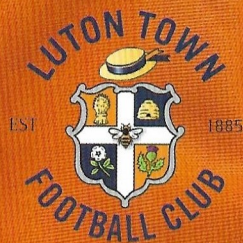
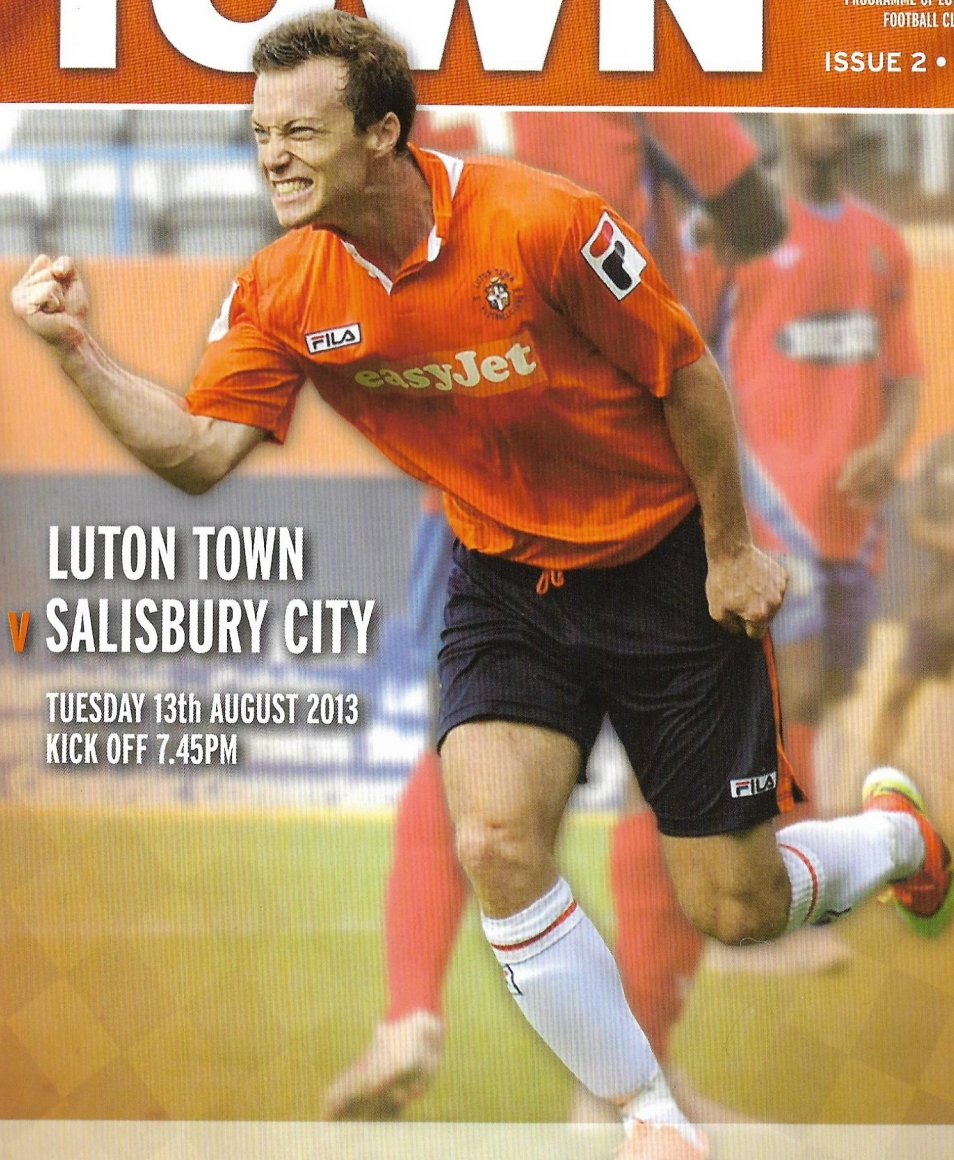


TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 2 • £3.00



LUTON TOWN V SALISBURY CITY

TUESDAY 13th AUGUST 2013
KICK OFF 7.45PM

The **Skrill** Premier

easyJet

FILA @ **JD**

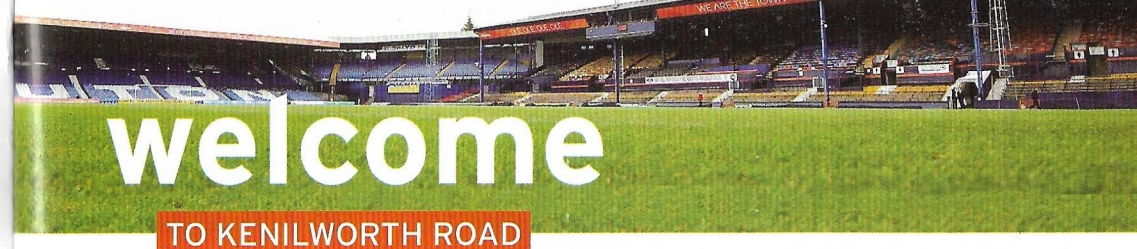
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YOUR CLUB. YOUR LUTON TOWN.
2013/2014 REPLICA KITS NOW AVAILABLE.



“ Where has the time gone?

It only seems like yesterday that last season came to a close – ironically at Southport where it all started again on Saturday – yet here we are welcoming you all back to Kenilworth Road for the first home league fixture of the new campaign.

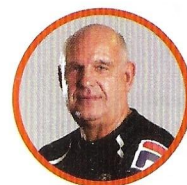
It has been a busy summer of new faces and friendlies, and we felt it only right to tell you all about them over the next 100 pages of this special edition of Talk of the Town.

So if you've been out enjoying the summer sunshine too much and haven't logged online to the official website – you'll learn of what's new to you: from players, pies and pitch improvements. Enjoy! #COYH ”



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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road,

Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW

Switchboard: 01582 411622

Ticket office: 01582 416976

info@lutontown.co.uk | www.lutontown.co.uk

CLUB OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN: Nick Owen

MANAGING DIRECTOR: Gary Sweet

DIRECTORS: Paul Ballantyne, David Blakeman, Bob Curson, David Wilkinson

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PRESS OFFICER: Andrew Barringer

CLUB DOCTOR: Dr Paul Dealey

CLUB CHAPLAIN: Alan West

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

EDITOR: Andrew Barringer

PHOTOGRAPHY: Gareth Owen

CONTRIBUTORS: Andrew Barringer, Roger Wash, Tom Skinner, Matt Aquino, Kevin Crowe and Leigh Edwards.

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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.

the manager

JOHN STILL

Good evening and welcome to you all to our first home league game of the season in the Skrill Premier.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to Salisbury City, their young manager Mikey Harris and his staff, plus the directors, players and supporters of the Wiltshire club. There will be much expectation on the Whites this season following their promotion last term.

For us, it's great to be back here at Kenilworth Road to get our home campaign under way and this match takes on significance for us because we need to bounce back after the weekend's disappointment at Southport.

Honest

I'll be honest with you and say I didn't see that defeat coming. We had enjoyed a steady pre-season. We had played good enough in our friendlies to indicate that our form was good enough to get a result on the opening day.

I know pre-season can be notorious for giving false signs to what lies ahead in the season proper, but I always look for my squad to be fit, organised and disciplined, and I thought over the course of the summer we had that in abundance. On Saturday, though, for whatever reason, some of those things were missing.

Not only did we not play to an acceptable level, I don't believe we were as fully focused on the game as we should have been. Is it good that we've had a performance like this so early in the season? Probably, but in my opinion we shouldn't be playing like that at all.

The staff and players were also very disappointed, but the only bright spot for me over the weekend was your unbelievable support. Since I've been at Kenilworth Road I've come to know what fantastic,

loyal support this club has, but even I was surprised with the number of you that travelled to Haig Avenue. It was hugely disappointing to let so many of you down.

Tonight the players have chance to change your perceptions of them following Saturday. As I said, we were not good enough but, knowing the capabilities of this squad like I do, I am confident we can post a strong, winning performance this evening.

Looking further ahead we have another home game here on Saturday when we entertain Macclesfield and, with the games coming thick and fast – especially during the first few months of the season – I believe that the strength of our squad will stand us in good stead over the course of what is going to be a long campaign.

Welcome

As these are my first notes of the season, I would also like to welcome some of the new members of the backroom staff to Kenilworth Road who have joined the club over the summer. Hakan Hayrettin has joined as first team coach, Dave Richardson is our fitness coach, whilst our newest member is goalkeeper coach Jeff Wood. I am delighted to be able to have these men on the coaching staff for the coming season.

Returning to tonight I must pay tribute to all those supporters who have purchased season tickets.

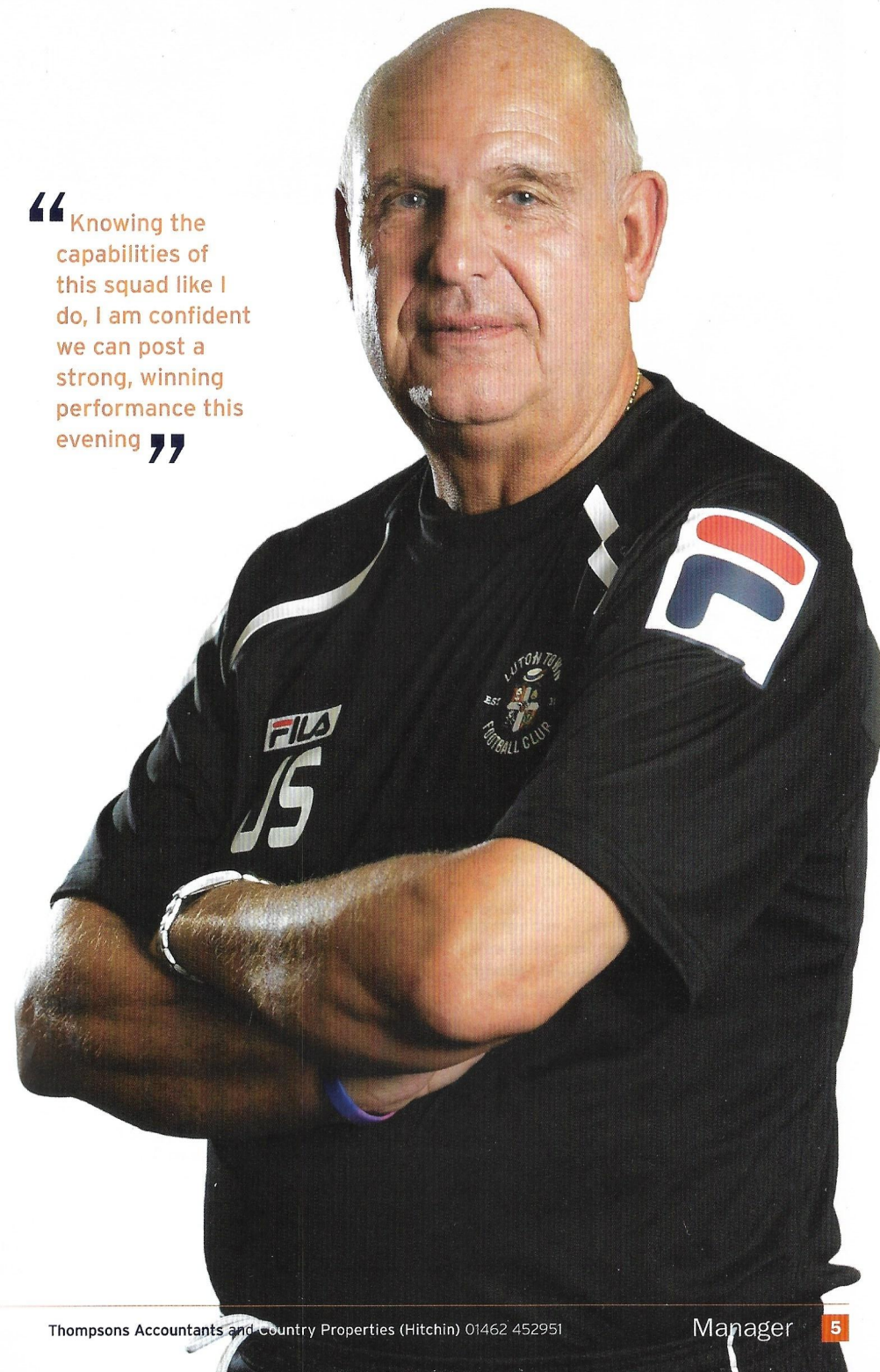
We have sold 4,400 – an absolutely remarkable figure. Looking through the attendances of Saturday's games there was not one attendance higher than 4,400 alone. Your loyalty and passion is what drives me to make this club a success.

We need to put to bed the frustration of Saturday and get off to a winning start at Kenilworth Road tonight, so please get behind us and enjoy the game.

Thank you for support.

John Still

“Knowing the capabilities of this squad like I do, I am confident we can post a strong, winning performance this evening”



boardroom

WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR GARY SWEET



Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road each and every one of you for this, our opening home fixture of the 2013/14 season competing in the newly-branded Skrill Premier.

We welcome and thank our new league sponsors and hope it will be a fruitful partnership.

We also welcome our visitors tonight, Salisbury City, and wish the Whites a successful season back in non-league's top flight. Many congratulations to everyone involved in their promotion last season.

It has been one of the longest but busiest summers at Kenilworth Road I can remember and the amount of changes on and off of the pitch are documented across this 100-page programme, where you will get to know more about some of the investment we have made.

Welcome

However, first of all I would like to welcome the new faces on the football side.

Ever since John Still took control last season we have worked closely with John to enable him to identify and then sign individuals he believes will help Luton Town Football Club.

Since last season ended we have signed eight new players, so a massive Luton Town welcome to Andy, Shaun, Elliot, Danny, Jim, Mark, Luke and Anthony. Furthermore we were thrilled with the players who signed contract extensions to commit their futures to the club as we were with the two promising youngsters in Brett and Jerome – products of our successful academy – signing their first professional contracts. Congratulations and good luck to all!

The football restructure does not stop with player recruitment and as a club we're happy that John has been able to add to his backroom staff by enlisting Hakan Hayrettin as first team coach, Dave Richardson as fitness and conditioning coach and Jeff Wood as goalkeeping coach; all of whom bring a wealth of credentials and experience to complete the transition

of the training ground operation that I am confident will deliver us success, given faith and patience.

This opportunity also allows me to wish all those players and staff leaving Kenilworth Road this summer our best wishes – in particular Alan and Dmitri who served our Club professionally and respectfully during their time here.

So, having diligently begun our pre-season preparations with a week's intensive training in Portugal (which you can read about in this programme) we continued with an immensely enjoyable and encouraging batch of friendlies, where we saw eight wins out of 10, including one or two very encouraging performances.

Disappointment

Therefore, it was with much disappointment that we came home from Southport on Saturday with a defeat, not helped by missing a penalty and having a man sent-off in the second half. The result was less than pleasing but, more importantly, we missed the opportunity to lay an early marker down by delivering a performance that reflected the nature of our preparations.

It was particularly painful for us, the team and board, given the sizeable and incredibly positive support we encouragingly received at Haig Avenue both before and after the game; for which we thank you all.

We're more than confident we'll learn lessons from the false start and make amends over coming days and weeks. Certainly, if there's a manager; a group of support staff; or a squad of players that can put Saturday behind them and restart the season tonight, then we have them all here at Kenilworth Road!

In short, it's perfectly acceptable for your confidence and expectations, whatever they were, to remain intact. It is equally as important to believe that your patience and positive support can help change fortunes and create a winning mentality by making Kenilworth Road more difficult for the away team than our own.

Your support has already been magnificent this summer with season ticket sales surpassing all expectations hopefully reaching a whopping 4,500 by the time tonight's match kicks off. The income derived from season tickets, again which surpassed last year's

receipts, was so impressive that it gave us, the Board, sufficient confidence in your loyalty to invest in the infrastructure of the Club, and not just in the playing squad.

The turf you'll see before you this evening has not only been re-laid but has been done so with the addition of a few tonnes of fibreglass which will improve and prolong its quality and playability.

Enhancements

Our Ely Way training ground has benefited from an extensive refurbishment having re-laid pitches, installed a vitally important new irrigation system and a new facility housing a fully kitted out conditioning gym. This is all accomplished to ensure that every component of our preparation provides the team with the best possible chance of success this season and beyond.

As well as enhancements that directly influence the squad, we have also invested in the business infrastructure to help improve your enjoyment when visiting Kenilworth Road on a match-day.

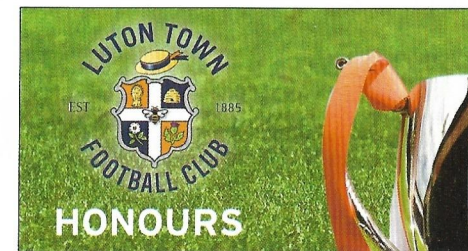
A brand new catering department has been set up to bring the quality and improved service of food and drink at the stadium. You will notice a few immediate changes, but many of them will be hidden. For example, our kitchens have received an overhaul and have benefited from a range of brand new appliances that, together with new, trained staff, will improve the quality of the food served at every outlet.

Otherwise, further enhancements to our IT systems and software to improve online retail and ticket operations and fine tweaks to our hospitality services should help offer a slightly more pleasurable event for all supporters.

Whilst our main aim is for those attending Kenilworth Road on a match-day is always the all-important big things, we hope you enjoy the enhancement in little things too!

Let's be loud and proud tonight as we begin our season for real. Enjoy the game!

Gary



Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA 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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the captain

RONNIE HENRY

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our opening home fixture of the season.

The pre-season we had was one of the toughest and most enjoyable that I have experienced in my career. We had a great week in Portugal where we were put through our paces and, with a lot new faces, we got to know our new team-mates.

It was a hard week and the lads put in a tremendous effort, and we came back ready for the friendlies feeling fit and confident. I thought our fitness really told in those games. We were a lot fitter than all of the teams we faced and I think that showed in the results.

Our confidence was really high but we all knew that pre-season wasn't all about winning. I felt that we were really understanding how the manager wanted us to play and that everything was clicking into place.

And then Saturday came along. On Thursday I twisted my back in training and had to miss the trip to Southport. It was absolutely gut-wrenching for me personally as I had worked hard to return to full fitness over pre-season having recovered from my hernia operation. To pick up an injury two days before the start of the season left me hugely frustrated.

Despite my personal anguish, I was still confident that we would be able to return from Southport with at least a point, so it was with obvious disappointment to learn of the defeat. From what I understand we were a shadow of the team that performed during pre-season and, perhaps, went into the game thinking the game was already won before it started.

From my experience, you simply should not go into matches with that kind of mentality. We might be the best-supported club in the division. We might have an excellent squad and manager. But it means nothing if you're mentally weak, and this kind of attitude is simply not acceptable.

My only hope is that this is a one-off, and that we can learn as quickly as possible from this one game. If we're to take any kind of positive from an otherwise poor result, it is that it has happened as early as it has done. I am sure the manager had words with the lads afterwards and will do again. There's no doubt about it that Saturday is a wake-up call for us.

This evening we entertain Salisbury City at Kenilworth Road and it's always great to play under the lights in front of a full house. Over pre-season we enjoyed three excellent results here and hopefully we can take the confidence from those games – but without getting complacent – into this fixture tonight.

It is early days, though. It's important not to get carried away with one game. Had we won 1-0 or 8-0 on Saturday nobody would be getting carried away either. We just need to knuckle down and focus on each match and remember that we have no divine right to win football matches.

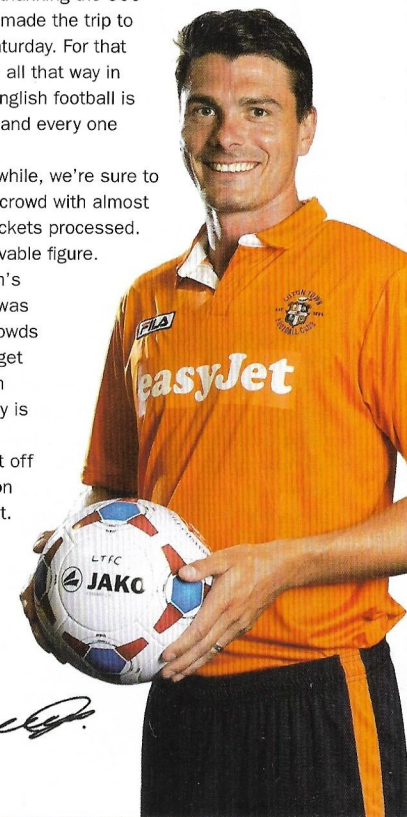
Credit

I must end by thanking the 900 supporters who made the trip to Southport on Saturday. For that amount to travel all that way in the fifth tier of English football is a credit to each and every one of you.

Tonight, meanwhile, we're sure to be backed by a big crowd with almost 4,500 season tickets processed. What an unbelievable figure. After last season's performances I was expecting our crowds to dip – but I forget that this is Luton Town. Your loyalty is unquestionable.

It's vital we get off to a good start on home soil tonight. I'll be in the stands willing the lads on and I hope you can get behind them too.





New league sponsorship



The Football Conference announced its new title sponsor for the next three seasons - global online payment company Skrill over the summer.

Headquartered in London, and with a customer base worldwide in excess of 35 million, Skrill leads the way in global online payments. Individuals and businesses can pay and get paid globally with Skrill. Customers can also send and receive money worldwide in 200 countries and 40 currencies, securely and at low cost, without revealing their personal financial details. Skrill is an online

payment company but does not offer credit or loans. You can find out more by visiting www.skrill.com.

Football Conference Chairman Brian Lee said: "Skrill is a worldwide brand. I am sure they will during their time as title sponsor become well known throughout the game, let alone the Football Conference.

"Skrill join us at a very exciting time, with a host of other new sponsors, corporate and affiliate; and we are positive Skrill will attract other brand names who wish to be part of our ever growing football family. I am excited for our member clubs that we are able to deliver what we as a Board promised.

"Now I ask our clubs in turn to embrace Skrill and work with them."

NEW SHIRTS LAUNCHED

The Hatters were proud to unveil their new home and away shirts in late July.

The Club confirmed that easyJet agreed a one-year extension to be club and community sponsor, extending their involvement in activities in the local area.

NICEIC – the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting – will also continue to sponsor the back of the shirt and shorts.

The two kits and goalkeepers' jerseys – all manufactured by Fila – were launched before specially invited guests and kit sponsors at Kenilworth Road on 19th July.

The home shirt is a smart plain orange number with a checked imprint in the fabric, and is partnered by navy blue shorts and white socks. The away shirt has a similar checkerboard weave but is predominately white, with an orange v-neck collar and blue trim at the shoulders. White shorts and orange socks complete the away kit's look.

The shirts, shorts and socks – as well as new training wear – are available in the club shop and online at www.hattersworld.co.uk.

The third strip for next season will comprise of the navy shirt, orange shorts and navy socks.

New shirt prices: Adult shirts £39.99, youth shirts £25.99, adult shorts £17, youth shorts £15, adult socks £8, youth socks £7.

TV DEAL TIED UP

As well as a new league sponsor, the Football Conference agreed a two-year deal with BT Sport for the new channel to show 30 live matches a season from the Skrill Premier.



BT Sport will host live broadcasts from the grounds for 25 league matches, plus both legs of the Play-Off semi finals and the promotion final at Wembley.

Simon Green, head of BT Sport, said: "We are delighted that we've been able to invest in the non-league game and play our part in helping community clubs to flourish.

"We are not just interested in the glamour of the Premier League; we'd like to bring the excitement and grit of the Skrill Premier to a new audience, as well as its existing strong fan base. There are some terrific clubs in the Conference Premier and some fantastic stories and characters, which we aim to develop in our coverage."

Two of the Town's fixtures in September have already been chosen for live coverage. The home game with Grimsby Town on 7th September will now kick-off at 5.30pm whilst the trip to Wrexham the following week has been moved to Friday 13th, kick-off 7.45pm.

New goalkeeper coach

Manager John Still has complemented his coaching line up for the new season by appointing goalkeeping coach Jeff Wood.

Wood, who also coaches the Welsh FA under-21s and under-19s, was previously retained as goalkeeping coach by Leeds United and prior to that, at Premier League Norwich City.

Wood's playing career included English clubs Charlton Athletic, Colchester United and Exeter City, as well as playing overseas in Finland, Denmark, Malta and Happy

Valley in Hong Kong. Following his playing career, he has also coached in America, was Director of Football for the Gibraltar Football Association and managed a number of clubs including non-league sides and a short spell at Brighton.

Welcome

Prior to becoming goalkeeping coach for Norwich, Wood ran Charlton's European Soccer School.

We extend a warm welcome to Jeff and wish him well in his new position.

Christmas is calling!

It might be summer and the season may have only just started but supporters have already taken advantage of the available dates for Christmas parties at Kenilworth Road.

As part of our new internal catering at the club – which you can read more about elsewhere in tonight's programme – the Eric Morecambe suite will be opening its doors to parties over the festive period.

Ideal venue

Boasting a 120 capacity and offering space for a dance floor and disco, the Eric is the ideal venue to

celebrate in style. A bar is provided, as well as a three-course carvery dinner and all the decorations.

The cost is just £28 per head and the available dates left in December are as follows:

Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th, Friday 6th, Saturday 7th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th, Friday 13th, Saturday 14th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th, and Friday 20th.

If you're interested in having your Christmas party at Kenilworth Road please contact our catering team by phoning 01582 411622 or emailing catering@lutontown.co.uk.

Forest Green trip all-ticket

The Town's Skrill Premier fixture at Forest Green Rovers on 24th August has been made all-ticket for Hatters fans.

The club has been given an initial allocation of 823 covered terrace spaces and tickets are now on sale to diamond and regular season ticket holders until after this Saturday's game with Macclesfield. Turn to page 13 for prices.



TALK OF THE TOWN

We hope you enjoy this first edition, and indeed all, of the issues of Talk of the Town this season, but remember if you'd like a birthday shout-out or have a story to tell us please do get in touch.

Simply email editor Andrew Barringer at andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk or phone him at the club on 01582 411622.

And don't forget, if you have any feedback on anything Luton Town related – good or bad – email info@lutontown.co.uk.

up next



THE TOWN ARE BACK IN SKRILL PREMIER ACTION AT KENILWORTH ROAD ON SATURDAY WHEN MACCLESFIELD TOWN ARE THE VISITORS



WHO? Macclesfield Town, aka the Silkmen. Founded in 1874, the Cheshire club play their home games at Moss Rose and this season will be their second back in the Conference following relegation from the Football League in April 2012.

LAST TIME HERE. The Silkmen were last at Kenilworth Road in September 2012 but left pointless following a 4-1 defeat. Jake Howells netted in the first minute to put the Town 1-0 to the good before Andre Gray doubled the lead. Nat Brown pulled one goal back for Macc early in the second half but two goals in the final eight minutes, from Scott Rendell and Stuart Fleetwood, sealed a comfortable victory.

HEAD-2-HEAD. Macclesfield enjoy a marginal advantage over the Town in the games played between the two sides. The Silkmen have won three of the eight meetings, including one at Kenilworth Road back in 1999 when goals from Neil Sorvel and Simon Davies secured a 2-1 win. Gary Doherty scored the Town goal.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU. There are two former Hatters in the Macclesfield squad. Creative former Everton trainee John Paul Kissock continues to pull the strings in the Macc midfield, whilst 40-year-old Efe Sodje – who played just nine times for the Town in the 1999/00 season – re-signed for the Silkmen for a second time this summer in the role of player/assistant manager.

IN CHARGE. Following Steve King's exit from the hotseat at the end of last season, the Macc board appointed legendary former striker John Askey in June.

The 48-year-old scored 168 goals in 698 games in a 19-year career at Moss Rose.

GIVE US A GAME. Over the summer the Silkmen made the headlines when they revealed plans to raise £20,000 by offering one person the chance to play for the club. The plans outlined that the successful applicant would be able to play 10 minutes for Macc in a league or cup game this season. However, the club pulled the plug on the idea only days later. "We now recognise that it creates a possibility of altering the outcome of a competitive fixture and clearly crosses an important line with respect to the integrity of the game," a statement said.

OPENING TIME. Like the Town, Macclesfield lost their opening fixture of the season on Saturday. The Silkmen went down 1-0 at home to Nuneaton Town at Moss Rose with Louis Moulst scoring the winner for the Boro. Askey's side head to Lincoln City tonight prior to Saturday's game at Kenilworth Road.

DID YOU KNOW? The 2011/12 season, which saw Macc eventually relegated, was the club's 13th consecutive campaign in League 2 – which made them the then longest-serving members of the division.

IN MEMORANDUM. You'll notice on the back of Saturday's programme that the Silkmen will not have a squad number 21. The number was retired by the club following the death of midfielder Richard Butcher who died aged 29 whilst with the club in 2011.

CONFERENCE WINNERS. The Silkmen have an extensive honours list, including 20 Cheshire Senior Cup titles, but the club have twice lifted the Football Conference, winning the championship in 1995 and 1997 – the latter of which earned promotion to the Football League.

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS



SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PRO-RATA PRICES

Adults (22-64) £349, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £249, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £163, Youths (10-16) £48, Juniors (under 10s) £48.

HOME TICKET PRICES

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



LUTON TOWN v MACCLESFIELD TOWN

The **Skrill** Premier

SATURDAY 17th AUGUST 2013 • KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



FOREST GREEN ROVERS v LUTON TOWN

The **Skrill** Premier

SATURDAY 24th AUGUST 2013 • KICK-OFF 3PM

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters. We have received an allocation of 823 covered terrace tickets for this fixture. A further allocation will be made available should there be a demand. In addition there is limited disabled seating available.

If this is required please contact the Luton Town ticket office.

Terrace prices: £14 adults, £10 seniors (over 65), £7 young adults (16-21), £4 juniors (under 16). Sales plan: Tickets are now on sale to diamond and regular season ticket holders. Diamond season ticket holders can purchase three tickets per supporter and regular season ticket holders two tickets. These will remain on sale until kick-off prior to the Macclesfield Town game on Saturday 17th. Tickets will then be available on general sale after that game. They will remain on sale until 3pm on Friday 23rd.



LUTON TOWN v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

The **Skrill** Premier

MONDAY 26th AUGUST 2013 • KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS v LUTON TOWN

The **Skrill** Premier

SATURDAY 31st AUGUST 2013 • KICK-OFF 3PM

We are yet to receive ticket information from Kidderminster for this match.

commercial

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

It barely seems two minutes since we were preparing for our final home match of last season but here we are, about to embark on what we hope to be a successful and exciting season in the Skrill Premier.

As always, it has been a hectic summer and, just like it was last season, there has been substantial interest from companies - local and national - expressing a desire to snap-up corporate hospitality and sponsorship with us for the forthcoming campaign.

On our official website www.lutontown.co.uk we notified supporters of the availability of our matchday hospitality opportunities, including match and match ball sponsorships. Remember, you too can enjoy all the benefits sponsoring a game or matchball at Kenilworth Road - please get in touch on the number and email below. There are 22 league matches at Kenilworth Road left after this evening to look forward to, and therefore, plenty of chances for you to watch the Hatters in style with us.

Finally, I would like to thank all the sponsors and guests who attended our pre-season friendlies against Aston Villa, Dagenham & Redbridge and Arsenal. A selection of photographs from the post- and pre-match entertainment can be found on the page opposite.

TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSOR KEITH ELKINGTON TRANSPORT & CATERING SOLUTIONS

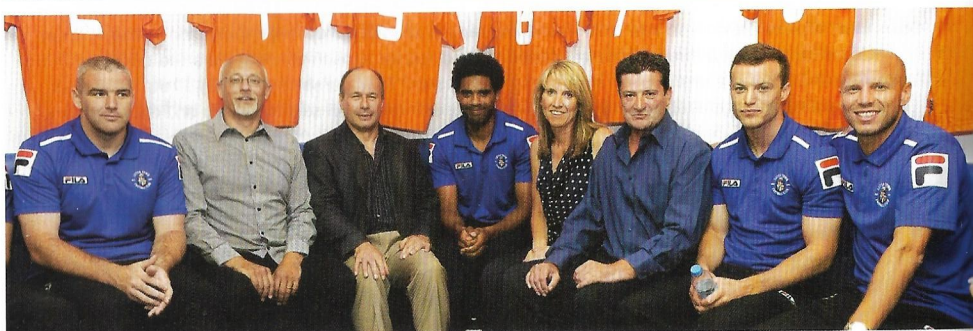
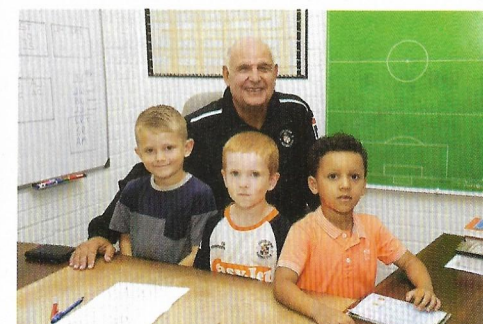


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21 LUKE GUTTRIDGE HOME: Luton Outlaws AWAY: Available	22 SHAUN WHALLEY HOME: Mark Collier AWAY: Keyholder Lettings & Management	23 MATT ROBINSON HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Whosh	25 RONNIE HENRY HOME: Mark Francome AWAY: Tommy Lennon
27 ANDRE GRAY HOME: Tom AWAY: Jack Keenan	28 JIM STEVENSON HOME: Luton Outlaws AWAY: Available	30 ALEX LACEY HOME: Peter & Linda Little AWAY: In memory of Bill Lacey	31 JAKE WOOLLEY HOME: Harry Hill AWAY: Available
32 BRETT LONGDEN HOME: Available AWAY: Available	33 JEROME JIBODU HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Available	JOHN STILL HOME: Thompsons Accountants AWAY: Country Properties	TERRY HARRIS HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Available
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welcome

SALISBURY CITY



We'd like to give a warm welcome to newly-promoted Salisbury City to Kenilworth Road this evening, who arrive as our first visitors of the season.

City have had endured their fair share of ups and down since they last made the trip to Bedfordshire, but last season's promotion back to non-league's top-flight completed a remarkable comeback following a period of uncertainty in Wiltshire.

Having finished the 2009/10 season in mid-table in the Conference, the authorities demoted the Whites two divisions into the Southern League Premier division due to a breach of league rules.

Promotion was gained in their first season in the Southern League via the Play-Offs, and after two campaigns in the Conference South, last season the Whites were celebrating their return to what is now the Skril Premier following another Play-Off success with a 3-2 win over Dover Athletic in the final.

At the helm is rookie boss Mikey Harris, who had been the club's assistant manager for the past five seasons prior to taking charge from previous manager Darrell Clarke. At 28 he's the youngest full-time manager in the UK. Over the summer Harris has added well to a squad that won promotion last term, including the signing for former Town striker Warren Feeney, who will also act as Harris' assistant manager. "I wanted to progress into coaching but I also still wanted to play," 32-year-old Feeney told BBC Wiltshire in an interview following his arrival in July. "I dread the day that I can't play, and mixing both roles is challenging but it's something I

enjoy and I'll give it 100 per cent. When I was at Luton, Mike Newell took us into the Championship and none of us had played at that level before.

"We were a little club playing the big boys and everyone was looking at us. For the first four months of the season we were near the top of the league."

Feeney is one of four ex-Hatters on the Whites' books, together with former trainees Rob and Stuart Sinclair and loanee Ben Wright.

Harris has kept the faith with a number of the players who earned their place in the Conference, which includes experienced midfielder Chris McPhee. The former Brighton man scored 16 goals last season and has enjoyed a successful career at this level with spells at Ebbsfleet, Kidderminster and Torquay.

This will be City's second visit to Kenilworth Road and tonight's game will be the third in total between the two sides. Salisbury will be aiming to earn their first win against the Hatters, while both teams will be hoping to earn their first victories of the season.

While the Town were losing 1-0 at Southport on Saturday, the Whites lost by the same scoreline at home to Tamworth in front of a crowd of 958 at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium. Despite creating a number of chances it was former Hatters defender Wayne Thomas who scored the Tamworth winner, heading home on 32 minutes.

After tonight City are on the road at Alfreton on Saturday, they host Aldershot at the Ray Mac a week later, before Harris' side end August with two games fellow promoted sides Welling and FC Halifax.

in opposition

MEET THE SALISBURY CITY SQUAD

THE MANAGER



MIKEY HARRIS. Appointed in July to become football's youngest full-time manager, aged 28. The former Salisbury midfielder had been the Whites' assistant manager for the past five years.

GOALKEEPERS

WILL PUDDY. Former Bristol City scholar who joined Salisbury in 2012, and helped the club to promotion last season. The 6ft 1in stopper has also played for Cheltenham, Swindon Supermarine and Chippenham.

MONTY GEORGE. Highly-rated 16-year-old goalkeeper who will provide back-up for Puddy throughout the campaign.

DEFENDERS

RYAN BRETT. Young left-back or centre-half who joined the Whites at the beginning of the 2010/11 season following his release from Plymouth. Scored seven times last season, including the club's goal of the season against Bath.

JAMES CLARKE. Last season's player of the year who signed for City at the start of last season from Oxford City. The Aylesbury-born defender has also played for Oxford United.

BRIAN DUTTON. Versatile and experienced defender capable of also playing in midfield or in attack, who signed for Salisbury for the second time in 2010. Has played for eight clubs and is the club captain.

CALLUM HART. Cardiff-born Hart began his career with Bristol City before playing 50 times in the Football League for Bournemouth. Joined Salisbury in 2011 and was a regular last season.

LUKE RUDDICK. Defender who signed for City in 2010 and has since made 82 appearances for the club. Has also previously played for Bath City.

GLENN WILSON. Summer signing from Gateshead. The defender spent the last five months of last season on loan at the Ray Mac from the Tynesiders.

MIDFIELDERS

ELLIOTT FREAR. Winger who started his career as a youngster at Exeter. Spent last season on-loan with City, and following his release this summer by the Grecians, he signed permanently at the Ray Mac.

CLOVIS KAMDJO. Cameroonian midfielder who signed this summer having made 114 Football League appearances for Barnet. Was a trainee at Reading and as has represented Cameroon at under-17 and 19 level.

THEO LEWIS. Young midfielder who began his career as a scholar at Chelsea. Moved to Cheltenham in 2009 before signing for Salisbury last summer.

CHRIS MCPHEE. Experienced midfielder or striker in his second season at the Ray Mac. Began his career at Brighton before productive spells with Torquay, Kidderminster, Ebbsfleet and Weymouth.

ROB SINCLAIR. Former Hatters apprentice now in his third spell with Salisbury. Initially joined the club on loan from the Town in 2008.

STUART SINCLAIR. Younger brother of Rob, who also was on the Hatters' books. Became the new manager's first signing of the summer.

RICKY WELLARD. Midfielder who scored a fine goal for Cambridge against the Hatters at Kenilworth Road last season. Joined Salisbury on loan last November before making the move permanent.

STRIKERS

WARREN FEENEY. No stranger to Kenilworth Road, the Northern Ireland international made 83 appearances for the Hatters between 2005 and 2007. The experienced striker joined Salisbury this summer as player/assistant manager.

DAN FITCHETT. Former Wycombe Wanderers forward who joined in 2011; has scored 36 goals for the club.

JAMIE WHITE. Top scorer with 26 goals last season who will be absent this evening with a hernia injury. He joined City last summer having scored 51 goals the previous season for Winchester.

BEN WRIGHT. Former Town loanee who signed for the Whites on a two-year deal three weeks ago following his release from Forest Green.

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

Salisbury City are back in non-league's top-flight after a rollercoaster ride during the past few seasons.

Many Hatters fans will remember the 2009/10 season when striker Matt Tubbs fired in 27 league goals for the Whites and was subsequently linked with a move to Kenilworth Road after Salisbury were demoted two divisions after breaching Conference rules. The Wiltshire club had been operating in administration and were eventually fined and deducted points before being kicked out of the division.

The journey back to the Conference Premier

The Whites are under new management this season after Darrell Clarke, who led the club to two promotions in three years to bring them back to the Conference Premier, left to become the assistant manager of League 2 Bristol Rovers. Clarke's side finished second in the Blue Square Bet South last season and beat Dover Athletic 3-2 in extra time in the play-off final to secure their promotion. Clarke's assistant at Salisbury, Mikey Harris, took over in July to become English football's youngest full-time manager at 28 years of age. Interestingly, Harris' new assistant is none other than ex-Luton striker Warren Feeney who will be working in a player-assistant role for the Whites this season.

Expectations for the season

Salisbury have been tipped by bookmakers to go down this season, but with a squad boasting both experience and hungry young talent, Mikey Harris will be confident his side can avoid the drop and cause a few upsets along the way.

How will they play? Who are their key men?

The Whites are likely to persist with the 4-4-2 system they deployed against Tamworth on the opening day of the season even though they suffered a 1-0 home defeat at the hands of the Lambs. 25-year-old ex-Swindon Town man Will Puddy will start in goal for the visitors. Glenn Wilson is likely to operate at right-back with Callum Hart on the other flank. The duo have been mildly criticised for lacking the attacking impetus to create natural width for Salisbury going forward, so it will be interesting to see whether any changes are made in that department. 23-year-old James Clarke will play at centre-back alongside Brian Dutton who has plied his trade as a centre-forward, central-midfielder and centre-back.



Ricky Wellard could actually play anywhere in the Salisbury midfield, but is expected to line up in the centre. Town fans may remember Wellard who played for AFC Wimbledon in the 2010/11 Conference Play-off Final and also scored a fantastic long-range drive for Cambridge at Kenilworth Road last season. Rob Sinclair, who started his career at Luton, will sit in alongside Wellard, whilst his brother Stuart will start on the right-hand side of midfield. Chelsea academy product Theo Lewis will be one to watch and will be a danger-man out on the left wing.

Warren Feeney, will be back to prove a point after a somewhat unsuccessful spell in Bedfordshire and will partner the lethal Jamie White who scored 21 league goals last season for Salisbury, and 51 goals in 32 goals for Winchester City. The Whites will have the promise of goals from the bench as Dan Fitchett netted 18 league goals last season.



club data

Established: 1947
Nickname(s): The Whites
Stadium: The Raymond McEnhill Stadium
Capacity: 5,000
Manager: Mikey Harris (1 month)
Final league position '12/13: 2nd BSBS

from the oak road

WE SPEAK TO SALISBURY SUPPORTER DAVE DRAG

TALK OF THE TOWN: New season, new boss – in Mikey Harris Salisbury have the youngest full-time manager in England at just 28. What do you make of this appointment? Can the team continue their recent success under his leadership?

DAVE: Personally, I would have preferred a more experienced manager as I see this season being a tough one for us regardless of who is in charge. That said, Mikey knows the club and the majority of the players and provides us with great consistency following last season, so I'm fully behind him. As for continuing the recent success, it has to be one step at a time and within our means!

TALK OF THE TOWN: What are your aspirations for the season?

DAVE: As I suggested in my last answer, we're not getting carried away. Anything around mid-table would be a great result. A decent run in the FA Trophy and FA Cup would be nice too, but not at the detriment of league survival.

TALK OF THE TOWN: You're back in non-league's premier division for the first time since 2010 – what match are you most looking forward to?

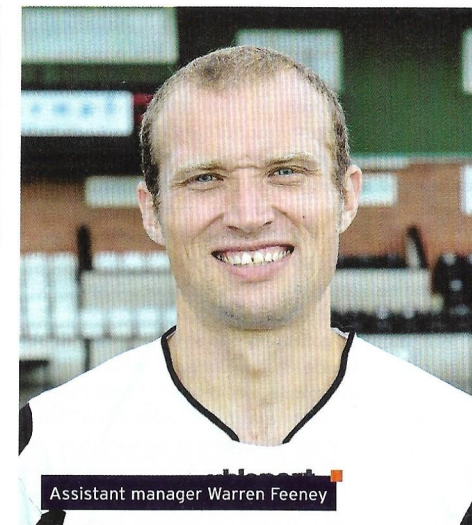
DAVE: There are so many to look forward to, of which tonight comes near the top. If I had to choose one it would be Gateshead away, which is not just about the football!

TALK OF THE TOWN: What are you expecting from John Still's new-look Luton today? Would you like to give a score prediction?

DAVE: I'm expecting to see a real benchmark as to where we are at compared to the upper levels of the Conference. Having read about your pre-season performances I would anticipate a really tough game against a well-organised footballing side. My heart says 1-1, but my head would go for a home win by two goals.

TALK OF THE TOWN: Which of your new signings are you most excited about and why?

DAVE: Warren Feeney. Having played international football only two years ago and still only being 32, I'm hopeful he can have a real impact both on the pitch as well as off it.



Assistant manager Warren Feeney

TALK OF THE TOWN: Who's going to win the Conference this year and why?

DAVE: This is the toughest question so far. With no one particular club throwing disproportionate amounts of cash around this season, it will no doubt be really close, so in order to get out of Kenilworth Road alive later I'd better say Luton! I guess with a fanbase the size of yours and the level of finance available, it surely has to happen sooner or later and this season looks to be a real opportunity.

TALK OF THE TOWN: After England's under-21s crashed out in the group stages of the European Championships in the summer, what would you do to 'fix' English football?

DAVE: I'd massively reduce the parachute and TV payments made to Premier League clubs, and invest the money in grass roots development. This might mean clubs being able to attract less big name players but in the long run it will produce better home-grown ones. It may make the Premier League less marketable in the short term, but for the health of the English game, long-term someone needs to take a strategic approach rather than just living for the present.

a hatter and...

...A WHITE

WARREN FEENEY

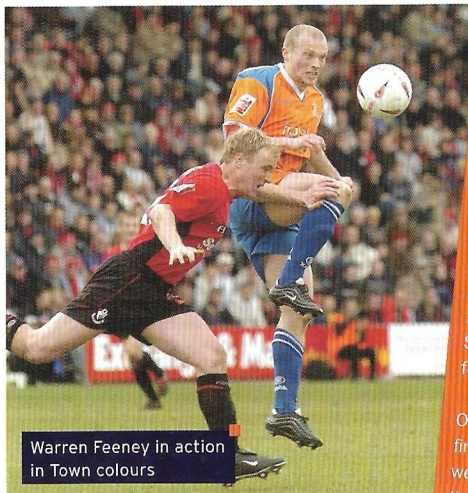
The Salisbury squad tonight will include no less than four former Hatters in their ranks, but the one that stands out is striker Warren Feeney.

The 32-year-old joined the Whites this summer following a spell with Plymouth Argyle, and will combine playing with assisting manager Mikey Harris this season. Belfast-born Feeney began his career as a youngster at Leeds United before joining Bournemouth in 2001. He scored 32 league goals for the Cherries before he moved to Stockport in 2004.

The former Northern Ireland international signed for the Hatters in March 2005 from County after netting an impressive 17 goals for a Stockport side that would finish bottom of League 1 that season.

The Hatters, meanwhile, would go on to take the title, and Feeney made his bow as a 74th-minute substitute in a crucial 1-0 win over Blackpool at Kenilworth Road on 2nd April. He failed to score in his six appearances at the tail end of that championship-winning season, but he would go on and start the following season in the Championship following an injury to Rowan Vine.

Feeney's first goal for the Hatters came in a 3-1 win at Leyton Orient in a League Cup first round tie at Brisbane Road on 23rd August. The forward went on to net a further six goals as the Town finished in



Warren Feeney in action in Town colours

10th place in the second tier. The following season saw the Hatters relegated, with Feeney scoring four goals in all competitions, and in March 2007 he was loaned to Cardiff City – a move that would turn permanently in the summer. Feeney's last game for the Town was a 2-0 home defeat against Ipswich Town.

After leaving Kenilworth Road the Belfast-born striker would go on to have spells with Swansea, Dundee United, Sheffield Wednesday, Oldham Athletic and, most recently, Plymouth.

LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 83

LUTON TOWN GOALS: 11

FIRST APPEARANCE: v Blackpool (h) W 1-0 2/4/2005

FINAL APPEARANCE: v Ipswich Town (h) L 0-2 17/3/2007

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Tonight will be the third meeting between the Town and Salisbury, and the first since March 2010.

Both sides drew in their first meeting in league competition on 5th September 2009 at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium in the Blue Square Premier. A Kevin Gallen goal put the Hatters in front on 27 minutes but ace marksman Matt Tubbs levelled for the Whites shortly before half-time, and that's the way it stayed.

Six months later the Hatters met City for the return at Kenilworth Road in a rich vein of form. The Town came into the game having beaten Hayes & Yeading 8-0 three days previous, but the home faithful had to wait until the 35th minute for the deadlock to be broken when Frenchman Claude Gnankpa headed home Freddie Murray's cross.

Two minutes before the break Tom Craddock netted his 18th goal of the season to double the Hatters' advantage and nine minutes after the restart Jake Howells made it 3-0.

And the Town's seventh successive victory was made safe 16 minutes from time when on-loan Barnsley midfielder Simon Heslop made it four with what would be his only goal for the club in 11 appearances.

That season the Hatters would go on to lose in the Play-Off semi-finals to York, whilst Salisbury, who would have finished in sixth place if it wasn't for a 10-point deduction, were demoted two divisions by the Football Conference to the Southern Premier, following a breach of league rules.

classic campaigns

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS FIVE POST-WAR SALISBURY CITY CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1957/58

Salisbury won the Western League title for the first time in 1957/58. New signings included Peter Rushworth, Len Gibbons, Bob McAlone, Ian Allen and Gordon Kaile. Salisbury gradually climbed the table after an inconsistent start and went top for the first time in their history in late February. Reg Broom's side maintained their title hopes with an Easter win over Barnstaple, then trounced Glastonbury 4-0 and clinched the championship with a 2-0 victory at home to Cinderford. Stan Abbott was leading marksman with 15 goals despite missing part of the season and the title success owed much to a strong defence.

1960/61

Roy Watts was top scorer with 49 goals as Salisbury won the Western League title for the second time in four seasons in 1960/61. Salisbury led the table for most of the campaign, with Roy Watts scoring four goals as they hammered Trowbridge Town Reserves 9-1 at home and 7-0 away. He repeated the feat in an 8-0 win over Barnstaple and Salisbury slammed six goals past Bideford, Bristol City 'A', Taunton Town and Welton Rovers. The only disappointment was a 2-0 FA Cup fourth qualifying round replay defeat by Weymouth when Dilwyn Hill broke a leg. Salisbury scored 135 goals as they won the title with 66 points.

1985/86

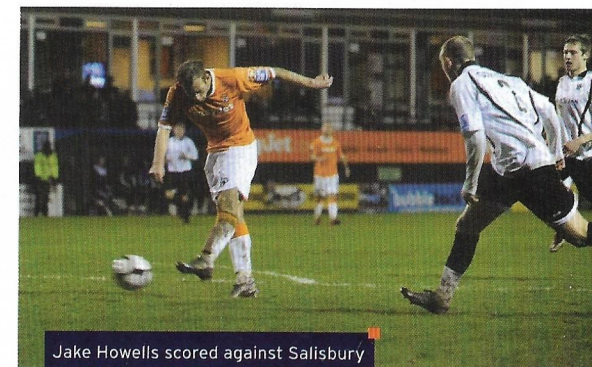
Kevin Dawtry was leading marksman with 21 goals as Salisbury won promotion to the Southern League Premier Division in 1985/86. Geoff Butler's side kicked off with a 5-1 victory at home to Ruislip and bounced back from a 2-0 defeat at Sheppey to beat Thanet United 4-0. Peter Johnson grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-3 defeat at Hastings but Salisbury returned to action after a five week lay-off due to adverse weather to step up their promotion challenge. They triumphed at Ashford, Ruislip and Thanet, then beat Dunstable, Woodford and Poole at home before clinching promotion as runners-up with a 3-2 victory at Woodford.

1994/95

Jason Lovell was leading marksman with 26 goals as Salisbury won the Southern League Southern Division title in 1994/95. Lovell replaced Paul Odey in attack, while other newcomers included Paul Batty, Kevin Clements and David Coleman. They overcame an opening 2-1 defeat at Trowbridge to emerge as early pace-setters, gaining successive wins over Fisher, Yate, Baldock, Bashley and Witney. Geoff Butler's side recovered from a poor spell to win 7-0 at promotion rivals Baldock and went top with an 18 match unbeaten run. Salisbury clinched the title with a 3-1 victory at home to Wealdstone in their final match.

2005/06

Paul Sales was top scorer with 22 goals as Salisbury won the Southern League Premier Division title in 2005/06. Other arrivals included former favourites Chris Ferrett and Simon Browne and Salisbury raced to the top of the table with five wins in their opening seven games. Paul Sales and Matt Tubbs formed a lethal striking partnership as Salisbury won at Canvey Island in the FA Trophy en route to a quarter-final defeat at Exeter City. Title hopes dipped until Robbie Matthews' late winner at Banbury in early April heralded a superb run of nine successive wins. Salisbury scored 83 goals as they secured the title with 95 points.



Jake Howells scored against Salisbury the last time the two sides met. The Town won 4-0 in March 2010



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harry takes to town

BUSY SUMMER FOR HATTERS' MASCOT

Not one for taking his hat off and putting his feet up, Happy Harry has been busy over the close season enjoying the weather and visiting schools and clubs around Luton.

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE BUSHMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL'S SUMMER FUN DAY

Harry had a great time at Bushmead Primary School's summer fun day and was flooded with requests by children and adults eager to have their picture taken with him. Organised by the school's fundraising committee Friends of Bushmead Primary School, the event saw over 250 people attend and, despite missing a few penalties in the penalty shoot out, Harry enjoyed eating cakes, bouncing on the bouncy castle and watching an excellent dance performance from children at the school.

SATURDAY 6TH JULY RAMRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL'S FAMILY FUN DAY

A scorching hot day at Ramridge Primary School saw Harry swap roles from striker to goalkeeper as he took part in another penalty shootout. The children proved far too good for him as they all won lots of free footballs for their scoring successes. As temperatures rose, Harry cooled down listening to superb live music and watching the children and parents competitions which included a sack race and 100m sprint.

TUESDAY 9TH JULY CRAWLEY GREEN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Harry was on hand to give out medals and pose for photographs again as the children of Crawley Green celebrated the end of the season for the club's successful development centre. The children went as mad as Hatters for Harry, and it was a great reward for the children and the efforts they have put into their football development over the season.

SATURDAY 13TH JULY CHANTRY PRIMARY ACADEMY

Always one to keep fit, Harry had the pleasure of taking part in an aerobics session at Chantry's Summer Fete. Children and teachers were all very happy to see Harry on another super hot day in the

sun. Harry met the Territorial Army and was entertained by Starz and Friends from the Dunstable Community Church who entertained him with singing, dancing and rapping. Match tickets contributed to the raffle as well as lots of other fantastic stalls and activities.

MONDAY 15TH JULY KENILWORTH ROAD

42 pupils from Bushmead Primary School made the trip to Kenilworth Road to celebrate the children achieving 100 per cent attendance for the academic school year 2012/13. Harry was on hand to hand out medals and certificates to the children.

One Bushmead Primary School pupil said: "It was the first time I'd ever met Happy Harry and I got to shake his hand!"

A big thank you goes to all the schools for their hospitality in looking after Happy Harry and we hope he helped to raise lots of money for all the children.



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pre-season training

BY DIRECTORS MIKE HERRICK AND DAVID WILKINSON

By the time we met up with the squad at Luton Airport on 5th July, the players had already undergone a gruelling few days of double training sessions, so spending Friday of the first week back just travelling was quite relaxing for them.

On arrival, we called in at the training complex in Vila Real en route to our hotel in nearby Monte Gordo.

The 'old hands' had trained here previously and knew what to expect, but the newcomers were instantly impressed with the facilities – two first-class grass pitches, a superbly equipped gym, swimming pool and modern stadium, plus wall-to-wall sunshine.

At the hotel, though, the first task was to collect bikes which we'd all use for the 2.5km ride to and from training twice a day. Breakfast had to be completed by 7.30am to be fully digested before cycling to training which started promptly at 9am.

Sessions varied though the mornings tended to concentrate on endurance running to develop core fitness. Even though the squad had all returned from the summer break in excellent condition, these were still extremely punishing exercises.

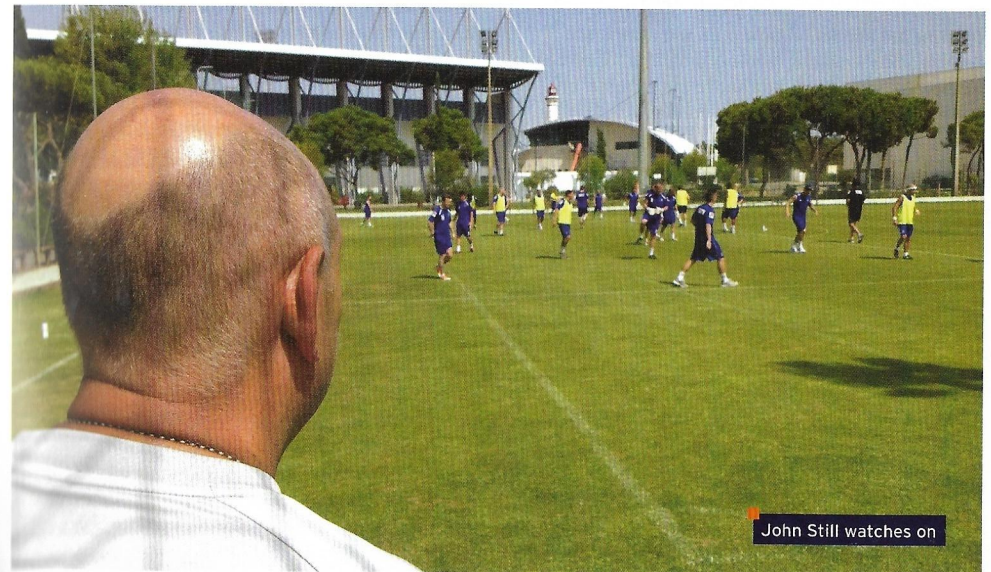
From the sidelines we marvelled at the effort and encouragement that the players gave to one another. Knowing and feeling how much all were hurting was important in helping the players bond together.

Perhaps the most physically demanding sessions were the 'bounds' – a combination of leaping over hurdles whilst performing a succession of ball skills – in teams of three. It sounds innocuous but was anything but. (Us bystanders were nearly physically sick just watching!)

After two hours of this punishment the players then spent 45 minutes in the gym with individual exercise programs – in the hands of Dave Richardson, our new nutrition and conditioning coach.

The morning sessions were completed with a warm down in the swimming pool before cycling back to the hotel for lunch.

Afternoon sessions started at 4pm to avoid the most extreme heat of the day. These often consisted of game-type exercises with three teams of eight alternating at 10-minute intervals – two playing and one recovering. ▶▶▶



John Still watches on

pre-season training

BY DIRECTORS MIKE HERRICK AND DAVID WILKINSON

(We were most interested to see Terry Harris' refereeing – the first time we've seen a penalty given for a tackle that took place well beyond the far touchline.)

These sessions allowed the coaches to focus on different situations within a match, but it was very heartening to see the overwhelming emphasis on 'touch, pass – touch, pass – touch, pass'.

We were most impressed to see the variety of defensive and attacking exercises that could be undertaken in this format, and the greatest thrill for us will be to see things happen in a game that we saw developed during this week.

Pure Luton football

There may be some occasions where the old-fashioned hoof upfield might be appropriate in a match, but we saw no sign of this at any point. What we did see was the 'pure Luton football' that we remember of old.

Afternoon sessions all finished with swimming in the sea as this helped to disperse the build up of lactic acid in the body. With this intensity of training we were able to appreciate just how hard our physiotherapist, Simon Parsell, and masseur Darren Cook, have to work checking the knocks, muscle pulls and strains and devising and monitoring recovery programs for injuries as they happen. Simon also had to put a plaster on David Wilkinson's knee after he accidentally fell off his bike!

We both learnt much about the role of diet and nutrition in the life of professional sportsmen. We were also surprised by the emphasis on the measurement of rehydration and the amount of fluid intake that was necessary to maintain the level of exercise that was demanded. During the week over 1,500 bottles of water were consumed!

Sunday saw Andy Murray take on Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon Final. Whilst watching the opening set in a bar in Monte Gordo, we were approached by a Luton supporter who came over and introduced himself.

Passionate

We invited him to come along to watch training later that afternoon and, even though it meant missing most of the tennis, he couldn't hide his delight.

John Still spent a while talking to him about the squad and the work he was undertaking during pre-season. He also asked him to join the post-session huddle.

These debriefings showed us just how passionate John and the rest of his staff are about their work. They give the players an opportunity to say how they feel about the session they've just completed and are instrumental in building a sense of togetherness and team spirit. One very happy fan made his way back to Monte Gordo that evening with a renewed sense of optimism for the coming season.

On Monday evening a number of us went back to the stadium to watch a match between Nottingham Forest and Hibernian, both of whom were training nearby. This was notable not for the quality of the football, but for both sets of fans who taunted one another to see who were the fattest – a close contest just won by an individual from Hibernian (at least I think he was only one person) with a gross tonnage approaching 30 stone.

A tradition in most clubs is that new players have to sing a song. This impromptu concert took place on Tuesday evening to the delight (not sure that's the right word!) of not only their teammates but also the passing throngs on the Monte Gordo beachfront.

We had about 10 debutants altogether – including Dave Richardson and Hakan Hayrettin from the management team – almost enough for our own heat of Britain's Got No Talent.



Huddle-time after one of the sessions

It would be unfair to pick out any individual performances – but I shall do so anyway. Anthony Charles' volume control suffered a malfunction and appeared to be stuck on maximum; Jim Stevenson gave a cultured performance of something or other; the others were all memorable at the time, but I've since managed to forget about them (at last).

All in all, it reminded me just why I gave up teaching music in an earlier life!

History

We had always intended putting on a session for the players (and staff) to give them some idea of the history and tradition of Luton Town.

Everyone received a copy of the bookzine The Hatters: Passion and Pride since 1885 (copies still available online or in the club shop) and we outlined some of the memorable moments in our history.

We also gave our take on the treatment handed out to our club in recent years and the effect this has had on us as fans of Luton Town.

We sometimes forget that only one of our current squad has been with us through the -30 season, but it is important for all to understand just how by escaping from this league we will have taken the first steps in repairing the damage that was inflicted upon us.



The players meet local children

On the last evening we took the whole party out for a meal in the town square in Vila Real.

There was a great atmosphere in the town and we took a number of footballs with us for the players to demonstrate some skills before an appreciative audience.

Fans

Various locals joined in enthusiastically with keepy-uppy and all the balls were signed by the whole squad and given away to local children. To see the delight on their faces was a very special moment and we've gone a long way towards creating a new generation of Luton fans in this area of Portugal.

[We've since received a very appreciative email of thanks, plus photographs, from the father of one youngster who is wheelchair-bound. His signed football takes pride of place in his bedroom.]

Many photos from the week appeared on the official website and in the pre-season issue of Talk of the Town.

These were taken very professionally by two enthusiastic young girls (watch out Gareth Owen!) who made several trips down to the training ground to complete this labour of love. Two more lifelong fans of the club!

Pleasure and a privilege

All in all, watching from the sidelines, we were massively impressed by the extraordinary effort and application of all the players and staff.

We watched the generation of a true team spirit and togetherness amongst the squad and we were left champing at the bit just waiting for the season to begin in earnest. It was both a pleasure and a privilege to spend time with this talented group of players and we ended the week feeling very proud to be associated with Luton Town.

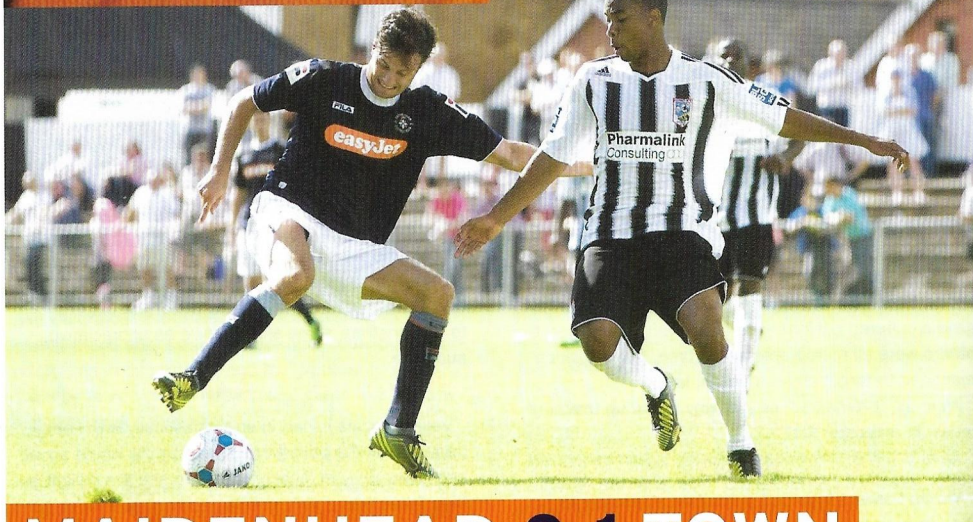
Whatever we may achieve this season will have had its genesis in the firm foundations that were laid during that week in Portugal. Let's hope that the outcome for all of us will be what we deserve.



Gym work-out

rewind

Jonathan Smith about to turn his man



MAIDENHEAD 0-1 TOWN

SATURDAY 20th JULY 2013

Having begun pre-season with a defeat at Boreham Wood and a 4-0 win over Hitchin, the Hatters recorded their second pre-season victory with a narrow win over Maidenhead United.

Striker Mark Cullen – who had hit the woodwork twice in his previous pre-season appearances – was the man on target at York Road, on a day that the Town missed a hatful of chances in front of goal.

Their first opportunity came on 11 minutes when Jake Howells and Cullen combined but Luke Guttridge fired over the crossbar from 20 yards.

However, on 22 minutes the Hatters had the lead when Howells' clever dinked pass was met by Cullen who headed the ball into his path and finished expertly past the home goalkeeper.

Cullen should have doubled his and the Town's tally minutes later when he strode clean through on goal but his shot bounced wide of the target. Guttridge, Andre Gray and Cullen went close to making it 2-0 and having spurned those chances, the Town were almost made to pay shortly before the break when Elliot Justham kept out Tony Mendes' acrobatic close range effort.

Gray missed a great chance moments before the half-time whistle following a flowing move involving JJ O'Donnell and it was more of the same after the break.

Cullen had a goal chalked off for offside on 54 minutes before Gray and former Maidenhead striker Alex Wall also came close.

As time ticked down the Town were made to work for the victory as the Magpies pushed for a late leveller, and to the relief of the visitors, Reece Tison-Lascaris saw his injury-time striker ruled out for offside.

Tough

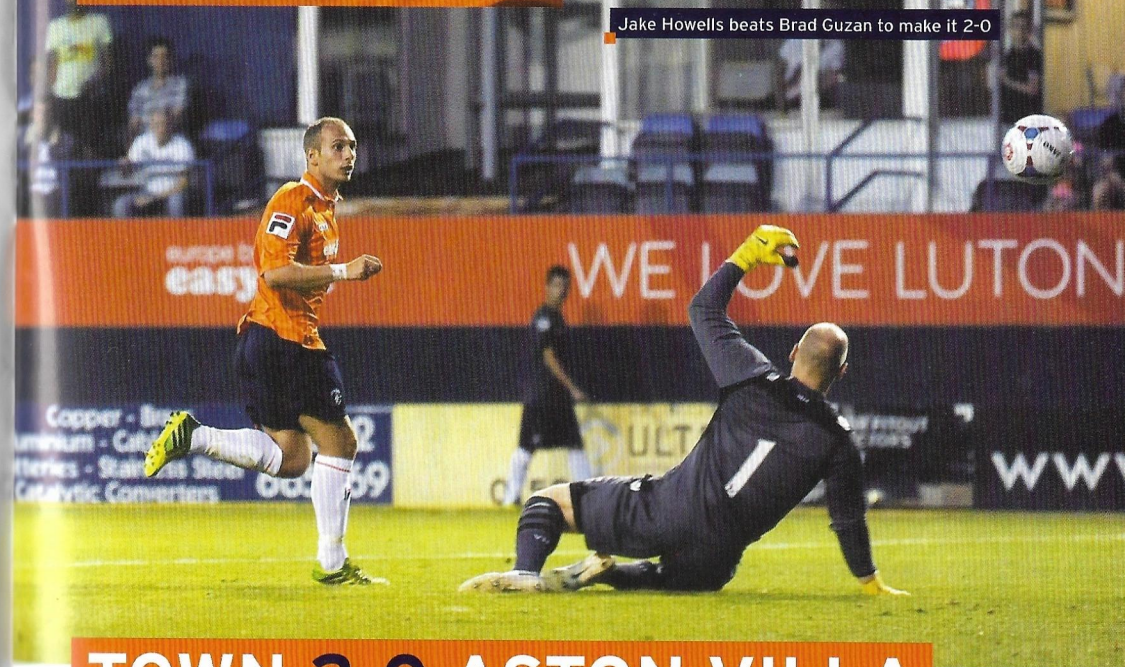
Having held on to the win Town boss John Still said: "I don't think it matters too much who you play, I think they're always tough games, pre-season games are always tough games whoever you play, always tough and I never get carried away pre-season. I never get carried away when it's been great and I'll never get carried away when it's poor.

"I don't know if it was my Maidstone year or my Dagenham year when we won promotion but I don't think we won a game pre-season and yet funny enough I was happy with what we'd done.

"Then you have other pre-seasons where you beat everybody and can't win a game when you start, so I think that the things that you look for are getting the people fit, getting the people organised and getting them to understand their job - and if they haven't quite got their job by the time the season starts they normally fall into it."

rewind

Jake Howells beats Brad Guzan to make it 2-0



TOWN 2-0 ASTON VILLA

TUESDAY 23rd JULY 2013

It was hard not to be impressed as the Hatters toppled Premier League Aston Villa to record their third successive pre-season victory.

Goals from Jon Shaw and Jake Howells did the damage against a full-strength Villa side who finished 15th in the top-flight last season.

The Hatters began the brightest with winger Dave Martin driving a shot inches wide before Shaw came close to sliding home Ronnie Henry's cross.

Lead

Villa were passing the ball around confidently in possession but, after Mark Tyler had parried Yacouba Sylla's long range effort, the Hatters had the lead on 23 minutes. Mark Cullen burst into the penalty area and teed up Shaw to fire home from inside the six yard box.

Shaw and Cullen both had opportunities to double the Town's lead as they continued to keep Villa at bay.

Paul Lambert's side made wholesale changes on 60

minutes which saw the visitors up the ante in search of an equaliser. However, despite efforts from Fabian Delph and Daniel Johnson the Hatters held firm.

Andre Gray was denied a fine goal but was denied by the outstretched arm of goalkeeper Brad Guzan on 74 minutes, but the Hatters were not to be denied, and a fine victory was sealed when Howells made it 2-0 on 78 minutes when clipping a shot over Guzan.

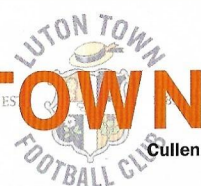
Having witnessed his side dispose of his friend Lambert's side, Still said: "Villa's passing and moving was fantastic and that's a good education for us.

"We've played very well, I'm very, very pleased, but it's pre-season and it's another step. As pleased as I am I'm not carried away with it. It was good, it was all right, but I'm mindful of the fact there's going to be some ups and downs along the way.

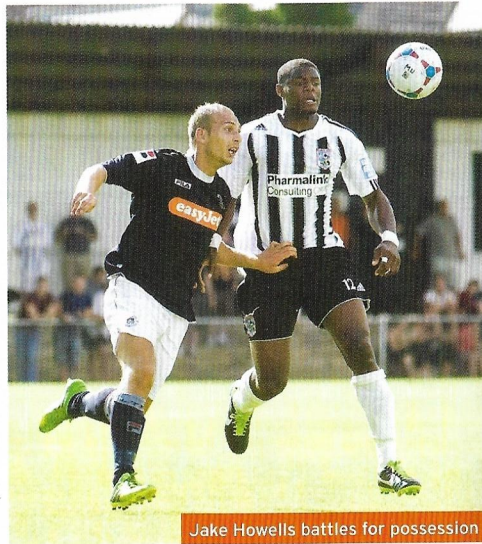
"Today was a little bit of an up, but will have learnt a little bit as well from their passing and moving.

"Hopefully when we get a bit more of the ball we can pass and move as well as them because that's what I want to do."

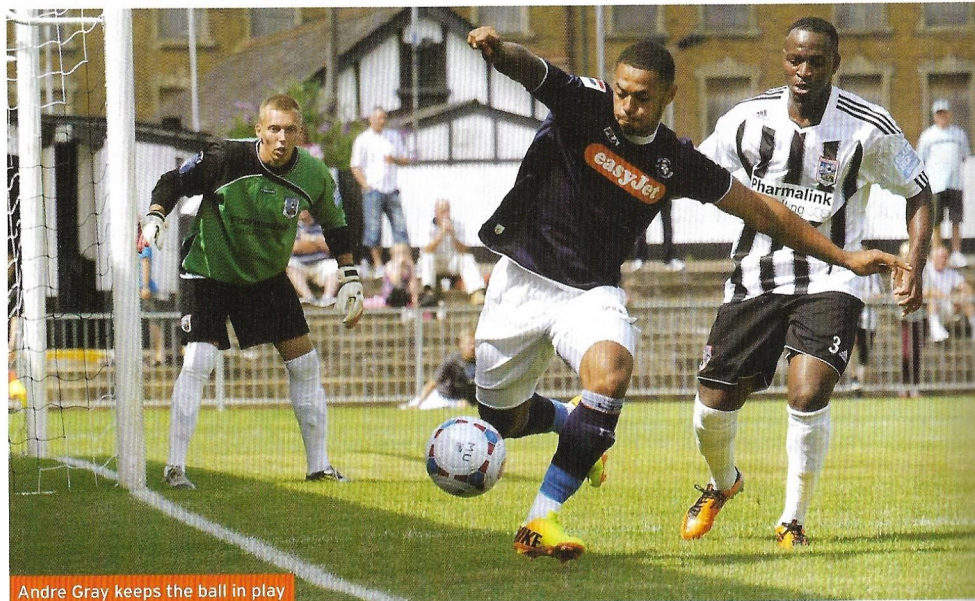
MAIDENHEAD 0-1 TOWN



Goalscorer Mark Cullen



Jake Howells battles for possession

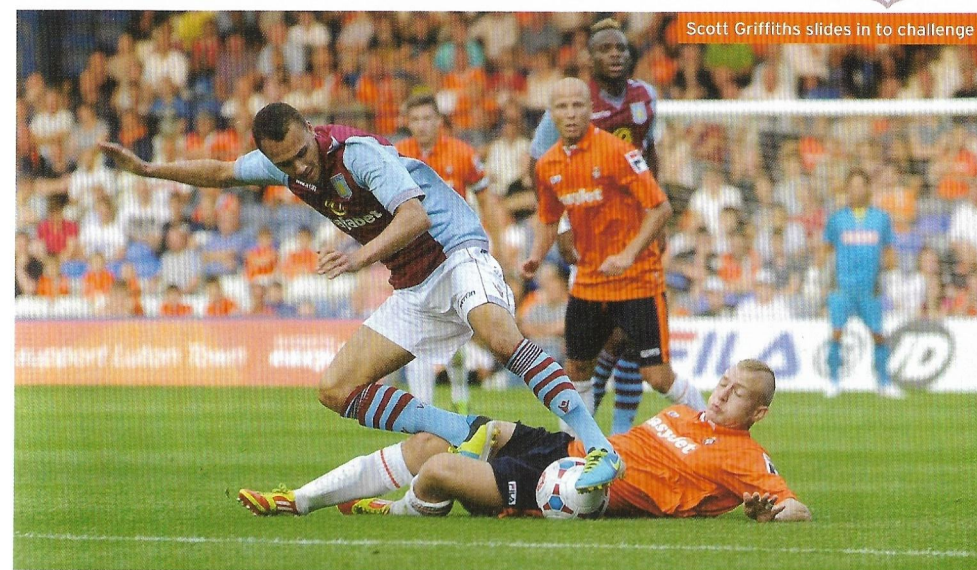
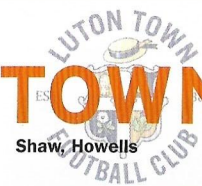


Andre Gray keeps the ball in play

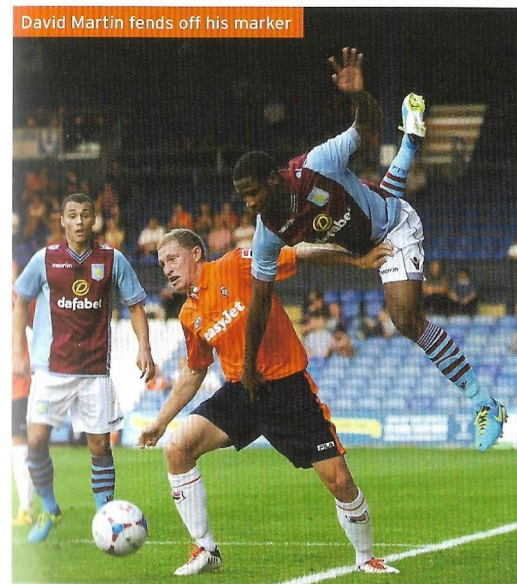
MAIDENHEAD: Elvi Putnins, Bobby Behzadi, Leon Solomon, Wada Ahmadi, Mark Nisbet, Matt Ruby, Danny Ruby, Adrian Clifton, Tony Mendes, Michael Malcolm, Harry Pritchard.
SUBS: Richard Pacquette, Reece Tison-Lascaris, Tom Gilbey, Michael Pook, Daniel Brown.

TOWN: Elliot Justham, Jonathan Smith, Scott Griffiths, Alex Lacey, Steve McNulty (sub Ronnie Henry 58), Luke Guttridge (sub Jim Stevenson 58), Andre Gray, Solomon Taiwo (sub Matt Robinson 58), Mark Cullen (sub Jake Woolley 74), Jake Howells, JJ O'Donnell (sub Alex Wall 80). **SUBS NOT USED:** Alex Lawless, David Martin, Mark Tyler, Jon Shaw, Lathanlel Rowe-Turner.

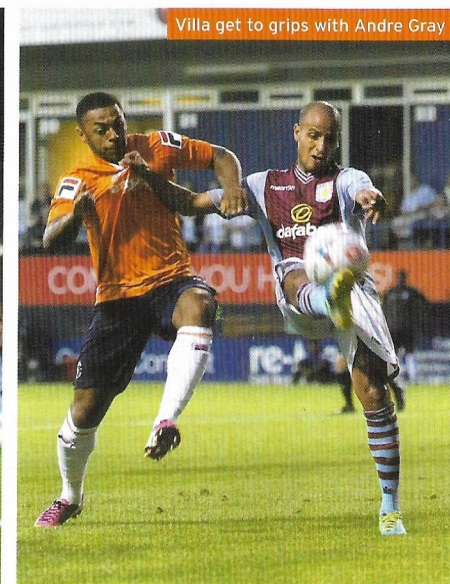
TOWN 2-0 ASTON VILLA



Scott Griffiths slides in to challenge



David Martin fends off his marker



Villa get to grips with Andre Gray

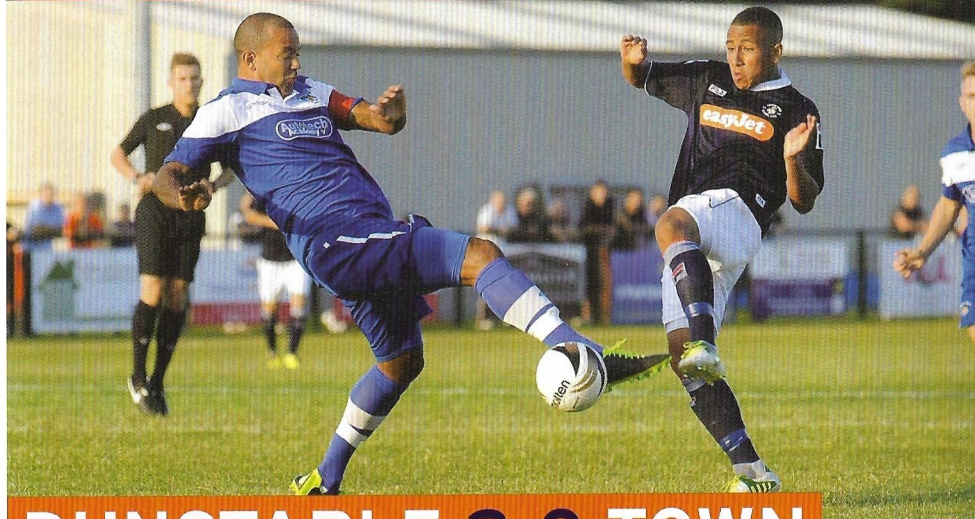
TOWN: Mark Tyler, Scott Griffiths, Alex Lacey, Steve McNulty, Shaun Whalley (sub Jake Howells 73), Solomon Taiwo (sub Jim Stevenson 69), Jon Shaw, Mark Cullen (sub JJ O'Donnell 76), David Martin (sub Andre Gray 73), Luke Guttridge (sub Jonathan Smith 69), Ronnie Henry. **SUBS NOT USED:** Aitor Nunez, Elliot Justham.

ATTENDANCE: 4,304 (675 from Villa).

ASTON VILLA: Jed Steer (sub Brad Guzan 60), Janor Donacien (sub Matthew Lowton 60), Nathan Baker (sub Ron Vlaar 60), Fabian Delph (sub Ashley Westwood 60), Josh Webb (sub Antonio Rodriguez Luna 60), Yacouba Sylla (sub Daniel Johnson 60), Christian Benteke (sub Callum Robinson 46), Graham Burke (sub Jack Grealish 60), Chris Herd (sub Claran Clark 60), Gary Gardner (sub Karim El Ahmadi 60), Samir Carruthers (sub Leandro Bacuna 60).

rewind

Zane Banton battles for possession



DUNSTABLE 2-0 TOWN

THURSDAY 25th JULY 2013

A young development squad side containing three trialists fell to a defeat against near neighbours Dunstable Town.

Spanish full-back Aitor Nunez, midfielder Jake Hall and striker Moses Ashikodi were given the chance to impress in front of a healthy crowd at Creasey Park.

It was Ashikodi who fashioned the first chance of the night on 13 minutes when his cross found Jake Woolley inside the penalty area but his effort was saved by Dunstable stopper Jamie Head.

However, it was hosts that got their noses in front in the 24th minute when former Hatter Adam Watkins' free-kick was headed across goal to the feet of Matt Nolan who made no mistake from close range to beat Elliot Justham.

Woolley came close to levelling for the Hatters when thumping a volley goalwards that was saved by Head on 33 minutes, before a shot on the turn six minutes later by the same player bounced just wide.

Moments into the second half Dunstable came close to making it 2-0 when Lee Roache's firm, low shot hit the post and Watkins almost came close to scoring against his former employers with an effort on 54 minutes. Substitute Zane Banton almost found an equaliser on 66 minutes but, after Alex Wall missed a

glorious chance to level, Dunstable made it 2-0 on 72 minutes when Roache fired powerfully into the roof of the net from a narrow angle.

Having fallen further behind the Town lay siege on the Dunstable goal and only heroics from Head kept the visitors at bay with Matt Robinson, Banton, Jim Stevenson and Wall all going close.

First team coach Hakan Hayrettin was disappointed with the result but was pleased with the overall picture.

"It's more for the development really, we had a lot of youngsters in there and a few people we're looking at," he said. "The result's disappointing but I was pleased with some of the work which was important to us.

"It's another game and we're moving forward with our pre-season. People like Robinson, Stevenson and Wall came through which was very, very encouraging for us.

"We had three kids in defence that are 16, 17 and 18, and it's all a learning curve for these boys as they're going to play these games more and more.

"The result wasn't so pleasing, but if you look at the state of play and how many chances we had compared to them it was encouraging. We need to now get organised and make sure that our pattern of play and our shape's very good when we play games like this and it will come. I can't take nothing away from the kids - they tried their best."

rewind

Matt Robinson clears against the Daggers



TOWN 3-0 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

SATURDAY 27th JULY 2013

Town boss John Still saw his side ease to a comfortable victory over his former employers Dagenham & Redbridge.

Goals from Mark Cullen, Alex Lacey and Shaun Whalley were enough to see off the League 2 side, who Still left after nine years in charge in February.

With a strong side named after the defeat at Dunstable, the Town took no time in gaining an advantage. The game was just three minutes old when Cullen rose unchallenged to head home ex-Dagger Scott Griffiths' left-wing cross to give the Hatters the lead.

Half chances from Andre Gray and Cullen almost put the hosts further ahead but the Daggers came within inches of finding an equaliser when Luke Howell's shot was blocked brilliantly by Matt Robinson.

After Cullen was withdrawn midway through the first half, his replacement Whalley arrowed a shot goalwards shortly before half-time.

The Daggers came close to an equaliser once again when Scott Doe's back-post header deflected off of Robinson on the line via the woodwork, but after Rhys Murphy's free-kick narrowly cleared the crossbar, the

Town made it 2-0 when Lacey rose to head home Jake Howells' corner.

Two goals to the good the Hatters pressed for a third goal and, with time running out, Whalley provided the goal of the game when speeding past the Daggers defence to slot home having taken a fantastic cross-field pass from Solomon Taiwo in his stride.

The victory made it two victories from two at Kenilworth Road, and Still was happy with his side's display against his former employers.

"It was a strange game. I thought Dagenham had good possession in the first half and I don't know whether beating Aston Villa slowed us up a little bit," said the boss.

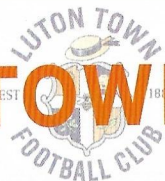
"It took us a little bit of time to get going but in that period we knew how to defend, knew how to be narrow, that side of our game was very good.

"In the first half our attacking side wasn't particularly good, but in the second half I thought we had the full package.

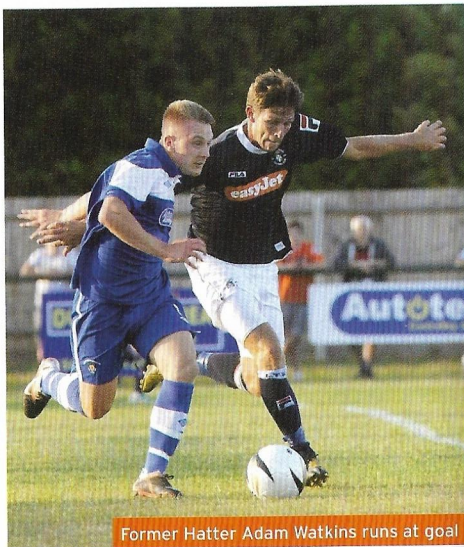
"I thought we played very, very well and we won pretty comfortably, but like I've said, it's a pre-season game and I don't think Dagenham will be too disappointed - and I'm not too elated."

DUNSTABLE 2-0 TOWN

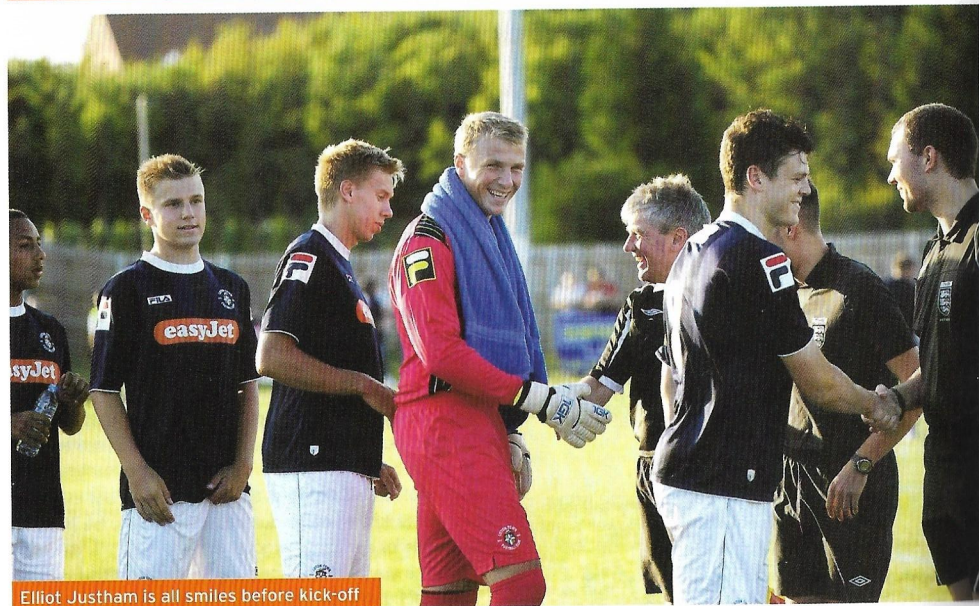
Nolan, Roache



Zane Banton shows close control



Former Hatter Adam Watkins runs at goal



Elliot Justham is all smiles before kick-off

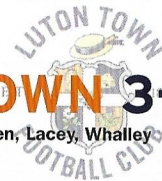
DUNSTABLE: Jamie Head, Wayne Mills, Danny Murphy, Joe Bruce, Marc Leach, Leon Cashman, Nathan Frater, Adam Watkins, Lee Roache, Matt Nolan, Chris Marsh. Subs: Danil Mead, Tony Burnett, Damen Pickering, Curtis Shaw, Moses Olaleye, Tai Griffiths, Tony Fontanelle, Rory McGuigan, Lewis Pacelli.

TOWN: Elliot Justham, Aitor Nunez, Jerome Jibodu, Jim Stevenson, Zak Stephens, Harry Tamplin (sub Tinashe Chabata 78), Jake Hall, Matt Robinson, Zane Banton, Moses Ashikodi (sub Alex Wall 61), Jake Woolley. **SUBS NOT USED:** Ian Rees, Charlie Smith, Arel Amu, Lee Hawkes.

ATTENDANCE: 654.

TOWN 3-0 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

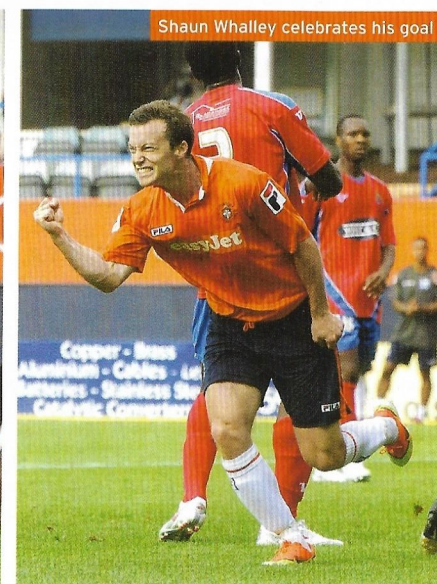
Cullen, Lacey, Whalley



The Town defence clears the danger



Alex Wall goes for goal



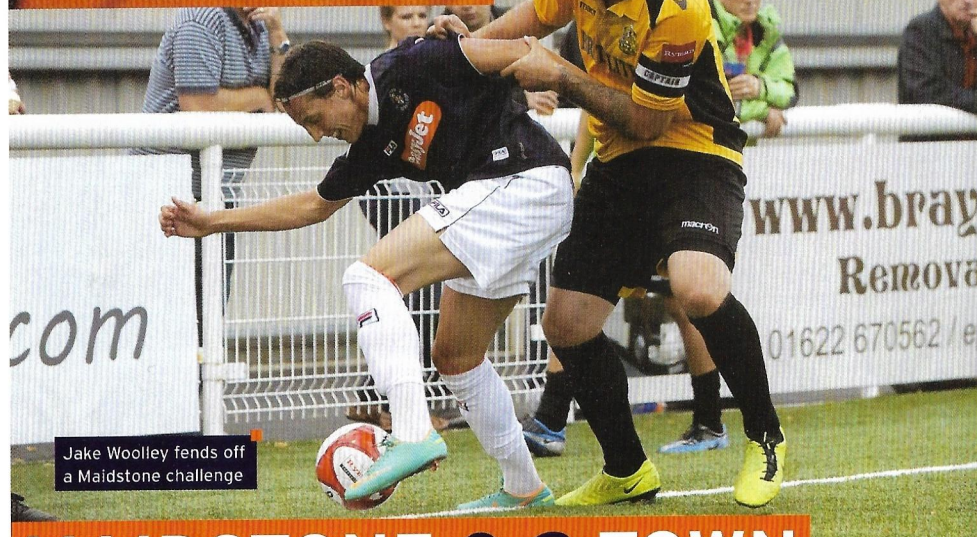
Shaun Whalley celebrates his goal

TOWN: Mark Tyler, Jonathan Smith (sub Ronnie Henry 71), Scott Griffiths, Anthony Charles (sub Steve McNulty 58), Matt Robinson (sub Andrew Parry 58), Andre Gray (sub Alex Wall 58), Mark Cullen (sub Shaun Whalley 37), Jon Shaw (sub David Martin 58), Jake Howells (sub JJ O'Donnell 78), Alex Lacey, Luke Guttridge (sub Solomon Taiwo 58). **SUBS NOT USED:** Craig King, Jim Stevenson.

DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE: Chris Lewington, Jack Connors (sub Femi Ilesanmi 63), Scott Doe, Brian Saah, Billy Bingham (sub Medy Elito 63), Abu Ogogo, Rhys Murphy (sub Brian Woodall 75), Josh Scott (sub Louis Dennis 75), Afify Obafemi (sub Jake Reed 63), Luke Howell, Gavin Hoyte. **SUBS NOT USED:** Sean Shields, Ian Gayle, Jordan Seabright.

ATTENDANCE: 1,508 (63 from Dagenham & Redbridge)

rewind



Jake Woolley fends off a Maidstone challenge

MAIDSTONE 0-2 TOWN

TUESDAY 30th JULY 2013

The Town battled to a hard-fought victory over another one of John Still's former clubs thanks to goals from Jake Woolley and Matt Robinson.

The boss picked a development side to take on the Stones, as well as transfer-listed duo Scott Rendell and Lathaniel Rowe-Turner.

It was Rendell that came closest first, flicking a header goalwards following JJ O'Donnell's accurate left-wing cross in the opening stages.

Maidstone came close themselves soon after, and the Town had to thank Matt Robinson for a crucial block to prevent Frannie Collin's acrobatic effort from beating Elliot Justham.

O'Donnell's trickery and delivery from wide areas was causing the home side all sorts of problems and one such run created a chance for Jim Stevenson but his goal-bound header was well saved by Lee Worgan in the Maidstone goal. Trialist Jake Hall missed a huge chance for the Town shortly before the break when he somehow shot over from a yard out with the goal gaping following Jake Woolley's cross.

The Hatters kept up the momentum in the second half and, after Rendell saw a shot hacked off the line, he teed up Woolley to finish well beyond Worgan with a left-foot shot.

Hurt by going behind Maidstone desperately sought an equaliser and the Town were lucky to escape a penalty appeal on 68 minutes when Jerome Jibodu upended Alex Fisher but the referee waved away the Stones' pleas.

Cool finish

The Town came close to making it 2-0 through Woolley and Robinson twice and were almost made to pay for those misses when three Maidstone players failed to bundle the ball over the line during a goalmouth scramble in the dying minutes.

However, the Town responded with the last kick of the game when Robinson broke clear of the Stones defence and beat Worgan with a cool finish into the bottom corner.

First team coach Hakan Hayrettin, who took charge of affairs on the night, was pleased with the attitude and application of all those involved in the win, especially Rendell and Rowe-Turner.

Hayrettin said: "They showed a professional attitude. 'I was very, very pleased with the both of them and I will report back to the gaffer and tell him that.

"That's what you want as you never know who's watching."

rewind



Scott Rendell goes close for the Town

HISTON 0-1 TOWN

THURSDAY 1st AUGUST 2013

A last-minute goal from youth team striker Zane Banton secured the Town a hard-fought victory over Histon.

The teenager was on hand to break the deadlock when firing home from close range following good work from right-back Brett Longden.

Chances were few and far between inside the opening half-an-hour and it wasn't until the 30-minute mark when the Town created their first opportunity when Andy Parry's 20-yard drive drew an acrobatic stop from Calum Kitshca in the Stutes goal.

Hatters trialist Ollie Hughes almost fashioned a chance for Scott Rendell but Jerome Jibodu – who, along with Jake Woolley, appeared for Histon on the night – cleared the danger.

After the break the Town were indebted to a series of important saves from goalkeeper Elliot Justham to keep the scoreline blank, which included a fine reflex stop to prevent Claudiu Hoban's low shot from finding the bottom corner.

Parry was unlucky once more when firing a shot from distance that deflected wide whilst Rendell missed a sitter with the goal gaping from close range having been found by trialist Jake Hall.

Justham intervened once more to the relief of the Town when he turned over Woolley's close range flick and that proved to be vital as, with time almost up, Banton popped up to finish well to ensure the Hatters left the Glassworld Stadium victorious.

Delighted

With another win and clean sheet under their belts, first team coach Hakan Hayrettin was delighted with the performance of the young Town side.

"Anything we that we do here is good habits, especially when you come to places like this," he said afterwards.

"I've said it before, but teams are going to raise their game and it's about making sure that we're ready for the 10th August.

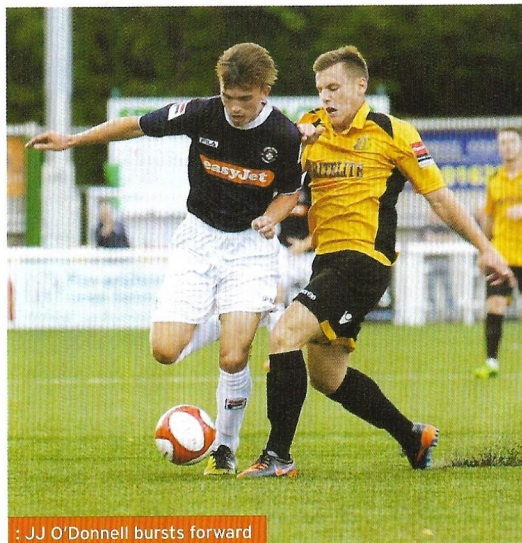
"We need to make sure enough people have got minutes under their belts as well as making sure people do the right things in the right areas, which we did.

"The attitude of the boys in pre-season has been spot on and that's what we want: winning habits.

"If we can install that into them, then it may not have been the best of the performances but we got through."

MAIDSTONE 0-2 TOWN

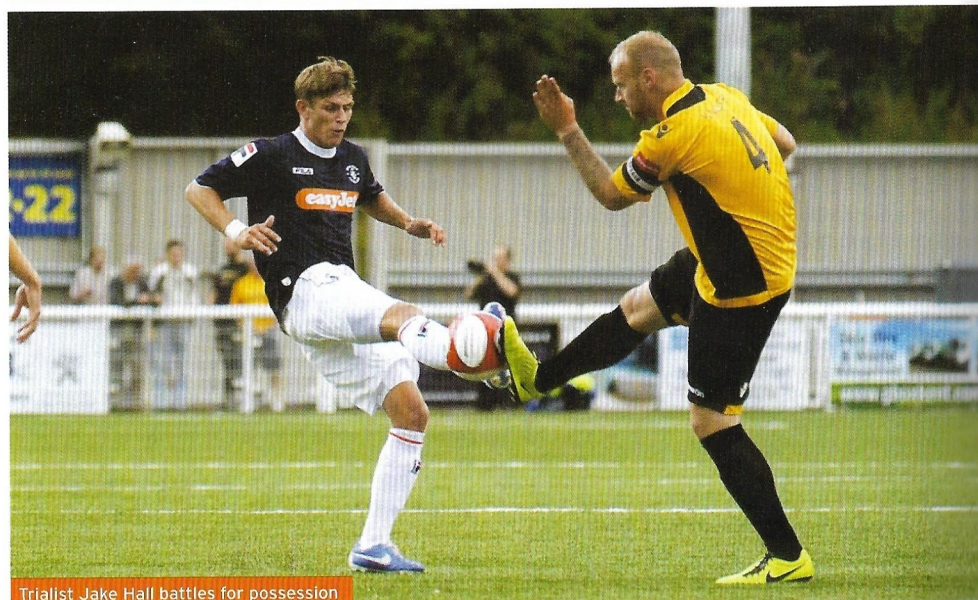
Woolley, Robinson



: JJ O'Donnell bursts forward



Scott Rendell heads goalwards



Trialist Jake Hall battles for possession

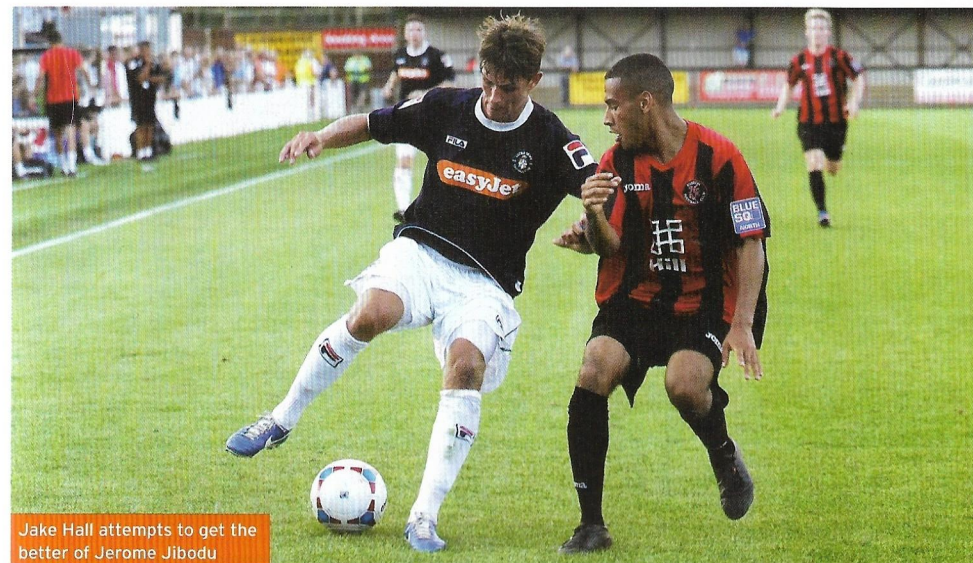
MAIDSTONE: Lee Worgan, Richard Davies (sub Lea Dawson 75), Tom Mills, Steve Watt (sub Billy French 46), Jerrome Sobers, Danny Lye (sub Paul Booth 75), Orlando Smith, Fabio Saraiva (sub Alex Flisher 60), Ian Draycott (sub Charlie Robertson 66), Frannie Collin (sub Tommy Osbone 75), Rory Hill (sub Alex Brown 60). **SUBS NOT USED:** Dan Johnson, Mitch Hart.

TOWN: Elliot Justham, Brett Longden (sub Zane Banton 80), Jerome Jibodu, Jim Stevenson, Lathaniel Rowe-Turner, Zak Stephens, Jake Woolley, Matt Robinson, Scott Rendell, Jake Hall, JJ O'Donnell. **SUBS NOT USED:** Charlie Smith, Tinashe Chabata, Craig King.

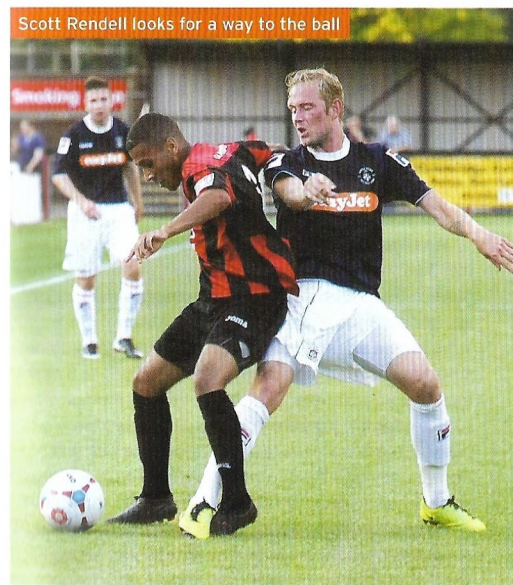
ATTENDANCE: 937.

HISTON 0-1 TOWN

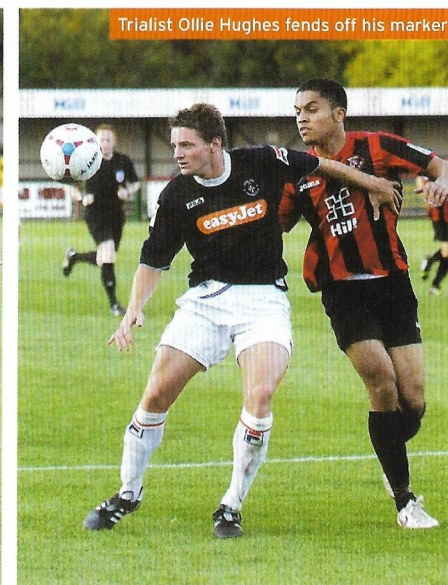
Banton



Jake Hall attempts to get the better of Jerome Jibodu



Scott Rendell looks for a way to the ball



Trialist Ollie Hughes fends off his marker

HISTON: Calum Kitscha, Grant Roberts, Jerome Jibodu, Jay Dowie, Renmy Clerima, Omar Beckles, Eugene Libertucci, Nathan Hicks, Jake Woolley, Declan Hunt, Charlie Day. **Subs:** Harry O'Malley, Harri Hawkins, Joe O'Donoghue, Claudiu Hoban, Joe Asensi, Charlie Binns, Jack Sessions, Jack Higgs.

TOWN: Elliot Justham, Brett Longden, Zak Stephens (sub Lathaniel Rowe-Turner 70), Anthony Charles, Andrew Parry (sub Charlie Smith 75), James Stevenson (sub Ian Rees 80), Jake Hall, JJ O'Donnell, Scott Rendell, Oliver Hughes (sub Zane Banton 70). **SUBS NOT USED:** Ben Barnes, Jemale McKenzie-Lowe.

rewind

Jake Howells heads home to put the Hatters 4-0 up



TOWN 7-0 ARSENAL XI

SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST 2013

The Hatters hit a youthful Arsenal XI for seven in their final home pre-season friendly of the summer.

Mark Cullen, Jake Howells and substitute Andre Gray all scored twice, while Shaun Whalley netted from the spot as the Town ran riot against some of the Premier League side's hottest prospects.

It was actually the Gunners that started the brighter of the two sides and could have even had an early lead as Isaac Hayden and Nico Yennaris both came close early on. But out of nothing the Town took the lead in the 19th minute when neat interplay between Jon Shaw and Cullen saw the latter draw a save from the Arsenal keeper and Howells tucked home the loose ball.

No sooner were the Hatters ahead was it 2-0 when Cullen raced onto a stray pass from the Gunners defence to expertly fire home.

Two then became three when Whalley was sent tumbling in the penalty area and the winger brushed himself down to convert the resultant spot-kick straight down the middle.

It then became 4-0 inside 45 minutes when Dave Martin's free-kick was met by the head of Howells from close range.

Arsenal began the second half like they started the first, but failed to turn their possession into goals and the Town punished another poor pass across the Gunners' back-line when Howells' grabbed his second by floating home the fifth goal.

The Hatters rang the changes on the hour and within four minutes of his introduction Andre Gray made it six when latching onto Howells' pass to fire home.

And last season's leading marksman had the final say in the closing stages when he grabbed his second and the Town's seventh of a remarkable game when finishing confidently having sped clear of the Arsenal defence.

Despite the margin of victory over the youthful Gunners, boss John Still refused to get carried away.

"We played well, we know they were quite young, but they had four or five very good players, very highly rated players," said Still. "Whoever you play against you've got to do the job and I felt we did just that."

"We knew at the time what Arsenal were going to do selection-wise because of the Emirates Cup, so I'm not stupid."

"But we knew we were going to play against a passing team who were going to move the ball and we were going to have to work hard, regardless of the score."

"It wasn't going to be a stroll in the park. We spoke about when teams have a lot of possession about winning the ball and attacking quickly and it couldn't have worked better for us."

"Win the ball high up the pitch, force people into mistakes and it was a good day. But I keep saying this has been pre-season, it's been very, very good, but the real stuff is to come, so what's gone has gone."

rewind

Ollie Hughes celebrates making it 4-2



THURROCK 2-4 TOWN

MONDAY 5th AUGUST 2013

The Hatters clocked up their eighth win in 10 friendlies this summer with a victory over Thurrock in their final pre-season match before the start of the Skrill Premier season.

The Town had the perfect start after just four minutes when right-back Brett Longden rushed up-field to intercept the ball 30 yards out and belted the ball home over the home goalkeeper's reach to give the visitors the lead.

The opening exchanges were dominated by the Hatters and Alex Wall warned the hands of Thurrock goalkeeper Reece Ottley with a firmly-struck free-kick that crept towards the bottom corner.

Wall was making a nuisance of himself in attack, getting his fair share of ill treatment from enthusiastic Thurrock defenders attempting to pinch the ball off of him. He struck a weak shot goalwards that was comfortable for Ottley on 21 minutes before twice going down injured. Eventually he was withdrawn, clutching an injured hip, on 32 minutes and on came Zane Banton.

With Wall now off of the pitch, Thurrock woke up and levelled three minutes after the striker's departure. The Hatters failed to clear a corner and Lewis Perkins hammered a low shot from the edge of the penalty area beyond the unsighted Ben Barnes for the equaliser.

All of a sudden it was all the hosts, and Thurrock completed the turnaround on 37 minutes to take the lead when a deft finish from Perkins following a left-wing cross beat Barnes.

It could have been worse for the Hatters two minutes before the interval when the faintest of fingertips from Barnes turned a goal-bound effort from Louis Hazelwood around the post.

Forty seconds after the restart the Town should have levelled when Robinson blazed high over the Thurrock goal when found with time and space in the Thurrock penalty area. But, not to be denied, the Hatters did equalise on 52 minutes. Trialist Jake Hall did well to eke out a cross from the right flank which found Banton and the teenage striker composed himself well before rifling home from six yards to make it two apiece.

Hurt by being pegged back, Thurrock almost stole back the advantage on the hour only for Barnes to keep out Charlie Stimson's low drive at the back post with a firm stop.

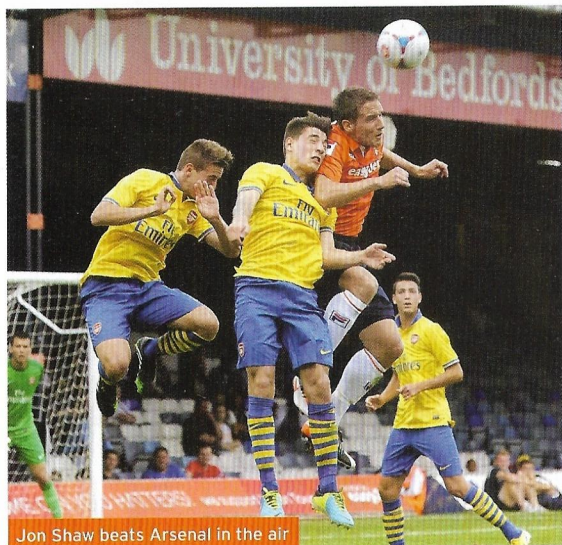
The Hatters stepped it up after that close call and should have gone ahead when Danny Fitzsimons planted a header from six yards wide of the target following JJ O'Donnell's corner.

But, with 12 minutes left on the clock, the pressure did tell as the Town got their noses in front for the second time. This time Banton was the creator, laying on an inch-perfect right-wing cross for Ollie Hughes to turn home with a fine first-time finish into the bottom corner past Ottley.

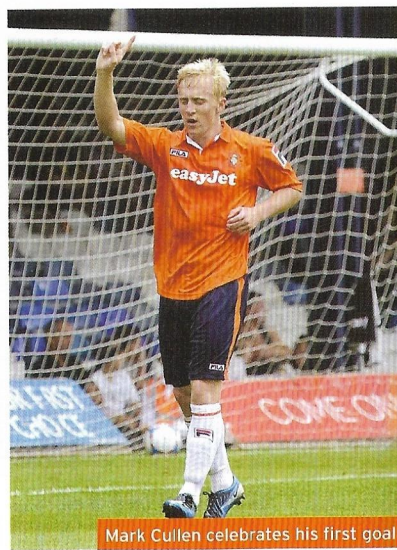
With Thurrock pushing forward looking for an equaliser, they were caught short at the back and the Town made sure of another pre-season victory when Robinson arrowed a low left-foot shot into the bottom corner following Banton's pass.

TOWN 7-0 ARSENAL XI

Cullen 2, Howells 2, Gray 2, Whalley (pen)



Jon Shaw beats Arsenal in the air



Mark Cullen celebrates his first goal



Andre Gray fires home to make it 6-0

TOWN: Justham, Griffiths (sub Fitzsimons 61), McNulty, Lacey (sub Charles 61), Henry, Howells (sub Robinson 74), Taiwo (sub Smith 74), Guttridge (sub Parry 74), Whalley (sub Gray 61), Shaw (sub Martin 26), Cullen (sub Wall 61).
SUB NOT USED: Tyler.

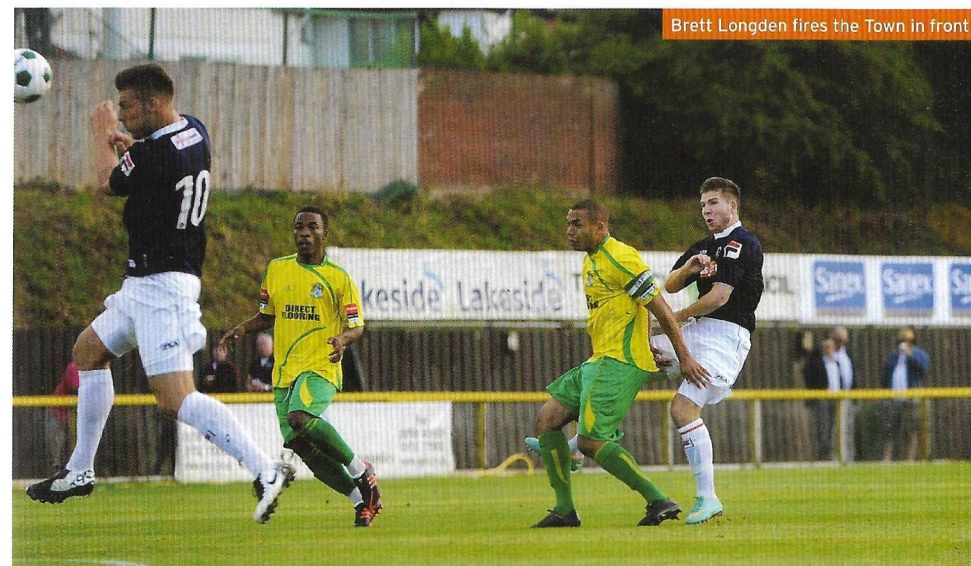
ARSENAL XI: Iliev, Bellerin, Moore, Yennaris (sub Crowley 76), Pleguezuelo, Dallison (sub Siemann 61), Eisfeld, Olsson, Iwobi, Hayden, Wellington (sub Jeffrey 61).
SUBS NOT USED: Vickers, Kamara, Dallison, Bensebainl.

ATTENDANCE: 2,411 (138 Arsenal)

THURROCK 2-4 TOWN

Perkins 2

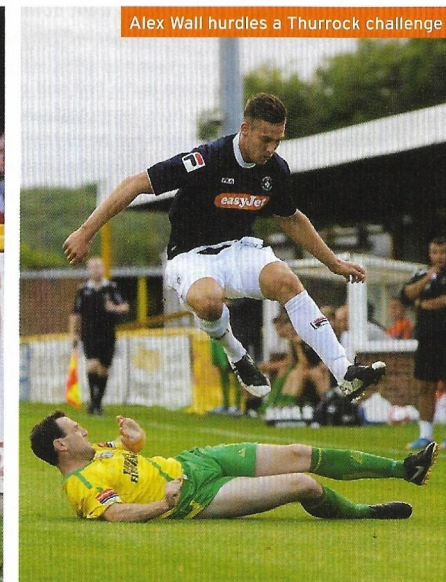
Longden, Banton, Hughes, Robinson



Brett Longden fires the Town in front



Thurrock try to stop JJ O'Donnell



Alex Wall hurdles a Thurrock challenge

THURROCK: Reece Ottley, Connor Mackay, Mark Onyemah, Lewis Clark, Rob Gilman, Brad Warner, Callum Ibe, Lewis Spence, Jon Nouble, Lewis Perkins, Loui Hazelwood.
SUBS: Jordan Clark, Charlie Stimson, James Goode, Danny Ramens, Aaron Green.

TOWN: Barnes, Longden, Jibodu, Fitzsimmons, Charles, Samnoutis (sub Cibwabba 63), Hall, Robinson, Hughes, Wall (sub Banton 32), O'Donnell (sub Rees 79). SUBS NOT USED: Chabata, Mendy, King.

report



Mark Cullen heads goalwards

SOUTHPORT 1-0 TOWN

Captain Steve McNulty was sent-off and Shaun Whalley missed a penalty as the Town went down to Southport on the opening day of the Skrill Premier season.

The Sandgrounders' winner came in the first half courtesy of a deflected free-kick from Jamie Milligan but the Hatters – reduced to 10 men just before the hour following McNulty's red card – missed the chance to take a point when Whalley saw his penalty saved by home goalkeeper Danny Hurst.

Milligan's heavily deflected free-kick gave Mark Tyler no chance in the 22nd minute to give the hosts the lead in a low key first half.

In the second half, however, the Town upped the ante but their task became tougher when they lost McNulty following an innocuous back-post challenge that referee Christopher Kavanagh believed warranted a red card.

That spurred the Hatters on but, after substitute Andre Gray missed a great chance to level, Whalley – playing against his former club – saw his penalty 15 minutes from time well-saved by Hurst, diving away to his left.

As the Town pushed forward looking for an equaliser, poor finishing from the hosts and fine goalkeeping from Tyler kept the score at 1-0 but, despite five minutes of injury time, the Hatters couldn't muster an equaliser and the hosts celebrated at the final whistle.

And manager John Still admitted the Town's opening performance of the season wasn't good enough.

"I think it was a fair result," Still said afterwards. "I thought Southport had more energy than us in the first half and played with more intensity. They played to their strengths and we didn't. We never got ourselves going in the first half.

"In the second half we played with more intensity but without looking convincing. It became much harder when Steve was sent-off but we had the chance from the penalty which didn't go in, so you have to put the game in the 'not good enough' category.

"Whether or not the players thought their form in pre-season was good enough to just turn up here and win I don't know. We've not played with any tempo or focus which we have been doing and that's disappointing.

"We never got ourselves going as we did in pre-season. As I have stressed before though, pre-season can only show you how fit and organised you are."

Despite the earliest of set-backs the manager refused to panic after one defeat.

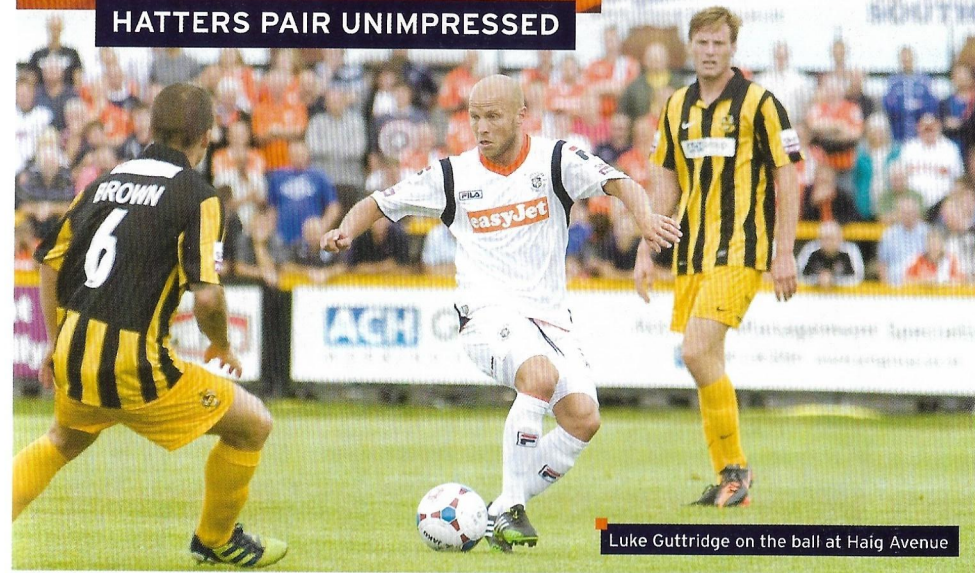
"I will remind people what their responsibilities are and it will be business as usual again," he said. "We could not control the uncontrollables today. A lot of things went their way although we obviously did not play well.

"I thought their man should have been sent off when he took down Andre for our penalty but he only got a yellow so these things happen.

"We will not mope about this defeat though. There is a long way to go in this season. That goes without saying."

reaction

HATTERS PAIR UNIMPRESSED



Luke Guttridge on the ball at Haig Avenue

Town duo Luke Guttridge and Alex Lacey echoed manager John Still's thoughts following the opening day defeat at Southport.

Midfielder Guttridge, who made his debut for the Hatters in the centre of midfield, admitted that complacency may have crept in following an excellent pre-season.

"It's extremely disappointing," the 31-year-old said afterwards. "It's always in the back of your mind before the game, but it was proven today: pre-season means nothing.

"We knew it was going to be tough but, quite simply, we were not good enough, especially in the first half.

"We started sloppy and in the end we played better with 10 men, but we've got to be winning games and we've got to be on it from the very first whistle. It's a harsh lesson and it's given us a lot to learn from.

"I think you can prepare as much as you want but when it comes down to it this was a competitive game and not a friendly. This is our bread and butter and it's a different ball game. Southport were ready and were for up it. We have no excuses and, unfortunately, I think it comes down to attitude. I think we thought to ourselves 'we've had a good pre-season' and that we could just turn up and win.

"However, being Luton Town, and being one of the supposedly biggest clubs in the league, teams are

not going to just roll over and let us win matches.

We are going to have to fight tooth and nail to win football matches this season. First and foremost we have to work hard and match the opponent's desire – otherwise we won't achieve anything.

"Complacency is massive in football and one good game doesn't make a season. We need to realise that, overcome the expectancy and put this result to bed as soon as possible. The first half was just dreadful and we have to put that right, starting on Tuesday."

It was a day of mixed emotions for centre-half Lacey who made his first league start of his career in the defeat at Haig Avenue.

"I'm pleased to have been given the chance but it's a very disappointing start to the season," said the young defender.

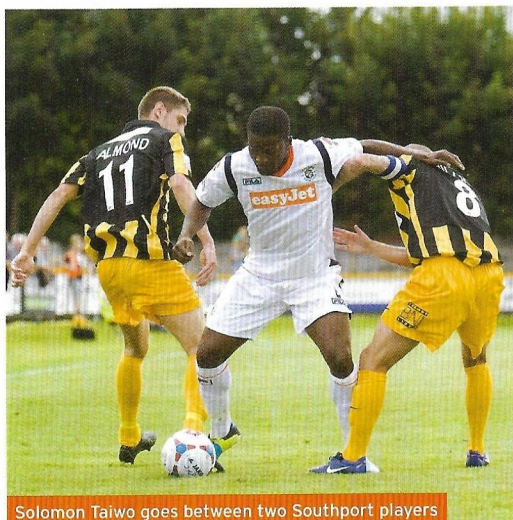
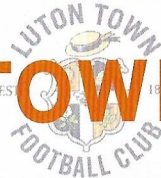
"Southport took the game to us and I think that was a shock to us. They had more desire and it showed."

Despite being on the losing side Lacey, who took over the armband following Steve McNulty's second half sending off, is hoping to keep his place in the Hatters starting XI. "I didn't get the chance under previous managers so it's great that John Still has faith in me," he said.

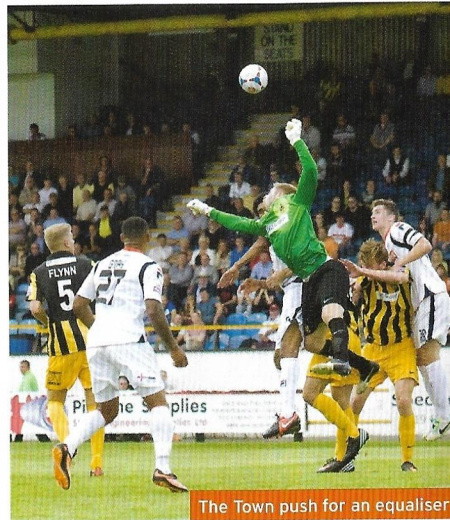
"My aim is to make as many appearances as I possibly can and keep impressing the manager. I'm in the team at the moment and it's my spot to lose."

SOUTHPORT 1-0 TOWN

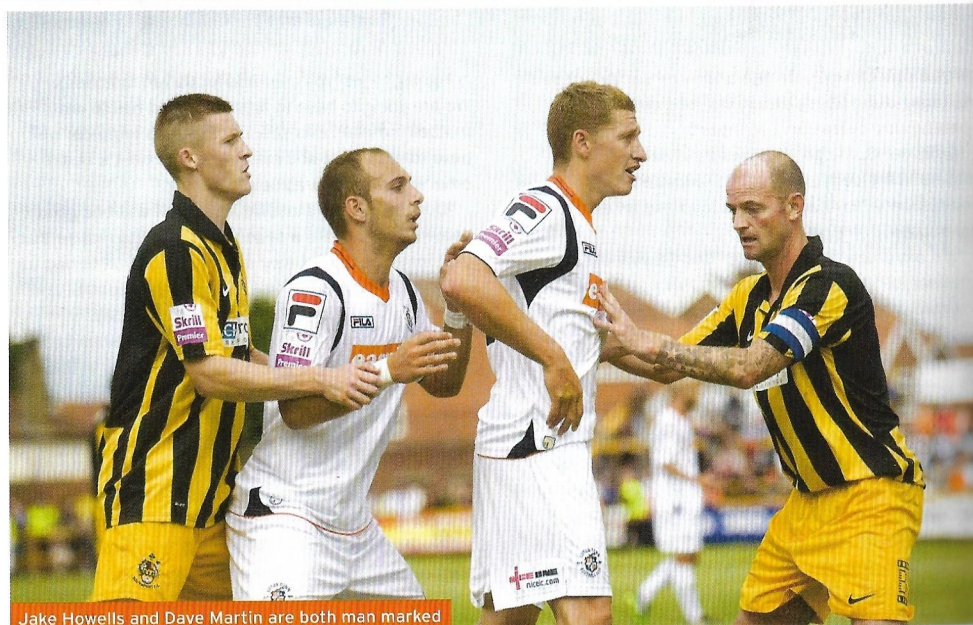
Milligan 22



Solomon Taiwo goes between two Southport players



The Town push for an equaliser



Jake Howells and Dave Martin are both man marked

SOUTHPORT: Hurst, Flynn, Challoner, Fitzpatrick, Brown, Chalmers (sub Ledsham), Milligan, Rutherford (sub Osawe 88), George, Almond, Hattersley (sub Tames 84). **SUBS NOT USED:** Stevenson, Akrigg.

TOWN: Tyler, Smith, Griffiths, Lacey, McNulty, Guttridge, Taiwo (sub Parry 71), Martin (sub Charles 58), Whalley, Howells (sub Gray 46), Cullen. **SUBS NOT USED:** Justham, Robinson.



Dave Martin starts a Town attack

POSSESSION	51%	49%
CORNERS	4	9
SHOTS ON TARGET	6	3
SHOTS OFF TARGET	7	4

FOULS	12	12
YELLOW CARDS	1	1
RED CARDS	0	1
ATTENDANCE:	2,210 (839 LUTON)	

centre spot

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Back row (left-to-right): Matt Robinson, Shaun Whalley, Alex Wall, Alex Lacey, Lathaniel Rowe-Turner, Jake Woolley, JJ O'Donnell, Danny Fitzsimons, Anthony Charles, Jonathan Smith, Alex Lawless.
Middle row: Dave Richardson (fitness coach), Hakan Hayrettin (first team coach), Scott Griffiths, Jerome Jibodu, Scott Rendell, Jon Shaw, Mark Tyler, Elliot Justham, Brett Longden, Jim Stevenson, Mark Cullen, Andy Parry, Simon Parsell (physiotherapist), Darren Cook (kit man/masseur).
Front row: Jake Howells, Dave Martin, Luke Guttridge, Terry Harris (assistant manager), Ronnie Henry, John Still (manager), Solomon Taiwo, Steve McNulty, Andre Gray.



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behindthescenes

REVEALED - THE CHANGES AND INVESTMENT THIS SUMMER

In a series of reports published on the official website this summer, supporters were able to get a behind-the-scenes insight into what's happened, and how it happens around the ground as the Club prepares for the 2013/14 season.

From goalkeeper shirts and grass seed, pots of paint and pies, we unveiled the exciting changes and projects that have been undertaken in the different departments around Kenilworth Road – and the reasons for them.

TICKET OFFICE & CLUB SHOP

If there are two areas of the football club that will see unprecedented levels of business this summer it will be the ticket office and club shop.

The ticket office have received and processed over 4,400 season tickets for next season, whilst the club shop has been besieged with supporters snapping up the new kits which went on sale on 20th July.

The official website caught up with Mike Hooker, the Hatters' Head of Retail to find out the improvements and changes this area of the club has seen over the summer so far.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: You've processed over 4,400 season tickets already. It's fair to say you've had a busy few months?

MIKE HOOKER: We have been busy ever since season tickets became available in April. Thousands of supporters took advantage of the discounted EarlyBird prices.

This summer we made the decision to allow supporters to pay by four or eight-month instalments without any additional charges. From the feedback we have received, and the amount of applications processed during this close season, it has proved very popular with supporters.

OS: How did you and your staff cope during this busy period of business?

MH: Due to the demand as the deadline for EarlyBird approached, the decision was made to extend our opening hours.

We also advised supporters to email us directly to enable us to contact them and thus secure the discounted EarlyBird price. I would like to thank all the supporters for their patience and understanding during this period. ▶▶▶

Ticket office and club shop manager Mike Hooker



behind the scenes

REVEALED - THE CHANGES AND INVESTMENT THIS SUMMER

OS: For the first time this season supporters purchasing a season ticket have the option of receiving a free under-17 season ticket for next season. How popular has this particular offer been and what has been the uptake.

MH: We are pleased to say the offer has been incredibly popular. The current figure of under-17s with a season ticket is approximately 1,000. Of those, in excess of 300 under-17s have paid for their season tickets, by either being unaccompanied or choosing to take advantage of the ever-increasingly popular Diamond Package.

OS: You are trialling a new ticketing system at the moment, which is part of an overall new Club Management System (CMS). How does it work and how will it affect supporters?

MH: The new ticketing system will form part of the CMS, which will progress the way the Club manages its customer base and sales. The system has been jointly developed with a local Luton-supporting company who have practically designed this around our specific needs but in a way that will even save us money.

One of the first noticeable benefits we hope supporters will see will be the vastly improved online facilities – you will be able to buy everything (tickets and merchandise) in one place.

Another benefit of the new system is that it will give the Club more flexibility as to how, and more importantly where, we are physically able to sell tickets and merchandise. This opens up a number of exciting new possibilities. For example we are looking at combining the Club Shop and Ticket Office into one premise Monday to Friday. It also opens up the possibility for the Club to have a presence in the local shopping mall, where we could sell both tickets and merchandise – something I really hope we may be able to achieve in the not too distant future.

OS: How can supporters contact you should they have any questions or queries about ticketing and merchandise?

MH: The best way is to email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk where I am more than happy to respond to questions from supporters.

CATERING

They say an army marches on its stomach and, with 4,400 season tickets sold, there is sure to be plenty of hungry Hatters fans inside Kenilworth Road throughout the 2013/14 campaign.

Like many areas of the business this summer, changes are afoot, and catering is no different. "Why?" you ask. Well, for the first time in almost a decade the Club have taken the step to bring all catering at Kenilworth Road in-house.

So what effects will the change have on the food? And what new products will supporters be able to feast on? We caught up with the Hatters' newly-appointed Catering Manager David Romans.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: David, tell us a little bit about you.

DAVID ROMANS: I was appointed on the 1st May, having previously been the General Manager at Stockwood Park. I have been involved in catering since leaving the Army in 1992, firstly working and learning the trade with Trust House Forte, Britannia Hotels and Greene King.

OS: What was your first job at Kenilworth Road?

DR: My first task was to fully understand the strategy of how the Club wanted to be positioned with our food and drink offering which lead us to look at all the areas where we currently offer food, drinks and alcohol, along with our commercial and corporate hospitality market areas. I've been looking at ways to improve what is offered to our customers.

OS: Can you tell us about some of the changes?

DR: On 1st July we were delighted to appoint Joanna Foster as Head Chef. She has previously worked at Moonbucks, a community cafe in Farley Hill, which acts as a training venue for people with learning disabilities. Prior to that project she was Head Chef at Stockwood Park Golf Club.

Since Joanna has been on board we have been busy piecing together a variety of seasonal menu options to offer supporters who will be dining with us in our corporate suites on a matchday, as well as looking at how to improve service.

However, it's not just personnel change. We have also been busy giving the bars and kiosks a small but noticeable refurbishment but, most importantly, the kitchens more of an overhaul with a significant investment by the club being put into new appliances and equipment.

We have been extraordinarily lucky to benefit from this much needed new kit, obtained, in part, with the assistance of Steve Coates and brother Robin from Advanced Catering – both loyal Hatters – who have very kindly offered assistance in sourcing and locating equipment to upgrade our kitchens and services areas.

I have also been busy reviewing our current suppliers as well as hiring new matchday staff. As of the start of this season all food will be locally sourced and freshly cooked on site.

OS: Do these positive changes extend to catering outside the ground?

DR: We came to the decision to replace the burger van situated by the Main Stand turnstiles at the Kenilworth Road end of the ground, which was previously owned by an outside company, with our own, newly purchased, van. This will serve our own food, and, for the first time, we will be able to offer our supporters pints of Foster's in the same area from our mobile bar. This area will also be opened slightly earlier on matchdays to ensure supporters have more time to purchase food and drink before kick-off.

OS: There can be long queues for food on matchdays – are there plans to help ease this process?

DR: Absolutely. A new till system has been installed to ensure a quicker service – the same system which will be used by the ticket office from this season. However, just as Mike Hooker asked for patience from our supporters to start with, we would also ask you to bear with us for the same reasons.

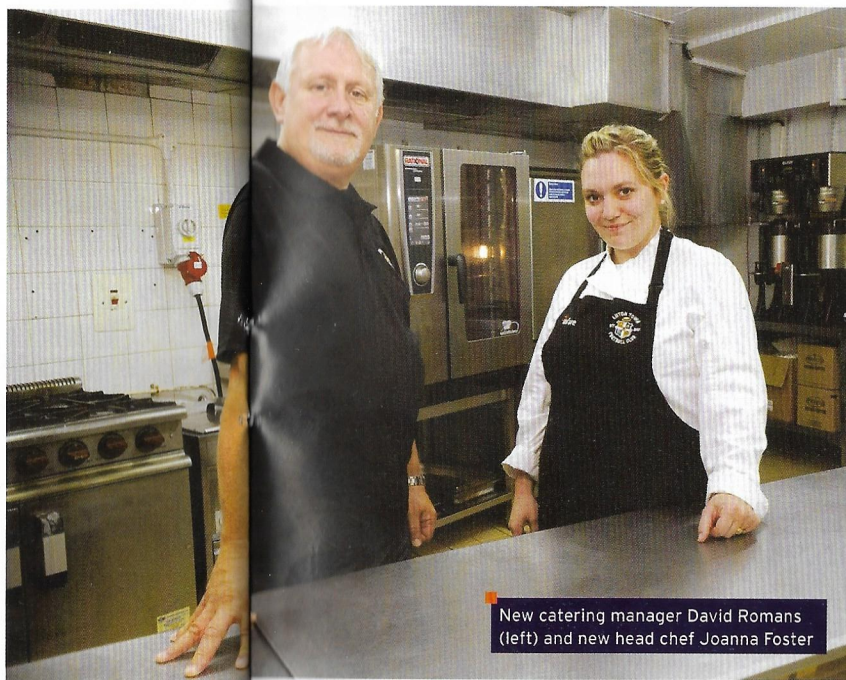
OS: What new food and drink products will supporters get to purchase?

DR: The food and drink available from the kiosks will be very much the same as last season albeit better quality, however, we are introducing a hot turkey and stuffing roll in the burger van. But, at the same time, I am, along with Joanna, looking at other products on the market that you might find from time-to-time being sampled in kiosks to get supporters' views.

Supporters enjoying matchday hospitality will this season be treated to a range of menus, the likes of beef bourguignon, salmon fishcakes, slow-roast lamb shanks and more over the course of the season. From the start of the season, executive box holders will be called three weekdays prior to each match to ascertain their food requirements from a selected menu, along with an upgrade in the coffee service to each box.

OS: Have you got a message for the supporters?

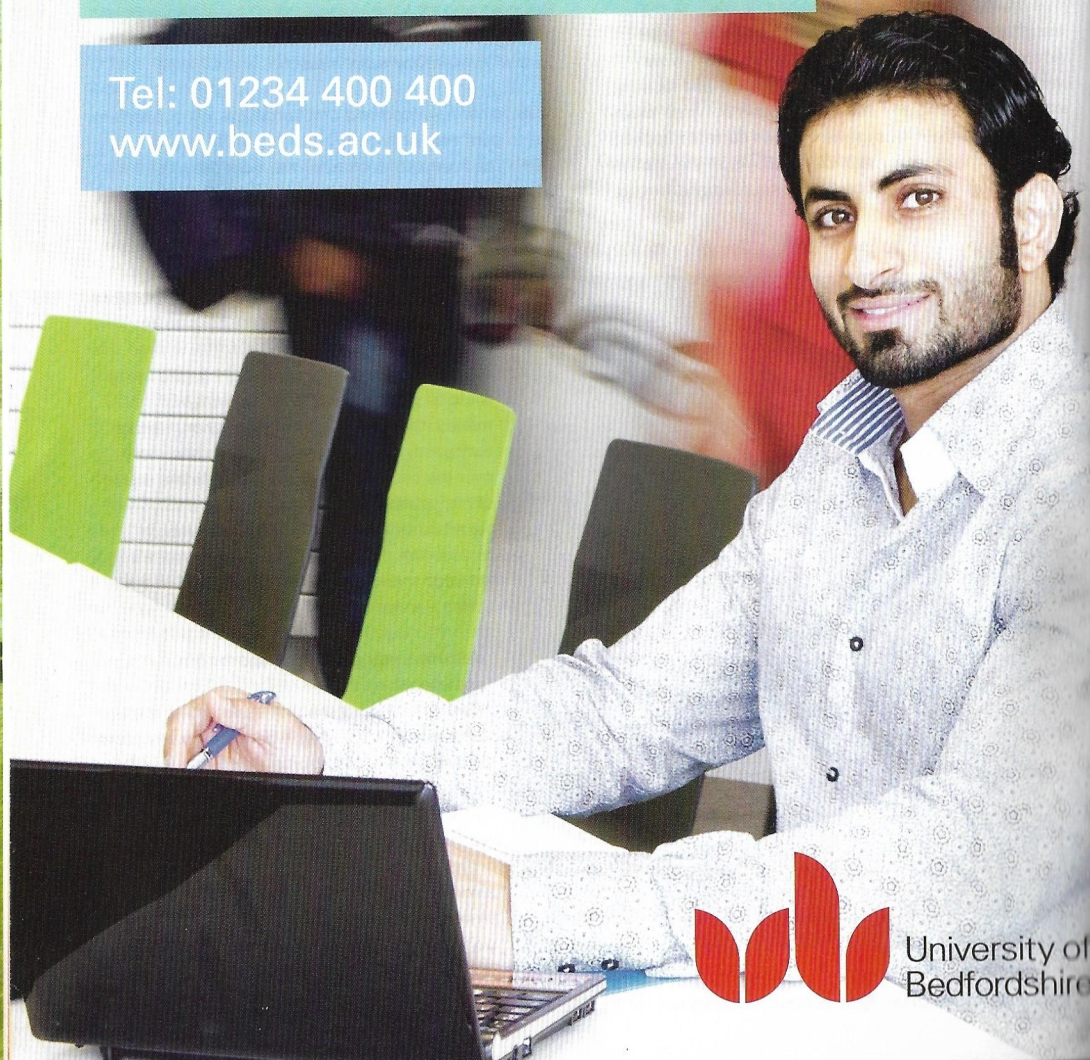
DR: With it being the first season that the club has taken catering in-house for many years it would be folly to assume that the year will go without a few hiccups. There will be many new staff here, so I would ask for supporters' patience, but also suggestions or ideas that might help them enjoy not only the game but also the catering offer. I welcome constructive feedback so please feel free to email me david.romans@lutontown.co.uk. ▶▶▶



New catering manager David Romans (left) and new head chef Joanna Foster

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behind the scenes

REVEALED - THE CHANGES AND INVESTMENT THIS SUMMER

STADIUM & TRAINING GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

It's the place thousands of Town fans call home every other Saturday and this year - like all years - Kenilworth Road is undergoing its annual summer facelift.

Let's be honest, for a 108-year-old she's not looking too bad. The ground's seen the good, the bad and the down-right ugly over the years but the place still rocks when there are 10,000 people inside testing their vocal chords.

Important goals are often said to bring the house down, but, thanks to the club's stadium manager Peter Kemp, Kenilworth Road remains intact.

Together with Peter's staff, an army of volunteers and the help of incredibly charitable local businesses, the old ground continues to age with grace.

But, as we find out, it's a little bit more than a lick of paint each close season that keeps Kenilworth Road in tip top shape.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: What does your role at Kenilworth Road entail?

PETER KEMP: I'm responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all the club's facilities - not just Kenilworth Road: it includes the training ground and all of the club's offices. It's anything from cleaning contracts to the actual structural fabric of the stadium itself. I also work closely with the safety advisory group, which is chaired by Luton Borough Council. The combined annual inspection takes place in March. Essentially that is an important checklist that must be completed before the safety certificate for the stadium is issued by the council. If that fails, we simply can't host football matches here.

OS: So there's a little bit more to it than giving the ground a coat of paint every once in a while?

PK: Absolutely. I guess the new paintwork is always evident to those entering the stadium once the season kicks-off, but there are many places that supporters do not get to see which requires significant and important maintenance and investment. ▶▶▶



Stadium manager Peter Kemp

behind the scenes

REVEALED - THE CHANGES AND INVESTMENT THIS SUMMER

This summer, for example, there are a number of steel support beams underneath the Oak Road stand that needed to be reinforced with steel plates which required a lot of welding. Repairs were also needed on several staircases and steel fire escapes in the Oak Road end too.

We've also had to re-board some of the main stand, replacing the planks of wood between the seats; install new panelling on the main stand roof, and replace new seats in all areas of the stadium.

OS: Ah, replacing seats - that must be a real bug bear?

PK: It's one of my biggest pet hates when supporters sit on the backs of seats. It costs us £15 to repair each seat which soon adds up over the course of a season. Please don't do it!

OS: Apart from the paint work and compulsory safety checks, what other major projects have you been involved in around the club this summer?

PK: Our manager John Still wanted our training ground pitches to be upgraded which meant a reseeded process has been taking place, and a new irrigation system was installed.

Also at the training ground existing portakabins, which were used for office space, have been replaced with a large modular building which will also house a new gym for the players.

These projects alone are just some of the unseen investments made by the club's investors that play a crucial role in assisting the first team.

OS: There was a moment in a game back in 2008 when a Keith Keane shot dislodged a piece of plastic protecting a guttering that stopped the game for several minutes before you took it down. The fans that day sung "Luton Town is falling down..." - that's not going to actually happen is it?

PK: It will one day...but don't worry it won't happen until we move to a new ground! Given its age, I think Kenilworth Road is looking pretty good. From time-to-time general maintenance issues do crop up, especially during the season. But it's at this time of year we try and prepare for the potential problems ahead to ensure Kenilworth Road continues its fine safety record.

OS: It sounds like it's a big job for one person but you get plenty of help don't you?

PK: I have two full-time support staff in Gerry and Kris who assist me in the general maintenance of the facilities around the ground. However, without the support of local businesses our jobs would definitely be a lot harder.

Neon Hire give us free use of a cherry picker in the summer to carry out high maintenance work on the roofs of each stand and also enable us to clear gutters and change advertising.

CME Heating often give us exceptionally good rates and give us free advice and their time; Mark Dilley at Abacus has continually supported us in supplying janitorial supplies and products, and Jo Keenan at Prestige Design who donates work clothing.

FPM Facilities Services look after all of our electrical testing, carrying out our annual checks and ensuring our floodlights illuminate to a standard lux level.

It's the support of these companies that help make Kenilworth Road a safe environment for staff and spectators.

If any business or individual would like to help us in any facilities-related project feel free to drop me an email peter.kemp@lutontown.co.uk.

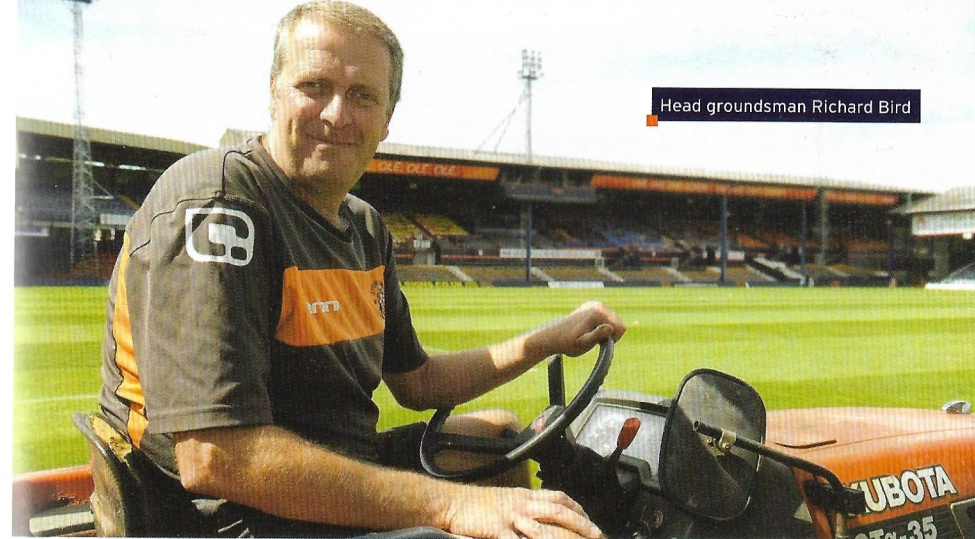
PITCH & TRAINING GROUND PITCH IMPROVEMENTS

Every summer there's one way to tell that the new football season is just around the corner.

It's called grass. Yes, often just the mere sight of thousands of green, spindly, shoots sprouting up on the Kenilworth Road pitch are enough to send supporters into uncontrollable excitement.

Okay, so it might not be *that* exciting, but for one man it is - and it's his job to make sure that it is perfect for playing football on. Even if he would rather nothing was played on it at all.

Richard Bird is the Hatters' head groundsman and has been for 20 years. Until this summer he's seen it all during his time lovingly attending the Kenilworth Road pitch.



Head groundsman Richard Bird

So what's changed this summer? To find out we caught up with Bedfordshire's most protective and attentive groundsman.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: Summer is notoriously the busiest time of the year for groundsmen up and down the country, but at what point do you begin planning for the new season.

RICHARD BIRD: We start to make plans for end-of-season renovation works towards the end of February which involves taking soil samples and liaising with contractors regarding what needs doing in the allocated timeframes.

After the pitch hires have finished, usually by mid-May, contractors will strip the pitch bare and turnover the remaining root-zone to freshen it up in preparation for seeding. This year, we have been fortunate to introduce more fibresand into the top surface which will aid the stability of the grass during the coming season.

OS: What is fibresand and what are the benefits of having it at Kenilworth Road?

RB: The pitch was first constructed using fibresand in 2006. Fibresand, in layman's terms, are millions of strands of a tough, hair-like material that is integrated into 75mil of the root-zone. Grass roots wrap themselves around the fibre, thus making the grass more stable and less prone to divoting. We are able to keep a truer, flatter surface this way.

Even though the grass thins through winter, fibresand also helps to hold the top surface together. This is one of the reasons why you see us water the pitch on matchdays, because if the soil dries out too much the sand separates from the fibres and the pitch will not perform as well.

The reason for carrying out this process this summer was because every year the top five mil of surface is skimmed off during the reseeding process.

This means each year we resurface the pitch the fibresand content is progressively reduced. This summer 120 tonnes of fibresand has been put into the main pitch.

There has been a significant amount of investment in the main pitch this close season.

OS: What have you done differently this summer?

RB: This close season we have been fortunate enough to be able to improve our training facilities by carrying out the same renovations carried out to the main pitch up at the training ground.

This investment will improve the condition of the pitches, especially during the winter months when the training ground has a tendency to be at its worst. This is the first time in the 20 years we have been able to do this and credit must go to the board for making this happen.

OS: Why was investment needed at the training ground?

RB: It was felt that the training ground was showing the affects of a harsh winter.

The pitch was cut up and holding water in places - it certainly wasn't a pitch conducive for professional footballers.

We removed the top surface and rotivated and incorporated sand into the soil in order to help draining. This also allows us to introduce more preferred grasses to the pitches, rather than basic annual meadow grass which is shallow rooting and prone to cutting up in wet conditions. ▶▶▶

behindthescenes

REVEALED - THE CHANGES AND INVESTMENT THIS SUMMER

OS: Is the project at the training ground complete yet? Have there been any problems during the improvement process?

RB: No. We were unable to commence the work at the training ground immediately at the end of the season due to the inclement weather, and the seeding did not take place until the second week of June.

By this time the soil was unbelievably dry and, coupled with the high winds we had in June, this led to some of the seed, in certain areas, literally being blown away.

This has meant we have had to reseed affected areas a second time which has, consequently, put back the estimated time of completion by a few weeks.

It's important that the grass has rooted properly before it is played on otherwise there will be large areas that will become loose and become displaced.

Long-term damage could be done, and the last thing we want is to waste the investment that has been made.

Apart from the physical renovation of the pitch, we also installed a brand new 25,000-litre storage tank and pump so we can irrigate the pitches more effectively than we have ever been able to do before. This was very important because if we sowed the seed and we couldn't water it properly the grass would wilt and possibly die. This was another problem we had.

Without an advanced irrigation system we were unable to seed the pitch. However, once the training ground is up and running the players should experience a flatter surface to train on and, especially during the winter months, it should drain a lot more freely, reducing the risk of waterlogging.

OS: What's the total cost of the investment on the training ground?

RB: Approaching £40,000 – and this doesn't include the labour and hire of machinery and other necessary costs. We have never carried out this level of renovations at the training ground before.

It's fantastic that we have been able to invest in making improvements at the training ground and the players and management will really reap the benefits six months down the line, especially when the weather's not so kind!

CORPORATE HOSPITALITY & SPONSORSHIP

Football is big business. For some it's no longer just about a game where 22 players kick a ball around a pitch.

Nowadays it's wining and dining in the privacy and comfort of executive boxes or ensuring your company's name and logo appear to a large audience in the match programme or perimeter boards.

Welcome to football in 2013 and at Kenilworth Road it's the job of the Hatters' commercial manager David Hoskins to deal with demand of 300 corporate customers each week who expect the highest quality service.

A vast array of packages to suit all supporters' tastes are available throughout the year and – if you're feeling especially romantic – the ground even holds a licence to hold your wedding...

But whether or not you fancy getting hitched by the Hatters, there's plenty of choice available, as David explains.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: David, how long have you been at Kenilworth Road and what exactly is it you do?

DAVID HOSKINS: This will be my sixth season at the club, having joined in the summer of 2008.

My role is to look after the majority of the commercial activity at the club, from seasonal to matchday sponsorship and hospitality, to advertising and event management.

I'm also the buyer for the club shop, which means sourcing new merchandise available to sell. The gnomes have been a great hit!

OS: Putting garden gnomes to one side for a minute – there are plenty of corporate options open to supporters, especially on a matchday. Tell us about them.

DH: Where do I start? We have seasonal and matchday packages available throughout the season in the John Moore Lounge, Millennium Suite and the Eric Morecambe Lounge – not to mention executive boxes, which are available on either a seasonal or matchday basis.



Commercial manager David Hoskins

One of our most popular packages with supporters throughout the season is the chance to be mascot and we've already taken a number of bookings for games next season. Children get to meet all the players and get their autographs before leading the team out onto the pitch. No wonder we receive so many enquiries.

OS: With eight new players signed this summer has player sponsorship been popular?

DH: Definitely. The change in playing personnel this summer has certainly seen a rise in the interest in player sponsorship. We offer supporters the chance to sponsor a players' home or away kit, as well as goalkeeper's gloves. A number of players are already fully sponsored-up but a few do remain...but be quick!

OS: That's not the only kind of sponsorship available though, is it?

DH: No. As a club we are lucky to have a number of high-profile and loyal companies that wish to advertise with us in different mediums. Sponsorship perimeter boards offer maximum exposure, not only to the supporters inside the ground but also to the wider world. Last season three matches were televised live at Kenilworth Road, including the fifth round FA Cup tie with Millwall to a worldwide audience of millions.

With BT Sport on board screening live Football Conference fixtures – which already includes our home match with Grimsby on 7th September – the coverage of the club is set to continue next season.

Furthermore, our programme won one of the programme of the year awards last season and advertising in our official matchday publication offers companies a different way of reaching their audience. Over 2,000 copies are sold each match: that works out at 46,000 pairs of eyes reading it over the season – and that's if just one person reads each copy.

OS: What can supporters expect to see differently this season?

DH: It seems silly talking about it as we bask in British summertime, but we'll be offering Christmas parties to companies throughout December. Bookings are now being taken and, for £28 per head, a three course menu is available. The dates in December that are available are 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th.

OS: During this series of reports we have explored the changes throughout the club this summer. Is it true that many of the improvements around the club will have a direct impact on your department?

DH: Absolutely. As Peter Kemp has told us, the aesthetics of Kenilworth Road have been improved greatly over the course of the close season.

His job is more than just adding a lick of paint to the place but, from a commercial point-of-view, that's exactly the kind of thing that our customers will notice. For example every executive box has been redecorated.

One of the major changes at the club this summer, however, has been the decision to bring catering in-house. David Romans and his team have created a new menu which will vastly improve the dining experience in all of our suites and lounges. The food – a lot of it locally produced – will be cooked on site with the use of new kitchen equipment.

All of these changes will enhance the overall hospitality experience of watching Luton Town each week and, as ever, we welcome your feedback throughout the course of the season.

At the end of the day we want you to enjoy and keep coming back! And if you're interested in sponsorship or hospitality packages then please do get in touch and give me a call on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

behind the scenes

REVEALED - THE CHANGES AND INVESTMENT THIS SUMMER

FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION

Behind every good football club is a good club secretary. Their name appears in the programme each week yet very little is understood about their role. A secretary just answers the phone and does a bit of filing every now and then, don't they?

At Luton Town that perception couldn't be any further than the truth. Kevan Platt, the Hatters' club secretary for the past two seasons, has been a busy man this summer – and indeed will be throughout the forthcoming season. From explaining what rule changes FIFA have sent through to ensuring that each new signing signs the right piece of paper four times (yes, four times), we hear from the man who, in his own words refers to himself as a professional paper pusher.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: Kevan, in a nutshell, tell us what you do at Kenilworth Road.

KEVAN PLATT: Right...this isn't going to sound particularly glamorous, but...the club secretary's role is to provide administration support to the board to ensure compliance of all football regulations and to give logistical support to the club's teams throughout the football season. There you go, indeed it probably is the duller job in football, but I enjoy it nonetheless. I've held the position for a total of 14 years spanning two football clubs.

OS: As we've heard from other departments around the club it's been all go. How busy have you been during the close season?

KP: Unlike during the football season, which you work almost on a match-by-match basis, pre-season is all about planning ahead for the following campaign. This involves the organising and arranging of pre-season friendlies – home and away – and, significantly this summer, the signing, signing-off and re-signing of playing staff. Eight new players have arrived, seven have signed new contracts, two have signed professional contracts having previously been scholars, and two have had their contracts cancelled.

In addition to the senior players, which tend to grab the headlines, nine new scholars have been signed on who will join the Under-18s this season.

OS: Can you tell us how the process of signing a player works?

KP: First of all a player is identified by the manager and once contact, talks and negotiations have taken place and been finalised the 'transaction' is handed over to me to document and set-out personal terms in the form of a contract. This is when the registration process begins.

Liaison with the medical staff ensures a medical takes place and once everything is in place a player is required to sign four copies of his contract: one for the club, one for the player, one for the Football Association and one for the Football Conference.

OS: How far ahead do you plan for the season?

KP: Preparation really hits top gear once the fixture list is announced in early July. Once that is published by the Football Conference we have a framework to build around and plan ahead.

For me it involves contacting the local authorities (the councils and the police) to notify them of our home fixtures and check if they have any objections to the dates on the list. For away fixtures we need to book coach travel and hotels, if required for longer journeys, especially for midweek matches.

OS: As your work is affected on a weekly and match-by-match basis during the season, how difficult was the first team's fixture pile-up in the last campaign?

KP: Last season presented a number of serious challenges to all club secretaries at this level. At one point Luton Town were the most affected club in the Football Conference.

Extended runs in the FA Cup and FA Trophy, plus the postponements of several matches due to the inclement and cold weather, meant we were constantly playing catch up.

The last-minute postponement of the home match with Ebbsfleet on 28th December was incredibly disappointing.

That game with Ebbsfleet was a nightmare to attempt to reschedule and it ended up being our final home fixture of the campaign. Not only did we have limited windows to play games but so do, of course, do the opposition.

In Ebbsfleet's case they were desperate to catch up with their own backlog, which included some long distance away fixtures. It included a long haul to Barrow on a Tuesday night (a 640-mile round-trip) that didn't kick-off until 9pm because the team coach was stuck in a traffic jam caused by a baked-bean spillage on the motorway.

OS: How quickly must a club rearrange a postponed fixture?

KP: Clubs are supposed to have six weeks to reschedule games but, last season, that became almost impossible because of the number of available dates and the number of outstanding games.

It eventually led to a glut of home games, in particular four in the space of 17 days in April. Obviously it is nobody's fault, it does – and will no doubt – happen again. All we can hope for is a milder winter this time around!

OS: At the start of each new season we're made aware of new directives from FIFA. What, if any, changes have been made to any of the rules of the game this summer?

KP: There haven't been any serious law changes. FIFA have only amended one: law 11 and offside. It's not a change per se, just a clarification of what is deemed to be interfering with play.

Primarily, it relates to when a player standing in an offside position acts on a save made by a goalkeeper now, as the law states, he is definitely now classified as offside. In truth it won't be something the majority of supporters will notice.

OS: You directly liaise with match officials too. Will they have been told to clamp-down on any particular rule this season?

KP: Each summer the Professional Game Match Officials Board, the body responsible for referees and match officials, issue directives to their officials.

In the past we've seen early-season clamp-downs on certain aspects of the game. For example, dissent. Last season officials were told to prevent players taking advantage at throw-ins by moving further up the line with the ball.

OS: The rules and regulations in the Football Conference handbook cover almost 100 pages. The question is do you know them all off by heart?

KP: In a word: no! The rulebooks issued by the Conference and FA are incredibly heavy-going...they certainly aren't bed-time reading.

Realistically, though, we all know what the rules are, it's just the intricacies in them that need proper interpretations.



Club secretary Kevan Platt

You've always got to be on the ball. The worst case scenario for a club secretary is the failure to ensure proper registration of players in league or cup competitions which could lead to an expulsion.

That sounds simple, but you need to keep track of which players play in which competition, especially those who are loaned to clubs early in the season when the preliminary rounds of the FA Cup and FA Trophy are taking place.

OS: With 14 years of secretarial experience behind you, what's changed the most in football since you've been in the job?

KP: Whilst the rules and regulations have evolved over the passage of time, as had the introduction of technology, the part of the game which has seen the most change has been agents.

When I first began working in football agents were largely unregulated. The amount of time spent detailing the contract to an agent can be more than the time actually spent talking to the player. It can be a minefield, but it is an area of the game which is the most regulated.

OS: Before you arrived at Kenilworth Road you were at Norwich City for many years. We can't let you go without mentioning Carrow Road on 26th January.

KP: Returning to Norwich was a surreal experience for me. I wasn't overly pleased when the draw was made if I'm being honest, but in the end it was a good day. It was a fantastic occasion for Luton Town, and I was proud to be a part of such an historical win.

STOCKWOOD FUN DAY



HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY

LONDON
LUTON
AIRPORT

Saturday 24 August 2013
Bank Holiday Weekend
11am - 4pm

Special Guest: Lorraine Chase

- ★ Paka's Horse, the amazing mechanical fire breathing horse
- ★ The Life Boat from The Institute for Crazy Dancing
- ★ Monster Creepy Crawlies exhibition
- ★ Jugglers
- ★ Stilt walkers

- ★ Entertainers
- ★ Kids workshops
- ★ Bouncy castle
- ★ Vintage cars
- ★ Stalls
- ★ Activities
- ★ Games
- ★ Funfair
- ★ Face painting

Free admission

2 minutes from M1
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Stockwood Discovery
Centre, London Road,
Luton LU1 4LX
www.lutonculture.com

Stockwood
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Arts Libraries & Museums
Luton Culture

who's who

YOUR GUIDE TO THE TOWN SQUAD FOR THE SEASON AHEAD

#1 MARK TYLER



POSITION: Goalkeeper

AGE: 36

FORMER CLUB: Peterborough

BIO: Hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a one-year contract extension in May. On the verge of 700 senior appearances, 36-year-old Tyler was one of the Hatters' first signings in their first season in the Conference in 2009, and the stopper has since gone on to make 185 appearances between the sticks, keeping 72 clean sheets.

#3 DANNY FITZSIMONS



POSITION: Defender

AGE: 21

FORMER CLUBS: QPR, Millwall, Yeovil, Histon

BIO: Former Millwall and QPR defender who followed team-mate Jim Stevenson to Kenilworth Road from Histon on a two-year contract this summer. He swept the board at the Stutes' end-of-season awards and has over 100 games' experience despite only being 21 years old. Capable of playing at left-back or in central defence.

#4 JONATHAN SMITH



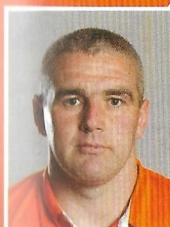
POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 26

FORMER CLUBS: Morecambe, Forest Green, York, Swindon

BIO: Central midfielder who joined the Hatters from Swindon last season having helped the Robins lift the League 2 title in 2011/12 under Paolo Di Canio. Also capable of playing at right-back.

#5 STEVE McNULTY



POSITION: Defender

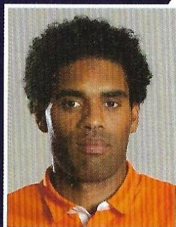
AGE: 29

FORMER CLUBS: Barrow, Vauxhall Motors, Fleetwood

BIO: The experienced centre-half signed a new two-year deal with the Hatters this summer after a string of accomplished performances for the club during 2012/13. The Liverpool-born defender led Fleetwood Town to Conference title in 2011/12, lifting the title as the Cod Army captain.

who's who

YOUR GUIDE TO THE TOWN SQUAD FOR THE SEASON AHEAD



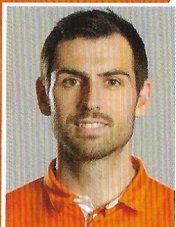
#6 ANTHONY CHARLES

POSITION: Defender

AGE: 32

FORMER CLUBS: Barnet, Aldershot, Northampton, Plymouth

BIO: Experienced central defender who helped Barnet and Aldershot to the Conference title in 2005 and 2008 respectively. A calm, composed, left-footed defender, Charles left Aldershot for Northampton in January 2012 and went onto appear 18 times in League 2 for the Cobblers. He ended last season with Plymouth.



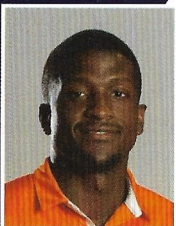
#7 ALEX LAWLESS

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 27

FORMER CLUBS: Fulham, Torquay, Forest Green, York

BIO: The influential and creative midfielder penned a new two-year contract in May, turning down contracts at two clubs in League 1. The 27-year-old has made 124 appearances for the Hatters since signing from York City in November 2010 and has scored 12 goals.



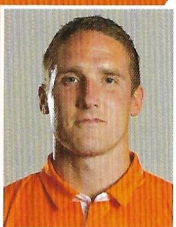
#8 SOLOMON TAIWO

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 28

FORMER CLUBS: Dagenham & Redbridge, Cardiff

BIO: Central midfielder who agreed a new one-year contract at the end of the season after appearing nine times for the Hatters having been signed by John Still in March. Starred for a host of non-league clubs before being snapped by Still at Dagenham in 2007 where he became a driving force in the Daggers midfield. His impressive performances led to him signing for then-Championship Cardiff in 2009 for £250,000.



#9 JON SHAW

POSITION: Striker

AGE: 29

FORMER CLUBS: Sheffield Wednesday, Burton, Halifax, Mansfield, Gateshead

BIO: Centre-forward in his second season at Kenilworth Road having signed last summer from Gateshead. Scored 45 league goals in 80 appearances for the Tynesiders and hit double figures for the Town last term, including a hat-trick in the 6-1 win over Barrow in January.

#10 ALEX WALL

POSITION: Striker

AGE: 22

FORMER CLUB: Maidenhead

BIO: Raw, powerful centre-forward with pace to boot, who became John Still's first signing at Kenilworth Road having joined from Maidenhead last season. He scored his first goals for the Hatters when both hitting both goals in a 2-0 win over Ebbsfleet in April.

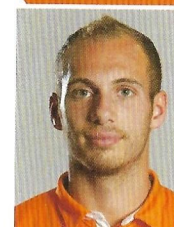


#11 JAKE HOWELLS

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 22

BIO: Still hard to believe he's 22, Howells is the Hatters' longest serving player having made his debut as a 17-year-old on the final day of the 2007/08 season. Since then, the left-footer has been capped by Wales at under-21 level and has made over 200 appearances for the club.



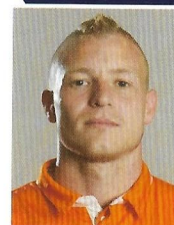
#12 SCOTT GRIFFITHS

POSITION: Defender

AGE: 27

FORMER CLUBS: Dagenham, Peterborough, Chesterfield (loan)

BIO: Left-back who penned a one-year contract at the end of last season. Another former Dagenham man, the experienced 27-year-old joined the Hatters in March following his release from former club Peterborough. He won the Conference under Still in 2007 and lifted the League 2 title with Chesterfield in 2011.



#13 MARK CULLEN

POSITION: Striker

AGE: 21

FORMER CLUBS: Hull, Stockport (loan)

BIO: Young striker signed on a two-year deal following his release from Premier League-bound Hull City. A clever, poacher of a forward, Cullen impressed the manager with two fine performances against the Hatters whilst on loan at Stockport. Given his debut for Hull in the Premier League, he scored on his full debut whilst in the top flight.



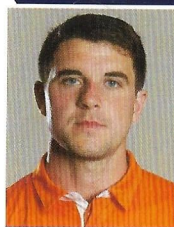
#14 ANDY PARRY

POSITION: Defender or midfielder

AGE: 21

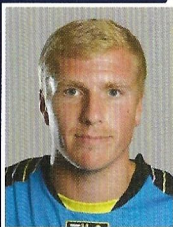
FORMER CLUBS: Blackburn, Southport

BIO: The central defender signed from Southport on a two-year contract this summer. Also able to play in central midfield, Parry has two season's worth of Conference football under his belt but began his career as a youngster at Blackburn.



who's who

YOUR GUIDE TO THE TOWN SQUAD FOR THE SEASON AHEAD



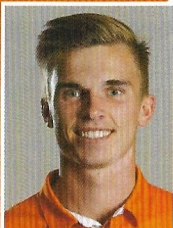
#16 ELLIOT JUSTHAM

POSITION: Goalkeeper

AGE: 22

FORMER CLUBS: Brentwood, East Thurrock.

BIO: Promising young goalkeeper signed from East Thurrock on a two-year deal in May. The commanding 6ft 3in stopper kept 14 clean sheets in 31 matches for the Rocks last season, and the 22-year-old has previously enjoyed trials at West Ham and Reading.



#17 JJ O'DONNELL

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 21

FORMER CLUB: St Albans

BIO: Left-sided midfielder who joined the Town in 2010 from St Albans and made his debut as a substitute in an FA Cup tie against Corby later that year. After successful loan spells at Thurrock and Hampton & Richmond, he penned a three-year contract last summer.



#18 DAVE MARTIN

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 28

FORMER CLUBS: Dartford, Crystal Palace, Millwall, Derby, Southend

BIO: Left-winger who signed for the Hatters in January this year and went onto score three times in 16 league appearances for the club. He was rewarded for his fine performances with a new two-year deal this summer.



#21 LUKE GUTTRIDGE

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 31

FORMER CLUBS: Torquay, Cambridge, Southend, Orient, Colchester, Aldershot, Northampton

BIO: Influential and experienced central midfielder with over 400 senior appearances to his name who signed for the Hatters in August on a two-year contract. He has twice won promotion whilst with Southend, and also helped Northampton reach the League 2 Play-Off final last season.

#22 SHAUN WHALLEY

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 25

FORMER CLUBS: Wrexham, Chester, Southport

BIO: Attack-minded midfielder or winger who followed Andy Parry to Kenilworth Road on a two-year deal from Southport. The 25-year-old was in inspired form for the Sandgrounders throughout 2012/13, scoring 10 goals and creating many more, and ended the campaign with a string of end-of-season awards.



#23 MATT ROBINSON

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 19

FORMER CLUB: Leicester

BIO: Teenage midfielder in his second season at Kenilworth Road having signed last summer from Leicester City. He impressed John Still towards the end of the previous campaign and was rewarded with a new two-year contract this summer.



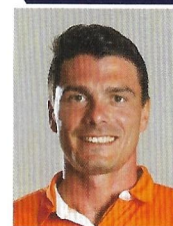
#25 RONNIE HENRY

POSITION: Defender

AGE: 29

FORMER CLUB: Stevenage

BIO: Club captain and right-back in his second season with the club. The defender joined the Hatters last summer from Stevenage, who he helped win promotion from the Conference to League 1.



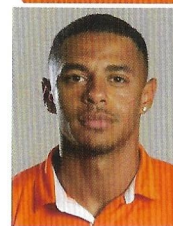
#27 ANDRE GRAY

POSITION: Striker

AGE: 22

FORMER CLUB: Hinckley

BIO: Lightening quick forward who finished last season as the Hatters' leading goalscorer with 20 goals. The young striker made an instant impact when signing from Hinckley in March 2012 and has been capped by England C.



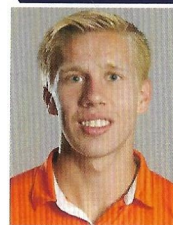
#28 JIM STEVENSON

POSITION: Midfielder

AGE: 21

FORMER CLUB: Histon

BIO: Box-to-box midfielder signed in May on a two-year deal from Histon. The youngster scored 11 goals for the Stutes in 2012/13 and ended the campaign as the top goalscorer. The 21-year-old made his full debut as a 17-year-old at Kenilworth Road for Histon in a game the Hatters won 5-1.



who's who

YOUR GUIDE TO THE TOWN SQUAD FOR THE SEASON AHEAD

#30 ALEX LACEY



POSITION: Defender
AGE: 20

BIO: Highly-rated centre-half who has enjoyed a fine pre-season in which he was handed the captain's armband by John Still. Made his Town debut as a 17-year-old in the FA Trophy and spent last season on loan with Eastleigh.

#31 JAKE WOOLLEY



POSITION: Striker
AGE: 19

BIO: Teenage forward who signed professional forms last summer having impressed the coaching staff with his performances and attitude. Also made his debut as a 17-year-old in the Trophy, but has also tasted action in the Conference.

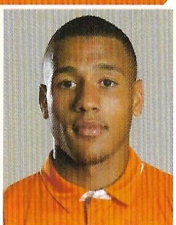
#32 BRETT LONGDEN



POSITION: Defender
AGE: 18

BIO: First year professional Brett is a right-back by trade and made his mark in pre-season with a fine 30-yard goal against Thurrock. He's another player who has tasted first team experience in the FA Trophy.

#33 JEROME JIBODU



POSITION: Defender
AGE: 18

BIO: Like Longden, Jerome signed his first professional contract this summer. A composed left-back, he made his Hatters debut in the FA Trophy against Skelmersdale last season.

who's who

MEET THE STAFF

JEFF WOOD

POSITION: Goalkeeper coach
BIO: August arrival Jeff joined the Hatters having previously coached at Leeds and Norwich. The experienced Wales Under-21 and Under-19 goalkeeper coach enjoyed a distinguished playing career with a host of clubs in the UK and overseas.

DAVE RICHARDSON

POSITION: Fitness coach
BIO: Fitness coach Dave made the switch from Dagenham & Redbridge this summer to be reunited with John Still and Terry Harris.

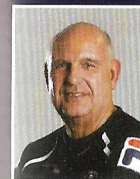
SIMON PARSELL

POSITION: Physiotherapist

DARREN COOK

POSITION: Kit man/Masseur

JOHN STILL



POSITION: Manager
BIO: The manager, the boss, the gaffer. The 63-year-old joined the Hatters last March having enjoyed a hugely successful 10-year spell at Dagenham & Redbridge where he guided the Daggers to the Conference title as well as promotion to League 1.

TERRY HARRIS



POSITION: Assistant manager
BIO: John Still's right-hand man who had been with Dagenham & Redbridge since 1999. As a player he starred for the old Dagenham FC – scoring a winning goal at Wembley – and has also coached at Dartford, Enfield and St Albans.

HAKAN HAYRETTIN



POSITION: First team coach
BIO: Last season the coach was manager at Grays Athletic, and led the Blues to the Ryman League Division One South title with 102 points. Held in high regard by John Still, he arrived at Kenilworth Road in early July.

Mark Cullen

STRIKER TO PUT TOP FLIGHT EXPERIENCE TO USE

He's scored in the Premier League and scored four of the Town's goals during pre-season but what new signing Mark Cullen wants more than anything is promotion.

The 21-year-old, who hails from Ashington in Northumberland – the birthplace of legendary strikers Bobby Charlton and Jackie Milburn – has been in inspired form over the summer and the forward believes he's joined the club going places.

"Luton is on the up and we should be pushing for promotion," the former Hull City frontman told Hatters Player. "I wanted to be a part of it as soon as John Still described to me what the project at the club was."

Having signed a two-year contract and been impressed with his new boss and surroundings, Cullen joined a long list of players to hail the manager's influence.

"John made it quite clear to me how much he wanted to bring me into the club – and when you hear that as a player you know you're wanted," said Cullen. "He said from the off that he was very interested in bringing me to the club. He's been watching me for a while."

The striker – who netted in pre-season friendlies against Maidenhead, Dagenham & Redbridge, and Arsenal – first caught Still's eye when playing for Stockport last season.

The 'other' Hatters would eventually be relegated come the end of the campaign, but Cullen still managed to find

the net four times in 16 appearances for doomed County. His performances in two 1-0 defeats against the Town clearly impressed Still and – aware that his contract with parent club Hull was expiring – Cullen knew the loan spell in the north west would aid his chances of finding a new club for the new season.

Impressed

"I went to Stockport to put myself in the shop window – and it worked," said Cullen.

"I'd known for a couple of months that I would be leaving Hull. John's first game in charge of Luton was against Stockport and after that game my agent said to me 'look, they were impressed'. After the Conference season finished, my agent said 'they've been on again, they want to meet up'.

"Me and my agent drove down to the ground, had a little look around and a talk to the manager. John said the interest was there, it was very strong."

Having shown his predatory skills in front of goal when scoring for Hull in the top-flight against Wigan in 2010, Cullen is under no illusions how tough the Skrill Premier will be throughout 2013/14.

"At that point of that goal I never thought I'd 'made it'," admitted the striker. "That's a mistake a lot of players make but I just kept my head down and continued to work hard – unfortunately it didn't work out but that's football."

Cullen also started a game against Liverpool – and the Town's new man hopes to put his Premier League experience to good use against Skrill Premier defences.

"To get that opportunity to start a Premier League game against Liverpool so early on in my career was unbelievable," he said. "To be starting a game against Liverpool against Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher, Pepe Reina, Javier Mascherano, it didn't really sink in.

"Those games were unbelievable, but I'm a footballer so it doesn't really matter what league I'm playing in, I'll always get excited.

"I only played a couple of games in the Premier League but I've been at Hull for a while, playing with some top players. Hopefully I've picked up a bit of knowledge off them and hopefully I can bring something to the team that they didn't have last year."

Alex Lawless

MIDFIELDER DESPERATE TO ACHIEVE PROMOTION DREAM

In November 2010 Alex Lawless became a Luton Town player. In his first interview in front of the Hatters Player camera the midfielder spoke of his ambition to help the Hatters win promotion back to the Football League.

They say time flies when you're having fun. But for Lawless, fast forward two-and-a-half-years and the script hasn't gone quite to plan.

Two successive heartbreaking Play-Off final defeats hasn't helped. Neither was last summer's period of uncertainty when the Welshman considered his future at Kenilworth Road.

Despite those lows, during the summer Alex turned down the opportunity to realise his Football League dream by snubbing two League 1 sides and instead committed himself to two more years with Luton Town.

So why did the Player of the Year decide to stay in the Conference? The answer is simple enough: "I came here to get promoted," says Lawless. "I have a burning desire to get promoted with this club." Admit it, that sounds good to hear, doesn't it?

It's not just the potential of winning the Skrill Premier in 2013/14 that interests the former Fulham trainee, though.

Impressed with new manager John Still's philosophy, Lawless believes there's no reason why the Hatters cannot return to those halcyon Football League days.

"Since I've been at this club there's been a determination about the place to get back into the League and go onwards and upwards from there," he says. "As I grew up as a boy and a young footballer I was aware of the history and tradition of Luton Town.

"We were once a club riding high in the top two divisions, and with the fan-base and players and management we've got in place I certainly think we can get back there.

"It's unfortunate that in the past four seasons promotion hasn't been achieved but this time I can see it – I can feel it – I'm hugely positive about next season and beyond. Over the years I've come to feel a part of this club and I want to help it get promoted."

Disappointments had dogged Lawless' time at Kenilworth Road prior to what he admits was his best campaign as Luton player in the season just gone.

A penalty miss in the shootout in the Play-Off final against AFC Wimbledon at Manchester in his first

season was followed by an incident at his former club York that saw him fracture his hand in 2011/12.

This time last year he could have been out of the door completely had a clause in his contract not triggered an automatic one-year extension. It came at a time when the 28-year-old was questioning his decision to head to Bedfordshire in the first place.

But what doesn't kill you makes you stronger – and Lawless battled through the problems to enjoy a fine season in the Town midfield, scoring five goals, including crucial strikes against Wolves in the FA Cup and a goal-of-the-season contender against Nuneaton.

"The 2011/12 was definitely the hardest time of my career," admits Lawless.

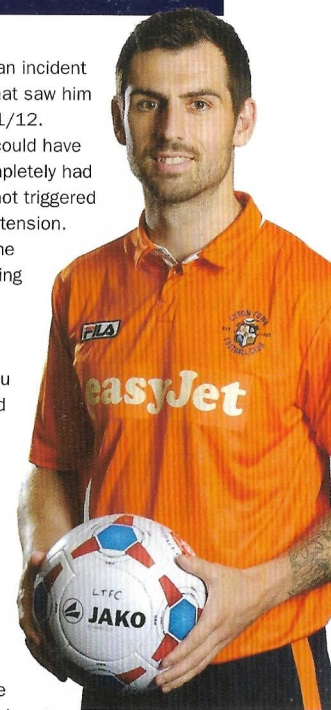
"To be at such a big club and for it not to be going right was not nice. It didn't make me feel good when people had a different opinion of you.

"I believed that I could change people's opinions and I'm proud that I was able to do that this season. That in itself has brought my confidence to a new level. I've broken that particular barrier and from a personal point of view it was nice to prove myself right because I knew I could overcome the negativity.

"Everyone has ups and downs in football. We endured the extreme low of losing in two Play-Off finals and, after this season's failure to make the Play-Offs, it makes you realise how hard you have to work if you want to be successful.

"The confidence I've taken from this last season, despite the fact we finished way below expectations, will only help me further my potential because I feel I've got a lot more to give.

"We've had a few years of disappointments but now I think it's the time for celebrations."



keep the faith

BOSS THE REASON BEHIND DUO'S NEW DEALS

Solomon Taiwo and Steve McNulty have vowed to repay the faith shown by manager John Still by helping the Town win promotion this season.

Both signed new contracts over the course of the summer, with 28-year-old Taiwo penning a one-year deal and centre-half McNulty committing his future to the club for two years.

Taiwo made nine appearances in the final two months of the season for the Hatters and with a pre-season complete and the assurances of a contract for the next 12 months, the midfielder hopes the 2013/14 campaign can be a successful one with Still at the helm.

"The plans presented to me by John made me think that this club can progress and be successful," Taiwo told Hatters Player.

"There comes a time when you sit down and say to yourself 'how much do I want to achieve?' I weighed up the options and felt the one presented to me by John and Luton Town was the one for me.

"The drive and desire John has shown to get out of this league and win the title was very attractive – he's been a massive part behind me signing here and I owe it to him and Luton Town to do well.

"The carrot has been dangled. I know what I want and how to get it. I know that as long as I do that I can put the shifts in and help us win games and ultimately promotion."

The Hatters ended the season with a five-match unbeaten run that cumulated in a seventh place finish and Taiwo believes there's more to come from the team – and from the man himself.

"I thought I played alright – I could have done better," admitted Taiwo, who scored once for the

Town – in the 2-2 draw at Cambridge. In a lot of the games I thought we battered teams but we just couldn't score the goals. There were chances where we've hit the woodwork or had a lot of shots off target that I know can be converted next season – and that will give us a great opportunity.

"The Conference, though, is not an easy division. It's shown that it's a league in which anything can happen, and that means you cannot afford to take your foot off the gas. However, with pre-season under our belts there's definitely more to come. For me that is vital. Friendlies and pre-season will give me the chance to work on fitness and work on the understanding between the other players. These are the games to do that because it was difficult to get up to speed so quickly in league matches."

Meanwhile centre-half McNulty also admitted that the Town boss was one of the main reasons behind his decision to commit his future to the club.

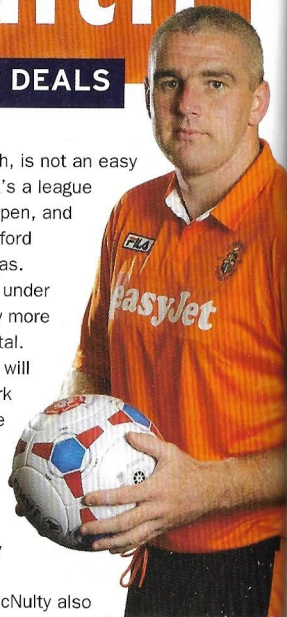
The 29-year-old centre-half was signed by previous manager Paul Buckle but it's the new boss' impact that led him to signing a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road shortly after last season ended.

"John's said he wanted to keep me and once he said that I knew I wanted to stay," McNulty told Player. "The manager said from the outset he wanted me here so I didn't speak to any other clubs. When he told me that it was a case of getting the deal done and signing the contract. John's been great and he's steadied the ship because we were on a bad run of form when he first came in.

"He's got a bit of an aura about him. Every time he speaks you listen carefully because he talks a lot of sense. I like that, and that's why I want to work under him and help bring success to this football club."

McNulty tasted success with Fleetwood Town the season before last, skipping the Cod Army to the Blue Square Bet Premier title. And that's something the Liverpoolian wants to achieve next year at Kenilworth Road. "When I came here I thought we were going to win the league, and I 100 per cent thought we'd get in the Play-Offs at the very least," said McNulty.

"That didn't happen so we need to knuckle down and push for promotion next year."



Shaun Whalley

RIGHT CLUB, RIGHT TIME FOR NEW WINGER

They say patience is a virtue.

For Shaun Whalley it's taken a year for him to find the right club – and that club this season will be Luton Town.

The winger, who last season hit nine goals, assisted many more and walked away with numerous end-of-season awards at Southport, believes that his move to Kenilworth Road is perfect for him.

"Last summer and in January a few clubs came in for me but they just weren't right," the 25-year-old told Talk of the Town. "The next move for me was always going to be an important one for my career and it was a decision that I needed to consider carefully.

"I spoke with my dad, my agent and Liam Watson [his manager at Southport] and we all agreed the clubs interested in me at the time were not right."

Positive

However, step forward Hatters manager John Still.

"At the end of the season John approached us, we sat down and all I heard from him were positive things," continued Whalley.

"John's vision and his project really excites me and Luton is a club certainly going places. It's such a big club, bigger than almost all the teams in League 2 and quite a few in League 1 – the potential is frightening.

"John knows me and how I like to play, and that's something I really buy into. I want to win things and push myself higher and I believe I can do that at Kenilworth Road."

Best form

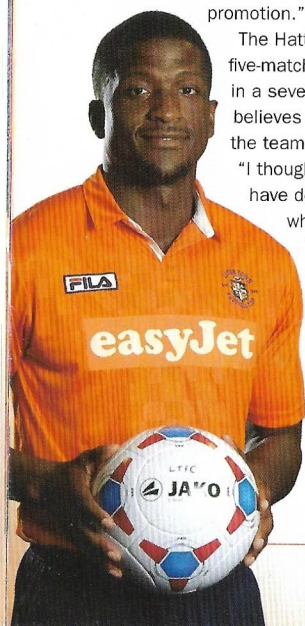
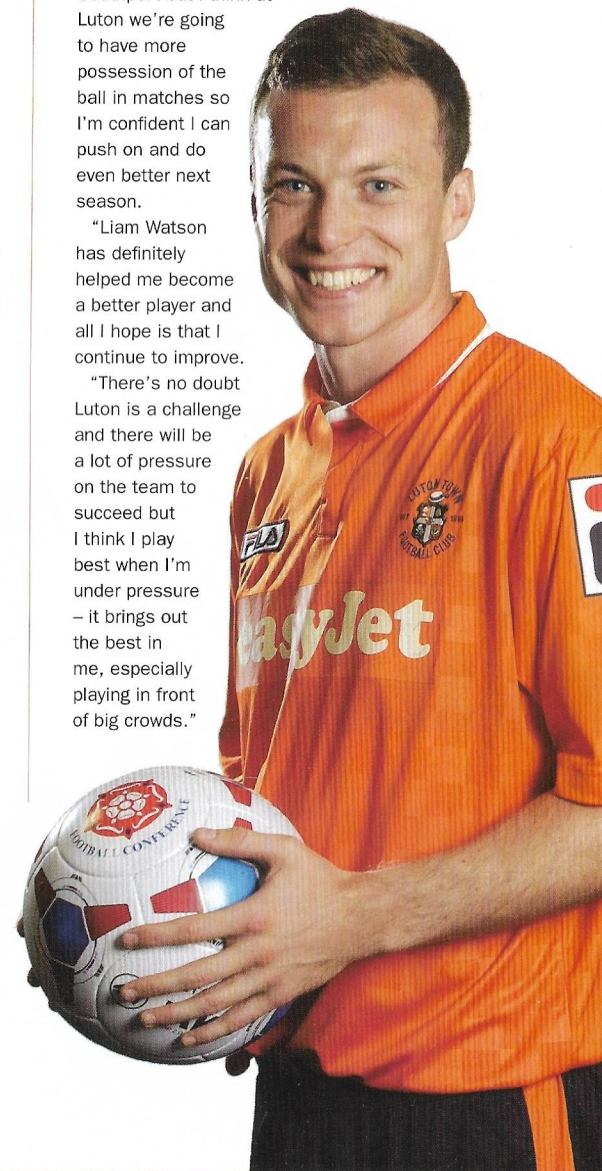
Having entertained the punters at Haig Avenue with his dazzling displays whilst with the Sandgrounders, Whalley says his new club are getting a player in his prime.

"I'm in the best form of my career," he says. "I like to attack. I like to get the ball and dribble with it. I like to score and I like to create.

"No disrespect to Southport but I think at Luton we're going to have more possession of the ball in matches so I'm confident I can push on and do even better next season.

"Liam Watson has definitely helped me become a better player and all I hope is that I continue to improve.

"There's no doubt Luton is a challenge and there will be a lot of pressure on the team to succeed but I think I play best when I'm under pressure – it brings out the best in me, especially playing in front of big crowds."



picture the past

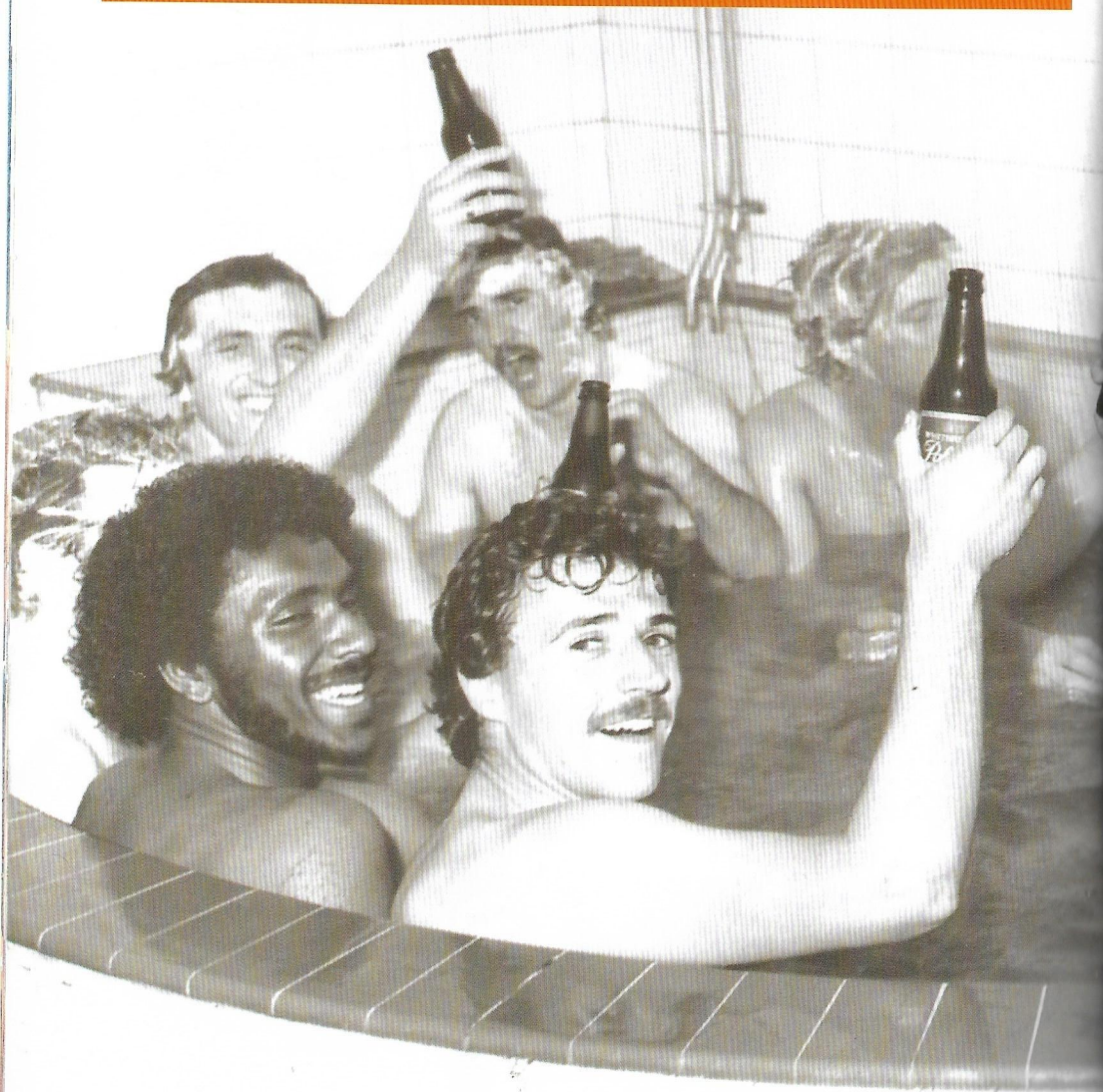
CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

No apologies for featuring this picture again, although this time over two pages for maximum effect.
Gordon Turner scores the Town's first goal in the top flight during the 2-2 at a sun-soaked Charlton in August 1955.



camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



More of the same please! Happy Hatters celebrate in the bath after a 2-2 draw at Rotherham in 1982 which virtually guaranteed promotion to the top flight. The final line was crossed six days later with an emphatic 4-1 home win over Shrewsbury.



yesterday's pages

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS THROUGH PAST PROGRAMMES

LUTON TOWN 2-1 WATFORD

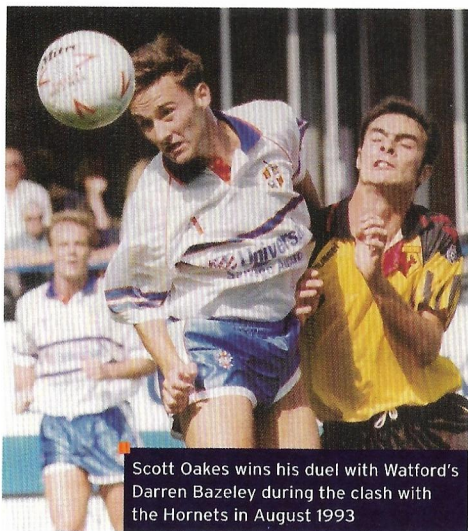
14th AUGUST 1993

The new Endsleigh League Division One (now Championship) season opened with a visit from near neighbours Watford who, like the Town, were also attempting to regain their former glories of a few years before.

A crowd of 9,149 turned up on a blazing, hot day to see American goalkeeper Juergen Sommer make his debut in goal for the Town.

Leading the line for the Hatters was ex-England and Chelsea striker Kerry Dixon who was on loan from Southampton as he had been at the back end of the previous season. Luton manager David Pleat was hoping that the deal could be made permanent but, with no money to spend, it would test his legendary powers of persuasion to convince the Saints to let a player who had cost them £600,000 only a year before, go for free.

Dixon, Luton-born, and whose father played for the Hatters, made no secret of his desire to move to Kenilworth Road but the matter was out of his hands.



Scott Oakes wins his duel with Watford's Darren Bazeley during the clash with the Hornets in August 1993

The match got off to a frantic start with Dixon going close on three occasions in the opening five minutes. Good work from young Hornets goalkeeper, Simon Sheppard, kept him out before play switched to the other end where Sommer bravely denied Paul Furlong who was through on goal.

Watford were then forced into two substitutions in quick succession with Darren Bazeley and Richard Johnson leaving the field after a clash with Dixon and a thigh strain respectively but worse was to follow when Barry Ashby was dismissed in the 37th minute.

Ashby had launched himself into a knee high tackle on little David Preece and referee Paul Alcock had little option but to immediately brandish the red card leaving the Hornets to battle through the heat one man short.

As so often happens the 10 men fought like 12, and made it difficult for the Town although Dixon saw his clever curling shot just tipped over the bar by Sheppard as the half-time whistle was about to sound.

The Hatters started the second period with a flourish and after Marvin Johnson went close, the deadlock was broken on 51 minutes when Paul Teifer calmly side-footed home a low cross from Scott Oakes.

Soon after, Watford showed further indiscipline when Jason Drysdale was ordered off for using his elbow on Jason Rees, but if Luton supporters thought the floodgates were about to open they needed to think again.

Lacking the experience to hold the ball, play it around and drag out the opposition, the Town players made hard work of picking off Watford who fought like tigers to ensure that they were not overrun.

With 10 minutes to go Sommer had to leave the field with blood streaming from a gashed eyebrow after a clash of heads with Ken Charlery but just as his replacement, Andy Petterson, had taken his place the Town seemed to have made the game safe with a second goal. Showing all his know-how, Dixon expertly curled in a shot into the top corner from the edge of the area much to the relief of the majority of the crowd.

Watford refused to lie down, however, and a soft goal by Furlong with three minutes to go left the nerves jangling but when the final whistle sounded it was realised that this was the Town's first win on the opening day for nine years!

truer word

BACK TRACKING BY ROGER WASH



The Town were followed into Division One by Watford at the end of 1981-82 and although the Luton brand of cavalier football was taken to the hearts of the media in the new season it was our rivals from down the motorway who took the

By the time of our first clash, at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day 1982, we were dropping closer to the relegation spot. Briefly, we were still in the bottom.

The biggest home crowd for seven years, 11,145, gathered to witness the clash with the Hornets, who had the best of the first-half, missing several good chances but taking a shock lead in the 37th minute when

centre-half Clive Goodyear mis-hit a shot through a crowded penalty area with a vengeance and for 15 minutes were all over the Town rearguard and only a series of unbelievable misses by England new boy Luther Blissett prevented a goal avalanche. Gradually, Luton and the storm was weathered with the final whistle being greeted by a much-relieved cheer from the Hatters faithful.

The return was played at Vicarage Road on Easter Monday with the two teams even further apart in the league table as we had in the intervening period. Despite this, the Town opened brightly and took the game to the Hornets when Blissett found himself at the end of a John Barnes cross to score in the 6th minute.

The Town fought back and 20 minutes later were ahead following

Raddy Antle was unfortunate to be sent off midway through the first half.

THE PROGRAMME

For the opening game of the season against Watford the front cover of the Town's programme featured a sight all Luton supporters hoped would become a regular occurrence - Kerry Dixon scoring. In the secretary's column it was announced that the Town were to take advantage of the rule change approved at the AGM of the Football League allowing players names to be put on the backs of shirts. The clash with Watford was therefore the Town's first league game using the squad numbering system which we all now know and love. Watford, incidentally, had declined to take up the option presumably because 'Hessenthaler' (a non playing substitute on the day) would have cost too much!

Good start is against the old enemy!

WITH DAVID PLEAT

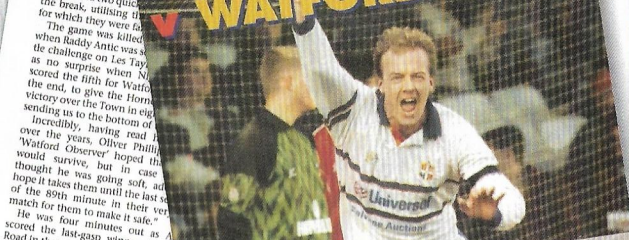
In the Watford players, staff and supporters and a familiar welcome to Glenn Roeder in his first competitive match as manager of our 'old friendly enemy'. Today is an occasion, having our nearest competitors as opening

We have already had five games, three in Scotland, a friendly at Leyton Orient and a home match with Ipswich. In these games, various players have had a chance to show that they are ready to take their place in the team.

"OUR TRAINING PROGRAMME HAS BEEN VARIED AND THE OPPOSITION WE HAVE PLAYED HAS BEEN FAIRLY STRONG. IN SCOTLAND WE COULD HAVE WON ALL THREE GAMES"

Our training programme has been varied and the opposition we have played, has been fairly strong. In Scotland, we could have won all three games. At times we did not show enough punch, but there were more than enough positives. The season ahead is crowded and many observers have suggested our

LUTON TOWN V WATFORD



SATURDAY AUGUST 14TH, 1993 KICK-OFF 3.00PM

Today's joint Match sponsors are Radley Shaw Originals and Herald & Po



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KENILWORTH SHOP OPENING TIMES

WEDNESDAYS 11AM - 5PM
SATURDAY MATCH DAYS 10.30AM - 3PM
AND 4.45 - 5.30PM
OTHER SATURDAYS 10AM - 1PM

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ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

Arsenal suffer a shock home defeat on the opening day going down 3-0 to Coventry with Micky Quinn netting all three.

Wimbledon owner Sam Hamman admits writing obscene graffiti on the dressing room walls at West Ham with the purpose of making them think it was done by the home side! A police report is sent to the FA.

Salisbury City kick-off their season in the Beazer Homes League (Southern Division).

on and off...

... THE PITCH WITH MARK CULLEN

ON THE PITCH

WHAT WAS THE BEST GOAL YOU SAW LAST SEASON?

Robin van Persie's goal for Manchester United against Aston Villa.

WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU'VE EVER FACED?

Jamie Carragher. It was in one of my first games a professional too which was a challenge!

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE ABOUT YOUR GAME?

My hold-up play. I feel as though by improving this I can help the team retain the ball more.

Family's the thing that motivates Mark Cullen the most

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUPERSTITIONS?

No.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PAIR OF FOOTBALL BOOTS?

One of my brother's old pairs!

HAVE YOU GOT A TIP FOR YOUNGSTERS?

Make sure you enjoy playing. For me, football is pointless if you don't enjoy it.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?

Elland Road.

WHO SIGNED YOU AS A PRO?

Phil Brown was the first team manager at Hull when I first went pro, but Billy Russell was the youth team boss at the time.

WHO DO YOU SUPPORT?

Newcastle United.

WHO AT THE CLUB WILL PLAY AT A HIGHER LEVEL?

Alex Lacey.

OFF THE PITCH

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

My family. I work hard to ensure my family are proud of me.

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN FOOTBALL?

Danny East. We were together at Hull. He now plays for Portsmouth.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST QUALITY?

Goalscoring!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME?

Entourage.

WHO IS THE LAST PERSON YOU'D WANT TO UPSET?

Steve McNulty.

WHAT WAS THE LAST ITEM YOU BOUGHT THAT YOU'VE HARDLY/NEVER USED?

Probably a book. I often buy one but never get around to reading it.

IF YOUR LIFE STORY WAS FEATURED IN A FILM, WHO WOULD PLAY YOU?

Mark Wahlberg.

WHAT DON'T WE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I can't swim.

my only luton

A FAN'S TALE



MY NAME:

Jamie Walker

MY AGE: 33

MY LOCATION:

Whitchurch, Shropshire

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN

I was nine when my dad took me to my first match on a cold February day in 1989. We sat in the Oak Road end, but moved to the Kenilworth Road terrace the following season with a box helping me get a better view! In those early years I thought it would always be cup finals, matches against the big names, Panini sticker albums and being in a higher division than Watford (I grew up in Watford, so this was quite helpful!). Not quite... but I still wouldn't change anything.

MY FIRST LUTON GAME

A 3-2 home defeat to Nottingham Forest, Kingsley Black scored one of the goals.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME

The 2-1 win at Wrexham that secured the League 1 title. Chris Coyne and Curtis Davies scored in the second half at the Luton end. The celebrations afterwards were fantastic!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL

Restricting myself to ones I've seen in person, I'd go for Chris Martin against Scunthorpe at Wembley. A well-worked team goal, beautifully taken, and in a cup final too. I also enjoyed Mick Harford's own goal while playing for Derby that helped our escape from relegation in 1991. I hope he meant it!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER

David Preece – skilful, hard-working, scored some great goals. Whenever he played well, the rest of the team did too. Very sad he is no longer with us.

MY MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION

The programme and photos from when I was a Junior Hatters mascot against Norwich in 1989. We won 4-1 and Roy Wegerle let me play on his 'balance board' when we toured the dressing rooms before the match!

MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI

I've left out the 1980s legends – Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Harford – because they were coming to the end of their Luton careers when I started following the Town (though I've loved watching them on video since).

Marlon Beresford: Reliable keeper, key part of the League 1 title side.

Tim Breacker: Scored that free kick in the 3-2 win at Derby on the last day of the 1989/90 season.

Chris Coyne: The 'Aussie bully', a key player in our rise from League 2 to Championship.

Curtis Davies: Looked like a fine player in the making from his very first match.

Matt Taylor: Completes my pair of attacking full backs

Scott Oakes: In for the hat-trick against West Ham and being one of the most skilful players I've seen at Luton.

Kevin Nicholls: Luton's most successful captain in terms of promotions and trophies, could take a mean penalty too.

David Preece: I couldn't leave my favourite player out, could I? Would complement Nicholls perfectly.

Kingsley Black: Fantastic in the Littlewoods Cup final, just as good when he played in the anniversary game 20 years later!

Steve Howard: Over 100 goals in five seasons, a great target man.

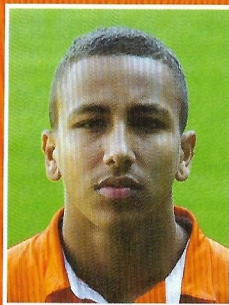
Tony Thorpe: The most natural goalscorer I've seen at Luton.

YOU ARE MY LUTON, MY ONLY YOU MAKE ME HAPPY WHEN...

Going to matches with my dad and chatting about all things Luton. There's been a lot of tough times for the club over the years but that just makes the good times even better. Besides, what else would I do on Saturdays?!

stars of the future

TOTT GETS TO KNOW MEMBERS OF THE HATTERS' UNDER-18 SQUAD



NAME:

Zane Banton

DATE OF BIRTH:

23/5/1996

POSITION:

Striker

YEAR JOINED

LUTON TOWN:

2006

FORMER CLUB

Watford

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND

Dennis Bergkamp

FAVOURITE TV SHOW

Match of the Day

OTHER SPORT GOOD AT

Boxing

FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT

English

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOU

Ambitious, motivated, forgetful

MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE

Harry Tamplin

TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER SO FAR

I started playing locally for Pin Green and was signed by Watford at the age of seven, where I played for two years. I went briefly back to local football before I was signed by Luton in 2006.

BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP

Give everything 110%

BEST FOOTBALL MOMENT

Winning the player of the tournament in the indoor tournament in Germany

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID

Arsenal

Supporting the grassroots



Football Foundation



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academy update

UNDER-18S PRE-SEASON WITH PAUL DRIVER

The Hatters youth team returned to pre-season training on 28th June, welcoming in nine new first-year scholars and two boys from the Cedars project in Leighton Buzzard.

All of the 19 players in the squad have come from within our academy system which is a credit to everyone involved in the youth set up of the club.

High tempo

After two weeks of hard physical work, which was a mixture of park runs around Leighton Buzzard and Lewsey Park as well as around the outside of Ely Way, the pre-season match programme opened with trips to Southend and Colchester, both strong outfits from the same league who we know will look to play a high tempo passing game which would make us work hard in our early games.

Unusually for a pre-season match, the game at Southend finished goalless thanks to a great penalty save by Craig King and then - more in keeping for these games - goals from Zak Stephens, Jemale McKenzie-Lowe and a late equaliser from Harry Tamplin helped us to a 3-3 draw at Colchester.

Tight game

We then entertained Cambridge United in our final game against youth opposition and a tight game was lost in the final minutes and we went down 3-2, with goals coming from Zane Banton and Tuki Tayali.

We then went into a three match block of games against senior opposition to test the boys against men,

and wins at Leighton Town (5-0) and AFC Rushden & Diamonds (2-1) were followed by a very creditable goalless draw at Ryman North outfit Waltham Abbey.

We then completed our match practice with a round robin of games against our Baldock and Cedars schemes which allowed the coaches to look at all of the players with us against each other and to ensure that all of the players in the youth squad had completed a 90 minutes within pre-season so that they are physically ready for the new season.

In addition to our games, a number of the lads

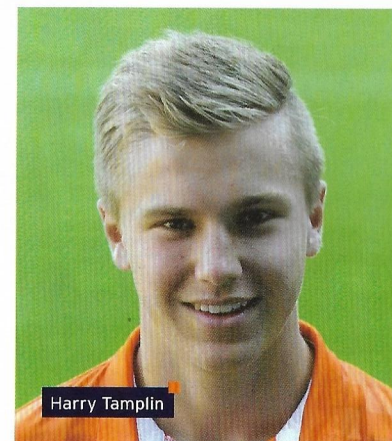
have been involved in the senior development games with Zane Banton being the obvious one making the headlines with his three goals and all round play, but Ben Barnes, Charlie Smith, Arel Amu and Ian Rees have all done well when they have played, and this has provided great encouragement to the group as a whole that we are ready to make that step up and do well.

Excellent

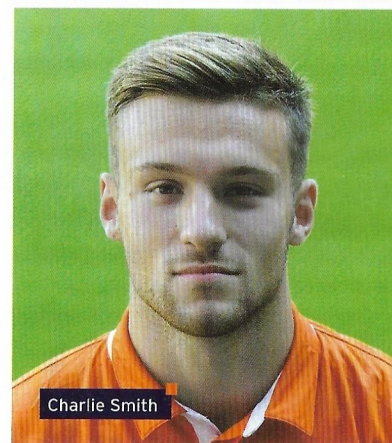
In addition to these second year lads, the performance of 16-year-old Harry Tamplin against an experienced Dunstable Town forward line caught the eye and he followed that up with excellent games at Rushden and Waltham Abbey. He has been offered a full scholarship with us and he will move over into the group from the Cedars A-level project.

All in all, therefore, we have been extremely pleased with the pre season that the boys have had.

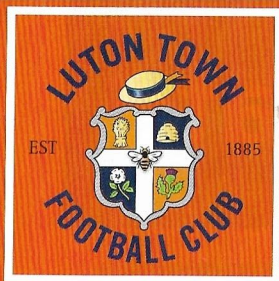
The new lads have blended in well and learnt quickly what is required of them in the step up to full time football and the second years have already kicked on from last season.



Harry Tamplin



Charlie Smith



Luton Town FC

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Luton Ladies

PRE-SEASON REPORT

The Town Ladies' pre-season programme ended last Friday with a topsy-turvy 5-4 victory over Bedford.

Prior to the nine-goal thriller, the Ladies had lost their first pre season meeting with Gillingham and beaten Great Shelford 3-2 in their second game, recovering from conceding a goal after 22 seconds to earn victory thanks to two goals from Bex Kane and one from Rachel Kosky. Then on Friday evening old friends and rivals Bedford were the visitors to Stockwood Park. The Town started the game brightly, and created several chances, but were guilty of some poor finishing. On the half hour Bedford created their first opportunity, and took it. The ever dangerous Tash Fensome the scorer.

Within a minute it could have been 2-0 to Bedford, but Hatters goalkeeper Hollie Staples made a fine stop to prevent Fensome from scoring. However, on 34 minutes Town were level when Bex Kane latched on to a through ball from Lauren Goodier and hit the ball into the roof of the net from 12 yards. On the stroke of half-time Town were in front. Kosky's inswinging corner found Teighlor Pengelly, and she rose to head the ball in on the far post.

Straight from the second half kick-off Town were caught cold, and Bedford levelled the score to make it 2-2 when Fensome scored her second goal of the evening. A makeshift Town defence was looking decidedly uneasy and it came as no surprise when after 20 minutes of the second half Bedford went 3-2 ahead. A mix-up in defence presented Fensome with an easy chance which she converted to complete her hat trick. That is the way things stayed until the last 12 minutes when Jess McKay picked the ball up in the centre circle and drove forward. She shrugged off two challenges before hitting a low shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the penalty area to level the score at 3-3.

After a lacklustre second half, that goal brought the Town back to life. With five minutes remaining Kane struck to put the Hatters back in front to make it 4-3, and at that stage it looked as though a highly unlikely victory was on the cards.

But the Town's frail defence got themselves into another mix up and, although she still had work to do, Bedford's Brenna Ryan finished with a perfect chip over Staples to make it four apiece.

However, there would be a final twist in the game. With 90 minutes on the clock the Town won a corner. Another good inswinging flag-kick from Kosky was again met on the far post by Pengelly and she headed the ball back across the goalmouth to Maisie Wyatt who forced the ball over the line to give the Town a 5-4 victory.

The winner may have given the Ladies two victories from three pre-season games, but it gave first team coach Mike Nolan plenty to think about ahead of the new campaign. "The three pre season games have given us much food for thought," he told Talk of the Town. "There have been some positives, but defensively there are some serious concerns in the way we have been conceding goals, especially against Bedford. We have two more training sessions before we start our league campaign next Sunday, so that something we must work on."

LADIES FIXTURES 2013/14

DATE	H/A	OPPOSITION
AUG	Sun 18	A CK Basildon
	Sun 25	H Arlesey Town
SEPT	Sun 1	A Enfield Town
	Sun 8	A Denham United
	Sun 15	H Q.P.R.
	Sun 22	H Ipswich Town (League Cup)
	Tues 25	H MK Dons
	Sun 29	A Cambridge
OCT	Sun 6	A Arlesey Town
	Sun 13	H Ebbsfleet United
	Sun 20	H Ipswich Town
	Sun 27	A Norwich City
NOV	Sun 3	FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round
	Sun 10	League Cup 2nd Round
	Sun 17	A Q.P.R.
	Sun 24	H Brentwood Town
	Tues 27	A MK Dons
DEC	Sun 1	FA Cup 1st Round
	Sun 8	H Enfield Town
	Sun 15	H CK Basildon
JAN	Sun 5	A Brentwood Town
	Sun 12	A Ebbsfleet United
	Sun 19	H Norwich City
	Sun 26	H Denham United
FEB	Sun 2	A Ipswich Town

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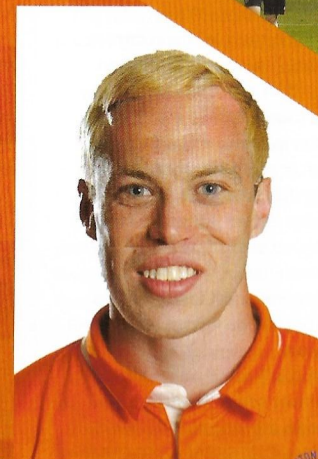
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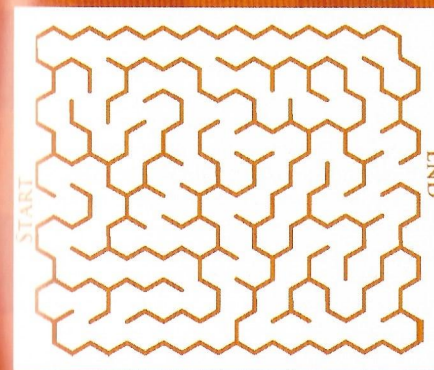
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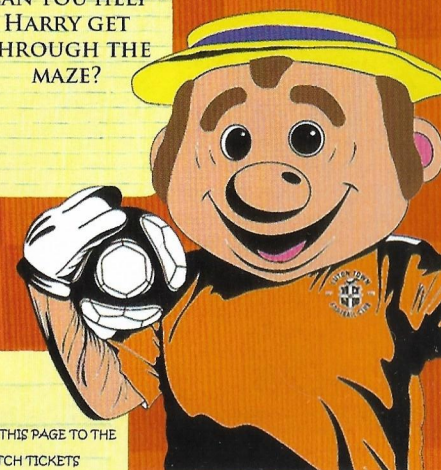
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CAN YOU NAME THE THREE NEW SIGNINGS
IN THE IMAGE ABOVE?



CAN YOU HELP
HARRY GET
THROUGH THE
MAZE?



NAME:

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COMPLETE THE PUZZLES AND FILL IN YOUR DETAILS, THEN RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE
TICKET OFFICE TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING TWO MATCH TICKETS

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

Face it. You've got a problem.

They say the first step on the road to recovery is admitting you've got a problem. Saying it out loud. Giving full voice to that niggling, but quietly sincere whisper in your head.

At the end of last season we could all be forgiven for looking around at each other (if we could see that far across empty seats or deserted pubs) and saying "well that's that then". After all, we signed up for this journey in, or at least within a sniff of, higher division football. Glory hunters, that's us.

When we were given that first scarf for Christmas, and got that tasteful tattoo, no one warned us that we could one day be non-league.

That first season ticket didn't come with an-all-too graphic photo of a heavily scarred-heart on the packaging, emblazoned with the slogan 'WATCHING LUTON CAUSES EMOTIONAL DISTRESS' or 'PASSIVE LUTON CAUSES LONG TERM ADDICTION IN CHILDREN'. There was no one to guide us to the safety of a life without the Town.

But if one thing was destined to finally make us go cold-turkey, to take the plunge and attend our first LA (Luton Anonymous) meeting, it was the end of last season.

Still being in the Conference after four years was one thing. But being mid-table in the Conference?

So, ladies and gentlemen, what have we learnt from all this? Anyone?

I'll tell you what we've learnt. NOTHING. That's what. Not one thing.

Because THIS year... this year we sold four-and-a-half thousand season tickets before the first whistle. That's more bums on seats (or near seats) than will be watching Falcao at Monaco in Ligue 1 most weeks. We're supposed to be a non-league side, you know? That's more than we sold last season after having only

just missed out on promotion at Wembley. That's not normal behaviour for a community of people. You do realise that don't you?

And not only did you renew your season ticket, but you've been to see us beat a couple of Premier League sides in friendlies haven't you? Don't look over there, I'm talking to YOU.

Our year

You probably even went to Southport didn't you? And you're walking around at work saying things like "I don't know what it is, but I think this might be our year" and "he's got them organised, the squad looks really balanced" and "I dunno, they're just playing with smiles on their faces".

And do you know what's sad? What's sad is that when you woke up this morning (yes YOU) your alarm hadn't even gone off yet, had it? You jumped straight in the shower, put on some brand new clobber and stuck the radio on. You started scouring the internet for team news and odds and predictions, and reaction to predictions.

And when you walked that familiar walk to the ground, you saw people you've known for 20 years, but have never spoken to during July. You saw wide-eyed kids with their dads in unfeasibly orange kits, doing that pilgrimage for the first time.

And when you got to your seat, you flipped straight to the back page of the programme, to the squad numbers, and tried to pick out the new signings on the pitch. Tried to spot the new heroes.

And when they ran out onto the Kenilworth Road carpet and the crowd rose to greet them, your stomach churned and you knew.

You knew you that you had well and truly fallen off the wagon. Because you and me, mate: we're addicted. Say it with me.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY SAM ELLIOTT

So here we go again. A summer that we thought would drag and drag due to the lack of an international football tournament hasn't. Football is upon us already!

While we may not have a full complement of leagues returning to the real stuff this afternoon, the Conference Premier – with new sponsors Skrill signed sealed and delivered just in time – is in full focus, with the three Ryman Divisions also returning alongside most of the Step 5, 6 and 7 leagues.

That close season seems to get smaller every year!

The Blue Square Bet Premier last season provided us with a title race closer than one we can remember, the final day battle between Mansfield and Kidderminster was gripping. Some forecasters are telling us to prepare for a similar ride.

Forest Green Rovers are widely seen as the summer's movers and shakers. With strikers already coming out of their ears, Dave Hockaday last week pounced for Matthew-Barnes Homer. After already securing Danny Wright from Wrexham, Anthony Barry from Fleetwood and the loan signing of former Luton icon George Pilkington, chairman Dale Vince's spend has caught the eye.

Impressing

Grimsby Town have done good business too, with a trio of York's promotion winners from a year ago and Aldershot's Alex Rodman headlining in Humberside. Luton, with new striker Mark Cullen impressing in pre-season is this finally the year the Hatters get it right? John Still could be man to finally awake the giant.

Cambridge United have been in fantastic form in the friendlies, Adam Cunningham will surely score goals whilst Kidderminster know if their form from the second half of last season continues, they'll take some stopping.

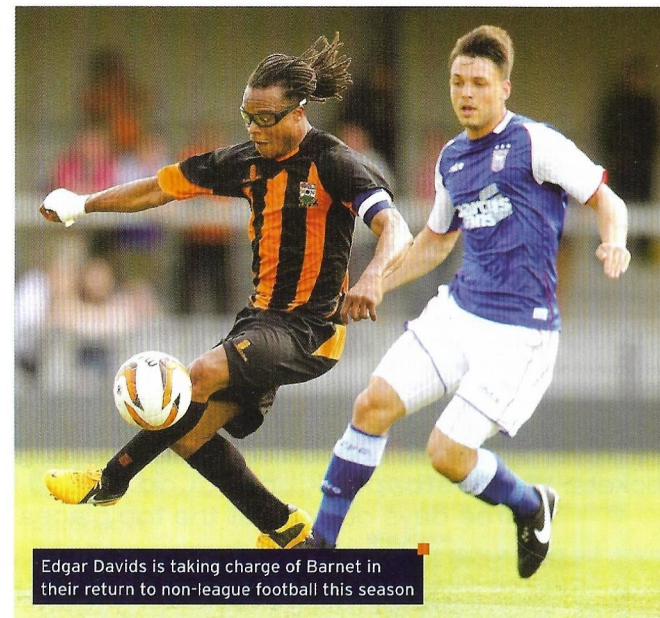
The relegated Football League clubs are always a puzzle. Optimism at Aldershot isn't high, they're only just out of administration and will have to work off a 10-point deduction.

Barnet have a better chance of bucking the 'what goes down doesn't come up' trend. You may have heard of their player-manager, Edgar Davids. But will the Dutch megastar be a sitting duck in the battlefield?

Gateshead have a budget that suggest a push for promotion may be forthcoming, while Chester – the Blue Square North champions – are an outside tip despite losing key man Antoni Sarcevic to Fleetwood.

The Ryman League kicks off too, with Maidstone United against Wealdstone the game of the day. The battle of the Stones is sure to be played in front of around 2,000 fans.

Billerica and AFC Hornchurch didn't last long in the Conference South but now back in the league, both will be looking to challenge. Dulwich, Lowestoft and Bury Town are all expected to be teams to watch this season.



Edgar Davids is taking charge of Barnet in their return to non-league football this season

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league look

A GUIDE TO THE TOWN'S OPPONENTS THIS SEASON

SKRILL PREMIER

ALDERSHOT TOWN

Nickname: The Shets • Ground: Recreation Ground
Manager: Andy Scott • Last season: League 2, 24th

TRANSFERS IN: Glenn Morris - Free (Southend United), Joe Oastler - Free (Torquay United), Martin Rowlands - Free (Leyton Orient), Matt Paterson - Free (Barton Albion), Brett Williams - Free (Reading).

ALFRETON TOWN

Nickname: The Reds • Manager: Impact Arena
Manager: Nicky Law • Last season: Conference, 13th

TRANSFERS IN: Bradley Wood - Free (Grimsby Town), Chris Westwood - Free (Wrexham), Michael Wyde - Free (Tamworth), Ross Atkins - Loan (Derby), Tom Shaw - Free (Cambridge), Nick Fenton - Free (Morecambe), John McGrath - Free (Warton Albion).

BARNET

Nickname: The Bees • Manager: The Hive
Manager: Edgar Davids • Last season: League 2, 23rd

TRANSFERS IN: Anthony Acheampong - Undisclosed (Welling United), Keanu Marsh Brown - Free (Yeovil), Roberto Casabella - Free (Milsam Oriol), Luisma - Free (UD Noya), Marciano Mengrini - Free (SDV Barneveld), Claudio Vilca - Free (Spartak).

BRAINTREE TOWN

Nickname: The Iron • Ground: Cressing Road
Manager: Alan Devonshire • Last season: Conference, 9th

TRANSFERS IN: Chez Isaac - Free (Boreham Wood), Newman Carney - Free (Dunstable Town), Scott Griffiths - Free (Brentford)

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Nickname: The U's • Ground: Abbey Stadium
Manager: Richard Money • Last season: Conference, 14th

TRANSFERS IN: Tom Champion - Free (Dartford), Tom Bonner - Free (Dartford), Adam Livingston - Undisclosed (Tamworth), Delano Sam-York - Free (Basingstoke Town), Ryan Donaldson - Undisclosed (Gateshead), Richard Tate - Free (Tamworth), Lee Miller - Free (Grimsby Town), Greg Taylor - Free (Luton Town), Chris Maxwell - Loan (Hemel Hempstead), Mitchell Austin - Free (Stalybridge Celtic), Nathan Arnold - Free (Albion Town).

CHESTER FC

Nickname: The Blues • Ground: Deva Stadium
Manager: Neil Young • Last season: Conference North champions

TRANSFERS IN: Danny Harrison - Free (Warrington Rovers), Kevin McIntyre - Free (Huddersfield), Craig Lindfield - Free (Accrington Stanley), Jason Jarrett - Free (Cheltenham), Craig Mahon - Free (Vauxhall Motors), Lee Pugh - Free (Chilton), James Wood - Free (York City), Gareth Seddon - Free (FC Halifax), Alex Titchener - Loan (Hemel Hempstead), Joe Heath - Free (Hereford United), Michael Kay - Free (Warrington Rovers), Lewis Turner - Loan (Leeds United), Nathan Turner - Loan (Barns United).

DARTFORD

Nickname: The Darts • Ground: Pincock Park
Manager: Tony Burman • Last season: Conference, 8th

TRANSFERS IN: Jason Prior - Free (AFC Wimbledon), Alan Julian - Free (Newport County), Kenny Clark - Undisclosed (Chesham United), Max Canham - Undisclosed (Hemel Hempstead), Matt Fry - Free (Concord Rangers), Adam Birchall - Loan (Hillingdon).

FOREST GREEN ROVERS

Nickname: Rovers • Ground: The New Lawn
Manager: Dave Heckaday • Last season: Conference, 10th

TRANSFERS IN: Andy Mangan - Free (Fleetwood Town), Anthony Barry - Free (Fleetwood Town), Danny Wright - Free (Wrexham), Marcus Kelly - Free (Tamworth), Matthew Barnes-Homer - Free (Macclesfield Town), George Pilkington - Loan (Mansfield Town).

GATESHEAD

Nickname: The Hood • Ground: International Stadium
Manager: Anthony Smith • Last season: Conference, 17th

TRANSFERS IN: Josh Walker - Free (Southampton), Colin Larkin - Undisclosed (Barns), Richard Brodie - Free (Crawley Town), Adam Boyes - Undisclosed (Barns), Joe East - Free (Darlington), Craig Baxter - Free (Bedlington Terriers), Luke O'Brien - Free (Oxford United), Daniel Smith - Free (Seaham Red Star).

GRIMSBY TOWN

Nickname: The Mariners • Ground: Blundell Park
Manager: Rob Scott and Paul Hurst • Last season: Conference, 4th

TRANSFERS IN: Patrick McLaughlin - Free (York City), Scott Kerr - Free (York City), Scott Nelson - Free (Luton Town), Paul Biggott - Free (Blackpool), Alex Rudman - Free (Aldershot Town), Chris Daig - Free (York City).

FC HALIFAX TOWN

Nickname: The Shaymen • Ground: The Shay
Manager: Neil Aspin • Last season: Conference North 5th, Play Off winners

TRANSFERS IN: Matty Pearson - Free (Rochdale), Adam Smith - Free (Lincoln City), Kevin Holmgren - Free (Guisley), Keith Briggs - Free (Kidderminster Harriers), Simon Ainge - Free (Luton Town).

HEREFORD UNITED

Nickname: The Bulls • Ground: Edgar Street
Manager: Martin Foyle • Last season: Conference, 6th

TRANSFERS IN: Chris Bush - Free (Gateshead), Rob Purdie - Free (Shrewsbury Town), Frankie Artus - Free (Grimsby Town), Dominic Collins - Free (Chester), Dan Walker - Free (Luton Town), Sam Smith - Loan (Cambridge United), Danny Pilkington - Free (Kidderminster Harriers), Daniel Lloyd-Weston - Free (Market Drayton), Joel Edwards - Free (Westfield), Jonathan Brown - Free (Spartan), Nys Evans - Free (Exeter City), Kingsley James - Free (Port Vale), Daniel Leathitter - Free (Torquay United), Michael Rankine - Free (Aldershot Town), Sam Gwynne - Free (Brackley Town).

HYDE

Nickname: The Tigers • Ground: Ewen Fields
Manager: Scott McIven • Last season: Conference, 18th

TRANSFERS IN: Connor Hughes - Free (Oldham Athletic), Tom Collins - Free (Stockport County), Adam Thurston - Free (Preston North End), Will Haining - Free (Morecambe), Liam Tomsell - Loan (Blackpool), Matty Maimwaring - Free (Stockport County).

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS

Nickname: The Harriers • Ground: Aggborough
Manager: Steve Barr • Last season: Conference, 2nd

TRANSFERS IN: Michael Gash - Undisclosed (Cambridge United), Jamie Tolley - Free (Mansfield Town), Lee Fowler - Free (Doncaster), James Dance - Free (Luton Town).

LINCOLN CITY

Nickname: The Imps • Ground: Sincil Bank
Manager: Gary Simpson • Last season: Conference, 16th

TRANSFERS IN: Asif Yusuf - Free (Barton Albion), Nick Wright - Free (Mansfield Town), Boban Dzon - Free (Accrington Stanley), Danny Rowe - Free (Fleetwood Town).

Town, Sean Newton - Undisclosed (Stockport County), Nat Brown - Free (Macclesfield Town), Waide Fairhurst - Free (Macclesfield Town), Jon Nolan - Free (Stockport County), Ben Imlinson - Undisclosed (Alfreton Town).

MACCLESFIELD TOWN

Nickname: The Silken • Ground: Moss Rose
Manager: John Askey • Last season: Conference, 11th

TRANSFERS IN: Scott Boden - Free (Chesterfield), Paul Timbrell - Free (Northampton Town), Steve Williams - Free (Bradford City), Joe Connor - Free (Stockport), Chris Holroyd - Free (Morecambe), Connor Jennings - Loan (Southampton), Danny Andrew - Free (Gloucester City), Ritchie Branagan - Free (Salisbury City).

NUNEATON TOWN

Nickname: Boro • Ground: Liberty Way
Manager: Kevin Wicks • Last season: Conference, 15th

TRANSFERS IN: Connor Taylor - Free (Walsall), Louis Mout - Free (Northampton Town), Theo Strete - Free (Alfreton Town), Greg Pearson - Free (Grimsby Town), Phil Troner - Free (Ireland United), Aman's Bell - Loan (Birmingham City), Dumitru Esterim - Loan (Nottingham Forest).

SALISBURY CITY

Nickname: The Whites • Ground: The Raymond McEnall Stadium
Manager: Mike Harris • Last season: Conference South 2nd, Play Off winners

TRANSFERS IN: Warren Feecey - Free (Plymouth Argyle), Elliott Frear - Free (Exeter City), Ricky Weiland - Free (Cambridge United), Glenn Wilson - Free (Gateshead), Chris Kamjoo - Free (Barnet), Ben Wright - Free (Forest Green).

SOUTHPORT

Nickname: The Sandgrounders • Ground: Haig Avenue
Manager: Alan Wright • Last season: Conference, 20th

TRANSFERS IN: Jamie Milligan - Free (Fleetwood Town), Matthew Chaloner - Free (Blackpool), Danny Hurst - Free (Barns), Scott Brown - Free (Chester), David Stephenson - Free (New Mills), Paul Rutherford - Free (Barns), Danny Hattersley - Undisclosed (Stockport).

TAMWORTH

Nickname: The Lambs • Ground: The Lamb
Manager: Dale Bedford • Last season: Conference, 19th

TRANSFERS IN: Justin Richards - Free (Oxford United), Tom Eckersley - Free (Accrington Stanley), Jordan Rose - Free (Alfreton Town), Deanne Banks - Free (Birmingham City), Cameron Bedford - Free (Bury), Matty Regan - Free (Nottingham Forest), Richie Baker - Free (Barns), Jack Evans - Free (Gillingham), Richard Peniket - Free (Fulham), Kaiyee Woulery - Free (Maidstone United), Wayne Thomas - Free (Luton Town).

WELLING UNITED

Nickname: The Wings • Ground: Park View Lane
Manager: Jamie Day • Last season: Conference South champions

TRANSFERS IN: Luke Pires - Free (Woking), Alex Dyer - Free (Walsingham), Doug Bergin - Loan (Exeter City), Callum Webb - Undisclosed (Bishop's Cleeve), Blaine Hubson - Loan (Cambridge United).

WOKING

Nickname: The Cards • Ground: Kingfield
Manager: Garry Hill • Last season: Conference, 12th

TRANSFERS IN: Josh Payne - Free Agent, Gavin Williams - Free (Yeovil)

WREXHAM

Nickname: The Red Dragons • Ground: The Racecourse
Player/manager: Andy Morrell • Last season: Conference, 5th

TRANSFERS IN: Andy Bishop - Free (Bury)

fixtures and results

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

AUGUST

Sat 10	3.00pm	A	Southport	1-1	2,210	839	18	Tyler	Smith	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Taiwo	Guttridge	Martin	Whalley
Tue 13	7.45pm	H	Salisbury City													
Sat 17	3.00pm	H	Macclesfield Town													
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Forest Green Rovers													
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United													
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Kidderminster Harriers													

SEPTEMBER

TV Sat 7	5.30pm	H	Grimsby Town													
TV Fri 13	7.45pm	A	Wrexham													
Tue 17	7.45pm	H	Dartford													
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Lincoln City													
Tue 24	7.45pm	A	Woking													
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Hereford United													

OCTOBER

Sat 5	3.00pm	H	FC Halifax Town													
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Aldershot Town													
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Hyde													
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Tamworth													

NOVEMBER

Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Gateshead													
Sat 9	3.00pm	H	Southport													
Tue 12	7.45pm	A	Braintree Town													
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Chester FC													
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Welling United													

DECEMBER

Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Alfreton Town													
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United													
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Gateshead													
Thur 26	3.00pm	A	Barnet													
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Kidderminster Harriers													

JANUARY

Wed 1	3.00pm	H	Barnet													
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Lincoln City													
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Macclesfield Town													
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Wrexham													
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Nuneaton Town													

FEBRUARY

Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Dartford													
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Tamworth													
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Hereford United													
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Nuneaton Town													

MARCH

Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Alfreton Town													
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Salisbury City													
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Woking													
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Chester FC													
Tue 25	7.45pm	A	Grimsby Town													
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	FC Halifax Town													

APRIL

Sat 5	3.00pm	H	Aldershot Town													
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Braintree Town													
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Welling United													
Mon 21	3.00pm	H	Forest Green Rovers													
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Hyde													

SUBS

Howells • Cullen • Charles • Parry • Gray • Robinson • Justham



Together in defeat, the Town gather for a post-match discussion after Saturday's game at Southport

LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14

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

PLAYER STATS 2013/14

	THIS SEASON				CUP				TOTAL				DISCIP				LIFEC			
	LEAGUE	APPS	GLS	PTS	LEAGUE	APPS	GLS	PTS	LEAGUE	APPS	GLS	PTS	LEAGUE	APPS	GLS	PTS	LEAGUE	APPS	GLS	PTS
Anthony Charles	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Mark Cullen	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Andre Gray	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	27	0	0
Scott Griffiths	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Luke Guttridge	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ronnie Henry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0
Jake Howells	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	236	18	0	0
Alex Lacey	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Alex Lawless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	12	0	0
David Martin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	3	0	0
Steve McNulty	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	1	0	0
JJ O'Donnell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	3	0	0
Andrew Parry	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Matt Robinson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	0	0
Jon Shaw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	10	0	0
Jonathan Smith	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	1	0	0
Solomon Taiwo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	0	0
Mark Tyler	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	185	0	0	0
Alex Wall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	0	0
Shaun Whalley	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

hold the back page

WITH THE LUTON NEWS' MIKE SIMMONDS

Never has the cliché, it's a marathon not a sprint rung truer than on 4.45pm in Merseyside on Saturday afternoon.

After what had been a wonderful pre-season in terms of results and performances, with Town boss John Still quipping the club would have won the pre-season cup had one been on offer, that all looked a long way off with 10-men Town defeated.

True, at the time of writing, the reason behind Steve McNulty's sending off remain unclear, but that was a mere footnote after a wretched first half display.

No-one could quite put their finger on what went wrong, but the likes of John Still and Luke Guttridge both hinted that any complacency that may have existed amongst the players, was well and truly gone.

Wake-up call

Maybe the wake-up call, as Guttridge put it, came at just the right time as you can never read too much into one game (though try telling Forest Green Rovers and Cambridge United fans after their 8-0 and 5-1 victories this weekend), and there's still every chance Town can finally do it this year.

As Still had said prior to the game, he would rather lose a few early on, get it right, and then win loads afterwards.

He'll have learned how the Town look a far better attacking unit with Andre Gray in the side, and that with the players he has, a 4-4-2 formation gives Hatters the best chance of getting at their opponents.

On to tonight then, and Salisbury City visit Kenilworth Road. It's vital that Town improve on a home record that was mediocre at best last season, taking 37 points from a possible 69.

The long-suffering Hatters fans would never in their worst nightmares have envisaged a season where they would see their team gift three points to the likes of Telford, Dartford, Braintree and Hyde at Kenilworth Road.

It wasn't a happy place to be at times, especially towards the end of former boss Paul Buckle's reign, but if Town can play the sort of football they were in pre-season,

steamrolling whoever was in front of them, home fans should be in for some genuine excitement.

Another thing that Still has said is that after seven to eight games then you get a clearer reflection of the League.

Promotion candidates

He couldn't be more right, especially this season as once the Hatters have played tonight and Saturday, they then go into a run of games against Forest Green, Cambridge, Kidderminster, Grimsby and Wrexham.

All five of those sides, like Luton, will see themselves as genuine promotion candidates this year, with so it's absolutely vital that the Town show, even at this early stage, they have what it takes to mount a sustained challenge.

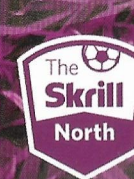
Another year without even so much as a Play-Off campaign at the end of it, just can't be stomachable once more.



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tonight's teams



LUTON TOWN

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Mark Tyler | 16 Elliot Justham |
| 3 Danny Fitzsimons | 17 JJ O'Donnell |
| 4 Jonathan Smith | 18 Dave Martin |
| 5 Steve McNulty | 21 Luke Guttridge |
| 6 Anthony Charles | 22 Shaun Whalley |
| 7 Alex Lawless | 23 Matt Robinson |
| 8 Solomon Taiwo | 26 Ronnie Henry |
| 9 Jon Shaw | 27 Andre Gray |
| 10 Alex Wall | 28 Jim Stevenson |
| 11 Jake Howells | 29 Alex Lacey |
| 12 Scott Griffiths | 31 Jake Woolley |
| 13 Mark Gullen | 32 Brett Longden |
| 14 Andy Parry | 33 Jerome Jindou |



SALISBURY CITY

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Will Puddy | 11 Elliott Frear |
| 2 Luke Ruddick | 12 Greville Kennedy |
| 3 Callum Hart | 13 Rob Sinclair |
| 4 Ryan Brett | 14 Stuart Sinclair |
| 5 James Clarke | 15 Ben Wright |
| 6 Glenn Wilson | 16 Brian Euston |
| 7 Chris McPherson | 17 Warren Farnham |
| 8 Ricky Welford | 18 Adam Ford |
| 9 Jamie White | 19 Mandy Coleman |
| 10 Theo Lewis | 20 Dan Pickett |

Referee: P. Rees | Assistant: A. Rickette | Assistant: B. Day | Fourth official: L. Marshallway

HERE NEXT
v MAGGLESFIELD TOWN
 SATURDAY 17th AUGUST 2013 3PM
 BRILL PREMIER