

TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 6 • £3.00



LUTON TOWN
v DARTFORD

TUESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2013
KICK OFF 7.45PM

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welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“

It's good to be back at home isn't it?
Wrexham's not been a happy hunting ground
for the Hatters down the years and Friday
night was no exception.

Inside tonight's issue of Talk of the Town we
look back on that defeat plus our last home
fixture against Grimsby, as well as an in-depth
view of our visitors this evening Dartford – a big
hello to all you Darts in the away end tonight.

The Darts did the double over the Hatters last season
so there is an extra incentive for the players to bounce back from
Friday's defeat.

We've got plenty packed in tonight's programme for you to read
– and it'll be the same once again on Saturday when we welcome
Lincoln City to Kenilworth Road.

Sing loud and be proud! Enjoy #COYH ”



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the manager

JOHN STILL

Good evening and welcome to Kenilworth Road for tonight's Skrill Premier game with Dartford.

A warm welcome to everybody associated with Dartford, including their manager Tony Burman and his staff and players, plus the directors and supporters of the Darts. Dartford is a club close to my heart as I was in charge for a three-year spell there – albeit almost 30 years ago.

On Friday night at Wrexham I think it was plain to see to all of our supporters at the Racecourse and those watching on television on BT Sport that it wasn't a good performance. It was far removed from the previous four of five games where our displays had improved match-on-match.

Disappointment

Individually there were few good performances from the players, and when that happens the overall team performance is affected. With that disappointment still fresh in the memory it is important that we bounce back tonight.

I expected better, you expected better and the players expected better on Friday night and we are grateful to be able to have a league fixture so soon after our frustration in North Wales to hopefully put right what went wrong.

The Wrexham performance was disappointing, and afterwards I held my hand up and admitted that perhaps I got the team selection wrong. I may have been in football a long time but you never stop learning.

Defeats are always hard to take but there is always a lot of satisfaction taken from a positive result in the face of adversity, especially on the back of a defeat in the previous match.

Tonight, though, will be tough. Dartford showed everyone last season what a good team they are and with Tony at the helm I am sure they will go on and enjoy another successful season.

As I write these notes it remains to be seen whether we will be able to call upon Alex Lacey and Alex Wall for this evening's game.

Alex Lacey picked up an injury in our last home match against Grimsby, whilst Alex Wall was red carded in our match at Wrexham.

As we went to press we were reviewing the footage of the incident that led to Alex's dismissal before deciding whether to appeal or not.

One – if perhaps the only – plus from the defeat at Wrexham was the return of another Alex, Alex Lawless, who returned to fitness to be involved on Friday night. He is a fit lad and I am hopeful that he can continue his steady improvement to be fully up to speed very soon.

Over the last couple of weeks I have been delighted with the attitude and application of those players below the first team group who have been impressing in the development squad.

Jim Stevenson, Brett Longden, Matt Robinson, JJ O'Donnell and Zane Banton are all young players who have shown masses of improvement which, as a manager, really pleases me.

Home advantage

After tonight's game we face Lincoln on Saturday in another game at Kenilworth Road. We have to utilise our home advantage in the next two fixtures.

We need to make this place our fortress and with your help we can.

The league table is slowly taking shape. After Saturday we will have played 10 games – the point at which usually you can get some sort of idea of how the league table will finish.

However, last season's performances of Mansfield and Kidderminster would throw that idea out of the window.

All we need to do is concentrate on what we can do. Like you, I'd like us to be further up the table and to have more points than we do and everyone is working hard to ensure that happens.

The next two games are important to us so please get behind your team and enjoy the game.

John Still

"I may have been in football a long time but you never stop learning"



boardroom

WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR GARY SWEET



Before I begin tonight's welcome, I'd just like to provide a minor insight into the responsibility of programme note writing, in particular mine.

I usually look forward to the opportunity to communicate formally to fellow Hatters everywhere and consider the responsibility of doing so the utmost privilege – and whilst I usually leave the final draft until a day before the game in question I tend to think carefully about what to write well in advance.

Herein lies my quandary. Over the last few months, upon it being my turn to pen the notes from the boardroom, we have lost the previous match – resulting in the content of my message being forced to change, but also leaving you the job of reading notes written by a horrifically grumpy git, for which I profusely apologise.

Since Friday's defeat, I've done my best to regain my zest and lose my crankiness, helped in some ways by my weekend events, which I'll reveal a little later in this column.

Welcome

So without further ado, good evening one and all to tonight's Skrill Premier match versus Dartford; our ninth fixture of the campaign.

A warm welcome is extended from all at Luton Town to our visitors from Kent tonight. As newcomers to the Conference Premier last season the Princes Park outfit acquitted themselves excellently finishing in eighth place in the final table.

We hope Dartford's players, staff, officials and supporters feel hospitably welcome this evening – until 7.45pm, that is!

It may only be four days since our last league fixture but tonight couldn't have come sooner as the team are so eager to grab an early opportunity to correct matters after our televised loss at Wrexham on Friday night.

Naturally, as usual, I travelled to see the game in North Wales sharing the journey with colleagues and supporters, and bumping into a few old friends along the way – only to end up feeling battered and bruised by full-time.

As many of you would have experienced, it was far from a pleasant journey home for us and I understand it was no different for the team too.

As viewers who watched BT Sport's excellent coverage will have witnessed too, it was very far from a vintage performance, which was possibly even more disheartening than the result.

Given our dismal historical record at the Racecourse Ground, perhaps we shouldn't be too surprised when it turned out to be our Friday 13th nightmare!

Weekends are a downright miserable affair when we observe such an inadequate display coupled with a point-free outcome and my household is certainly no different.

The results of our games mean everything to us all. Performances control our mood for the week following despite how optimistic we may feel otherwise.

Delighted

Luckily for my family, I was mildly heartened to have my spirits somewhat revived this weekend when I visited Woughton Park in Milton Keynes to keep my eyes peeled on two Luton Town academy age groups facing highly-rated opposition from League 1.

I'm delighted to report that our under-16s side won 2-0 while our under-18s secured a 1-0 victory in a thoroughly enjoyable encounter aided by a super finish from Charlie Smith.

Not only have our under-18s maintained an immaculate league record so far this season, alongside our under-16s and our under-21s development squad, it means, in total, we have only lost one from 11, winning an incredible nine matches and scoring some 32 goals.

This success has all happened playing against Football League clubs who, merely due to their current status of their senior team, are each able to attract EPPP status funding in excess of £600,000 per season, some even double that figure, whilst we must fund ourselves.

Despite that, our academy has never been in better shape.

It's true to say that only our position in the Skrill Premier will govern the way we feel about the Club as a whole, but while we faithfully and patiently anticipate the rise we are all working hard to achieve it is with some comfort that the football infrastructure at our Club is producing great results.

This includes lots of work, from renovating training pitches and building better support facilities aiding fitness and conditioning, to securing and protecting our academy players from the predators representing other 'more senior' clubs.

These developments, along with the increased stability in other areas of the business, are indicators that the underlying foundations are developing very well indeed. Make no mistake though, we fully understand that what really matters is the senior team matching those results and winning us promotion.

Undeniably, despite how impressive and encouraging the academy performances and results may be and how stable the business becomes, they can't directly get us promoted back to the Football League which will always be our absolute priority.

Journey

Progress has been slower than we all wish for but, as a board, we are convinced more than ever that we have the right team of people to begin our long journey in the right direction.

As John Still said last week, we can all play our part in building the success of our team. It's tough being a Hatter at times but be assured that our full recovery will indeed materialise following a process that John and his staff are implementing; a process which we can all influence and accelerate.

As for my programme column, rather than avoid writing it in future in fear of introducing a superstitious fate, I'll continue with the faith that we'll start to click more regularly over the next few games, starting tonight.

Enjoy the game!



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

Tonight we aim to get back to winning ways with three points following a disappointing result in front of the live television cameras at Wrexham.

Our defensive standards have been incredibly high this season, as our record shows, but we allowed Wrexham to punish us on the night and we were never able to fully recover.

We went into the game confident of another good away performance.

In the end we were left to reflect on a hugely frustrating result. It was a strange game because I thought we created the better chances, especially in the first half, and I don't Wrexham forcing Mark Tyler into a save of real note.

Wrexham went into the game on a poor run of results and hadn't scored in their previous three games so we knew we would face some kind of backlash and so it proved, but even so, I don't believe they won the game because they played well – it was more to do with our ineffective display. We had a good spell shortly before half-time but failed to take advantage, and after their second goal we were always up against it.

Decision

Alex Wall's red card made matters worse, and we still don't know whether or not to appeal the decision. I asked the referee why he had sent him off and he told me it was for a high foot. I don't think I've ever seen a red card for that before so we shall wait and see on that one.

Our defensive record still remains a good one despite conceding twice at the Racecourse, but all we need to do now is find the back of the net ourselves. I don't know what to say about this because I know we have an abundance of talent and experience when it comes to scoring goals. For whatever reason we are struggling to score at the moment but I genuinely believe that they will come.

It's true that our last five games have come up against some of the league's so-called big hitters but despite only conceding twice and losing once, we are still very disappointed with that return. The win at Kidderminster was excellent but we couldn't turn our dominance into goals in our following match against Grimsby here.

We created numerous chances in the first half and were unlucky not to take the lead.

Paul Benson had a shot cleared off the line with the last kick of the first 45 minutes and had that gone in who knows what would have happened. You just don't know. We may have won that game and that may have given us confidence to get a positive result at Wrexham. That's football. Fine margins can have a dramatic difference in this game.

Tonight we entertain a Dartford team who are struggling for form.

We must not allow them the kind of time and space we afforded Wrexham on Friday otherwise we will be on the receiving end of another negative result.

Dartford did the double over us last season, including a 2-0 win over us here at Kenilworth Road last November. They may have lost a number of key players since that result but there's no doubt they still retain enough quality to make life difficult for us this evening.

I hope you can get behind us again because your backing really does matter. The support really can make a difference.

Finally, I must say a big thank you to the 190 of you that made the trip to Wrexham on Friday night. Friday traffic is notoriously bad and the game was live on television so it just goes to show what loyal support we have.

Enjoy the game and see you all again on Saturday.



LOAN MOVES FOR TRIO

Town striker Scott Rendell joined fellow Skrill Premier side Woking on an initial one month's loan last Friday.

The 26-year-old, who joined the Hatters last summer from Wycombe Wanderers, scored on his debut for the Cards in their 2-2 draw with Tamworth on Friday night.

Rendell scored 12 goals in 46 appearances for the Town last season, including the winning goal in the history-making 1-0 win over Norwich City in the fourth round of the FA Cup at Carrow Road.

Boss John Still told lutontown.co.uk: "It's a good move for Scott. He has been a model professional since I



have come to the club – his attitude has been first class.

"I'm pleased we have been able to find him a suitable club to get him playing football."

Rendell will not be available to play for Woking against the Town on 24th September.

Last week the Town let young professionals Jerome Jibodu and Jake Woolley join Skrill South Boreham Wood and the pair made their debuts in a 3-0 defeat at Weston-super-Mare.

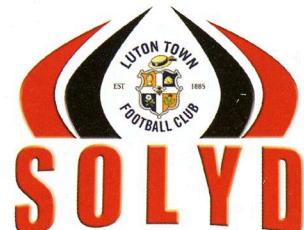
The pair then helped Wood to a 2-0 win over Gosport Borough on Saturday.

WIN A KIT SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

One lucky SoLYD supporter will soon be the proud kit sponsor of a Luton Town youth team player.

Everyone who donates via direct debit or standing order to SoLYD will be put in a prize draw to win a season's kit sponsorship of a youth team player.

The winner will have the use of an executive box for a first team match, their name in the match day programme and their player's shirt to keep at the end of the season.



The draw will be made at half-time at the Halifax home game on 5th October, so sign up now for the chance to win. Everyone signed up before 30th September who has donated to SoLYD by direct debit will be entered into the draw.

So why not donate to SoLYD now and help the Youth Development department bring through the next crop of young stars for the Hatters.

You can sign up at www.solyd.co.uk (go to Support Us and click on the direct debit form link). Good luck!

FREE AND OPEN TRIALS

Open trials are still on-going throughout September for players who have not yet trialled for the Luton Town Under-18 elite programme.

Unlike many other programmes, there are no hidden costs and the programme is free.

The only cost is for your Umbro training kit and tracksuit.

If successful, players will be part of the Hatters' elite scheme and will strive towards a professional contract at the club.

Daily training takes place at The Arena, Baldock,

which is a first class training facility with a 3G pitch and state-of-the-art classroom. There are also three full-time members of coaching staff dedicated at progressing each individual in his football development pathway.

Goalkeepers will train weekly with the first team coach at the club as well as all players receiving 10 hours minimum of professional coaching per week.

Anyone interested in trialling should contact head coach Adam Ballotta for more details on 07583 366997 or via email at adam.ballotta@lutontown.co.uk.

Diamond award for Luke

Midfielder Luke Guttridge has won the diamond season ticket holder player of the month award for August.

The former Northampton man was a clear winner with 57 per cent of the votes.

Luke will be presented with his trophy by diamond season ticket holder Andy Smith, who was drawn out of the hat of the supporters who voted for Luke. Andy receives two tickets for corporate hospitality for the fixture against Lincoln City on Saturday.

This is one benefit of the diamond season ticket package and anybody interested in upgrading can contact the ticket office on 01582 416976 for further details.

Five other players received votes for the August award: Mark Tyler (21 per cent), Steve McNulty (16 per cent) and Alex Lacey, Ronnie Henry and Paul Benson (all two per cent).

CHRISTMAS IS CALLING!

Autumn's now here and Hatters supporters have already taken advantage of the available dates for Christmas parties at Kenilworth Road.

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

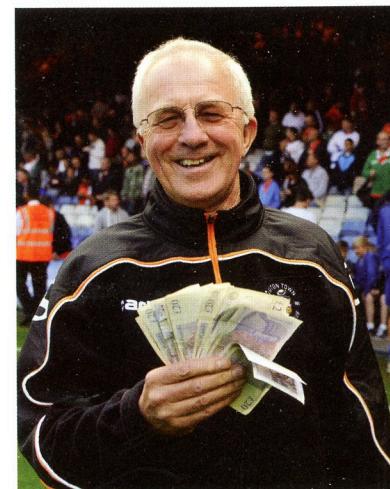
Boasting a 120 capacity and offering space for a dance floor and disco, the Eric is the ideal venue to celebrate in style. A bar is provided, as well as a three-course carvery dinner and all the decorations.

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

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

If you're interested in having your Christmas party at Kenilworth Road please contact our catering team:

Telephone: 01582 411622
Email: catering@lutontown.co.uk.



GOLDEN GAMBLE

Congratulations to Hatters fan Steve Lindsay, left, who won £500 in our Golden Gamble draw at our last home game with Grimsby Town.

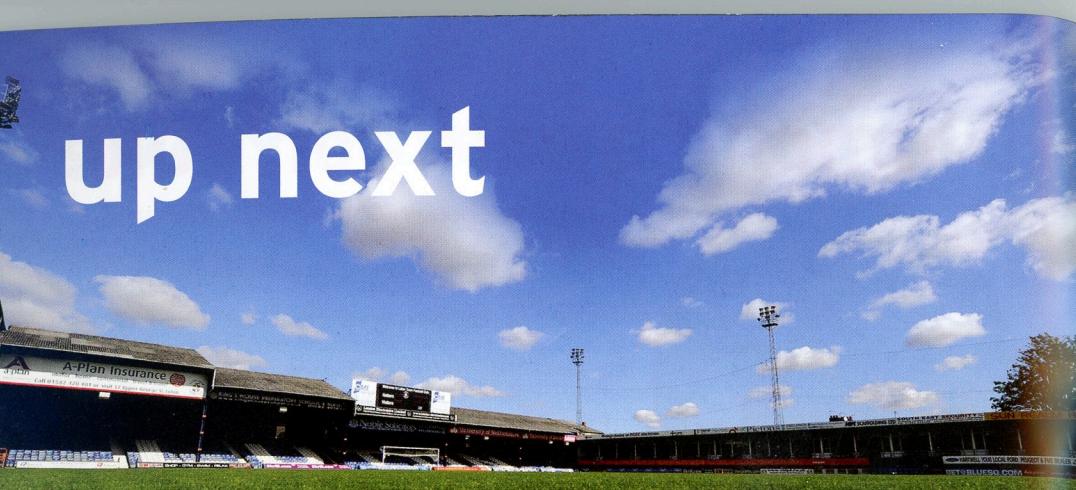
Steve's ticket 04623 was plucked out of the barrel at half-time. Remember it cost just £1, with half of the proceeds going towards the prize. Look out for our sellers in and around the ground tonight.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to supporters who contributed to a collection for Keech Hospice care at our last home match with Grimsby.

The bucket collection raised a total of £310.33. For more information on Keech visit www.keeche.org.uk.

up next



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



WHO? Lincoln City, aka the Imps. Formed in 1884 they are just a year older in formation terms than the Hatters.

Saturday's visitors get their nickname from the legend of the Lincoln Imp. The pesky little fellow looks on devilishly from the centre of the club's badge.

HISTORY LESSON. It's not often you get to use the word "Imp" in a matchday programme, so let's use it a little more.

Wikipedia informs us that according to a 14th-century legend, two mischievous creatures called imps were sent by Satan to do evil work on Earth.

The two imps headed to Lincoln cathedral and smashed up the place but one was turned into stone by an angel where he remains...

LAST TIME HERE. Leaving Satan and imps to one side, let's get back to football. The Imps were at Kenilworth Road as recently as April when the Town ran out comfortable 3-0 winners thanks to two goals from Dave Martin and one from Andre Gray.

HEAD-2-HEAD. Last Friday the Town suffered their customary league defeat at Wrexham where they hold a less than impressive record (give or take a title-winning or Play-Off victory).

Given Lincoln's record in Bedfordshire, the Imps must already be dreading their trip to Kenilworth Road. The Hatters have beaten the Lincolnshire outfit 13 times in the 18 meetings here, with City winning just twice.

You have to go back to April 1999 the last time Lincoln won at Kenilworth Road – and that victory was the Imps' first in 99 years. In all matches, home and away, the Town are unbeaten in six games against Lincoln.

IN CHARGE. Former Lincoln and Boston midfielder Gary Simpson took over at Sincil Bank in February 2013 following the departure of David Holdsworth. The Imps were in danger of being dragged into the relegation dogfight at the tail end of last term but Simpson guided the Imps to safety, finishing in 16th place.

PLAY-OFF HEARTBREAK. If you think we had in bad losing in the Play-Offs three seasons running (yes, sorry to bring it up), spare a thought for long-standing Imps fans. The Sincil Bank faithful witnessed not three but FIVE consecutive Play-Off failures in League 2 between 2003 and 2007, two of which came in the final.

DARK HORSES. Lincoln are many people's outside tip to spring a surprise in the Skrill Premier this season and Simpson's side have already shown their credentials in their opening eight games of campaign. The Imps earned a point at Barnet on Saturday with an equaliser with the very last kick of the game. City have taken 14 points, with wins over Macclesfield, Forest Green, Dartford and Wrexham. City host Southport at Sincil Bank this evening knowing three points could lift them into the Play-Off places should other results go their way.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU. There might not be any current connections between the two squads, but names such as Terry Branston, Doug Rowe, David Carr, Steve Buckley and Janos Kovacs will be familiar to both sets of supporters.

CONFERENCE WINNERS. Lincoln were the first club to be affected by automatic relegation from the Football League when they finished bottom of the old Division Four (now League 2) in 1986/87. However, the Imps bounced straight back and won the Conference at the first time of asking the following season. That season City only occupied top spot in the table once: crucially after a final-day-of-the-season over Wycombe Wanderers.

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS



SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PRO-RATA PRICES

Adults (22-64) £285, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £203, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £133, Unaccompanied Youths (10-16) and Juniors (under 10s) £39. 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.

LUTON TOWN v LINCOLN CITY



The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



WOKING v LUTON TOWN

The Skrill Premier

TUESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

We are awaiting ticket information from Woking for this match. Details will be released once received.



HEREFORD UNITED v LUTON TOWN



The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

We are awaiting ticket information from Hereford for this match. Details will be released once received.



LUTON TOWN v FC HALIFAX TOWN



The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



ALDERSHOT TOWN v LUTON TOWN



The Skrill Premier

TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

We are awaiting ticket information from Aldershot for this match. Details will be released once received.

commercial

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Welcome to Kenilworth Road to all supporters, our match sponsors and corporate guests for what is the first of two home games in five days.

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

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

ERIC MORECAMBE LOUNGE

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

MATCHDAY MASCOT

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

The mascot package is a day to remember for any young fan wanting to meet their heroes and lead Luton Town onto the Kenilworth Road pitch. Mascots and their families will enjoy a day of first-class entertainment and excellent hospitality in our popular Eric Morecambe Lounge. As mascot, you will get the chance to meet the players, get photographs and autographs from them in the dressing room before heading out onto the pitch to join in with the warm-up. After the game you will meet the man of the match and will be presented with a signed and framed programme by him.

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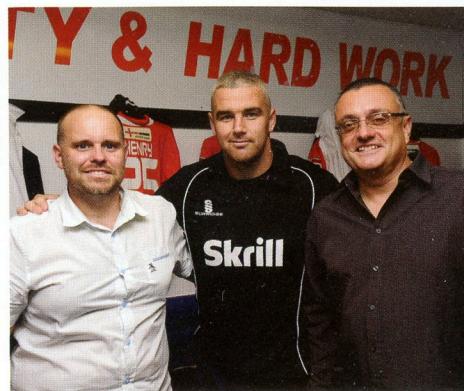
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2013/14



1 MARK TYLER	HOME: Tim Fotherham AWAY: Whosh GLOVES: Kyle McPherson	3 DANNY FITZSIMONS	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 Travel Club	7 ALEX LAWLESS	HOME: David Goode 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 & lutontownfans.co.uk	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: Luton Town Supporters Club of Scandinavia	22 SHAUN WHALLEY	HOME: Re-Mark-It AWAY: Keyholder Lettings & Management	23 MATT ROBINSON	HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Whosh	25 RONNIE HENRY	HOME: Mark Francome AWAY: Tommy Lennon
26 PAUL BENSON	HOME: Ashby World Domination AWAY: The Mad Hatter	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: Total Motion Vehicle Management 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 HAYRETTIN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	JEFF WOOD	HOME: Available AWAY: Available		

welcome

DARTFORD



It is with pleasure that we welcome Dartford to Kenilworth Road this evening.

The Darts are enjoying their second campaign in non-league's top-flight this season after a fine eighth place finish under manager Tony Burman last term.

Last season's performances were all the more impressive given the club's part-time status – the highest finish from a part-time club in the whole of the football pyramid.

Among those eye-catching displays were two victories over the Hatters. The first came at Kenilworth Road in November last year when goals from Lee Noble and Tom Bonner gave the Darts all three points and Burman's boys completed the double over the Town in the return at Princes Park in February when a fine individual goal from Paul Hayes secured a 1-0 victory.

Last season's success continued the Darts' renaissance.

The club were three levels below the Conference as recently as five years ago, but a series of promotions has helped the Darts return back to the top flight of non-league football after a 16-year absence.

The Princes Park faithful have been indebted to the work done by manager Burman. Taking over in 2005 the boss has overseen three promotions.

The Ryman Division One North championship was won in 2008, two years later the Premier title was won and, in 2011/12, the Darts completed their rise to the

Conference Premier by winning the Conference South Play-Off final.

Tonight the Darts visit Kenilworth Road off the back of a 2-1 home defeat to fellow part-time club Nuneaton Town at Princes Park. Burman's side occupy 19th place in the Skrill Premier, having taken seven points from their opening eight matches.

The Darts' success last season came at a cost with senior members of the squad moving on to secured full-time football. Leading lights Tom Champion and Tom Bonner were snapped up by Cambridge - the team that current top the Skrill Premier table.

An opening day victory over Alfreton was followed by three straight defeats at the hands of Aldershot, Halifax and Braintree before goals from Kenny Clark and Danny Harris secured a 2-0 win over Tamworth on 26th August.

Since that victory Burman's side have picked up just one point in the following three games, losing to Lincoln and Nuneaton at home and drawing 0-0 at Chester.

Despite their indifferent start to the season, hopes are high in Kent for another successful, stress-free season in non-league's top flight.

Experienced goalkeeper Alan Julian and striker Adam Birchall will help Burman's side at either end of the park and with talented midfielders Noble and Hayes capable of unlocking the best defences, there should be no reason why the Darts can't emulate the eighth place finish this time around.

in opposition

MEET THE DARTFORD SQUAD

THE MANAGER

TONY BURMAN. Boss who took control at Princes Park in 2005 for his second spell in charge. Has since written himself into Darts folklore with three promotions in that time, guiding the club from the Ryman Division One North to the Conference Premier. Also served the club as a player.

GOALKEEPERS

ALAN JULIAN. Stopper who arrived this summer from Newport County. Began his career at Brentford before joining Stevenage, who he made 159 appearances for. A short spell with Gillingham followed before he re-joined Stevenage for a second time. Signed for Newport last summer and helped the Exiles to promotion.

TOM WELLHAM. Young goalkeeper signed as the Darts' number two having impressed on trial in pre-season. Previously on the books at Millwall.

DEFENDERS

JOSH HILL. Centre-half who signed this close season having previously been with Coalville where he won a number of end-of-season awards. The 22-year-old signed for Worksop this summer but cancelled his contract due to work relocation.

TYRONE STERLING. Another summer signing, Sterling joined the Darts having spent seven seasons with Cray Wanderers. Capable of playing in defence or midfield, he has also enjoyed a spell with Dover.

KENNY CLARK. Commanding central defender who signed for Burman's side this summer from Chelmsford City. He spent two years in the Dagenham & Redbridge youth team before signing for Thurrock and Heybridge Swifts.

MAX CORNHILL. Another close season arrival at Princes Park, Max spent six months with Romford. Also had spells with Chelmsford and East Thurrock.

MATT FRY. Former West Ham junior who signed for the Darts this summer following his release from Bradford City. The defender also helped Concord Rangers earn promotion to Skrill South last season.

MAT MITCHEL-KING. August arrival following his release from AFC Wimbledon. Made his name with Histon, which led to a move to a Football League move with Crewe. Started his career with Mildenhall before signing for Cambridge City.

MIDFIELDERS

RYAN HAYES. The scorer of a spectacular goal for the Darts against the Town last season, the talented winger is the club's longest serving player having joined in 2005. A crowd favourite, he has amassed over 250 appearances since signing from Kent League side Slade Green.

LEE NOBLE. Another long-serving Dart, the midfielder signed in the summer of 2008 from Brentwood Town.

Was loaned out to Concord Rangers where his impressive performances saw him return to the first XI at Princes Park.

ELLIOT BRADBROOK. Club captain who signed in the summer of 2009 from Maidstone. Had a spell in the United States whilst at University and has been a regular for the Darts ever since his return.

DANNY HARRIS. Quick and skilful winger or striker who is in his fifth season with the club having signed from Bishop's Stortford.

JAMES ROGERS. Deadline day signing in March 2011 from Margate, the left-sided midfielder or defender began his career at Dover.

NATHAN COLLIER. Versatile midfielder now in his second season at Princes Park. Spent three seasons at Hampton & Richmond Borough, making 100 appearances in the process.

ALEX WOODWARD. Young midfielder who joined this summer following his release from Southend. Spent last season on loan with Braintree.

STRIKERS

JASON PRIOR. Frontman who began his career as a central midfielder before being converted to a striker. Scored 95 goals in 126 games for Bognor before he was snapped up by AFC Wimbledon.

An injury-plagued spell at Kingsmeadow followed before he signed for the Darts this summer having a successful loan spell at the back end of last season.

ADAM BIRCHALL. Summer signing from Gillingham who made his name with a prolific spell with Dover where he hit 64 goals in 78 appearances.

Injury curtailed his spell with the Gills and he spent a spell on loan with the Darts last year prior to his permanent arrival this season.

LEE BURNS. Versatile forward who can also play in defence, who joined the Darts from Braintree. Began his career at East Thurrock before a move to Braintree.

FOOTBALL

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

After a exceeding all expectations last season with an eighth-placed finish after gaining a promotion the year before, part-time side Dartford will be hoping to avoid the second-season curse that seems to apply to leagues up and down the football pyramid.

Tony Burman, the Conference's longest-serving manager, lost two of his key players in Tom Bonner and Tom Champion to current league-leaders Cambridge United in the summer, but many believe they have added enough new faces to strengthen their squad in order to ruse in amongst the top half again this term.

How did they perform last season?

The Bridgemen finished eighth last year, just one place below the Hatters, with 66 points after picking up 19 wins including triumphs over champions Mansfield, Play-Off winners Newport County, as well as Kidderminster, Wrexham, Grimsby and even a double over the Hatters

Dartford were definitely a side who relished the big occasions as their list of giant-killings is contrasted by the fact they only won seven of their games against teams who finished in the bottom half.

How have they started the 2013/14 campaign?

Tony Burman's side are currently 20th in the Skrill Premier having played eight, won two, drawn one and lost five, scoring five and conceding 11. The side from Kent have only won one in their last seven games since an opening day 1-0 win over Alfreton, and things could get worse as they face Grimsby and Kidderminster after their visit to Kenilworth Road tonight. Dartford have tended to be slow starters in games this season. Their opponents have scored first in five out of eight games and the Darts have failed to earn a single point when going behind.

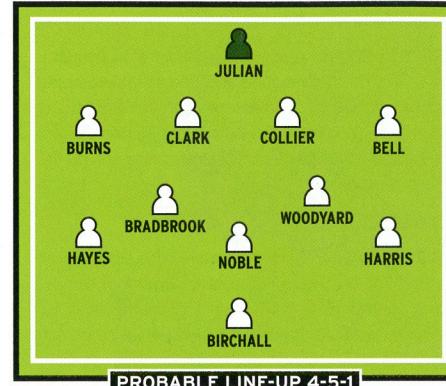
It seems tonight's visitors have some things in common with the Hatters. Firstly, the two sides' away records are exactly the same: one win in four games and just two goals netted. Secondly, goals in general have been difficult to come by with Dartford failing to score in four games and Luton failing to score in five.

How will they play? Who are their key men?

Dartford are expected to pack the midfield with a 4-5-1 formation here at Kenilworth Road. So far this



Ryan Hayes:
One to watch



season, Burman's side have been credited for playing neat passing football but have also been criticised for being a little pedestrian and lacking any incisiveness in the final third. However, being away from home and not having the majority of the ball may suit them given they have a lot of pace out wide so could cause the Hatters problems on the break.

Alan Julian, a summer signing from Newport, will start in goal for the visitors. Dagenham & Redbridge youth product Kenny Clark will form the centre-back partnership alongside Nathan Collier who is nominally an attack-minded midfielder.

Right-winger Ryan Hayes and Danny Harris on the opposite flank will be the key danger men with their raw pace, ability to beat a man and abundance of tricks. Others to watch will be goal-scoring midfielder Lee Noble and Gillingham loanee Adam Birchall who scored 64 goals in 78 games for Dover Athletic before moving to the Gills.



club data

Established: 1888

Nickname(s): The Bridgemen, The Darts

Stadium: Princes Park

Capacity: 4,100 (Average attendance 12/13 – 1,366)

Manager: Tony Burman (Eight years, nine months)

Final league position 12/13: 8th BSBP

from the oak road

HOW DID IT FEEL TO DO THE DOUBLE OVER LUTON LAST SEASON? ARE PART-TIMERS ON BORROWED TIME AT THIS LEVEL? AND IS TELEVISION'S TRANSFER TITTLE-TATTLE TURNING INTO A TEDIOUS TRIAL? DARTS FAN GARY CLARK STEPS UP THIS WEEK TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.

TALK OF THE TOWN: Dartford finished as the highest part-time club in the country last year, adjusting to life at Conference National level easily following their promotion in the previous campaign. Will it be a case of 'second season syndrome' this time round - or are the Darts set for another successful year?

GARY: After last year, the success will be very difficult to replicate, given the limitations we have in comparison to many teams in this division. However, having proven that we can compete with the top sides, we should have no fear going into the season again.



TOTT: Dartford outplayed Luton during the two matches between the teams last season. What are your memories from those games? Do you feel the Hatters will provide a sterner test this time round?

GARY: Standing in the away end at Kenilworth Road was a lot of fun in the fixture last year, because it was one of the moments that we could tell we'd "arrived". Playing in front of over 6,000 people is something that we hadn't been used to for a long time and it was nice to experience it again. Luton Town are a side who certainly need to be stronger than last year if they're going to challenge this season, and I'd expect a better showing.

TOTT: Tell us about the incomings and outgoings amongst your squad during the close season. Which of your new recruits has made the biggest impact so far?

GARY: We've had a few changes this year, losing Tom Bonner and Tom Champion to Cambridge United, as well as making tweaks elsewhere. Kenny Clark has been probably the pick of the signings this season, coming in from Chelmsford City and making his mark in central defence.

TOTT: Out of the teams you have faced so far this season, who has impressed you the most?

GARY: I felt that Aldershot Town were a strong side

when we played them at the start of the season, despite still needing time to gel as a side. If they can continue picking up points, they might be a surprise package to get into the Play-Offs, despite their 10-point deficit.

TOTT: John Still managed Dartford for three years in the 1980s, leading you to the Southern League Championship. Do you remember his time in charge?

GARY: I was only a child when John Still was in charge for us, but I've only heard good things about his time at the club.

TOTT: Now that the Conference is essentially a fifth professional division, do you see Dartford becoming a full-time club in the near future?

GARY: I think it would be very difficult for our club to go full-time in the foreseeable future without putting our club in financial jeopardy, given the current climate and our average attendances. I have faith in our board of directors that, as and when it becomes viable, they will make the decision to go full-time. However, I'd much rather see us stay part-time and compete within our means, rather than either weaken our position by only being able to afford the weaker full-time players, as in many cases, the stronger part-time players will be better footballers.

TOTT: The transfer window has snapped shut again for a few months – do you enjoy the excitement of transfer deadline day or do the histrionics that accompany it drive you mad? Would you change the transfer system in any way?

GARY: I love the pantomime of transfer deadline day - if you take it for what it is, believe nothing until it's signed, enjoy the faffing about of journalists and the media in justifying their blanket coverage, you'll not go far wrong. If I had to change anything about it, I would make the window close earlier to stop the first month of the season from being a shambles.



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DEREK HALES



Manager John Still is perhaps the most obvious link between the two clubs, having managed both in his career.

The current Hatters boss enjoyed a successful spell in charge of the Darts between 1983 and 1986. In 1983/84 he guided the Kent club to the Southern

League Premier Division title which earned promotion to the Alliance Premier – aka the Football Conference. You can read more about John's time with the Darts on page 43.

Winger Dave Martin shot to prominence with tonight's visitors, scoring 14 times in 68 appearances that led to a move to Crystal Palace for a fee of £25,000 in January 2007.

Ted Bassett and George Ramage are two other names to have served both clubs, but perhaps the man known most to both sets of supporters is Derek Hales.

Derek came to the attention of the Town when banging in the goals for the Darts and, although he had a good job as a qualified Post Office engineer, he took the plunge and joined the professional ranks at Kenilworth Road in March 1972.

Even though he scored on his full debut for the Hatters in the 1-1 home draw with Cardiff in February 1973 he was not given much of a chance at Kenilworth Road and moved to Charlton for £4,000 that summer.

The rest is history, as the predatory goalscorer – in two spells at the Valley – netted a goal every other game as well as enjoying big money moves to Derby and West Ham in a long career.

LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 9

LUTON TOWN GOALS: 1

FIRST APPEARANCE:

v Cardiff City (h) D 1-1 17/2/1973

FINAL APPEARANCE:

v Middlesbrough (h) L 0-1 23/4/1973

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Dartford were regular opponents of the Town's in the old Metropolitan League in the 1950s when the Darts' reserves played the Hatters' youth team.

The two clubs met for the first time in competitive fixtures last season with the Darts coming out on top in both matches in their first season back in non-league's top flight since 1986.

Goals from Lee Noble and Tom Bonner saw Dartford beat the Hatters at Kenilworth Road on 10th November.

The Hatters fell behind in the sixth minute when Noble's free-kick from distance floated all the way past goalkeeper Dean Brill.

And the Darts doubled their lead shortly before half-time to the delight of the 484 visiting supporters when Bonner rose to head past an exposed Brill.

The Hatters huffed and puffed but the Darts held on for three points which ensured they leap-frogged the Town in the table.

The return at Princes Park on a cold February evening was just days before the Town entertained Millwall in an FA Cup fifth round tie at Kenilworth Road.

The Town came close to scoring through Andre Gray but, just as the game looked to be heading for a goalless draw, Dartford winger Ryan Hayes hit a wonderful winning goal on 72 minutes.

Having done the double over the Hatters the Darts finished the Conference campaign in eighth place – the highest of any part-time club in the country.

Town (first match): Brill, Lawless, Howells, Henry, Ainge, Smith, Mendy (sub Walker), O'Donnell, Gray, Rendell, Fleetwood.

Dartford (first match): Bettinelli, Rose, Champion, Bonner, Arber, Bradbrook, Noble, Burns, Hayes (sub Collier), Erskine, Harris (sub Rogers).

Dartford (second match): Bettinelli, Rose, Green, Bonner, Arber, Champion, Hayes (sub Wallis), Bradbrook, Noble, Harris (sub Rogers), Collier (sub Erskine).

Town (second match): Tyler, Henry, Howells, Kovacs, McNulty, Mendy (sub Taylor), Smith, Neilson, Martin (sub O'Donnell), Shaw (sub Rendell), Gray.

back to the future

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO FOUR OF DARTFORD'S GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

1974 FA TROPHY FINALISTS

JOHN MORTON: Goalkeeper who was an important figure as Dartford also won the Southern League title in 1973/74. He moved to Wealdstone in July 1974, then played for Hounslow, settling in London.

JOHN READ: Experienced right-back who skippered both Romford and Dartford to the Southern League title. Injury ended his career in May 1975 and he worked as a groundsman in his native east London.

ALAN PAYNE: Long-serving left-back who was Player of the Year 1974/75, then a promotion winner in 1975/76. Moving to Cray Wanderers in July 1977 and later Tonbridge, he has settled in Dartford.

GRAHAM CARR: Later played for Tonbridge and Weymouth, then managed Dartford, Nuneaton Borough, Northampton Town, Blackpool, Maidstone and Kettering. He is the father of comedian Alan Carr.

LES BURNS: Long-serving central defender who was Player of the Year as Dartford won promotion in 1969/70. He set the club appearance record prior to joining Ramsgate in July 1975 and still lives locally.

MARTIN BINKS: Central defender who later appeared for Folkestone, Gravesend & Northfleet, Chelmsford, Tilbury, Dagenham and Basildon. He then managed Ford United and Tilbury, settling in Romford.

DANNY LIGHT: Ex-Colchester United winger who joined Dover in July 1975 and moved via Wealdstone back to Dartford in July 1977. Later Tonbridge's player-coach, he became a school teacher in Dulwich.

BOB GLOZIER: Ex-England Schoolboy international who later played for Dover, Gravesend & Northfleet, Hastings United, Crawley and Bishop's Stortford, teaching sport and leisure at Redbridge College.

KEITH ROBINSON: Former Deal Town and Dover striker who was leading marksman in Dartford's 1973/74 Southern League title triumph. He later appeared for Folkestone and still lives in his native town.

DAVE CUNNINGHAM: Scottish striker on loan from Southend United. He moved to Swindon Town in June 1977, then Peterborough, Aston Villa, Hereford, Newport County, Trowbridge and Gloucester City.

KEN HALLIDAY: Former Chelsea, Brentwood and Cambridge City winger who also helped Dartford to win the Kent Senior Cup in 1973 and Southern League championship in 1973/74. He now lives in Ongar.

1980/81 SOUTHERN DIVISION CHAMPIONS

ROGER KEEN: Long-serving goalkeeper who also featured in Dartford's 1975/76 promotion success, moving to Gravesend & Northfleet in July 1982. He worked for Barclays International, settling in Poole.

TREVOR TIMMS: Right-back who later played for Gravesend & Northfleet, Sheppen United, Corinthian and Tonbridge, then rejoined Darts, becoming assistant-boss. He works for the Lloyds Banking Group.

RAY TUMBRIDGE: Left-back who moved to Gravesend & Northfleet in 1983, then played for Tonbridge. He later worked in financial services until his death in June 2009.

STEVE ROBINSON: Favourite who returned from Leytonstone/Ilford to break Dartford's appearance record, joining Welling United in November 1990. Now manager of the NatWest Bank in Bexleyheath.

GLENN COUPLAND: Central defender who replaced Graham Carr as player-boss midway through the season. Later rejoining Tonbridge, he was deputy headmaster at a school in Tonbridge until retirement.

WILLIE O'SULLIVAN: Midfielder who later played for Gravesend & Northfleet, Fisher, Dover, Crawley and Margate. He was a painter and decorator, then a black cab driver, managing Lewisham Borough.

AIDAN O'SULLIVAN: Midfielder who also helped Dartford to reach the FA Trophy semi-finals in 1980/81, making over 100 appearances for the club. He worked as a teacher and has settled in Gillingham.

TONY BURMAN: Striker who followed John Still to Leytonstone/Ilford in July 1987. Later with Bromley and Erith & Belvedere, he rejoined Dartford as coach and is now in his third spell as their manager.

GARY JULIANS: Leading scorer who joined Maidstone in October 1981, then played for several clubs prior to rejoining Dartford where he became manager. Now business manager for Lexus in Twickenham.

JOHN MITCHELL: Experienced striker who was in his third spell at Dartford, also appearing for Dagenham, Tooting & Mitcham and Welling United. He has worked as a forklift truck driver in East London.

BILLY FOGARTY: Former Gillingham midfielder who joined Hastings United in June 1981, then Canterbury City, Bromley and Tonbridge. He has since worked as a painter and decorator, living in Forest Hill.

1983/84 SOUTHERN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

GARY MOSELEY: Goalkeeper who had understudied Phil Parkes at West Ham. He rejoined Crawley Town in March 1985, then appeared for Bromley, Cray Wanderers and Croydon, settling in Eastbourne.

DAVE JACQUES: Right-back who was Player of the Year runner-up in 1983-84 and had a spell with Enfield before joining Maidstone United. He later played for Redbridge Forest and settled in Romford.

BOB MAKIN: Left-back who joined Chelmsford City in July 1985, then played for Dartford again, John Still's Leytonstone/Ilford and Redbridge Forest. He was Barking's assistant-boss before managing Darts.

BOBBY ARBER: Central defender who later appeared for Woodford and Barking, then coached Maidstone United before Spurs' youth team boss and Arsenal scout. His son Mark also played for Dartford.

TONY PAMPHLETT: Central defender who moved to Maidstone United in July 1986, helping them win the Conference title in 1988/89. Later playing for Dagenham & Redbridge, he has settled in Welling.

FRAN COWLEY: Midfielder who later had spells at Chelmsford City, Basildon United, Leytonstone/Ilford, Bishop's Stortford, Purfleet, Thurrock and Aveley, becoming a messenger for General Accident.

STEVE ROBINSON: Favourite who returned from Leytonstone/Ilford to break Dartford's appearance record, joining Welling United in November 1990. Now manager of the NatWest Bank in Bexleyheath.

PAUL POWELL: Former Leytonstone/Ilford midfielder who made a significant contribution to Dartford's 1983/84 success before sidelined by injury. He later played for Dagenham and still lives locally.

TERRY SULLIVAN: Striker who was Player of the Year in 1983/84 and joined Dagenham in July 1985. He then had a brief spell at Maidstone United before reuniting with John Still at Leytonstone/Ilford.

TONY BURMAN: Striker who followed John Still to Leytonstone/Ilford in July 1987. Later with Bromley and Erith & Belvedere, he rejoined Dartford as coach and is now in his third spell as their manager.

JOE SIMMONDS: Former Spurs reserve winger who returned to Bishop's Stortford in August 1984, then had spells with Boreham Wood, Aveley and Romford. He now lives in Aldersbrook, east London.

1988 SOUTHERN LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

KINGSLEY BANKS: Young goalkeeper who later appeared for Basildon United, Enfield, Barking, Witham Town and Heybridge Swifts until injury ended his career. He has settled in Clacton-on-Sea.

DAVID MYERS: Attacking right-back who featured prominently in Dartford's successes under Peter Taylor during his second spell at the club. He moved to Hythe Town in July 1990, settling locally.

COLIN JOHNSON: Versatile left-back who played in three successive Southern League Cup finals and had a spell with Stambridge before rejoining Chelmsford in November 1990, then Heybridge Swifts.

MARK KEEN: Former Witham Town central defender who joined Enfield in July 1990, then Chelmsford City in June 1993. He moved to Heybridge Swifts in August 1996 and has settled back in Witham.

STEVE CONNER: England Semi-Pro international defender who joined Redbridge Forest in August 1990. He continued with the re-named Dagenham & Redbridge, then Billericay Town, settling in Grays.

STEVE ROBINSON: Favourite who returned from Leytonstone/Ilford to break Dartford's appearance record, joining Welling United in November 1990. Now manager of the Nat West Bank in Bexleyheath.

ANDY HESSENTHALER: Midfielder who had two spells at Dartford and joined John Still's Redbridge Forest in July 1990. Reunited with Peter Taylor at Watford and Gillingham, he has twice managed Gills.

GARY BRITNELL: Ex-Chelmsford City midfielder who scored in the Southern League Cup final and joined Enfield in July 1990, then was Canvey Island's player-coach. He is employed as a bricklayer.

KURT DAVIDSON: Striker who later appeared for Redbridge Forest, Hendon, Chelmsford City, Sutton United, Gray's Athletic, Bishop's Stortford, Dagenham & Redbridge and was Chesham's player-boss.

JOHN BARTLEY: England Semi-Pro international striker who was the Southern League's top scorer in 1987-88. Later playing for Alma Swanley, Erith & Belvedere and Sheppen United, he was a fireman.

PETER TAYLOR: Ex-England international who has since managed Southend, England Under-21s, Gillingham, Leicester, Brighton, Hull City, Crystal Palace, Stevenage, Wycombe, Bradford City and Bahrain.

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TOWN 0-0 GRIMSBY

The Town earned a fourth successive clean sheet but couldn't break down a resolute Grimsby in a goalless draw played in front of the live BT Sport cameras.

A point earned against one of the favourites for promotion could have been all three had home debutante Paul Benson's effort in the dying moments of the first half crept over the line.

That was the best chance in a match of few opportunities for both sides, but despite the frustration of not finding the target, the Hatters can take heart from yet another solid defensive display. Mark Tyler was rarely tested and the last time his goal was breached was 387 minutes ago.

John Still kept the faith with the same side that won at Kidderminster and the Town began well.

A series of dangerous crosses whipped in from the right-flank put the visitors' back line at ill ease as the Hatters hunted an early goal.

Benson had the Town's first chance on 14 minutes when his header from a left-wing corner from Luke Guttridge bounced wide.

Three minutes later, as the Hatters continued to dominate, Jonathan Smith sent a low shot into the arms of Grimsby goalkeeper James McKeown.

Jake Howells, fresh from two goals at Kidderminster, shot high and wide with a right-foot shot on 22 minutes before Benson thundered a first-time shot just past the post two minutes later after Grimsby failed to clear a dangerous pass into the box by Andy Parry.

Half chances continued to fall the Town's way with Guttridge shooting straight at McKeown on the half-hour before going closer on 36 minutes with a header that bounced inches wide following a fine right-wing centre from captain Ronnie Henry.

As half-time approached the Hatters pressed in search of that elusive goal and Benson headed straight at McKeown from eight yards following a left-wing corner from Guttridge on 39 minutes before Howells sent a header wide moments later.

However, in first half stoppage time Benson was denied a first goal in Luton colours when he saw a deft effort cleared off the line by Mariners centre-half Shaun Pearson.

During the first half Alex Lacey went down with a nasty injury and at the break he was replaced by Jim Stevenson in a move that saw Parry drop back to centre-half to partner Steve McNulty.



Jake Howells starts a Town attack against the Mariners

Grimsby started the brighter of the two sides after the restart but failed to make their brief dominance count as Tyler remained untroubled.

Stevenson was making a likeable impression on his debut and came close to putting the Town in front on 54 minutes when his first-time shot from distance bounced wide.

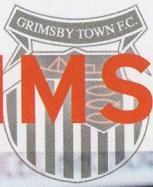
The former Histon youngster came even closer with 16 minutes left. He swapped passes with Benson before hammering a low shot from the edge of the box that swerved a yard wide of the post with McKeown beaten.

Still sent on Alex Wall with six minutes left and within seconds of his introduction he barged his marker out the way before sending a fierce low drive into the hands of McKeown.

The Town huffed and puffed in search of a late winner but the watching television audience and those watching inside Kenilworth Road were left to contemplate a goalless draw.



TOWN 0-0 GRIMSBY



TOWN: Tyler, Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Lacey (sub Stevenson 46), Parry, Smith, Guttridge (sub Wall 84), Howells, Benson, Gray (sub Whalley 71).
SUBS NOT USED: Cullen, Justham.

GRIMSBY: McKeown, Pearson, Doig, Bignot, Goodall, Kerr, Colbeck (sub Cook 87), Disley (sub Thanoj 88), Rodman (sub Neilson 80), McLaughlin, John-Lewis.
SUBS NOT USED: McDonald, Hannah.

Alex Lacey wins this aerial battle



POSSESSION	47%	53%
CORNERS	5	3
SHOTS ON TARGET	5	0
SHOTS OFF TARGET	12	3

FOULS	15	8
YELLOW CARDS	0	2
RED CARDS	0	0

ATTENDANCE: 6,131 (265 GRIMSBY)



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WREXHAM 2-0 TOWN

Ten-man Town slipped to only their second defeat of the season as they went down 2-0 at the Racecourse in front of the BT Sport cameras.

The Hatters – showing two changes to the side that drew with Grimsby, with Shaun Whalley and Mark Cullen given starts in the place of Alex Lacey and Andre Gray – had the best of the openings of a frustrating first half.

Jonathan Smith warmed the gloves of Wrexham goalkeeper Joslain Mayebi on seven minutes after a flowing Town move had opened up the home defence.

As the Hatters searched for the lead, they had the ball in the Dragons' net 11 minutes later, but Cullen's deft finish – having read Paul Benson's flick-on – was ruled out for offside.

Clear-cut chances were at a real premium for either side, but three minutes after Cullen's disallowed strike, Wrexham were ahead. The Town allowed Neil Ashton to arch a dangerous left-wing cross to the back-post where Andy Bishop was on hand to finish well past an exposed Mark Tyler.

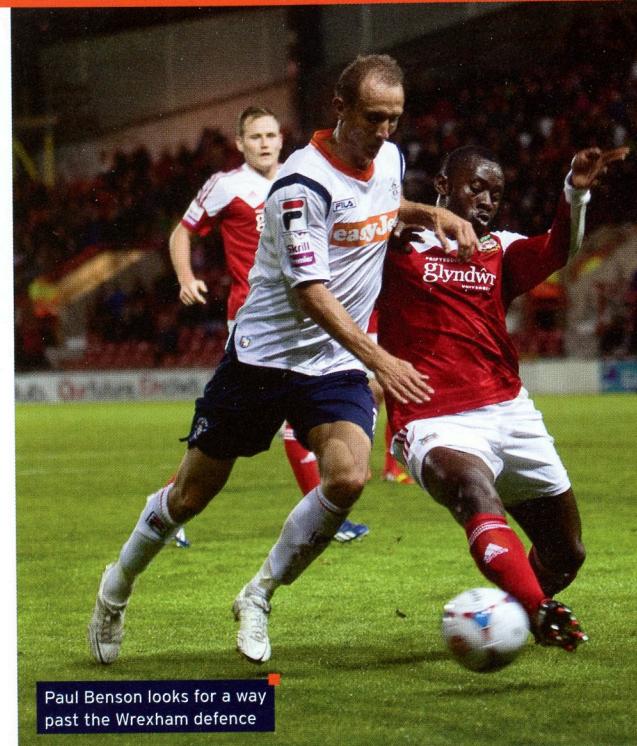
Hurt by going behind, the Hatters responded. Smith rifled a shot into the arms of Mayebi on 28 minutes and, after Tyler had held an ambitious effort from David Artell on 35 minutes, the Town ended the first 45 minutes on top.

A lovely one-touch move on 39 minutes saw Jake Howells unceremoniously barged off the ball on the edge of the box and Whalley wasn't far away from finding the target with a right-foot free-kick that whistled just over the crossbar.

A minute later Benson almost sniffed out a chance from nothing when reacting to a terrible back-pass from Stephen Wright that sold Mayebi short. However, the goalkeeper did well to snuff out the striker's effort inside the six-yard box and spare Wright's blushes.

The final chance of the half came after more good football from the Town. Howells broke forward down the left and threaded a pass through to Cullen unmarked in the hosts' penalty area but, after taking one touch, the striker's effort was smothered by Mayebi.

The Hatters' pressure continued after the restart. A right-wing corner from Howells was half-cleared to Smith



Paul Benson looks for a way past the Wrexham defence

on the edge of the box and the midfielder's low shot was blocked as the ball hurtled towards goal.

Three minute later Whalley's right-wing cross found Cullen in space in the penalty area but his header was off way off target from distance.

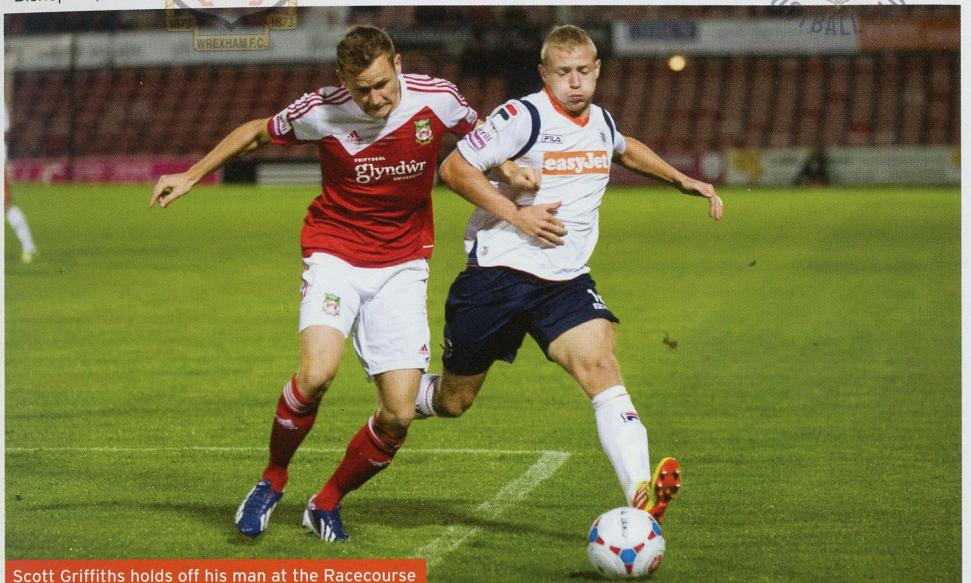
However, following that chance the Hatters' evening took a turn for the worse on 55 minutes. Wrexham had been threatening with a spell of pressure and they doubled their lead when Joe Clarke rose at the back-post following another deep cross from the opposite flank to power a header past Tyler.

Two goals down and a mountain to climb, John Still made a double substitution shortly after the hour, introducing Alex Lawless, for his first appearance of the season, and Alex Wall for Whalley and Cullen respectively.

The Hatters went in search of a way back into the game but their efforts were made even tougher 10 minutes from time when substitute Wall was sent-off for a challenge on home defender Ashton.

WREXHAM 2-0 TOWN

Bishop 21, Hunt 58



Scott Griffiths holds off his man at the Racecourse



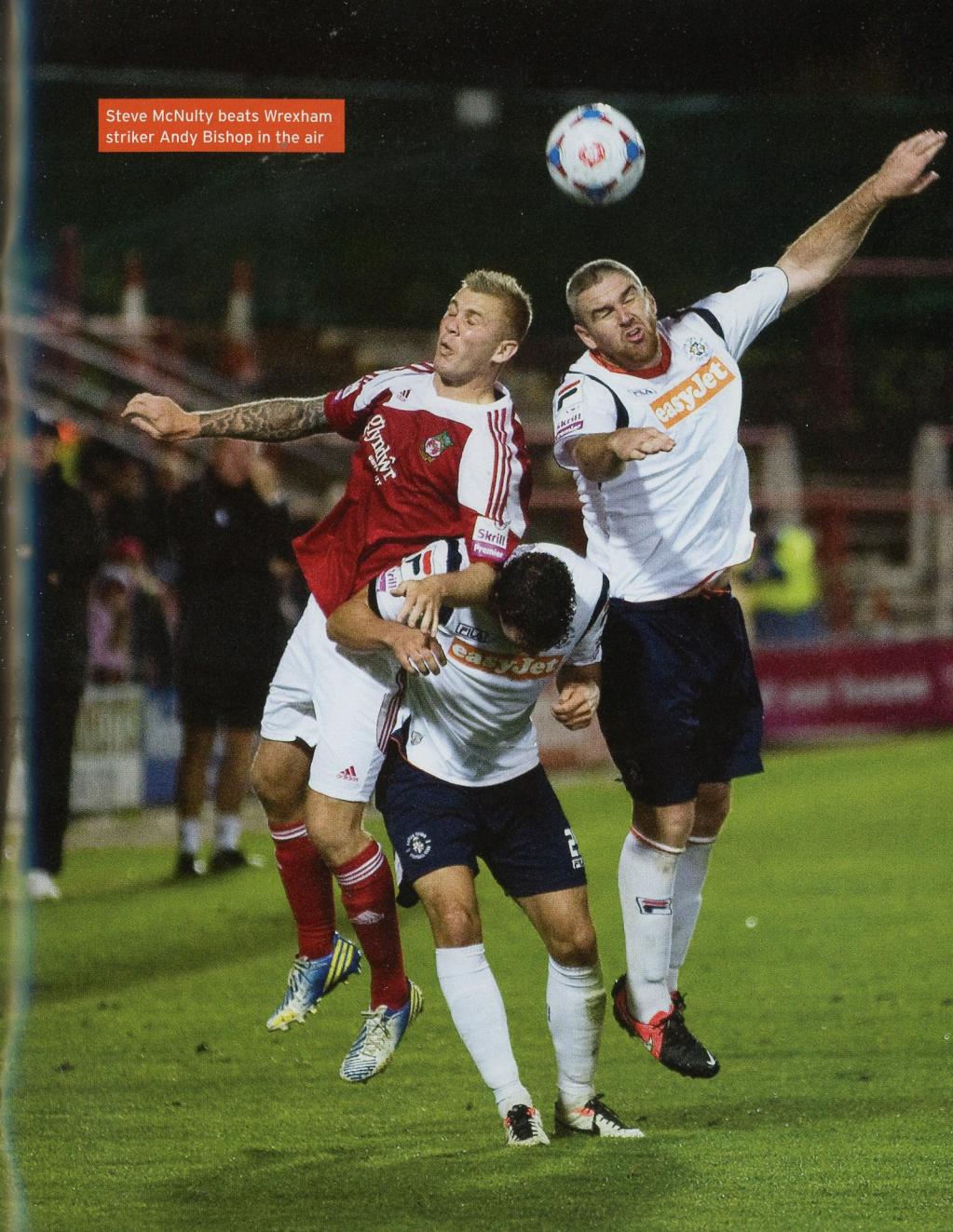
Substitute Alex Lawless battles for the ball

WREXHAM: Mayebi, Wright (sub Ntame 46), Ashton, Clarke, Harris, Bishop, Ormerod, Tomassen, Hunt, Bailey-Jones, Artell. **SUBS NOT USED:** Coughlin, Morell, Carrington.

TOWN: Tyler, Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Parry, Howells (sub Gray 72), Whalley (sub Lawless 61), Smith, Guttridge, Cullen (sub Wall 61), Benson. **SUBS NOT USED:** Justham, Stevenson.



Steve McNulty beats Wrexham striker Andy Bishop in the air



POSSESSION	54%	46%
CORNERS	4	5
SHOTS ON TARGET	3	3
SHOTS OFF TARGET	3	3

FOULS	6	12
YELLOW CARDS	1	3
RED CARDS	0	1
ATTENDANCE: 3,122 (190 LUTON)		

centre spot



It's good to be back Midfielder Alex Lawless made his long-awaited return to action as a substitute in the 2-0 defeat at Wrexham on Friday

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reaction

STEVENSON GRATEFUL FOR CHANCE

Jim Stevenson is hoping for more minutes in the Town midfield after impressing on his debut against Grimsby last weekend.

The 21-year-old summer signing has had to be patient for his chance in the Hatters first team, but following a series of eye-catching displays for the development squad – including a goal against Stevenage – the former Histon man got his first taste of action as a half-time substitute against the Mariners.

On for the injured Alex Lacey, the midfielder, who scored 11 times for the Stutes last season prior to his transfer to Kenilworth Road this summer, came close to debut goal when his effort swerved wide of the post.

Naturally disappointed the 20-yard strike didn't find the back of net, the youngster was happy to take his chance – and will work harder to ensure it won't be the last time he's strutting his stuff in the centre of the Town midfield.

Reward

"I will just take every game as it comes and each day as it comes because the gaffer does reward players that are training well and you can't slack off and expect yourself to even be on the bench next week," Stevenson told Hatters Player after the goalless draw.

"I've got to train well and earn the right to be there and then whenever I get my chance I'll be ready and just try and help the team get as many points as we can.

"It's hard to judge it based on 45 minutes of football. We were playing well and I just wanted to contribute and help the team to continue to do well as obviously I watched the first half and we dominated.

"The atmosphere's much bigger than what I've been used to so that was probably the biggest thing, and the football side of things was a step up.

"But when you are playing with good players it helps, so I felt OK and I felt comfortable out there."

With competition for first team places fierce, especially in the centre of midfield, Stevenson wants to meet the goals he set himself at the start of the season – and believes there's plenty of improvement in him yet.

"I've got my targets and I want to push into the team," he said. "I had them at the start of the season to be wanting to play and they haven't changed.

"I will just continue to work as hard as I can and if I can get myself into the team it's my place to keep."

"I'm going to be a little bit critical of myself because I want to do as well as possible.

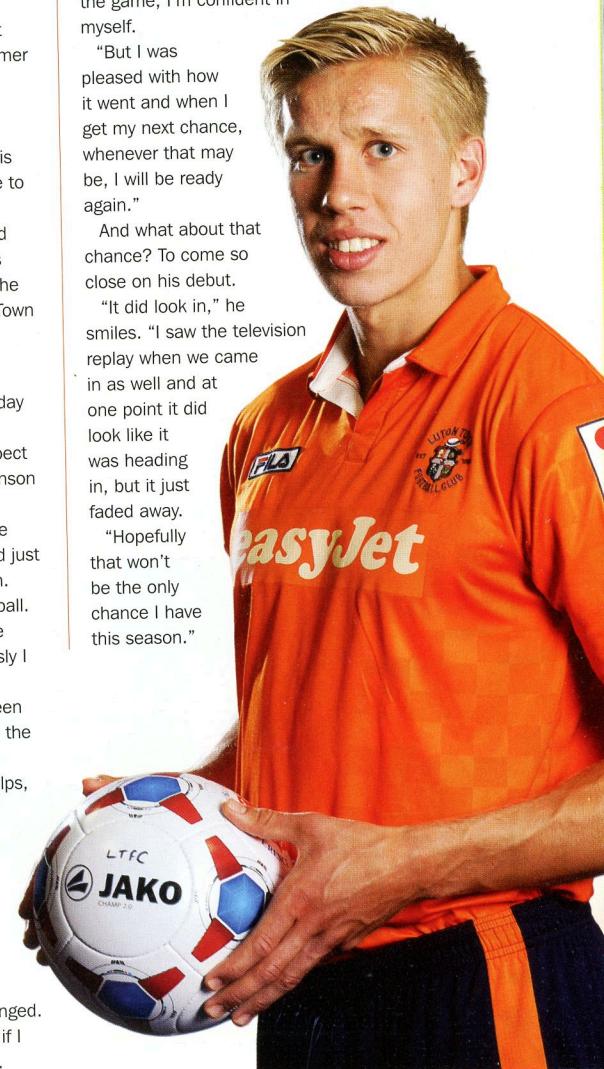
"But there is more to come, once I get settled and find my feet a little I'm sure I can influence the game, I'm confident in myself.

"But I was pleased with how it went and when I get my next chance, whenever that may be, I will be ready again."

And what about that chance? To come so close on his debut.

"It did look in," he smiles. "I saw the television replay when we came in as well and at one point it did look like it was heading in, but it just faded away.

"Hopefully that won't be the only chance I have this season."



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Alex Lawless

MIDFIELDER ON WREXHAM RETURN

It's an emotional rollercoaster being a
footballer.

You sign a new contract and you're hopeful of a season of success. A stop-start pre-season follows where you think you've overcome one injury before another set-back stops your progress. Then, finally, you're back fit and in the squad but by the time you're introduced your team is 2-0 down and 20 minutes later a man down.

Welcome to the footballing life of Alex Lawless over the past few months.

Disappointed and frustrated but pleased at the same time, the returning midfielder understandably had mixed emotions following the Hatters' 2-0 defeat at Wrexham on Friday night.

Having missed the very beginning of pre-season as he recovered from a hernia operation, the 28-year-old suffered two setbacks on his road back to full fitness with a niggling groin injury. Lawless, though, was glad to be back but was, like all of his team-mates, upset with the final result at Racecourse.

"I've been itching to play so to come back and get some minutes was great," the Welshman told Hatters Player after the defeat at the Racecourse. "But, more than anything, for us to lose is hugely disappointing.

"The last time I played any competitive action was at Southport on the final day of last season but it felt good.

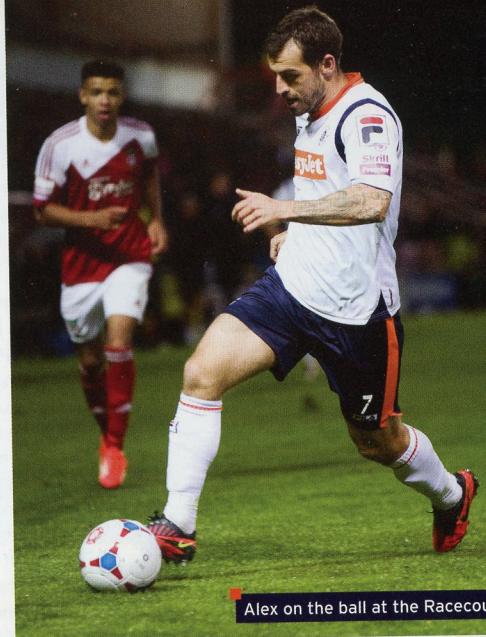
"Naturally I had a lot of enthusiasm once I had come on. All I wanted to do was help the lads. Wrexham scored just before I came on which was tough because I wanted to be able to come on and help get us back to level pegging."

Any footballer or manager will tell you that after a defeat it's how you react that's most telling. Therefore, beware Dartford this evening.

"It's an old cliché, but the important thing is how we bounce back from this result," continued Lawless. "From what I've been watching – until Wrexham – we had been making gradual improvements game on game.

"We've got to be better against Dartford and I for one am looking forward to playing at home on Tuesday night. We need a win and that's the aim – like it always is. Bouncing back is vital."

Friday's 29-minute cameo was Lawless' 125th appearance in Town colours and the former Forest Green



Alex on the ball at the Racecourse

and York man now hopes his early-season injury issues are now well and truly behind him.

"I'd never really started a season injured like that before so it was all new to me," admitted Lawless. "It was mega frustrating.

"I was just itching to play, so to miss so much, including pre-season, was hard. But the gaffer, the staff and the lads have been great and now I'm just looking forward and not back.

"It was a real test for me. There were times when you'd think to yourself you were ready to get back: looking forward to it and imagining playing again.

"People would always ask 'how are you doing?' and I'd reply by saying 'I'll be back next week' and I wouldn't. It was frustrating but I had the help of everyone at the club so now I'm just focused on staying fit.

"My match fitness is crucial. I've always taken pride in my natural fitness and I think that will help me come back.

"Hopefully I can get it back pretty sharpish but I know with such a talented squad I can just play my part."

the big interview

TOWN BOSS JOHN STILL GAVE AN EMPHASIZED SPEECH PRIOR TO THE WREXHAM GAME. HE WANTS YOUR SUPPORT. AND HERE'S WHAT HE SAID, IN ITS ENTIRITY.

"Like all clubs, supporters are desperate for success. This club is desperate for success and absolutely, quite rightly, because they don't feel they should be here and I understand that.

"But I know they get disappointed and I know they get frustrated, because everyone gets disappointed and everyone gets frustrated.

"Because they're supporters, it probably matters more to them, because long when these players are gone and there's a new manager, they're still here. It's their club, I'm just in charge of looking after their club.

"What I want to create is our club. We need me, the staff and players, for this to become their club. We have to play a part, everyone has to play a part, supporters have to play a part, it's vital that they do.

"I hear them saying about supporters being the 12th man. That's a massive thing, but they can play a great part in the success of a football club and one thing I've learned in football is how much they can influence.

"I managed a club (Dagenham & Redbridge) that doesn't have the support that Luton Town have, but we still managed to create something with that support that we can do here.

"It's like a player, I see Luton's best players when things aren't going well, not when we're winning 4-0.

"It's when we're not winning I see players that go the extra mile and supporters can help with that.

Cheer louder, cheer longer

"Because when it isn't going great, cheer louder, cheer longer. It's your team, you want them to succeed, you don't want them to fail, you want them to succeed and can do by just giving it that total support.

"If the person next to you is giving it a little moan, say come on, it's our team, get behind our team because when we're all gone you're going to be left with what's here and we want to leave you with something better than you've got and it's really important that they can be the difference. If you put yourself in a player's position. I'm having a game and it's not going great for me, but the crowd give you that lift and keep giving you that lift. If they keep giving you encouragement, you'll come through that much quicker than if you get a negative response.

"Whoever we are, no-one really, really doesn't like being praised. No-one. We all like a bit of praise. Me included.

"But it can make a massive difference to players if they have 90 minutes of non-stop.

"This team that's coming here to sit behind the ball for 90 minutes, and we're finding it hard to break it down and they think that if it comes to 20 minutes, they're going to hear rumbles from the crowd, and they don't, they hear the crowd cheer louder. It lifts the players, and it's really important.

Support

"I've been here six months and I think the support of me and my staff has been brilliant.

"Players are getting clapped off at the moment although we're drawing, brilliant. I think we're turning it around, I really do. But I also think the group of people I've brought in are so committed to try and find success for the club, so committed.

"I know how hard all these people that are with me are working and we've changed so many things, I've been really pleased.

"If we are going to succeed, the foundation has got to be solid. Unfortunately people don't always see the foundations, we do, because we put it in.

"If you go and buy this million pound house. No-one sees the foundation, but without the foundation, the house isn't going to last two minutes.

"The foundations are being put in here. I think the improvement is there in everything.

"The way that we do it, how we do it, the reasons that we do it. Those foundations are going in now and gradually, people will see the difference that those foundations make and it's everybody.

"I want the supporters to be part of that building process, to understand what we're doing and why we're doing it to create a better Luton Town. Because when we create it, it will last forever, it won't blow down.

"I'm not going to spend money and spend money ridiculously and when we go and someone else comes in with a different philosophy it all falls down, I don't want that, I want this to grow and grow and grow."

Still also urged fans to play their part in helping the club move forward too, adding: "Supporters are a massive, massive, massive part of the growth.

"They can be the sun and the rain and the food to make it grow, because what they put in on the terraces, will make it grow quicker.



"It's got to be unconditional. We're here to support this football club, we're here to get this football club at a better level, we're here to get this football club at the best level it can get.

"And the way that we can do it, is supporting it, getting behind it and encouraging it. If they can do that, it will give everything the best opportunity.

Criticism

"I have to say this that in my time here, they've been terrific. I say this to the players, if you want to play for the best clubs, the biggest crowds, you're going to get a bit of criticism when it doesn't go so well.

"I understand that but what I also know is when you get to that point when you've achieved great success, the Arsenal's, the Manchester United's, not so much Manchester City, certainly the more established clubs where people have seen it grow.

"Remember Manchester United went three years with Sir Alex without winning a carrot.

"The support is constant. It's there all the time. They've been part of that process and it became part of their life.

"Lots of clubs can do it and it doesn't last five minutes, because if you build it on sand, it doesn't last five minutes.

"We're building this on a solid foundation and supporters are only an ingredient of that.

"We're an ingredient, the staff, the players are an ingredient, training facilities are an ingredient, our youth structure is an ingredient, and our crowd are an ingredient.

"It's like making a cake. If you make a fruitcake with all the ingredients and no fruit, you haven't got a fruitcake. Every part of that cake is an ingredient.

"Supporters can be a massive, massive, massive ingredient. The support has been great and it can be better.

Better

"Our performances have been good, but they can be better. Our training ground is good but we can make it better.

"Our youth is good at the moment and we can make it better. We can all do a little bit more to make this club into what the supporters want for their kids, because when we're not here, we want to give them the best football club we can."

Watch the full speech on our new official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/officiallutontown.

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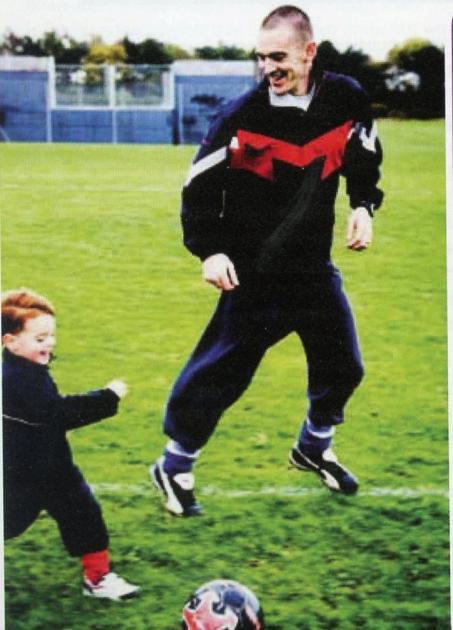
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a hatter and...

...A DART - EXTRA!

JOHN STILL

John Still's been in the game along time - he says so in his programme notes tonight. Then again, he doesn't need to tell us - all you need to do is take one look at his CV to realise the experience and success that he's enjoyed.

Included in that is a three-year rein in charge of tonight's visitors Dartford, almost 30 years ago - before the editor of this programme you hold in your hands was even born.

More to the point, the Hatters manager, then in his thirties, achieved success whilst in charge of the Kent club.

"I remember it well, I have fond memories of my time at Dartford," he told Talk of the Town. "Tony, their manager now played under me - and we won the Southern Premier League and with it promotion to the Conference.

"It's changed a bit now. The Southern Prem is what the Conference South is now and it was a great achievement to win promotion to the Conference.

It was big news and it was a new experience for me and the players.

"My time with Dartford helped me develop my contacts. Previously, playing in the Southern Prem I

JOHN STILL - THE EARLY SEEDS OF SUCCESS

1981/82 Isthmian League Champions
Leytonstone & Ilford

1983/84 Southern League Premier Division
Champions Dartford

1988/89 Conference Champions
Maidstone

1990/91 Isthmian League Champions
Redbridge Forest

was only able to see players in the south east, but with Dartford now in a national league I was able to scout players from a wider area.

"In our first season in the Conference we finished third and we had what I'd call a John Still team: full of heart, determination and spirit and it served us really well.

"When I eventually left Dartford and took over at Maidstone, I signed a number of the players I had with me at Dartford. We won the Conference title in 1989.

"I had a couple of great years with Dartford. They are some lovely people there who I believe are still involved in the club to this very day."

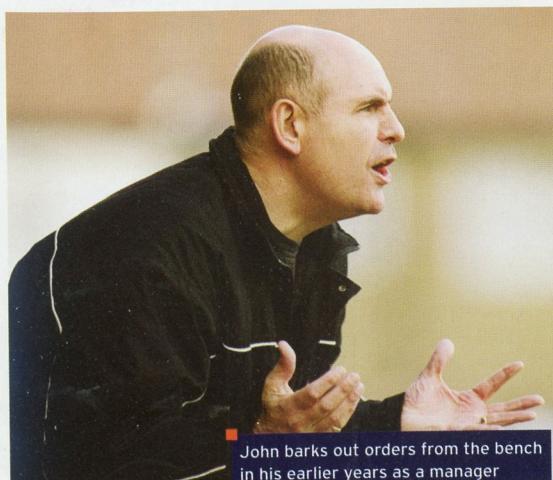
The Darts were relegated from the Conference, or Alliance Premier, as it was known then, not long after Still departed.

But Burman, now in his second spell in control, masterminded their return with a series of promotions before their Play-Off victory in the Conference South last year saw them promoted back to non-league top's flight.

"Tony" done a terrific job there," said Still. "They've worked their way back up through the pyramid over the last couple of years and it's great to see.

"In my mind they've always been a Conference club.

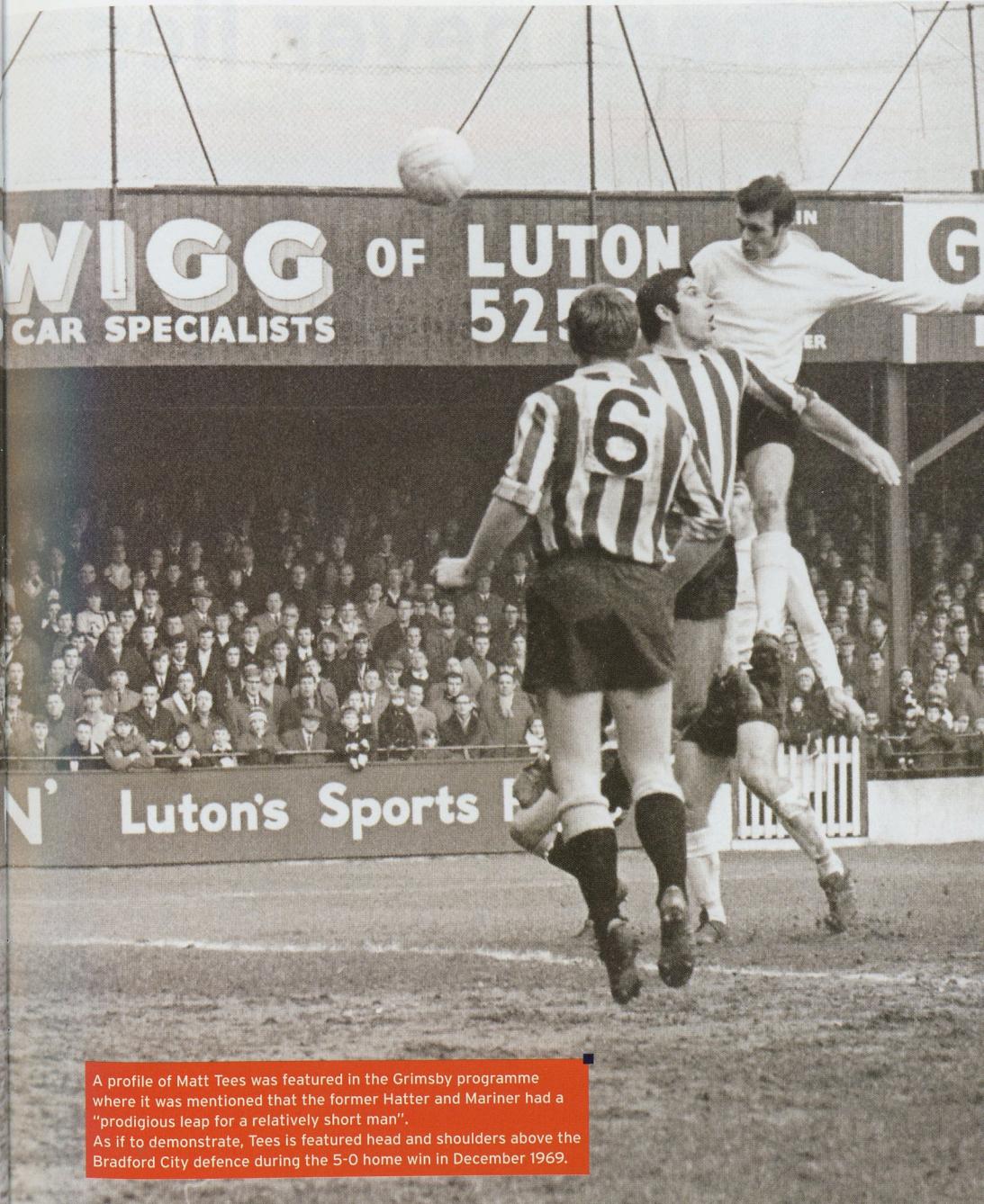
They draw big crowds for an area that has a number of clubs in and that was always one of the things I remember about the club."



John barks out orders from the bench
in his earlier years as a manager

picture the past

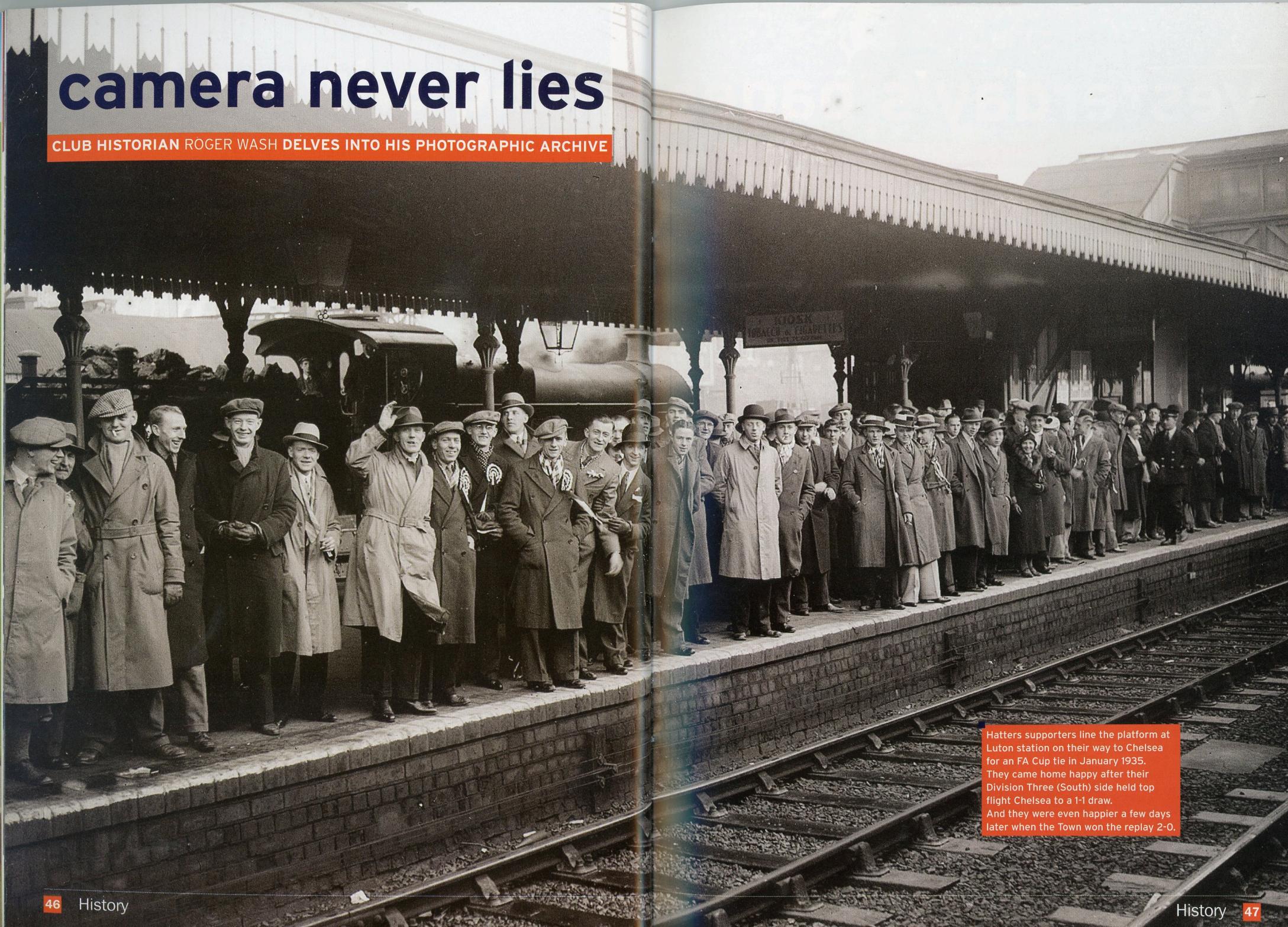
CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



A profile of Matt Tees was featured in the Grimsby programme where it was mentioned that the former Hatter and Mariner had a "prodigious leap for a relatively short man". As if to demonstrate, Tees is featured head and shoulders above the Bradford City defence during the 5-0 home win in December 1969.

camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Hatters supporters line the platform at Luton station on their way to Chelsea for an FA Cup tie in January 1935. They came home happy after their Division Three (South) side held top flight Chelsea to a 1-1 draw. And they were even happier a few days later when the Town won the replay 2-0.

yesterday's pages

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS THROUGH PAST PROGRAMMES

LUTON TOWN 4-1 WATFORD

26TH SEPTEMBER 1981

After two near misses the Town supporters looked on the 1981/82 season with great optimism hoping to make it third time lucky in winning promotion to the top flight.

The new season opened with an easy 3-0 home win over newly promoted Charlton which was followed up with a victory at QPR in the first game played on plastic.

Three points were then picked up at Bolton to set up the perfect start but then everyone at Kenilworth Road was brought back to earth with a bang when Sheffield Wednesday came to town and thrashed the Hatters 3-0 in front of the TV cameras.

The 100 per cent away record was maintained when two goals from Steve White helped the Town to a 2-1 win at Leicester the following week, but the good work was undone when lowly Cardiff, playing above themselves as it eventually turned out, snatched the points in a 3-2 win at Kenilworth Road.

The next game was at home to the Watford and with the inconsistent displays shown at Kenilworth Road there was no better time for the Hornets to end the Luton jinx which had seen the Hatters win their previous four meetings – all by 1-0.

Watford had enjoyed a good start to the campaign, and came to Luton on the back of three straight wins, but it

was the Hatters who came out of the traps the stronger and attacked with a will from the start.

The Town had opted to dispense with a sweeper system and recalled Lil Fuccillo in place of Raddy Antic, while Watford decided to employ teenage wingers Nigel Callaghan and John Barnes in an attacking formation

designed to take the game to the Hatters.

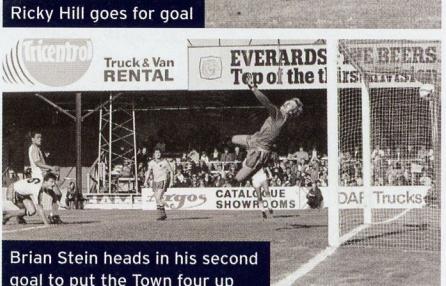
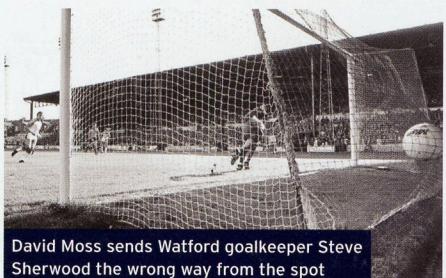
The two youngsters were by-passed, though, as the Town swept through midfield and took a deserved lead from the spot after Hornets forward Gerry Armstrong brought down David Moss in the box. Moss converted the kick and was again on the spot four minutes later after Brian Stein was felled by Ian Bolton.

The fun was not yet over with Stein making it three just before the break before netting his second goal on 52 minutes heading home a Moss centre.

Watford pulled a goal back before the end but the eventual result was the biggest derby win for 45 years with Hornets boss Graham Taylor taking the blame after making the decision to play an attacking formation against a side that was on the top of its game.

The Watford Observer newspaper was not so generous, however, and moaned about the failure of the Hornets young wingers

to make headway on 'Luton's narrow track'. As there was only 18 inches difference in width between the two pitches this was taken as the sorest of grapes!



THE PROGRAMME

David Pleat, in his manager's notes, was very upbeat about the "three points for a win" system which had been introduced at the start of that season. Little wonder as the Town had yet to draw a game.

A profile of ace winger David Moss was featured alongside a photograph of him putting fuel in his state of the art Sunbeam.

Amongst the snippets of information spread around the programme, we learn that Bournemouth Secretary Graham MacKrell (31) had been appointed to a senior administrative position at Kenilworth Road; Mitchell Thomas, who had joined the club under the Youth Opportunities Scheme, had signed apprentice forms; and club secretary John Wilkinson had received a complaint from a supporter who could not get his bike through the turnstiles.

TODAY'S TEAM CHECK

LUTON TOWN	WATFORD
JAKE FINDLAY	1 STEVE SHERWOOD
KIRK STEPHENS	2 PAT RICE
MARK AZLEWOOD	3 KENNY JACKETT
BRIAN HORTON	4 LES TAYLOR
MIKE SAXBY	5 STEVE SUMS
MAL DONAGHY	6 IAN BOLTON
RICKY HILL	7 NIGEL CALLAGHAN
BRIAN STEIN	8 ROSS JENKINS
STEVE WHITE	9 GERRY ARMSTRONG
RADDY ANTIC	10 LUTHER BLISSETT
DAVID MOSS	11 JOHN BARNES
	12

Referee: B. T. STEVENS, Gloucestershire Linesman. P. J. NORTH (Red Flag); V. C. ROPER (Yellow Flag)

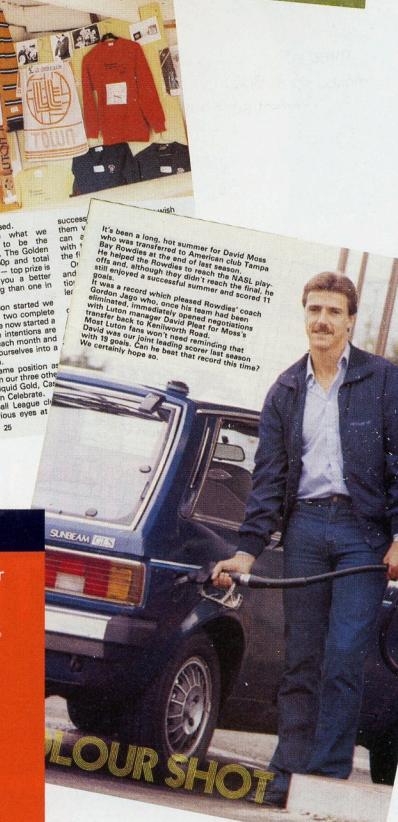
TOKEN 4
Saturday 26th September 1981 Watford



ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

Bill Shankly the former Liverpool manager dies age 67. League secretary Graham Kelly fears that saturation TV coverage of the forthcoming World Cup finals in Spain could hit League gates in 1982/83.

Dartford are destined to finish second bottom of the Alliance Premier League a forerunner to the Skrill Premier. It is interesting to note that only Barnet are common to both the Alliance Premier in 1981/82 and the Skrill Premier of 2013/14.





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on this day

17th SEPTEMBER

THE RECORD

A busy day in the history books, the Hatters' record on 17th September reads played 22, won nine, drawn five and lost eight, scoring 34 and conceding 30. That works out at just under three goals per game on average.

The Town's first game on this day came 115 years ago when they drew 1-1 away at Leicester Fosse in the Second Division, whilst the most recent came two seasons ago when the Hatters, reduced to 10 men following a first half dismissal to defender Dean Beckwith, beat Lincoln City 1-0 thanks to Stuart Fleetwood's goal six minutes from time.

HAPPY DAYS

The Hatters have won their last three matches on this day in history – all without conceding goal. The record extends to five wins from their last six games, too.

As well as that narrow win over Lincoln in 2011, the Town beat AFC Wimbledon in front of the live Premier Sport cameras in 2010 at Kenilworth Road. Goals that night from George Pilkington, Zdenek Kroca and Matthew Barnes-Homer were enough to beat the Dons.

Back in the 2005, when the Town were in the Championship, they were victorious in front of the Sky Sports cameras thanks to a late goal Steve Howard winner at Hull City.

Howard was on target the last time the Hatters tasted defeat on this day back in 2002. The Town lost 3-2 at home to Mansfield at Kenilworth Road. The Stags raced into a 3-0 lead and despite goals from Howard and Kevin Nicholls in the final minutes the visitors held on for all three points in a Division 2 (now League 1) fixture.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

The Hatters earned a fine 4-2 victory at Vicarage Road against Watford on this day in 1994. The two sides met in Division One (now Championship) and it was the Hornets that took the lead on 20 minutes through Jamie Moralee. However, the Town hit back in style with goals from Scott Oakes, Kerry Dixon and Paul Telfer giving David Pleat's

side a 3-1 lead. Tommy Mooney reduced the deficit but Telfer grabbed his second to ensure the points would head back up the M1. The crowd was just 8,880.

TOP FLIGHT TOWN

The Town have played five times in the top flight on this day in history, winning twice, drawing once and losing twice.

A Simon Barker goal gave Queens Park Rangers victory at Kenilworth Road on this day in 1991 – the last time the Hatters were in top flight action on this day.

The Hatters were also beaten at home by Manchester United in 1988 with goals from Peter Davenport and Bryan Robson giving the Red Devils a 2-0 victory before a crowd of 11,010 at Kenilworth Road.

However, the Town did taste victory in the top division in 1983 and 1958. 30 years ago the Town beat Wolves – who would eventually finish bottom – 4-0 at Kenilworth Road thanks to goals from Paul Walsh, Brian Stein, David Moss and Brian Horton.

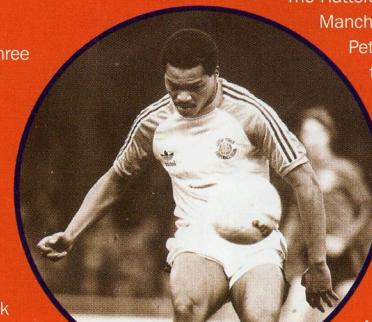
In '58 the Hatters put five past Manchester City at Kenilworth Road in a 5-1 victory. Two goals apiece from Gordon Turner and Allan Brown and one from Jimmy Adam saw off the Citizens in front of 18,160.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

In 1927 the Hatters beat Brentford 5-2 at Kenilworth Road in Division 3 (South) with Jimmy Yardley scoring a hat-trick. The Town finished the campaign in 13th place, scoring 94 goals and conceding 87.

Among the high-scoring games were wins over Gillingham (6-1 and 4-0), Merthyr Town (5-1), Torquay (5-0 and 4-0), Crystal Palace (6-1) and Walsall (4-1). However there were defeats against Northampton (6-5 – having been 5-0 up), Charlton (4-3), Newport (7-2), Walsall (4-1), Brighton (5-2) and Plymouth (4-0).

The Hatters also won 9-0 and 6-0 in FA Cup ties over Clapton Orient and Norwich respectively.



Brian Stein scored on this day for the Town in 1983

in development

YOUNGSTERS KEEP-UP PERFECT START

The Hatters Under-18s made it four wins from four Youth Alliance matches with a fine 1-0 win at MK Dons on Saturday morning.

Paul Driver's side were under pressure for most of the 90 minutes against a highly-rated Dons outfit who bossed possession throughout.

But the Town youngsters are made of strong stuff, and Charlie Smith grabbed his fifth goal in four matches when rounding off a counter attack with an excellent strike from the edge of the box with just five minutes remaining.

In the first half Jemal McKenzie-Lowe forced a good save from the Dons goalkeeper before Ben Barnes kept the hosts at bay with a string of fine stops moments.

Eye-catching

Striker Tuki Tyali spurned a great chance for the Hatters before half-time when he shot wide from five yards out.

Both sides continued to play some eye-catching football but only half chances came and went in the lead up to the break.

The Hatters began the second half under pressure as the Dons upped the ante but, as the half wore on, the Town grew in confidence, and Arel Amu sent a decent opportunity wide of the post.



Charlie Smith

However, with five minutes left on the clock, the Town youngsters got the winner. An excellent counter attack left the Dons short at the back and Smith raced up-field to join the move and finished it with a drive from the edge of the penalty area that gave the home goalkeeper no chance.

Charlie Smith The Hatters sensibly wound the clock down in the closing stages and held on for what boss Driver believes will be one of the best results of the season come the campaign's end.

"MK Dons are renowned as the best passing team in the division and have a lot of firepower in attack," he said. "So to keep a clean sheet and collect all three points is fantastic for all of the lads. The work ethic, determination and quality of the boys was there for all to see."

TOWN: Barnes, Crilley, Chabata, Tamplin, Hawkes, Amu, Rees, Smith, Nwgala, Tyali (sub Banton 60), McKenzie-Lowe. **SUBS NOT USED:** King, Amadi, Allman, Perry.

youth team



KIT SPONSORS 2013/14

 ZANE BANTON HOME: Loyal Luton AWAY: Available	 LEEROY MAGURAUSHE HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 BEN BARNES HOME: First Capital Connect AWAY: Available	 JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 IAN REES HOME: Mike Tearle AWAY: Available	 CHARLIE SMITH HOME: Peter Mitchell AWAY: 2MB	 EKENE AMADI HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 ISAAC GALLIFORD HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 LEE HAWKES HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 CRAIG KING HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 DARIL NGWALA HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 LUCAS PERRY HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 ZAK STEPHENS HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 TUKI TAYALI HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 LUKE TROTMAN HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 AREL AMU HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 OSAMU ALLMAN HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 HARRY TAMPLIN HOME: Allianz AWAY: NPA Commercial	 TINASHE CHABATA HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 PAUL DRIVER HOME: Available AWAY: Available

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

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

stars of the future

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

NAME: Ben Barnes

DATE OF BIRTH: 27/2/1996

POSITION: Goalkeeper

YEAR JOINED LUTON TOWN: 2007

BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP

"What you put in is what you get"

BEST FOOTBALL MOMENT

Being on the substitutes' bench for the first team last season

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID

Liverpool

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND

Steven Gerrard

FAVOURITE TV SHOW

Eastenders

OTHER SPORTS GOOD AT

Swimming



FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT

French

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOU

Ambitious, honest, passionate

MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE

Zane Banton

TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER SO FAR

I first started as a central midfielder but because of a bad injury I was transformed into a goalkeeper. I have played abroad on a number of occasions and have also played in the FA Youth Cup. Last season I was named as a substitute for the first team and I travelled with the first team to Portugal for this summer's training camp.

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academy update

WITH MATT STANNARD

While the youth team continue their run of good form, the lesser advertised academy have also started really well.

We are unable to publish results of academy games due to strict Football League regulations so advertising how we are getting on becomes quite difficult.

Last week saw one of our biggest rivals return to Luton: MK Dons. Played on Thursday night under lights at Barnfield South, we hosted the Under-9s, 11s and 13s while the Under-10s, 12s and 14s travelled to Woughton on the Green. I can't publish the results, but you'll be pleased to know that we came out on top.

It's been an interesting year so far for our 9-14 teams. After pre-season and having reviewed the games programme last year, we decided to push players up age groups to test them and face them with different challenges. As a result, the scorelines are not as expansive as they were last year, but we feel that this is better for our players' long-term development than winning every week by six or seven goals.

On Saturday it was the turn of our Under-18s and Under-16s to take on MK Dons and again, with both teams coming out on top, it capped off a very successful weekend for the academy.

A quick start from the Under-16s saw us take a 2-0 lead within the opening 10 minutes. Connor Hewitt-Coleman opened the scoring in the first minute with a well-placed top corner finish after good work by Stuart Jones. We continued to dominate the early exchanges pressing high up the pitch and not really allowing the Dons out.

A second goal followed shortly in the ninth minute when a good pass from Harry Cruttenden found Alfie Leadbeater who played an excellent one-touch reverse around the corner for Alex Atkinson to finish well in the far corner.

The first half finished with MK Dons having lots of possession but us having the chances.

A slow start in the second half, though, saw us defending for the early exchanges but without MK Dons really testing goalkeeper Liam Gooch.

After settling into the second half we continued to counter attack, hitting the post once and the crossbar twice from both Frankie Musonda and Reece Williams. We had several chances to extend our lead but just couldn't find the breakthrough.

The Dons, as expected, were good in possession but never really penetrated us with their forward passing and our defensive shape was excellent.

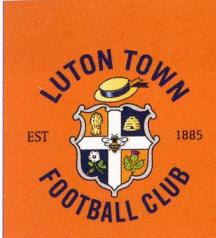
It was another solid defensive performance which enabled the 16s to keep a second clean sheet in two games and maintain a record of just one defeat in nine games, meaning it has been a pleasing start to the season.

To cap all of that, the Under-18s round off a fine weekend with a hard-fought 1-0 win over the Dons in the Youth Alliance to make it four wins from four matches.

Remember, a week tomorrow the boys are in action under the floodlights at Kenilworth Road in the FA Youth Cup against Rothwell Corinthians. The lads have started this season so well that all of us in the academy hope you can get along to cheer them on.



TERM 1 STARTS THIS WEEK



TERM 1
Sept 16th - Nov 22nd 2013 (9 weeks)
TRIAL MATCH
Sat 9th & 16th Nov 2013

TERM 2
Nov 25th 2013 - Feb 14th 2014 (9 weeks)
TRIAL MATCH
Sat 1st & 8th Feb 2014

TERM 3
Feb 24th - May 9th 2014 (9 weeks)
TRIAL MATCH
Thurs 24th April & 1st May 2014

TERM 4
May 12th - July 18th 2014 (9 weeks)
TRIAL MATCH
Thurs 3rd & 10th July 2014



TIPs - Talent Identification Programme

Luton Town FC

Football Development for 6 to 16 year olds

Youth Development 2013-14



Luton Ladies

LADIES YOUTH TEAM UPDATE

With the senior Ladies teams having a slow start to the campaign both youth teams have got off to a flier with the Under-15s running in 11 goals without reply hosting Leighton Park Rangers.

The Town took some time to get into form leading 3-0 at half-time but really moved up a gear after the break led by Phoebe Brown who scored a double hat-trick.

Could the Hatters maintain their start to the season travelling to reigning champions AFC Kempston? The girls answered in emphatic fashion when Lucy Higgs gave them the lead, and in spite of the hosts twice pulling goals back and getting within striking distance, they had no answer to Brown's prowess in front of goal once again as she netted another hat-trick in a fine 4-2 win.

The Under-14s have also won both of their games. They first defeated Watford Wasps 4-0 courtesy of goals from Jodie Brooks, Jodie Bellinger, Nicole O'Brien and Natalie Case. A 4-2 away win followed away at St Albans City with O'Brien, Bellinger and Brooks again on target, and on this occasion Charlotte Motto netted the other goal.

The first team have not had a good start to the season, although with over half of the squad changing during a busy summer of activity, it was never going to be all smooth running.

The Town got off to the worst possible start at Denham United conceding twice in the first three minutes following defensive hesitancy.

Natalie Richardson almost pulled a goal back before half-time, hitting the side-netting as Luton struggled to get into the game. It took another terrible howler from the Town and a third goal for Denham before some sign of recovery showed when Rachel Kosky's shot was pushed away by the Denham goalkeeper for a corner.

With 20 minutes left the Town finally got on the scoresheet when Rebecca Kane broke through and shot powerfully inside the near post. Kosky then squared the ball to substitute Danni Borelli who rolled the ball over the line to further reduce the deficit. The Hatters threw all they had at Denham but it was all in vain as the equaliser did not materialise.

Manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "We just cannot defend like we are and just expect to win football matches. We were up against it from the very beginning with such a slow and costly start."



The final half hour was far more encouraging as we showed real fight and determination to get back into the game.

"I feel we have not had much luck so far and I'm hoping that will change and help us recover from a slow start."

LADIES FIXTURES 2013/14

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

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my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

MY NAME:

Alan Adair

MY AGE:

55

MY LOCATION:

Barton-le-Clay

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN:

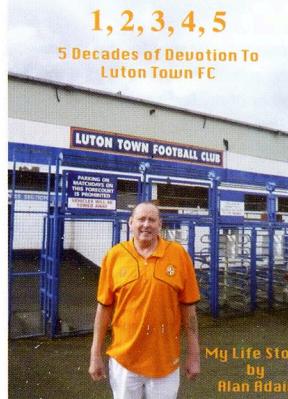
I attended my first Luton match with my late father as an eight-year-old on 1st December 1966. It was an FA Cup first round replay against Exeter City on a Thursday night and we won 2-0. David Pleat was playing for us and scored one of the goals, along with Stopsley legend and future Scotland World Cup captain Bruce Rioch.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME: It can ONLY be Luton 3-2 Arsenal in the League Cup Final in 1988. I ran a Coach from Stopsley to Wembley and on our return booked the Somerset Tavern for a meal with wives and girlfriends joining us in a never to be forgotten day/night.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL: Anyone who was privileged to be at Kenilworth Road on 18th September 1968 will know, that Graham French scored THE best ever goal in Hatters' history. The poor man's George Best, as he was labelled, picked up the ball in his own penalty area and ran the length of the pitch beating what seemed like every Mansfield player, to slot home in a fabulous 4-2 Luton win.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER: Malcolm Macdonald. Originally spotted by entertainments manager Harry Haslam (at the time) playing for Tunbridge Wells, Alec Stock converted him from a full-back to a striker after signing him from Fulham.

MY MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION: I have two. John 'Max' Faulkner gave his shirt to a friend of mine after the epic Sunderland promotion game in 1974 and he kindly gave me it several years later.



1, 2, 3, 4, 5

5 Decades of Devotion To
Luton Town FC

My Life Story
by
Alan Adair

The other is a Luton versus Cardiff programme from 1986 for a League Cup game that never was. The Football League refused us permission to play the game following our decision to ban away fans and we were evicted from the competition. I only know of a very few others that own this programme, as the club ordered the printers to shred them.

MY ALL TIME LUTON XI: Difficult to choose, but I will go with 4-3-3.

Jake Findlay: The Scot is my choice of goalkeeper (of the many fine Hatters keepers), as he was so demanding at crosses in his area, as well as a brilliant shot stopper too.

John Ryan: Excellent overlapping right full-back.

Steve Buckley: Strong as an ox left full-back.

Steve Foster: Simply our best ever skipper and centre half.

Mal Donaghy: David Pleat's greatest value for money signing. Paying Larne only £25,000, Mal went on to be our record International appearance holder for Northern Ireland.

Ricky Hill: Midfield genius, who became the first full England International in my era. I was there in Copenhagen in 1982 to see his England debut against Denmark. I am honoured to know Ricky as a true friend.

Graham French: THE greatest talent in lower league football in the 1960s.

Bruce Rioch: Had a shot as hard as Bobby Charlton and he attended my school Stopsley High.

Malcolm Macdonald: Enough said.

Mick Harford: THE toughest centre forward of my era and another full England International.

Brian Stein: A brilliant goal poacher who came from non-league Edgware Town to become the Hatters' third all-time top goalscorer.

Subs: Paul Walsh and David Preece. Both little in size - but immense in talent.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPIEST ABOUT FOLLOWING

THE HATTERS? The fact that I can hold my head up high and say I truly support my local team through good and (don't we know it?) bad.

Alan has written about his life following the Hatters in his book Five Decades Devoted to Luton Town, which is available in the club shop.

You too can share your Hatters memories. Use the headlines as a guide and email andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk, or submit your application by post.

My only Luton

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

As gloomy twilight descended upon north London, the persistent rain and my sodden work clothes transformed the awning-sheltered streets of Harringay into a scene from a Turkish remake of *Blade Runner*. Like thousands of dispersed Luton fans I was trudging my way to meet some mates in the pub that I'd convinced to watch the Wrexham game with me.

On Friday night landlords the world over were once again faced with the hopeful faces of Bedfordshire exiles enquiring as to whether they would mind awfully switching over to show some non-league football for 90 minutes. They've all got BT Sport now, so no excuses.

Allegience

Finding a local London pub to watch a Luton game in the Conference has been an exercise in detective work and rejection involving a network of spies and often pockets of the city's Gaelic Games community.

I'd become used to following matches that I couldn't make via stuttering laptop streams or on my phone. Private experiences connected by Twitter. But now that our locals can once again show the games, my Luton allegiance is very much out in public again, for better or worse.

One of the beautiful things about the size of Luton Town is that the relationship between the fans and the Club feels more personal. We feel more deeply the highs and the lows, the compliments and the digs.

Returning to our booth in the tatty but honest boozer playing host to the latest TV exhibition of Skrill and glamour, a local perched at the bar said to me "Did you ask him to put this on, what is it?" Immediately my back was up as I prepared to defend the virtues of

a prime time TV spot for the Yankee-capped John Still on the screen behind him, as if the good name of a member of my family was about to be besmirched by this ignorant barfly.

"Yeah, it's Luton Wrexham, why?" I offered back, spikily. "Luton, oh right" he returned to his beer. It was an innocent and understandable question. Bar stools and pool cues remained intact. I felt a bit silly.

There's definitely something slightly strange about being the only person watching a football match in a busy Friday night pub. There's a tangible sense of being on display as solitary gasps and groans are aimed at events unfolding on the flat screen above the heads of the thong of drinkers and their drinks.

Passion

You only hope that the passion and romance of the game will offer some vindication for your unusual (in these parts) choice of football team and your dedication to ignoring conversations around you.

Friday's game as you know offered nothing of the sort. Us solitary Luton exiles, tiny beacons of strange hope and defiant dedication in an ocean of Arsenal baseball caps and Liverpool tracky bottoms, slumped back on our stools as TVs prepared to flick back to Sky Sports News.

Rain continued to tumble down in the neon light outside. A dismissed Alex Wall's head lay heavy in his hands in the dressing room in the corner of the screen, in the corner of the pub, as the home team celebrated on the pitch outside: his dejected frame broadcasting the mood of every Luton fan in every pub from High Town to Harringay. Imprisoned by the rain. Hoping for a break in the cloud so we can make it back home.



THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY STUART HAMMONDS

A couple of weeks ago I was asked to play for a Non-League Legends team against a Showbiz XI, and yes, like you, I am still wondering why – there were some real grass-roots heroes on the pitch!

Former Southall Town and Hayes prospect 'Sir' Les Ferdinand was the highest profile, while Wallingford Town product John Dreyer played for Luton in their top-flight heyday before ending his playing career back in Non-League with Stevenage and Maidenhead.

In fact, before his second spell at Stevenage as a coach led to his current role at Preston North End, I used to see 'Tumble' regularly when he was helping out at Hemel Hempstead and Flackwell Heath and I was playing for Hitchin Town and Ware.

John still had his boots on in Ryman One North as recently as 2007, and in our 2-1 win at Wealdstone's Grosvenor Vale, he proved he's still got the quality left foot that Luton fans remember fondly for delivering one-step penalties with unerring accuracy.

It was also opportunity for me to catch up with a couple of former opponents who, thankfully, were on my side this time.

First, Dave Regis led the line alongside Ferdinand, and although I knew him best for his goalscoring feats at Wembley for my club, Notts County, he did the Non-League rounds at clubs like Dunstable Town, Fisher Athletic, Windsor & Eton and Barnet before getting his big break at 26.

As his career wound down at Hucknall Town in 1999/00, I had to mark him in as a young Arnold Town centre-half. I reminded him about how I'd worn his stud marks from forehead to chin for a couple of weeks after clashing with the sole of his boot.

He assured me it would have been accidental!

Another former Underhill favourite in our side was Derek Payne, quite rightly awarded the man-of-the-match award. I used to play against 'Payne' in Ryman One South when I was at Bracknell Town in 2002/03 and he was turning out for Egham Town.

He's 46 now, but anyone watching a couple of Sundays ago would think him much younger. He was non-stop in midfield, pirouetting on the ball to beat opponents half his age and spraying it in all directions with his elegant left foot.

I asked the ex-Hayes, Watford, Southend and Peterborough man if he was still playing at all, and his response? "Nah, but I might do next season!"

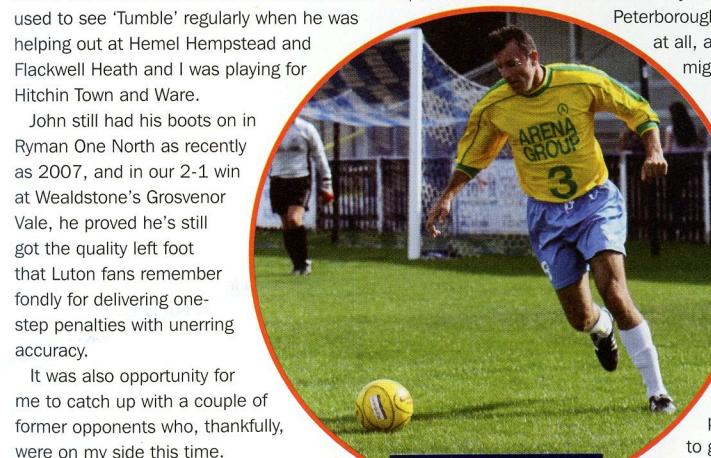
At 47, I'd argue a case for the pocket dynamo to still be able to do a job at Step 3, should the watching Wealdstone manager Gordon Bartlett wish to add to the 'Dad's Army' he jokes he's assembled with the likes of Glen Little, Scott McGleish and Chris Moore already on the cast list!

In such esteemed company I realise that my presence was required not to give the back four an air of authority; ex-Hayes stalwart Reg Leather supplied that. But to give the match a bit of publicity.

We were raising money for Women v Cancer, a charity chosen because Leather's wife Helen was diagnosed with breast cancer last year.

Thankfully now in remission, Helen is raising money for the charity through a variety of events, culminating in her and sister-in-law Lesley joining their 400km cycle across Cuba next year.

Donations can be made on their justgiving.com page with /LesleyHelenCuba tagged onto the end.



Former Town man John Dreyer in action

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league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

Cambridge United and Nuneaton Town opened up a five-point lead at the top of the Skrill Premier after both clubs won on Saturday.

Richard Money's U's kept up their unbeaten start with a narrow 1-0 victory over Gateshead at the Abbey Stadium thanks to Adam Cunningham's first half strike.

Nuneaton Town kept up with the pace with a fine 2-1 victory at tonight's visitors Dartford with Louis Moult scoring twice to take his tally to seven goals in eight matches.

The top two clubs are level on 20 points ahead of four clubs in equal third place on 15 points. Forest Green leapt several places up the table thanks to a remarkable 2-1 win at home to FC Halifax. Rovers were trailing 1-0 to the Shaymen in injury time but goals in the 92nd and 96th minutes gave Dave Hockaday's side a dramatic late victory.

Late goals dramatically changed the top few places in the division with Barnet held to a 1-1 draw with Lincoln with the Imps' equaliser coming with the last kick of the game.

Alfreton kept up their good start to the season with an excellent 1-0 win at Macclesfield whilst Kidderminster had strikers Anthony Malbon and Michael Gash to thank

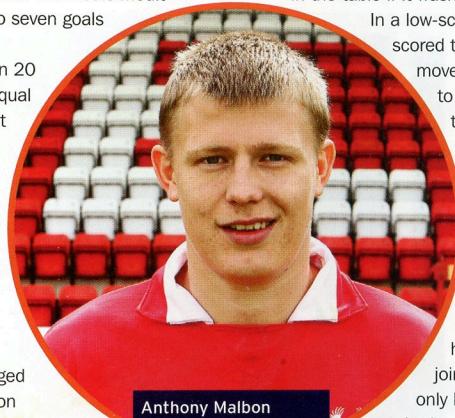
for a narrow 2-1 win over bottom-of-the-table Hyde at Aggborough.

In the lower reaches of the division, Aldershot took little time to overturn their 10-point deduction and a fine 2-0 win on Friday at Hereford put the Shots into positive points for the first time this season. The Hampshire side are now just two points from safety and would be ninth in the table if it wasn't for their 10-point penalty.

In a low-scoring weekend, only one team scored three or more goals. Salisbury moved further up the table thanks to a 3-1 victory over Chester at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium. The defeat for the Blues keeps them in the bottom four.

Two games finished 2-2. Southport and Welling shared four goals on Saturday at Haig Avenue, as did Woking and Tamworth on Friday night with Scott Rendell scoring on his debut for the Cards having joined Garry Hill's side on loan only hours before.

In the pick of tonight's matches, leaders Cambridge travel to Alfreton, Nuneaton host Dartford whilst struggling Chester and Macclesfield face each other in a Cheshire derby at the Deva Stadium. Lincoln, our visitors at the weekend, host Southport.



Anthony Malbon
helped Kidderminster
to a 2-1 win over Hyde

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Moult (Nuneaton)	7
Cunnington (C'bridge)	5
Hyde (Barnet)	5
Williams (Woking)	5
Akindé (Alfreton)	4
Brown (Nuneaton)	4
Collins (Hyde)	4
Lafayette (Welling)	4

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town	6,596	Woking	1,442
Wrexham	4,118	Forest Green Rovers	1,309
Grimsby Town	3,501	Nuneaton Town	1,241
Cambridge United	2,732	Southport	1,240
Lincoln City	2,483	Dartford	1,189
Chester FC	2,396	Tamworth	1,076
Aldershot Town	2,262	Brantree Town	1,073
Kidderminster Harriers	2,216	Salisbury City	969
Barnet	1,908	Welling United	863
Hereford United	1,818	Gateshead	786
FC Halifax Town	1,551	Hyde	707
Macclesfield Town	1,460	Alfreton Town	638

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Aldershot v Barnet
Alfreton v Cambridge
Chester v Macclesfield
Halifax v Grimsby
Gateshead v Wrexham
Hyde v Woking
Lincoln v Southport
Nuneaton v Hereford
Salisbury v Brantree
Tamworth v Kidderminster
Welling v Forest Green

fixtures and results

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

AUGUST

Sat 10	3.00pm	A	Southport	L 0-1	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	D 1-1	6,216	80	13	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths ▲	McNulty	Lacey	Taiwo ▲	Guttridge 1	Martin ▲	Whalley
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Forest Green Rovers	D 0-0	1,858	653	14	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Smith	Guttridge	Whalley	Whalley
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United	D 0-0	7,517	963	11	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Smith	Guttridge	Whalley	Whalley
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,866	821	11	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths ▲	McNulty	Lacey	Parry	Guttridge	Howells 2	Howells 2

SEPTEMBER

TV Sat 7	5.30pm	H	Grimsby Town	D 0-0	6,131	265	14	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey ▲	Smith	Parry	Guttridge ▲	Howells
TV Fri 13	7.45pm	A	Wrexham	L 0-2	3,122	190	14	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths	McNulty	Parry	Smith	Guttridge	Whalley	Howells ▲
Tue 17	7.45pm	H	Dartford													
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Lincoln City													
Tue 24	7.45pm	A	Woking													
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Hereford United													

OCTOBER

Sat 5	3.00pm	H	FC Halifax Town													
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Aldershot Town													
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Hyde													
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Tamworth													

NOVEMBER

Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Gateshead													
Sat 9	3.00pm	H	Southport													
Tue 12	7.45pm	A	Braintree Town													
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Chester FC													
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Welling United													

DECEMBER

Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Alfreton Town													
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United													
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Gateshead													
Thur 26	3.00pm	A	Barnet													
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Kidderminster Harriers													

JANUARY

Wed 1	3.00pm	H	Barnet													
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Lincoln City													
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Macclesfield Town													
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Wrexham													
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Nuneaton Town													

FEBRUARY

Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Dartford													
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Tamworth													
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Hereford United													
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Nuneaton Town													

MARCH

Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Alfreton Town													
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Salisbury City													
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Woking													
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Chester FC													
Tue 25	7.45pm	A	Grimsby Town													
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	FC Halifax Town													

APRIL

Sat 5	3.00pm	H	Aldershot Town													
Sat 12	3.00pm	A	Braintree Town													
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Welling United													
Mon 21	3.00pm	H	Forest Green Rovers													
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Hyde													

Jim Stevenson saw this effort whistle just past on his debut against Grimsby



LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14

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

PLAYER STATS 2013/14

LEAGUE	THIS SEASON		TOTAL	DISC	LTFC CAREER TOTAL
	APPS	GLS			
Paul Benson	3 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 1 0 3 0
Anthony Charles	1 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 0 0 2 0
Mark Cullen	5 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 5 (1)	0 0 0 0 6 0
Andre Gray	5 (3)	0	0 (0)	0 5 (3)	0 0 0 0 74 27
Scott Griffiths	8 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 8 (0)	0 1 0 0 14 0
Luke Guttridge	8 (0)	2	0 (0)	0 8 (0)	2 3 0 8 2
Ronnie Henry	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 6 (0)	0 1 0 49 0
Jake Howells	4 (4)	2	0 (0)	0 4 (4)	2 0 0 0 243 20
Alex Lacey	6 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 6 (1)	0 0 0 16 0
Alex Lawless	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0 0 (1)	0 0 0 0 125 12
David Martin	3 (2)	0	0 (0)	0 3 (2)	0 0 0 0 21 3
Steve McNulty	8 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 8 (0)	0 2 0 28 1
JJ O'Donnell	0				

hold the back page

WITH MEDIA-VU'S GRAHAM MILLER

We journalists can be cynical creatures. It just makes for a better story.

For example: Freddy Higgins went to the match today isn't news. But Freddy Higgins went to the match today and was knocked down by a car on the way home is.

It's only what we'd all repeat over the garden fence. So don't blame the journalist just because he's the messenger.

However football is different. It's why it's the most popular game in the world.

I've been following Luton as a fan since 1963. I've also covered Luton as a sports reporter for many years. I put on my professional hat and tell it as I see it. Only later depending on the result will the emotion kick in.

Nowadays because I cover Premier League football for my company Media-Vu, my visits to watch the Hatters are limited. So with no top flight club games during International week I got to see my first Luton game of the season against Grimsby.

The Kenny seemed much the same. The pitch looked good. I was told the grass has undergone extensive work over the summer.

Talking to fans and then colleagues who regularly follow the Town, a clear picture was forming.

Experienced

John Still has put together a squad who know how to get out of this league. Mostly experienced players with the wherewithal to grind out a result.

In recent weeks I've had talks with Managing Director Gary Sweet about various football matters. However, at the end of one session I put on my fan's hat and asked him the question. "Is this the season we've been waiting for?"

Gary smiled and putting on his fan's hat replied "I hope so. No, I believe it will be. John Still's a good man."

We then both took off our hats. I told you football reporting was different.

Half-time against Grimsby I made my way to the press room for a cup of tea. Strangely on this day BT Sport had used the room before kick-off as a make-up area for their presenters. I took great delight in taking the mickey out of Neil Warnock caked as he was in 'Sun Frolic.'

"Don't tell the missus," he chuckled, as he took his position in front of camera.

But as I made my way to the room at half-time the regular fans and season ticket holders were talking. So I listened.

"Good performance," was the general summing up. "Best of the season so far."

Star

It was a similar theme from the journo's as we sipped our tea. Incidentally the half time press room sandwiches had been 'borrowed' by the BT Sport crew which didn't go down well.

Until that is press officer Andrew Barringer marched into the kitchen and delivered us plates of lasagne. Now that's above and beyond the call of duty. What a star!

There was a warm glow among the regulars. And it wasn't only the lasagne. They were happy with the Town's game. Defence looking solid. Midfield working well. The only question mark was front of goal.

I was certainly encouraged. But it's football. And Grimsby picked up a gear in the second half. Luton were still trying to shoot on sight but it was one of those days. Another goalless draw.

Full marks for the defence of course. But anxious words about goalscoring was the main talk after the final whistle.

Optimist

I had a chat with chairman Nick Owen. The smile on his face was a joy. Ever the optimist, Nick sees good things on the horizon.

I left the ground pleased with what I'd seen. As a reporter I can picture Luton among the front runners providing they can maintain the level of commitment and determination shown against Grimsby. And happier too as a fan. Encouraged by the new signings on my first viewing.

So whether you're a fan or a Town reporter the hope is Freddy Higgins will return home from a game next May not only safe but with a smile. Celebrating Luton Town's place back in the Football League. Now that will be a good news story.



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tonight's teams



LUTON TOWN

- 1 Mark Tyler
- 17 JJ O'Donnell
- 3 Danny Fitzsimons
- 18 Dave Martin
- 4 Jonathan Smith
- 21 Luke Guttridge
- 5 Steve McNulty
- 22 Shaun Whalley
- 6 Anthony Charles
- 23 Matt Robinson
- 7 Alex Lawless
- 25 Ronnie Henry
- 8 Solomon Taiwo
- 26 Paul Benson
- 9 Jon Shaw
- 27 Andre Gray
- 10 Alex Wall
- 28 Jim Stevenson
- 11 Jake Howells
- 30 Alex Lacey
- 12 Scott Griffiths
- 31 Jake Woolley
- 13 Mark Cullen
- 32 Brett Longden
- 14 Andy Parry
- 33 Jerome Jibodu
- 16 Elliot Justham



DARTFORD

- 1 Alan Julian
- 15 Nathan Collier
- 2 Josh Hill
- 16 Adam Birchall
- 4 Tyrone Sterling
- 18 Uche Ibemere
- 5 Kenny Clark
- 19 Matt Fry
- 6 Max Cornhill
- 20 Lee Burns
- 7 Ryan Hayes
- 23 Deren Ibrahim
- 8 Lee Noble
- 24 Tom Wellham
- 9 Jason Prior
- 25 Jay Porter
- 10 Elliot Bradbrook
- 27 George Monger
- 11 Danny Harris
- 30 Alex Woodyard
- 13 James Rogers
- 32 Mohamed Eisa
- 14 Mat Mitchel-King

Referee: **R. Whitton** | Assistant: **A. Neil** | Assistant: **N. West** | Fourth official: **C. Francis**

HERE NEXT

v **LINCOLN CITY**

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2013 • 3PM

SKRILL PREMIER

