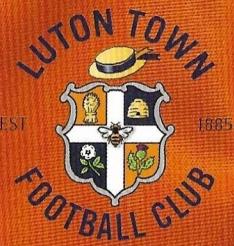
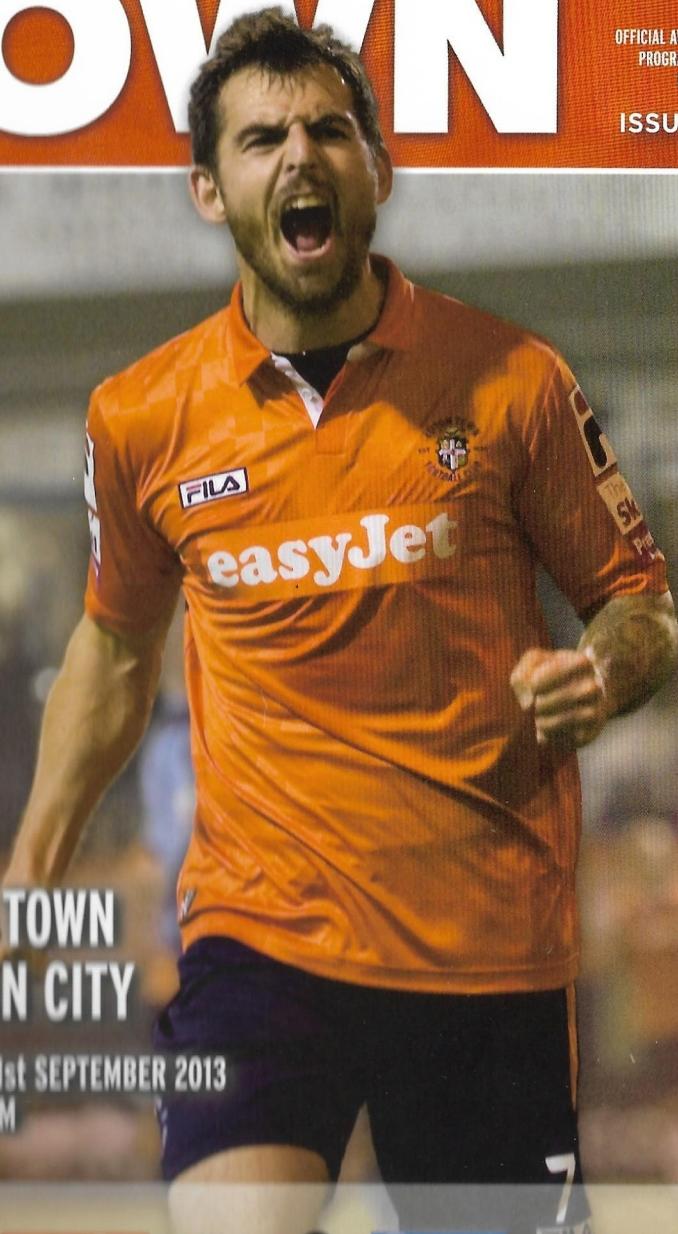


TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 7 • £3.00



LUTON TOWN
v LINCOLN CITY

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2013
KICK OFF 3PM



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adidas EASE 2



1982
NIKE AIR FORCE 1



2013
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1985
NIKE AIR VORTEX



1987
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1979
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1973
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1989
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1968
PUMA BASKET



2007
adidas ZX 750



2004
NIKE FREE RUN



UNDISPUTED KING OF TRAINERS



1968
adidas GAZELLE OG



1990
NIKE AIR MAX 90



1995
NIKE AIR MAX 95



1968
PUMA SUEDE



1976
adidas SNEAKER



2011
adidas ADI-RISE 2



1987
NIKE AIR MAX 1



1984
adidas L.A. TRAINER



2012
NIKE ROSHE RUN



1957
CONVERSE ALL STAR OX

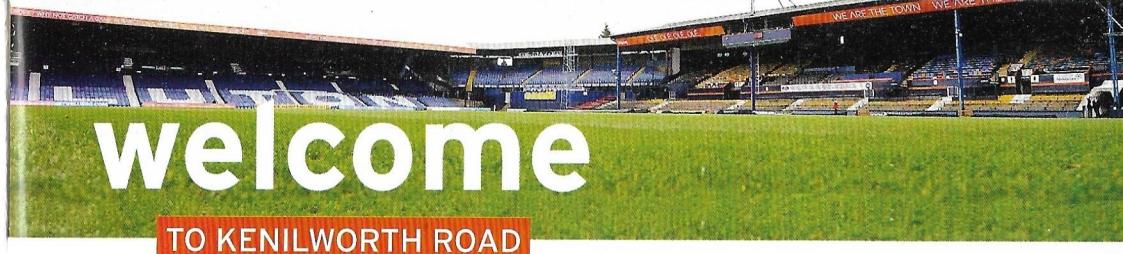
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welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ Home is where the heart is and Tuesday night's excellent 3-0 win over Dartford kept our unbeaten record here at Kenilworth Road this season intact - and banished the disappointment of that defeat at Wrexham to history.

It was the perfect response to a frustrating (if familiar) story in North Wales and the Hatters will be hoping for more of the same this afternoon against a Lincoln City side who are enjoying an excellent start to the season.

You'll get to read why the Imps are doing so well this season, plus plenty of reaction to Tuesday night's win and all your usual favourites over the next 68 pages of this programme.

Remember, if you can't make a game at Kenilworth Road, all of our editions of Talk of the Town are available to purchase online via electronic format, so why not check them out?

It is two weeks until we're back here again so until then, keep the faith and back the boys! #COYH ”



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Welcome

the manager

JOHN STILL

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the second time this week as we entertain Lincoln City in the Skrill Premier.

A warm welcome is afforded to Gary Simpson and his team of staff and players. The Imps have started this season very well and arrive at Kenilworth Road in fourth place in the table. Therefore we are expecting a tough encounter today.

This afternoon's fixture follows what was an excellent 3-0 victory over Dartford on Tuesday night. To run out winners in the manner that we did pleased everybody and I was incredibly happy, with not only the result but the level of performance too.

It was an effective and sound display and the most pleasing aspect was not just the three points but the fact we scored three goals. I had no doubt that we had the quality in the team to score goals and Tuesday showed that.

Individually and collectively we were very good. It was great to see Alex Lawless mark his first start of the season with a goal, whilst Jim Stevenson also impressed on his first start in midfield. It was important that Alex got 80 minutes of football which will help him get fully up to speed with the demands of competitive football, having been unavailable through injury in the first month of the season. The same can be said of Jim who has impressed in development matches to earn his chance.

On Wednesday our development squad picked up yet another win, beating Oxford 2-1 at Ely Way. It was an excellent result in an entertaining game high on quality.

I must say that the performance of the players in these games have really impressed me so far this season. Goalkeeper Elliot Justham has been fantastic and I would have no problem calling on him if he was needed. Brett Longden and JJ O'Donnell have also caught the eye, with JJ in particular outstanding.

Meanwhile Matt Robinson is getting back to the kind of fitness that saw him get in the first team at the back end of last season.

Furthermore I must praise the youth team lads that have been involved in these development fixtures. Zane Banton, Charlie Smith and Arel Amu have been excellent and they continue to show encouraging signs for the future. Paul Driver's Under-18s have started their campaign really well and I urge you all to come to down to Kenilworth Road this coming Wednesday to see them kick-off their campaign in the FA Youth Cup.

Strengths

Turning my attention back to today's game we face a Lincoln team who have done well already this season to beat the likes of Forest Green and Wrexham. They have introduced a number of new players to their squad over the summer and have adapted well. I, however, have always been a manager that has focused on our strengths rather than worry about the opposition's. Tuesday's win over Dartford was just what we needed after that indifferent display at Wrexham and I couldn't be more pleased with our reaction.

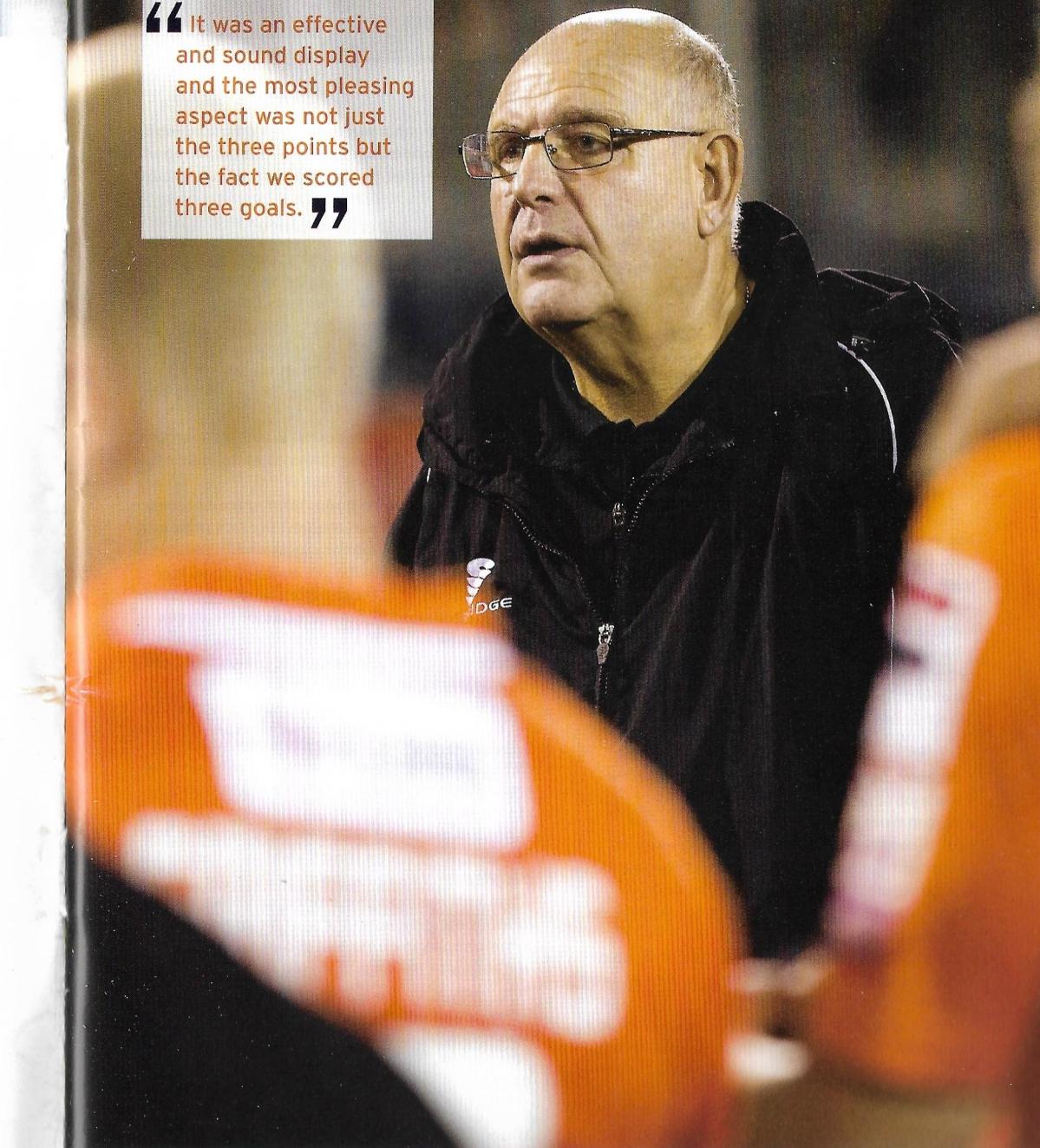
There is still a long, long way to go this season. Today, after all, is just the 10th match of the season. With 36 games left to play that's a helluva lot of points to play for and while it's a well-used cliché, we will just take each game as it comes.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you who came to the Dartford game and got behind the team. It is hugely appreciated. We are trying to ensure we use your support as a positive, rather than allowing the opposition to use it to their advantage.

Get behind your team again today like you did on Tuesday and here's hoping we're celebrating another three points come five o'clock.



“ It was an effective and sound display and the most pleasing aspect was not just the three points but the fact we scored three goals. ”



boardroom

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID WILKINSON



Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road.

We also welcome our visitors this afternoon, Lincoln City from whom we gained maximum points last season. However, they have started this campaign well and should present a sterner task.

I am more fortunate than Gary Sweet in that I am writing these boardroom notes after a good win and an encouraging performance on Tuesday night against Dartford. It was great to see us play the way we know we can after the disappointment of Wrexham.

As you should all be aware by now all the directors and investors are long-term fans of the Club, clocking up hundreds of years and thousands of games between them. Four of us were at Wrexham and suffered that agonising drive home after a dreadful display, whilst trying to find some positives to take from the game.

I am not saying it is worse for us as directors, but perhaps we do get more of a chance to see what we are capable of. Therefore, when it doesn't happen, we are more frustrated and depressed.

Support

We know the quality we have in our squad and that it is our job to provide support. Psychology plays such a big part these days in all aspects of life that we have to continually consider the effect our words or behaviour might have on everyone we come in contact with, whether that be the manager, a player, the press, a colleague, a supporter, the public, or even the opposition.

We must build people up for the benefit of all, which is not always easy when social and other sources of media are busily knocking them down.

The Board and the investors have all been successful in their own areas and have very varied expertise and lengthy experience.

They believe in what they are doing and have invested heavily in time and money to put our Club onto a more solid foundation after the way we have seen it torn apart in the past.

Sustainability

Even some of the past successes have been generated by living beyond our means. Sustainability is our aim. We are not there yet, but we are getting there. Youth, promotion and a new home are crucial.

As Gary said in his last notes on Tuesday, we have made a conscious decision to retain our youth set-up despite the fact that we now get no central funding from the Football League.

This is, therefore, a straight cost to the Club and can only be recovered by selling players or saving on bringing players in.

Like all fans we want the ideal world where every player in the first team has come through the youth ranks, but know that in the real world we need to reach a balance.

We are participating in the games programmes and, as of last weekend, at Under-18 level have a 100 per cent success record having played four and won four in the Youth Alliance.

I hope by the time you read this that we will have made it five by beating Watford this morning.

Nurture

As a Board we know that our future depends upon a strong management team, a supply of quality talent, all the facilities necessary to nurture it and a stage worthy of showing it off.

John Still mirrors our beliefs. He has a reputation and strong record for finding players, developing them and bringing them through the ranks.

That work continues, and I cannot remember seeing a development game without at least two or three trialists in the team alongside the best of our own youth squad and players on the fringe of the first team and recovering from injury.

Development games are arranged as there is no reserves league, and so far this year we have played Peterborough, Stevenage, Brentford and Oxford and beat them all.

I am privileged to be able to see at first-hand the work being carried out in the background to try to fulfil all our dreams. We don't run the Club, but we are involved in major decisions and in supporting the management when appropriate.

In the past week I have seen the development squad beat Brentford and Oxford playing good attractive football and I have seen the Under-18s and Under-16s beat MK Dons likewise.

I have seen the first team lose at Wrexham in a disappointing manner and then beat Dartford in an encouraging one.

Progress

We have had a board meeting, which reported positive progress being made in most areas of the business.

I must make brief mention of our cricket team. This summer we put together a team of staff and friends to compete in a 16-16 League against Luton Town and Indians, NICEIC, Honeytop and easyJet at the Wardown Park ground of LTICC.

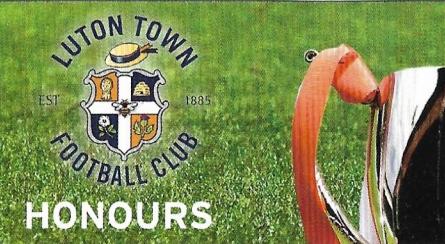
It was a great success and we made finals day where we were knocked out by Honeytop in the semi-final. We hope to go again next year if our ageing muscles and joints can cope.

There might have been a few comedy moments during our cricket encounters over the summer, but if you want some real laughs we're set to launch our new comedy club in the Eric Morecambe suite next week. It promises to be a great initiative and I'm reliably informed that two of the dates have already sold out. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally I believe strongly that we are heading in the right direction. There is no substitute for experience and with John and his team we have it in spades.

As Winston Churchill said: "The further backward you look the further forward you are likely to see."

Enjoy the game.
COYH



HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA Cup:
Runners-up 1959
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup:
Runners-up 1988

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

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

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One:
Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

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

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

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

Southern Alliance:
Runners-up 1913/14

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the captain

RONNIE HENRY

After the defeat at Wrexham in front of the television cameras it was pleasing to bounce back to winning ways against Dartford on Tuesday night.

We were all bitterly disappointed with the performance against Wrexham. That was very unlike us, but the truth was we never turned up on the night. We let ourselves down, the manager down and you, the fans, down.

However, we needed to believe we had the mental strength to bounce back and I thought we did that really well against Dartford.

A lot of people will look at the result and the scoreline and think it was an easy 3-0 win. That's far from the truth. It was a difficult game – like a lot of them are, especially at Kenilworth Road.

Goal

We knew Dartford would make it tough for us and try and get the crowd on our back early on.

It took us half-an-hour to open the scoring but I felt a goal was always going to come and it was great to see Paul Benson get his first goal for the club. I'm sure that will be the first of many.

For most clubs a visit to Kenilworth Road is a highlight of their season. If they get a draw or a win it is celebrated, and this is something as a group of players we have had enough of. Some of the results at home last season were unacceptable and hurt us a lot.

We know that teams will try and use our fanbase against us. That can lead to frustration and we have spoken at length about the importance of turning that around by putting the visitors under enough pressure early on in the game. We don't want opposition teams enjoying their visit here.

Against Dartford we made sure of that. I thought we played some excellent football and capped that all off by scoring three very well-worked goals.

It was fantastic to see Alex Lawless return to full fitness by setting one up and scoring another.

We also kept another clean sheet. You know I love them. Tuesday was a sixth clean sheet in nine games which is a phenomenal record and long may that continue.

Defensively some of our performances last season left a lot to be desired, so to have conceded just four goals so far is brilliant.

Credit doesn't just go to the goalkeeper and defence, though. The whole team deserves praise. The running and hassling and tackling by the midfielders and strikers play a big part. It works both ways, too.

When we score goals it is a team effort – and that showed on Tuesday night.

Points

Today is the 10th game of the season already and we're all a bit disappointed that we haven't earned a few more points and wins here and there. But it's still early and there's a very long way to go. We've come through a tough opening to the campaign, playing three or four of the teams fancied to do well.

It was always going to be important to beat Dartford and hopefully that performance can kick-start a winning run and boost confidence – not that we were particularly short of that in the first place.

We need to continue to work hard and that's something I hope is evident to everyone watching. Tuesday was a prime example. We need that winning mentality – and if we can get into habit, who knows what we can achieve.

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



BANTON SIGNS PRO DEAL

Hatters youth team striker Zane Banton has been handed a professional contract.

The 17-year-old signed a deal until May 2015 on Thursday after impressing manager John Still in a number of behind-closed-doors development games this season.

Banton has scored two goals in three starts for the Under-18s so far this season and scored twice in a 3-1 win for the development squad over Stevenage last month.

Previously on the books at Watford, Banton scored 16 goals in his first year as a scholar as the Town youth team finished third in the Youth Alliance last season.

"Since I came to the club I've kept an eye on our young players' development and Zane certainly



impressed me during pre-season," Still told Talk of the Town. "He's gone from strength-to-strength since the season has begun in development games and for the youth team.

"He's the one who has put himself in the position to earn a professional contract. He's shown great progress and has got great potential. He's worked hard, has got bags of enthusiasm and scores goals. Working alongside the senior professionals will help him even further.

"Zane, though, is not alone. Charlie Smith and Arel Amu have also impressed me and I will continue to monitor their progress with the help of my staff and youth team manager Paul Driver."

Zane has been issued with squad number 34.

Blessing in disguise

Season ticket holder Ian Stonham was given a surprise at his daughter's blessing in July - by the appearance of Town legend Keith Allen.

The winner of two promotions during his time with the Hatters - in 1968 and 1970 - Allen, who now lives on the Isle of Wight, was on hand at the blessing of Ian's daughter Susie and husband Sean.

Ian told Talk of the Town: "Susie and Sean were married at All Saint's Church in Faringdon, Oxfordshire, on 6th July and they had a blessing on the following Wednesday at Godshill on the Isle of Wight, in the Methodist Church that Sean's mum, Heather, had worshipped in.

"Sadly Heather passed away in 2006 and never had the opportunity to see her son get married.

"At Susie and Sean's wedding they kindly gave me a



signed photo of Keith Allen, arranged by Sean's dad, John, who lives on the Isle of Wight and has interviewed Keith on his radio programme.

"At the blessing, completely unknown to myself, Sean's dad produced Keith Allen as a surprise guest and we had

a good old chat about the Luton teams that Keith had played in alongside my all-time heroes Bruce Rioch and Malcolm Macdonald."

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!

Boss in for breakfast

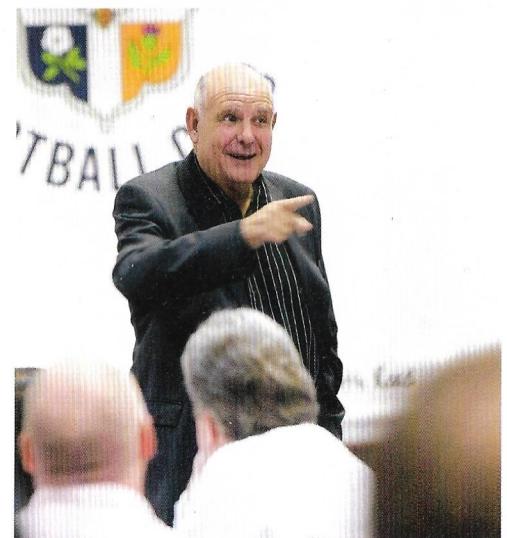
Town manager John Still was the commercial department's special guest on Thursday at their monthly Business Breakfast Club meeting.

The boss took part in a question and answer session at the meeting, which is held every month in the Eric Morecambe suite.

The Business Breakfast Club has a wide variety of benefits and membership is available at £250 + VAT for 12 months.

Included in the membership package:

- An invite to a monthly breakfast meeting held at Luton Town Football Club
- The opportunity to generate new business
- Only one member per business sector
- Encourage other members to learn about your business
- Network with other likeminded businesses and their guests
- The opportunity for business referrals
- Support local businesses
- Company names printed in every matchday programme



SUITS YOU!

Keep an eye for our Golden Gamble sellers this afternoon resplendent in their new attire for the forthcoming season.

As our photograph shows, all of our sellers will be sporting their new jackets on matchdays selling tickets for our prize draw.

Remember, each ticket costs just £1 with half of that going directly into the prize fund.

Town supporter Dorothy Thompson was the lucky winner in our draw on Tuesday night against Dartford. Dorothy's ticket number 05736 scooped the Luton resident a tidy £460.

So far this season £2,795 has been paid out to supporters - working out at an average of £560 per draw.



WALL APPEAL FAILS

The Hatters lost their appeal against the severity of Alex Wall's suspension following his red card against Wrexham. The young striker was dismissed for a high-footed challenge on Wrexham's Neil Ashton with 10 minutes to go in the televised fixture on 13th September.

Wall began his upheld three-match suspension on Tuesday night and will eligible for a return to first team

action against Hereford United a week today, if selected. The striker put that disappointment behind him, however, when scoring a fine header for the development squad in a behind closed doors fixture with Oxford at the training ground on Wednesday. Anthony Charles played an hour in the 2-1 victory and you can read more about the development squad's progress on page 52.

Let's go

AFTER TODAY THE TOWN ARE TWICE ON THE ROAD NEXT WEEK - TRAVELLING TO WOKING ON TUESDAY NIGHT BEFORE HEADING WEST TO HEREFORD ON SATURDAY

WOKING



WHERE? Not far, not far, you intrepid follower of the Town, you. Kingfield, or Kingfield Stadium, is just 47.4 miles from the Maple Road car park, according to the boffins who create Google Maps. For the sat-nav savvy, Kingfield's postcode is GU22 9AA.

HOW TO GET THERE. Okay, here comes the tricky bit. There's no nice way of saying this...To get to Woking to take in this important Skrill Premier match, Hatters fans are going to have to use the M25...during rush hour. Don't let that stop you, though. Kingfield is a nice ground to visit and away fans can pick and choose whether they can sit down or stand up – it costs exactly the same regardless.

BAD MEMORIES. It may have been a hangover, or it may have been the standard of performance, but either way the Town's last trip to Woking wasn't one to look back on with fondness. It was New Year's Day last season that the Hatters went down 3-1 at Kingfield – despite a fine goal from Andre Gray. It came just five days after the Town had beaten Woking 3-1 at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day. Funny old game.

BOBBING ALONG, SINGING A SONG. Don't fancy driving on the M25 but definitely fancy going anyway? Look no further than the Bobbers to get yourself there. Their coach leaves the Maple Road car park at 4.30pm and the fare is £17 for adults and £15 for concessions. Give them a call to book your place on 01234 856542.

HOW THEY DOING? If this piece had gone in Tuesday's programme against Dartford the answer would have been 'not very well'. But, on Tuesday, they won at Hyde and now sit in 18th place in the Skrill Premier, a point above the relegation zone and five points below the Town. Today they make the trip to Macclesfield hoping to secure a second successive win.

GREAT SCOTT. The Town loaned striker Scott Rendell to the Cards a week ago and the former Wycombe striker scored on his debut in a 2-2 draw against Tamworth at Kingfield. However, he won't be able to feature against the Hatters on Tuesday.

HEREFORD UNITED



WHERE? Edgar Street, Hereford. The home of the Bulls since the ground was opened in 1924. In bygone days the club used to parade a bull around the perimeter of the pitch. Sadly, it seems that much-loved tradition has stopped.

HOW TO GET THERE. As the crow flies it might best to go cross-country to Oxford and Cheltenham before heaving in a north-westerly direction, travelling on the A40 and A49. That's 130 miles and it's A-roads all the way. Alternatively there's the 140-mile journey that'll be quicker on the motorway, taking in the M1, M6, M42 and M5 – leaving the latter at the Worcester junction and taking the A4103. Or, having said all that, punch in HR4 9JU into the satellite navigation system and be guided gracefully by technology.

COACH COMFORTS. If the last paragraph has put you off driving to Edgar Street, why not consider letting a coach driver take the strain on the Bobbers? They leave Maple Road at 10am and the fare is £23 for adults and £20 for concessions.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? The Town have only met Hereford four times before, including the two fixtures last season. Last term the Hatters were defeated at Edgar Street by a single goal on a Tuesday night in November, whilst the return at Kenilworth Road finished 1-1 with Dave Martin coming off the bench to grab a second half equaliser in March.

CULTURE VULTURES. Why not leave early and spend the day in the historic city? Take in the 12th Century cathedral and shiver in the Autumnal weather beside the picturesque River Wye. When you've had your tourist fix, head to Edgar Street. Covered seating and standing will be available for Town fans.

EX FACTOR. In previous seasons the Town could name many a former Bull. Stuart Fleetwood, Dean Beckwith and Janos Kovacs had all previously played for both clubs but all have since departed Kenilworth Road. Instead, the Bulls now have a former Hatter on their books in striker Dan Walker, who joined the club this summer. He scored five goals in 36 games whilst with the Town.

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS

SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PRO-RATA PRICES

Adults (22-64) £254, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £181, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £118, Unaccompanied Youths (10-16) and Juniors (under 10s) £34. Accompanied Under-17s FREE



WOKING v LUTON TOWN

The Skrill Premier

TUESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

This match is pay on the night for Luton Town supporters. We have been allocated 1,400 terrace places and 240 seats. Prices are the same for terracing and seating: £15 adults, £10 over-65s and students with ID, £3 under-16s.



HEREFORD UNITED v LUTON TOWN

The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

We are still awaiting ticket information for this match. Please visit the official website and local press for admission details.



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.



LUTON TOWN v HYDE

The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



commercial

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Welcome to Kenilworth Road to all supporters, our match sponsors, corporate guests and our mascots to today's game

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

Matchball sponsorship offers a unique opportunity for guests to sponsor the matchball at Kenilworth Road – which you then get keep it afterwards with the players' autographs. The package is a fantastic way to enjoy excellent hospitality whilst promoting your business or entertaining friends, family or clients.

Hosted in our Eric Morecambe Lounge, the matchball sponsors will enjoy a two-course meal before being seated in the directors' box to watch the match. To top off a great day, you will get the chance to enjoy our post-match presentation and receive your signed ball from the man of the match.

If you're interested in becoming a matchball sponsor please do get in touch.

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR SPORTS262 AND LUTON TOWN FANS



Luton Town Fans (www.lutontownfans.co.uk) is an interactive website devoted to Luton Town, providing articles, match reports, player ratings and a discussion forum. Sports262 (www.sports262.com) is a sports forum which became the cyber home of Luton fans displaced by the closure of the BBC's 606 boards.

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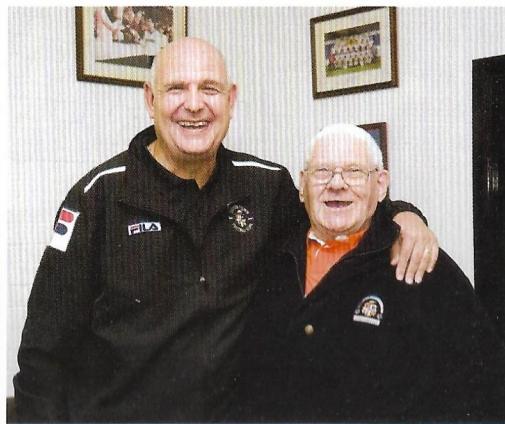
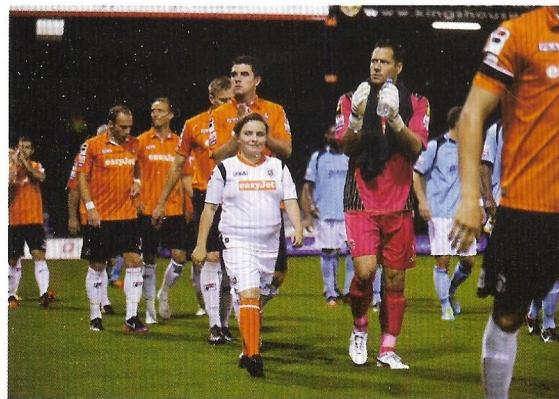
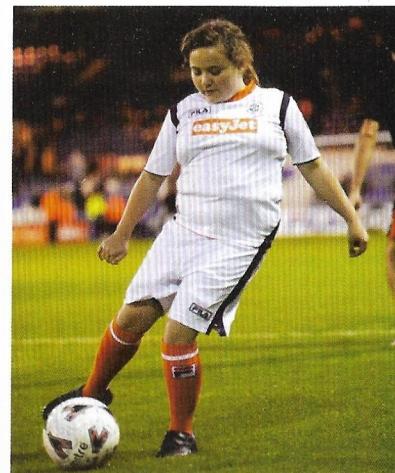
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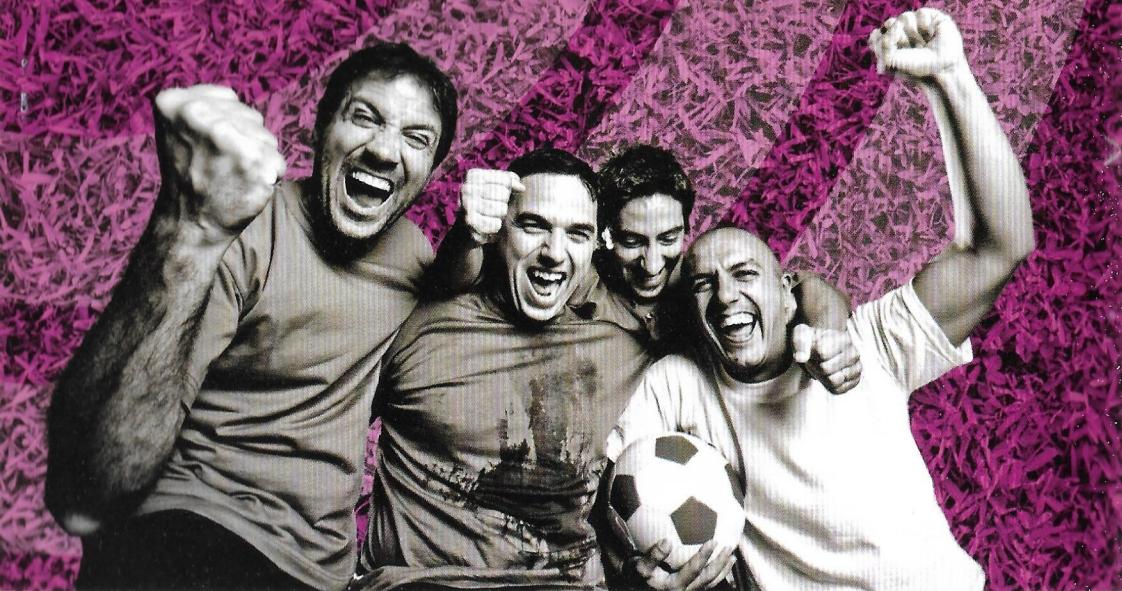
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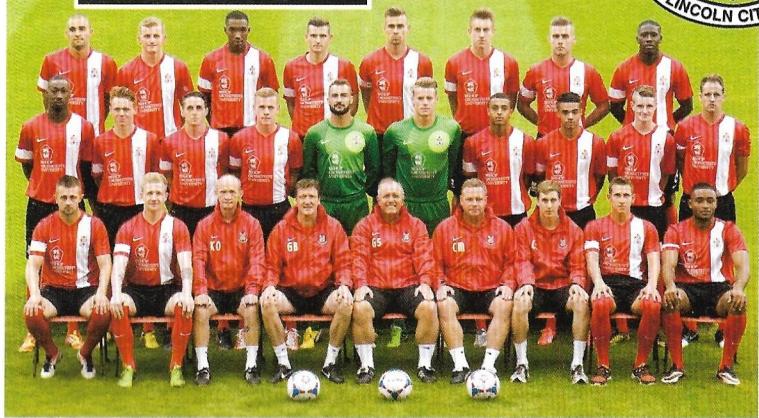


2013/14

1 MARK TYLER	HOME: Tim Fordham AWAY: Whosh GLOVES: Kyle McPherson	3 DANNY FITSIMONS	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 Goodge AWAY: Gill, Julie and Yvonne	8 SOLOMON TAIWO	HOME: Jonathan Perry AWAY: Available	9 JON SHAW	HOME: Jacqui Peacock AWAY: Maddie Knight
10 ALEX WALL	HOME: Ben & Richard Banks AWAY: Available	11 JAKE HOWELLS	HOME: Neil Ehrenzweig AWAY: Sports 262 & 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	34 ZANE BANTON	HOME: Loyal Luton AWAY: COYH
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

LINCOLN CITY



Whisper it quietly but there's a quiet confidence at Sincil Bank this season.

In fairness, it's no secret. The Imps arrive at Kenilworth Road this afternoon buoyed by their best start to a Conference season since their relegation from the Football League two seasons ago.

Gary Simpson has made a number of signings this summer – as you'll notice reading through their player profiles on the opposite page – and the new-look Imps team are wowing the crowds at Sincil Bank in the early stages of the campaign.

On Tuesday night, whilst the Town were beating Dartford, Simpson's side ground out a 1-0 victory over Southport thanks to Tom Miller's first half header. It was the Imps' fourth win of a campaign and lifted them into the Play-Off positions once again.

Like the Town, Lincoln have already played a number of the Skrill Premier's so-called fancied teams. Simpson's side have beaten Forest Green and Wrexham at Sincil Bank and earned a point at Barnet last Saturday.

In a similar theme to the Hatters again, many of the Imps' matches so far have been low-scoring affairs, with just two of their nine games yielding more than three goals. City have kept four clean sheets but scored just nine goals – one more than the Town. The Imps last drew 0-0 on the opening day of the season against Woking.

At the head of the Imps' scoring chart is striker Ben Tomlinson with three goals. The frontman, who arrived at Sincil Bank this summer after joining from Alfreton, has been helped by strike-partner Waide Fairhurst – another pre-season capture – who has found the net twice.

Competition for places is fierce with fellow strikers Nick Wright and Danny Rowe – who both have fine goal records at this level – ready to step in when required.

With Fairhurst and Tomlinson firing a blank on Tuesday, Simpson has the options – especially given the boss' frustration at not scoring more in that win over the Sandgrounders.

"Our football at times was terrific, we just need to punish teams a bit more and be a bit more ruthless, that's how we are going to improve," he said afterwards.

"I'm not complaining. If you had told me at the start it would be 1-0 I'd said that will do me, points on the board, that's what we want."

Simpson was, however, pleased with his team's defensive display on Tuesday.

"They are backing each other up. I said, you got to help your mate out at the side of you. You have to have that attitude and the belief that your mate is going to help you out," he said. "You saw that against Southport. The lads would get a block in, then they would have another go and another block would go in. It was terrific.

"You are never going to play and dominate games all the time. Sometimes you are going to have to dig in, because teams will have a spell in the game. You got to stand up and be counted at those times."

The City faithful that travel to Kenilworth Road this afternoon will be hoping that their recent form can continue at a venue where the Imps rarely enjoy success.

The Hatters hold an impressive head-to-head record against Lincoln, with the Imps winning just twice at Kenilworth Road – in 1999 and back in 1900.

in opposition

MEET THE LINCOLN CITY SQUAD

THE MANAGER

GARY SIMPSON. A player with Boston and Altrincham, Simpson took control at Sincil Bank last season having previously been in caretaker charge of the Imps in 2003. Joined Macclesfield in 2007/08 and took caretaker charge of the Silkmen when Keith Alexander – who also managed the Imps – tragically passed away in 2010.

GOALKEEPERS

PAUL FARMAN. Former Newcastle United trainee who signed in 2012 after enjoying a loan spell at Sincil Bank the previous season. An England C international, he signed a new two-year contract this summer.

DAVID PREECE. Hugely experienced goalkeeper in his second spell at Sincil Bank, now in the capacity as player/goalkeeping coach. Began his career as a youngster with Sunderland before spells at Darlington, Aberdeen and in Denmark.

DEFENDERS

TOM MILLER. Versatile defender who signed for the Imps in July 2012 following his release from Newport County. A product of Norwich City's academy, he left Carrow Road for Glasgow Rangers before signing for Dundalk and then Newport.

SEAN NEWTON. Scouser Sean began his career at Chester before moves to Barrow and AFC Telford. The left-back joined Stockport, after a loan spell, and signed for the Imps this summer on a two-year deal.

TODD JORDAN. Central defender or midfielder who signed a permanent deal at Sincil Bank this summer having impressed on non-contract terms last season.

ANDREW BOYCE. Centre-half who began his career as a youngster with Doncaster before dropping down several divisions to sign for Kings Lynn. After Kings Lynn's financial problems he signed for Gainsborough and then joined Lincoln in May 2012.

NAT BROWN. Experienced defender now in his second spell with the Imps. Started at Huddersfield and signed for Lincoln the first time in 2005. Spells at Wrexham and Macclesfield followed, before he re-signed this summer.

LUKE FOSTER. Another former Imp in his second spell at Sincil Bank. The defender began his career at Sheffield Wednesday before spells at Oxford, Mansfield, Stevenage, Rotherham and Preston.

MIDFIELDERS

MAMADOU FOFANA. French midfielder who signed after impressing in a trial in August 2012. A defensive midfielder who can also operate in defence, he enjoyed spells in his homeland and in Sweden.

ALAN POWER. Republic of Ireland youth international midfielder who was named the Imps' player of the season last term. He began his career at Nottingham Forest before spells Hartlepool and Rushden.

JAKE SHERIDAN. Attacking midfielder who signed for the Imps after impressing on loan from Eastwood Town. Nottingham-born, he started his career with Notts County before a spell at Tamworth.

DAN GRAY. Defender or midfielder signed this summer having impressed in pre-season. The versatile Mansfield-born man began his career at Chesterfield.

BOHAN DIXON. Attack-minded midfielder who signed this summer having also impressed in pre-season to earn a year-long deal. Previously with Connah's Quay, Buckley Town, Hednesford, Burscough and Accrington.

JON NOLAN. A product of Everton's academy, midfielder Jon signed for the Imps this summer having spent two seasons with Stockport County.

KARL CUNNINGHAM. Risen through the youth ranks at Sincil Bank to be rewarded with a professional contract this summer. Earned experience with loan spells at Goole, Worksop and Lincoln United.

STRIKERS

WAIDE FAIRHURST. Summer acquisition following his release from Macclesfield Town. The frontman started his career at Doncaster before loan spells at Shrewsbury, Southend and Hereford.

DANNY ROWE. Another summer arrival, striker Rowe joined the Imps after his release from Fleetwood. No stranger to Conference football, he has enjoyed loan spells with Barrow and Stockport in recent seasons.

NICK WRIGHT. Former Birmingham, Tamworth, Kidderminster and Mansfield striker or winger who signed for the Imps this summer.

BEN TOMLINSON. Striker who arrived at Sincil Bank this summer from Alfreton for an undisclosed fee. Scored 14 times last season including a hat-trick in a win over Hyde.

FOOTBALL

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

Having been embroiled in a relegation dogfight last season, Lincoln City fans will be hoping this is the season they finally mount a promotion challenge after two failed Conference campaigns in which their highest place finish is 16th.

The Lincolnshire club, like many others in this division, believes it truly belongs in the Football League, but it will take a drastic improvement on last season's performances if they are to achieve their ultimate goal.

How did they perform last season?

Lincoln finished 16th last season on 56 points. They avoided the drop by six points and were four positions above the drop zone in the end, but it was much closer than that for much of the season.

At one point, the Imps went on a terrible run which saw them win just one game out of 14 – eight of which they lost. However, they picked themselves up at just the right time by earning four wins in six games towards the end of the season after Gary Simpson took over.

How have they started the 2013/14 campaign?

This season, Lincoln are barely recognisable from the side that took to the field last year. Not that there has been a complete overhaul of the squad, but that the Imps are flying high in the current league table. In fact, it is possible that six or seven of the men that turned out for Lincoln at Kenilworth Road last season could again appear today.

Lincoln are currently fourth in the Skrill Premier with 17 points having won five, drawn two and lost two.

Goals are not a regular feature in Lincoln's games: they have scored nine which is among the fewest of any team in the league and only conceded five meaning their defence is only second to Luton's and Cambridge's.

How will they play? Who are their danger men?

Gary Simpson is likely to set his side up in a 4-2-3-1 system. His two central midfielders provide a solid foundation for the three attacking midfielders in front to have creative freedom and the visitors' full-backs usually push up high. At the back, the Imps have a very similar look with Paul Farman, Tom Miller, Andrew Boyce and Nat Brown all likely to start. This season their defence has been complimented with the addition of raiding left-back Sean Newton.



Lincoln's top goalscorer:
Ben Tomlinson



Newton already has four assists and is expected to be busy up and down the flank all game.

In midfield, defensive destroyer Mamadou Fofana will look to break up the Hatters' attacking play, whilst Todd Jordan, who will play alongside him, will be Lincoln's midfield engine. Ahead of them, Alan Power, who scored

12 goals last season, will operate in a right-sided attacking midfield role with Jake Sheridan on the opposite flank. Everton youth product Jon Nolan will play in the number 10 role and will look to use his technical ability to unlock the Luton defence.

16-goal Jamie Taylor and 13-goal Vadaine Oliver both left the club to join Sutton United and Crewe Alexandra respectively, so 23-year-old Ben Tomlinson, a summer signing from Alfreton, will lead the line alone. Tomlinson has netted three goals this season and is as much of an asset in the defensive phase hassling and harrying defenders as he is in front of goal.



club data

Established: 1884

Nickname(s): The Imps

Stadium: The 12th Imp Sincil Bank Stadium

Capacity: 10,130 (Average attendance 12/13 – 2,181)

Manager: Gary Simpson (Six months)

Final league position 12/13: 16th BSBP

from the oak road

ARE THE IMPs ON THE UP? WHICH CONFERENCE PLAYER WOULD SINCIL BANK LOVE TO SEE IN THE RED AND WHITE STRIPES? AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE 'PLAY-ADVANTAGE' RULE? LINCOLN'S ANDY TOWNSEND REVEALS ALL...

TALK OF THE TOWN: Lincoln were tipped to do well by several pundits before a ball was even kicked – and the Imps have made an impressive start. Do you feel City can make more of an impact on the Conference this year?

ANDY: Gary Simpson made some good signings during the summer and has put a squad together that is capable of challenging for a top place. There is a lot of belief from the players that they can achieve something this season. The players want to be here and play for the shirt – and not just sit back and pick up a wage packet.

TOTT: From the games played so far, what do you feel your side's strengths are?

ANDY: Our main strength this season is the midfield and our substitutes' bench. Games can be won and lost in the midfield, and we have a midfield of battlers who can dominate a game in this area. In the past, looking at the substitutes left, you wondering who could come on to change a game. Now the teamsheet shows a strong bench that is very capable of turning a game around in our favour.

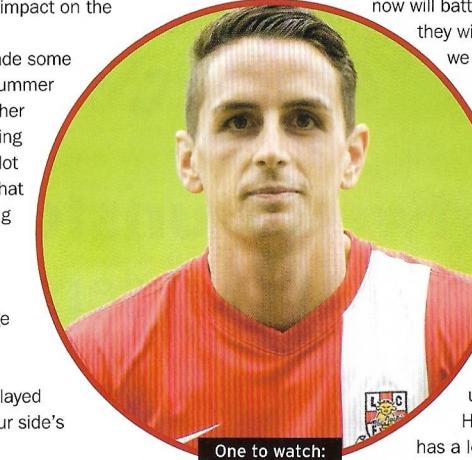
TOTT: Who is your player to watch?

ANDY: Fortunately, there are several players I could name here. On their day Alan Power, Mamadou Fofana, Ben Tomlinson and Waide Fairhurst will all cause the opposition problems. Jake Sheridan was outstanding last year, but hasn't had chance to shine so far this season, which just goes to show the depth of quality throughout the squad.

TOTT: What are your memories from the two defeats Lincoln suffered against the Hatters last season? Do you see it being a closer contest today?

ANDY: I think today's game will be a much closer affair and if the Imps are on their game then we have every

chance of taking the points. At Luton last season we more than held our own, but 10 minutes of madness cost us the game and we had no way back. The players now will battle, so even if we go a goal behind, they will fight to the end for the points, as we proved last week against Barnet.



One to watch:
Jake Sheridan

TOTT: Getting out of the Conference is certainly a tough enough task, but if Lincoln were to manage this, what is the scale of your ambitions as a club?

ANDY: As any supporter will say, I want to see Lincoln playing at the highest level, so once promoted back to the Football League, a steady climb up the divisions would be nice.

Having said that the Premier League has a lot to answer for in regards to the problems in today's game and I wouldn't want Lincoln to be part of that problem. Therefore I'd be happy with the dizzy heights of the Championship.

TOTT: If you could sign one player from another Conference club, who would it be?

ANDY: The standard of players in the Conference this year is high. If one player could be signed, someone who comes to mind is Adam Cunningham at Cambridge.

TOTT: We saw Danny Welbeck pick up a bizarre booking for kicking the ball away after the whistle had gone in England's recent match against Moldova. Which refereeing rule would you want to see changed and why?

ANDY: Obviously the first rule that comes to mind is the offside rule. However, I would change the advantage rule. If a referee plays advantage and a player has a shot and misses, then so be it. However, too often, the referee will then pull it back and award a free kick. For me, the advantage has been played.

Just because the player didn't take that advantage and missed with his shot, then so be it – a team shouldn't get a second chance.

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a hatter and...

...AN IMP

TERRY BRANSTON

The most recent link between the Hatters and Lincoln was centre-half Janos Kovacs, who spent one season at Sincil Bank prior to one of two spells with the Town.

In total the Hungarian defender made 91 appearances for the Hatters, scoring eight goals, whilst in his two seasons with the Imps – in 2008/09 and 2009/10 – he appeared 66 times and scored four goals.

However, it is another centre-half who is best known to both sets of supporters: Terry Branston.

Northampton Town finally got their man in October 1958 with the reculant central defender joining at a time when the Cobblers were about to sweep from Division Four to Division One in five years.

When the Cobblers started to fall back just as rapidly, Luton manager Allan Brown stepped in and brought Terry to Kenilworth Road in the summer of 1967.

A born leader and hard as nails, terrace favourite Terry skippered the Town to the Division Four (now League 2) title in 1967/68 and a further promotion two seasons later.

In total he made 101 appearances for the Hatters before he signed for tonight's visitors in 1970 where he would go on and play 100 times for the Imps.

The legendary defender ended his playing days with Nuneaton before retirement and sadly died aged in December 2010.

As well as messrs Branston and Kovacs, Doug Rowe, David Carr, Steve Buckley, Peter Holmes and Jude Sterling have served both the Town and Lincoln.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Absolutely. The Hatters and Lincoln have been adversaries plenty of times down the years – with the Town holding a strong head-to-head record. The Imps must wince every time the fixture crops up given their poor record against the Town. The Hatters have won 19 of the 36 matches played between the two clubs and are unbeaten in 30 of them.

Therefore it doesn't take a mathematician to work out that City have won just six of these games down the years – including the first ever meeting between the two clubs 115 years ago.

Both clubs met in the 1897/98 campaign in the Second Division with the Imps winning the first meeting 4-2 before the Hatters won the return 9-2 on 18th December 1897.

The two sides were regular foes throughout the 1930s, 40s, 50s and 60s but a 24th February meeting in 1968, which the Town won 4-2 on their way to winning Division Four championship with Terry Branston as captain, was the last for 31 years.

By the time of their next meeting – on 21st November 1998 – both clubs were plying their trade in Division Two (now League 1). After a 2-2 draw at Sincil Bank, Lincoln won 1-0 at Kenilworth Road thanks to Lee Thorpe's second half goal.

That was only the Imps' second win on Bedfordshire soil and their first in 99 years – since a 2-0 win on 16th April 1900.

Since that win for City, however, the Hatters are unbeaten in the last 10 games against the Imps. The Town have won six of these, including two victories last season. The Hatters won 2-1 at Sincil Bank in October thanks to goals from Andre Gray and Jon Shaw before triumphing 3-0 at Kenilworth Road thanks to two goals from Dave Martin and one from Gray.

OVERALL HEAD-TO-HEAD RECORD

LUTON WINS:	19
DRAWS:	11
LINCOLN WINS:	6

back to the future

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

1951/52 THIRD DIVISION (NORTH) CHAMPIONS

JIMMY JONES: Goalkeeper who moved to Accrington Stanley in February 1954, then Rochdale before a spell as Lincoln's reserve team trainer. He became a licensee in Scopwick, settling near Horncastle.

HORACE GREEN: Experienced right-back who netted 14 goals in 212 League outings before hanging up his boots. He worked on the railways, then at a steelworks and died in his native Barnsley in July 2000.

DOUG GRAHAM: Cultured left-back who became player-coach of Swiss side St Gallen in July 1957. Later Blyth Spartans' manager, he worked in the motor trade in Newcastle and died in November 1993.

DOUG WRIGHT: Ex-England international who became Blyth Spartans' player-coach in December 1954 and later manager. He worked in Tyneside docks, then Blyth Power Station and died in December 1992.

TONY EMERY: Long-serving centre-half who scored once in 402 League games prior to joining Mansfield Town in June 1959. Later employed at a builders merchants, he died locally in December 2005.

BOBBY OWEN: Left-half who netted five goals in 256 League games, moving to South Shields in July 1955. Later Whitley Bay's boss, he was a fitter with the NCB and died in South Shields in October 1999.

HARRY TROOPS: Winger who scored 32 times in 295 League outings prior to joining Carlisle United in June 1958. He was employed in a Sheffield steelworks until his death in a road accident in March 1963.

JOHN GARVIE: Inside-right who joined Carlisle United in May 1956, then Boston United, Corby, Stamford and Ilkeston. He was later steward at Corby Trades & Labour Club and died in January 1996.

ANDY GRAVER: Record goalscorer in three spells before joining Skegness in July 1961. Later with Ilkeston, then Lincoln's youth coach, he became a financial consultant and moved to York in June 2011.

ERNIE WHITTLE: Inside-left who moved to Workington in March 1954, then Chesterfield, Bradford PA and Scarborough. Settling in Lincoln, he was doorman at the Liberal Club and died in May 1998.

ROY FINCH: Winger who netted 56 goals in 275 League games before leaving in May 1959, then played local football. He ran a newsagents in Lincoln, then was a bakery van driver and died in August 2007.

1975/76 FOURTH DIVISION CHAMPIONS

PETER GROTIER: Ever-present goalkeeper who made 233 League appearances before joining Cardiff City in December 1979, then Grimsby Town. He works for the family footwear firm in Wivenhoe.

IAN BRANFOOT: Ever-present right-back who reunited with Lawrie McMenemy as Southampton's youth coach in September 1978. He was coach/manager of Reading, Crystal Palace, Saints and Fulham.

DENNIS LEIGH: Graham Taylor's first signing for Lincoln, he netted three goals in 205 League games before joining Boston United in August 1979. He is an advertising manager for the Lincolnshire Echo.

DENNIS BOOTH: Midfielder who followed Graham Taylor to Watford in October 1977. Later with Hull City, he has since held various coaching posts and is now head of football affairs at Carlisle United.

SAM ELLIS: Former England Under-23 central defender who followed Graham Taylor to Watford in August 1977. He managed Blackpool, Bury and Lincoln, then assisted Stan Ternent and Kevin Blackwell.

TERRY COOPER: Central defender who netted 12 goals in 270 League games before joining Bradford City in June 1979, then played for Rochdale. He became a milkman in Lincoln, then a prison officer.

JOHN FLEMING: Midfielder who scored 17 times in 121 League outings prior to joining Port Vale in March 1980. He later emigrated to Australia and has since held coaching posts, including Wollongong.

JOHN WARD: Leading marksman who reunited with Graham Taylor at Watford in July 1979. Later playing for Grimsby Town and Lincoln again, he has managed several clubs, now back at Bristol Rovers.

PERCY FREEMAN: Striker who netted 64 goals in 152 League games in two spells before joining Boston United in August 1977. He has settled locally and since managed several Lincolnshire clubs.

DAVE SMITH: Winger who scored 52 times in 371 League games prior to joining Rotherham United in July 1978. He later played local football for various clubs and assisted Percy Freeman at Stamford.

ALAN HARDING: Midfielder who netted 38 goals in 209 League outings before moving to Hartlepool United in March 1979, then Newcastle Blue Star and Ryhope CW. He has settled back in Sunderland.

1980/81 PROMOTION WINNERS

DAVE FELGATE: Welsh international goalkeeper who later appeared for Grimsby Town, Bolton Wanderers, Chester, Wigan Athletic, Leigh RMI and Radcliffe Borough, becoming a goalkeeping coach.

STEVE THOMPSON: Later played for Charlton Athletic, Leicester City, Sheffield United and Lincoln again, becoming manager. He has held several other management posts, recently at Notts County.

NOLAN KEELEY: Left-back who moved to King's Lynn in September 1982, then Great Yarmouth. He has since managed Swaffham Town and Fakenham Town, settling in Taverham, near Norwich.

DAVE HUGHES: Midfielder who scored once in 62 League games before joining Scunthorpe United in June 1981, then played for Lincoln again, Worcester City and Moor Green, settling in Birmingham.

TREVOR PEAKE: Former England Semi-Pro central defender who moved to Coventry City in July 1983, then played for Luton Town. He has held coaching posts at Coventry, Luton and Leicester City.

DAVE CARR: Central defender who netted four goals in 168 League games prior to joining Torquay United in August 1983. Later with Maidstone United, Dover and Thanet United, he died in June 2005.

PHIL NEALE: Footballing cricketer who netted 22 goals in 335 League games before joining Worcester City in July 1985, then Gloucester City. He became director of cricket to Northamptonshire CCC.

PHIL TURNER: Midfielder who scored 18 times in 239 League games, moving to Grimsby Town in August 1986, then Leicester City and Notts County. He is now a hospital care assistant in Ilkeston.

GORDON HOBSON: Leading marksman who joined Grimsby Town in June 1985, then Southampton, Lincoln again, Exeter City, Walsall, Farnborough and Salisbury City, joining their coaching staff.

TONY CUNNINGHAM: Later with Barnsley, Sheffield Wednesday, Manchester City, Newcastle, Blackpool, Bury, Bolton Wanderers, Rotherham, Doncaster and Wycombe, he is a solicitor in Lincoln.

GEORGE SHIPLEY: Ever-present midfielder who joined Charlton Athletic in July 1985, then Gillingham. He was a youth coach at Middlesbrough and Bradford City before community posts at Newcastle.

1997/98 PROMOTION WINNERS

BARRY RICHARDSON: Goalkeeper who made 131 League appearances before joining Doncaster Rovers in July 2000, then Halifax Town and Gainsborough. He has since been a goalkeeping coach.

JASON BARNETT: Right-back who netted six goals in 207 League outings prior to Lincoln United in July 2002, then played for Cotesmore Amateurs and Spalding United. He is now a prison officer.

JON WHITNEY: Left-back who scored eight times in 101 League outings before moving to Hull City in December 1998, then King's Lynn. He has since been Walsall's assistant-boss, now physio.

TERRY FLEMING: Later with Plymouth, Cambridge United, Grimsby Town, Kidderminster, Moor Green, Halesowen, Grantham and Lincoln United, becoming player-boss. Now coaching Sleaford.

STEVE HOLMES: Central defender who netted 33 goals in 201 League games in three spells at Sincil Bank before joining Dunstan Federation in July 2002. He has since run a block paving company.

KEVIN AUSTIN: Trinidad & Tobago international central defender who joined Barnsley in July 1999, then Cambridge United, Bristol Rovers, Swansea City, Chesterfield, Darlington and Boston United.

DEAN WALLING: Central defender who joined Doncaster Rovers in July 1999, then Northwich, Cambridge United and Gainsborough. He runs his own Academy in Lincoln and Sportsmart Consulting.

PAUL MILLER: Midfielder who netted 11 goals in 215 League games before joining Hucknall Town in July 2001, then played for Lincoln United. He is a maintenance manager for Serco Ltd in Lincoln.

STEVE BROWN: Striker who scored eight times in 72 League outings while at Sincil Bank before moving to Macclesfield Town in July 1998, then played for Waterford, Dover, Kingstonian and Purfleet.

LEE THORPE: Striker who joined Leyton Orient in May 2002, then Bristol Rovers, Swansea, Torquay United, Brentford, Rochdale, Darlington, Fleetwood and AFC Fylde. Now Blackpool's youth coach.

COLIN ALCIDE: Striker who scored 26 goals in 121 League outings before joining Hull City in March 1999, then York City, Cambridge United, Gainsborough Trinity, Exeter City, TNS and Ashton United.



TOWN 3-0 DARTFORD

The Town bounced back from Friday's defeat at Wrexham with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Dartford at Kenilworth Road.

Two goals in four first half minutes from Paul Benson and Luke Guttridge got the Hatters on their way before Alex Lawless – making his first start of the season – added a third mid-way through the second half to seal victory.

It was no more than the Hatters deserved following a slick display of football that could have led to more goals on a night dominated by the Town.

Lawless was one of two changes to the side that lost in North Wales, with Jim Stevenson also given his first start in Town colours. Mark Cullen and Shaun Whalley were the two who missed out.

After a quiet start, slowly the Hatters began to assert their superiority and Benson was denied a first goal for the club by an offside flag after he found the back of the net inside the six yard box following lovely link-up play between Guttridge and Jake Howells.

Howells sent a left-foot drive inches wide on 19 minutes as the Town increased the tempo before Lawless was also off target with an effort from the edge of the box on 21 minutes.

Dartford had barely entered the Hatters' penalty area in the opening 20 minutes but Tyrone Sterling fired a warning shot when thumping a well-hit drive over Mark Tyler's crossbar.

But that came against the run of play and the Town deservedly took the lead shortly before the half-hour when Benson grabbed his first goal for the club. Lawless was the architect, finding space down the right to dig

a cross out and find an unmarked Benson who did the rest, nodding home from inside the six yard box.

Four minutes after the Hatters went in front they doubled their lead when Guttridge's heavily deflected effort left Darts keeper Alan Julian stranded. Visiting skipper Elliott Bradbrook's should have headed the Darts level when connecting with Lee Noble's corner but the Town broke following that chance and Guttridge was able to score his third goal of the season.

Jim Stevenson came within a whisker of adding a third before the half-time whistle when he sent a low, well-hit shot just wide of the post.

It was much the same after the break. It was all hands on deck for the Darts at the back as the Town pushed for a third and it was almost 3-0 on 59 minutes when Guttridge was denied a second goal when his fierce effort was cleared off the line by Noble.

However, the Town were not to be denied a third goal and Lawless got the goal his performance deserved on 65 minutes when he rounded Julian to tuck home neatly from an acute angle after great one-touch play between Benson and Jonathan Smith.

With the Hatters playing some eye-catching football they thought they should have two penalties in the space of 10 seconds on 66 minutes when goalscorers Benson and Guttridge went down in the box but referee Whitton remain unconvinced and waved away the loud appeals for spot-kicks.

Benson then came close to adding his second and the Hatters' fourth on 77 minutes and after a series of subs, the Town closed out an impressive victory and ensured a sixth clean sheet in nine matches.



Luke Guttridge celebrates

reaction

DART DELIGHT

Manager John Still hopes the 3-0 victory over Dartford can be the catalyst for consistency in the Hatters' quest for promotion this season.

Goals from Paul Benson, Luke Guttridge and Alex Lawless were enough to see off one of Still's former clubs and got the Town back to winning following a defeat at Wrexham.

It was the first time the Town had scored more than two goals in a game this season, and after a run of games against some of the favourites for promotion, Still was pleased his side disposed with Dartford with minimal fuss.

"I have seen enough of what we are capable of against really good sides," he said. "Games like Kidderminster, Cambridge and Grimsby have shown me enough of the good things we can do and as the season goes longer I anticipate we will get into our stride."

There was plenty to like about the Hatters' victory – which included yet another clean sheet, their sixth in nine games.

"I want to push the young players that we have got because I think they can be a force for this football club for many years to come," Still continued.

"Alex Lacey has impressed me this season, Andy Parry has come in and shown he can play in defence or midfield no questions asked and Jim Stevenson is very assured as well."

"It has been a lot of hard work for all people behind the scenes to try and get better and make the finished article and on our way to doing that."

Having admitted he picked the wrong team to face Wrexham, Still made two changes for the Darts' visit and the manager was pleased his selection policy paid off.

"Sometimes you make changes and they do not come off but other times you have a play around with it and it comes off and tonight it came off," said Still.

"I wanted to include Alex because he has been training really hard and if ever there was a game to play him it was a home game and he did really well."

"As for bringing Jim Stevenson back in, it just allowed Luke Guttridge to play off Paul Benson and they looked very good together."

"We were much more fluid and the midfield were more competitive and hungry for the ball. The wide men also made chances for Paul and that is what we want."

"We scored three but could have had more but we will not get greedy. I just knew with our movement the goals would come and they did."

"It was surprising it took until the half-hour to score but at least the goal did come and from there we looked comfortable."

The manager's thoughts were echoed by assistant manager Terry Harris.

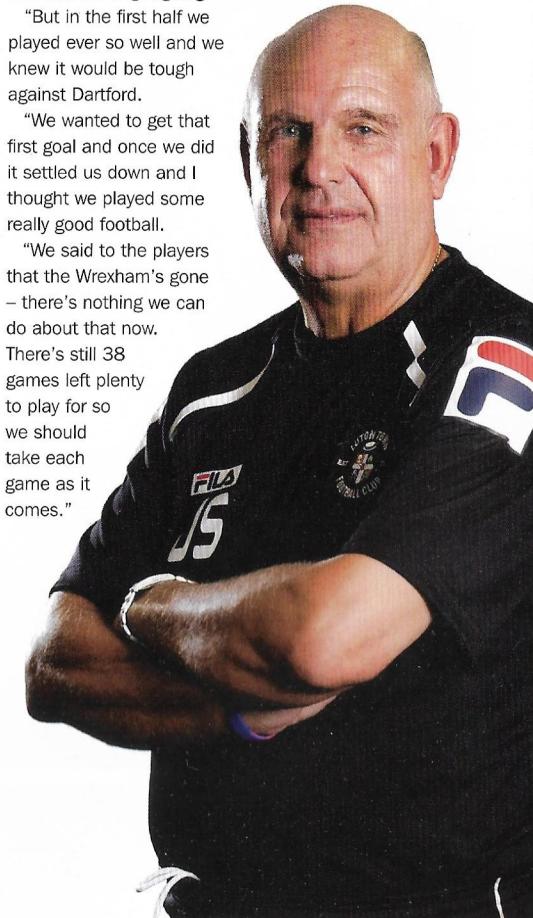
He told Hatters Player: "We knew we needed a result after the Wrexham performance."

"That was unlike us. We didn't play well and never got going."

"But in the first half we played ever so well and we knew it would be tough against Dartford."

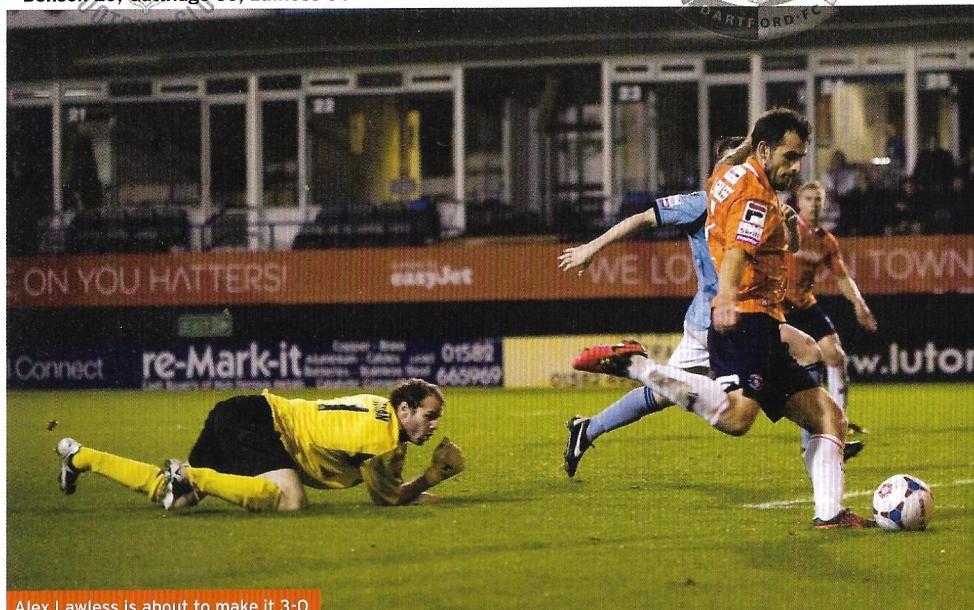
"We wanted to get that first goal and once we did it settled us down and I thought we played some really good football."

"We said to the players that the Wrexham's gone – there's nothing we can do about that now. There's still 38 games left plenty to play for so we should take each game as it comes."

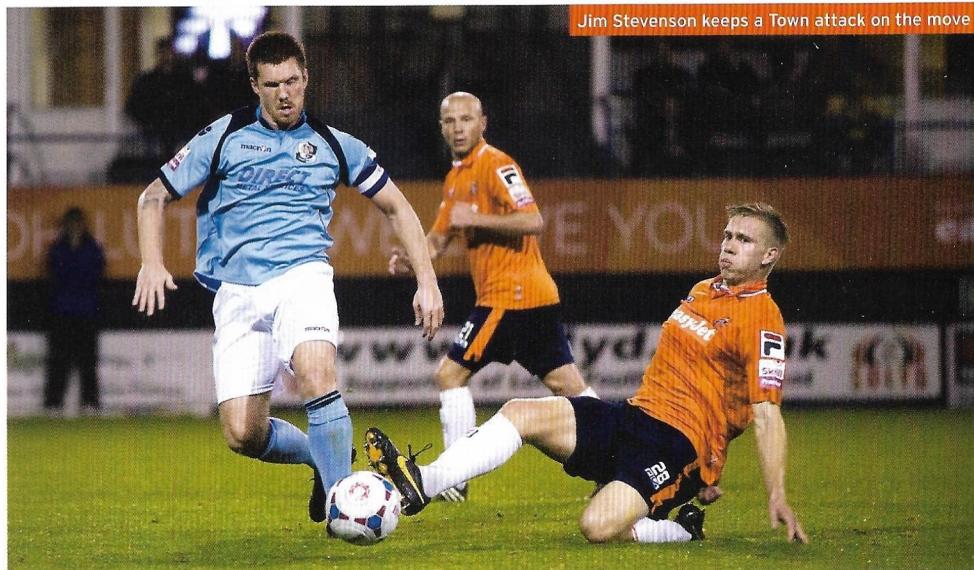


LUTON TOWN 3-0 DARTFORD

Benson 29, Guttridge 33, Lawless 64



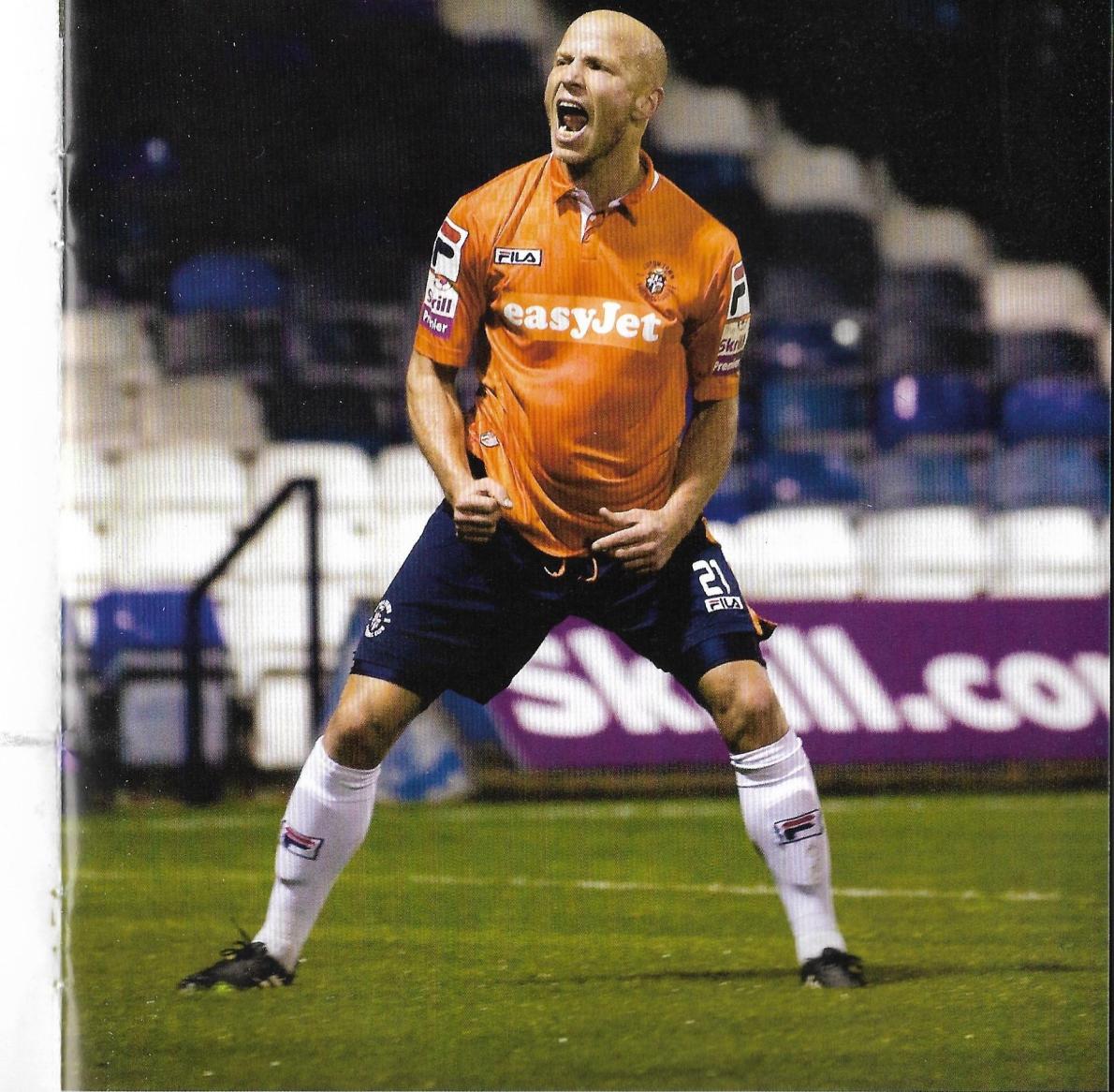
Alex Lawless is about to make it 3-0



TOWN: Tyler, Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Parry; Smith, Guttridge, Stevenson (sub Taiwo 87); Howells (sub Martin 78), Lawless (sub Whalley 84), Benson. **SUBS:** NOT USED: Gray, Justham.

DARTFORD: Julian, Stirling (sub Prior 63), Clarke, Fry, Noble, Bradbrook, Collier, Burns, Hayes (sub Woodyard 73), Harris (sub Rogers 73), Birchall. **SUBS NOT USED:** Ibrahim, Ibemere.

Luke Guttridge celebrates after his goal put the Town 2-0 to the good



POSSESSION	60%	40%
CORNERS	8	3
SHOTS ON TARGET	5	2
SHOTS OFF TARGET	6	6

FOULS	6	3
YELLOW CARDS	1	1
RED CARDS	0	0
ATTENDANCE: 5,433 (142 DARTFORD)		

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reaction

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK - LAWLESS

He may have got a goal, an assist, a man-of-the-match award and the plaudits from his manager, team-mates and the Kenilworth Road faithful - but Alex Lawless was just happy to see the Town pick up three points against Dartford on Tuesday.

The midfielder marked his first start for the Hatters following a pre-season and opening month of the campaign marred by injury.

After making a substitute appearance in the disappointing defeat at Wrexham last Friday, the 28-year-old was determined to help the Town bounce back against the Darts.

And having set-up the opening goal for Paul Benson, it was lucky 13 for the Welshman with his 13th goal for the club on 65 minutes to put the Hatters 3-0 to the good.

Humble

He left the field to a standing ovation from the majority of the 5,433 crowd inside Kenilworth Road six minutes before the end but afterwards he was humble in the assessment of his achievement on his return.

"It's nice to play and to score but most importantly it was good to win," Lawless told Hatters Player afterwards. "The goal and the man-of-the-match award are just a bonus. It was vital we performed to get the win because the games are coming thick and fast.

"The goal is great for my confidence but, as I said, it's important because it helped the team.

"And as for the standing ovation: it's just a great

feeling at a club like this with so many fans. It's hard to explain how nice it is."

Lawless lasted 84 minutes before he was substituted, and the midfielder was happy to be given an extended run-out in his quest to reach optimum fitness after a stop-start return since the summer.

"I'm pleased to have got those minutes under my belt because that is really going to help," he said. "My fitness is nowhere near where I want it to be at the moment so to play 80-plus minutes is fantastic."

However, the most important aspect of Tuesday's win was the victory itself - especially after the televised defeat in north Wales in the previous game.

Happy

"It was vital how we reacted from Friday's result and we showed that with a result and a performance.

"I'm happy as that will help me kick on and get my match fitness up as quick as I can.

"It was nice for that bit of freedom to attack and I think the team took that tactic on really well as we got right at them.

"We rattled them a bit and it just seemed like we were up for it more than them.

"We've got a big squad and the lads are all pushing to get in the team, so I've got some good match fitness in again and hopefully will get in the team at the weekend."





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Paul Benson

STRIKER OFF THE MARK

Scoring your first goal for your new club is always an important milestone for any player and striker Paul Benson was no exception after his header against Dartford got the Town on their way to victory on Tuesday night.

Delighted to be off the mark in his fourth match in Hatters colours, the 33-year-old sensed he was going to break his duck at Kenilworth Road against the Darts.

"I felt it coming," he told Hatters Player after the 3-0 win. "I had one ruled out for offside earlier in the game and there were a lot good balls being put into the box early in the game.

"We've been working on our delivery into the box in training because we felt it hasn't been as good as it should have been in the last few games. Alex Lawless, though, has put in a brilliant ball into the right area, I've found a little bit of space and got on the end of it.

"I couldn't miss and it was nice to get one I could just put my head to and see it going in.

"I was looking for the corner, but I got myself a little bit worried when I saw it creeping towards the post as they can bounce out.

"But I was delighted to see it go in and I think it took a little bit of pressure off of us at the time and after that we've confidently gone on to win the game."

After being frozen out of first team plans at Swindon it was always going to take the striker a few games to find his rhythm and the former Dagenham & Redbridge man admitted he's now finding his feet.

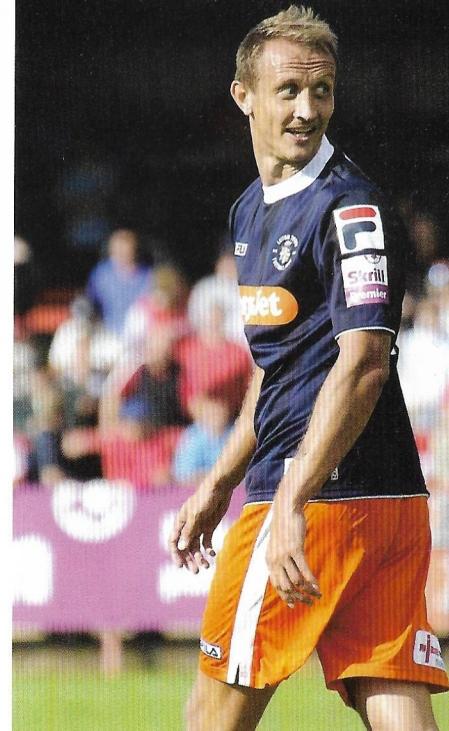
"It's important for strikers to score goals but it was crucial that I didn't try and do anything different to what I usually do.

"Sometimes players can get caught up doing too much, or looking in the wrong areas in search of that goal. I just made sure I was in the right place when the ball came into the box – not to chase the ball out wide or do anything differently. Pleasingly I did that and I scored.

"I've scored many goals like that in my career to be honest: a ball into the box, I'm able to steal a couple of yards and put it away with my head or foot. It's a nice goal to score and hopefully I can kick on and score a few more now."

The striker completed a fine night's work by laying on Lawless' goal that made it 3-0 with 25 minutes left.

"I think Jonathan Smith needs to get a lot of credit for that," said Benson. "He's seen my run and played



it through and I've managed to get a touch on it to put the ball into Alex's path. He's rounded the keeper and finished brilliantly from a tight angle.

"Looking back at the game I think Alex provided that little bit of spark that we've been missing in the last couple of games. It's a team game, but he deservedly won the man-of-the-match award."

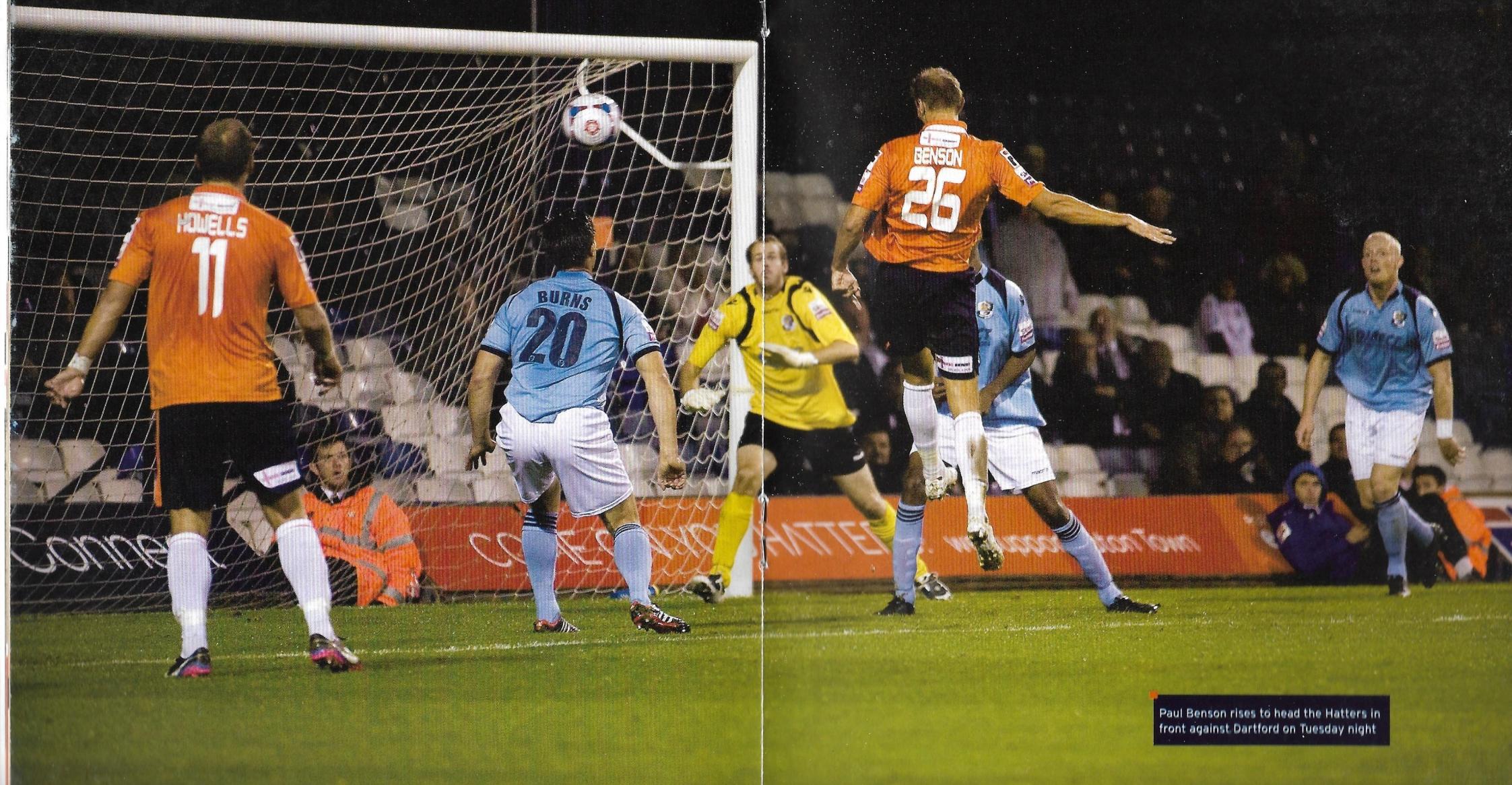
Despite a goal and an assist against the Darts, Benson still thinks there's still improvement in his game.

"I don't feel 100 per cent yet," he admitted. "I had a slight groin injury from overwork in the first couple of weeks I was here.

"I had to sit out a few days which I didn't want to do, but I had to be a little bit professional and look after myself.

"There's still a lot of work I need to do in front of goal, my foot eye co-ordination when the ball comes into the box and I need to quicken my feet up."

centre spot



Paul Benson rises to head the Hatters in front against Dartford on Tuesday night

the big interview

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT GOALKEEPER MARK TYLER'S HAD IT EASY AFTER KEEPING SIX CLEAN SHEETS SO FAR THIS SEASON. BUT TALK OF THE TOWN FOUND OUT THAT'S FAR FROM THE TRUTH

When the Town were struggling for goals - in the lead-up to Tuesday's comfortable win over Dartford - Mark Tyler and Elliot Justham were two very over-worked goalkeepers.

For Tyler, he has seen much more of the ball in training than he has done in matches. Not that he'd want that to change. Since the season started - his 20th as a professional - the stopper could count on one hand the number of saves he's had to make in the opening nine Skrill Premier fixtures.

You'd think, given that record, that the Hatters would be up among the early pacesetters, but after overcoming a tricky sequence of matches the Town aren't far off - and do have the best defensive record in the division.

Six clean sheets in those nine matches is a far cry from last season where the Town showed an inability to keep out the opposition - especially from set-pieces.

Tyler, for the time being anyway, is no longer over-worked and no longer frustrated by his side's lack of discipline at the back - instead he's feeling the force of some frustrated forwards in training.

"We've been working on improving goalscoring in training: getting the ball into the box and finishing so I've been a bit busy," Tyler told Talk of the Town. "It was good to see us hit the back of the net three times on Tuesday.

"I've seen close hand the amount of work we do, it's been non-stop for a few weeks now. Cross, shoot, cross, shoot. All we have to do is keep doing it.



"We've definitely got the quality. It's just about how we transfer that to games. Tuesday's performance will help, though. And give us confidence."

Over-worked in training, under-worked when it comes to the nitty-gritty of the Skrill Premier: that's the way Tyler wants to keep it.

The Hatters' defence has been, by and large, settled so far this season and that certainly shows in the goals against column.

The 36-year-old has picked the ball out of the back of the net just four times, including, according to the goalkeeper, two "freak" goals: a deflection at Southport, and a mis-hit shot in the bottom corner at home to Macclesfield.

As you'll read on in the following pages, the goalkeeper describes himself as laidback. "Nothing bothers me," he says.

Tough

The defeat at Wrexham did bother him though, but the goalkeeper has been happy with the Town's start to the season, especially considering the run of games against some of the league's so-called big guns.

"I didn't realise how tough the run was until a week or so before the season started," admits Tyler. "To come through those games well has been good. We'd like to have more points and to be further up the league but we've got those tough games out of the way."

"We just didn't show up at Wrexham - that was extremely disappointing given our performances against Grimsby, Cambridge, Forest Green and especially at Kidderminster.

"The table is tight and we're not a million miles off - a few more wins and a few more goals and we'll be climbing the table."

The arrival of John Still at Kenilworth Road last season was of particular interest to Tyler. It was Still who first signed the goalkeeper on professional forms and gave him his debut as a 17-year-old.

And the keeper hopes the current boss can work his magic to help Tyler achieve the goal he's been waiting for since he signed in 2009: promotion.

Patient

"The gaffer's been successful wherever he's been before and we all believe he can do it here. I think we need to be patient though, because it does take time.

"He's already worked a little bit of his magic. The games against Cambridge and Forest Green for example. They were big games - tight games - and in previous seasons I think we would have lost them 1-0 or 2-0. We've picked up points this time and it's early in the season. That's the main difference.

"The worst thing last season was conceding from set pieces. We also didn't have a settled back four. We do now, and everyone knows their job.

"We had a blip at Wrexham but I know if we can keep clean sheets we have that talent at the other end of the pitch to go and nick one - especially in those big games.

"I think the basis of our game at the moment is to keep things solid and make sure we don't give away soft goals. Over the last few seasons that's been a criticism of our game and it has to stop if we're to be successful."

This campaign is the Town's and Tyler's fifth in non-league football and the Norwich-born stopper is philosophical when reflecting on the past near misses in the Play-Offs.

"I came here to win promotion and we've come really, really close twice," says Tyler. "We had a great team in the first year and lost in the semi-finals and then lost in two successive finals. Both of those finals could have gone either way but you have to take defeats like that on the chin and make sure you're ready to go again."

"It was a massive disappointment that we didn't even make the Play-Offs last year but that's just sometimes the way football works."

The Town's heartache in the Play-Offs has often led to talk about further promotion places between the Football League and Football Conference.



And while Tyler can see the benefits, he also realises that it shouldn't be an excuse for failed promotion campaigns.

"One year Wrexham finished second with 90-odd points and we beat them in the Play-Offs," he says. "That's the rules - everyone knows at the start of the season if you finish second you're in the Play-Offs."

"But it's down to the two leagues to come to an agreement. The Conference is almost full of former Football League sides so there's no doubting the quality. The standard is very good - and it's probably better than in League 2."

"From a player's perspective nobody wants to drop out of the Football League but I had no qualms about that at the time when I first signed and I've not changed my mind after experiencing four seasons of it."

"After all I came to this club to get Luton Town back into the Football League."

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#askmark

It's all well and good us asking the questions but we can't (and don't) think of them all. So Talk of the Town asked the army of followers on the club's social media channels Twitter and Facebook to submit their questions for us to put to goalkeeper Mark Tyler.

Michael Creamer @dicreamio

@LTFC_Official He's saved us many times but what's the most memorable save Mark has made for Luton?
#AskTyler

MARK: It has to be the save from Grant Holt's header at Norwich at Carrow Road last season. It was a big game for me, personally, being a Norwich fan and that stop kept the score at 0-0.

Richard Tilley @tilleyrich

@LTFC_Official #asktyler You always wear short-sleeved goalkeeper shirts! Why?

MARK: When I first started goalkeeper shirts were always really big on me and the sleeves would get heavy if it was raining. The shirts would always have big elbow pads on – it was just too bulky. It would be uncomfortable so I just cut them off. I've been like that for 10 years now.

Lee Evans @Lee_Evans22

@LTFC_Official #AskTyler What is the best part of your game and why?

MARK: I'd have to say shot-stopping and kicking. Over the course of my career I've had a lot of practise and kicking especially is now a big part of the game so it's important to be good with your feet as a goalkeeper.

Lee Evans @Lee_Evans22

@LTFC_Official #AskTyler Who inspired you to become a goalkeeper?

MARK: As a Norwich fan I idolised Bryan Gunn when I was younger. I think being a goalkeeper just happened though. When I was playing football with my brother at home in garden he stuck me goal. I always liked diving around and getting dirty in the garden.

George Lobban @Lobbsy27

@LTFC_Official #AskTyler From another member of the goalkeeper's union, after a game, do you feel annoyed if you win without a clean sheet?

MARK: It depends if the goal is my fault or not! If it is then yes, I do feel annoyed, if not then I still am bit disappointed but the fact the team won is always the best medicine.

Scott Forest @teamSlinky

@LTFC_Official #AskTyler What's your most memorable career highlight to date?

MARK: I've got a few. Making my debut when I was 17 – John Still was manager of Peterborough at the time. Playing at Wembley twice – at the old and the new one – as well as playing at some of biggest grounds in the country. Chelsea, Newcastle, Norwich last year, Everton.

Richard Armstrong @habbyhatter

@LTFC_Official Since joining Luton, what's been his best and worst memory? #asktyler

MARK: The worst was not reaching the Play-Offs last year. The best was probably our first year in the Conference. It was this club's first season in the division and some of the away games and away followings we were getting were unbelievable.

50 Shades Of Dench @RalfyNine

@LTFC_Official Did you request the pink kit yourself? #Barbie #AskTyler #COYH

MARK: No! I liked last year's purple one and I bought purple gloves to match for this season but we've changed to pink now! In any case, I don't mind pink!

Peter Day @PeterDay1984

@LTFC_Official During your career, who's the most inspirational manager/player you've played for/with? #AskTyler

MARK: The most inspirational manager would have to be Barry Fry. I had 10 years under him at Peterborough. He's a bit mad but he's given me some of the best highlights in my career.

Player-wise, Brad Friedel is 42 and is still really fit, whilst my best mate Adam Drury is an inspiration too. He came through the YTS system at Peterborough and worked really hard on his game and his career took him all the way to the top. It shows what can be done. Anyone can make it if they put the hours in.

Keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook and Twitter feeds for the next opportunity to put your questions to a member of the Hatters' squad.



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on and off...

... THE PITCH WITH MARK TYLER

ON THE PITCH

WHAT IS THE BEST GOAL YOU HAVE SEEN THIS SEASON?

I'd have to say our third goal against Dartford on Tuesday night. It was a great move, involving several players and Alex Lawless has finished it really well, especially after rounding the goalkeeper and putting it in from such a narrow angle.

WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU'VE EVER FACED?

Has to be Jermain Defoe. Whenever I've played against him – when he's played for Bournemouth, West Ham and Tottenham – he's always scored.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE ABOUT YOUR GAME?

I think you can improve on everything. My left foot is getting better whilst I am always working on improving my reaction to crosses. A lot of people comment on that and my size but it's about your decision making – it's getting that knack of knowing which crosses to come for and which ones to stay back for. Paul Buckle said to me: "If you're not 100 per cent sure, stay in your goal."

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUPERSTITIONS?

Yes, I always put on my right glove first before the left one.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PAIR OF GLOVES?

When I was a youngster at Peterborough I had a pair of AllSports.

HAVE YOU GOT A TIP FOR YOUNGSTERS?

Enjoy it, train hard – and if you're a goalkeeper – don't get annoyed if you concede goals because it will happen. Also, do your school work – because you'll never know when you're going to need it.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?

I've been lucky to play at a lot of big grounds but it has to be the new Wembley.

WHO SIGNED YOU AS A PRO?

John Still.

WHO DO YOU SUPPORT?

Norwich City.

WHO AT THE CLUB WILL PLAY AT A HIGHER LEVEL?

Jake Howells.

OFF THE PITCH

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

Winning.

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN FOOTBALL?

Adam Drury.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST QUALITY?

I'm very laidback. Nothing really bothers me.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME?

Friends.

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

My fiancée Cindy.

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

Don't know!

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

Morgan Freeman.

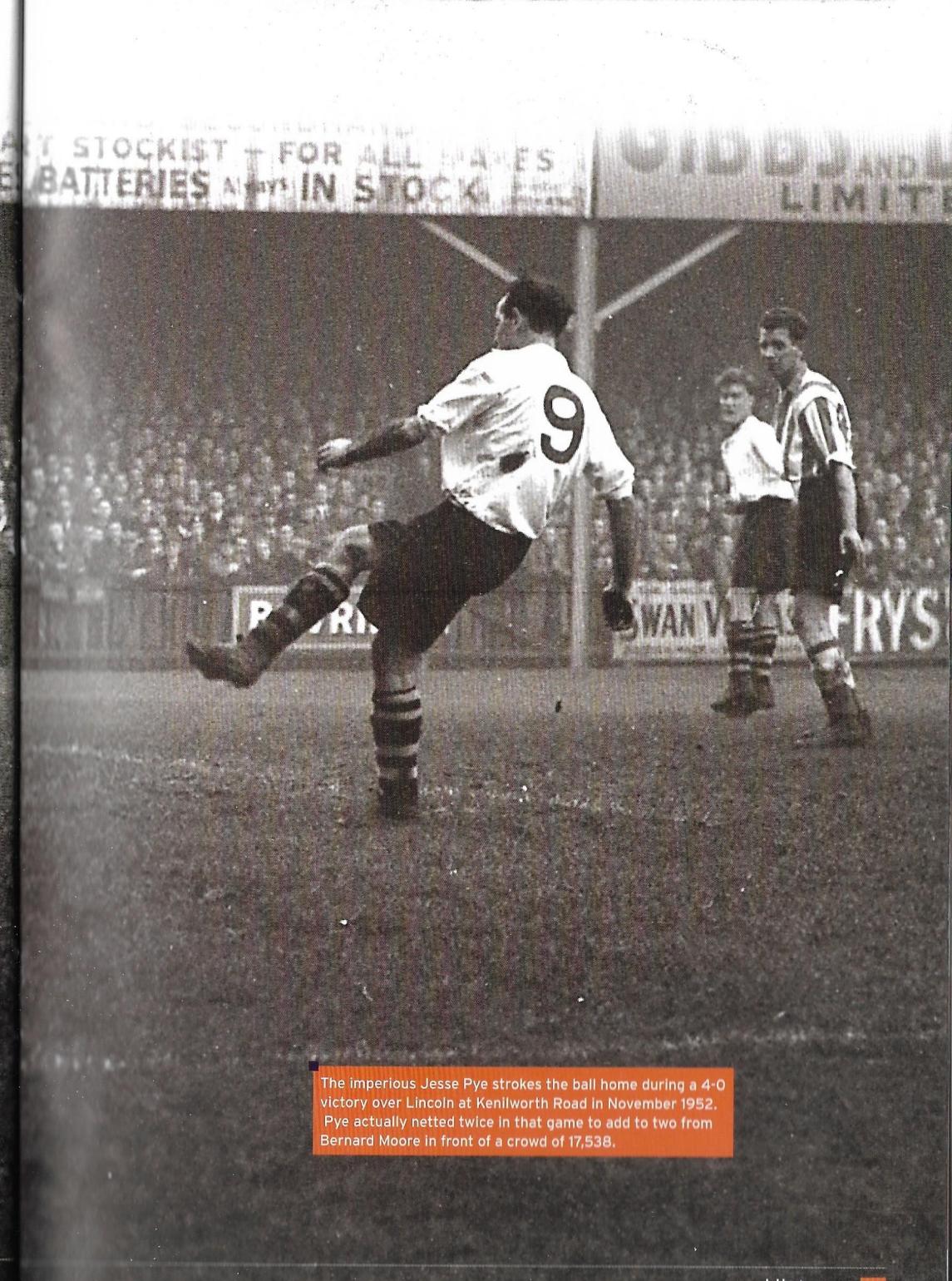
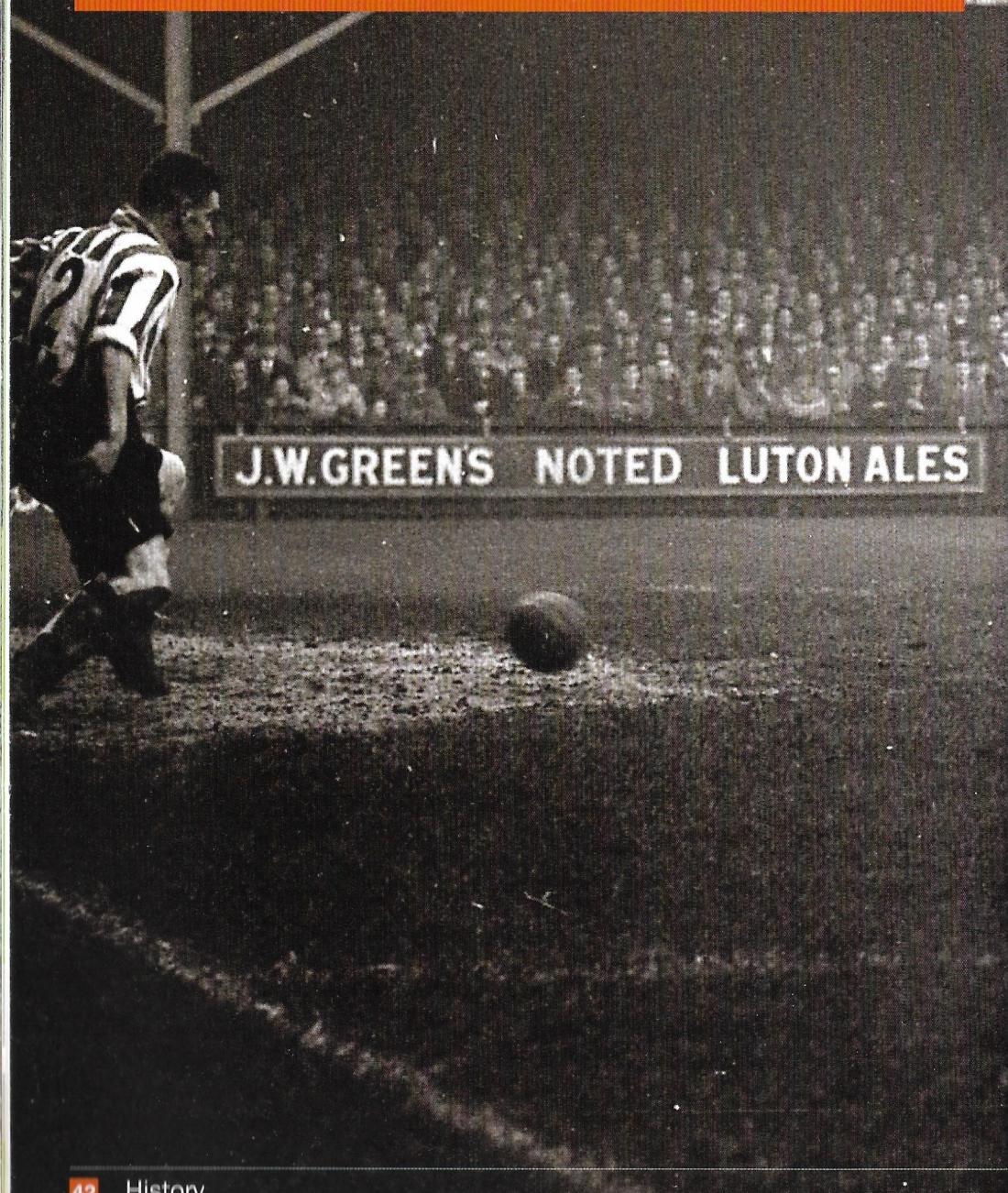
WHAT DON'T WE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I do all the cooking at home. I'm very domesticated!



picture the past

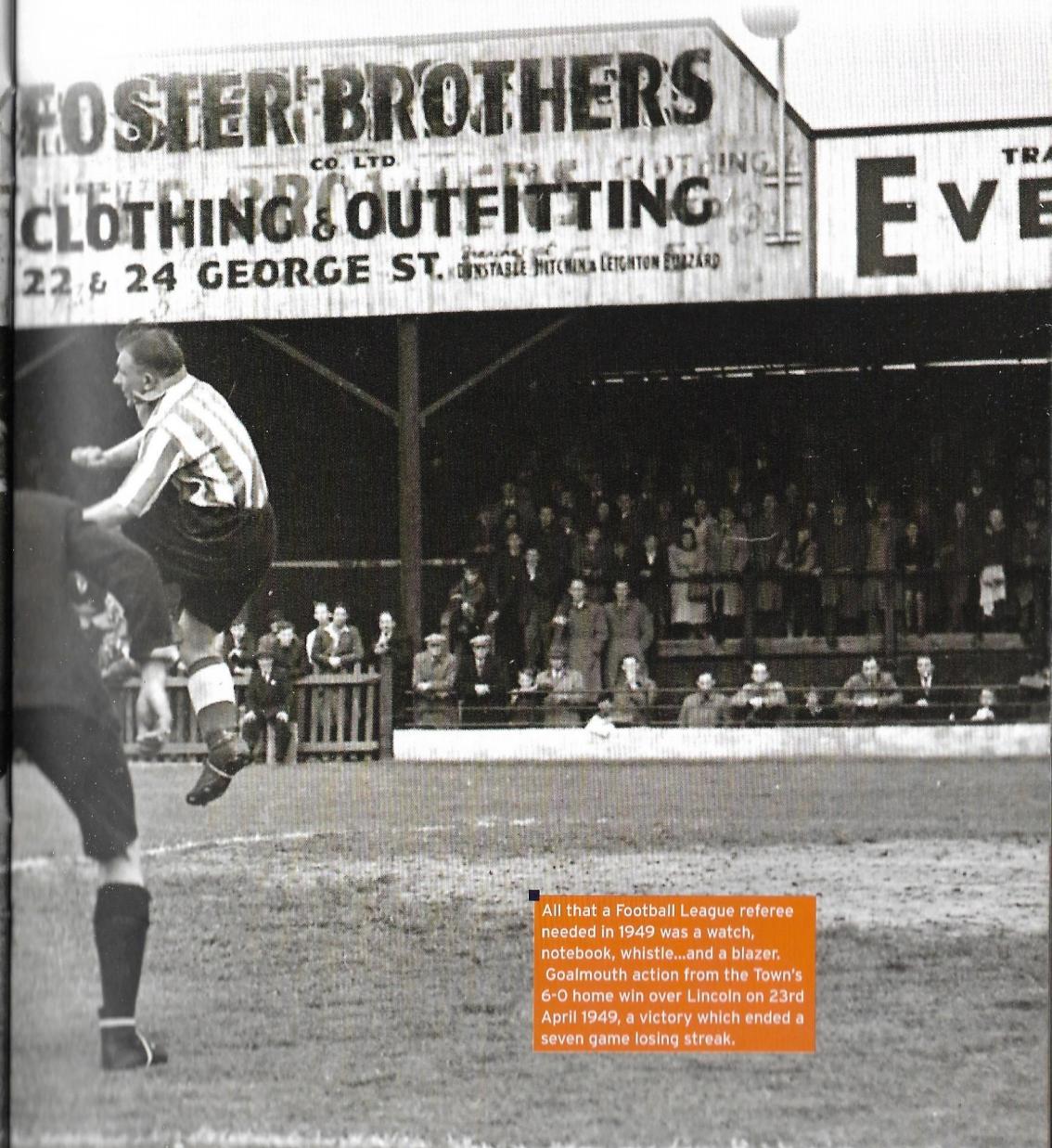
CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



The imperious Jesse Pye strokes the ball home during a 4-0 victory over Lincoln at Kenilworth Road in November 1952. Pye actually netted twice in that game to add to two from Bernard Moore in front of a crowd of 17,538.

camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



■ All that a Football League referee needed in 1949 was a watch, notebook, whistle...and a blazer. Goalmouth action from the Town's 6-0 home win over Lincoln on 23rd April 1949, a victory which ended a seven game losing streak.

yesterday's pages

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS THROUGH PAST PROGRAMMES

LUTON TOWN 4-1 PRESTON NORTH END

27th SEPTEMBER 1958

A Kenilworth Road crowd of 24,425 turned out to see new signing Billy Bingham make his debut against West Brom on the opening day of the 1958/59 season and he did not disappoint, putting in a masterful performance in a 1-1 draw.

Another 1-1 draw followed, at Leeds, before the Town secured their first ever win at Birmingham, courtesy of a John Groves strike three minutes from the end.

Leeds came to Kenilworth Road for the return fixture and went back to Yorkshire with a point following a 1-1 draw, before early season leaders West Ham paid a visit to Luton.

The Hammers were, like the Town, unbeaten at that stage in the campaign and such was the interest in the game 25,715 forced their way in to see the Hatters tear into the opposition with goals from Allan Brown, Dave Pacey and Gordon Turner, with two, earned a resounding 4-1 victory. The football world was beginning to sit up and take notice.

Another 1-1 draw followed, this time at Manchester City, with another point dropped when Bolton secured a 0-0 draw in a sterile game at Kenilworth Road with both defences dominating.

Shaking off the disappointment of two successive draws the Town came back with a bang in seeing off

Manchester City 5-1 at Kenilworth Road, to preserve the unbeaten start and put the team briefly top of the table.

The Hatters then returned from Burnley with a point from a 2-2 draw setting up the next clash which saw new leaders Preston visit Kenilworth Road with the supporters knowing that a victory would put the Town in pole position again.

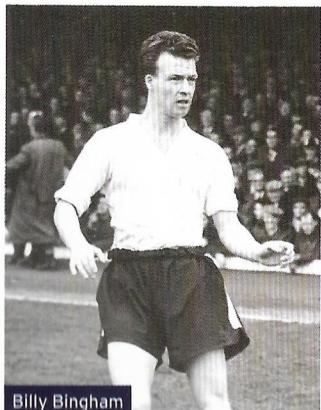
Interest was again high and 23,056 packed Kenilworth Road together with the BBC television cameras who were recording for their 'Sports Special' programme.

It was the Town that opened the scoring through George Cummins, but Dennis Hatsell equalised before the break for the visitors after Gordon Turner suffered his first ever penalty miss, seeing his spot kick well saved by Fred Else.

During the second period, the Town finally came to life, and this after Turner had suffered an ankle injury which reduced his mobility and had him hobbling up and down the centre in the days before substitutes were allowed.

It was left to the wingers to show the way to goal and Bingham, repaying a large chunk of his transfer fee, scored a brilliant effort soon after the restart with his first for the club, with left winger Jim Adam hitting home two in the last quarter.

Preston were pushed aside as the Town swept to victory, maintained their ten match unbeaten start and were seen sitting proudly at the top of the Division One (now Premier League) table.



Billy Bingham



George Cummins



Jim Adam

THE PROGRAMME

In the 'Club Notes' section it is noted that Seamus Dunne, George Cummins and Billy Bingham had been picked by their countries for forthcoming International matches.

It is reported that the first two would be playing for Eire against Poland in Dublin on Sunday 5th October while Bingham had been picked to play for Northern Ireland against England the day before.

This meant that Dunne and Cummins needed to go to Birmingham airport to catch a plane to Dublin straight after the Town's game at Leicester while Bingham would miss the clash against the Foxes with the blessing of the club.

For supporters, Bunty Coaches were offering trips to Leicester for 11 shillings (55p), setting off at 10.am for the 70 mile trip. No motorways in those days!

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ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

Albert Quixall joins Manchester United from Sheffield Wednesday for a record £45,000.

On the day of signing for United, Quixall had to firstly attend Wakefield Magistrates Court to receive a £3 fine for speeding.

Ray Crawford signs for Ipswich from Portsmouth for £6,000 in a low-key transfer. Crawford, alongside future Hatter Ted Phillips, was to go on to bang in the goals that saw Ipswich win the Division Two and Division One titles in successive years.

Lincoln go down 1-0 at Derby in a Division Two (now Championship) clash. Missing the talents of George Hannah, transferred to Manchester City earlier in the month, the Imps were now second bottom of the table.

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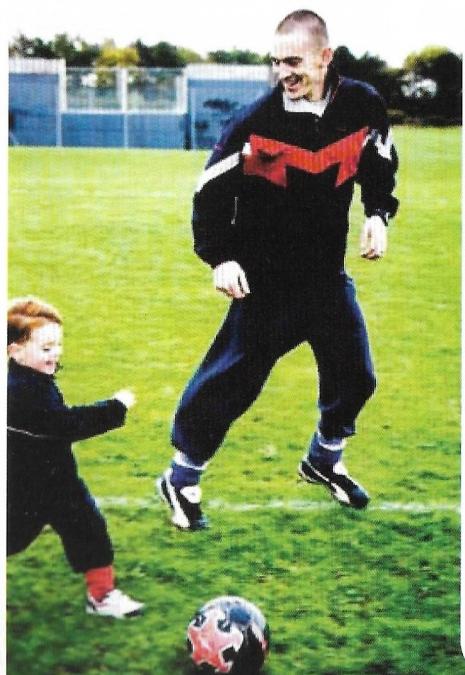
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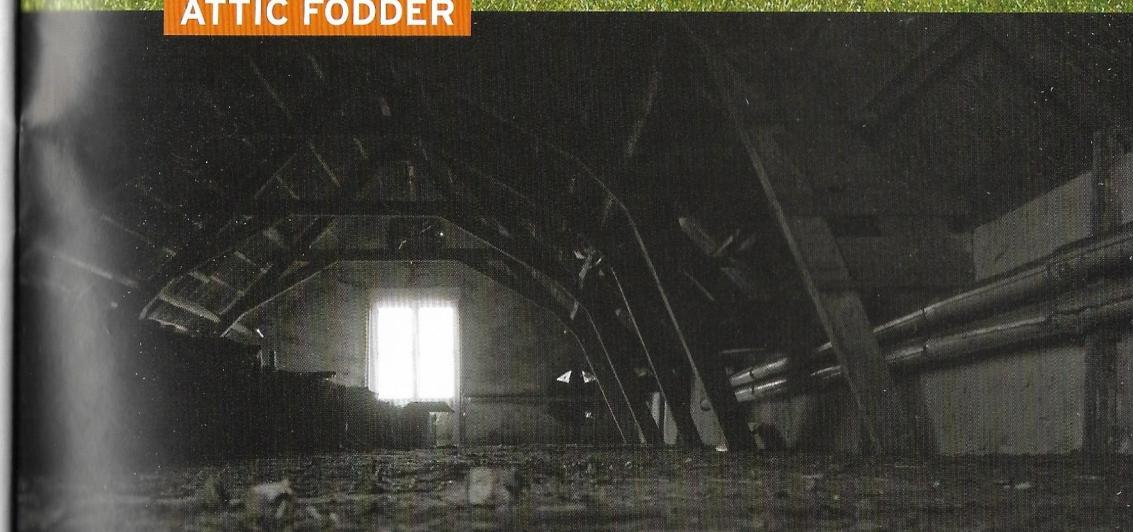
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the beautiful game

ATTIC FODDER



Football surveys across the world show that us British fans are by far the most serious collectors of football memorabilia.

Surprised? Come on, we'll buy almost anything the club shops throw at us won't we? Does this mean we are the most passionate fans, because we want to own everything we can which bares the club logo? Does it mean that worldwide, we have the most disposable income to be in a position to buy this memorabilia? Who knows!

Most of us feel that attending the match in the first place is costly enough, and that's before you buy the programme and the half-time raffle ticket on your way to the club shop. Yet, we still dig deep when we get there and see what's new.

In a year's time – perhaps less – I dare say there will be a number of Real Madrid shirts in the attics of many Spanish (and English) homes featuring the name 'Bale' on the reverse.

Eventually Bale will move on, or retire at the Bernabeu, and that will be unfortunate for those little Spanish kids (and the grown-ups too) that forked out for the shirt bearing his name.

Most of us have some degree of collectables hidden away in a corner of the loft, whether it's a pile of programmes, old scarves or match tickets. Some of us only keep the more memorable items of memorabilia,

the special stuff, something signed by our favorite player/s or ticket stub and programme a long-gone final. Then there are those who collect shirts, programmes, scarves, badges, stickers, books, tickets – the lot. Call it passion for the sport or pure lunacy; there are fans out there who would give up a kidney for that elusive programme which they've been after for donkeys years.

In 1999 a survey suggested that British football fans held £15 million worth of memorabilia and it suggested that by 2003, this hoard would be worth double that figure. It's now 2013 so what's it all worth today? If only I had anything worth more than a few quid. Sadly, for the majority, the programmes we have are folded and creased, the scarves are falling apart and the old shirts are bobbed and pulled, shirt sponsors worn away and quite possibly still stained by the beer we drank on the last day of the season to drown our sorrows of yet another mediocre campaign.

No doubt the 'Bale' shirt of Real Madrid will join the old Real shirts of 'Beckham', 'Owen' and 'McManaman' in the lofts of Spanish homes, maybe sooner rather than later.

If, after reading this, you feel compelled to dive into the attic in search of your football treasures and fire-up the laptop for an e-bay adventure, don't blame me if you get less than you wanted for your old souvenirs.

Enjoy today's action - be loud, and be proud.

Specs Comedy

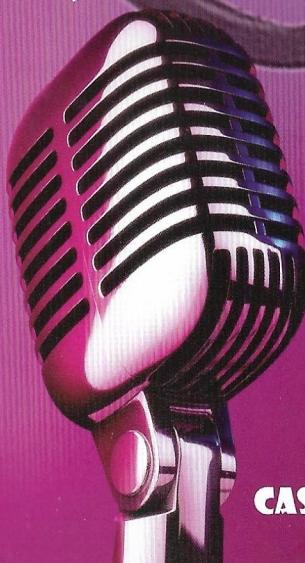
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on this day

21st SEPTEMBER

THE RECORD

Not good. Of the Town's 13 matches on this day, just three have ended in victory. The Hatters have lost six and drawn four of the games on 21st September, scoring 18 and conceding 25. That's a total of 43 goals which works out at just under three-and-a-half goals per game.

LAST TIME OUT

Well, we did say it wasn't the best of days in the Hatters' history books, and that theme continued on this day last season when the Hatters were beaten 4-1 in front of the live Premier Sports cameras at Blundell Park against Grimsby. First half goals from Joe Colbeck, Andy Cook and Ross Hannah had the Mariners three goals to the good by half-time. A Dean Beckwith own goal 19 minutes from the end put Grimsby 4-0 up before Scott Rendell scrambled home a consolation on a thoroughly miserable Friday night on Humberstone.



Steve Howard: Scored on this day for the Town in 2002

HOWARD'S WAY

The Town last tasted success on this day 11 years ago when an injury time strike from centre-forward Steve Howard earned the Hatters a 1-0 win at Huddersfield Town in a Division 2 (now League 1) clash in 2002.

The win lifted the Town out of the relegation zone and Joe Kinnear's side would go on to finish in ninth place. Huddersfield, meanwhile, were relegated to what is now League 2 after their 22nd place finish.

BORE DRAW

The Hatters have drawn 0-0 three times already this season and that was the scoreline on this day in 1996 when the Town and Bury drew a blank at Gigg Lane. The Shakers would go on and lift the Division 2 (now League 1) title at the end of the campaign, helped by an unbeaten home record and an impregnable defence. Bury conceded just seven goals that season at home and 30 in total and the two teams drew 0-0 in the return at Kenilworth Road in April later that season.

TOP FLIGHT TRIUMPH

Of the Hatters' four matches in the top division on this day only one has ended in all three points.

That came back in 1985 thanks to a 2-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers at Kenilworth Road. It was two first half headers that did the damage against the R's with Mick Harford opening the scoring and Steve Foster doubling the lead. Harford was later sent-off for the Town for fighting with Rangers' John Gregory.

The Beautiful Game HIGHBURY POINT

In 1974 the Hatters were celebrating their return to the top flight, finishing runners-up to Middlesbrough in Second Division (now Championship).

However, the following season in the top flight would end in relegation, down in no small part to a run of nine games without a win at the start of the campaign. This winless sequence included five draws, one of which came in a 2-2 draw with Arsenal at Highbury. Brian Kidd opened the scoring for the Gunners shortly before half-time before the Town equalised through Adrian Alston. Kidd netted a second to restore Arsenal's lead before Don Shanks earned the Hatters a share of the spoils with a tremendous volley 10 minutes from time.

DEFENCE BREACHED

The Hatters' poor defensive record on this date will probably give Lincoln a lift this afternoon, if history is anything to go by.

As well as the defeat to Grimsby, the Hatters have lost 5-0 at Manchester United in 1991, 4-2 at Nottingham Forest in 1946 and 5-1 at Bournemouth in 1929.

However, the Hatters did find their shooting boots in their only other victory on this day with a 6-0 thumping of Crystal Palace at Kenilworth Road in 1935 in Division 3 (South). Colin Crook led the way with a hat-trick and he was joined on the scoresheet by George Turner, George Stephenson and Mark Crook.

in development

DEVELOPMENT TEAM NOTCH UP ANOTHER WIN

Defender Anthony Charles played an hour for the Hatters development squad as Hakan Hayrettin's side came back to beat Oxford 2-1 at Ely Way on Wednesday.

Charles, who injured his shoulder during the first team's 2-0 win over Salisbury in August, came through the hour unscathed in another victory for the second string.

In a game consisting of three 30-minute segments against the unbeaten League 2 side at the Town's training ground, Oxford took the lead before striker Alex Wall levelled. Charles was involved in the move that led to the frontman's fine thumping first-time header that flew into the top corner.

The Hatters continued to dominate and secured victory with a goal from a trialist – much to Hayrettin's delight.

He told lutontown.co.uk: "It's another win and winning is good – it's a great habit to have. It's something we're trying to instil right the way through the football club, from the first team to the development squad to the youth team. We're asking the players to work hard as a team and as individuals and it is reaping rewards. It is also enabling players push for a place in the first team. Andy Parry, Jim Stevenson and Alex Lawless have shown that recently in their performances in these development squad matches.



Anthony Charles

"Their selection for the first team shows that displays in these games are crucial. We're making sure that players are ready to step in to the first team at a moment's notice. It also goes to show how fit and organised our players are and this something again we want to have right the way through the club.

"We're playing and beating the likes of Peterborough, Brentford, Stevenage and Oxford – very accomplished Football League clubs – and it's a testament to the attitude and application of the players involved. They have taken on board what we tell them very well and it has shown in their level of performance and the results.

"It's good for the club and encouraging for everybody. I think the word is out that we have a very good development squad."

TOWN DEVELOPMENT v OXFORD:

Justham, Longden, Trialist, Trialist, Charles (sub Trialist), Amu (sub Taiwo), Robinson, Trialist, O'Donnell, Banton (sub McKenzie-Lowe), Wall.

	DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	POS	STARTING XI	
AUG	Sat 10	11.00am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 4-2	3	Barnes	Trotman
	Sat 11	11.00am	A	Leyton Orient	W 3-1	6	Barnes	Trotman
	Sat 31	11.30am	H	Portsmouth	W 4-2	3	Barnes	Trotman 1
SEP	Sat 14	11.00am	A	MK Dons	W 1-0	2	Barnes	Crilly
	Sat 21	11.00am	H	Watford				
	Wed 25	7.30pm	H	Rothesay Corinthians (FAV10)				
	Sat 28	11.00am	A	Leyton Orient (LC)				
OCT	Sat 5	11.00am	H	MK Dons (LC)				
	Sat 12	11.00am	A	Barnet				
	Sat 19	11.00am	A	Dagenham (LC)				
	Sat 26	11.00am	H	Northampton (LC)				
NOV	Sat 2	11.00am	A	Northampton				
	Sat 9	11.00am	H	Colchester				
	Sat 16	11.00am	A	Stevenage				
	Sat 23	11.00am	H	Peterborough				
	Sat 30	11.00am	H	Gillingham				
DEC	Sat 14	11.00am	H	MK Dons				
JAN	Sat 11	11.00am	A	Watford				
	Sat 18	11.00am	H	Barnet				
	Sat 25	11.00am	A	Colchester				
FEB	Sat 8	11.00am	H	Northampton				
	Sat 22	11.00am	H	Stevenage				
MAR	Sat 1	11.00am	A	Peterborough				
	Sat 15	11.00am	A	Southend				
APR	Sat 5	11.00am	A	AFC Wimbledon				
	Sat 12	11.00am	H	Crawley Town				

youth team



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ZANE BANTON	HOME: Loyal Luton AWAY: COYH	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	5	5	12	15
2 Luton Town	4	4	7	12
3 Peterborough United	5	3	7	10
4 Portsmouth	5	3	4	10
5 AFC Wimbledon	5	3	3	10
6 Watford	5	3	7	9
7 Stevenage	4	2	1	7
8 Southend United	5	2	0	7
9 Milton Keynes Dons	5	2	-1	7
10 Barnet	5	2	-2	6
11 Gillingham	4	1	-1	5
12 Northampton Town	4	1	-8	3
13 Leyton Orient	4	0	-7	0
14 Crawley Town	5	0	-8	0
15 Dagenham & Redbridge	5	0	-14	0

stars of the future

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



NAME: Charlie Smith

DATE OF BIRTH:
7/9/1995

POSITION:
Central midfield

YEAR JOINED LUTON
TOWN: 2003

BEST BIT OF ADVICE
WHEN GROWING UP

Stay mentally strong at all times

BEST FOOTBALL MOMENT

Making my first team debut two years ago

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID

Manchester United

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN
THE PLAYGROUND

Paul Scholes

FAVOURITE TV SHOW

Man versus Food

OTHER SPORTS GOOD AT

Golf

FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT

Apart from PE – English

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOU

Sociable, laidback, intelligent

MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE

Ekene Amadi – a very bright lad

TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOTBALL
CAREER SO FAR

I started in trials with the club aged seven and have been at Kenilworth Road ever since. I signed scholarship forms when I was an Under-14, which was a very proud moment for me. In my Under-16 year I made my debut for the first team in the FA Trophy tie with Hinckley United which is the highlight of my career so far. I'm hoping to enjoy many more years at the club by working hard to earn a professional contract.

academy update

WITH MATT STANNARD

Preparations this week have been based around the return of Watford into the Category 3 games programme.

Both the Under-16s and Under-18s will be looking to continue their rich vein of form this weekend when our local rivals come to town.

With no fresh injury concerns from both sides we go into these games looking strong and playing well. Hopefully both sides can come out with a favourable result today and continue the run.

At Under-9-14 level we are preparing to take on Leicester this weekend. Having recently passed their Category 1 audit, Leicester are classed as one of the top academies in the country at this moment in time. It will be a great challenge for our lads and will be the second time we have played them this season.

In preparation for these games, all academy sides will play against our pre-academy groups this week at training. It's great for the pre-academy boys as it gives them a look at where they aspire to be.

It also allows them to see what they need to do to take someone's shirt. For the academy, it's a good time to try new things: formations, set pieces etc, whilst also having a good look at the pre-academy players. We will be able to see if there are any that are ready, or that could step up to the academy programme and progress the group further.

Over the summer we have signed two players this way, who will sign their contracts on the pitch at half-time

today. I must say a big thank you to the fans, who were we fantastic when they welcomed the Under-9s to the Luton Town family recently – and it would be great if we could give these young lads the same reception today!

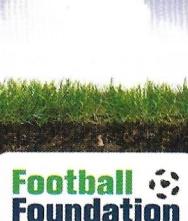
As the season has now started, things are starting to settle down into normal routines. This gives the management staff time to reflect on pre-season, the make-up of the groups and the individual performers that we have in the programme.

We feel that we are in a fantastic position at this moment in time and our performances and results reflect this.

Moving forward, we looking at different ways of challenging our lads to get the best out of them. From 90-minute futsal sessions each week, tours abroad to see different philosophies and styles of play, through to coach education trips to Real Madrid, Luton Town staff are working extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure that we are successful in everything we do.

We sold five players last year across the age groups and, while the ultimate aim is to get players in the first team, this is great testament to the work being put in by all staff at the academy.

Finally, if you want to come and see this work for yourself, we would like to invite you to attend the FA Youth Cup fixture this coming Wednesday. The game kicks off at 7.30pm against Rothwell Corinthians at Kenilworth Road, so why not come along and see our stars of the future in action?



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HATTERS MATCHDAY CLUB

Our 2013/14 Hatters matchday club is now up and running for the season and open to all local youth clubs.

The matchday club involves watching a Luton Town home league game, a training session before the game and lunch at the football ground. It offers the chance to all our local young players to take part in a great day out at Kenilworth Road.

The day begins with an hour's training session from our coaching staff. The training session is held in Luton 11am to 12 noon on the AstroTurf at Denbigh High School. It is then a two-minute drive to your allocated



parking at Beech Hill Primary School and from here our coaches will take you into the main stadium which again is a two-minute walk.

All of the boys and managers will enter through the main players entrance. Parents coming to the game enter through main turnstiles. It's then burger and chips, a couple of autographs or two while the players warm up on the pitch before the main game.

If you would like further information on our Hatters matchday club please contact Matt Collett by email on ltfcmatchdayclub@outlook.com or by phone on 01582 583618 or 07725 172345.

PARTNER CLUBS SCHEME 2013/14

If you are one of our 80 partner clubs from previous seasons you will know the scheme is a way for Luton Town Football Club and local grass roots youth clubs to work closer together and benefit from a partnership arrangement.

The partner clubs scheme protects local clubs' young players and gives your club access to free match tickets and regular coaching clinics at our academy.

There is even a way to earn scouting bonus payments on players signed into our academy system, as well as offering ambitious local FA Charter Standard clubs the pathway required into a professional academy system for their youth players.

A partner club can also appoint a liaison officer as their point of contact with us to simplify communication and also to request assistance with things like coaching advice and help with fundraising activities and pre-arranged visits to first team league games during the season.

If you would like further information on our partner club scheme please contact talent identification manager Kevin Thoburn at the club via email kevin.thoburn@lutontown.co.uk or 07931 771153.



Luton Ladies

LADIES TEAM UPDATE

The last two seasons for the Ladies have been best described as underachieving considering the apparent quality of the squad available.

Club manager Dave Baker told Talk of the Town: "A meteoric rise from the bottom rung of women's football to the Premier League in just eight seasons was always going to be difficult to live up to.

"At some stage the brakes are bound to go on and any club is certain to stand still for a period having moved through the leagues so quickly. However, I certainly feel that considering the quality of the players in the squad for the past two seasons we did not achieve as we should have done finishing mid table on both occasions.

Rebuilding

"With that in mind there has been a large turnover in players throughout the summer with a view to rebuilding for the future, although it is fair to say that the team has had a tough start to the season so far.

"With eight players moving on from the first team squad alone, the new recruits are always going to take time to bed in and play together.

In spite of three defeats there have been plenty of good things that are encouraging for the season ahead of us.

"Whilst it is fair to say that we have not had much luck you have to make your own at times and we have thrown away points already not least of which was capitulating to league leaders C & K Basildon in spite of holding a 2-0 lead after 65 minutes.

"There are times when we have the upper hand and as soon as something goes wrong you can almost see the players think 'here we go again'.

Results

This mentality has to change and once it does we are confident that results will pick up as there is no doubting the quality of our existing players and those we have signed in the summer.

"With the new Women's Championship league coming in 2014 it is vital that Luton Town are part of that new league as there will also be a reserve division – and that can only be a good thing in increasing the quality of our players through playing a better standard of opponent week in, week out."

The Town have always produced their own talent and we once again have a number of players who have moved right through the youth system and into senior football completely relishing the experience and doing so fearlessly.

The club currently has under-15 and under-14 squads who are full of players who are fully expected to move into senior football as soon as they become eligible. A number of the under-15 players have already taken part in training with the senior squads to give them experience and to demystify what senior football is all about.

Moving forward it is hoped that the Ladies will be running new youth squads in differing age groups from 2014 in order to ensure the long term future of the club.

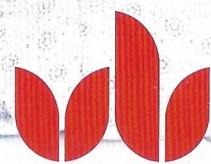
Any players of any age who may be interested in joining the Hatters please contact lutontownlfc@hotmail.co.uk with a view to forming part of the new squads.

LADIES FIXTURES 2013/14

DATE	H/A	OPPOSITION	RESULT
AUG Sun 18	A	CK Basildon	L 2-3
SEPT Sun 1	A	Enfield Town	L 0-3
	A	Denham United	L 2-3
Sun 8	H	Q.P.R.	
Sun 15	H		
Sun 22	H	Ipswich Town (League Cup)	
Tues 25	H	MK Dons	
Sun 29	A	Cambridge	
OCT Sun 6	A	Arlessey Town	
Sun 13	H	Ebbsfleet 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	Ebbsfleet United	
Sun 19	H	Norwich City	
Sun 26	H	Denham United	
FEB Sun 2	A	Ipswich Town	

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A FAN'S TALE



MY NAME: William Adkins

MY AGE: 15

MY LOCATION: Luton

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN:

I have supported the Hatters from 2007 to the present, encompassing six seasons, from League 1, League 2 and four years in the Conference. My sister didn't want her season ticket anymore and told me to take her seat – I was eight at the time and that was the start of my Luton Town obsession. My dad and I sit in the Kenilworth Lower, Block F, seats 19 and 20.

MY FIRST LUTON GAME:

My first ever game at Luton was the first game of the 2007/08 season against Hartlepool United and we won 2-1. I remember it well. We went 1-0 up through a Darren Currie goal in the 36th minute, and that remained the score until half-time. In fact, that was the score until the 84th minute when we had a corner. It was whipped in from the right side (my view), up jumped Alan Goodall and headed it into the back of the net to put us 2-0 up. We looked like we were heading for a clean sheet until the 90th minute when Hartlepool got a penalty which was converted by Richie Baker.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME:

My favourite Luton game has got to be either the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final against Scunthorpe United at Wembley in 2009, or the most recent FA Cup fourth round tie against Norwich City at Carrow Road when we became history-makers. The Scunthorpe match was so good because we won a trophy during the season we had the 30 point deduction. Norwich was a fantastic day out with an unbelievable atmosphere and magical outcome.



MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL:

I have actually shortlisted three: Claude Gnakpa against Scunthorpe at Wembley, Scott Rendell at Carrow Road and Keith Keane's corner goal in the seventh minute of stoppage time against Oxford. Of those my favourite is Claude's because of the way he chipped it over Joe Murphy in the goal and Wembley erupted. I have tried to recreate it thousands of times but I have not got the speed to keep up with the overhead coming ball.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER:

Keith Keane. I will never forget how he set up Gnakpa at Wembley and when he scored that goal from a corner against Oxford. He was just a brilliant playmaker for at least half of the Luton goals witnessed in my time watching them.

MY MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION:

My David Pleat signed programme from the Charlton FA Cup game and all the brilliant memories Luton Town give me.

MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI:

Mark Tyler in goal; a back four of Claude Gnakpa, George Pilkington, Janos Kovacs and Sol Davis; a midfield of Alex Lawless, Simon Heslop, Keith Keane and Jake Howells; and a forward line of Andre Gray and Tom Craddock.



Andre Gray makes
William's all-time Town XI

These are my favourites because all of them were outstanding in most matches that I have seen, or scored an important goal.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPIEST ABOUT FOLLOWING THE HATTERS:

The fact that I am a local lad and am very proud to support my home town, the mighty orange, blue and whites of Luton Town Football Club!

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

**STEVENSON, HOWELLS, LAWLESS,
SMITH, HENRY, SMITH, BENSON,
LAWLESS, GOAL.**

**Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Calling all bored teenagers
watching the game through the Sky Sports
Score Centre App on your iPhone: Introducing
the mythical 'Luton way'.**

The Loch Ness Monster, Area 51, The Beast of Bodmin, the Watford Football Club trophy cabinet; you've all heard the unlikely stories.

As any right-minded person knows, the above are fictional creations, flights of fancy designed to terrify and entertain. No sane individual has ever seen them or can verify their existence, but get stuck in the wrong conversation with the wrong man at the bar and you'll soon be having your ear chewed off in a slather of half-truths and Chinese whispers. Especially the Watford one.

The 'Luton way' you say? "I remember hearing David Pleat bang on about that on some high quality ITV commentary once." And you'd be right.

Victories

You see kids, the story goes, that in the olden days when we rose through the divisions, we didn't scrape victories and cling on to Top Flight survival by churning out Rory Delap throw-ins and anti-football like Tony Pulis' Stoke City. Not us. No, we did it the 'Luton way'. Players like Ricky Hill swept defences aside with accurate attractive passing football, played on the deck. And even in less successful times, players coming through the youth set-up were skilful and intelligent on the ball, choosing to work relentlessly from defence to attack without the ball leaving the turf save for the occasional pin-point cross.

Think David Preece. Think Jean-Louis Valois. The myth's proponents suggest it is well known throughout football, outside of these borders even.

If the Luton Way were a road, it would have been the antithesis of Route 1. It wouldn't ruthlessly destroy buildings in its wake like the increasingly un-mythical Guided Busway either. No. It was a beautiful meandering scenic route that encouraged the lowering of car windows and soaring violin music to fill the countryside around it.

But like all mythical subjects, and increasingly the opinions of Milton Keynes apologist David Pleat, whether the 'Luton way' ever actually existed for more than just fleeting moments probably warrants further investigation. Everything looks better with the rose-tinted specs on after all, and the dirge sticks in the mind much less readily than the giant killings on the plastic pitch, or the poetry of Valois.

One thing that's for sure is that the idea, mythical or otherwise, of the Luton way is what fans dream of seeing week in and week out. It's the reason you'll still hear it mentioned when the ball goes long, and the reason under-12s teams wince at "ON THE DECK" being bellowed from their idealistic dads on the touchline on wet Sunday mornings in the Chiltern Youth League (is that still a thing? I'm 30).

Whether or not playing the Luton way actually ever existed or not, Alex Lawless's goal, which made it 3-0 on Tuesday night, is it in its purest form. Lots of the football being attempted against Dartford was.

And while we all accept at this low-ebb that winning is absolutely everything, some more of that mythical stuff every now and then would definitely recharge the soul, and the gate receipts.

Up the Town.



THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY STEVEN CONEY

Success often breeds success, especially in Non-League football. Promoted sides always do well when making the step up, or so people think, but is it fact or fiction?

Well, if you look at the stats, the old saying is pretty accurate. With the benchmark ten games almost played in most leagues, certain sides have set out their stall for another promotion charge.

In the Skrill North, newly-promoted Hednesford Town have started well and led the way early on with fellow promoted side North Ferriby United also flying high.

One that catches the eye further down in the Ryman North is VCD Athletic who were top of the league coming into the weekend after finishing runners-up in the Kent League last season.

Attitude

When speaking to a manager who has just won promotion, you can bet your bottom dollar that he'll mention momentum and a winning attitude as being key to the following season.

Promoted sides are often tipped to do well with a feel-good factor spurting them on but how much impact does it actually make?

Well, looking back at the past three seasons from Steps 1-3, the average position of a promoted side is...10th.

It just goes to show how close divisions are in Non-League in terms of quality, with the biggest step, and lowest average finish for a promoted side at 13th, being the Skrill Premier.

With most promoted sides operating part-time and entering a mainly professional division, it can be tough

but there is positive news for Chester, Welling, Halifax and Salisbury fans – no promoted side has gone straight back down over the past three seasons.

In fact, over the past three years, six sides have been promoted again from Steps 1-3 while only five have gone straight back down – a whopping 15 reaching the Play-Offs.

The Skrill North is the friendliest division for promoted teams with an average finish of sixth. The lowest finish over the past three terms? Colwyn Bay's 12th place finish in 2011-12.

The Skrill South isn't quite as welcoming though, with both AFC Hornchurch and Billericay falling straight back down last season. Despite that, it still has an average finish of 12th.

Of the three Step 3 divisions, the Evo-Stik NPL has seen the most success, helped by phoenix clubs Chester and FC Halifax.

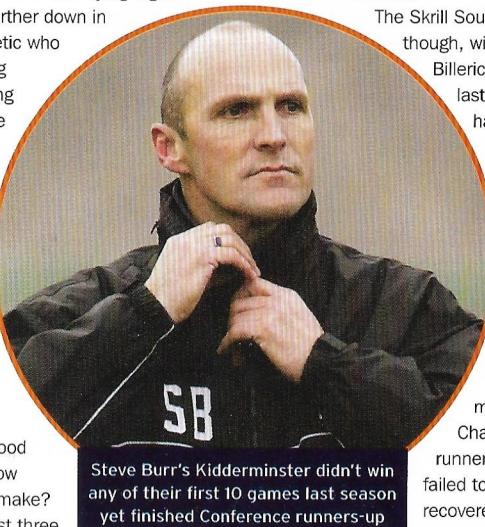
And if your team hasn't started well, don't panic! As seen in the Skrill Premier last season, it's a long old marathon and not a sprint.

Champions Mansfield and runners up Kidderminster Harriers failed to impress early on but both recovered to fight it out for the title on the last day of the season.

In Kiddy's case, they had yet to win after ten games – drawing five and losing five – but the club stuck with boss Steve Burr and were almost rewarded with a return to the Football League.

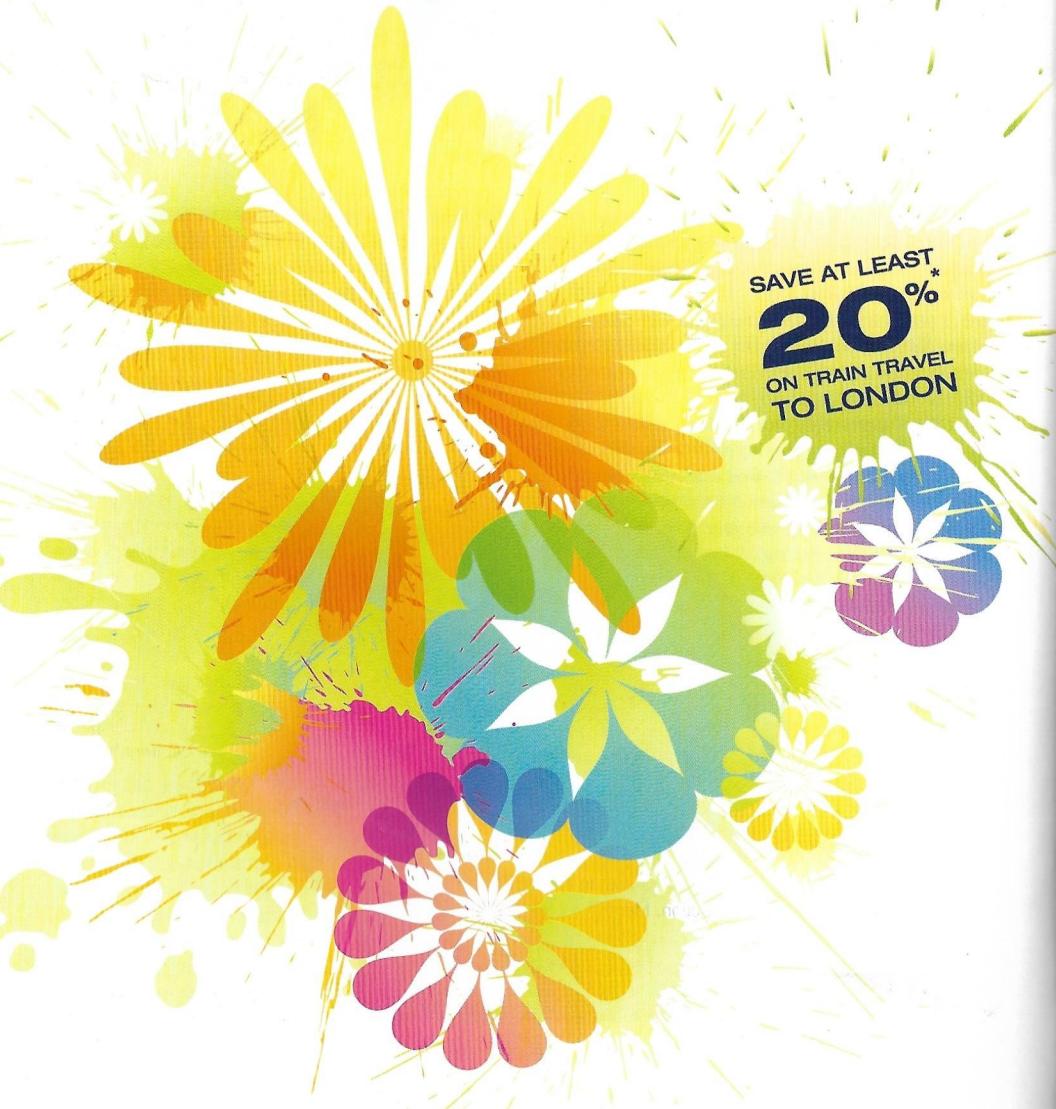
Patience is indeed a virtue.

So, if you're lucky enough to be a fan of a promoted side, there's a very good chance you'll enjoy another fruitful season – have fun!



Steve Burr's Kidderminster didn't win any of their first 10 games last season yet finished Conference runners-up

Bursting with ideas



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First Capital Connect

league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

There was a change at the top of the Skrill Premier on Tuesday night as part-time Nuneaton Town continued their rich vein of form to leapfrog Cambridge United.

The Boro had another Louis Moult goal to thank for a 2-1 victory over a Hereford United side that have lost four of their last five games. Nuneaton took advantage of Cambridge's 1-1 draw at Alfreton to go top, with Richard Money's dropping to second place.

Kidderminster – notoriously bad starters – find themselves in third place after a fine 3-0 win at Tamworth. The Harriers are just five points off the top after their win at the Lamb, which was recorded thanks to goals from James Dance, Michael Gash and Anthony Malbon.

Today's visitors Lincoln are up to fourth in the table after a 1-0 win over Southport at Sincil Bank. City have conceded just five goals this season and have lost just twice.

Aldershot and Barnet – two sides relegated from the Football League last season – shared six goals at the Recreation Ground. The Shots led 3-1 at one stage but goals from Marciano Menegrink and Harry Crawford salvaged a draw for the Bees to keep Edgar Davids' side in fifth place. The point moved Aldershot up to 22nd in the table and the Shots would be ninth in the standings without their 10-point deduction. Meanwhile



Leading goalscorer in the Skrill Premier Louis Moult

two newly-promoted sides were among the goals on Tuesday night. FC Halifax kept up their unbeaten home record with a thumping 4-0 win over Grimsby at the Shay to move up to sixth in the table. Welling United hit promotion favourites Forest Green for five at Park View Road. The Wings had surrendered a two-goal lead as Rovers drew level but after Dale Bennett's 65th-minute red card the Wings took control and scored three times in those final 20 minutes to secure a 5-2 victory.

Wrexham, the Hatters' conquerors last week, won again – this time on the road at Gateshead. Andy Morrell's side triumphed 3-0 at the International Stadium thanks to goals from Brett Ormerod, Steve Tomassen and Andy Bishop. The victory lifts the Red Dragons up to 15th in the table.

At the foot of the table, Hyde and Macclesfield remain the only clubs yet to register a win so far this season. Hyde lost at home to fellow strugglers Woking whilst Macclesfield lost their Cheshire derby with Chester – who jumped out of the relegation zone at the expense of Dartford, who lost at Kenilworth Road.

In the pick of the games this afternoon Cambridge host Forest Green, whilst leaders Nuneaton host Salisbury and Kidderminster go to Dartford.

There is a full Skrill Premier programme next Tuesday too, with Cambridge and Nuneaton going head to head at the Abbey Stadium.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Moult (Nuneaton)	8
Williams (Aldershot)	6
Cunnington (G'bridge)	5
Hyde (Barnet)	5
Lafayette (Welling)	5
Williams (Woking)	5
Arando (Alfreton)	4
Brown (Nuneaton)	4

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town	6,363	Woking	1,441
Wrexham	4,118	Forest Green Rovers	1,309
Grimsby Town	3,501	Southport	1,240
Cambridge United	2,732	Nuneaton Town	1,210
Lincoln City	2,362	Dartford	1,189
Chester FC	2,319	Braintree Town	1,073
Kidderminster Harriers	2,216	Tamworth	1,035
Aldershot Town	2,158	Salisbury City	894
Barnet	1,908	Welling United	781
Hereford United	1,818	Gateshead	736
FC Halifax Town	1,561	Alfreton Town	656
Macclesfield Town	1,460	Hyde	643

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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

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	Cullen ▲
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United	D 0-0	7,517	963	11	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Smith	Guttridge	Whalley	Cullen ▲
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,866	821	11	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths ▲	McNulty	Lacey	Smith	Parry	Guttridge	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	W 3-0	5,433	142	11	Tyler	Henry	Griffiths	McNulty	Parry	Smith	Guttridge 1	Stevenson ▲	Howells ▲
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	Alderton 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

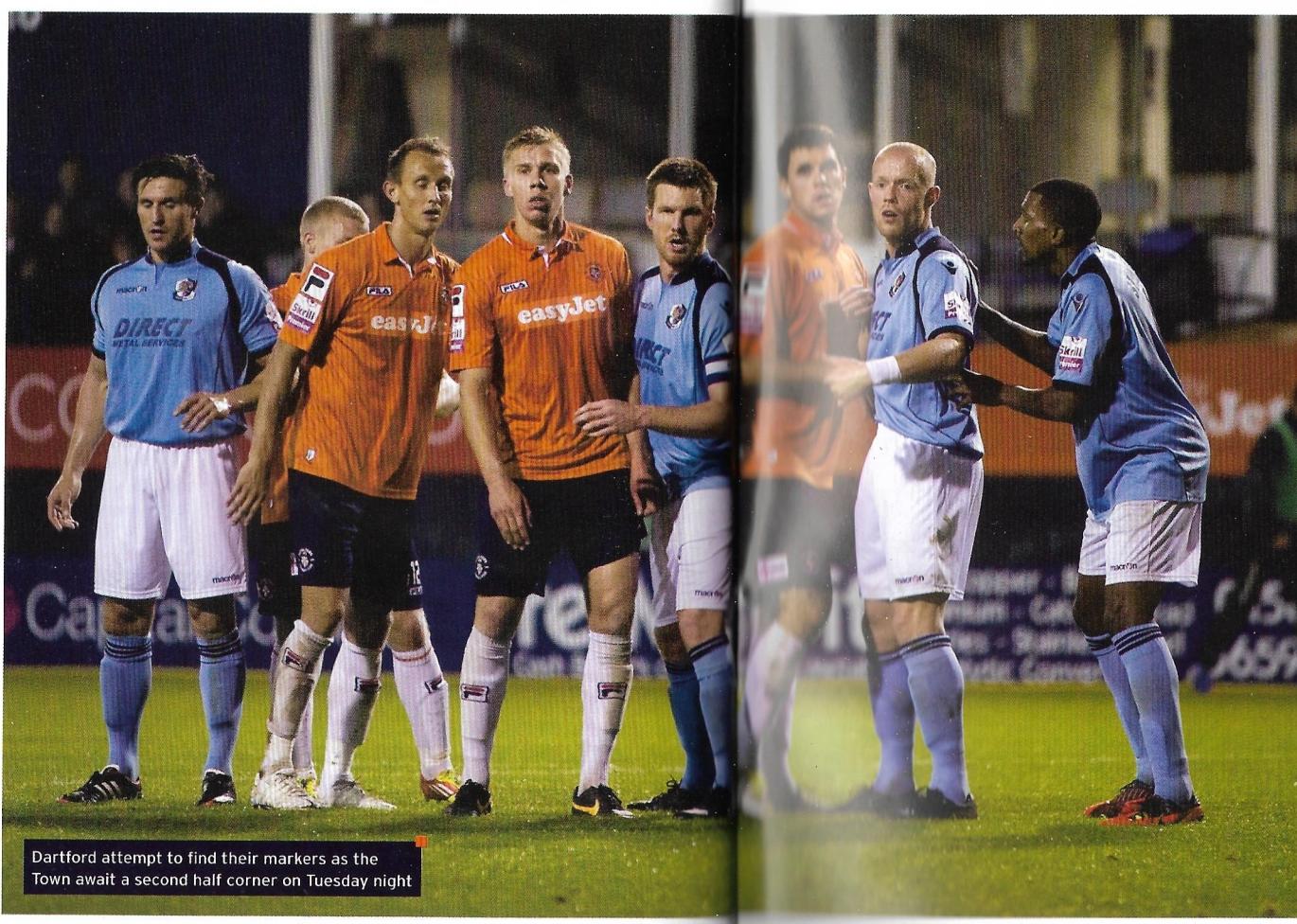
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Dartford
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Tamworth
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Hereford United
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Nuneaton Town

MARCH

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

APRIL

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



SUBS

Howells ▲	Cullen	Charles ▲	Parry ▲	Gray ▲	Robinson	Justham
Shaw	Cullen ▲	Lacey ▲	Howells ▲	Gray ▲	Robinson	Justham
Shaw	Gray	Parry	Howells ▲	Cullen ▲	Smith ▲	Justham
Shaw ▲	Gray	Parry ▲	Howells ▲	Martin	Robinson	Justham
Shaw ▲	Gray	Parry	Howells ▲	Martin ▲	Robinson	Justham
Benson ▲	Gray	Parry	Howells ▲	Whalley	Wall ▲	Cullen
Benson ▲	Gray	Stevenson ▲	Whalley ▲	Wall ▲	Cullen	Justham
Lawless 1 ▲	Benson 1	Stevenson	Lawless ▲	Wall ▲	Gray ▲	Justham

LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14

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

PLAYER STATS 2013/14

LEAGUE	THIS SEASON				LIFE			
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS
Paul Benson	4 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	4 (0)	1	10	4 1
Anthony Charles	1 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	0	0 2 0
Mark Cullen	5 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	5 (1)	0	0	0 6 0
Andre Gray	5 (3)	0	0 (0)	0	5 (3)	0	0	74 27
Scott Griffiths	9 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	9 (0)	0	1	0 15 0
Luke Guttridge	9 (0)	3	0 (0)	0	9 (0)	0	3	4 9 3
Ronnie Henry	7 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	1	0 50 0
Jake Howells	5 (4)	2	0 (0)	0	5 (4)	2	0	0 244 20
Alex Lacey	6 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	0	0 16 0
Alex Lawless	1 (1)	1	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	1	0	0 126 13
David Smith	3 (3)	0	0 (0)	0	3 (3)	0	0	22 3
Steve McNulty	9 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	9 (0)	0	0	29 1
JJ O'Donnell	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0 48 3
Andrew Parry	4 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	4 (2)	0	1	0 6 0
Matt Robinson	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0 14 1
Jon Shaw	4 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	1	0 42 10
Jonathan Smith	8 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	8 (1)	1	0	0 43 1
Jim Stevenson	1 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	0	0 2 0
Solomon Taiwo	3 (1)	1	0 (0)	0	3 (1)	1	2	0 13 2
Mark Tyler	9 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	9 (0)	0	0	0 193 0
Alex Wall	0 (3)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (3)	0	0	15 2
Shaun Whalley	6 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	6 (2)	0	0	0 8 0

hold the back page

WITH BRIAN SWAIN

When I was planning my first day-trip of the season from Cornwall to Kenilworth Road, the realisation that it would be to see Lincoln City brought back horrible memories.

Yet it was a miserable occasion that led to much happier times.

Back in December 1966 the Luton News was a much bigger operation than it is now, publishing three different local papers each week, and one of the highlights for me was to work on the Saturday Telegraph Green 'Un, a 100 per cent sports edition including blanket coverage of that day's Town game. We had one Saturday afternoon off every four weeks, so I couldn't get to see the Hatters as often as I would like.

Second best for me was a job few of my colleagues relished: to sit wearing a telephone headset, typing out the Town match report dictated from the press box by Eric Pugh under the pen name Chiltern. It was a 90-minute running commentary on the game.

I used to take a weird pleasure knowing that I was the first person in Luton to know what the Town were doing as I bashed out Pugh's words on an old manual typewriter.

I mostly enjoyed the job, but on a wretched afternoon nearly 47 years ago I typed the painful story of the Town's trip to Sincil Bank.

We were feeling pretty low because we were in the Fourth Division, having been in the First (now the Premier) only six years previously. It got worse that day because the Town were stuffed 8-1 by the team who were bottom of the table, one place below us.

But our scorer gives a clue about the happier times that were to follow: a young Stopsley kid named Bruce Rioch. You probably know what a wonderful career he had after learning his trade at Kenilworth Road, culminating in skippering Scotland in the World Cup

before embarking on a managerial career which peaked at Arsenal until he was replaced by Arsene Wenger.

Allan Brown had become Town boss a couple of weeks before the Lincoln humiliation, but the squad that year had greater promise than we realised at the time.

As well as Rioch it included other young hopefuls destined for success here and elsewhere, such as John Moore, David Pleat, Alan Slough and Graham French.

At the end of that 1966/67 season, with the Town finishing 17th in the table, 73 goals had been leaked in 46 league games so it didn't need the Lincoln hammering to illustrate Brown's greatest need.

He responded with one of the most astute signings in the history of Luton Town, persuading Northampton's Terry Branston to come to Kenilworth Road and to be his new skipper. And the transformation from Sincil Bank duffers to top of the table was remarkable.

Branston, a huge presence and inspiring leader, marked his first season as a Town player by lifting the Fourth Division championship to set us on the first steps of the road that would lead all the way back to Division One. Two years later Branston led us to another promotion. If only he had been in the side at Sincil Bank on that miserable day in 1966 I might have had a happier afternoon listening to the rantings of a very fed-up Eric Pugh.

There is a double twist finale to my tale, because after our 1970 promotion to Division Three, Branston moved on...to Lincoln City.

He gave the Imps three seasons of dedicated service, adding another 101 league appearances to the 100 he made for the Town. Born in Rugby, he hung up his boots after playing for Nuneaton Borough.

His manager there was another former Town star who played in the 1966 Lincoln debacle: David Pleat. Small world, football, isn't it?



Title-winning captain
Terry Branston

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today'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		

LINCOLN CITY

1	Paul Farman	12	Jake Sheridan
2	Tom Miller	14	Adi Yussuf
3	Sean Newton	15	Dan Gray
4	Todd Jordan	16	Conner Robinson
5	Andrew Boyce	17	Bohan Dixon
6	Mamadou Fofana	19	Jon Nolan
7	Waide Fairhurst	23	Nat Brown
8	Alan Power	24	Karl Cunningham
9	Danny Rowe	27	Luke Foster
10	Nick Wright	29	Jordan Thomas
11	Ben Tomlinson		

Referee: **A. Bromley** | Assistant: **K. Marshallsay** | Assistant: **J. Richardson** | Fourth official: **R. Smith**

HERE NEXT

v FC HALIFAX TOWN

SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER 2013 • 3PM

SKRILL PREMIER

