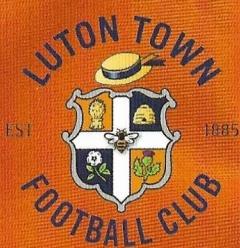
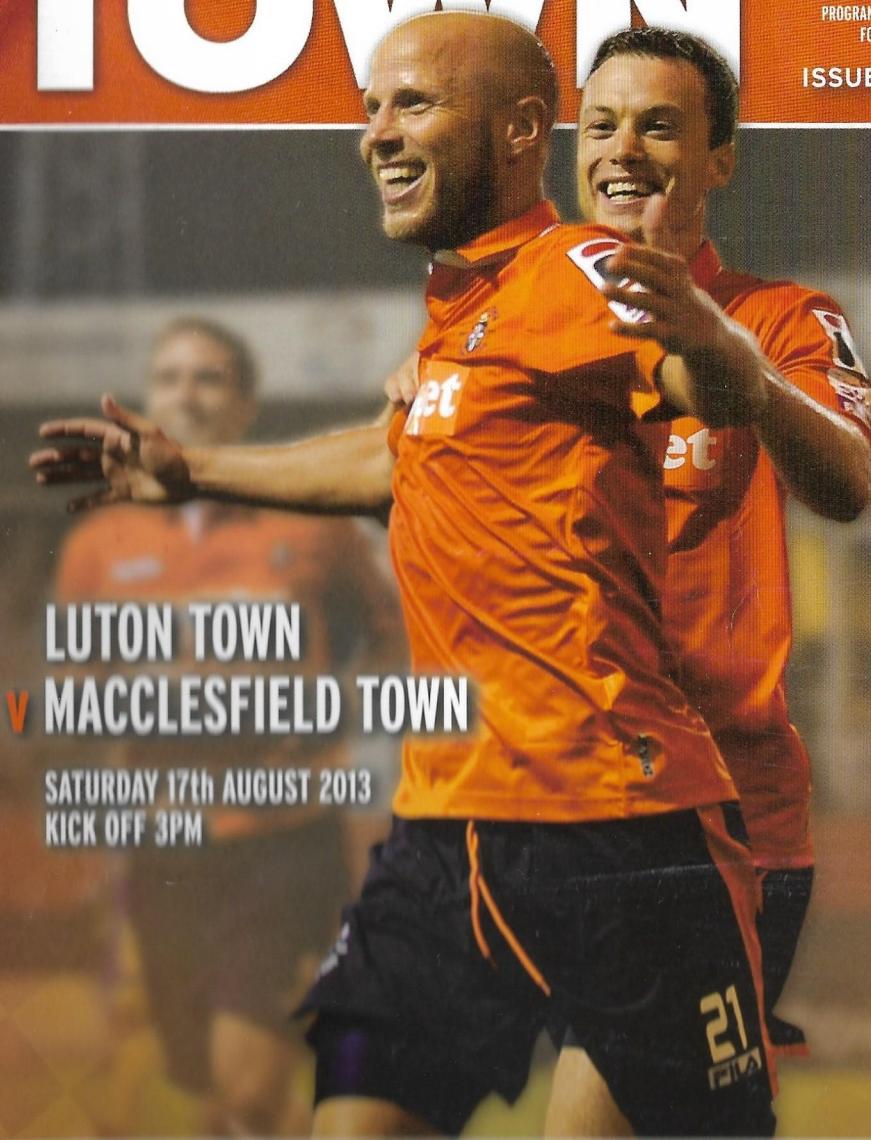


TALK OF THE TOWN



EST. 1885
OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 3 • £3.00



LUTON TOWN
v MACCLESFIELD TOWN

SATURDAY 17th AUGUST 2013
KICK OFF 3PM



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FILA @ JD
PROUD KIT SUPPLIERS TO LUTON TOWN



welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road.

After an efficient (John Still's words) victory over Salisbury City on Tuesday night, it's great to be back on home soil once more as the Town take on Macclesfield aiming for another three points.

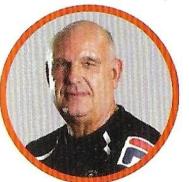
There's no better place to watch a game of football than under the floodlights at Kenilworth Road and the atmosphere on Tuesday was just like the good old days. Here's to more of the same throughout this campaign!

We hope you enjoyed Tuesday's special 100-page programme and although we're 32 pages lighter today, we still have plenty of reading material for you to get your teeth into. Enjoy! #COYH **”**



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John Still looks ahead to today's game



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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.

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

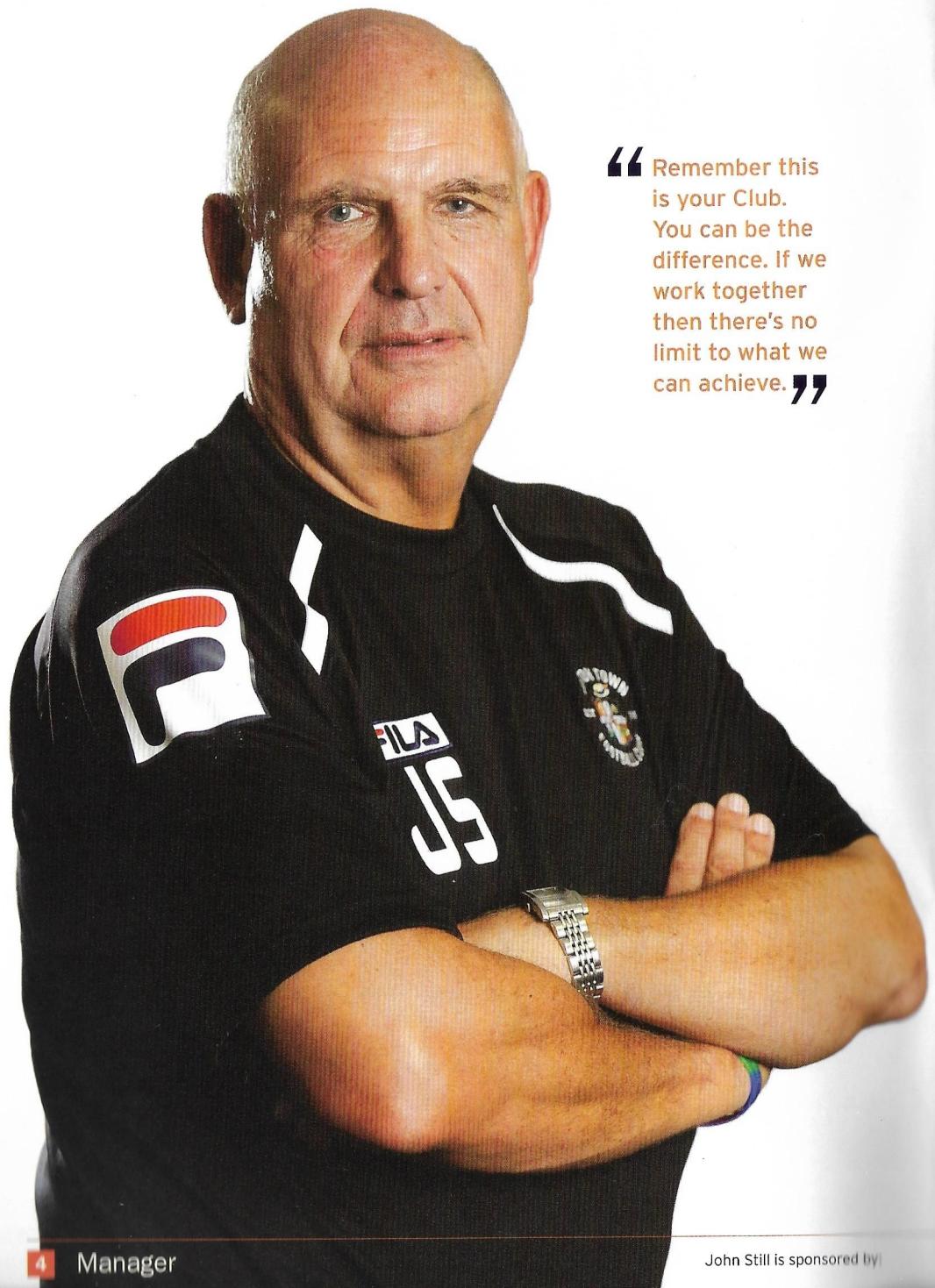
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“ Remember this is your Club. You can be the difference. If we work together then there's no limit to what we can achieve. ”

the manager

JOHN STILL

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our second home game this week as we entertain Macclesfield Town.

I'd like to welcome those associated with Macclesfield to Bedfordshire today, in particular their manager John Askey who has been a real stalwart for the Silkmen over the years.

Today we go in search of a second successive win after beating Salisbury on Tuesday night. I thought it was an efficient performance – nothing spectacular – but it got us off the mark and, overall, it was pleasing for us to bounce back from what was such a disappointing start to the season at Southport.

We were slowly into our stride against Southport but despite an improved second half performance it was still nowhere near what I expected from my team.

On Tuesday we adjusted better to the demands of the game and I thought we showed a consistent level of performance throughout, before we eventually broke the deadlock.

Injury

Looking back over the last two matches we've also had our fair share of problems with players unavailable through injury.

At Southport we were without Ronnie Henry, Alex Lawless and Jon Shaw. On Tuesday only Jon was able to return – and that was with him knowing he needs an operation on a hernia.

We're being very careful with Jon, assessing him on a daily basis, and we'll pick the right time to send him for surgery.

On Tuesday we also had the frustration of watching Anthony Charles pick up a nasty shoulder injury which will mean he will be unavailable for the next four-to-six weeks. It's a real shame for Anthony because he had done really well up to that point.

Despite these injury concerns, we were delighted with the young development side's victory over a strong Peterborough side on Wednesday. Alex scored both the goals in what was a fine performance from all of the players involved, and credit must go to each and every one for accomplishing such an excellent result.

It was a young side that faced Peterborough, with a lot of players who we feel will go on and achieve great things for this football club. As I said when I signed the likes of Jim Stevenson and Danny Fitzsimons, these are players who will develop into excellent players in the future, but also have a great opportunity to push themselves into the first team now. We want to be able to get to a stage where we are bringing through and nurturing young professionals, and Wednesday's victory is a great indication of where we are on that front.

Talent

Everyone likes to see home grown talent emerge and do well in the first team. It's an important part of every football club to see young players making a name for themselves, especially at a club like Luton Town which is so steeped in history and one that has such a fantastic record of producing stars of the future.

Turning my attention back to today, we face a tough test from Macclesfield who will be all out to get their first points and first goal of the season.

What will help us combat their threat is your support from the stands. The backing we received on Tuesday was incredible and I honestly believe that with your support this club can be a success. Remember this is your Club. You can be the difference. If we work together then there's no limit to what we can achieve.

Please get behind us once again this afternoon and here's hoping we're celebrating another three points come five o'clock.

Thank you for support and enjoy the game.

boardroom

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID WILKINSON



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

These are my first notes of the season so even though Gary and others have already done

so, I would like to welcome all our new recruits, wish them well and hope that they have a successful and enjoyable time here.

Good luck to those who have moved on and I hope they will have fond memories of their time at Kenilworth Road and feel free to return at any time.

Excited

For all of us the start of a new season brings us fresh hope that this will be 'the year', and this one is no different. I am more excited about our prospects now than I have been since we at 2020 became involved over five years ago. There is a buzz around the place, which I have not felt before.

There are new faces in the management team and a new style about the way they operate and communicate. There are new players in the squad and stiff competition for places. We have made

improvements to the stadium both cosmetic and profit-orientated to hopefully make walking through the doors a more pleasurable event. We have spent money at the training ground to make it more fit for purpose, particularly in regard to the quality of the pitches and other training facilities. A lot of services, which had been handled externally, have been brought back in-house. This should mean that more funds are generated from areas such as catering and not spent on the gym will remain in the Club to enable further improvements to take place.

We cannot say enough how proud we are of our support. Whether it be taking a thousand or more to Southport (I'm sure it was) or selling 4,500 season tickets after four years in the Conference it continues to amaze and humble. Every time I see us fill the away end with orange and hear "come on Luton" I get a lump in my throat.

John Still and his team make a big point of trying to be all inclusive. That means that the squad includes you and me – and that gives us the biggest squad in this League and a few above.

"Teamwork divides the task and doubles the success."

Having been on the pre-season training camp I was fortunate and privileged to rub shoulders with the squad and get to see everyone in action and that, added to our tremendous performances in the friendlies, has made me more optimistic than

Your support at Southport last Saturday was absolutely fantastic - a big thank you to those of you who made the trip



ever about the season ahead. I know they are 'only' friendlies, but they do give an indication of the talent available to us.

I have no doubt that we have considerable strength in depth and a quality squad with a healthy number of young players looking to play their way into the first team.

With all this in mind our performance and the result at Southport brought us down to earth with a bump and served to remind us of what we are up against in this league. Whether it was complacency or the nerves and tightness that goes with genuine competition I don't know, but having spent the time I have with them I am sure that the strength of character will show itself as the season progresses.

Next it was Salisbury. I can't count the number of managers and executives from other clubs who have told us that everyone now knows that the way to play Luton is to frustrate us, annoy us and try to turn our supporters against us. Time wasting, play-acting and breaking up play in any way they can is the prime tactic and it started again on Tuesday night. I am ashamed to admit that it was working on me too and I was losing patience and becoming frustrated. I promise to try to do better, but time-wasting or the fact that referees don't obviously clamp down on it does irritate me.

Favourites

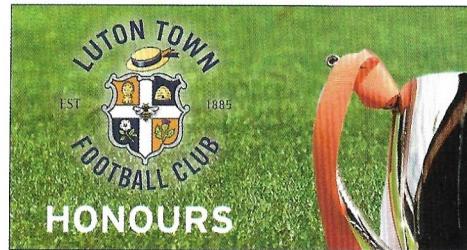
I think we have to learn how to be favourites. We are a big club at this level and we know that we are the scalp everyone wants. How many times have we said "It's like their cup final" having battled with a so-called smaller club? Historically we have been a much better underdog. Whether it was beating Arsenal in the League Cup Final in 1988 or against Norwich in the FA Cup last year, we seem to thrive on the element of surprise, against the odds and with our backs against the wall. We don't seem to make good favourites and are easily disappointed when we are and we fail.

Largely because of the limitations placed upon us by the capacity of our stadium, and consequently the inability of fully capitalizing on our fantastic support, we have had to punch above our weight for years, and if you add to that the unjust treatment of recent seasons in the Football League it is understandable how this has infiltrated our corporate psyche.

We are determined that this will change and I believe we are on our way to greater things and punching our weight at a higher level.

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself."

Enjoy the game.
COYH



HONOURS

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

It was great for the lads to get off the mark for the season with the 2-0 win over Salisbury on Tuesday night.

Everybody knew that the performance at Southport wasn't good enough and we needed to make sure we bounced back. We're fortunate to play so frequently in the Skrill Premier that we only had to wait a few days to put things right and thankfully we did that on Tuesday.

Our home form was good over pre-season with three wins and three clean sheets, and all we wanted was to carry that on into the league. And even though it wasn't the greatest performance on Tuesday, we got those all-important three points.

Clean sheet

There are, I'm sure, going to be many games like that this season where the opposition sit back and make it tough for us to break them down. We remained patient and got over the line in the end and I am sure that win will give us all confidence now. It was great to keep a clean sheet and even more pleasing to see us put a penalty away.

We have a solid look about us now, especially in defence. Last season we were often trying to win games 6-5 and, although I'd take that every week, that's not the way forward. You know me, I love to keep clean sheets, as I had that drummed into me at my previous club. We have to be realistic: we are not going to beat everyone scoring three or four goals every week. We'll take 1-0 or 2-0, and if we can get into a habit of keeping clean sheets, then I know - with the firepower and creativity in our ranks - we have a great chance of doing well this season.

Encouragement

I was sitting in the stands watching on Tuesday night and it was interesting to hear the supporters' reaction at half-time when we went in goalless. There were no boos but a lot of encouragement and I urge you all to keep the faith and up the noise when things aren't going to plan on the pitch. I think positivity is the only way we're going to be a success.

Our support is the greatest thing about this club and it can make a massive difference.

Remember those games in the FA Cup? There's no doubt our victories over Wolves and Norwich were helped by your vocal backing during those ties. Believe me, it makes a huge impact, and it will especially help those players who have only just joined us this summer.

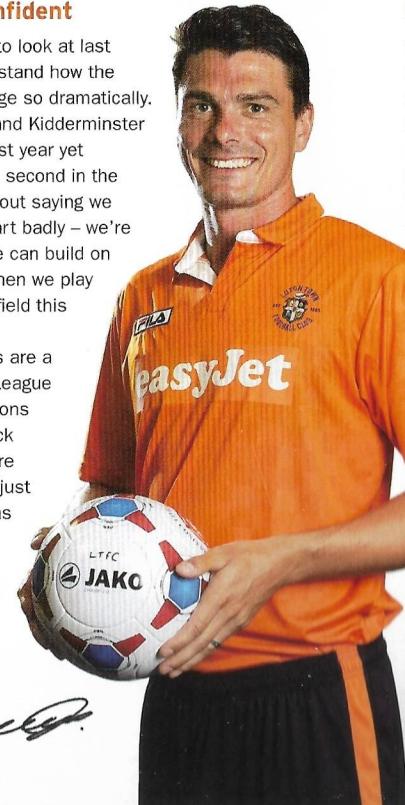
While the Southport defeat was frustrating it was interesting to see Tuesday night's results. They're the only team with a 100 per cent record in the league now. It just goes to show you can take nothing for granted in this league. Forest Green and Cambridge won 8-0 and 5-1 respectively on the opening day, yet both could only draw against teams they were expected to beat during midweek.

Confident

You only have to look at last season to understand how the league can change so dramatically. Both Mansfield and Kidderminster started poorly last year yet finished first and second in the end. It goes without saying we don't want to start badly - we're confident that we can build on Tuesday's win when we play against Macclesfield this afternoon.

Today's visitors are a former Football League team with ambitions like us to get back there and I'm sure they will make it just as tough for us as Salisbury did on Tuesday.

Get behind us, keep the faith and enjoy the game.



Hungry Harry's is open for business

At Tuesday night's game with Salisbury the Town opened a new mobile catering facility between the club shop and main stand turnstiles.

As part of the Club's investment in catering this summer, the department has been brought in-house, with catering manager David Romans and head chef Joanna Foster appointed.

One of the most eye-catching new arrivals at the club has been Hungry Harry's, which opened for business on Tuesday and did a roaring trade, serving a mouth-watering array of food, and alcohol, to supporters before the game and at half-time.

Among the new items on the menu includes Bedfordshire Clangers, our county's much-loved pastry. And a note to those eating them – yes, we have had one email – that the sweet end is clearly marked with three slits in the pastry. Enjoy!



FA YOUTH CUP DRAW

The Hatters' Under-18s begin their road to glory in the FA Youth Cup with a home game against Rothwell Corinthians at Kenilworth Road next month.

Paul Driver's side entertain the Northamptonshire outfit in the first qualifying round of the competition on Wednesday 25th September, kick-off 7.30pm. Kenilworth Road will be open on the night, with admission £3 for adults and £1 for concessions.

So why not come along and support the stars of the future?

KIDDERMINSTER TICKETS ON SALE

As you'll note on page 13, tickets are now on sale for our next two away games, against Forest Green and Kidderminster.

Please note that the trip to face Harriers two weeks today is not all-ticket but we have been urged by the Worcestershire club to sell tickets in advance.

Furthermore, for both games there are initial allocations – so do not panic if you see in the next week that one allocation has been sold: there will more than enough tickets available.



Golden Gamble winner

Our first golden gamble winner of the season scooped £580 at Tuesday's Skrill Premier game with Salisbury City.

Town fan John Boughton, from Wellingborough, was the lucky man whose ticket, number 01528, was drawn out at half-time by Benjamin Pratt.

Remember tickets only cost £1, with half of that going directly into the prize. So the more people play the bigger the prize. Keep your eye for our sellers inside and outside the ground this afternoon and at all of our home fixtures this season.

It's a small world

Hatters fans Dave Boutwood and Ken Hathaway (right) spent their summer holiday touring the American National Parks.

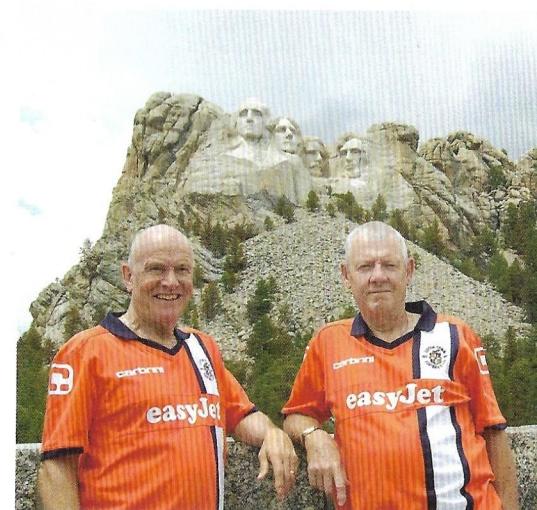
The trip took in eight national parks covering some 3200 miles. One of the visits included was Mount Rushmore, and this was where they decided to have photos in our Town colours.

That morning at breakfast a waiter placed his hand on my Dave's shoulder and in a broad American accent said "Luton Town!" He recognised the shirts straight away, and told the two friends that he too was an ardent Town fan.

He was based at Chicksands in the late sixties and early seventies and used to go to all the games. He still follows the Town and was still smiling when recalling the FA Cup victory over Norwich last season.

He now resides in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Dave told Talk of the Town: "It was really interesting to talk to him and know that the Town is supported far and wide. Small world, eh?"



BT SPORT ON VIRGIN MEDIA

BT and Virgin Media have announced a three-year deal to ensure millions of Virgin Media TV customers can enjoy full access to the BT Sport TV channels which includes live coverage of 30 Skrill Premier matches.

The deal will enable Virgin Media to offer BT Sport directly to its 3.8 million TV customers. It means BT Sport 1 and 2 are now available across all the major TV platforms in the UK including cable, satellite and DTT. The channels are also accessible via broadband.

The agreement will enable Virgin Media to provide BT Sport 1, BT Sport 2 and ESPN to their XL TV customers as part of their packages, without the need for those customers to take any action. This means around three million households are ready to watch BT Sport in advance of the top tier main English football and rugby seasons commencing.

BT Sport will show 38 exclusively live football matches from the Barclays Premier League, including 18 of the 'top picks', for each of the next three seasons. The channels will also show live FA Cup with Budweiser matches for the next five seasons.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We'd like to wish a happy birthday two Hatters fans who are here watching the game this afternoon.

Daniel Proctor is celebrating his 18th birthday while Zak Tilley, who sponsors Elliot Justham's gloves, turned 11 on 7th August. Zak wasn't at our match with Salisbury on Tuesday but he is today so many belated returns to you.

REST IN PEACE



It is with sadness to report the death of life-long Hatters fan Laurence 'Larry' Buckley who was sadly taken from us aged 41 over the summer.

Laurence leaves behind a husband, father, friend, son and brother. Everyone at Kenilworth Road would like to send Laurence's family and friends their deepest condolences.

let's go

WESTERN THERMAL STAND

AFTER TWO HOME GAMES AT KENILWORTH ROAD THE TOWN ARE ON THE ROAD NEXT SATURDAY WHEN THEY TRAVEL TO FACE FOREST GREEN ROVERS



WHERE? Rovers are affectionately known as the 'little club on the hill', given their location at the top of a hill in the sedate surroundings of the quaint, small Gloucestershire town of Nailsworth.

EXCUSE ME? You're right to ask a second time. Nailsworth only has a population of 6,600.

It's a few miles south of Stroud, but don't be put off though, it's a picture-postcard location in the Cotswolds. You never know, you might score some brownie points with a loved one by doubling it up with a romantic weekend.

HOW TO GET THERE. You can take the scenic route and go via Aylesbury and Oxford and across to Cirencester or go M1 south, M25 and M4 coming off the M4 at Swindon and taking the A419.

Or, punch in GL6 0ET and get the sat-nav to do it for you. If you still can't manage that, give the Bobbers a call on 01234 856542 and book a place on the coach. It's £20 for adults and £17 concessions, with the coach leaving at 10am.

FORM. The title favourites for promotion to the Football League signalled their intent for the title with a 8-0 thumping of Hyde at the New Lawn on the opening day of the season. Marcus Kelly led the way in the scoring stakes with a hat-trick on his debut.

On Tuesday night Rovers failed to build on that opening day victory, however, and needed a Jared Hodgkiss equaliser 12 minutes from time to salvage a point at Nuneaton.

GREEN ARMY. FGR are the greenest club in the country. And it's not just their electric lime green shirts. They're powered by chairman Dale Vince OBE who has made his way in business in green energy.

MEATING'S CHEATING. Vince's green revolution goes further than generating the club's electricity from solar panels...he's also banned red meat at the ground. So forget ordering a double cheeseburger and make sure you opt for the halloumi and falafel.

CHANGING ENDS. Town fans making the trip west next weekend will watch the game at the New Lawn from a different vantage point. Rovers have decided to move away supporters to the covered terrace behind one of the goals, instead of allocating them seats behind the other. Should the demand be enough, the Hatters support will also be housed in the uncovered terrace by the side of the pitch.

REMEMBER ME? Rovers have a number of familiar faces in their squad this season. Three former Town men currently ply their trade at the New Lawn. Ed Asafu-Adjaye signed for the club last summer, but he has now been joined by George Pilkington and Matthew Barnes-Homer in the Cotswolds. Former captain Pilkington joined on loan from Mansfield Town whilst Barnes-Homer – who scored 23 goals for the Town – penned a two-year deal this summer.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS. Next weekend's meeting will be the fifth time the two sides have met each other at the New Lawn. The Hatters have enjoyed a fine record in this part of the world in the past four campaigns, winning three and losing one of the four matches. A last-minute penalty from Scott Rendell secured the Town a 2-1 win last October.

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS

SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PRO-RATA PRICES

Adults (22-64) £333, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £237, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £155, Unaccompanied Youths (10-16) and Juniors (under 10s) £45. Accompanied Under-17s FREE

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.



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 today's game. Tickets will then be available on general sale after this afternoon's match and 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

This is not an all-ticket game for Luton Town supporters, however, supporters are advised to purchase tickets in advance from the Luton Town ticket office. We have received an initial allocation of 500 terrace places and 100 seats for this match. Prices: Terracing: £14 adults, £8 over-60s and students with ID, £5 under-16s. Seating: £17 adults, £13 over-60s and students with ID, £8 under-16s. Sales plan: Tickets are now on sale to diamond season ticket holders and regular season ticket holders at two per person until Thursday 22nd August. Tickets will go on general sale from Friday 23rd August until 2pm on Friday 30th.



LUTON TOWN v GRIMSBY TOWN

The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2013 • KICK-OFF 5.30PM

Please note the kick-off time for this match. This game will be screened live by BT Sport.
Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

commercial

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

It was great to get back into the swing of things on Tuesday night at our first home league game of the season where a successful evening was made all the sweeter following the 2-0 victory.

As I mentioned in our programme for the visit of Salisbury, we have been busy in the department over the past few weeks taking bookings for corporate hospitality and I expect that to increase as the season continues.

Some of our high-profile fixtures have proved to be incredibly popular with match sponsor, ball sponsor and other commercial opportunities snapped up quickly and that is sure to be the case as the campaign progresses.

This afternoon we have the continued support of Heineken, who sponsor today's game. A big thank you to them as well as all of our corporate guests and sponsors who are present this afternoon.

Tuesday's game with Salisbury saw many new facilities and experiences around the ground in working order for the first time.

As I mentioned in my Q&A on the official website, which you can also read in the Salisbury programme, we have new in-house caterers at Kenilworth Road this season. The overall feedback from our customers was really positive so if you are interested in experiencing our new menus in any of our lounges please get in touch on the contact details below.

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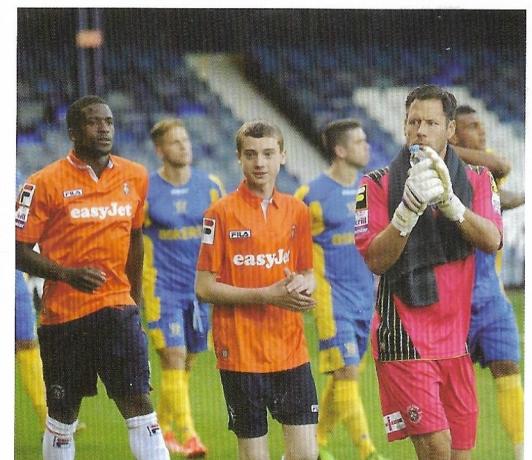
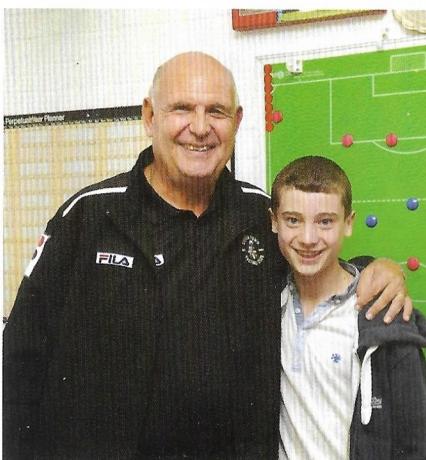
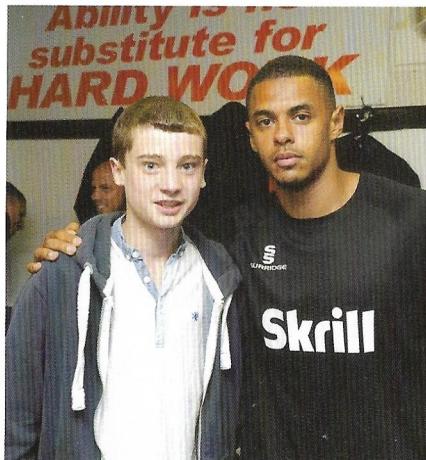


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1 MARK TYLER	HOME: Tim Fordham AWAY: Whosh GLOVES: Kyle McPherson	3 DANNY FITZIMMONS	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	4 JONATHAN SMITH	HOME: Holly Kemp AWAY: Available	5 STEVE McNULTY	HOME: Simon Coward AWAY: Whosh
6 ANTHONY CHARLES	HOME: Matt Crossland AWAY: Bobbers	7 ALEX LAWLESS	HOME: David Goodge AWAY: Gill, Julie and Yvonne	8 SOLOMON TAIWO	HOME: Jonathan Perry AWAY: Available	9 JON SHAW	HOME: Jacqui Peacock AWAY: Maddie Knight
10 ALEX WALL	HOME: Ben & Richard Banks AWAY: Available	11 JAKE HOWELLS	HOME: Neil Ehrenzweig AWAY: Sports 262	12 SCOTT GRIFFITHS	HOME: CME Heating AWAY: Ben Gray	13 MARK CULLEN	HOME: Peter & Linda Little AWAY: Mad Hatter
14 ANDY PARRY	HOME: The Walsh Family from Marbella AWAY: Available	16 ELLIOT JUSTHAM	HOME: Available AWAY: Tommy Lennon GLOVES: Zak Harford Tilley	17 JJ O'DONNELL	HOME: Kelly Knight AWAY: Available	18 DAVE MARTIN	HOME: Ronnie Coles AWAY: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin
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
HAKAN HAYRETIN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	JEFF WOOD	HOME: Available AWAY: Available				

welcome

MACCLESFIELD TOWN



We'd like to extend a warm welcome to everyone connected with Macclesfield Town to Kenilworth Road for our second home fixture of the season in the Skrill Premier.

The Silkmen arrive in Bedfordshire this afternoon in search of their first points of the new campaign having lost their first two fixtures of the season since it began last weekend.

Both defeats have been by a 1-0 scoreline – on Tuesday away at Lincoln and at home to Nuneaton last Saturday – which certainly doesn't mean the Hatters should be expecting to roll over the Cheshire club today.

Like it has been for the Hatters, it has been a summer of change at Moss Rose with a new manager in legendary former striker John Askey taking charge following Steve King's departure from the hot-seat. Askey is assisted by former Town defender Efe Sodje who, at the age of 40, is still registered as a player – although he hasn't featured in either of the Silkmen's two games this season.

Macc hit the headlines in the summer as their precarious financial problems came to prominence following the club's idea to offer members of the general public the chance to play 10 minutes of a league or cup match if they stumped up £20,000. The idea was eventually shelved only a few days later.

On the pitch, Askey has had to recruit heavily this summer with a number of players departing Moss Rose, including former Town men Matthew Barnes-Homer, Amari Morgan-Smith and Charlie Henry.

The new manager recruited three new players – Danny Whitaker, Danny Rowe and Scott Kay – just two days before the seasonal opener against Nuneaton.

Despite the close season departures, Askey still has a talented squad at his disposal with midfielders Jack Mackreth – who signed a new contract in the summer – and former Town man John Paul Kissock able to unlock any opponent's defence in a split second. Meanwhile, in attack, the prolific Chris Holroyd should provide the goals having enjoyed a productive spell at this level for Cambridge in the past.

The Hatters will not only be looking to add their second win of the season this afternoon but are also aiming to improve their record against the Silkmen. Today's visitors have only won once before at Kenilworth Road – back in 1999 (remember Simon Davies' goal when he ran the length of the pitch to celebrate?) – while the Town have won just two of the eight meetings with Macclesfield.

One of those victories came last season in a 4-1 win at Kenilworth Road, but the last meeting between the clubs in February, saw the Silkmen hold on for a draw despite playing for three-quarters of the game without a recognised goalkeeper. Midfielder Peter Winn donned the gloves following Rhys Taylor's early red card and kept the Hatters at bay with a string of fine saves.

While many predict that the Silkmen will trouble the top six, the two-time Conference winners will still be harbouring hopes of a successful campaign, despite their winless beginning to the season.

in opposition

MEET THE MACCLESFIELD TOWN SQUAD

THE MANAGER

JOHN ASKEY. Silkmen legend of over 700 games and 150 goals, who took over the reins for the second time this summer. Now approaching 30 years at Moss Rose, John has held a variety of positions at the club.

GOALKEEPERS

RITCHIE BRANAGAN. Summer signing from Salford City, the goalkeeper began his career as a youngster with Bolton Wanderers. A former Northern Ireland Under-21 international, Ritchie has also played for Bury.

ANDREW MILLS. Academy product who earned his first professional contract last summer. Successful loans spells at New Mills and Buxton last term.

RHYS TAYLOR. Former Welsh under-21 goalkeeper who began his career at Chelsea. Signed in the January transfer window from Preston. Has had Football League experience with QPR, Crewe and Rotherham.

DEFENDERS

DANNY ANDREW. Former Peterborough and Cheltenham defender who joined the Silkmen after a successful trial. Has a wealth of experience and has also had loan spells with Kidderminster and Cambridge.

JAMES BOLTON. Product of the Silkmen's academy who signed a second one-year deal this summer. The young defender gained experience on loan with Workington last term.

CARL MARTIN. London-born defender who joined the Silkmen from Crewe Alexandra in 2012. Started his career at Walsall.

EFE SODJE. Experienced central defender who joined the Silkmen as player/assistant manager. Made his name at Stevenage and also had a spell here at Kenilworth Road. The Nigerian international also played for Crewe, Huddersfield, Yeovil, Southend, Gillingham and Bury.

STEVE WILLIAMS. Former Fleetwood and Bradford defender who signed for the Silkmen this summer having impressed against the club when playing for Barrow last term.

MIDFIELDERS

JOE CONNOR. Versatile midfielder who signed this summer having previously been with Hereford. Began his career in the United States with Fort Wayne Fever and Charlotte Eagles.

JOSH GREEN. First-year professional who signed terms this summer, the defensive midfielder or full-back made 30 appearances for the youth team last term.

JOHN PAUL KISSOCK. No stranger to Kenilworth Road, the creative midfielder signed for Macc following a short spell with the Hatters. Began his career at Everton but shot to prominence at Southport.

SCOTT KAY. Former Manchester City trainee now in his second spell at Moss Rose. Left Macc the first time for Huddersfield before he re-joined from Southport.

PAUL LEWIS. Another academy graduate, the energetic midfielder with an eye for goal joined the Silkmen's youth set-up from Everton as a 16-year-old.

JACK MACKRETH. Pace right winger who signed for the Silkmen last summer from Barrow where he had been the Bluebirds' player of the year. Penned a new contract this summer.

DANNY ROWE. Former Stockport and Barrow midfielder who rose through the ranks at Edgeley Park. Scored seven goals last season for Barrow. Impressed on trial with Macc this summer to earn a contract.

PAUL TURNBULL. Midfielder who made 150 appearances for Stockport in the Football League who joined the Silkmen from Northampton this summer.

PETER WINN. Midfielder with plenty of non-league experience. Kept the Hatters at bay last February when he took over from dismissed goalkeeper Rhys Taylor.

STRIKERS

SCOTT BODEN. Former Sheffield United and Chesterfield front-man who signed this summer and is also in his second spell with the club having been on-loan in the past.

JAY BURGESS. Young forward who was given his first professional deal last season. Made his Macc debut against Newport. Spent time out on loan with New Mills.

ARTHUR GNAHOUA. Exciting young striker who came through the ranks at Stalybridge Celtic and signed last season having impressed on trial.

CHRIS HOLROYD. Macclesfield-born goalscorer who has enjoyed spells with Chester, Cambridge, Brighton, Rotherham, Preston and Morecambe.

CONNOR JENNINGS. Prolific striker currently on loan from Scunthorpe United. Joined the Iron from Stalybridge where he netted 51 goals between 2009 and 2012 at Bower Fold.

FOOTBALL

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

After a hectic summer, Macclesfield Town start the 2013/14 Skrill Premier Season shorter odds to be relegated than achieve promotion.

The Silkmen narrowly avoided liquidation over the summer and will be desperate to consolidate their place in the Skrill Premier in order to steady the ship and build towards their long-term aim of returning to the Football League. After failing to secure a Play-Off spot last season, manager Steve King was dismissed, and club legend John Askey – who made 698 appearances and scored 168 goals for the Silkmen – was appointed manager.

How did they fare last season?

Macclesfield were one of the top away scorers last season and, perhaps worryingly for the Hatters, they started like a rocket winning eight of their first 10 games. However, any attempt to use last season's performance as an indicator for this campaign is futile as manager John Askey lost a staggering 17 players over the summer. Unfortunately it wasn't just 17 youth prospects or squad players who left. Key names such as Matthew Barnes-Homer, Amari Morgan-Smith, Ryan Jackson, Craig Braham-Barrett, Waide Fairhurst, Keiran Murtagh, Nat Brown, Sam Wedgbury and Pablo Mills have all moved on to new clubs leaving Macclesfield a much weaker team this season.

How have they started this season?

Askey's new boys lost their season opener 1-0 at the hands of Nuneaton and went on to lose 1-0 again away at Lincoln City on Tuesday night. Although it is only early in the season, the two defeats mean Macclesfield are only one of four clubs to have not registered a goal in the Skrill Premier.

How will they play? Who are their key men?

Today's visitors were praised last season for being one of the most fluid and entertaining footballing outfits in the division, but after the aforementioned summer exodus we will have to wait to see how they approach games this term. The Silkmen are likely to line up in a 4-5-1 formation with 23-year-old Rhys Taylor in goal. Utility man Joe Connor, who can play in midfield or at centre-back, will start at right-back with 22-year-old Danny Andrew at left-back. 6ft 4in centre-back Steve Williams will start alongside 22-year-old James Bolton, who is a Macclesfield youth academy graduate and brings the defence's average age down even more.



Pacey Jack Mackreth will be a threat on the break down the Silkmen's right-hand side, while Connor Jennings, normally a striker, could play out on the opposite flank. In midfield, Manchester City academy product Scott Kay will operate in a holding role alongside all-rounder Danny Whitaker who himself came through the ranks at Manchester United. Whitaker had a five-year spell at Macclesfield between 2001 and 2006, and is a summer signing fans have been very excited about having back at Moss Rose.

In front of the midfield a certain John Paul Kissock will return to Kenilworth Road. Kissock, known as the non-league Lionel Messi, will be the main creative force for the visitors and will certainly entertain all those in attendance. Macclesfield-born striker Dan Holroyd scored nine in 19 for the Silkmen last term so will need to be watched vigilantly by the Hatters back-line.



club data

Established: 1874

Nickname(s): The Silkmen

Stadium: Moss Rose

Capacity: 6,335 (Avg. attendance '12/13 - 1,670)

Manager: John Askey (Four months)

Final league position '12/13: 11th BSBP

back to the future

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO TWO OF MACCLESFIELD TOWN'S GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

1986/87 NORTHERN PREMIER TREBLE-WINNERS

ALAN ZELEM: Long-serving goalkeeper who joined Curzon Ashton in July 1992, then played for Mossley and Winsford United. He has since run a contract cleaning business with his twin brother Peter.

MICKY ROBERTS: Right-back who was ever-present as they reached the FA Cup third round in 1987/88. He became coach in May 1990 and now lectures in Leisure and Tourism at Manchester City College.

NIGEL SHAW: Left-back who joined Altrincham in January 1989, then Runcorn, Winsford United, Altrincham again, Stalybridge Celtic, Nuneaton Borough, Leek Town and Knypersley. Now an electrician.

ELFYN EDWARDS: Welsh Semi-Pro international, followed Peter Wragg to Halifax Town in July 1993, then had spells with Southport, Winsford and Warrington. He is an administrator in the fire service.

GRAHAM TOBIN: Central defender who was a Cheshire Senior Cup finalist in four successive seasons under Peter Wragg, netting 24 goals in 355 League games before ending his career with Nantwich.

MIKE HARDMAN: Central defender who scored seven goals in 147 League games before joining Droylsden in August 1990, then returned to hometown Warrington. He is now a self-employed builder.

MIKE LAKE: England Semi-Pro international midfielder who joined Sheffield United in October 1989, then Wrexham. A knee injury ended his career and he has since worked for Royal Mail in Denton.

STEVE WADDINGTON: Experienced midfielder who had two spells at Macclesfield before badly injured in a car crash but briefly revived his career with Nantwich Town. He was later suspended sine die.

JOHN ASKEY: England Semi-Pro international who starred in Macclesfield's successes under Sammy McIlroy and set the club appearance record. Askey is now the boss at Moss Rose.

STEVE BURR: Striker who joined Hednesford Town in July 1991, then appeared for Stafford again, Winsford, Nuneaton, Grantham and Shepshed. He has managed Nuneaton and now Kidderminster Harriers.

STEVE HANLON: England Semi-Pro international who was twice ever-present and featured in four Cheshire Senior Cup finals, netting 32 goals in 267 League games. He is currently working as a postman.

1996/97 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

RYAN PRICE: England Semi-Pro goalkeeper who made 159 League appearances before moving to Telford United in November 1999, then played for Stafford Rangers, Tamworth and Hinckley United.

DARREN TINSON: Long-serving favourite who netted five goals in a club record 263 League games before joining Shrewsbury in July 2003, then Burton Albion, Altrincham, Nantwich and now Leek.

CEC EDEY: Versatile full-back who made 66 Conference/League appearances prior to joining Hyde United in June 1998. Now working for Liverpool City Council, he is chair of NW Enterprise Partnership.

STEVE PAYNE: England Semi-Pro central defender who moved to Chesterfield in July 1999. He rejoined Macclesfield in March 2004, then played for Northwich Victoria, Stalybridge and Halifax Town.

NEIL HOWARTH: England Semi-Pro central defender who moved to Cheltenham Town in February 1999. He had spells with Telford and Kidderminster before rejoining Cheltenham as assistant-manager.

NEIL SORVEL: Midfielder who returned to Crewe Alexandra in June 1999. He joined Shrewsbury Town in July 2005, then reunited with Sammy McIlroy at Morecambe and later played for Droylsden.

JOHN ASKEY: England Semi-Pro international who starred in Macclesfield's successes under Sammy McIlroy and set the club appearance record. Now the Silkmen's manager.

STEVE WOOD: Experienced midfielder who became joint player-coach with John Askey in January 2000. He rejoined Stalybridge Celtic in July 2001 and settled locally, working in the construction industry.

PETER DAVENPORT: England international striker who became manager in January 2000. Later managing Bangor City, Colwyn Bay and Southport, then coaching Bradford Park Avenue, he is a teaching assistant.

PHIL POWER: Striker who starred in Macclesfield's meteoric rise under Sammy McIlroy. Joining Altrincham in June 1998, then Radcliffe Borough and Bacup Borough, he became FC United's assistant-boss.

CHRIS BYRNE: England Semi-Pro midfielder who joined Sunderland in June 1997. He moved via Stockport County back to Macclesfield in July 2001 but retired after being shot in the leg a year later.

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a hatter and...
...A SILKMAN

EFE SODJE

A number of players have appeared for both the Town and Silkmen down the years. Indeed, last season today's visitors had four former Hatters on their books at one stage.

Of those four, only one remains in John Paul Kissock. Charlie Henry, Matthew Barnes-Homer and Amari Morgan-Smith have since departed Moss Rose.

However, our spotlight this afternoon falls on defender Efe Sodje, the Silkmen's 40-year-old player/assistant manager, who re-signed for the club this summer having left Bury last season.

The Nigerian, who was quick and powerful in his prime, first came to prominence at Stevenage before moving to Macclesfield for a fee of £30,000 in 1997. He scored on his debut for his new club, in a game which marked the Silkmen's first in the Football League. Famous for wearing a bandana bearing the words 'against all odds', the Nigerian international subsequently turned out for a host of Football League clubs.

During his travels around England's lower leagues, Efe joined the Hatters in 1999 but quickly incurred the wrath of then-manager Lennie Lawrence after failing to keep in touch whilst away with his country for the African Cup of Nations.

Efe made his Town debut in a league cup first round second leg tie at Bristol Rovers, before



Efe in action for Macclesfield against the Town in 1999

he made the first of only nine league appearances as a substitute in a 3-1 home victory over Wrexham in Division 2 (now League 1) on 11th September 1999.

The centre-half would only start four league games for the Town, and his final appearance in Luton colours came on 11th March 2000 in a 2-0 defeat to Millwall at Kenilworth Road. After leaving the Town, Efe went onto play for Colchester, Crewe, Huddersfield, Yeovil, Southend, Gillingham, Bury and Barrow.

LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 14

LUTON TOWN GOALS: 0

FIRST APPEARANCE: v Bristol Rovers (a) D 2-2 25/8/1999

FINAL APPEARANCE: v Millwall (h) L 0-2 11/3/2000

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

This season is the fifth in which the Town and Macclesfield have played in the same division, with today's clash the ninth meeting between the two sides.

It took the Hatters six attempts to finally beat the Silkmen who had been – prior to a 1-0 win in March 2009 courtesy of a Tom Craddock penalty – a bit of a bogey side for the Town.

A Phil Gray goal deep into injury time prevented Macclesfield securing a win in the first ever meeting between the two clubs in a 2-2 draw in December 1998. Five months later, in the final home game of the campaign, Macc won 2-1 at Kenilworth Road with ex-Hatter Simon Davies scoring for the visitors.

A Rickie Lambert hat-trick helped the Silkmen to a comprehensive 4-1 win over the Hatters at Moss Rose in November 2001, before Macc helped scupper the Town's chance of the Division 3 (now League 2) title in April 2002 when holding out for a goalless draw at Kenilworth Road.

Macc's dominance over the Town continued when they met the -30 season.

Having finally registered a win over the Silkmen thanks to Craddock's penalty in March in that 2008/09 season, the Town won again the next time the two sides met last term with a 4-1 win at Kenilworth Road.

However, the Hatters could not take advantage of Macc being reduced to 10 men and playing without a recognised goalkeeper in the return at Moss Rose last February, despite Andre Gray's first half goal strike.

from the oak road

TALK OF THE TOWN GETS THE INSIDE WORD ON THE SILKMEN

TALK OF THE TOWN: How did Macclesfield's pre-season go?

COLIN NEWBOULT, LIFE-LONG MACCLESFIELD SUPPORTER:

Difficult to say. With most of the team from last season disbanded and our budgetary restraints, the games have mainly been used to test out a number of trialists. The performances have actually been good overall and despite losing to Oldham, Rochdale, Bolton and Stoke, the players showed enough ability to suggest that we could do okay this season.

MIKE GLENDINNING, REPORTER, MACCLESFIELD EXPRESS:

Better than many supporters expected, given the financial situation at the Moss Rose. New manager John Askey has, on paper, put together a competitive squad that has impressed in periods this summer.

Though the results have hardly set the world alight, Macc held their own for the most part against full-strength Oldham and Rochdale sides and were edged out by a Bolton team with half-a-dozen first-teamers.

TOTT: Macclesfield are suffering financial problems off the field – will this impact on your ability to compete in the league this season? How will the new community owned set-up at the club help?

COLIN: Well, our financial plight certainly won't help. With the players we had last season - which it turned out we couldn't afford - we should have been in the Play-Off places, but alas we could never quite find that consistency. Hopefully, this new set-up will help bring the fans and the club closer together, which is something we have lacked over the previous decade. Certainly, with 'Sir' John Askey at the helm and Efe Sodje alongside him, they seem to have put an emphasis on having an interaction between management, players and supporters. But most of all, this deal with the council was a way of initially staving off administration and potentially liquidation. Askey has always had an ability to spot a quality player, so hopefully we can punch above our financially-stricken weight.

MIKE: The budget has taken a massive hit, especially compared to the cash splashed in pursuit of a quick return to League 2 last time around. Former board members have stepped in and worked wonders

in giving Askey the necessary clout to build a squad, but the Silkmens are among the lowest spenders in a very tough division. Although few outsiders would see them even making the top half, there's a feel-good factor ahead of the big kick-off.

TOTT: Tell us about last season's meetings between the two clubs from your perspective – Luton's 4-1 demolition of the Silkmens at Kenilworth Road and the remarkable game at Moss Rose where Macclesfield claimed a 1-1 draw despite outfield player Peter Winn deputising in goal for 70 minutes.

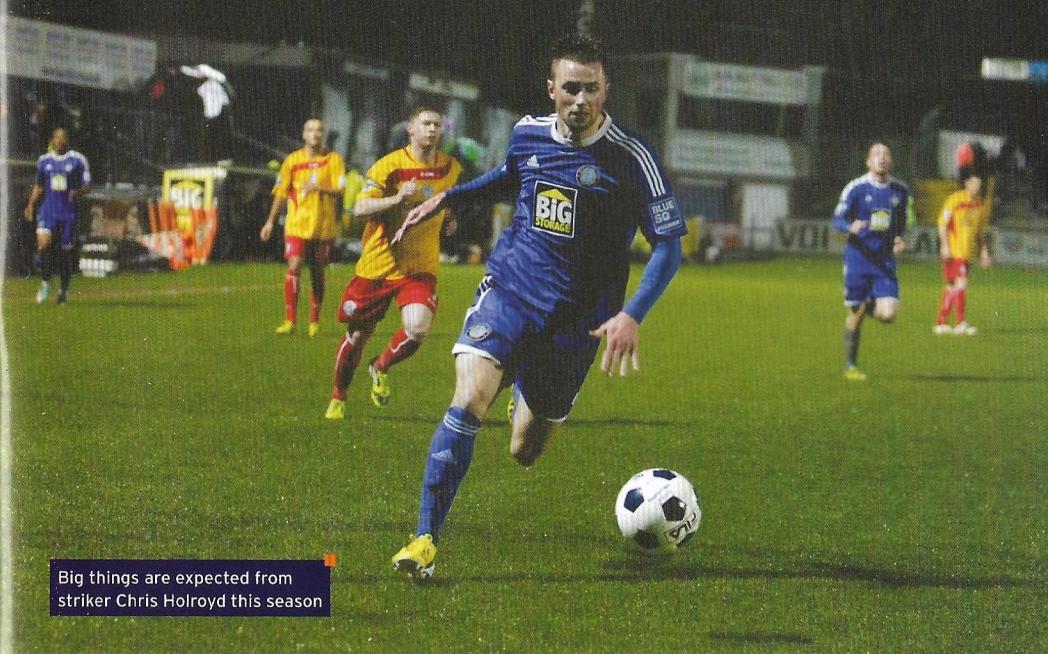
COLIN: Strangely, I thought we were unfortunate in both meetings. We had plenty of the game despite the 4-1 defeat, as we were undone by some defensive lapses. We had a couple of decisions go against us in the home game. I thought Rhys Taylor was unlucky to be sent-off and we dominated the game from thereon in. To be fair, considering the circumstances, it was probably our best performance of the season, with Winn pulling off a remarkable save at the death to give us a point.

MIKE: Massively disappointing, given the four-game winning run Macc had been on going into that first game. Conceding in the first minute was a blow that, quite frankly, they never looked like recovering from.

As for the return fixture, it was played a matter of hours after Luton had parted company with Paul Buckle, and even without a recognised keeper after Rhys Taylor's red card, Macc were actually disappointed to only take a point. Winn had started out as a goalkeeper when he was a trainee at Scunthorpe. While Luton must have been thinking it was two points dropped against 10 men and a stand-in keeper, I'd say a draw was the fairest outcome.

TOTT: Efe Sodje briefly played for Luton in the 1999/00 season, one of many clubs in a 20-year player career. What will he bring to Macclesfield both as a player and assistant manager?

COLIN: As a player, he's still fit, still reads the game quite well and has looked decent in pre-season. He also still has a bit of pace, but I don't fancy his chances one-on-one with Andre Gray, although I guess not a lot of Conference defenders would! However, most of all he cares for the club, will bring plenty



Big things are expected from striker Chris Holroyd this season

of passion and won't let standards drop. Having played together during our glory years I can see his partnership with Askey being fruitful in the long-term, but they need time.

MIKE: Efe's a real character and he brings experience on the field and infectious enthusiasm off it - he's been badgering potential investors around the town, not least the local businessman who paid £10,000 for a 10-minute stint in the Stoke friendly. Appointing him to work with Askey has definitely been a big hit with the fans, most of whom have always hankered for him to make a comeback.

TOTT: Who is your player to watch?

COLIN: Chris Holroyd was excellent for us when he was on loan last season and has now signed after a brief foray at Morecambe. John Paul Kissock is someone Luton fans will well know about and, although his time there was mixed, I don't think he was utilised properly by Paul Buckle and Gary Brabin. Jack Mackreth is another who we're fortunate enough to have re-signed and he continues to develop as a footballer.

MIKE: Local lad Danny Whitaker has come back to Macc after leaving Chesterfield. He turned out a couple of times in pre-season but he was thought to be just keeping his eye in while he mulled over a few offers. His capture has been, to a man, well received by those old enough to remember him from his first spell and the younger ones who've seen him in the last few weeks.

TOTT: What's the best signing made by a Conference club this summer and why?

COLIN: That's a tough one. However, looking at the obvious captures, I actually think Luke Guttridge and Shaun Whalley will prove good additions for Luton. However, Forest Green, with their budget, have probably captured the best of the lot in Danny Wright from Wrexham.

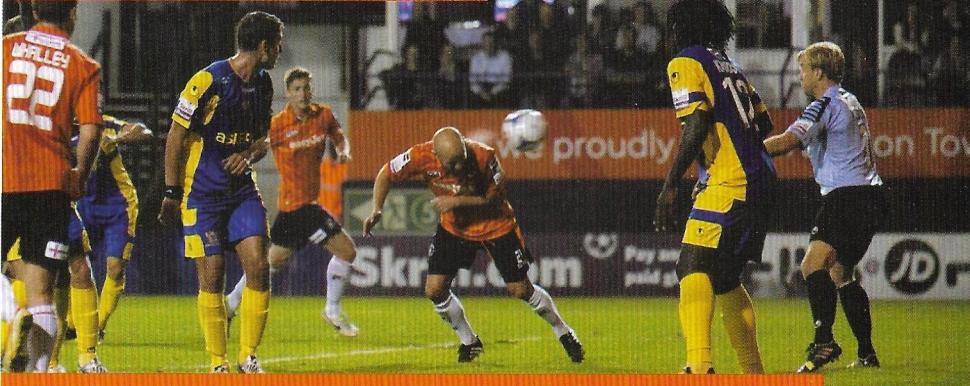
MIKE: I'll plump for Andy Bishop, who's joined Wrexham. He's been a proven goalscorer in more than 250 games for Bury and if he can stay injury-free he could be the difference-maker for the Dragons this year.

TOTT: Goal-line technology will be used for the first time in the Premier League today. To what extent would you like to see assistive technology used in football?

COLIN: Personally, I can't see technology extending beyond looking at whether the ball is or isn't over the line. If we looked at everything from penalty decisions to off-sides, the game would probably last 100 minutes rather than 90. The reason technology works so well in rugby is because it is a naturally stop/start game. When there is a stoppage, there are also sensible ways of restarting the game.

MIKE: I do think the game is lagging behind with its use of technology. The game needs to be updated for those rare, but important, goal-line decisions, providing the right decision is made without detrimental effect to the game.

report



TOWN 2-0 SALISBURY

Second half goals from Solomon Taiwo and Luke Guttridge ensured the Hatters got off to a winning start to their campaign at Kenilworth Road.

After a frustrating first half the deadlock was broken by a 63rd-minute penalty from Taiwo, and with visitors Salisbury tiring, Guttridge added a second nine minutes from time with a header from close range.

John Still made two changes, with Jon Shaw and Anthony Charles replacing Jake Howells and Alex Lacey, and the Hatters came mighty close to taking the lead inside 90 seconds when Mark Cullen, running on to an intelligent pass from Guttridge, curled a low shot inches wide of the post.

Three minutes later, as the Town pressed for an early goal, Shaw wasn't far away from a reaching Shaun Whalley's right-wing cross. Salisbury were offering little in attack but on 19 minutes centre-back James Clarke headed over a decent opportunity for the visitors following a left-wing corner.

Chances were at a real premium as the first half wore on but Steve McNulty – appearing after his red card on Saturday had been overturned following an appeal – volleyed narrowly over the crossbar after the visitors had failed to clear a Town corner. The Hatters engineered an intricate move moments before the break involving Whalley, Guttridge and Dave Martin but Shaw's header, although on target, was comfortable for City goalkeeper James Puddy.

It was Salisbury that started the brighter after the break and the Hatters defence needed to be alert on 51 minutes following a goal-mouth scramble.

Luke Guttridge heads home to make it 2-0

Lone visiting striker Dan Fitchett raced clear three minutes later only to send a weak effort well wide of the target, before Shaw did well to crane his neck onto a Jonathan Smith cross to test Puddy on 58 minutes.

Sensing the Town needed fresh impetus, Still sent on Andre Gray on the hour in the place of Cullen, and three minutes later the substitute won a penalty that Taiwo coolly converted to send Puddy the wrong way.

With their tails up, the Hatters were now playing with some freedom with that goal in the bag, and on 68 minutes Whalley was within inches of finding the bottom corner after Gray had sped clear of the City defence.

There was concern for the Town with 20 minutes left when Charles limped off and was replaced by Lacey but there was no let-up in the Hatters' pursuit of a second goal.

Shaw almost got on the end of a superb left-wing delivery from Martin on 79 minutes but two minutes later Martin created the Hatters' second when his free-kick from the right was met by the head of an unmarked Guttridge inside the six yard box to put the Town two to the good.

Whalley drove another shot inches wide with Shaw unable to make a connection when any touch would have made it 3-0, before Gray thundered a shot from range that Puddy could only gather at the second attempt.

By now the Hatters were pouring forward and it was almost three on 87 minutes when a dangerous Whalley cross from the right somehow missed Gray, Shaw and Howells all harrying in to the box.

reaction

BOSS ON EFFICIENT WIN

Captain Steve McNulty shakes hands with the Salisbury players before kick-off



John Still admitted he was relieved to see his side earn their first victory of the season following a 2-0 win over Salisbury at Kenilworth Road.

Goals in the second half from Solomon Taiwo and Luke Guttridge were enough for the Hatters to bounce back following Saturday's defeat at Southport.

"I suppose I am relieved to be honest, I wanted that first win, especially at home, and I'm delighted," said Still.

"I thought we were efficient, and there will be lots of games where we'll need to be efficient this season. We competed, and that's the first thing you look for."

"We didn't compete at Southport, we were poor on Saturday but tonight it was better. It wasn't great but it's still early days."

Improvement

"The first six or seven games teams are always still sorting themselves out but we'll keep getting better little by little."

The manager introduced Andre Gray on the hour and three minutes later the substitute won the penalty that Taiwo converted.

And Still explained his reason for starting with last season's leading goalscorer on the bench.

"Andre was a little bit behind in pre-season," said the boss. "Jon Shaw and Mark Cullen were sharper and I think you owe it to the players and show them the respect that if they are in better form they should be playing ahead of those not in form."

Solid

"Andre's come on in our last two games and done very well. He's got his confidence and he'll be ready to push on now."

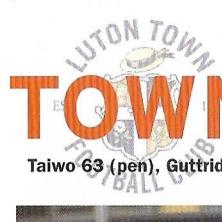
"He's one of the players who can light the blue touch paper for us. We need just need to stay solid and let our attacking players do what they can do."

"During pre-season we showed we can score goals and keep clean sheets – and hopefully we can get carry that on now."

"In the last two games we've not played very well but Mark Tyler's not had a real shot to save."

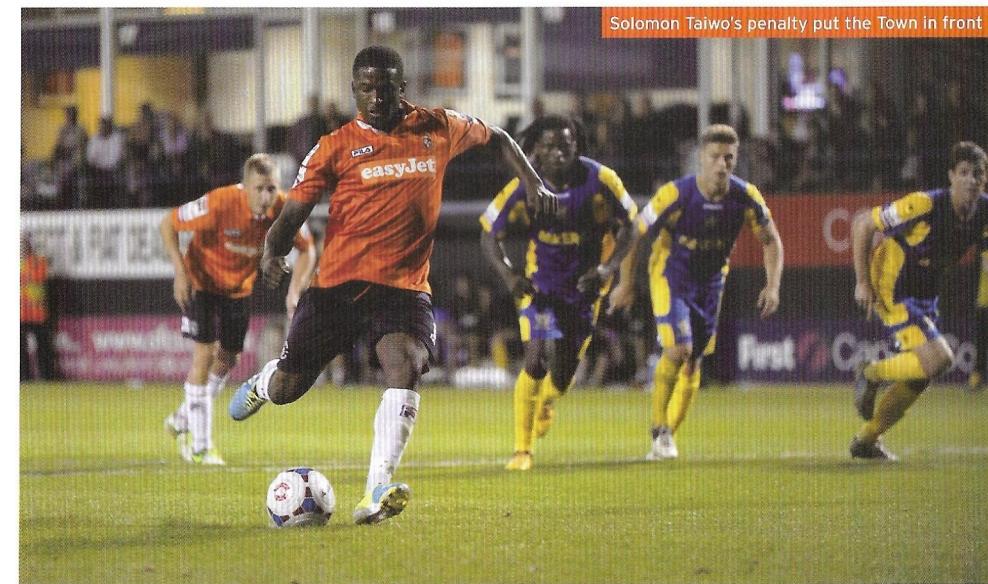
Still confirmed afterwards the Anthony Charles – who he promoted to the starting XI ahead of Alex Lacey because of his experience – was withdrawn with a shoulder injury.

"I don't think it looks very good," said the boss who was awaiting a full prognosis on the defender's problem.

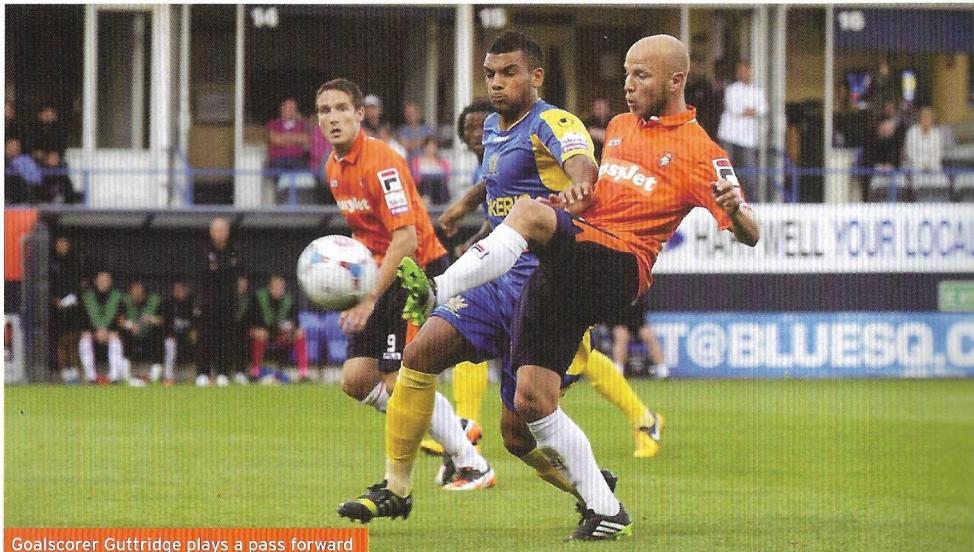


TOWN 2-0 SALISBURY

Taiwo 63 (pen), Guttridge 81



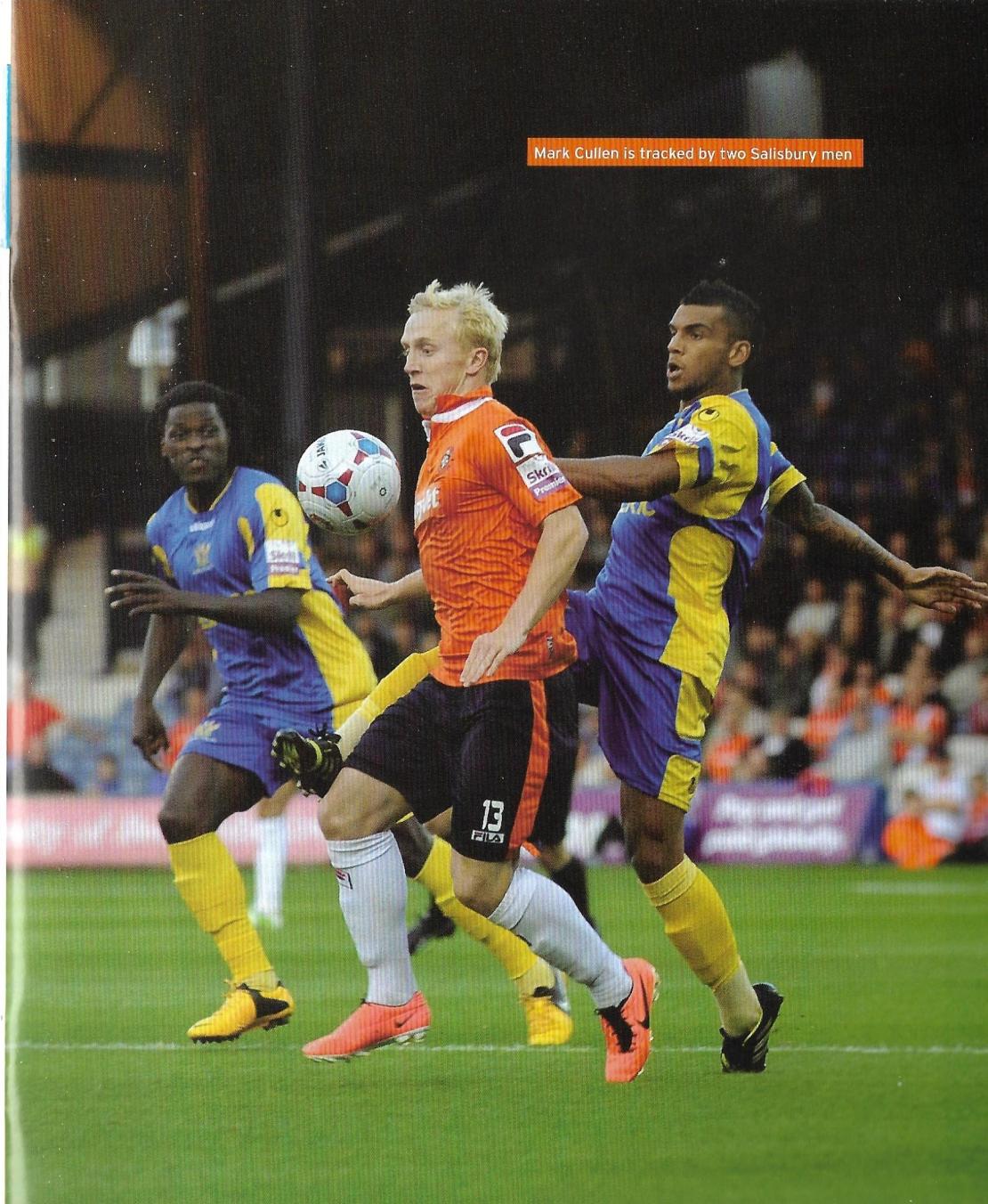
Solomon Taiwo's penalty put the Town in front



Goalscorer Guttridge plays a pass forward

TOWN: Tyler; Smith, Griffiths, McNulty, Charles (sub Lacey 70); Martin (sub Howells 84), Taiwo, Guttridge, Whalley; Shaw, Cullen (sub Gray 60).
SUBS NOT USED: Justham, Robinson.

SALISBURY: Puddy, Ruddick, Hart, Clarke, Wilson, Kamdjo, S. Sinclair (sub McPhee 51), Lewis, R. Sinclair, Wright (sub Feeney 77), Fitchett (sub Frear 87). SUBS NOT USED: Dutton, Wellard.



Mark Cullen is tracked by two Salisbury men

POSSESSION	58%	42%
CORNERS	3	3
SHOTS ON TARGET	5	0
SHOTS OFF TARGET	5	3

FOULS	13	10
YELLOW CARDS	1	2
RED CARDS	0	0
ATTENDANCE: 6,520 (92 SALISBURY)		

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Solomon Taiwo

MIDFIELDER HAPPY WITH VICTORY

He may have scored the Hatters' first goal of the season and put them on their way to their first win of the season but midfielder Solomon Taiwo was happy to personal glory to one side after the 2-0 victory over Salisbury.

The 28-year-old former Dagenham & Redbridge man was the coolest man inside Kenilworth Road when he sent visiting goalkeeper James Puddy the wrong way from the penalty spot in the 63rd minute to break the deadlock.

After the frustration of losing on the opening day of the season, Taiwo was delighted that his team-mates were able to bounce back to winning ways following the poor performance at Haig Avenue last Saturday.

"We had the desire and determination to put things right after the Southport game," said Taiwo. The disappointment of that game was evident and we knew we had to put things right.

"However, it wasn't easy. Salisbury were always going to make it difficult for us and we had the added pressure on us to get a win after losing at Southport.

"That makes it hard for us but we had a word in a meeting on Monday before training to right the wrongs of Southport.

"We're players with ambition with the aim of winning the league and getting promoted. We needed to do ourselves justice. Thankfully we did that and hopefully we can kick on now and go from strength to strength."

With Salisbury keeping the Town at bay it wasn't until Taiwo stepped up from the penalty spot to break the deadlock that the hosts could express themselves and go on and record victory.

After Shaun Whalley missed a penalty at Southport, Taiwo explained it was his turn to try and score from 12 yards.

"For me when a player scores a penalty he's got the right to take the penalties. However, Shaun missed last week and I felt confident enough to take it.

"I'd scored a decent penalty against Cambridge last season and I was confident I could do so again. I'd never push people off of penalties – all I want best for the team.

"The main thing is the ball hit the back of the net. I couldn't have cared less if it had hit the goalkeeper's nose and gone in."

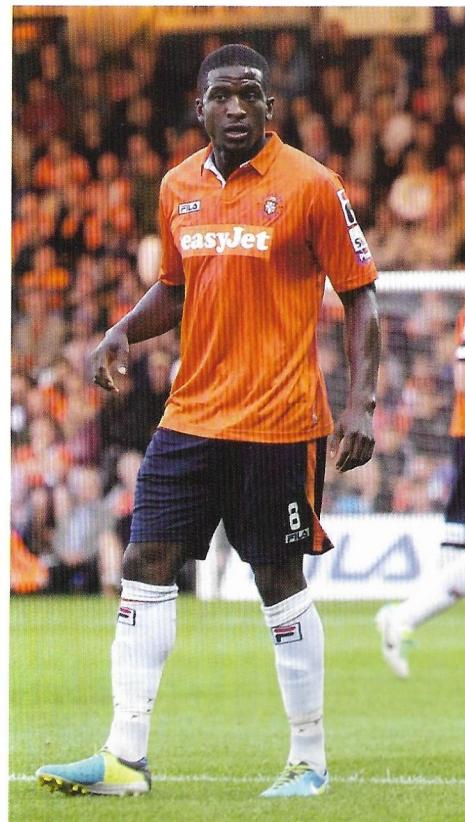
Result

A goal to the good the Hatters then made sure of the points when Taiwo was fouled for a free-kick that was swung in by Dave Martin and Luke Guttridge headed home the Hatters' second goal to seal victory.

And Taiwo hopes the Town can build on their first win of the campaign.

"It's a result we needed," he said. "The first goal propelled us forward and you could see the confidence in the lads after it.

"It's important we learn from what has happened in the first two games this season and take them into the Macclesfield game and beyond."





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Andre Gray

MORE TO COME, SAYS STRIKER



Striker Andre Gray believes the Hatters can take confidence from Tuesday's first victory of the season against Salisbury.

The 22-year-old, who finished the Town's top goalscorer last season with 20 goals, was introduced by John Still on the hour against the Whites and won the penalty that Solomon Taiwo scored to put John Still's side on course for victory just three minutes later. And although the frontman was disappointed not to start the game, he believes himself and his teammates can build on the 2-0 win.

"I think the team did well, it was only our second game of the season and we knew we weren't going to be perfect so early in the campaign," Gray told Hatters Player. "It was a game we had to grind out. Salisbury were always going to make it hard for us but we kept going and eventually we took advantage, got the penalty and after that there was only one winner."

Gray began the game on the bench with Jon Shaw and Mark Cullen preferred in attack, but the striker was happy with his contribution once he came on in the second half.

"For me personally it's disappointing not to start but that's the manager's decision and I respect that," he said. "Anyone who tells you they're happy to be on the bench is lying. However, I came on and won the penalty and I'll continue to fight for my place in the team."

"Competition is high here with the amount of quality we have in the squad, which is great and what we need. I've just got to prove myself."

The Hatters were struggling to break down a resilient Salisbury side, playing their first away fixture since winning promotion last season.

But Gray's arrival sparked the Town into life and no sooner was the striker on the pitch was he being fouled in the penalty area that led to the deadlock being broken by Taiwo. "Salisbury have just been promoted and are playing in front of a crowd that will be the biggest this season, so we knew they'd raise their game," said Gray. "However, we got through it, broke them down and the fans stayed with us. We know there's a lot of expectation on us but we knew we had to start somewhere, especially after the disappointment of the Southport game. All we need to do is kick on from here."

On the penalty itself, Gray, who was upended for the second game in succession in the penalty area having also won a penalty at Southport, said: "I don't think their player needed to put in the tackle."

"The ball was running out of play and I was just hoping to knock the ball off of him for a corner, but instead he came through behind me and there was no doubt that it was a penalty. "However, I don't think I'll get to take a penalty – unless I'm on a hat-trick!"

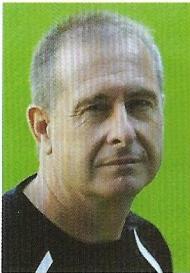
centre spot

The players congratulate Luke Guttridge on his goal that put the Hatters 2-0 up against Salisbury on Tuesday night



the big interview

IF YOU THINK EXPECTATION ON THE FIRST TEAM IS HIGH, THEN THINK AGAIN. THE TOWN'S YOUTH TEAM HAVE JUST AS HIGH STANDARDS. TOTT TALKS TO UNDER-18S MANAGER PAUL DRIVER, AS THE YOUNG HATTERS AIM FOR GLORY THIS SEASON



After a fine end-of-season run of form almost saw the Hatters' Under-18s claim the Youth Alliance title last season, there are high hopes the youth team can go one better in 2013/14.

Manager Paul Driver's squad, made up of nine first year scholars and eight second years, got off to a winning start in the Youth Alliance last Saturday with a 4-2 victory over Dagenham & Redbridge.

Never has a youth team group been so highly-regarded. In his programme notes at the end of last season, Head of Youth Wayne Turner said that this season's squad can form part of a "golden generation" of young footballers developed by the Club.

Driver agrees – and the expectation is high.

"We're expecting to finish in the top two of the Youth Alliance – third at absolute worst," Driver told Talk of the Town. "We've outlined to the players the targets. We certainly want to reach the third round of the FA Youth Cup and the knockout stages of the League Cup.

"The second year scholars all have bags of experience. Almost all of them have played for the development squad. Tinashe Chabata played a lot in central defence, Charlie Smith featured heavily in midfield whilst goalkeeper Ben Barnes was on the bench for the first team for three matches.

"It's a stronger squad this year and, on paper, it's the strongest squad I've ever had.

"It's a lot different from last year. We now have the strength in the depth and a number of the first years who were under-16s last year have already had experience of under-18s football.

"Last season I would have taken a top seven finish. If you had offered me a top three finish this time last year I would have bitten your hand off.

"With the strength we have this year it should allow us to win it, or be right up there. I believe that a team has to be really good to finish above us."

It's a far cry from the level of expectation of this time 12 months ago. Indeed the young Hatters were

lacking consistent results in the Youth Alliance and were knocked out of the FA Youth Cup by Stevenage on 30th October.

But of the following 15 games the Town only lost three times – a run that gave them a squeak of a chance of lifting the league title. In the end Driver's side finished joint top of the South East Youth Alliance table behind Leyton Orient on goal difference.

The championship, however, was awarded to Portsmouth who had played a game less and finished one point below both the Town and Orient in the table. And based on a points-per-game ratio Pompey were crowned winners which relegated the Town into third spot.

Delighted

While disappointed not to officially be classed runners-up, Driver was delighted with his squad's turnaround in form over the course of the last campaign. "I was surprised by the change in fortune," admitted Driver. "We went from winning a few, losing a few and not defending very well to become a confident and consistently-performing side.

"The turning point was undoubtedly winning 2-1 at Watford [on 17th November].

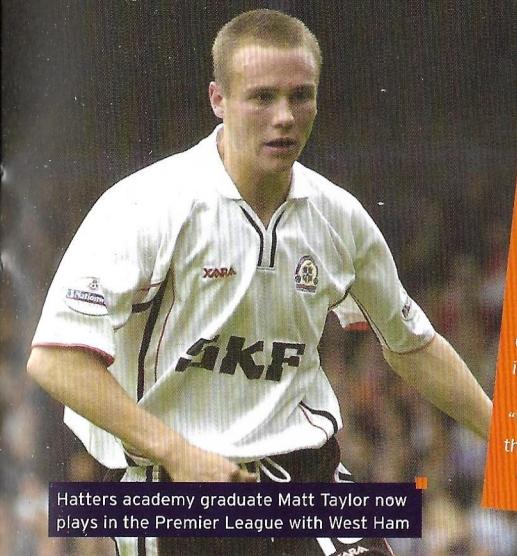
"We were trailing 1-0 at half-time and turned it around to win 2-1 and end their unbeaten home record. It was the first game we played with a new 4-4-1-1 system and we never looked back."

Youth Alliance and FA Youth Cup glory is the aim this season, but the ultimate goal is to produce footballers fit for the first team, and Driver believes many of players in the squad have a real opportunity of realising the dream of becoming a professional footballer.

"There is genuinely nobody in the squad who doesn't have a chance," says Driver. "And it's rare that you can say that.

"There will be second year scholars who will be waiting to kick-on should any member of the first team pick up a knock.

"Wayne Turner has put the pressure on me and the players because he knows there is a lot of potential there. This really could be a golden generation of young footballers at Luton Town."



Hatters academy graduate Matt Taylor now plays in the Premier League with West Ham

STAR GRADUATES

If the current crop of Town youngsters are seeking inspiration they only have to look at the amount of players that have come through the ranks at Kenilworth Road to play at the highest level.

A number of former Hatters will grace the Premier League this coming season, including Jack Wilshire, Matt Taylor and Curtis Davies.

And last season, despite their relegation to the Championship, Wigan Athletic's Emmerson Boyce lifted the FA Cup as the Latics captain after their 1-0 win over Manchester City at Wembley last May.

The Town's prestigious academy was also praised by Ged Roddy, the Premier League's director of youth in an interview with the Daily Telegraph on Saturday.

He witnessed the youth team's win over Dagenham. "What an amazing group of kids, coaches and culture they're delivering."

High praise indeed.

"The first year scholars will not have experienced the day-in, day-out routine before. In the past they have arrived for training in the evenings and go home again. At the training ground it's almost 24/7 and we need them to understand it. The players need to learn how to look after themselves as well as realising what is right and what is wrong.

"They need to know that there are standards, from behaving like the first team manager expects you to behave to your appearance around the place."





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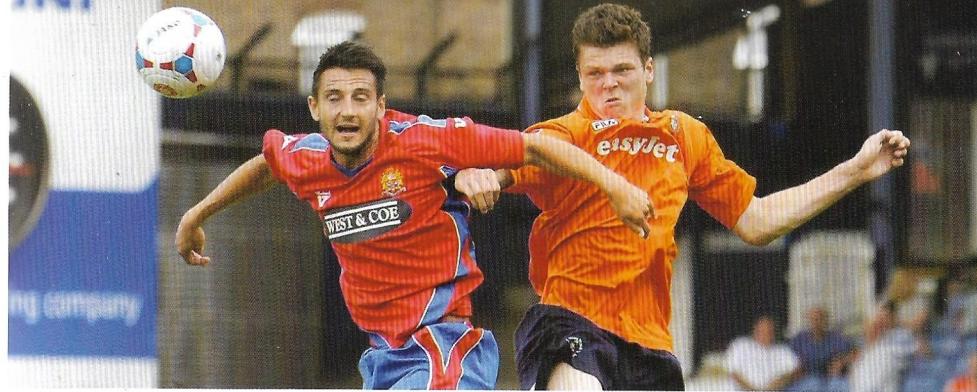
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Matt Robinson

YOUNG MIDFIELDER'S DELIGHT AT NEW CONTRACT



Matt Robinson jokes that he's got used to living out of his car and out of hotels for the past 12 months.

Having moved to Luton from Leicester last summer, where he'd spent all of the previous 18 years of his life, it was a new life experience for the midfielder.

Like any young footballer, moving to a new club – and to a new town – can be difficult. And, at times last season, Robinson admitted it was tough.

Restricted to bit-part substitute appearances and the odd run-out in the FA Trophy, by the time John Still was appointed boss in March, Robinson had made just seven appearance for the Hatters and only two of those were starts and those came against Dorchester and Skelmersdale in the Trophy.

However, the teenage former Fox was impressing the new boss as he began to sift through his squad's capabilities. In March he was back among the 16 and on the bench. And then, on April Fool's Day Robinson got his first league start – against the then league leaders Kidderminster.

A further five starts and one substitute appearance followed, as did any young players' never-forget moment: a first senior goal, coming in the 3-1 last-day-of-the-season win at Southport last April.

"It was the happiest moment of my football-playing life," grins Robinson, talking to Hatters Player. "To be in the team and to score my first goal in league football was very important to me."

Having ended the season on such a high then came an "overwhelming" bolt out of the blue from the

manager – an extended contract, signed this summer which will keep him at Kenilworth Road until 2015.

"Last year there were plenty of ups and downs but conveniently for me my ups came when the new gaffer came in," continues Robinson with a wide smile. "In all honesty to be rewarded with a new contract is a bit overwhelming. I knew nothing about it until the manager said he wanted to have me here longer, and – put it this way – I wasn't going to say no! I'm very happy here and I want to be a part of a team that can win promotion next season."

Belief

With first team appearances few and far between until Still's arrival, Robinson kept his head down and remained positive.

"If you don't have faith in yourself nobody else will," he says philosophically. "I always had belief in myself, telling myself that I was good enough."

"A lot of people around me were saying 'stay patient'. I'm not an impatient person, just easily frustrated. I used to dwell on things and think to myself 'I should have done this, why didn't I do that?' but last season I just kept going."

"I've matured as a person and as a player in the last year and that's a credit to the people around me: the senior players who are able to put their arm around my shoulder and advise me. It's good to have team-mates that are helpful on or off the field."

"Moving from Leicester was a big change but change is part of life. It's all about saying positive."



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on and off...

... THE PITCH WITH LUKE GUTTRIDGE

ON THE PITCH

WHAT WAS THE BEST GOAL YOU SAW LAST SEASON?

Obviously my goal for Northampton against Cheltenham last season! All the Cheltenham fans would agree.

WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU'VE EVER FACED?

Dimitar Berbatov. The Bulgarian was unplayable when I came up against him when he was at Manchester United.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE ABOUT YOUR GAME?

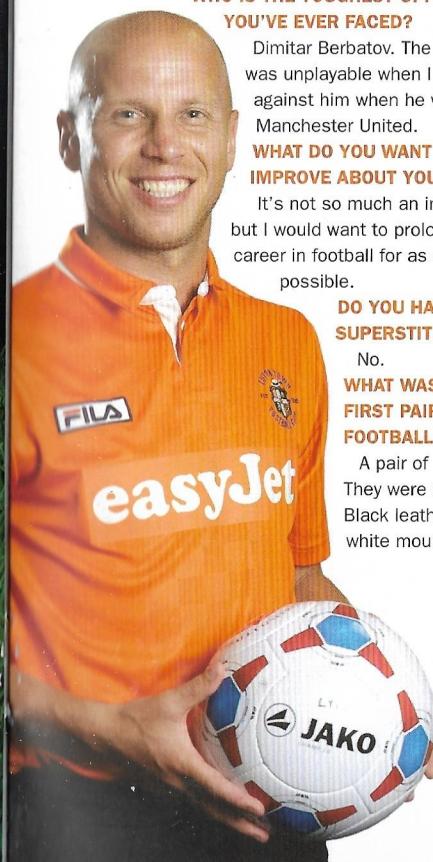
It's not so much an improvement but I would want to prolong my career in football for as much as possible.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUPERSTITIONS?

No.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PAIR OF FOOTBALL BOOTS?

A pair of Dunlops. They were classic. Black leather with all white moulded studs.



Luke thinks that Leonardo DiCaprio would be the ideal actor to portray him

HAVE YOU GOT A TIP FOR YOUNGSTERS?

Do everything the best you can all of the time because people are always watching. Everything counts.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?

Either Elland Road or Loftus Road.

WHO SIGNED YOU AS A PRO?

Roy McFarland at Cambridge.

WHO DO YOU SUPPORT?

I've never followed a particular team, although this season I'll be interested in Chelsea because Jose Mourinho is back managing them.

WHO AT THE CLUB WILL PLAY AT A HIGHER LEVEL?

Andre Gray.

OFF THE PITCH

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

Being successful.

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN FOOTBALL?

John Johnson. He's a mega star!

WHAT IS YOUR BEST QUALITY?

I'm hard-working.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME

Gold Rush.

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

My missus. She'll wreck my head all week!

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

My iPad.

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

Leonardo DiCaprio.

WHAT DON'T WE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I like fly-fishing and shooting.

picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The Hatters, back in the top flight for the first time since 1960, opened the 1974/75 campaign with a home game against mighty Liverpool. The picture shows Barry Butlin opening the scoring in front of a jubilant Oak Road end but Liverpool were to go on and spoil the party by winning 2-1.



camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Stadium Manager Peter Kemp needed to climb on the roof of the executive boxes to extinguish a flare thrown by Aston Villa fans at the end of the recent friendly, and a number of Luton supporters were worried for him from a safety angle.

For Peter's sake, today's photo features an FA Cup replay against Chelsea in 1935 when a then record crowd of 23,041 was shoe-horned into a Kenilworth Road that was much smaller than it is today. Many people stormed the gates after they were locked and a fair number found a novel vantage point as shown!



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hatters heroes

DAVID MOSS

At the age of 16, David Moss had the choice of joining either Swindon or Oxford but despite having played for Oxfordshire Youth and having been born in the county he decided to 'go over the border' and opted for his childhood favourites Swindon Town.

After working his way through the ranks he made his League debut at home to Hull in January 1972 before becoming a regular in 1973/74 just in time to see Swindon relegated to Division Three (now League One).

During the next four seasons he regularly finished as top goalscorer for Swindon from his position on the wing and with several clubs beginning to take notice, Luton manager David Pleat nipped in ahead of Stoke with a bid of £110,000 to bring Moss to Kenilworth Road during the close season of 1978.

After becoming one of seven players to make their debut for the Town on the opening day of 1978/79, and scoring twice in a 6-1 win, Moss suffered from a deep-seated pelvic problem and was rarely at his best during that campaign. Fully fit though, he came back with a bang and formed a major part of Pleat's team that walked away with the championship of Division Two (now the Championship) in 1982 after two near misses.

Specialist

A goalscoring winger who could cross the ball at speed with either foot, a dead ball specialist and blessed with the uncanny ability to turn a game, Moss was a firm terrace favourite for seven years before returning to Swindon at the age of 33. His 245 first team appearances and 94 goals, with rarely a tap-in amongst them, will live long in the memory of those lucky enough to see him play.

After hanging up his boots, Moss opened a clothes shop in Swindon but was soon tempted back into football at Oxford where he joined up with his old Luton skipper Brian Horton. He then followed Horton to Manchester City and Huddersfield before having a crack at management himself, taking control of today's visitors for two years, with his highlight being a 4-1

win over the Hatters during our promotion campaign of 2001/02. Hat-trick hero that day – Macclesfield's first as a Football League club – was Ricky Lambert. Whatever became of him?

David Moss is now chief scout for the Liverpool Academy and made a welcome return to Luton recently on a special 'David Moss' evening when he regaled the audience with tales of his time at Kenilworth Road during the first David Pleat era.

LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 245

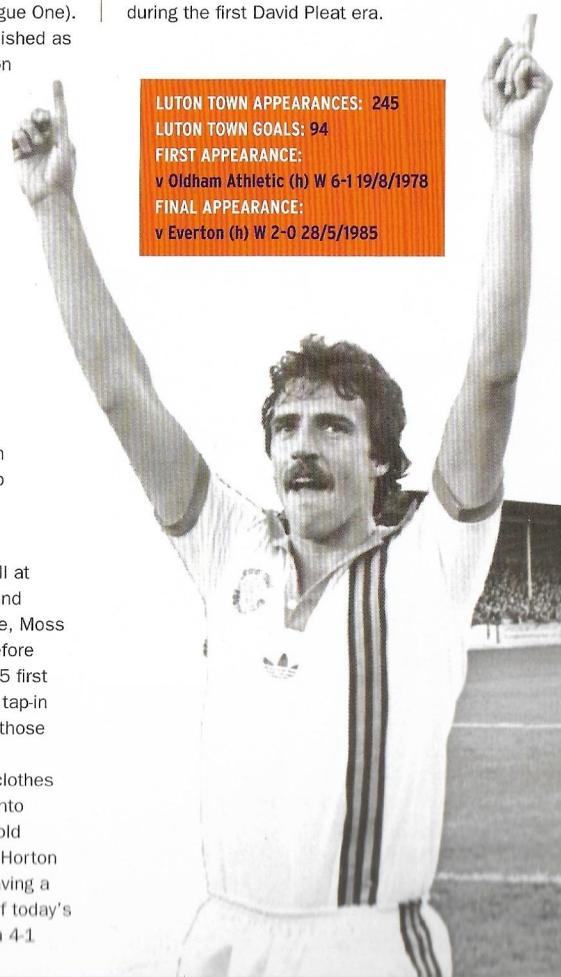
LUTON TOWN GOALS: 94

FIRST APPEARANCE:

v Oldham Athletic (h) W 6-1 19/8/1978

FINAL APPEARANCE:

v Everton (h) W 2-0 28/5/1985



on this day

17th AUGUST

THE RECORD

Not many games, not many goals and not many Town wins sums up 17th August on this day in history for the Hatters. Only nine games have taken place with the Town winning just twice and scoring just nine goals across these games. Three matches have ended in a draw, whilst the Hatters have lost four. Only 19 goals have been scored in the nine matches – that's an average of just 2.1 goals per game.

THE LAST TIME

Despite their poor record on 17th August, the Hatters have won their last two fixtures on this day, including a 2-1 win at Hyde last season.

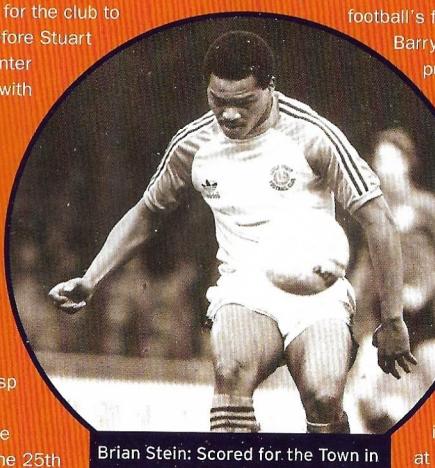
In a televised game on a Friday night at Ewen Fields, the Town fell behind to a goal from former loanee Matthew Blinkhorn. However, two goals in the space of 10 minutes late in the second half won it for the Town. JJ O'Donnell scored his first goal for the club to level the score on 68 minutes before Stuart Fleetwood rounded off a fine counter attack to win it with a cool finish with 12 minutes left on the clock.

POPPIES PUNISHED

Matthew Barnes-Homer's name has cropped up several times in today's programme already and it does here again as, on this day in 2010, he scored a hat-trick in a 3-1 win for the Town away at Kettering.

The striker had netted a last-gasp winner against Altrincham in the previous game, and he opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 25th minute after former Town defender Ian Roper fouled Kevin Gallen in the penalty area.

Lynden Christie levelled for the Poppies on 32 minutes but a second half brace from Barnes-Homer – including another from the penalty spot which led to Roper being sent-off – secured a comfortable victory for the Town against a Kettering side that had Sol Davis,



Brian Stein: Scored for the Town in the top flight on this day in 1985

The Town's final fixture played on this day in the First Division (now Premier League) came in 1991 when David Pleat's side were held to a goalless draw with West Ham at Upton Park. Both sides would be relegated at the end of the season – the last campaign before the Premier League's inception.

Luke Graham, Paul Furlong and James Dance in their starting XI that night.

BARREN SPELL

Prior to the win over Kettering the Hatters had not won at all on this day. The previous seven matches were made up of four defeats and three draws.

The Town won a point in their first match on this day in 1968 with a goalless draw at Barrow in the old Division 3 (now League 1).

TOP FLIGHT TOWN

Three of the nine games played on this day took place in the top-flight between 1974 and 1991.

The first saw the Town defeated 2-1 at home to Liverpool on the opening day of the 1974/75 campaign. It was the Hatters' first game in English football's first tier since 1960, and a Barry Butlin goal in the 27th minute put Harry Haslam's side ahead.

However, Liverpool fought back, and a Steve Heighway goal gave eventual runners-up Liverpool victory.

The Town's second game on this day in the top flight came on the first day of the 1985/86 season at home to Nottingham Forest. A Brian Stein goal had the Town in front but, in front of a crowd of 11,318 at Kenilworth Road, Neil Webb blasted home an equaliser for Forest.

The Town's final fixture played on this day in the First Division (now Premier League) came in 1991 when David Pleat's side were held to a goalless draw with West Ham at Upton Park. Both sides would be relegated at the end of the season – the last campaign before the Premier League's inception.

my only luton

A FAN'S TALE



MY NAME:
Rob Hadgraft

MY AGE: 57

MY LOCATION:
Wivenhoe, Essex

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN

I was passed over the Maple Road turnstiles as a toddler in the late 1950s, and can remember playing under the Main Stand while my dad watched matches. Later my family moved away from Luton, but I started returning for games in 1975 once I'd got my first car.

MY FIRST LUTON GAME

The first home game I actually watched as a committed supporter was the 1-1 draw with Manchester City in April 1975 when we were fighting relegation from the top-flight. The atmosphere was sensational and even Rodney Marsh loved it, bantering with Luton fans during the game. Jim Ryan lobbed a beauty at the Oak Road end and the place went wild. My brother and I hung around later for autographs and Paul Futcher asked us to hold his bag of crisps while he signed!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME

There's half-a-dozen obvious choices, but I'll go for the FA Cup replay with holders Liverpool in 1987 when we smashed Kenny Dalglish's whingers 3-0 on an unforgettable night. After all the bad feeling that had gone before, victory has never tasted more satisfying.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL

Particularly special was home debutant Paul Walsh's solo effort against Notts County in 1982 when he dribbled up the wing, then turned left along the byeline, cut in and slotted home.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER

Rather than the obvious legends, I'll go for Roy Wegerle, who had sublime skills, and when he hit form around 1989/90 was arguably the most natural ball player in the entire League.

MY MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION

I grabbed a chunk of Kenilworth turf just before they laid the plastic pitch. I re-planted it at home, but as I was living near Ipswich Town's ground at the time, it withered and died in such alien surroundings! My other top possession was Bob Hatton's orange No.10 shirt which my brother mysteriously 'acquired' after a game in 1979 and passed on to me.

MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI

I've gone for a 4-4-2 line-up that would be highly entertaining, but probably not very successful.

Steve Sutton: If he'd stayed we'd have been part of the Premier League launch.

Tim Breacker: Storming forward runs and great crosses.

Matt Taylor: Cannonball shooting and wild-man celebrations.

Forbes Phillipson-Masters: Picked purely for his name alone!

Mal Donaghy: The definitive Rolls Royce defender, and versatile too.

Billy Bingham: For being the first footballer I'd ever heard of.

Mick Kennedy: So hard even John Fashanu was frightened of him.

Scott Oakes: I'm giving him a free rein to try and repeat that goal against Derby.

Graham French: The working man's George Best.

Brian Stein: He oozed quality over a 10-year period.

John O'Rourke: Scored regularly in one of our worst-ever teams.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPIEST ABOUT FOLLOWING THE HATTERS?

The unique and special spirit that exists around this club. However bad things get, Luton fans stay loyal wherever they are in the world. Once you have experienced a big night game you're hooked for life. It will be an incredibly sad day if and when we leave Kenilworth Road.

in development

LAWLESS AT THE DOUBLE



Alex Lawless

Alex Lawless scored twice as the Hatters development side came from a goal down to beat Peterborough United 2-1 on Wednesday afternoon.

The midfielder played 70 minutes for the Town against a strong Posh team at the League 1 side's training ground.

Posh created a host of chances in the first half but it was the finishing that let the side down with the Hatters goalkeeper Elliot Justham in inspired form.

Young Peterborough striker Jaanai Gordon had already hit the outside of the post and Danny Swanson saw a free-kick tipped onto the woodwork, before Anderson struck at the back post to give Posh a deserved lead.

Hit back

However, the Hatters but hit back in the second period through Lawless. His first goal came after the Town worked the ball well down the right flank and Lawless stabbed home from 12 yards.

No sooner were the Hatters level they took the lead when Lawless finished well after good work from Scott Rendell in the build-up.

Posh pushed for an equaliser but the Hatters were indebted to a number of fine saves from goalkeeper Justham late in the game to keep the score 2-1.

Assistant manager Terry Harris told lutontown.co.uk: "No matter who you are playing, winning is important. We've come to a League 1 team with a number of their first team players in the line-up and come away with a win. It's good that we build a winning mentality into the team but the game was also a great opportunity for players to get valuable minutes under their belts.

"Alex played 70 minutes and did very, very well. A number of the young players also got a taste of the action. There was another half-an-hour for Zane Banton.

"It bodes well for everyone. The competition for places we have means performances in these games can go a long way."

TOWN: Justham; Longden (sub Jibodu), Parry, Sturman (trialist); Fitzsimons (sub Mendy); Lawless (sub Woolley), Stevenson, Robinson, O'Donnell; Rendell, Hughes (trialist) (sub Banton). **SUB NOT USED:** Barnes.

youth team



KIT SPONSORS 2013/14



ZANE BANTON

HOME:
Available
AWAY:
Available



LEERY MAGURAUSHE

HOME:
Available
AWAY:
Available



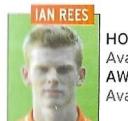
BEN BARNES

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JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE

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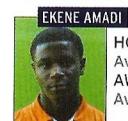
IAN REES

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CHARLIE SMITH

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Peter Mitchell
AWAY:
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EKENE AMADI

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ISAAC GALLIFORD

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LEE HAWKES

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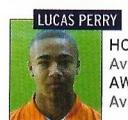
CRAIG KING

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DARIL NGWALA

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LUCAS PERRY

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ZAK STEPHENS

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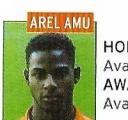
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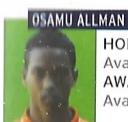
LUKE TROTMAN

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AREL AMU

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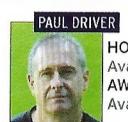
OSAMU ALLMAN

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AWAY:
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HARRY TAMPLIN

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Allianz
AWAY:
Available



PAUL DRIVER

HOME:
Available
AWAY:
Available

	DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	POS	STARTING XI	
AUG	Sat 10	11.00am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 4-2	-	Barnes	
	Sat 24	11.00am	A	Leyton Orient			Trotman	
	Sat 31	11.30am	H	Portsmouth			Chabala	
SEP	Sat 14	11.00am	A	MK Dons			Crilly	
	Sat 21	11.00am	H	Watford			Hawkes	
OCT	Sat 12	11.00am	A	Barnet			Amu	
NOV	Sat 2	11.00am	A	Northampton			Rees	
	Sat 9	11.00am	H	Colchester			Smith 2	
	Sat 16	11.00am	A	Stevenage			Galliford	
	Sat 23	11.00am	H	Peterborough				
	Sat 30	11.00am	H	Gillingham				
DEC	Sat 14	11.00am	A	MK Dons				
JAN	Sat 11	11.00am	A	Watford				
	Sat 18	11.00am	H	Barnet				
	Sat 25	11.00am	A	Colchester				
FEB	Sat 8	11.00am	H	Northampton				
	Sat 22	11.00am	H	Stevenage				
MAR	Sat 1	11.00am	A	Peterborough				
	Sat 15	11.00am	A	Southend				
APR	Sat 5	11.00am	A	AFC Wimbledon				
	Sat 12	11.00am	H	Crawley Town				



PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE UNDER 18 SOUTH-EAST LEAGUE 2013/14

	P	W	GD	PTS
1 Colchester United	1	1	3	3
2 AFC Wimbledon	1	1	2	3
3 Luton Town	1	1	2	3
4 Northampton Town	1	1	2	3
5 Southend United	1	1	1	3
6 Gillingham	1	0	0	1
7 Milton Keynes Dons	1	0	0	1
8 Peterborough United	1	0	0	1
9 Portsmouth	1	0	0	1
10 Watford	0	0	0	0
11 Stevenage	1	0	-1	0
12 Barnet	1	0	2	0
13 Dagenham & Redbridge	1	0	-2	0
14 Leyton Orient	1	0	-2	0
15 Crawley Town	1	0	-3	0

stars of the future

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



NAME: Isaac Galliford

DATE OF BIRTH:

24/10/1996

POSITION:

Central midfield

YEAR JOINED LUTON

TOWN:

2006

FORMER CLUB :

Crawley Green

BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP

Believe to achieve

BEST FOOTBALL MOMENT

Making a first team appearance in a friendly last season

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID

Arsenal

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND

Ronaldinho

FAVOURITE TV SHOW

French Prince of Bel Air

OTHER SPORT GOOD AT

Tennis

FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT

Maths

TWO WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOU

Hard-working and committed

MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE

Luke Trotman

TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER SO FAR

I began at Luton United with Luke Trotman and Tinashe Chabata at the age of five. These were my first years of playing for a proper football team. Shortly after, I moved to Crawley Green at the age of seven and had three years there. We were undefeated for the three years and managed to play a game against Arsenal. It was just after this game that I signed for Luton.

academy update

WITH MATT STANNARD

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the start of the new season and this Skrill Premier fixture against Macclesfield.

Finally the season starts again and we can all start to relax back into the routines of normal training and games!

CHANGES

One of the common themes with successful youth departments is continuity. You only have to look at Crewe Alexandra and Dario Gradi to appreciate what a significant role this plays in producing young footballers. With the changes that took place last year, it was important that we kept some stability for this season.

As a result, there haven't been too many alterations to personnel and we are delighted to say that our entire coaching team from nine to 18-year-olds will remain the same for this coming season.

We are, however, always looking to improve, and our coaches have been enrolled on courses again this season to ensure their qualifications are up-to-date and that we are delivering sessions in the best possible way.

One major change to our programme though is the implementation of sports science. Over the past two months Jon Chatfield has worked very hard to source and secure the best medical team available. As a result, we now have masters qualified interns working with all our players from under-9 to under-18 level on their nutrition, fitness, strength, power, agility and performance analysis.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jamie Rogers, Steven Sharpe, Peter Habershon, Chris Wing and Stephen Foster to our team of growing expertise.

PRE-SEASON

We have had a very busy pre-season in the academy so far. Returning to training on the 1st July, we went straight into games against Barnet with our under-9s to under-14s. This was a great opportunity to get some minutes into the younger lads but also to see who had come back fit and healthy.



Youth team striker Zane Banton will, like all the players in the Town's academy, receive top-quality medical advice and expertise this season

In all honesty, apart from a couple of wobbles early on, I was greatly encouraged by the way the boys approached and handled the games and it's always nice to walk away with a good set of results.

Since then we have trained hard, pushing the boys to be fitter, faster and stronger with the help of our newly developed sports science department, and the groups are now looking in good shape for the start of the season.

The next 10 days will be a real test for our lads, though. We have games against Crystal Palace, Leicester, West Ham, AFC Wimbledon and Fulham across the age groups with our first 'proper' fixture against MK Dons on the 2nd September. Not only will the boys need to be fit, they will have to be mentally resilient and disciplined during this busy time.

MAIN SEASON

This year, we have been included in the EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan) category 3 games programme which means 27 games over the course of the season against teams from as far north as Notts County to as far south as Gillingham. Our players will be pushed and tested outside of their comfort zones with the sole aim of getting them ready to play under John Still, and hopefully in the Football League in years to come. If we can achieve that, I think we'll all be extremely pleased.

Supporting the grassroots

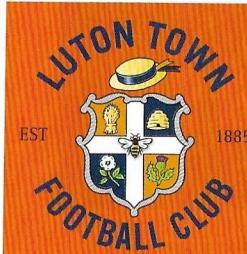


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Alex Lawless

MIDFIELDER ON RETURN FROM INJURY

After signing a new two-year deal in the summer the last thing Alex Lawless wanted was an injury to get in the way.

Having recovered from an Achilles problem going into pre-season, the 27-year-old's preparation was put on hold after a freak injury in the warm-up prior to the friendly with Maidenhead United.

However, patience and professionalism has got Lawless on the road to recovery and – after scoring twice for the Hatters' development squad on Wednesday – he hopes be back in the first team squad this afternoon.

"Never had I looked forward to a reserve game so much in my life," Lawless told Hatters Player. "It had been a long summer, recovering from one injury and then another, so to get minutes under my belt and to come through unscathed was a big thing for me.

"I was looking ahead to Wednesday's game so much because it had been a bit of battle to overcome the injuries.

Fitness

"Luckily I'd done a lot of fitness work over the summer, and in Portugal, and by the time of the Maidenhead game I was still in good shape. Fitness was never a problem, it was just getting that important match practice. That was massive because it can take some time to get back into the swing of things when you're playing an 11-a-side game.

His two goals for the development side were enough for the Hatters to beat a strong Peterborough line-up 2-1.

And the former York and Forest Green midfielder admitted scoring twice will give him even more confidence going to matches in the Skrill Premier.

"I was chuffed to bits to be honest," said Lawless on his two goals. "It was great to be playing but to score two goals is even better because I want to push into the first team again.

"I scored one with my right foot and one with my left which is always good."

While the Peterborough team was strong, so was the Town's, and Lawless – delighted to be part of a squad that has so much strength in depth – believes the winning mentality running throughout the club will be of vital importance this season.

Winning

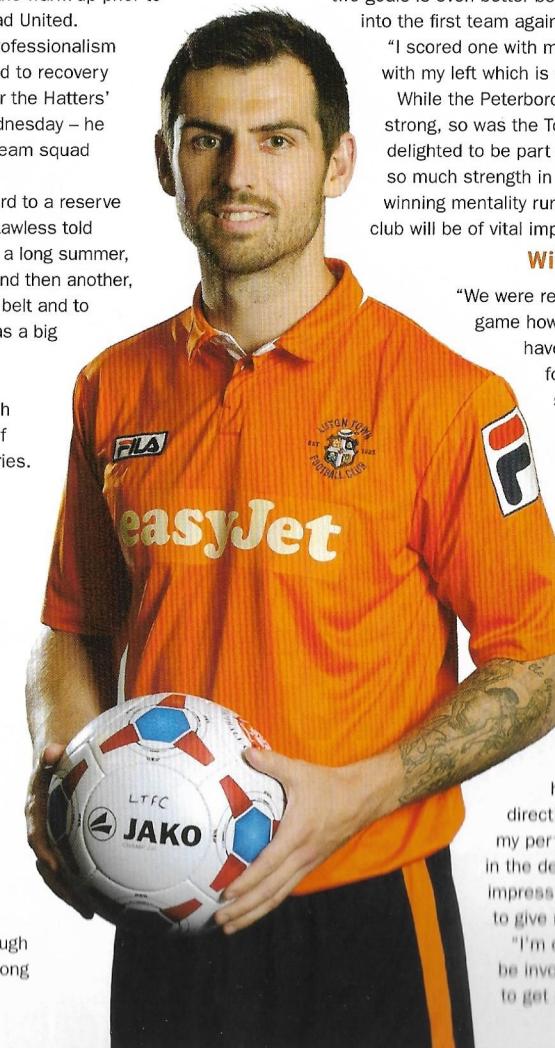
"We were reminded before the game how important it is to have a winning habit, even for the development squad," said Lawless.

"It's great for us to win and good for me personally to score.

"The strength in depth is important and watching Tuesday's game against Salisbury showed just how much quality we have in the squad.

"I think we're heading in the right direction and I hope that my performance and goals in the development game can impress the manager enough to give me a chance.

"I'm chomping at the bit to be involved and I can't wait to get started."



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CAN YOU NAME THE PLAYER IN THE IMAGE ABOVE?

CAN YOU SPOT THE FIVE DIFFERENCES?

NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____

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

Junior Hatters

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

So Tuesday's out of the way then. I don't know what you were all so worried about. Easy this. 2-0 every week please, John. The champagne stuff can wait till our head's back above water.

Not sure about you, but during the first half of the season-opener at Kenilworth Road the edginess of the faithful seemed to creep onto the pitch at times. Either that or the edginess of the players managed to clamber over the seats of the enclosure and up into my spot in the Main Stand. I lose track of which way round this relationship works.

One thing's for certain though, just like an agitated wasp and a flapping beer-garden patron, events on the pitch and the mood on the terraces are inextricably linked.

Hubub

Take, for example, some of the more directionless and nervy touches that peppered the Bedfordshire turf as half-time approached the other night. During that unsettled period the most extraordinary sound began to echo around the famous old ground, a sound that no one really wants to hear at a football match.

It wasn't the sound of boos or irate abuse that some keep in their locker. No, this sound was much more peculiar. It was the unmistakable sound of 6,000 Lutonians chatting, Chin-wagging away as if the game was of no consequence. A distracted hubub filled the ground.

The familiarity of the performance seemed to leave the crowd suddenly and unexpectedly at ease. It was as if an awkward silence at a family reunion had been broken by the not-wholly-unexpected but nevertheless disheartening flatulence of an elderly aunt.

Neither are an inspiring noise, but during the beginning of what can be an uneasy reunion of players and fans, the ice had been broken.

The beauty of this fairly uneventful first half of course was that we went in 0-0 at the whistle, an austerity that if repeated often enough this season might prove vital to our eventual renaissance. The sense that a carelessly conceded goal may have led to mass panic, and more than just the pantomime idiocy of a smattering of boos, hung in the air.

Dedication

The back-four look well-drilled and largely comfortable in the face of Salisbury's best efforts, even if we seemed to rush to the final third via the Bury Park sky at times.

My dedication to enforcing Luton's tactical heritage remains resolute however, shouting "ON THE DECK" every four minutes like a lumbering Guinness infused cuckoo-clock. We're all in this together, as a chubby-faced man once said, and I'm happy to play my part.

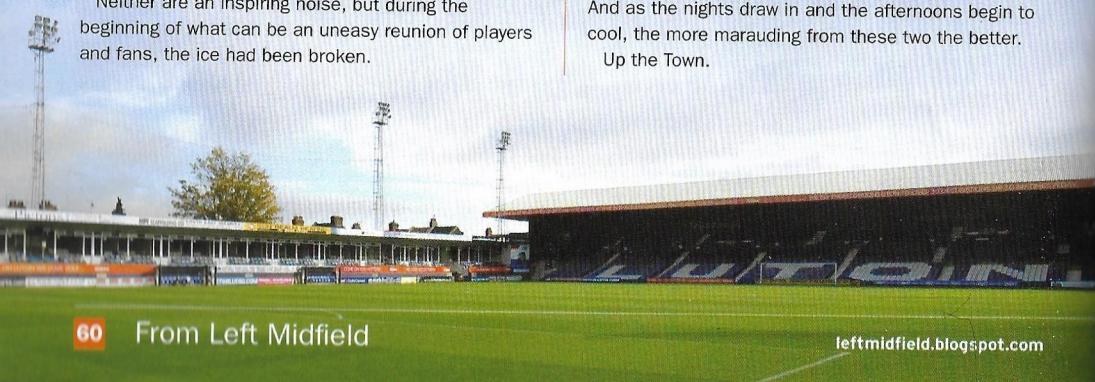
Come the second half and some shrewd switches from Mr Still, the ball began to find the hallowed turf more regularly and, with tiring Wiltshire legs, the game opened up. And once it did, so too did the lungs of the crowd.

The squad seems packed with options to exploit and create gaps where there are none, especially late on, and the prospect of Andre Gray appearing when you're gasping for air is one that no defender in this league will relish.

Each fresh surge forward was greeted with a returning, if tempered confidence in the stands.

Some love too for the wingers. As a tactical relic and determinedly retrograde football fan, seeing two purposeful wide men attacking full-backs and feeding a pair of strikers makes me feel warm and fuzzy inside. And as the nights draw in and the afternoons begin to cool, the more marauding from these two the better.

Up the Town.



THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY MATT BADCOCK

Last Saturday Arsenal took on Manchester City - no the Premier League season hadn't kicked off a week early, this was a friendly. In Finland.

For that is what English football's big boys spend their summers doing these days; jet off around the world to spread their gospel and expand their brand. It brings in the cash and is all very nice for fans in Bangkok, New York, Sydney and Tokyo.

But should they be doing more for the little club on their doorstep?

Now of course it's not unusual to see a Non-League club taking on a Premier League side in pre-season.

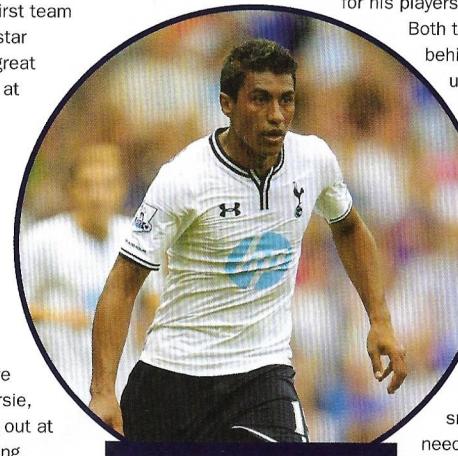
Stoke City recently sent a full first team to Wrexham and even when the star names aren't in tow it can be a great opportunity to see future talents at their rawest.

We might not have heard of them at the time but there is a certain satisfaction in saying, 'I remember watching him in pre-season once,' when they are banging them in on the biggest stages.

But all too often these teams are academy based while the main squad is abroad. It's rare we see a really big name - a Van Persie, Aguero, Rooney or Bale - trotting out at a Step 4 club on a Tuesday evening.

Last week we had two stories in The NLP that got us thinking. The first was Histon answering a Friday night SOS from Spanish side Real Sociedad. La Liga's fourth best team, who are in the mix for this season's Champions League, needed a game the next day after their original fixture had been cancelled.

Stutes boss Brian Page had planned on having a training day for his side but couldn't turn down an elite opposition featuring the likes of ex-Arsenal forward Carlos Vela. Yes, Histon got an 8-1 pasting, but as Page said: "Listening to the players talk about what they experienced in the game I just know it's going to make us better."



Tottenham's new summer signing
Paulinho played against Enfield
Town during pre-season

Then a few days later Ryman Premier Enfield Town got a fantastic opportunity to take on Tottenham Hotspur at the Premier League giant's training ground.

Spurs boss Andre Villas-Boas wheeled out his full team including new signings, Nacer Chadli, Paulinho and Roberto Soldado, the Spanish international who has just arrived from Valencia for a cool £26m. He scored a hat-trick in an 11-0 win.

Experience

Despite the scoreline, talking to Enfield boss Steve Newing you could sense how good the experience was for his players.

Both these games were played behind closed doors, which is understandable.

Histon didn't have time to get everything in place that is needed to get a game on and Enfield were guests of Spurs.

But wouldn't it be great if the money making machines did pop around the corner in pre-season?

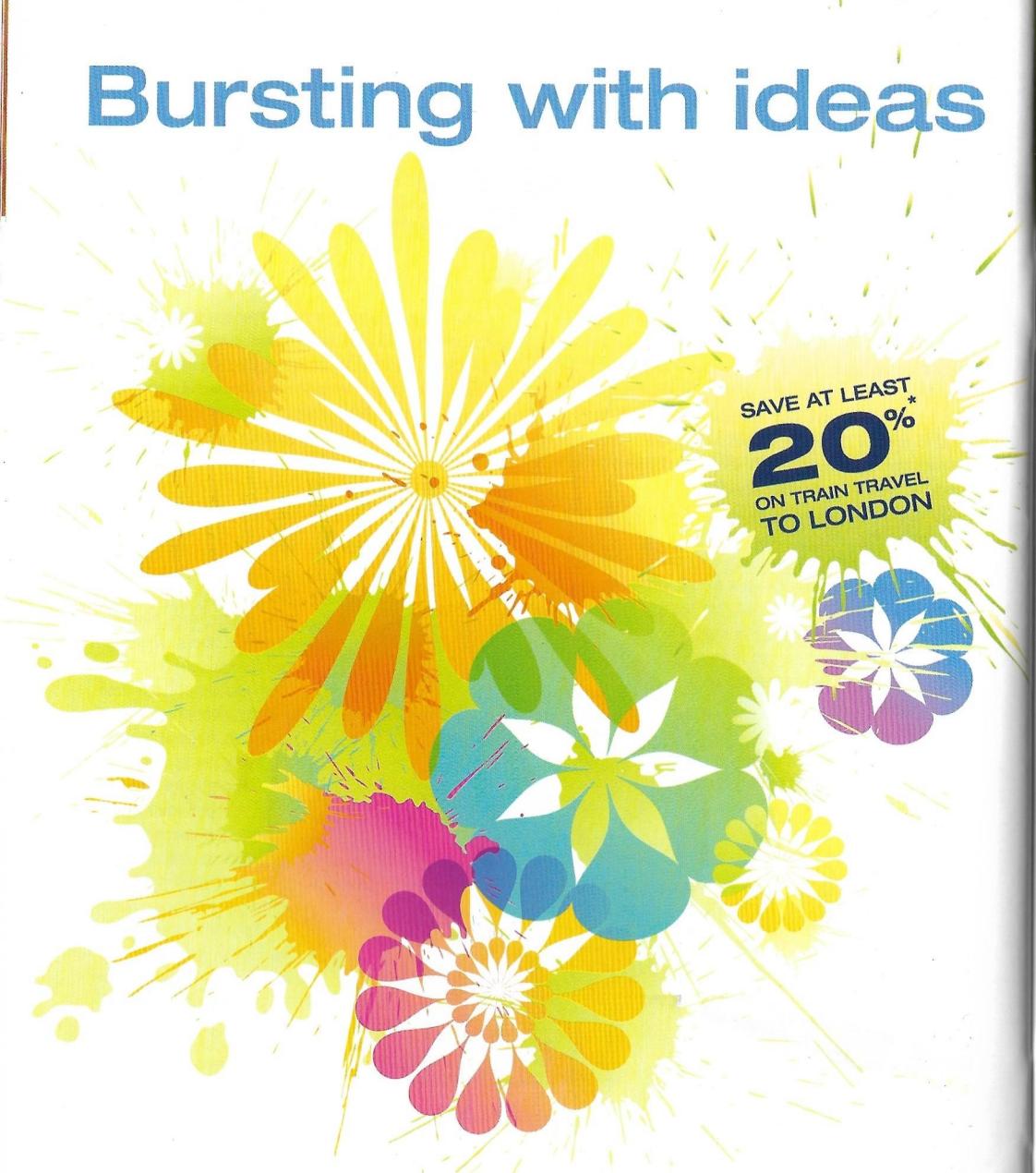
Take the marquee names along and help small clubs bring some much needed cash into the coffers.

Money

And while we're on the subject of money making machines, Sky TV charge £500 for clubs to beam out all the live action - a month! When we read about the eye-watering sums dished out to Premier League clubs for being rubbish all season and getting relegated, it does make you wonder if a clubhouse attached to a football ground could get a small discount.

After all, it's the saturated live schedule that is arguably contributing to low attendances at actual football games further down the Pyramid.

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league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

Southport are the only side in the Skrill Premier with a 100 per cent record after the first two matches of the new campaign.

The Sandgrounders built on last weekend's 1-0 win over the Hatters to come from behind to beat Hyde at Ewen Fields on Tuesday night, scoring twice in the final 12 minutes to make it six points out of six.

Nine teams lie in joint second place with four points having won one and drawn one of their opening two fixtures.

Thanks to their 8-0 victory over Hyde on the opening day of the season, Forest Green sit in second place on goal difference. Rovers needed a late equaliser on Tuesday night to earn a point in a 1-1 draw at Nuneaton.

Catch-up

Richard Money's Cambridge are in third place after playing catch-up with the division having won the first Skrill Premier game that was televised by BT Sport last Sunday with a 5-1 win over nine-man FC Halifax. The U's were then held to a 2-2 draw at newly-promoted Welling on Wednesday.

Barnet, Braintree, Hereford, Grimsby, Nuneaton, Lincoln and Tamworth all have four points from their first two games as do Aldershot. However, the Shots remain at the foot of the table on minus six points

following their 10-point deduction. It means the Hampshire club are now just two wins behind now following a win over Dartford on Tuesday and a draw at Grimsby last Saturday.

Meanwhile, today's visitors Macclesfield are one of five teams without a point so far with two defeats from two. The Silkmen are also one of four clubs who have yet to score a goal – a statistic they will be keen to correct this afternoon.

As you may have read elsewhere in today's programme, John Askey's side opened the campaign with a 1-0 defeat to Nuneaton before they lost by the same scoreline at Lincoln in midweek.

Without Aldershot's deduction, Hyde would be propping up the division. The Tigers' have a -9 goal difference, down in no particular thanks to that opening day mauling at Forest Green.

Newly-promoted Chester and Salisbury – the Town's victims on Tuesday – have also lost both fixtures, as have Gateshead.

The Heed – now back playing at the International Stadium this season – lost 2-1 at home to Grimsby on Tuesday and were beaten by Kidderminster 3-1 at Aggborough on the opening day of the campaign.

Harriers, last season's runners-up, were then beaten 3-1 at Alfreton on Tuesday night, whilst defeated Play-Off finalists Wrexham lost 3-2 at FC Halifax.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Kelly (Forest Green)	3
Bradley (Alfreton)	2
Cunnington (Cambridge)	2
Donaldson (Cambridge)	2
Gregory (FC Halifax)	2
Hyde (Barnet)	2
Sam Yorke (Cambridge)	2
Taylor (Forest Green)	2

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town	6,520	FC Halifax Town	1,674
Grimsby Town	4,037	Macclesfield Town	1,585
Wrexham	4,011	Tamworth	1,379
Chester FC	2,900	Dartford	1,202
Cambridge United	2,780	Forest Green Rovers	1,158
Barnet	2,543	Welling United	1,010
Lincoln City	2,386	Nuneaton Town	1,005
Southport	2,210	Braintree Town	995
Aldershot Town	2,138	Salisbury City	958
Kidderminster Harriers	2,110	Gateshead	944
Hereford United	2,033	Hyde	769
Woking	1,845	Alfreton Town	722

fixtures and results

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

AUGUST

Sat 10	3.00pm	A	Southport	1-0	2,210	839	18	Tyler Smith	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Taiwo ▲	Guttridge	Martin ▲	Whalley
Tue 13	7.45pm	H	Salisbury City	W 2-0	6,520	92	12	Tyler Smith	Griffiths	McNulty	Charles ▲	Taiwo 1	Guttridge 1	Martin ▲	Whalley
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	Brantford 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

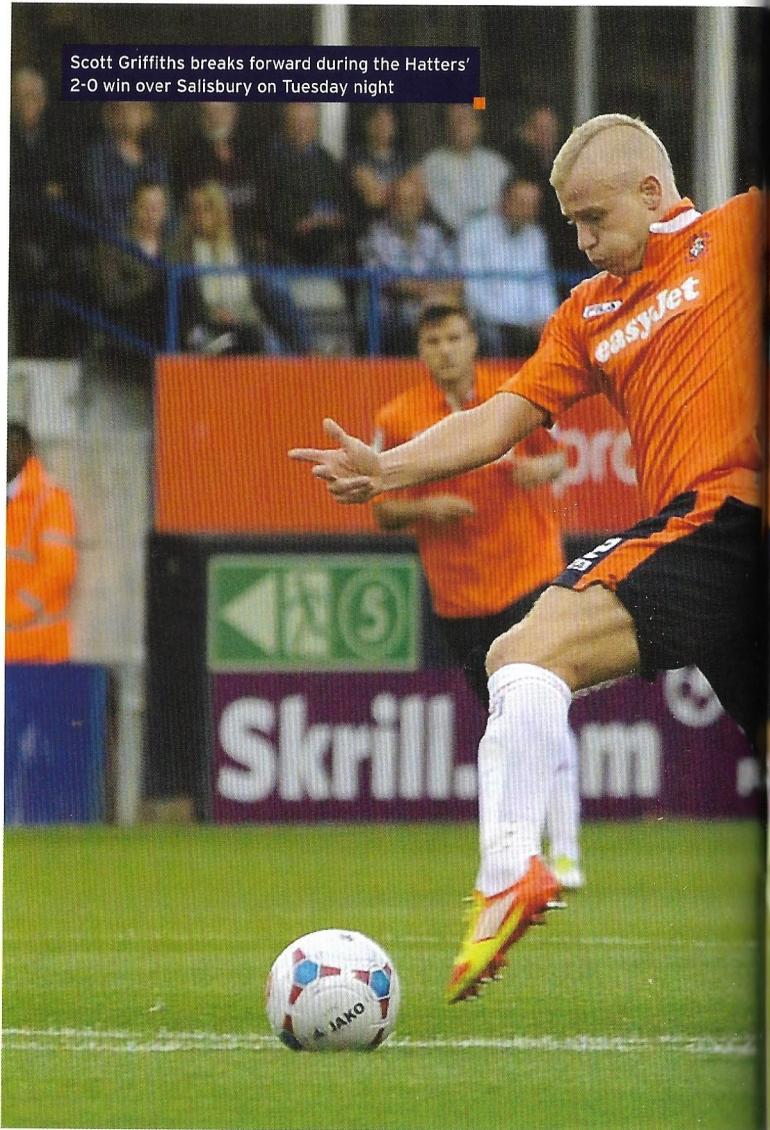
MARCH

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	Brantford Town
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Welling United
Mon 21	3.00pm	H	Forest Green Rovers
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Hyde

Scott Griffiths breaks forward during the Hatters' 2-0 win over Salisbury on Tuesday night



SUBS

Howells	Cullen	Charles	Parry	Gray	Robinson	Justham
Shaw	Cullen	Lacey	Howells	Gray	Robinson	Justham

LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Southport	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
2 Forest Green Rovers	2	1	1	0	9	1	8	4
3 Cambridge United	2	1	1	0	7	3	4	4
4 Barnet	2	1	1	0	3	0	3	4
5 Braintree Town	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
6 Hereford United	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
7 Grimsby Town	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
8 Nuneaton Town	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
9 Lincoln City	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
10 Tamworth	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
11 Alfreton Town	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
12 Luton Town	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
13 Kidderminster Harriers	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
14 Wrexham	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
15 Dartford	2	1	0	1	1	3	-2	3
16 FC Halifax Town	2	1	0	1	4	7	-3	3
17 Welling United	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
18 Woking	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1
19 Macclesfield Town	2	0	0	2	0	2	-2	0
20 Gateshead	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0
21 Salisbury City	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0
22 Chester FC	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0
23 Hyde	2	0	0	2	1	10	-9	0
24 Aldershot Town	2	1	1	0	4	1	3	-6

PLAYER STATS 2013/14

LEAGUE	THIS SEASON		LFC	
	APPS	GLS	TOTAL	
			LEAGUE	CUP
Anthony Charles	1 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 1 (1)
Mark Cullen	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 2 (0)
Andre Gray	0 (2)	0	0 (0)	0 0 (2)
Scott Griffiths	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 2 (0)
Luke Guttridge	2 (0)	1	0 (0)	0 2 (0) 1 1 0 2 1
Ronnie Henry	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 0 (0) 0 0 0 0 43 0
Jake Howells	1 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 1 (1) 0 0 0 0 237 18
Alex Lacey	1 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 1 (1) 0 0 0 0 11 0
Alex Lawless	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 0 (0) 0 0 0 0 124 12
David Martin	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 2 (0) 0 0 0 0 18 3
Steve McNulty	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 2 (0) 0 0 1 22 1
JJ O'Donnell	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 0 (0) 0 0 0 0 48 3
Andrew Parry	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 0 (1) 0 0 0 0 1 0
Matt Robinson	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 0 (0) 0 0 0 0 0 14 1
Jon Shaw	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 1 (0) 0 0 0 0 39 10
Jonathan Smith	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 2 (0) 0 0 0 0 36 1
Solomon Taiwo	2 (0)	1	0 (0)	0 2 (0) 1 2 0 11 2
Mark Tyler	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 2 (0) 0 0 0 0 186 0
Alex Wall	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 0 (0) 0 0 0 0 12 2
Shaun Whalley	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 2 (0) 0 0 0 0 2 0

hold the back page

WITH BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO'S JUSTIN DEALEY

IT'S BEEN A GREAT SUMMER - NOW LET THE ROLLERCOASTER BEGIN.

This is my 25th season at Kenilworth Road as a fan and there is not a lot I haven't witnessed in that time.

Administrations, four relegations, two promotions, FA Cup semi-finals and of course two final wins at Wembley in the League Cup and Johnston's Paint trophy. Life is never dull at Luton Town.

This season once again BBC Three Counties Radio will be covering every game home and away with the likes of Simon Oxley, Geoff Doyle, Luke Ashmead and myself. On Tuesday I was out and about interviewing Town fans and gauging their thoughts on the new campaign - which was mostly positive. Yes, everyone would have liked to have seen a better performance, but its early days as the new signings bed in.

Promotion

Nothing would please me more than to see the Hatters back in the Football League and come 26th May I hope to be interviewing fans at our promotion party.

Personally I believe we have a proper football manager in John Still. He's vastly experienced, knows the game inside out and has got out of this league before.

One of my main criticisms whilst working on the games last season was the lack of width. This season having traditional, old-fashioned wingers like Shaun Whalley and Dave Martin gives me confidence. It's all very well having a striker like Jon Shaw - but if he doesn't have the service - what's the point? Shaw banged in 28 goals at this level just two seasons ago and this could be the season for him.

Off the pitch, a word on the support. Whilst reporting on the game with Luke on Tuesday I was staggered by the amount of fans inside Kenilworth Road yet again. It never fails to amaze me. Over 6,500 thousand people in August on a Tuesday night. This type of support really needs to make a difference throughout the coming months.

Far too often I have spoken to fans who for some reason don't truly get behind the team. When Kenny Road is rocking it can be one of the most intimidating grounds in the country. Speak to any Wolves fan who was here last season and they will tell you that. The noise and the close proximity to the pitch can, and has, affected some great players over the years.

Support

When the promotion contenders come to Kenilworth Road this could make the difference between going up or spending another season in the non-league. Far too often I hear comments about how little away fans there are in Oak Road end. Who actually cares? You don't need away fans to make noise and get behind your team.

Having the best supported team in this league has got to be used as an advantage this season and not just a stat.

Today Macclesfield are in town, a team who will be a very much changed outfit to the one we saw last year. They have a new manager in John Askey and a new-look squad put together on a small budget. After two defeats in two games they will be desperate to pick something up on the road.

Pressure

Like many teams who come here this season - the pressure will be off of them.

The league will shape up nicely come the end of September. But I don't think you will need to look further than the likes of Forest Green, Kidderminster, Grimsby and Wrexham as the main challengers.

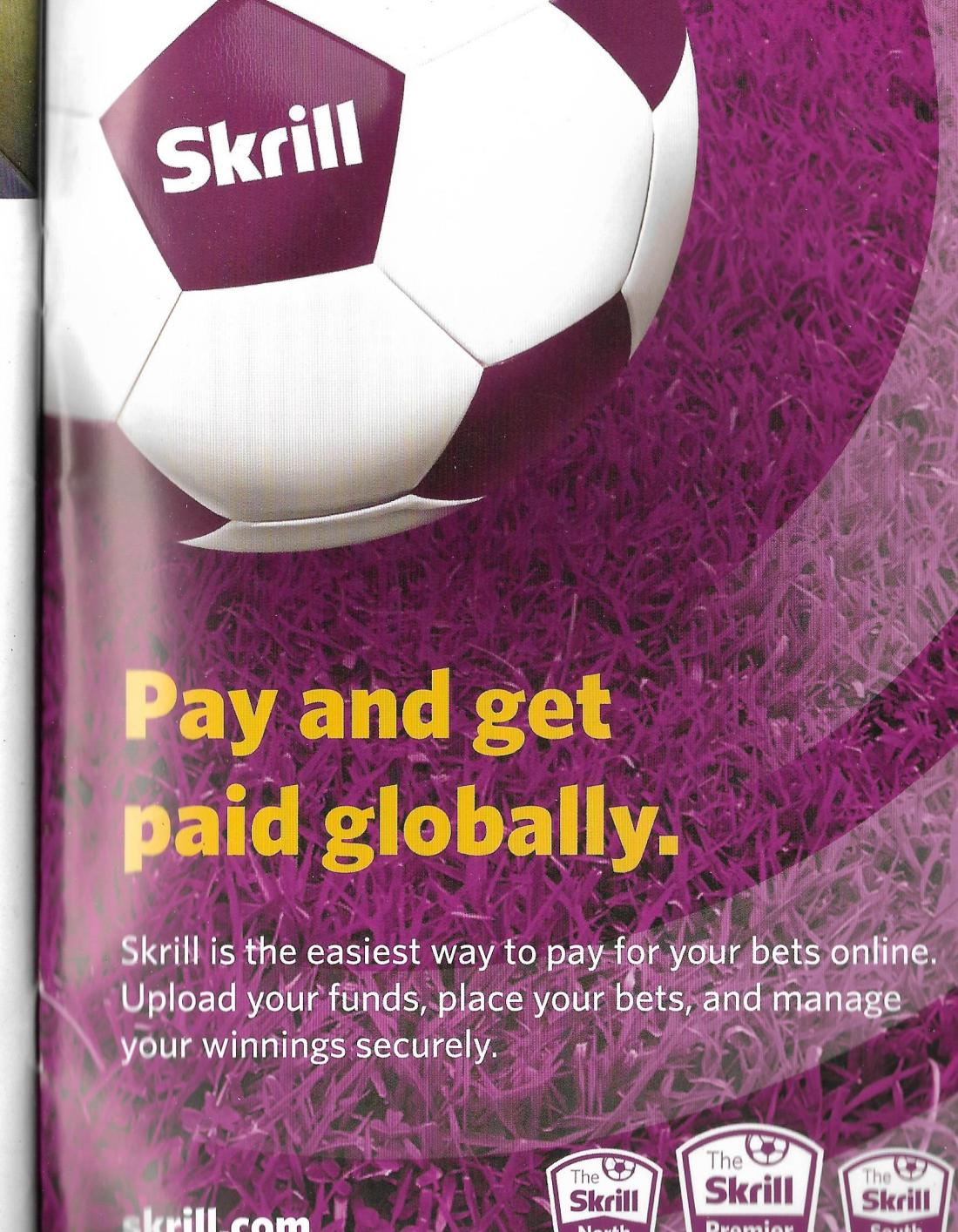
There are no mugs in this division, and whichever way you look at it, to get out of this league as champions is a massive ask.

As both a fan and reporter, making the Play-Off does my head in whilst not making the Play-Offs also does my head in! So let's hope the new signings quickly gel together and we see decent results early on.

I firmly believe last weekend's defeat could actually turn out to be a blessing in disguise. It could be the early wakeup call we needed.



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today'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	25	Ronnie Henry
9	Jon Shaw	27	Andre Gray
10	Alex Wall	28	Jim Stevenson
11	Jake Howells	30	Alex Lacey
12	Scott Griffiths	33	Jake Woolley
13	Mark Cullen	32	Brett Longden
14	Andy Parry	33	Jerome Jibodu

MACCLESFIELD TOWN

1	Rhys Taylor	13	Andrew Mills
2	Joseph Connor	14	Arthur Gnaboua
3	Danny Andrew	15	Paul Lewis
4	Carl Martin	16	Efe Sodje
5	James Bolton	17	Josh Green
6	Paul Turnbull	18	Jay Burgess
7	Jack Mackreth	19	Scott Boden
8	Connor Jennings	20	Richie Branagan
9	Chris Holroyd	21	Danny Whitaker
10	John Paul Kissoek	22	Danny Rowe
11	Peter Winn	23	Scott Kay
12	Steve Williams		

Referee: N. Kinseley | Assistant: I. Smedley | Assistant: M. Hutchinson | Fourth official: L. Forrester

HERE NEXT v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

MONDAY 25th AUGUST 2013 • 3PM
SKRILL PREMIER

