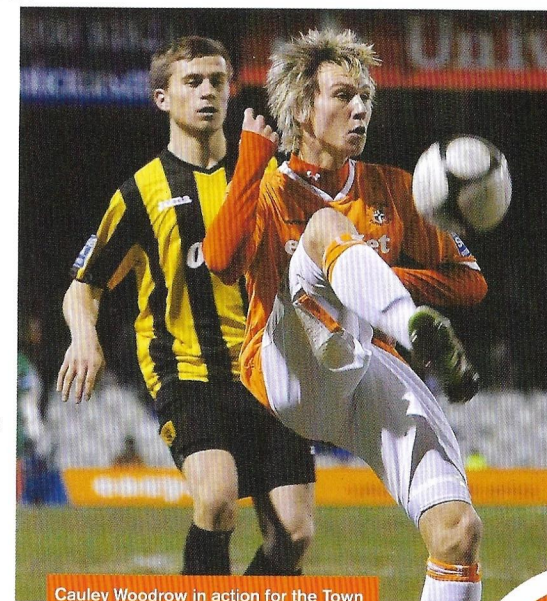
Gone are the days now when youth departments can be self sufficient. Recent big money sales of Cauley Woodrow to Fulham, Tarum Dawkins to Arsenal, the three Da Silva brothers to Chelsea, Michael Richens to Peterborough, Michael Caine to Leicester and Lewis Baker to Chelsea, where the club were in control of the transfer fee, will soon no longer be possible.

As a result of this, there is more pressure on the club to create an environment where players are developed to a level where they are good enough to leave but looked after so well, they don't want to.

Having said this, we are confident that our development philosophy and the way we treat our players is enough to keep churning out players. Our history and the opportunities we provide are second to none for a club at this level, in fact better than many clubs in the Football League.

On that note, as I'm writing this we are currently on our way to PSV Eindhoven with the Under-11-15 age groups. Now on the third day of our tour we are due to view the stadium and travel home. The boys have been fantastic throughout and have made the trip easy. They have been a real credit to the Football Club and their parents.

I will update you fully in my next set of notes.



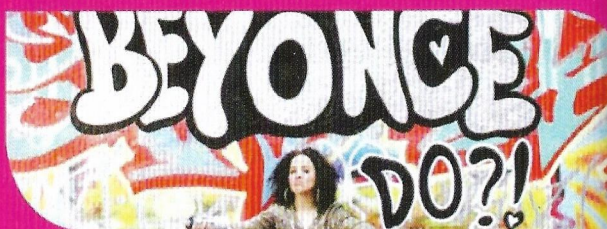
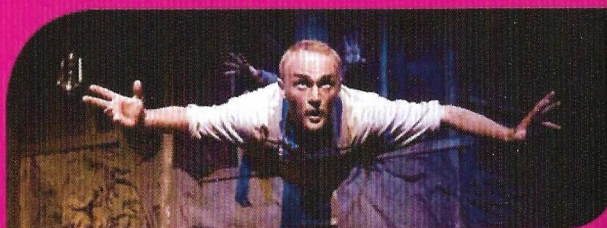
Cauley Woodrow in action for the Town in the FA Trophy before he signed for Premier League side Fulham

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– Summer
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LUTON LADIES

LADIES THROUGH TO COUNTY CUP FINAL

The Town Ladies reached the Bedfordshire FA County Cup final with a comfortable 5-1 semi-final away win against Leighton United.

Luton dominated the first period, pinning United into their own half, but when they did find a way through a packed defence they found 'keeper Rachel Evans in fine form as she threw herself to her right twice to push shots away, and did well to deny Laura Day with her legs.

Neat interchange

The Hatters finally took the lead after 28 minutes from a Rachel Kosky corner which eluded two Luton players but not Amy Summerfield as she arrived at the far post to prod the ball home from close-range. Then, a neat interchange set Day free down the middle and she finished well sliding the ball into the bottom corner to make it 2-0.

Minutes later it was 3-0 when Day seized on a superbly threaded through ball from Teighlor Pengeley to score her second.

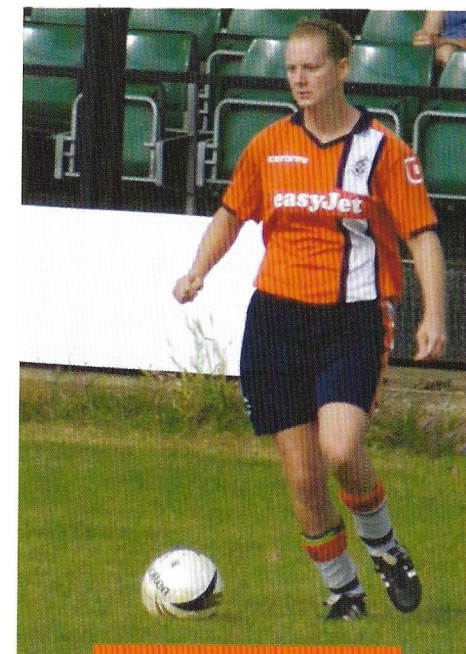
A through ball was then cut out on the edge of the area by a combination of Evans and a covering defender and as the ball bobbled up Michelle Byrne looped her shot over everyone into the net to complete a 12-minute spell which produced four goals.

Dominate

Luton changed the line-up at half time but continued to dominate possession and create chances, but again Evans pulled off a series of fine saves to deny further goals. United reduced the deficit after an hour when the Hatters became sloppy at the back and a cruel deflection sent the ball looping in slow motion into the net off the post.

In no more than 30 seconds after that goal, Day completed her hat-trick straight from the kick-off by beating four players before shooting high into the net from just inside the area.

The game was delayed when Town skipper Michelle Byrne received lengthy treatment for what appeared to be a serious ankle injury and there were no further goals once play finally restarted.



Amy Summerfield: Scored in the opener in the County Cup semi-final

Town manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "This tie was always a no win situation for us and we were crowded out during the first half hour.

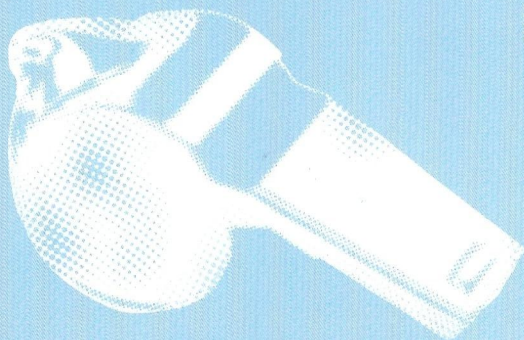
"However, once we upped the tempo, we scored four times very quickly before going back into our shells.

"It was a frustrating game with no real pattern to it but we got through it despite spurning far too many chances and we might have been punished on another day."

The Town will now meet Bedford in the final tie on 28th April where they will attempt to set a new record for County Cup wins.

#NONSENSEINFOOTBALL

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



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SAID.
JUST
BET**



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TERM 3 BEGINS NEXT WEEK



TIPs - Talent Identification Programme

Luton Town FC

Football Development for 6 to 16 year olds

Youth Development 2012-13

TERM 1

Sept 17th - Nov 23rd
2012
(9 weeks)

TRIAL MATCH

Sat 17th - Nov
2012

TERM 2

Nov 26th 2012 -
Feb 15th 2013
(9 weeks)

TRIAL MATCH

Sat 2nd Feb 2013

TERM 3

Feb 25th - May 10th
2013
(9 weeks)

TRIAL MATCH

Thurs 25th April 2013
and 2nd May 2013

TERM 4

May 13th - July 19th
2013
(9 weeks)

TRIAL MATCH

Thurs 4th July 2013
and 11th July 2013



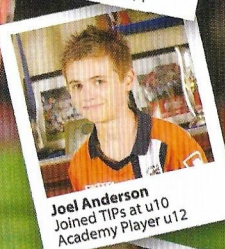
TIPs GRADUATES



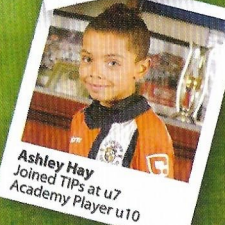
Alisan Ann
Joined TIPs at u13
First Team Debut: 2011



Ergyst Stafa
Joined TIPs at u12
Academy Player u14



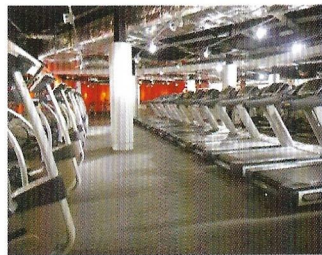
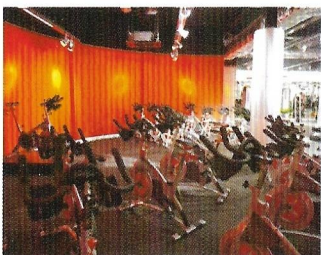
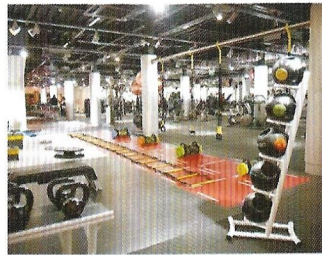
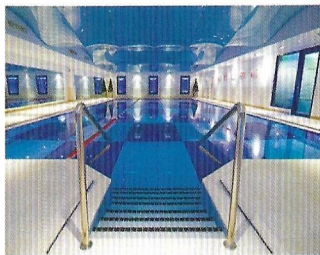
Joel Anderson
Joined TIPs at u10
Academy Player u12



Ashley Hay
Joined TIPs at u7
Academy Player u10

Coaching Programme 9 Weeks Plus Trial Match

Soccer Centres in Aylesbury, Bedford,
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Leighton Buzzard, Harpenden, Hitchin,
Luton and Shefford



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

LEAGUE LOOK

JOE FLEMONS ROUNDS-UP THE LATEST IN THE BSBP

A crisp evening provided the perfect platform for another icy round of Blue Square Bet Premier fixtures this past weekend with some sides freezing under the pressure.

Top of the table Grimsby succumbed to Braintree's clinical finishing as they opened the door for Wrexham to snatch the top spot away.

The Mariners had been on an 18-game unbeaten run but Luke Daley's double put an end to that record and left the door wide open to the chasing pack.

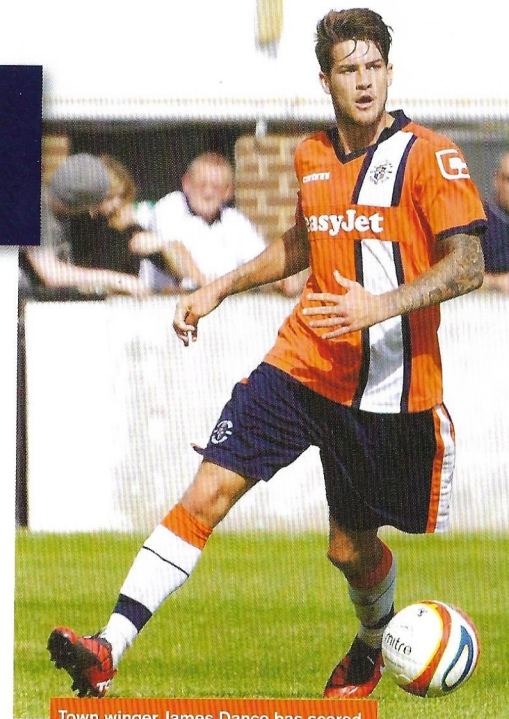
It was a chance presented to Wrexham who travelled north to face catch-up kings Gateshead who finally restarted their campaign after weather disruption put their relegation survival on hold. The king of Been There and Done It, Brett Ormerod, snatched a 60th-minute winner for the Dragons who leapfrogged Grimsby to the top of the pile ahead of a trip to lowly Barrow next Tuesday.

Kidderminster also continued their impressive form as they climbed to third in the table with a pivotal win over Forest Green Rovers. Anthony Malbon struck for the only goal of the game in the first half as they sealed their fourth consecutive win.

There was not much movement in the places behind the Play-Off spots so attention switched to the basement clubs who continued to fight tooth and nail to secure Blue Square Bet Premier survival at the earliest opportunity.

Barrow and Woking played out what many were billing as a relegation six-pointer as both sides gripped onto the basement trapdoor with dear life as the danger zone vultures swarmed above. The Bluebirds, quite literally, Rowe'd their way to victory with namesakes Danny L Rowe and Danny M Rowe bagging to earn Barrow a priceless three points lifting them to within two points of safety with a game in hand over 20th placed Nuneaton.

Hatters loanee James Dance is drawing plaudits from across the league as he earned Nuneaton three points to maintain their league status outside the drop zone.



Town winger James Dance has scored two winning goals in the last two games whilst on loan at Nuneaton

Boro and Alfreton were unable to break each other down until substitute Dance was gifted the opportunity to steal all three points from the spot in injury time. And he made no mistake from the spot as Dance slotted home to draw Alfreton back into the relegation scrap.

Ebbsfleet maintain their position in the driving seat, however, with a run of three unbeaten games after Josh Scott lifted them off the bottom of the table and away from safety.

In the bottom half of the table nine teams are separated by just eight points from the bottom place upwards meaning a guaranteed highly contested run in.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CAMBRIDGE v HEREFORD

KIDDERMINSTER v ALFRETON

LINCOLN CITY v BARROW

NEWPORT v TELFORD

SOUTHPORT v WOKING

TAMWORTH v HYDE

FIXTURES AND RESULTS

	DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
August									
	Sat 11	15:00	H	Gateshead	D 2-2	6,743	76	11	Tyler Taylor** Rowe-Turner Henry Kovacs Kasim* Howells O'Donnell Rendell Gray***
	Tue 14	19:45	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,275	542	4	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs Kasim* Howells O'Donnell Rendell Shaw**
TV	Fri 17	19:30	A	Hyde	W 2-1	1,141	477	3	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs Kasim* Howells O'Donnell Rendell Shaw
	Sat 25	15:00	H	AFC Telford United	L 0-1	5,970	111	9	Tyler Lawless Howells Rowe-Turner Henry Kovacs Kasim* Howells O'Donnell Rendell Shaw
	Mon 27	15:00	A	Ebbw Vale United	W 3-1	2,018	1,246	5	Tyler Lawless Taylor Rowe-Turner Henry Kovacs Kasim* Howells O'Donnell Rendell Shaw
September									
	Sat 1	15:00	H	Macclesfield Town	W 4-1	5,903	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 Rowe-Turner Kovacs*** Beckwith 1 Kovacs**1 Lawless O'Donnell Howells Rendell Gray 1
TV	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	Grimby 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	5,096	77	4	Tyler Henry Howells Essam Ainge Lawless O'Donnell Kasim* Rendell 2*** Gray
October									
	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	Brantree Town	L 2-3	2,108	372	3	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** Ainge Lawless 2 O'Donnell Rendell Gray** Shaw
	Sat 20	13:00	A	Cambridge United (FAC4Q)	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	2,182	1,082	2	Brill Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Ainge Howells Mendy Rendell 1 Gray Shaw
November									
	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
December									
	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* Ainge Rowe-Turner O'Donnell 1*** Watkins Robinson Dance** Walker 2
TV	Sat 8	15:00	H	Alfreton Town	W 3-0	5,648	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 Kovacs O'Donnell** Mendy* Howells Lawless Rendell
	Sat 15	15:00	A	Matlock Town (FAT2)	W 2-1	823	136	-	Brill Henry Howells Ainge 1 Kovacs O'Donnell** Mendy Rendell 1 Fleetwood* Gray**
	Wed 28	15:00	H	Woking	W 3-1	674	235	4	Tyler Henry Howells Ainge 1 Kovacs 1 Lawless Mendy Rendell 1 Fleetwood* Gray**
January									
	Tue 1	13:00	A	Woking	L 1-3	2,961	949	5	Tyler Henry Howells*** Ainge Kovacs Lawless Mendy* Neilson Rendell Gray 1
	Sat 5	15:00	H	Wolves (FAC3)	W 1-0	9,638	1,500	-	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless 1 Mendy Smith O'Donnell* Shaw
	Tue 8	19:45	H	Barrow	W 6-1	5,165	31	5	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs 1 Lawless Mendy Smith* Neilson 1 Shaw 3**
	Sat 12	15:00	H	Stamford United (FAT3)	W 2-0	2,479	220	-	Brill Lawless Howells Ainge Rowe-Turner Robinson Mendy Howells Dance* Walker**
	Tue 15	19:45	A	AFC Telford United	D 0-0	1,806	126	6	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless Mendy Smith Neilson* Shaw
	Sat 26	15:00	A	Norwich City (FAC4)	W 1-0	26,521	4,000	-	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless Mendy* Smith Howells Shaw**
	Tue 29	19:45	A	Grimby Town (FATQF)	L 0-3	2,791	75	-	Brill Henry Howells Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless Mendy* Smith O'Donnell*** Fleetwood
February									
	Sat 2	15:00	A	Barrow	L 0-1	1,188	188	7	Tyler Henry Taylor*** Rowe-Turner McNulty Lawless Mendy* Smith Martin Shaw**
	Sat 9	15:00	H	Forest Green Rovers	D 1-1	6,374	110	7	Tyler Henry Howells Kovacs McNulty Lawless Smith Neilson* Martin** Shaw
TV	Tue 12	19:45	A	Dartford	L 0-1	1,882	475	7	Tyler Henry Howells Kovacs McNulty Lawless Smith Neilson Martin** Shaw
	Sat 16	12:45	H	Millwall (FAC5)	L 0-3	9,768	1,530	-	Tyler Taylor Kovacs Henry Howells Lawless Mendy** Smith O'Donnell* Rendell
	Tue 19	19:45	A	Macclesfield Town	D 1-1	1,984	278	8	Tyler Henry Taylor*** Rowe-Turner McNulty Howells Lawless Smith** Shaw Rendell*
	Sat 23	15:00	H	Mansfield Town					
	Tue 26	19:45	A	Brantree Town					
March									
	Sat 2	15:00	A	Stockport County					
	Tue 5	19:45	A	Nuneaton Town					
	Sat 9	15:00	H	Hereford United					
	Tue 12	19:45	H	Hyde					
	Sat 16	15:00	A	Wrexham					
	Tue 19	19:45	H	Stockport County					
	Sat 23	15:00	H	Tamworth					
	Tue 26	19:45	H	Ebbw Vale United					
	Sat 30	15:00	A	Cambridge United					
April									
	Mon 1	15:00	H	Kidderminster Harriers					
	Sat 6	15:00	A	Gateshead					
	Tue 9	19:45	H	Lincoln City					
TV	Fri 12	19:45	H	Grimby Town					
TV	Tue 16	19:45	H	Newport County					
	Sat 20	15:00	A	Southport					



Town fans in the Kenilworth Road end help lift a flag at last Saturday's cup tie with Millwall

SUBS									
Fleetwood 1	Brill	Beckwith	Lawless**	Watkins**	Shaw 1				
Fleetwood* 2	Brill	Beckwith	Walker	Gray*	Robinson**				
Fleetwood*** 1	Brill	Beckwith	Howells*	Gray*	Robinson***				
Fleetwood	Brill	Beckwith	Taylor*	Gray**	Woolley				
Fleetwood 2	Brill	Lacey	Watkins**	Kasim	Woolley*				
Fleetwood 1	Brill	Essam***	Watkins*	Woolley**	Walker				
Fleetwood**	Brill	Essam**	Watkins	Woolley***	Kasim				
Gray	Brill	Essam**	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				
Fleetwood	Brill	Rowe-Turner	Lacey	Kasim*	Walker 1**				
Fleetwood	Brill	Kovacs**	J. Robinson	M. Robinson	Walker*				
Fleetwood**	Brill	M. Robinson*	J. Robinson**	Beckwith*	Walker Lacey				
Fleetwood 1*	Essam	O'Donnell*	M. Robinson	J. Robinson	Walker				
Fleetwood**	Tyler	Lacey	Longden	Watkins**	Dance	M. Robinson	J. Robinson*		
Fleetwood	Tyler	Lawless**	O'Donnell***	J. Robinson*	Walker				
Fleetwood	Tyler	Rowe-Turner	Lacey	Kasim*	Walker				
Gray**	Brill	Beckwith	Lacey	Longden	Dance***	Robinson*	Woolley**		
Gray 2*	Brill	Beckwith	O'Donnell	Robinson	Fleetwood*				
Gray*	Brill	Beckwith	Walker	Fleetwood 1*	Dance**				
Gray 1**	Brill	Lacey*	Mendy***	Watkins	Dance	Shaw	Fleetwood**		
Shaw	Fleetwood**	Gray	Mendy	Woolley***	Howells*				
Gray 1*	Brill	Mendy	Shaw**	Fleetwood**	Walker***				
Gray 1	Brill	Taylor	Dance	Shaw 1*	Fleetwood**				
Shaw 1	Lacey	Dance	Robinson	Fleetwood*	Rowe-Turner**				
Shaw 1	Brill	Robinson**	O'Donnell*	Rowe-Turner	Taylor				
Shaw**	Brill	Fleetwood**	O'Donnell	Rowe-Turner***	Smith*				
Gray**	Brill	Lacey	Robinson	Rendell**	Fleetwood*	Woolley	Walker		
Gray 1***	Brill	Howells*	Fleetwood***	Rendell**	Ainge				
Rendell	Gray*	Watkins**	Fleetwood	C. Smith	Longden				
Gray**	Brill	Howells*	Fleetwood**	Rendell	Ainge				
Gray***	Brill	Watkins	O'Donnell*	Dance	Robinson	Rendell 1**	Fleetwood***		
Rendell**	Tyler	Watkins***	Gray	Ainge*	Shaw**				
Gray	Howells***	Neilson*	Fleetwood	Rendell**	O'Donnell				
Gray 1***	Taylor	Mendy*	O'Donnell**	Rendell	Fleetwood***				
Gray	Brill	Taylor***	O'Donnell**	Rendell*	Robinson				
Gray	Brill	Lacey	Longden	Robinson	Shaw**	Fleetwood*	Woolley		
Gray 1	Kovacs	Mendy**	O'Donnell*	Neilson	Fleetwood***				

LEAGUE TABLE 2012/13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Wrexham	32	17	10	5	60	31	29	61
2 Grimsby Town	31	16	10	5	50	23	27	58
3 Kidderminster Harriers	32	16	8	8	48	26	22	56
4 Forest Green Rovers	33	16	8	9	53	33	20	56
5 Newport County AFC	30	17	5	8	64	46	18	56
6 Mansfield Town	30	16	5	9	59	41	18	53
7 Macclesfield Town	32	13	9	10	49	45	4	48
8 Luton Town	29	13	6	10	49	41	8	45
9 Dartford	31	13	5	13	48	48	0	44
10 Cambridge United	32	11	9	12	55	54	1	42
11 Hereford United	30	11	9	10	44	44	0	42
12 Southport	31	11	9	11	54	57	-3	42
13 Woking	30	13	2	15	49	59	-10	41
14 Tamworth	32	11	7	14	40	45	-5	40
15 Stockport County	32	10	8	14	43	52	-9	38
16 Brantree Town	30	11	5	14	40	53	-13	38
17 Alfreton Town	32	9	10	13	41	56	-15	37
18 Hyde FC	32	10	6	16	46	50	-4	36
19 Lincoln City	31	9	8	14	47	56	-9	35
20 Nuneaton	32	8	10	14	40	55	-15	34
21 Barrow	31	8	8	15	36	64	-28	32
22 Gateshead	29	7	10	12	31	39	-8	31
23 Ebbw Vale United	30	7	10	13	40	57	-17	31
24 AFC Telford United	34	5	15	14	43	54	-11	30

PLAYER STATS 2012/13

	LEAGUE		THIS SEASON CUP				TOTAL		DISCIP		CAREER TOTAL	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS			R	APPS	GLS	
Simon AINGE	12	0	1	4	(1)	1	16	(1)	0	2	17	0
Dean BECKWITH	8	0	1	1	(1)	0	9	(1)	3	0	21	2
Dean BRILL	3	0	0	5	0	8	(0)	0	0	0	105	0
James DANCE	0	0	0	2	(2)	0	2	(2)	0	0	32	4
Connor ESSAM	5	(4)	0	0	0	5	(4)	0	2	0	9	0
Stuart FLEETWOOD	16	(10)	10	3	(8)	1	19	(18)	11	2	84	27
Andre GRAY	26	(3)	10	9	(1)	3	35	(4)	13	5	51	20
Ronnie HENRY	26	0	10	0	0	36	(0)	3	1	36	0	0
Jake HOWELLS	24	(4)	1	10	(1)	0	34	(5)	1	2	222	16
Jerome JIBODU	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	1	0
Yaser KASIM	5	(6)	1	0	0	5	(6)	1	2	0	11	1
Janos KOVACS	18	(1)	3	10	0	28	(1)	3	5	0	90	8
Alex LACEY	0	0	0	1	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	0	9	0
Alex LAWLESS	25	(2)	2	11	0	2	36	(2)	4	6	114	11
David MARTIN	3	0	0	0	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	3	0
Arnaud MENDY	11	(2)	0	9	(1)	0	20	(3)	0	6	23	0
Steve McNULTY	4	0	0	0	0	4	(0)	0	1	0	4	0
Scott NEILSON	5	(1)	1	0	0	5	(1)	0	1	0	6	0
JJ O'DONNELL	18	(6)	2	10	(1)	1	28	(7)	3	3	44	3
Scott RENDELL	22	(3)	7	8	(2)	4	30	(5)	11	2	35	11
Jake ROBINSON	3	(4)	0	0	(2)	0	3	(6)	0	0	9	0
Mark ROBINSON	0	(3)	0	2	(2)	0	2	(5)	0	1	7	0
Lathaniel ROWE-TURNER	18	(4)	0	10	(1)	0	28	(5)	0	1	33	0
Jon SHAW	18	(5)	7	5	(2)	2	23	(7)	9	1	30	9
Jonathan SMITH	10	(1)	1	6	0	16	(1)	0	4	0	17	0
Greg TAYLOR	11	(2)	0	3	0	14	(2)	0	1	0	39	0
Mark TYLER	26	0	0	7	0	33	(0)	1	0	1	171	0
Dan WALKER	0	(5)	1	4	0	2	4	(5)	3	0	29	4
Adam WATKINS	2	(3)	0	1	(3)	1	3	(6)	1	0	58	9
Jake WOODLEY	0	(3)	0	0	(2)	0	0	(5)	0	0	0	10

LET'S GO

BRAINTREE



It's Saturday-Tuesday until the end of the season and after this afternoon the Town are on the road on Tuesday when they make one of their shorter journeys of the season, to Braintree.



BRAINTREE TOWN

Who? Braintree, nicknamed the Iron, were formed in 1898 as Manor Works, a local firm who specialise in steel framed windows, which is where the nickname Iron originates.

Where? Braintree play their home games at Cressing Road, or for the men with the money, The Amlin Stadium. Fairly straightforward to get to heading around the M25, other major motorways are available, simply press CM7 3RD into the sat-nav and you're half-way there.

MotorJoys! Agreed motorways are never really straightforward so for those of you wanting a more scenic route and bypassing the concrete runways, the A120 will take you a little over one and a half hours.

Bring a brolley Town fans will be shepherded into the Quag End which can facilitate for up to 1,000 travelling fans. This section of the 90-year-old ground was redeveloped last year but without a roof. If it rains, you have been warned. A bit of rain can't dampen the Town spirits though, can it?

Catch the coach... Bobbers will of course be providing travel coaches to and from the ground for those of you who would rather avoid the agony of driving. The fare is £18 for adults and £15 for concessions. Call 01234 856542 to book your space. The coach leaves the Maple Road car park at 4.30pm.

The Only Way Is Essex This will be the Hatters' second trip to Cressing Road and hopefully it will be happier than the last. Days prior to Paul Buckle's appointment last season, the Hatters were comfortably beaten 3-1 by the Iron. Nothing 'reem' about that performance.

Brainy-Tree for the statisticians amongst us, this will be the fourth game between the two sides in which the Iron have come out on top twice.

On top of that 3-1 win at Cressing Road last April, they completed back-to-back victories over the Hatters in October with a 3-2 win here at Kenilworth Road. It's not been all doom and gloom for the Hatters, however, who strolled to a comprehensive 3-1 win back in August 2011 thanks to a first-half brace from Amari Morgan-Smith and a Jake Howells strike.

Loaning Link There is a familiar figure that will grace both squad lists on Tuesday, despite his ineligibility to appear. Dan Walker scored for the Hatters in the 3-2 defeat to Braintree early this season and was then loaned out to Essex to help their battle against the drop.

Iron out the Cressings... The Hatters will travel to Essex knowing the Iron have struggled to find consistency in front of their home fans. Their hosting of the Hatters will complete a hat-trick of home ties in the space of just 10 days.



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TODAY'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN

Mark Tyler	1
Lathaniel Rowe-Turner	2
Greg Taylor	3
Garry Richards	4
Steve McNulty	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
Dave Martin	18
James Dance	19
Scott Neilson	20
Wayne Thomas	22
Matt Robinson	23
Jonathan Smith	24
Ronnie Henry	25
Andre Gray	27
Jake Woolley	28
Dan Walker	29
Dean Brill	33



MANSFIELD TOWN

1 Alan Marriott
2 Ritchie Sutton
3 John Thompson
4 John Dempster
5 Luke Jones
6 George Pilkington
7 Lindon Meikle
8 Jake Speight
9 Ross Dyer
10 Matt Green
11 Louis Briscoe
12 Nick Wright
13 Anthony Howell
14 Chris Clements
15 Andrew Owens
16 Matt Rhead
17 Lee Beevers
18 Gary Roberts
19 Jamie Hand
20 Jamie Tolley
21 Adam Murray
23 Shane Redmond
24 Andy Todd
25 Ben Hutchinson
26 Lee Stevenson
29 James Jennings
31 Colin Daniel
32 Ryan Tafazolli
33 Exodus Geohagbon

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: K. Johnson
 ASSISTANT: M. McIntyre
 ASSISTANT: A. Serrano
 FOURTH OFFICIAL: J. Richardson

HERE NEXT

HEREFORD UNITED

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2013

KICK-OFF 3PM

