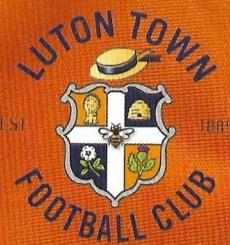


TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 14 • £3.00



LUTON TOWN
v GATESHEAD

SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER 2013
KICK OFF 3PM

TODAY'S PROGRAMME
SPONSOR





Mega Sale.

Up to 50% off.*



*Selected items only. While stocks last.

Available at your local **JD** Arndale & Luton Airport

INSTORE | ONLINE | JD APP

JDSPORTS.CO.UK



PROUD KIT SUPPLIERS TO LUTON TOWN

welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ What a festive season we're building up to. The Town are second in the table, progressing nicely in the FA Trophy and today we kick-off a mouth-watering series of matches over the next fortnight by welcoming Gateshead to Kenilworth Road.

With Barnet and Kidderminster on the horizon the Hatters entertain a Gateshead side who have really hit form under new manager Gary Mills. He's the man who probably has the best managerial record against a Luton side following his spells in charge and Tamworth and York.

There are plenty of connections between the two clubs, none more so than striker Jon Shaw who left Tyneside for Kenilworth Road last summer. It's been a season of frustration for him so far but we catch-up with the centre-forward who tells us his hopes of helping the Hatters to promotion this term.

Today is our last game before Christmas so it goes without saying that we wish you all a very, very Merry Christmas.

Enjoy the game #COYH ”



4 the boss

John Still looks ahead to today's game

6 the boardroom

With managing director Gary Sweet

18 gateshead

Seven pages and all you need to know about our visitors

26 looking back

Report, reaction and photographs from last Saturday's 2-0 win over Wrexham



42 hatters history

Club historian Roger Wash delves into his archives

52 youth in focus

Updates and results from the Hatters' youth department

64 the season ahead

Fixtures and results for 2013/14

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW

Switchboard: 01582 411622

Ticket office: 01582 416976

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

CLUB OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN: Nick Owen

MANAGING DIRECTOR: Gary Sweet

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

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS: Stephen Browne, Mike Herrick, Mick Pattinson

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Roger Bannister

HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT: John Buttle

VICE PRESIDENTS: Richard Banks, Cliff Bassett, Jack Sapsworth, Rob Stringer

FIRST TEAM MANAGER: John Still

ASSISTANT MANAGER: Terry Harris

FIRST TEAM COACH: Hakan Hayrettin

GOALKEEPING COACH: Jeff Wood

FITNESS COACH: Dave Richardson

PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Simon Parsell

KIT MAN/MASSEUR: Darren Cook

YOUTH TEAM MANAGER: Paul Driver

HEAD OF YOUTH: Wayne Turner

HEAD OF YOUTH OPERATIONS: Matt Stannard

CLUB SECRETARY: Kevan Platt

COMMERCIAL MANAGER: David Hoskins

STADIUM MANAGER: Peter Kemp

HEAD GROUNDSMAN: Richard Bird

RETAIL MANAGER: Mike Hooker

CATERING MANAGER: David Romans

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER: Tania Buonpane

PRESS OFFICER: Andrew Barringer

CLUB DOCTOR: Dr Paul Dealey

CLUB CHAPLAIN: Alan West

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

EDITOR: Andrew Barringer

PHOTOGRAPHY: Gareth Owen

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

PRINT: Bartham Group

DESIGN: Heather Ellis - Relish Design

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

the manager

JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome to Kenilworth Road for this important Skrill Premier fixture with Gateshead.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to Gary Mills and his staff and players, plus the directors and supporters of our visitors.

Today we entertain a Gateshead side who have vastly improved since the opening few months of the campaign. I know our form has been good of late but so have theirs, and we are well aware of how tough our opponents will be this afternoon. We will need everyone: players, staff and supporters giving 100 per cent if we are to wrestle three points here at Kenilworth Road.

Progress

Last Saturday a very entertaining game in the FA Trophy saw us progress to the last 16 of that competition, with a header from Mark Cullen and an own goal securing a 2-0 win over the holders, Wrexham.

As most people are aware, we have tried as hard as we can to pick an under-21 team in this competition. Anthony Charles and Shaun Whalley's inclusion in the squad have made it slightly older but I thought last weekend was an absolutely outstanding performance from a group of very focused and athletic young men. The all-round display was first class and I think even Wrexham felt that the margin of victory could have been greater.

Since my first day in the football club I have focused on working with the younger players in the squad and I think the form of those players is a credit to them and the support staff that work with them. We are looking forward to the next round tie at Cambridge which I am sure will be a thrilling encounter. Attendances in the early stages of the FA Trophy aren't usually too high but I have a feeling that this tie in particular will be well-attended.

On the injury front, Alex Wall continues to make progress. He came through 85 minutes of the Wrexham game and 80 minutes of a development squad game against Northampton on Tuesday in which he scored a cracking goal in a 1-1 draw. Anthony Charles did not feature in that game, as we felt he needed some recovery time after playing 90 minutes last Saturday, but he is back in the full swing of things. Andy Parry has had his hernia operation and now starts his rehabilitation; Solomon Taiwo, who has also had a hernia op, is three of four weeks away; and we hope to have Jon Shaw back training at the start of next week.

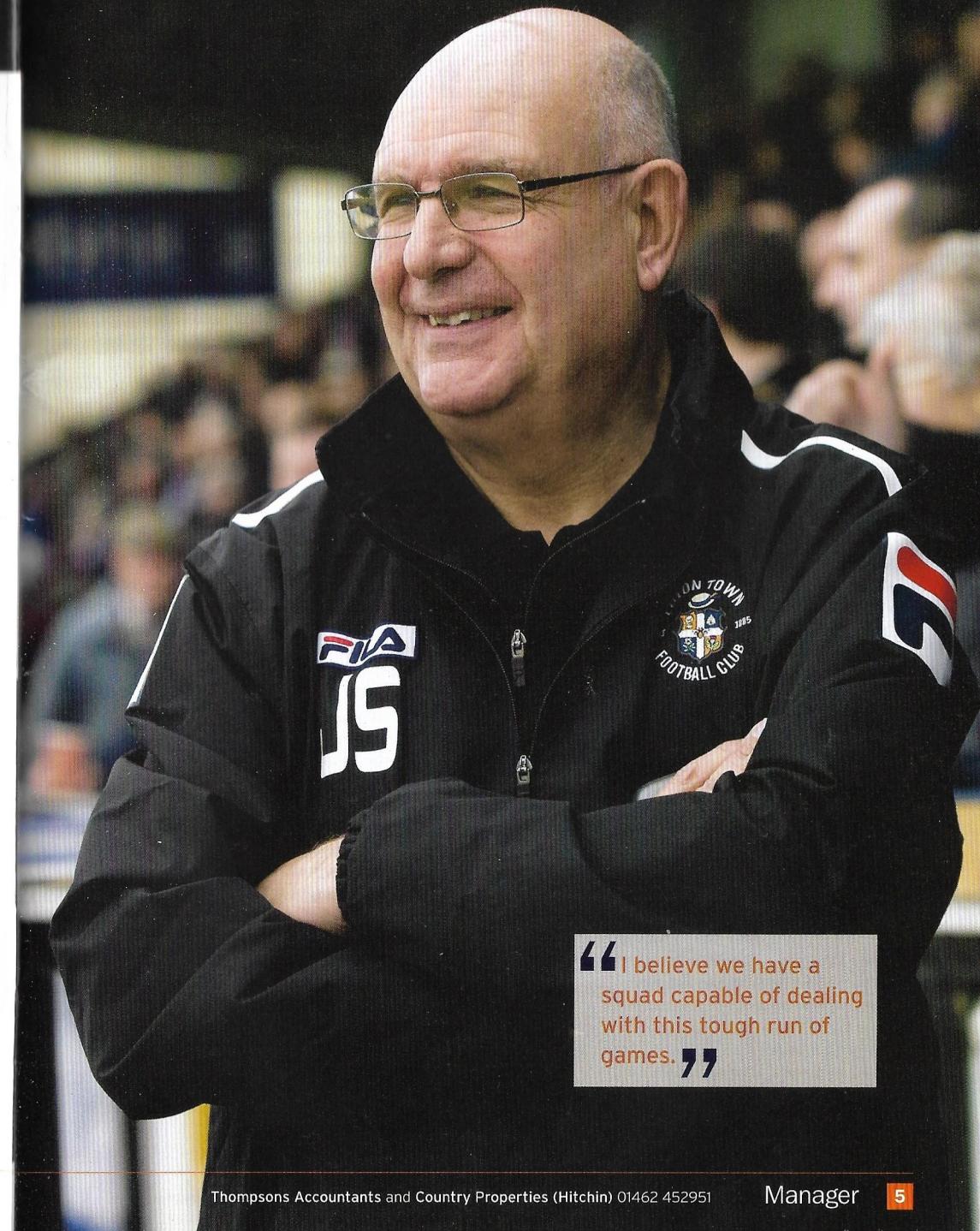
Capable

This afternoon's fixture signals the start of the festive period with plenty of games coming thick and fast and I believe we have a squad capable of dealing with this tough run. We've shown in the past fortnight that we can field two different teams. Just one player has been involved in our last two matches. That is a testament to the players who have responded tremendously to what has been asked of them throughout the campaign so far.

Today is also the last game before Christmas so have a great couple of days eating and drinking but please get behind the team this afternoon first! The backing we have received home and away so far this season has been nothing short of amazing, and it's staggering that we have sold-out our 1,700 allocation for the Boxing Day game at Barnet.

We hope to give you a fantastic Christmas but remember, for that to happen, we need to work together. Sing loud and be proud – this is your club and your team.

Enjoy the game.



“I believe we have a squad capable of dealing with this tough run of games.”

boardroom

WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR GARY SWEET



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for our last match before Christmas.

We welcome, also, our friends from Gateshead and wish them a safe journey back home to Tyneside after this afternoon's game. We also wish them well in their endeavours for the rest of the campaign.

Today will be our second and final league meeting with the Heed this term, just a month after we secured a gritty point, from a goalless draw, at a wet and windy afternoon at the International Stadium.

Welcome

I'd particularly like to offer a warm welcome to those magnificent Heed supporters, sitting in the Kenilworth Road, who will endure a 500-mile round trip today. Regardless of their number, their dedication and passion for their club is greatly respected by us all.

These notes are the first I have penned since our 3-0 victory over Dartford in mid-September. Since those words were printed, we have yet to taste defeat in the league and lost just once otherwise; bowing out to Welling in the FA Cup.

Pertinently, reading through those notes once more, I feel content. They were written a day after our 2-0 defeat at Wrexham in front of the BT Sport cameras. I used words such as "dismal" and "miserable", and described myself as a "horribly grumpy git".

But, most optimistically, I also signed off full of confidence that our performances would improve and would be coupled with a rise up the table.

I wasn't able to say this with such confidence because I don't own a crystal ball. And I most definitely don't claim to possess such a superior knowledge of the beautiful game to be able to predict a run of 14 unbeaten league matches!

But my message three months ago wasn't hollow or insincere, neither was it intended to pacify those who perhaps wondered, for a fleeting moment, if we were heading for another year of unfulfilled football ambitions. My confidence originated from being in the marvellously advantageous position of humbly witnessing the breath-taking impact John Still and co. are having on our squad.

Our last league fixture saw us comprehensively dismantle Alfreton Town with a style and swagger that everyone wants to see from a Luton Town side; arguably, for the first time this season.

Then, last Saturday, you could possibly say we'd gone full circle. A side showing 10 changes to the team that so impressively beat Alfreton then beat a full-strength Wrexham side with an exciting brand of fast, flowing football.

Encouraging

All of a sudden that defeat on a cold Friday night in September at the Racecourse seemed a million miles away, and we can enter the Christmas period full of good will and cheer knowing that, both on and off the pitch, there are hugely encouraging signs that we are progressing soundly.

It would be folly, of course, to get carried away looking at our festive fixture calendar, which shows how serious and focused we will have to be to maintain our fine current record in the Skrill Premier. But mental resilience is now a strength not a weakness – as it seems to have been in previous seasons – and the feel-good factor at Kenilworth Road has most definitely returned.

At this point last season, we had already suffered a home defeat against a club that would eventually finish bottom of the table, and couldn't say (as we can now) that our manager is happy with the squad and knows his best team on any given day.

Twelve months on, however, we've remained unbeaten at Kenilworth Road this season – a run of 10 matches, 13 including pre-season friendlies against Aston Villa, Dagenham & Redbridge and Arsenal.

What a difference a year makes!

And you also made a massive difference, too. Everyone has contributed to this positive progression; for which we thank you all.

Our attendance statistics, particularly the volumes and behaviour of our travelling contingent, makes us the envy of the Conference (and of most of the teams in the upper two levels).

Selling out our 1,700 allocation at Barnet within a week was an incredible achievement!

Delight

Today we'll see the third opening of the Oak Road stand for home supporters this season. The atmosphere and buzz at home fixtures has been a delight, especially at those fixtures against Hyde and Southport in which Oak Roaders, new and old, took delight – and played their part – in two fine home wins. This has been a trial which can only be seen as positive and has given us the faith to do everything in our powers to ensure that a permanent solution can be found for next season, if not before.

The positive vibes around the club have been backed up by the performance of our youth team. Not only do they top their league (on average points per game) – a league populated by Football League clubs up to Championship level – but they also proudly bowed out of the FA Youth Cup the Sunday before last against a very strong Huddersfield academy, all in the last few minutes of extra-time, having led through a Zane Banton goal.

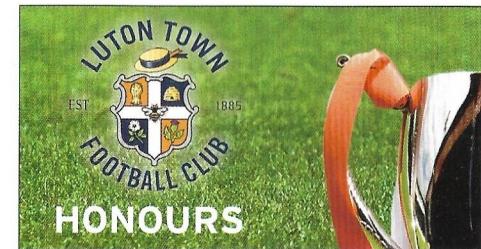
I'd like to express my thanks to Wayne Turner, Paul Driver and their staff, along with every contributing member of our Academy for their efforts so far this term – well done lads!

I'd like to close on some good news in time for Christmas. It is with pleasure that I'm able to announce we have agreed a 12-month extension to John Still's contract securing his services through to the summer of 2015, but with the condition that, for each promotion we win together, an additional year is added.

Having spoken to many Hatters since John's appointment I cannot recall a single person who wouldn't be delighted by this news.

Have a wonderful Christmas one and all and here's to John Still being our manager at the start of the 2018/19 season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary".



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

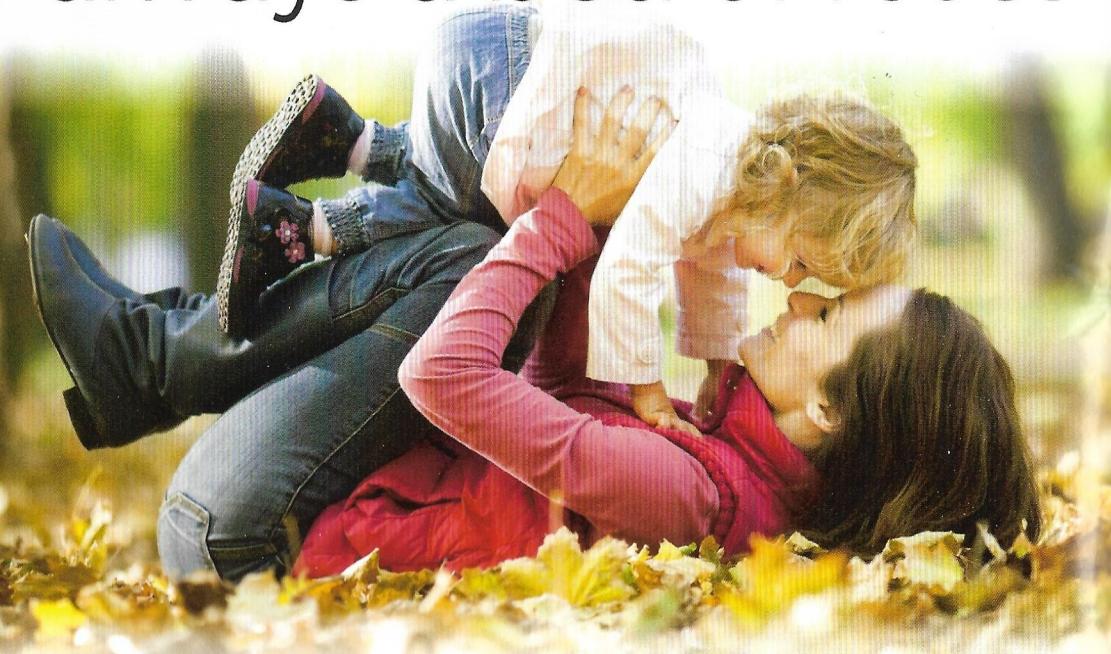
Southern League Division One:
Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

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

Because life isn't always a bed of roses



Buying & Selling your Home, Will & Estate Planning,
Employment Issues, Business & Company Law,
Divorce & Family, Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence

Call now on

**01582
870870**

 **Pictons**
SOLICITORS | LLP

[f/pictons](#) [t/@pictons](#) [web](#) pictons.co.uk [email](#) info@pictons.co.uk
post 28 Dunstable Road, Luton, LU1 1DY

the captain

RONNIE HENRY

Last Saturday's FA Trophy win over Wrexham was absolutely fantastic and all credit to the players who were involved in the deserved victory.

I was present with a number of the other lads to watch the game and I must admit it was one of the best games of football I've seen this season. I thought we were excellent against a visiting team who fielded a much more experienced side than we did.

Talent

The performance and result is no surprise though. The talent and strength in-depth of our squad is obvious and I have no doubt that last weekend's display has given the manager a few headaches. I'm sure, though, he will appreciate having to make tough decisions and that can only be of massive benefit to everyone as a whole.

More importantly, the Wrexham win showed that should any player suffer a loss of form or suffer the unfortunate suspension or injury that there are players ready to step in when required. I don't know how many times I have said this in my notes this season, but under the current gaffer players who play well and impress him are always given a chance.

Tough

The manager has already said he will stick with last week's group of players in the FA Trophy and we are all really behind them every step of the way. After dumping out the holders, there's no reason why they can't go further. The next tie is going to be tough but wouldn't it be just great if we could win that one?

I've won the FA Trophy before and been lucky enough to lift it as captain at my last club in the first game at the new Wembley. If we carry on progressing at this rate and reach the final I can see myself having a little dip in form a week before just so I can get in the team!

The competition for places is very healthy and what a great thing to say at this time of year as we begin a tough schedule of matches over the festive period.

We're progressing well on all fronts and our performances are keeping everyone on their toes.

Today we entertain an in-form Gateshead side. We know how tough the game will be, having only played them up at their place last month. They were the better side in the first half and played us off the park but we improved in the second half and could have won it.

The points were shared that day in atrocious conditions but we are at home today so we must take advantage of our superb record at Kenilworth Road. Our backing here has been unbelievable too so hopefully that, combined with our efforts on the pitch, can keep that up over the festive period.

Consistency

As we approach these big games I think it's important to stress that whilst we are playing well we must not get complacent. I say this because you only have to take one look at some of the results recently. We beat Alfreton 5-0 two weeks ago but then last week they won 3-1 at Kidderminster. Consistency is the most important thing in this league and we must continue our current levels if we are to achieve anything this season.

My final word goes to you, the supporters. Your support has been incredible so far and all I can do is urge you for more, especially over the next few games at such a vital part of the season. Every little helps. If we can get through this period in good shape we could be onto something special.

Enjoy the game and, on behalf of all of the lads, have a wonderful Christmas.



CAMBRIDGE TRIP IN TROPHY

The Hatters have been drawn away to league leaders Cambridge United in the third round of the FA Trophy.

The current top two in the Skrill Premier will meet at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday 11th January. The Town's league fixture with Macclesfield, scheduled for the same day, will require rearranging.

Cambridge have beaten Salisbury and St Albans in the first two rounds rounds, whilst the Hatters have seen off Staines and holders Wrexham.

Winners

The two clubs met in the competition back in 2009/10 when United ran out 3-1 winners at the Abbey Stadium.

Boss John Still was happy for his young group of players after the Hatters were paired with the U's.

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

A number of Hatters fans have already won some incredible prizes in our free online Christmas giveaway.

A sack full of money-can't-buy prizes are up for grabs in the competition, set up to mark the launch of new interactive media section of the official website titled Hatters Wall.

The daily draw has already seen supporters collect prizes including a half-season ticket and the chance to train with the first team for 10 minutes.

A whole host of items, including a sit down pie and mash meal with manager John Still, are still available between now and up to and including Christmas Day.

All supporters are required to do is register or update their details on our online shop at www.hattersworld.co.uk and make a note of their unique FAN ID before checking www.wall.lutontown.co.uk every day where one or more ID will appear. Check out the official website for more information.

Golden Gamble unclaimed

A Golden Gamble prize of £480 still remains unclaimed following our home fixture with Southport on 26th November.

The winning ticket number is 10490. Call 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk if you possess the ticket.

FULL THIRD ROUND DRAW

Cambridge United v Luton Town
Aldershot Town v Guiseley
Hungerford Town v Gosport Borough
Eastleigh v Dover Athletic
Tamworth v Chorley
Lincoln City v North Ferriby United
Grimsby Town v Maidenhead United
Havant & Waterlooville v Ebbsfleet United

"The boys that got us through the last two rounds deserve a big game, and this is a big game," Still told lutontown.co.uk. "It's a tie I would have picked. It will be a game that won't just be a test football-wise but also a test mentality-wise for this group of players."

Rest in Peace



The club were saddened to be informed of the death of life-long Town supporter and season ticket holder Jim Sellars at the age 66.

He first started going to see Luton Town as a teenager, catching the Bletchley to Bedford train and then onto Luton. On meeting his future wife Rose he started going with her and her father Peter Pollard who was also an avid Luton supporter.

Their twin sons Stacey and James started attending matches as five-year-olds, followed by grandson Jamie making it a real family affair. They are all still season ticket holders today. Jim's last game was Southport away in August before passing away from a very sudden illness two weeks later.

LAST CHANCE FOR CHRISTMAS POST

Town supporters can still purchase items from our online shop in time for Christmas.

The cut-off point for deliveries for 1st class or recorded delivery ended on Friday but fans can still place orders next day delivery and receive their goods in time.

Any orders must be placed by 10am this coming Monday.

Check out our online shop www.hattersworld.co.uk.

Well done girls!

After winning their first game in two years, members of the Aspley Guise Girls' Under-13 squad will be watching from the Oak Road stand this afternoon.



Team manager Matt Hall takes up the story. "I would like to express my gratitude to the Club who have kindly invited us to today's game.

"I help coach the girls' under-13s and one of the team, Grace Hall is my daughter and is a diamond season ticket holder.

"The team is now in its third season and has just recorded its first ever league victory after over two years of trying. Obviously the victory was met with great delight (and disbelief) and was just reward for the girls who have been steadily improving. They always play with a smile and give it their very best despite our lack of success.

"The 4-0 victory was followed by an 8-0 win a week later in a friendly so we seem to be moving in the right direction.

"I made an enquiry to the club to see if we could organise a group deal to reward the team and I'm delighted that we will have 30 representing the club made up of players, coaches and parents.

"As a season ticket holder myself for over 35 years I hope to convert a few more into supporting the club - Aspley Guise is a Bedfordshire club after all so we want them supporting Bedfordshire's number one team and staying away from Bucks!"

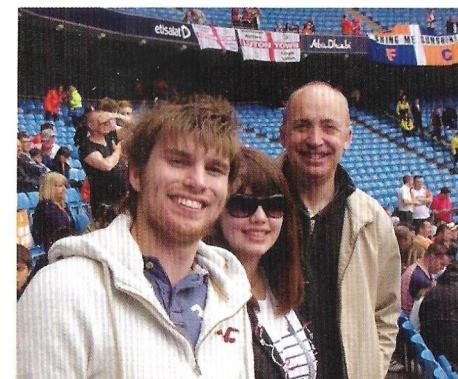
The picture shows the girls celebrating that famous first victory. Well done girls, and have a great afternoon with us.

Happy Birthday to you!

Many happy returns today to ardent Town fan Andrew "Ossie" Osborne who is celebrating his 50th birthday at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

A season ticket holder with his daughter Claire and friend Martin, the picture (below) shows Ossie (right) at the Etihad Stadium with Claire and his godson Iain Bull at the Play-Off final in 2011.

So happy birthday Ossie from everybody at Luton Town and all of your friends and family.



We'd also like to send our belated birthday wishes to big Hatters fan Phil Goodman who turned 60 on the 8th December.

He celebrated this special occasion by a surprise party arranged by his family. Phil also shares his birthday with his mum Margaret Goodman who has been a season ticket holder for many years who recently turned 83, and his nephew Nick Pearce who is 45. Phil and Margaret attend the matches with various other members of their family who all hold season tickets.

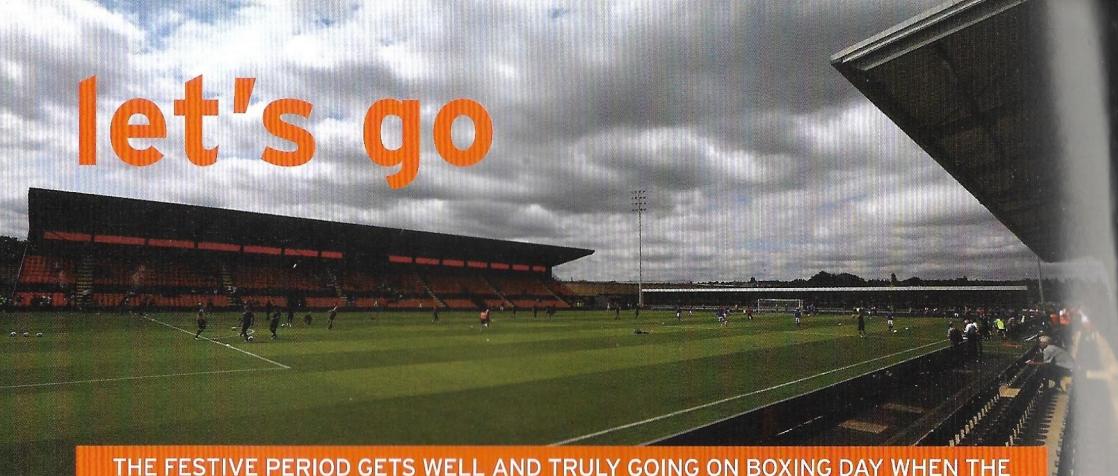
HALF-SEASON TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

Guarantee your seat at Kenilworth Road for the rest of the season by snapping up one of our half-season tickets.

With adult tickets from just £1.75 and juniors from as little as £2.40 what are you waiting for?

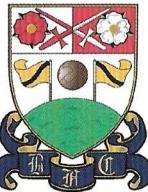
Contact the ticket office for a full price list on 01582 416976. You can also snap up a five-game booklet voucher for just £81. This is a £9 saving and is valid for any five home league games until the end of the season.

let's go



THE FESTIVE PERIOD GETS WELL AND TRULY GOING ON BOXING DAY WHEN THE TOWN AND AN ARMY OF SUPPORTERS MAKE THEIR FIRST TRIP TO THE HIVE

BARNET



WHO? Barnet, aka the Bees, formerly of Barnet but now of Canons Park, which is reliably described on Wikipedia as "an affluent residential suburb... situated in the north west London Borough of Harrow...located south of Stanmore, the west of Edgware and the east of Wealdstone". They're managed by a little known Dutchman called Edgar Davids.

WHAT? If you didn't know, Barnet uprooted from their Underhill home in Barnet in the summer and moved to the Hive, a 5,100-capacity stadium. The Hive also is the Bees' training base and the 44-acre site also includes further sport and conference and banqueting facilities.

HOW TO GET THERE. The trip to the Hive is just 23-and-a-half miles away from the Kenilworth Road main entrance and it's pretty simple. Leave the M1 at junction four and take the A41 towards Edgware. At the first roundabout take the third exit onto the A410 towards Harrow and Stanmore. At the next small roundabout turn left at the Esso Garage/McDonalds towards Edgware. After passing through a set of traffic lights with the Masons Arms on one corner and then a Peugeot Garage on the left, at the next set of traffic lights turn right into Camrose Avenue. The entrance to the Hive is down this road on the right. The postcode for the ground is HA8 6AG.

OTHER MODES. If you want to take the train, the nearest tube station is Canons Park on the Jubilee Line, and this is a 10-minute walk to the ground. The Bobbers Travel Club are running coaches to the Hive, too, and they depart the bottom of Oak Road at 12.30 and the fares are £16 for adults and £14 for concessions. Book your seat by calling 01234 856542.

WE ARE UNBEATABLE. The Town will be defending an unbeaten record against the Bees...an unbeaten record of two games. The Hatters and Barnet met in 2008/09, the Town's minus 30 campaign in League 2, in which Mick Harford's side took four points off of the Bees. A 3-0 win over Barnet at Kenilworth Road was followed by a 1-1 draw at Underhill in late April, just a week before the Town's relegation to the Conference was confirmed.

BUMPER BOXING DAY. 26th December has been very kind to the Hatters over past few years. The Town have lost just twice on Boxing Day stretching back to 1988. A 2-0 defeat at Everton in the top flight in 1987 has been followed by defeats to Sheffield United in 1990 and Colchester in 2006. The Town have lost one of their last 11 matches played on Boxing Day, winning six and drawing four. Barnet, meanwhile, are playing their first home game on 26th December since 2008. In 2007 they recorded a 3-1 home win over John Still's Dagenham & Redbridge.

DRAW SPECIALISTS. Barnet have drawn nine league matches in the Skrill Premier this season, more than any other side in the division. The Bees have lost just once in 11 matches at their new home this term, winning five and drawing five. The sole defeat came against Macclesfield in late September.

HOW THEY DOING? Edgar Davis, the Bees' player/boss – who also allocated himself squad number one – believes Barnet can reach the Play-Offs this term and his side lie in seventh place just one point off the final Play-Off place. The Bees have won four of their last seven league games and this afternoon they travel to winless Hyde.

WE'LL MEET AGAIN. Don't forget both sides do battle again on New Year's Day at Kenilworth Road. The fixture has been brought forward to a 12 noon kick-off and will be screened live on BT Sport. The Hatters haven't won in seven televised fixtures.

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS

SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PRO-RATA PRICES

Adults (22-64) £190, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £135, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £88, Unaccompanied Youths (10-16) and Juniors (under 10s) £26. Accompanied Under-17s FREE

HOME TICKET PRICES

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



BARNET v LUTON TOWN

The Skrill Premier

THURSDAY 26th DECEMBER 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets for this match have now sold out. Supporters without a ticket can email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk to place themselves on a standby list should there be any unwanted tickets.



LUTON TOWN v KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS

The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 28th DECEMBER 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



LUTON TOWN v BARNET

The Skrill Premier

WEDNESDAY 1st JANUARY 2014, KICK-OFF 12 NOON

Please note the change in kick-off time for this match. This game will be screened live on BT Sport.

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

LUTON TOWN THIS CHRISTMAS

HALF SEASON TICKET

GUARANTEE
YOUR SPOT FOR
THE PROMOTION
PUSH!



SNAP UP ONE OF OUR
HALF SEASON TICKETS TODAY,
ADULT TICKETS FROM £175 AND JUNIORS FROM £24.

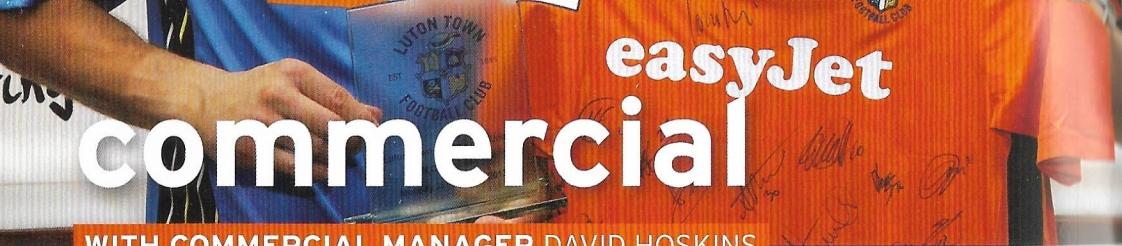
CONTACT THE TICKET OFFICE FOR A FULL PRICE LIST ON 01582 416976

FIVE GAME BOOKLET VOUCHER

FOR JUST £81 BE PART OF THE ACTION FOR ANY
5 HOME LEAGUE GAMES HERE
AT KENILWORTH ROAD
THIS SEASON.

SAVING YOURSELF
£9 IN THE PROCESS.





commercial

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

A big welcome back to Kenilworth Road to all of our corporate guests and sponsors this afternoon.

We have the pleasure of welcoming a match, ball and programme sponsor to today's game as well seven mascots. It's been a very exciting and busy time for us and we were delighted with the turnout at our recent dinner with Malcolm Macdonald last week. Photographs of the night can be found on the opposite page.

MATCH SPONSOR

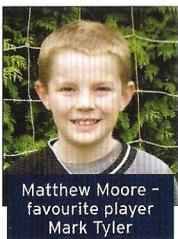
AUTOTECH CONTROLS LTD

Autotech supplies control solutions for the automated manufacturing and distribution systems behind many of Britain's leading brands. Based in Silsoe, Autotech has delivered leading-edge control and robotic solutions for many successful companies including Amazon, BAA, BAE Systems, Bentley, Cadbury, Coca-Cola, Ford, Jaguar Land Rover, Procter & Gamble and UPS. For more information visit www.autotech.co.uk.

PROGRAMME SPONSOR



It is with pleasure we also welcome GP NOW our official programme sponsors GP Now to Kenilworth Road, who wish the Hatters all the very best of luck today and for the rest of the season. For more information visit www.gpnow.ie.



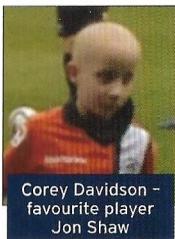
Matthew Moore -
favourite player
Mark Tyler



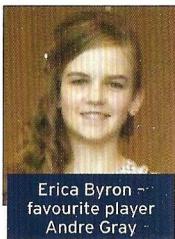
Jack Sutton -
favourite player
Mark Tyler



Oliver Watkins -
favourite player
Andre Gray



Corey Davidson -
favourite player
Jon Shaw



Erica Byron -
favourite player
Andre Gray

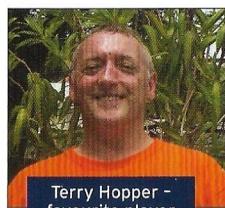


MATCH BALL SPONSOR

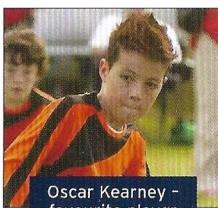
ALBERT STRONELL

Albert is here with family today celebrating his 98th birthday by being the official match ball Sponsors. We hope you have a fantastic day!

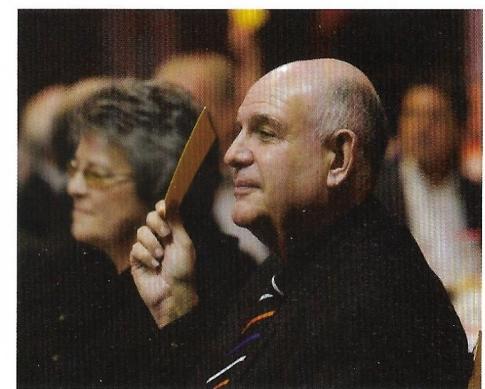
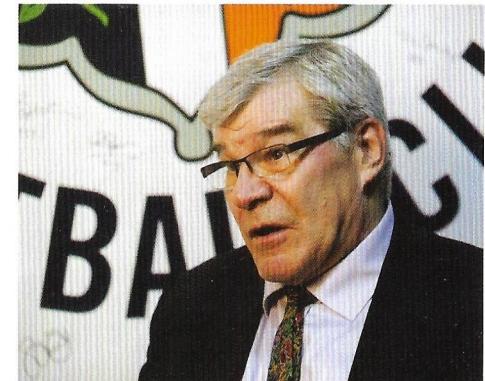
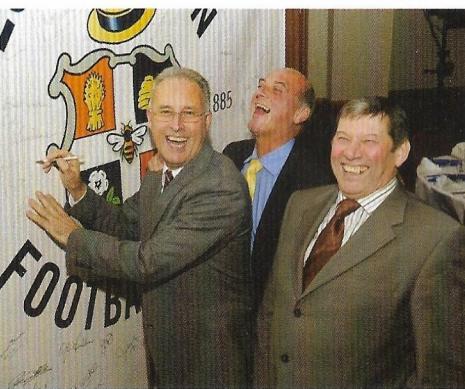
COMMERCIAL MASCOTS



Terry Hopper -
favourite player
Malcolm Macdonald



Oscar Kearney -
favourite player
Andre Gray



EXECUTIVE BOX HOLDERS

6:

G.P. QUOREENTON

10: Fascel Group

fascel
group

11: CES ELECTRICAL

CES Electrical Ltd

12: EASYJET

easyJet

13: BARTHAM GROUP

bartham group
media • design • print

14: T.J. ALDRIDGE

A

15: PICTONS SOLICITORS/ DOT GROUP INT'L

PIctons
PICTONS SOLICITORS LTD

DOT group
international

16: PRESTIGE DESIGN

Prestige
Design & Workwear Ltd

17: SHALLOWFORD UK

SHALLOWFORD
CONSULTING

18: CME HEATING

CME
Heating Ltd

19: MARKYATE

MARKYATE

20: VAUXHALL

Gilmartins

24:

ROB & GREG HALL

25: MIDDLE EAST CHEMICALS

MIDDLE EAST
CHEMICALS LTD

27: SKF

SKF

TRANSFER NEWS:

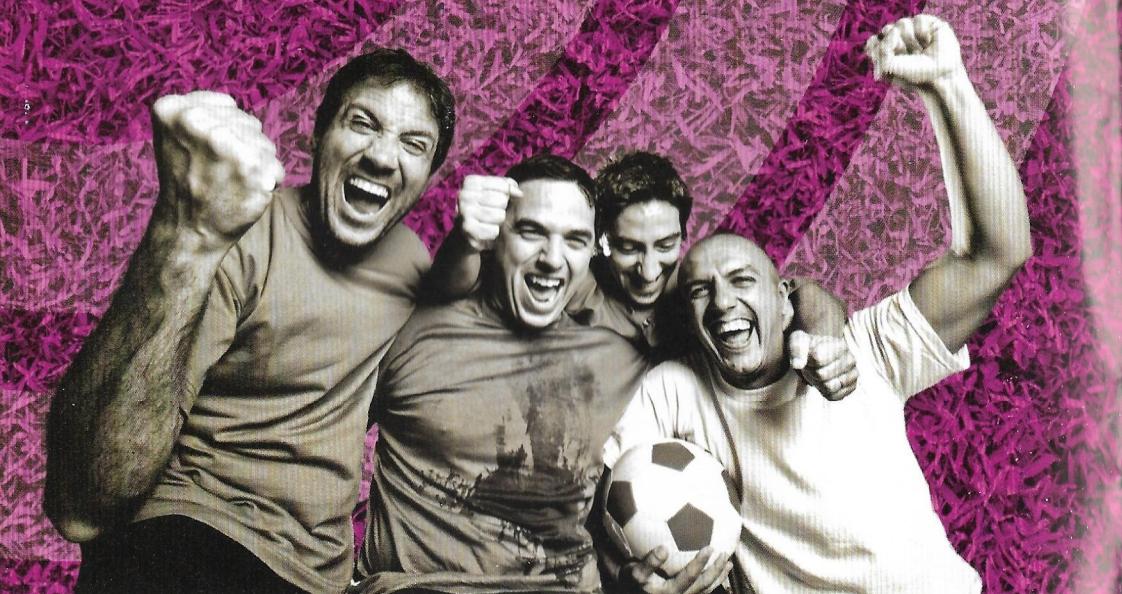
Say hello to the latest Conference signing.

Skrill.

Skrill is the proud new sponsor of the Conference leagues.

We enable you to make online payments conveniently and securely without revealing your personal financial data, as well as sending and receiving money online instantly and cost-effectively.

Whenever you want to pay or play faster, Skrill is your first choice.



Skrill

Find out more about Skrill. www.skrill.com/football

kitsponsors

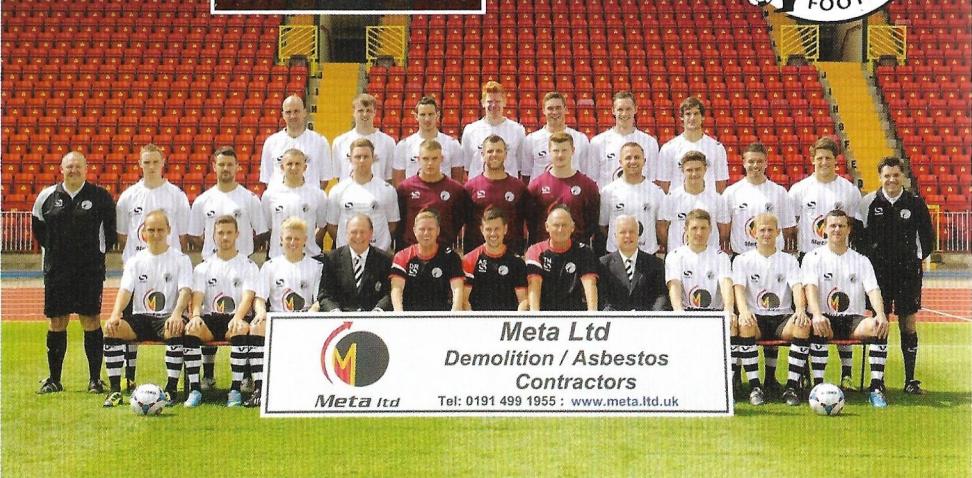
2013/14



1 MARK TYLER	HOME: Tim Fordham AWAY: Whosh GLOVES: Kyle McPherson	3 DANNY FITZSIMONS	HOME: Available AWAY: Available
4 JONATHAN SMITH	HOME: Holly Kemp AWAY: Available	5 STEVE McNULTY	HOME: Simon Cowlard AWAY: Whosh
6 ANTHONY CHARLES	HOME: Matt Crossland AWAY: Bobbers Travel Club	7 ALEX LAWLESS	HOME: David Goode AWAY: Gill, Julie and Yvonne
8 SOLOMON TAIWO	HOME: Jonathan Perry AWAY: Available	9 JON SHAW	HOME: Jacqui Peacock AWAY: Maddie Knight
10 ALEX WALL	HOME: Ben & Richard Banks AWAY: Available	11 JAKE HOWELLS	HOME: Neil Ehrenzweig AWAY: Sports 262 & lutontownfans.co.uk
12 SCOTT GRIFFITHS	HOME: CME Heating AWAY: Ben Gray	13 MARK CULLEN	HOME: Peter & Linda Little AWAY: Mad Hatter
14 ANDY PARRY	HOME: The Walsh Family from Marbella AWAY: Available	15 ELLIOT JUSTHAM	HOME: Available AWAY: Tommy Lennon GLOVES: Zak Harford Tilley
16 JJ O'DONNELL	HOME: Kelly Knight AWAY: Available	17 LUKE GUTTRIDGE	HOME: Luton Outlaws AWAY: Luton Town Supporters club of Scandinavia
18 DAVE MARTIN	HOME: Ronnie Coles AWAY: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin	19 SHAUN WHALLEY	HOME: Re-Mark-It AWAY: Keyholder Lettings & Management
20 MATT ROBINSON	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	21 RONNIE HENRY	HOME: Mark Francome AWAY: Tommy Lennon
22 LUKE GUTTRIDGE	HOME: Luton Outlaws AWAY: Luton Town Supporters club of Scandinavia	23 PAUL BENSON	HOME: Ashby World Domination AWAY: The Mad Hatter
24 ANDRE GRAY	HOME: Tom AWAY: Jack Keenan	25 JAKE WOOLLEY	HOME: Total Motion Vehicle Management AWAY: Available
26 JIM STEVENSON	HOME: Luton Outlaws AWAY: Available	27 BRET LONGDEN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available
28 JEROME JIBODU	HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Available	29 JOHN STILL	HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Available
30 HAKAN HAYRETTIN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	31 TERRY HARRIS	HOME: Thompsons Accountants AWAY: Country Properties
32 ZANE BANTON	HOME: Loyal Luton AWAY: COYH	33 HAKAN HAYRETTIN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available
34 JOHN STILL	HOME: Thompsons Accountants AWAY: Country Properties	35 TERRY HARRIS	HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Available
36 HAKAN HAYRETTIN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	37 HAKAN HAYRETTIN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available

welcome

GATESHEAD



It is with great pleasure that we welcome everybody associated with Gateshead to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

The Tynesiders make the long trip south buoyed by a fantastic run of form which has taken them from the bottom four of the Skrill Premier to within touching distance of the Play-Off places.

It's fair to say the Heed's turn in fortunes has been down to one man: manager Gary Mills. The former York City boss, who has an excellent record against the Hatters, has transformed the Tynesiders' season.

The Heed began the campaign under Anth Smith but after three successive defeats he resigned. Another defeat and draw followed before the Tynesiders recorded their first victory of the campaign by winning at Woking in late August.

Mills took over the reins on 3rd September and since his appointment today's visitors haven't looked back and arrive at Kenilworth Road as one of the in-form teams in the Skrill Premier. Gateshead have won 10 of their last 15 league matches, losing four and drawing one. Looking back at the last nine games in the Skrill Premier, Mills' side have lost just once – a 3-2 defeat at Wrexham that saw the Dragons score a last-minute winner.

On the road the Tynesiders have yet to draw in league competition, winning six and losing five of their matches away from the International Stadium, with five of those victories coming in their last six matches on their travels.

The two sides only met last month in a goalless draw on Tyneside but overall the Hatters just edge the head-to-head record, and are unbeaten in games at Kenilworth Road. The Town, however, haven't beaten the Heed in the last four matches.

Last season the Tynesiders inflicted a 5-1 defeat on the Hatters at Carlisle United's Brunton Park, and that came eight months after the two clubs met on the opening day in a 2-2 draw at Kenilworth Road. That was a game that the Heed led 2-0 at one stage before the Hatters fought back to earn a point.

The Tynesiders ended last season in 17th place in the Conference but Mills' side look well-placed to better that this term. The former European Cup winner has a talented squad at his disposal with a blend of youth and experience and Premier League pedigree. A number of the squad began their careers in the academies at north east giants Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough.

Former Boro man Josh Walker has five goals to his name whilst fellow midfielder James Marwood, who came through the ranks at St James Park with Newcastle, also has five goals. In attack, experienced striker Colin Larkin also has five goals to his name.

There's no doubting the quality in the Heed squad and, with a man of Mills' experience at the helm, today's visitors will certainly fancy their chances of bringing the Hatters' unbeaten record at Kenilworth Road to an end this afternoon.

in opposition

MEET THE GATESHEAD SQUAD

THE MANAGER

GARY MILLS. Installed as Tynesiders boss in September, six games into this season. Won the European Cup as a player with Nottingham Forest, he has enjoyed a successful managerial career so far with spells in charge of Grantham, Notts County, Tamworth, Alfreton and York, helping the latter into the Football League.

GOALKEEPERS

ADAM BARTLETT. Local-born stopper who spent three years at Blyth Spartans following his release from Newcastle United. Spells at Kidderminster, Cambridge and Hereford followed before signing for the Heed last summer.

ALEX BAIRD. Young Australian keeper who signed in October. Started his career as a youngster at Derby before a move to Newcastle United and then Dundee north of the border.

DEFENDERS

CARL MAGNAY. Gateshead-born right-back who signed for the Heed in January 2012. Began his career as a youngster with Chelsea and has enjoyed loan spells at Northampton and MK Dons.

CRAIG BAXTER. Attacking full-back in his second spell with the Tynesiders. Racked up 269 games in six years before moving to Bedlington Terriers but re-signed last summer.

LUKE O'BRIEN. Left-back who arrived this summer following his release from Oxford. Began his career at Bradford, playing 149 games before a spell at Exeter.

LEWIS SIRRELL. Left-back currently on-loan from Championship club Middlesbrough. The highly-rated youngster was captain of the Boro youth team.

BEN CLARK. Captain. The centre-half was a 2010 arrival from Hartlepool and is now in his fourth season with the Tynesiders. Made 181 appearances for Pools having begun his career as a youngster at Sunderland.

JAMES CURTIS. The longest-serving member of the Heed squad having joined from Northern League side Washington in 2003. The towering centre-half has now made almost 500 appearances for the Tynesiders.

MIDFIELDERS

JAMIE CHANDLER. Central midfielder who joined the Heed from Darlington in January 2012 for a four-figure fee. Another former Sunderland youngster, he won the FA Trophy in 2011 and was named man-of-the-match.

PHIL TURNBULL. Skilful centre midfield player now in his second spell with the Tynesiders. Previously on the books at York and Hartlepool, he has been a regular in the Heed side for the past five seasons.

JOSH WALKER. Former Middlesbrough youngster who made his debut in the Premier League aged just 17 and scored in the UEFA Cup against Bayern Munich whilst at Aberdeen. Signed for Gateshead this year.

JAMES MARWOOD. Another former Newcastle trainee, attacking midfielder Marwood is the son of Brian. Having been released by the Magpies he signed for Gateshead in the summer of 2010.

JOHN OSTER. Former Wales international midfielder who signed for the Heed in September. Has made over 500 professional appearances following spells with Grimsby, Everton, Sunderland, Burnley, Reading and Palace.

STRIKERS

ADAM BOYES. England C international striker who signed in the summer from Barrow, who he had scored 40 goals in 99 games. Also played for York, Kidderminster and Boston.

LIAM HATCH. Experienced centre-forward who once spent a season-long loan at Kenilworth Road. Joined the Heed in January 2012 and has also represented Darlington, Barnet and Peterborough.

JAMES BROWN. Talented striker who returned to action late last season after injury. Previously on the books at Hartlepool where he had scored 37 times in 200 appearances.

COLIN LARKIN. Summer arrival and another ex-Hartlepool man. The striker started his career at Wolves before spells with Mansfield, Chesterfield and Northampton and then Hartlepool.

FOOTBALL

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

Gateshead arrive at Kenilworth Road extremely high on confidence today under boss Gary Mills after a fantastic run that has seen them rise up the table following a poor start to the 2013/14 Skrill Premier season which saw former manager Anth Smith leave the club midway through August.

How have they performed this season?

The Heed started the campaign with four consecutive defeats which resulted in Anth Smith resigning from his post.

Gary Mills came in on 3rd September when Gateshead were languishing down in 20th with just four points to their name and instantly turned the club's fortunes around. The Tynesiders have won 11 of their 15 league game with Mills at the helm and now find themselves in ninth position just two points off the Play-Off places. Furthermore, they are the third most in-form side in the division behind only the Town and Cambridge.

Keen football statisticians will be very aware of Gateshead's away record which is the third best in the division. To date, the Heed have won the most games of any team in the league away from home with six – four of which have come in their last six trips. What's more, they've only conceded five in those six games so we can expect to see some stubborn rearguard action here today.

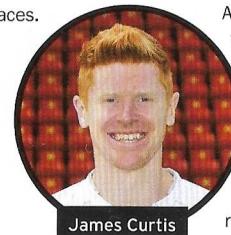
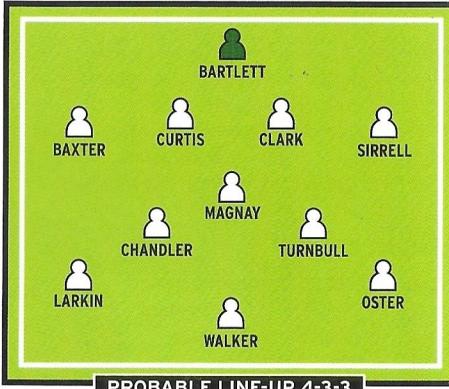
On a more positive note for the Hatters, Gateshead will be without Jordan Hugill who was on loan from Port Vale, and scored five goals in four matches for the Heed but has recently returned to his parent club.

How will they play?

Under former manager Ian Bogie, Gateshead were known for their attractive attacking game and current boss Gary Mills has taken the club back to that style of play. So we can expect to see an ambitious side that comes out to attack with a high-tempo approach.

How will they line up? Who are their key men?

Mills has tinkered with his side in recent weeks and has to reshuffle his deck often utilising the versatility of his players so it is difficult to predict the visitors' exact starting line-up. However, it is likely they will set out in a 4-3-3 formation.



James Curtis

Adam Bartlett will start in goal for the visitors. Towering centre-back James Curtis, who has been at the club for over 10 years and made over 450 appearances, will be partnered by Ben Clark who has captained England at five different age groups, including the under-20s. The attack-minded Craig Baxter will start at right-back with Middlesbrough loanee Lewis Sirrell at left-back.

In midfield, playmaker Phil Turnbull and box-to-box dynamo Jamie Chandler will look to run the show with a blend of technique and power, and may be anchored by Carl Magnay. Ahead of them, John Oster - the 35-year-old who has been capped 13 times by Wales and previously made a big move from Grimsby Town to Everton - will start on one flank with Colin Larkin, who has netted five times this season, operating on the other. Josh Walker, a midfielder-cum-striker, will lead the line.



club data

Established: 1889 (Reformed in 1977)

Nickname(s): The Heed, The Tynesiders

Stadium: Gateshead International Stadium

Capacity: 11,800 (Avg. attendance '13/14 – 618)

Manager: Gary Mills (Three months)

Final league position 12/13: 17th BSBP

back to the future

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

1982/83 NORTHERN PREMIER CHAMPIONS

KENNY DODDS: Goalkeeper who was ever-present Player of the Year in Gateshead's 1982/83 Northern Premier League title triumph, making 70 Conference appearances. He has settled in Spennymoor.

STEVE HIGGINS: Right-back who also featured in Gateshead's 1985/86 Northern Premier League title campaign. Settling in Whickham, he was a lorry driver before running his own trophy business.

GORDON HINDSON: Experienced left-back, converted from midfield, who became Consett's player-coach in January 1984, then manager. He worked in leisure centre management at Stanley and Newburn.

KEVIN PUGH: Former Newcastle United midfielder who returned to Football League action with Darlington in September 1983, then played for Belgian sides Charleroi and La Louviere, settling in Belgium.

LANCE JOBLING: Central defender who later played for Ferryhill and Hebburn. He was head of construction services for Gateshead Council until January 2010 and now helps Wallington Hall national trust.

DAVE PARNABY: Central defender who was a PE teacher for 22 years, then manager of Gateshead and England Under-15s. Now director of Middlesbrough's Academy, he is the father of Stuart Parnaby.

TERRY HIBBITT: Experienced midfielder who became player-coach in January 1983, then had a spell as manager. Later a newsagent and milkman, then a Ponteland publican, he died in August 1994.

TONY ROBINSON: Attacking midfielder who scored many important goals before joining Newcastle Blue Star, then had further spells at Gateshead. He has since been coach and manager at Hebburn.

JIM PEARSON: Top scorer who became North Shields' player-boss in June 1983, then returned to Gateshead. He coached Whitley Bay, Blyth Spartans and Gateshead, working in insurance, then for Nike.

BOB TOPPING: Striker who was sidelined by a serious leg injury for much of 1980/81. Leading marksman four times, he moved to Newcastle Blue Star in July 1984, settling in his native South Shields.

MARTIN HENDERSON: Winger who later appeared for Hebburn, Workington, Whitley Bay, Spennymoor United and Gretna. He settled on Tyneside and worked in insurance before becoming a driver.

2008/09 CONFERENCE NORTH PLAY-OFF WINNERS

PAUL MUSSELWHITE: Experienced goalkeeper with over 600 League appearances who became Lincoln City's goalkeeping coach in July 2009, then was York City's player-coach until March 2013.

CRAIG BAXTER: Ex-Newcastle United trainee who had joined Gateshead in July 2006 and was an influential figure before moving to Bedlington Terriers in July 2012. He rejoined Gateshead in June 2013.

PHIL CAVE: Former Newcastle United left-back who joined Livingston in July 2008. He returned to Gateshead in February 2009 and moved to Blyth Spartans in July 2010, since appearing for Ashington.

KRIS GATE: Ex-Newcastle United defender who failed to make an impact during three years at his hometown club and joined Gateshead in September 2007. He moved to Harrogate Town in June 2012.

JAMES CURTIS: Towering central defender who has been Player of the Year on three occasions. The longest serving player at the club, he has made over 450 appearances and is in his testimonial year.

CARL JONES: Former Hartlepool United and York City midfielder who had Football League experience. He moved to Blyth Spartans in June 2011 and has since played for Darlington 1883 and Shildon.

JAMIE HARWOOD: Much-travelled winger, previously with Crook and Worksop. He was loaned to Harrogate Town before joining Shildon in February 2010 and is currently playing for Bishop Auckland.

PHIL TURNBULL: Skilful midfielder who joined Gateshead for a second spell in February 2008, returning from York City. The influential playmaker has made almost 250 appearances for the Heed.

GRAEME ARMSTRONG: Striker who had appeared in Scottish football with Queen of the South and Annan Athletic. He joined Harrogate Town in August 2010 and has since played for Blyth Spartans.

LEE NOVAK: Striker who moved to Huddersfield Town for a club record £150,000 in January 2009. He was a key figure as the Terriers won promotion in 2011/12 and joined Birmingham City in July 2013.

WAYNE PHILLIPS: Ex-Sunderland youth winger who also appeared for Blyth Spartans and Whitley Bay. He joined Harrogate Town in July 2010, since playing for Blyth Spartans and Spennymoor United.

EXCLUSIVELY INCLUSIVE

JUST ADD FUEL® – THE ONLY PACKAGE TO INCLUDE 3 YEARS' INSURANCE[†]

107 ACTIVE
FROM £149[#] PER MONTH
WITH JUST ADD FUEL®

- AIR-CONDITIONING
- 65.7 MPG
- MP3 PLAYER CONNECTIVITY

208 ACCESS
FROM £169[#] PER MONTH
WITH JUST ADD FUEL®

- CRUISE CONTROL & SPEED LIMITER
- UP TO 65.7 MPG
- 5* EURO NCAP SAFETY RATING



3008 ACCESS
FROM £279[#] PER MONTH
WITH JUST ADD FUEL®

- AIR-CONDITIONING
- MULTI-FLEX INTERIOR AND SPLIT TAILGATE
- AUTOMATIC HANDBRAKE WITH HILL ASSIST



DRIVE AWAY HAPPY

Car insurance. It's a biggie. So why is it missing from other packages? Only Just Add Fuel includes comprehensive insurance with your monthly payments. So all you need to do is Just Add Fuel. And with great fuel economy across the Peugeot range, those trips to the petrol station will be few and far between. To arrange a test drive, simply contact us today.

MOTION & EMOTION



HARTWELL PEUGEOT DUNSTABLE

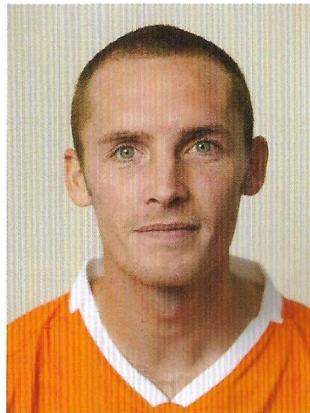
77-87 London Road, DUNSTABLE, LU6 3DT Tel: 01582 443523
www.dunstable-peugeot.co.uk

The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the: **107 range:** Urban 52.3 – 55.4 (5.4 – 5.1), Extra Urban 70.7 – 74.3 (4.0 – 3.8), Combined 62.8 – 65.7 (4.5 – 4.3) and CO2 104 – 99. **208 range:** Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO2 135 – 87. **3008 range:** Urban 28.2 – 72.4 (10.0 – 3.9), Extra Urban 48.7 – 76.3 (5.8 – 3.7), Combined 38.7 – 74.4 (7.3 – 3.8), CO2 172 – 99.
MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.
† Terms and conditions apply – participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk. To finance your [lease/purchase] we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders.

a hatter and...

...A TYNESIDER

LIAM HATCH



in the following game but in the next game, away to Cambridge, the striker didn't see out the first 45 minutes after he was sent-off for a second bookable offence. The Town would eventually go on and record a famous 4-3 win despite their numerical disadvantage.

It wasn't until the end of January that Hatch registered his first Luton goal, which came against his former club Ebbsfleet in a disappointing 3-2 defeat at Kenilworth Road. His second goal for the Town came in the next match, a trademark header to earn a 1-0 win at Barrow. The forward went onto score twice more, in victories over Hayes and Grays, before returning to parent club Posh in the summer.

After his release from London Road Hatch signed for Darlington – coming back to haunt the Hatters by scoring in a 2-2 draw the following season – and then signed for Gateshead – naturally scoring in both games against the Hatters.

LIAM HATCH STATISTICS:

LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 21

LUTON TOWN GOALS: 4

FIRST APPEARANCE: v Barrow (h) W 1-0 12/9/09

FIRST GOAL: v Ebbsfleet (h) L 2-3 30/1/10

LAST APPEARANCE: v York (h) L 0-1 3/5/10

Two centre-forwards have served the Town and the Tynesiders and both are in opposing squads today.

The Hatters have former Heed man Jon Shaw in their ranks whilst our visitors have Liam Hatch in theirs.

Hatch joined the Hatters on a season-long loan in 2009/10 from Peterborough United, the club's first season in the Conference. It was expected that the rangy striker would form a partnership with Tom Craddock in attack but, after a promising pre-season, Hatch picked up an injury and didn't make his debut until an appearance as a substitute against Barrow at Kenilworth Road in September.

Hatch made his full debut in a 3-0 defeat at Wrexham

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Today will be the 12th time the two clubs have met and, despite not winning any of the previous four meetings, the Town hold the better head-to-head record.

The Heed's 5-1 win last term was their second over the Hatters, the previous victory coming at the International Stadium in 2010 when a certain Jon Shaw headed the only goal of the game.

The Town dished out a 5-1 win of their own over the Tynesiders back in October 2011. Shaw got the Heed's consolation on a day the Hatters ran riot with Jake Howells and Jamie Hand both scoring twice and Aaron O'Connor also on target.

The Town's last win over the Tynesiders came in a third round FA Trophy tie at Kenilworth Road in February 2012 but, interestingly, the Heed have twice led 2-0 only to be pegged back in two 2-2 draws in league fixtures at Kenilworth Road.

In January 2011 Kris Gate's strike and an own goal from Howells put Gateshead 2-0 up before goals from Danny Crow and Claude Gnaka earned the Town a share of the spoils.

And the Hatters came back from two goals down on the opening day of last season. That man Liam Hatch fired the Heed ahead before Yemi Odubade doubled the lead 10 minutes before half-time. Then-Town boss Paul Buckle introduced Shaw at the break and his goal shortly after the hour got his new team in it before Stuart Fleetwood's equaliser 10 minutes later earned the Hatters a point.

from the ~~oak~~ road

Kenilworth

Having finished five points above the drop-zone in 2012/13 and after a sluggish start this term, a season of struggle looked likely for Gateshead. But as Heed fan Ross Black explains, the Tynesiders are now playing a controlled passing game which has seen them shoot up the table - and it's been inspired by a manager who has got one over the Hatters on more than one occasion...

TALK OF THE TOWN: When the sides played each other on the opening day of last season, Ian Bogie had been in charge for five years. Had he taken Gateshead as far as he could? Are you surprised things haven't worked out for him since?

ROSS: Ian Bogie did fantastically well for Gateshead during his tenure at the club. However, after our highest placed finish in the Conference Premier, he decided to make too many wholesale changes to our squad and the players he brought in were simply below the quality we needed. I was really shocked to see the run Stockport went on earlier his season while he was in charge of them in the Skrill North, especially as he took Gateshead out of that league via the Play-Offs. However, I do sympathise with him due to the current turmoil they seem to be facing in the boardroom.

TOTT: Please assess the impact Gary Mills has had since taking the Gateshead hotseat. What changes has he made to both your playing style and also personnel wise?

ROSS: Since Gary Mills took charge of Gateshead, the whole mentality and playing philosophy of the club has changed. From the first game against Hereford United, it was evident to see that he likes to play football on the ground and to be in control of the game. He has reinstated wingers to the side to expand the style of play

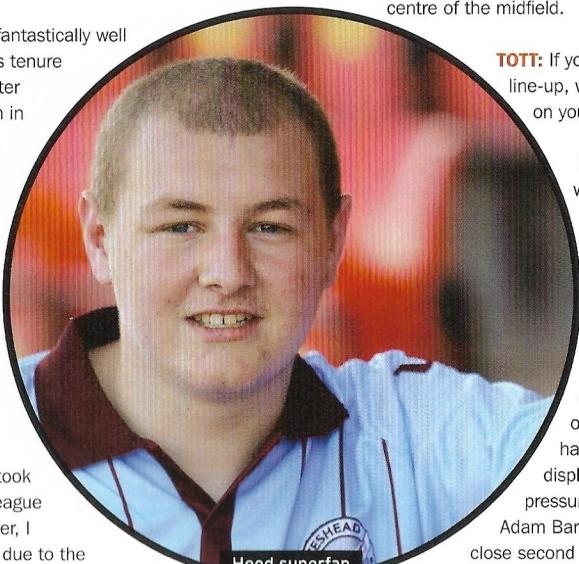
when we need to have a go at sides. James Marwood, who had been hit and miss at the club for the past two seasons, was put straight in to the line-up and has never looked back. Mills' only permanent signing, Jon Oster, has real class and has remained an ever present in the centre of the midfield.

TOTT: If you could pick the Heed line-up, who would be first name on your team sheet and why?

ROSS: With the way we have played this season and with many top quality individual performances, it is tough to really pick one player out. But if I had to be exceptionally picky, I'd choose club captain Ben Clark. His organisation at centre half and his commanding displays at the back eases pressure on our goalkeeper Adam Bartlett, who would be a close second to Clark.

TOTT: What's the best game you've seen involving your side this season and which team has impressed you the most?

ROSS: The best game was without a doubt Alfreton at home. From the first minute, we dominated but just couldn't find that first half goal. However, in the second half we threw the kitchen sink at them. It finished 3-0, but like many other games at home, especially against Dartford, it could have been a much bigger scoreline. Kidderminster Harriers have impressed me the most. They have a solid defence and with Michael Gash upfront you always know they have goals in their side.



Heed superfan
Ross Black

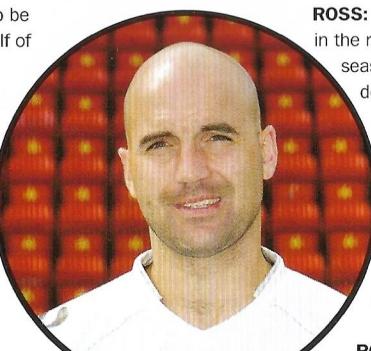


Home of the Heed: The International Stadium

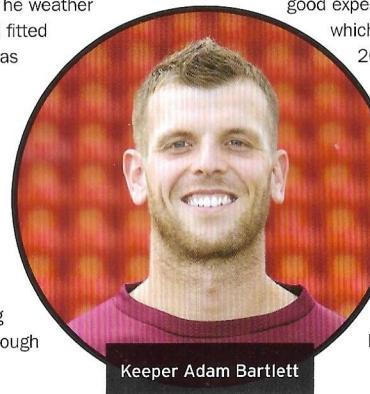
TOTT: What was it like to be nomads for the second half of last season – playing your 'home' games at places like Carlisle, York and Hartlepool? Do you feel similar problems will resurface with the International Stadium's pitch this season? What's the long-term solution?

ROSS: It was extremely disappointing and tedious. The club received a lot of harsh criticism from other clubs in the league but we couldn't do anything at all to stop it. The weather was horrific and when Gateshead Council fitted the new system it had a clear flaw that was not picked up. However, that has been sorted out and our pitch has already had to endure some downpours and snow. No game in the world would have gone ahead with the rain that led to our game in the FA Cup against Oxford being postponed.

TOTT: You're not far off the Play-Off places – can you see Gary Mills repeating what he did at York and taking you up through the Play-Offs this season?



Gateshead skipper
Ben Clark



Keeper Adam Bartlett

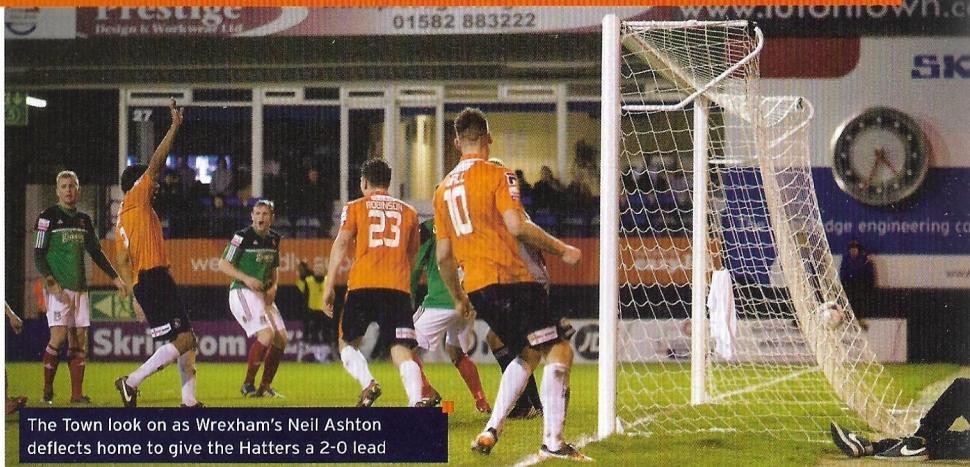
ROSS: I think we certainly have a side that can be in the running for a Play-Off spot at the end of the season – however, my only concern is that we do not have a natural goalscorer upfront. We haven't really replaced Jon Shaw. If we can get a goalscoring striker in our side, I really believe we will challenge and, if we make it to the top five, we have a manager who knows what it takes to win and get promotion.

TOTT: How would you assess England's draw for the World Cup finals?

ROSS: I think England were drawn in a very tough group. Uruguay are a good side with the excellent talent of Luis Suarez, who can give any defender in the world nightmares. Italy are a side with good experience. However, an England side which in my opinion was poorer in the

2012 European Championships took the Italians to a penalty shoot-out – that must give us hope. In all fairness, I don't really know much about Costa Rica. But one thing that will be on their side for sure is that they will be able to adapt to the humid conditions quicker than England, who are used to the European environment.

TOWN 2-0 WREXHAM



The Town look on as Wrexham's Neil Ashton deflects home to give the Hatters a 2-0 lead

A side showing 10 changes following last weekend's 5-0 win at Alfreton maintained the winning thread as the Hatters knocked out FA Trophy holders Wrexham at Kenilworth Road.

Two goals from corners swung into the box by former Dragon Shaun Whalley did the damage – Mark Cullen heading the first before Neil Ashton's second half own-goal – as the Hatters won for the eighth successive match on home soil in all competitions.

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu was the sole survivor of the Town's starting XI from the previous week but the Town showed few signs of inexperience as they dominated throughout to book a third round spot on 11th January.

The Hatters started well and, after Whalley's shot was kept out by Wrexham goalkeeper Andy Coughlin on 10 minutes, the winger set-up the opener. His left-wing corner arched towards the backpost and Cullen, having lost his marker, guided a header into the back of the net for his sixth goal of the campaign.

A goal to the good the Hatters were playing some terrific football going forward and Alex Wall was mighty close to doubling the lead on 20 minutes when he saw a shot blocked with force from the Wrexham defence at the end of a fine flowing move.

The Town came even closer two minutes later. Ian Rees, at 17 the youngest player on the pitch, almost capped a full debut to remember when his left-foot shot was deflected onto the foot of the post.

It was chance-a-minute stuff as the Hatters continued to press. Cullen volleyed wide on 25 minutes, Matt Robinson sent a shot scuttling wide a moment later before Ruddock rifled a shot from distance into the arms of Coughlin on 28 minutes. By the time of the half-hour mark the Town's

dominance was epitomised by the corner count: 8-0 in their favour.

Wrexham had barely threatened Elliot Justham's goal in the first 45 minutes and the Town almost snatched a second before the break but neither Cullen nor Wall could get on the end of captain Jake Howells' dangerous, low left-wing cross.

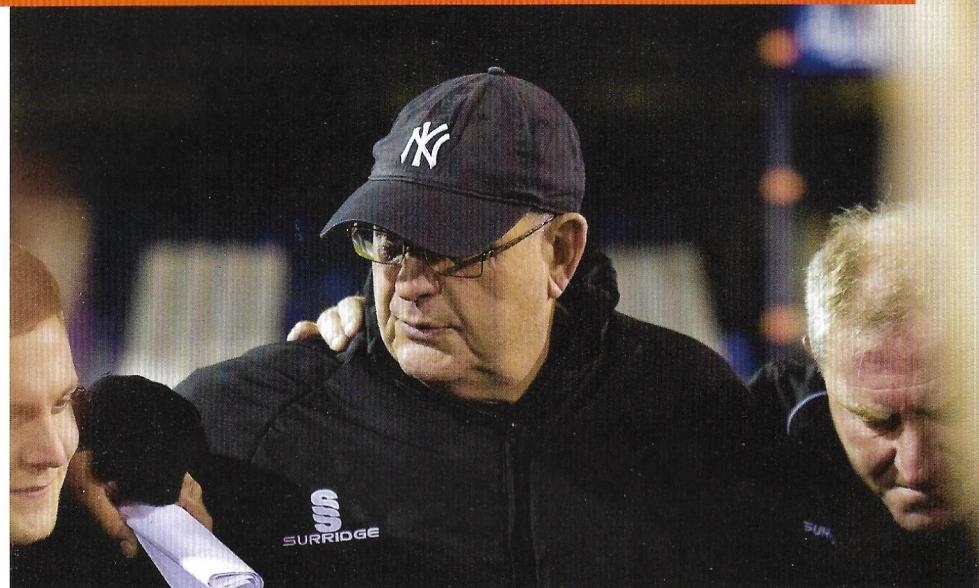
In front at the break the Hatters thought they'd doubled their lead a minute into the second half but Wall's strike was ruled out for offside, but slowly Wrexham worked their way back into the tie and Johnny Hunt's vicious drive was well-blocked by Joe Davis. However, back came the Hatters, and on the hour Wall was denied a tap-in when a last-ditch interception from Wrexham defender Leon Clowes cut-out Robinson's low cross.

But on 65 minutes the visitors' task was made tougher by the dismissal of midfielder Jay Harris, who trudged off for an early bath after picking up a second yellow card following a nasty challenge on Robinson.

Despite their numerical disadvantage, Wrexham upped the ante. Player/manager Andy Morrell introduced himself as a substitute and within moments of his introduction, strike partner Andy Bishop headed wide from a left-wing corner. However, with 12 minutes left the Town made the tie safe. Whalley's corner from the right took a deflection off of Ashton, giving Coughlin no chance, to give the Hatters some breathing space.

Ashton came close to making amends with a header at the right end on 86 minutes but Anthony Charles, who completed the full 90 minutes in his first appearance back since late October, cleared the ball off of the line and that was the final chance as the Town completed a comfortable win to maintain their fine recent record.

TOWN 2-0 WREXHAM



John Still hopes the Town can get all the way to Wembley in the FA Trophy after a side showing 10 changes knocked out holders Wrexham.

A Mark Cullen header and an own goal from the visitors' Neil Ashton sent a young Hatters side through into the last 16 of the competition.

"It was a terrific performance and they'll get another chance in the next round," confirmed the manager. "It's a great opportunity for them and I hope we can get all the way to Wembley."

"I said to the players that I would pick a team that I thought would be able to win and the players did that."

"In fairness it could have been more than 2-0 but Wrexham are the holders, and they're a good side but I'm obviously delighted."

"It was a great performance and I'm expecting to be busy on Monday. I should have people banging on my door wanting to know when they're getting a chance in the first team."

"It was absolutely terrific. I've said all along that I want to try and develop a young group of players here and that's what we've done."

"I thought they were more than worthy of winning, I really did. I thought 1-0 at half time was an injustice as we were better than that."

"I made a point to the players, one thing I couldn't do, my profession doesn't allow me, is pick a team that I think will lose."

"I've got to pick a team I believe will win, and I believed the team I picked would win, and it did."

"It's easy to say that now, but I really believed that the team could win. I thought it had enough about it, had lots of energy, enough pace, enough raw talent and I just felt that for most of the game we were in control."

Following such an impressive display against a full-strength Wrexham side out to defend their Trophy, the manager is now faced with plenty of selection headaches.

"Would I expect anyone to be knocking on my door? The answer to that is 100 per cent yes," said Still.

"I'd be disappointed if one, two, three, four, five, even six didn't say, 'what more could I do'?"

"What it does is it reminds people who have a shirt in the first team how hard they've got to work to keep it. It reminds them, people are bashing the door down now."

"Lots of these people will be around it between now and Christmas and the fantastic feeling for me is that the squad is so strong, but the age of it is young. The key is it's going to get better."

First team coach Hakan Hayrettin added: "This result and performance gave me as much joy as last week's result at Alfreton."

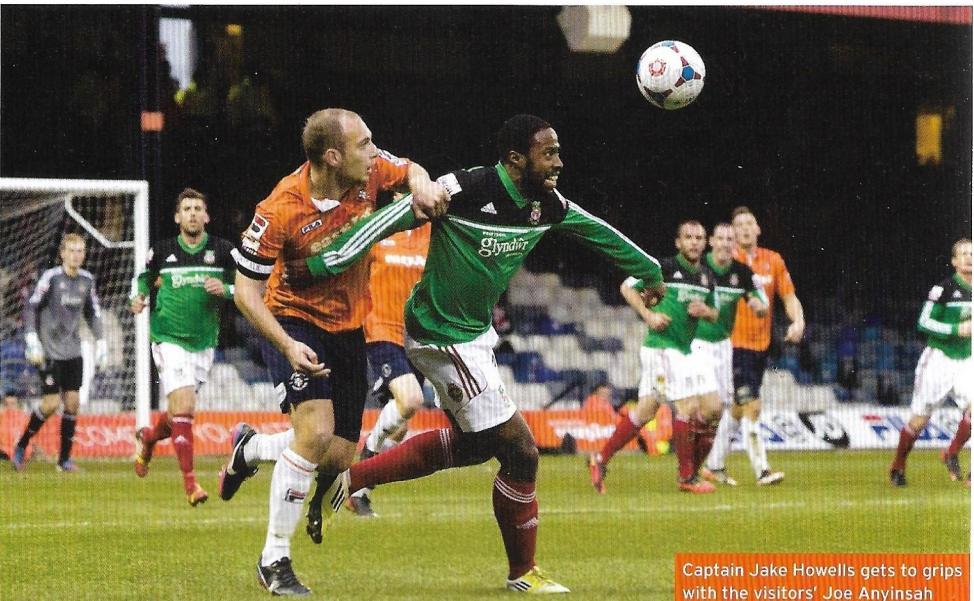
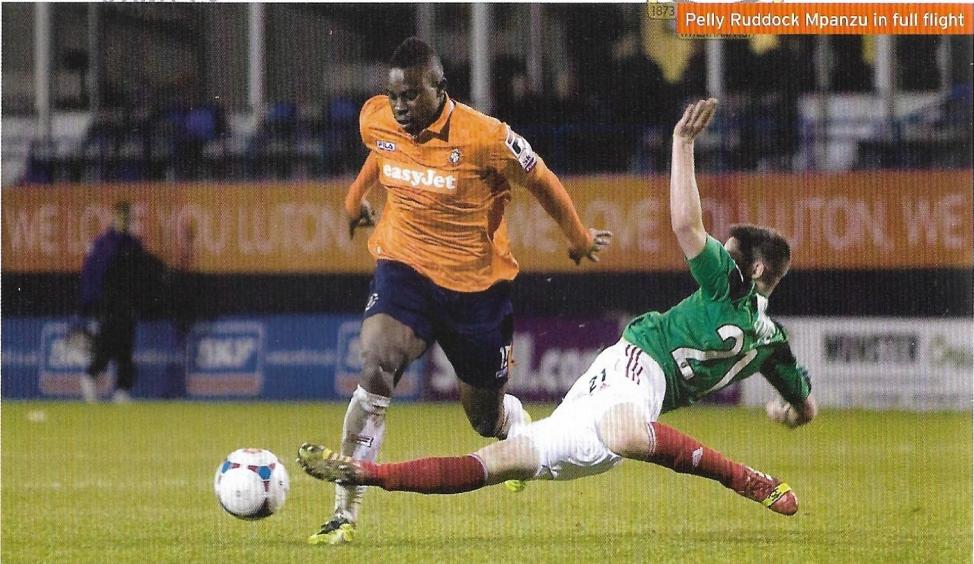
"The development of the young players was a plus and seeing Anthony Charles and Alex Wall play for so long was a plus. It's all very positive for Luton Town Football Club."

TOWN 2-0 WREXHAM

Cullen 15, Ashton (og) 78



1873 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu in full flight



Captain Jake Howells gets to grips with the visitors' Joe Anyinsah

TOWN: Justham; Longden, Howells, Davis, Charles, Ruddock Mpanzu, Robinson, Rees; Whalley, Wall (sub Banton 85), Cullen. **SUBS NOT USED:** Smith, Amu, Chabata, King.

WREXHAM: Coughlin, Carrington, Wright, Clowes, Ashton, Clarke, Harris, Keates (sub Evans 74), Anyinsah (sub Ogleby 60), Bishop, Hunt (sub Morrel 71). **SUBS NOT USED:** Tomassen, Mayebi.



Mark Cullen shields the ball from his man

POSSESSION	60%	40%
CORNERS	14	2
SHOTS ON TARGET	6	2
SHOTS OFF TARGET	8	3

FOULS	5	10
YELLOW CARDS	1	1
RED CARDS	0	1

ATTENDANCE: 1,617 (89 WREXHAM)



“WE LOVE APPRENTICESHIPS WE DO”

“OHH APPRENTICESHIPS WE LOVE YOU”

**BARBERING / CONSTRUCTION BUILDING / DOMESTIC HEATING /
ELECTRICAL / ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION /
EXERCISE & FITNESS / PLUMBING / VEHICLE & BODY PAINT /
+ MANY MORE**



***96 %**

SUCCESS RATES

*Subject to EV. Based on 2012 data

**THINK BIG THINK BARNFIELD
01582 569 569**

WWW.COLLEGE.BARNFIELD.AC.UK

Matt Robinson

ROBINSON EYEING TROPHY GLORY

The Town are just three wins away from a Wembley final in the FA Trophy and midfielder Matt Robinson believes the competition is there to be won.

The Hatters booked their place in the third round by knocking out holders Wrexham last Saturday with Robinson voted man-of-the-match for his display in the heart of midfield.

Manager John Still has entrusted a group of players he thinks is capable of going all the way in the competition and Robinson shared his boss' hopes of a successful run in the competition.

“I think the Wrexham result speaks for itself,” the 20-year-old told Talk of the Town. “To take on the holders and give a performance like that and to be on top like we were for the whole game shows that anybody can fit into the first team.

“Can this group win the FA Trophy? Yes. Simply yes. We showed in the second game against Staines that we were showing signs of what we were capable of. We played some good football in that game and continued that against Wrexham.

Incredible

“We’ve knocked out the holders so I don’t see why we can’t win it.

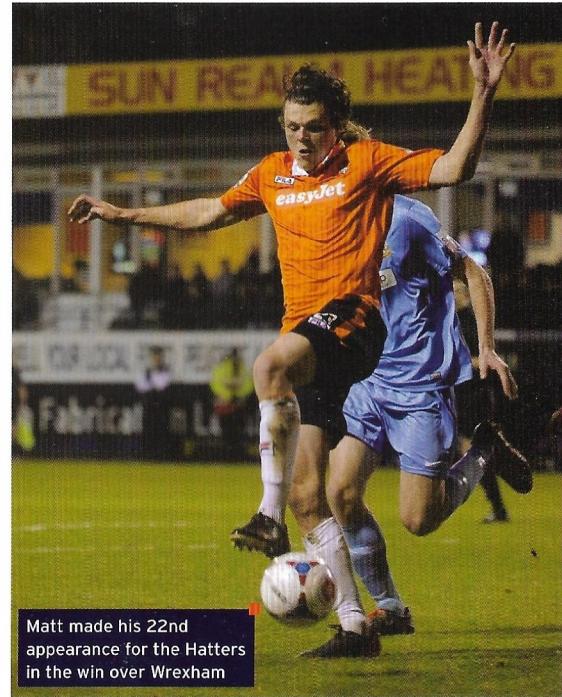
“It’s every kid’s dream to play at Wembley and, if we did, it would be incredible. And, if not, it’s a case of keep doing what we’re doing.”

Whilst the Town made 10 changes to the side that beat Alfreton 5-0 the week before, Wrexham on the other hand fielded an experienced team and made just two changes to a side that came close to beating League 2 leaders Oxford in the FA Cup in their last match.

That difference in personnel was one thing Robinson thought helped the Hatters last Saturday.

“Playing against a more experienced team worked in our favour,” said the former Leicester youngster. “Usually you’re told to watch out for this player and I don’t think they knew too much about us. There’s not much information on us available.

“That gives us a bit of licence to do what you want, and I think our players and our subsequent performance was an element of surprise. I don’t think Wrexham knew what to expect.



Matt made his 22nd appearance for the Hatters in the win over Wrexham

“We’ve got a lot of young, talented players and together with some more experienced heads I thought we did really well and there’s no doubt that we deserved the win.”

The manager admitted after the victory that he expects those players involved in the Wrexham victory to start knocking his office door down and demanding a start.

With a busy festive period of fixtures coming up, those who helped slay the Dragons have done their chances no harm of breaking into the first team squad.

“We’ve said it all season that if you’re playing well in these games, or development games, then the manager will give you a chance,” added Robinson. “It’s important that when these games arise you take the opportunity.

“At this time of year the games are coming thick and fast so you need to make sure you’re ready to go if and when you’re given that chance.”

Choose our museum shops for your Christmas gifts this year!

With a broad range of unique and unusual gifts, Stockwood Discovery Centre and Wardown Park Museum will give you plenty of inspiration for Christmas.

Fantastic gifts for everyone including educational toys, jewellery, toiletries, local history books and souvenirs.



10% off with your Luton Culture Card. Have a look for the Culture Card symbol on your library card - you may already be a Culture Card holder and not know it!

Every purchase supports Luton Culture. Terms and conditions apply.

Wardown Park Museum | Old Bedford Rd | Luton | LU2 7HA

Stockwood Discovery Centre | London Rd | Luton | LU4 4LX

www.lutonculture.com

Arts Libraries & Museums
Luton Culture

Anthony Charles

CHARLES DELIGHT AT TOWN RETURN

Last Saturday's FA Trophy victory over Wrexham gave many players a big sense of satisfaction but none more so than defender Anthony Charles.

The two-time winner of the Football Conference during his spells with Barnet and Aldershot signed for the Hatters in the summer with the intention of adding to his medal collection.

However, a string of niggling injuries restricted the 32-year-old to just four appearances for his latest club prior to the weekend victory over the Dragons.

Having been out for a part of pre-season Charles came back for the opening home game of the campaign against Salisbury, only to suffer a dislocated shoulder.

It was an injury that kept him out until returning in October, but no sooner had he helped the Hatters to a 1-0 win at Woking in the FA Cup he was out again until his return to action last weekend that saw the Hatters knock out the Trophy holders.

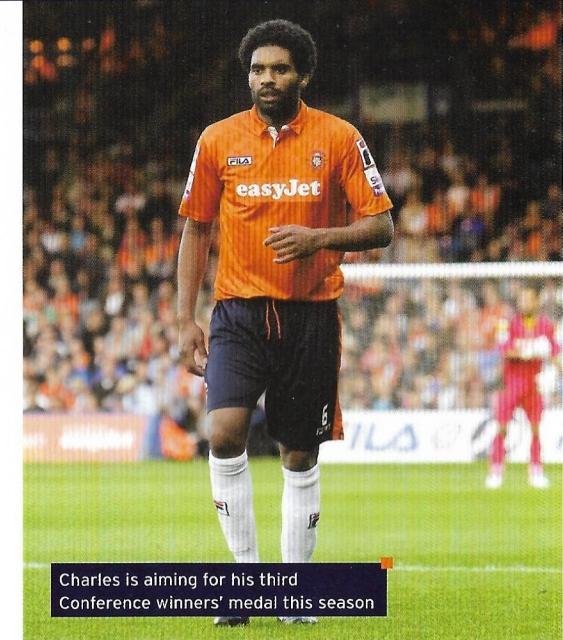
"For the team to win, keep a clean sheet and progress in the competition is the main thing but, from a personal point of view, to get 90 minutes after a stop-start beginning to this season, is the best thing for me," Charles told Talk of the Town.

"I've been playing football for a long time and luckily I've been okay with injuries, however this season has been the worst. This season's not really got going and it's disappointing because as a player you always want to contribute and I haven't contributed as much as I'd like to.

"Players don't like being injured and being unable to train. But to get through 90 minutes against Wrexham it's now all about managing my body properly and making sure I'm involved for the rest of the season."

With the season at its half-way point, Charles believes the injuries are now well behind him as the Town aim to overhaul leaders Cambridge in the title race.

"The shoulder injury was the one that set me back most," admitted the centre-half. "When I came back my body almost forgot what it was like to get through games and training, such was the intensity. I felt as though I wasn't offering any worth to the team whilst I was out injured, but to come back now is a big plus."



Charles is aiming for his third Conference winners' medal this season

"There is still the second half of the season to play and if I can contribute then I'll be happy and so will the manager."

Charles was the oldest Town players on the pitch in the win over Wrexham as the Hatters booked their place in the last 16 of the Trophy.

And after such an impressive all-round display, Charles thinks the result will have a huge effect on the club.

"We were facing a team in Wrexham who are always strong and always expected to do well in the Conference," said Charles. "They were the holders and we knocked them out. We've got a core group of players in our squad who can be put together in any competition."

"The result will give the gaffer a headache and I'm sure he's happy to have that because the boys did really well."

"There's a big bulk of games coming up and it's an important period when you need the whole of your squad."

"A lot of the boys will come away from the Wrexham result thinking to themselves 'I've done myself some good here' and it's just a case of building on that now."

centre spot

The Town celebrate the second goal
against Wrexham last Saturday



the big interview

AFTER ARRIVING LAST SEASON FROM TODAY'S VISITORS GATESHEAD, JON SHAW HAD PLANNED TO BE CELEBRATING PROMOTION BY NOW. WHILE THAT HASN'T MATERIALISED YET, THE STRIKER TELLS TALK OF THE TOWN OF HIS DETERMINATION TO HELP THE HATTERS ACHIEVE THAT THIS SEASON.

You wait your whole career to be part of a successful winning team and then injury strikes. It's fair to say the season so far hasn't been an easy one for Jon Shaw.

A hernia ruled the striker out of the opening day defeat of the season at Southport before he was drafted in to fill a void in attack in the Town's next four matches, leading the line admirably despite some obvious discomfort.

With the subsequent hernia op done and dusted his recovery was quick. Within three weeks the centre-forward was back in training but, after just a fortnight, his luck took a turn for the worse once more and a torn calf muscle put pay to a return to first team action. A number of set-backs later and a return against former employers Gateshead looks a long shot this afternoon.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel and the 30-year-old is on the road to recovery.

And, while he admits the season so far has been a frustrating one, he's desperate to fulfil the promotion dream he had when he first arrived at Kenilworth Road last summer.

Frustrating

"It's been the worst time of my career for injuries, I've never had a spell like it," admits Shaw. "It's been inexplicable and so frustrating. I've waited my whole career to play in a team like this and I'm sitting on the sidelines. But I couldn't be happier for the lads. We've got a fantastic squad and I'm supportive of them. I want to be part of it and I want to come back and be in contention to do that. That's the aim once I'm fighting fit."

No footballer likes being injured and Shaw is, naturally, no different. Luckily, however, the striker has had the support from a lot of people from inside the club during his time out of the first team limelight.

"I've had my moments when I've felt down, especially with the recurrence of this calf injury," Shaw says. "It's tested me, but Simon Parsell, the physio, has been brilliant and Dave Richardson, the fitness coach, the manager, the staff and all the lads have been great.

"You can be struggling sometimes when you get a set-back but there's always a time when someone in the dressing room will do something daft and you have a

laugh and a joke. The best thing for me, though, is going home to my wife and children, and I think overall I deal with it well. I've always been mentally strong but that's football, it tests you.

"The backing I've received has been great and it reminds me of a time I had at Rochdale, when I was 24. I tore a hamstring which kept recurring much to me and my manager's frustration. He wasn't so supportive, he just wanted me fit and he couldn't understand why I wasn't. That made that hard for me to deal with but I've had the full backing of everyone here which has been fantastic."

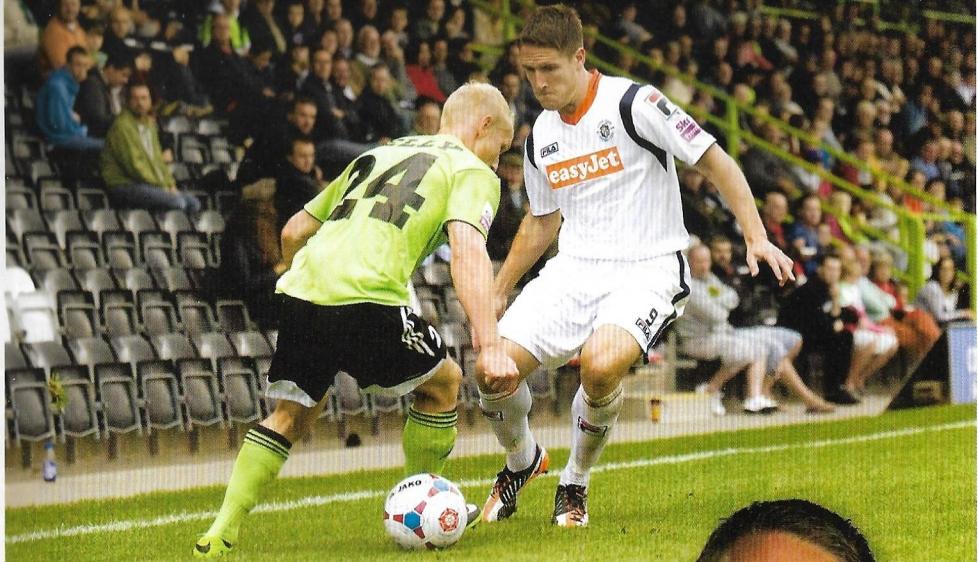
Gladly the calf injury which has kept him out in recent weeks is showing signs of improvement, but sadly it seems a fairytale return against the Tynesiders today will come too early.

"I was looking at the fixtures a few weeks ago and thinking that this could be the game to come back for," says Shaw. "Any game against one of my former clubs is something I look forward to. It was written last season that my first game for Luton would be against Gateshead and I enjoyed that moment. Gateshead have always been good to me and I wish them all the best of success. They play good football and their style always suited me – much like how we play now."

Having netted 35 times in 2011/12 for the Heds, Shaw's unveiling at Kenilworth Road, together with further high-profile arrivals, made the Town strong favourites for the title last term. However, that failed to materialise, and despite a fine run in the FA Cup – which saw Shaw start the historical win at Norwich – the promotion dream soon faded, Paul Buckle was replaced by John Still in late February, and Shaw ended the season with eight league goals from just 26 starts.

So, what happened last season? Why could the Hatters beat Norwich one week and then lose at Barrow the next and, importantly, what's the difference this campaign?

"This season, we seem more organised," says Shaw. "We train and play in a certain way, a way the manager says is the 'Luton way'. It's geared us to being more successful. Since his first day we've been training like this and, I think we've added more quality to a squad that was already very good."



"Last season there was a lot of expectancy on us but that is the norm at a big club like Luton. The run in the FA Cup was great but there's no doubt it affected us. The cup ties against Wolves and Norwich were completely different animals to the league games. Those FA Cup matches proved we were good enough – we'd soak up the pressure and hit those teams on the counter.

"In the Conference we couldn't play that way. It would be the other way round and we'd be hit by a sucker punch.

"I look back at the game at Woking on New Year's Day as a turning point. We were in touch at the top and doing well in the Cup and the Trophy. Unfortunately for me in that game, I missed a good chance, their keeper made an unbelievable save and we ended up losing the game.

"All of a sudden we were beating Wolves and Norwich but slipping too far behind in the league. It was tough in the dressing room because the mood was so up and down. We'd go out and give it our all in the Conference but couldn't get results. I'm sure we won't be the first and won't be the last team to have a cup run affect us like it did."

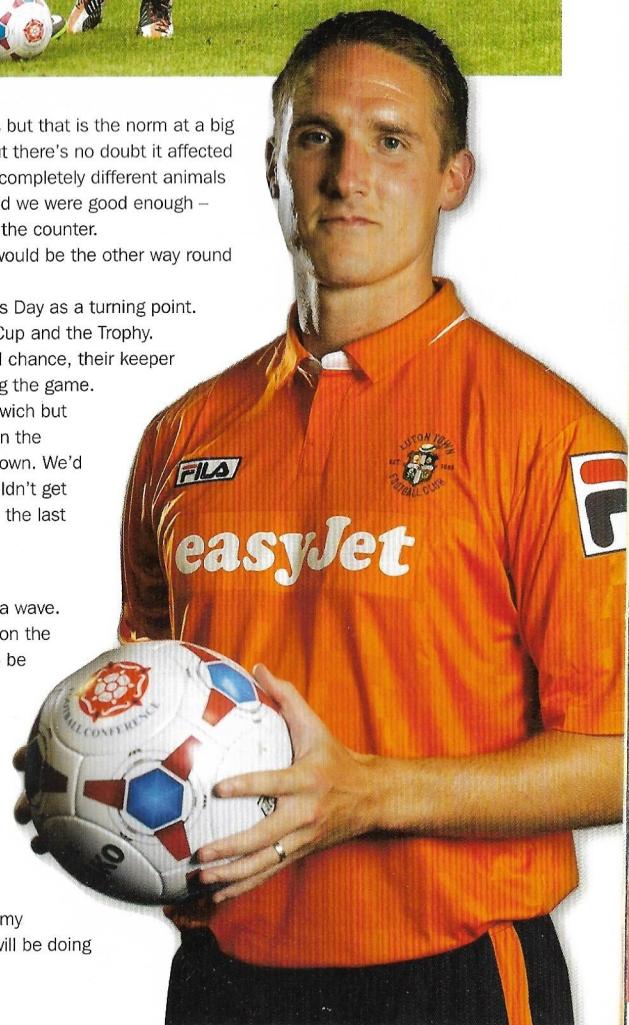
Positive

Now, though, the Town are riding on the crest of a wave. Unbeaten in 14 league games the Hatters are hot on the heels of leaders Cambridge and Shaw can't wait to be back involved.

"I'm not far away now," he says. "I'm thinking positive and that's the way you've got to be. My body just needs to get used to dealing with running and training again."

"But the way we're playing, and the way the development squad are playing week in, week out it's going to be difficult for me to get into the team."

"I'm up for the challenge, though. I've waited all my career to play in a successful team like this and I will be doing anything to make sure I can play my part."



FAMILY WAY
LUTON - LONDON

757

FAMILY TICKET *
£30
DAY RETURN

Great-value coach travel between Luton and London

A variety of great-value travel tickets available but you can save even more money with a day return family ticket for up to 2 adults and 2 children travelling together, for just £30.

HALF PRICE PLACE
LUTON - LONDON

757

TOP LONDON 2 for 1 ATTRACTIONS

print out your voucher at
greenline.co.uk/2for1

Half-price entry to top London attractions

Go online and print out your 2for1 voucher and save even more money when you visit some of the top London attractions. Just show your Green Line coach ticket and present your voucher for 2for1 entry.

free
WiFi
on board



greenline 757

#askjon

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 striker Jon Shaw.

Sheldon Mayne @_Smayne
@LTFC_Official What is your favourite thing about playing for LTFC? #AskJon

JON: Getting to play in front of so many supporters. The large and passionate support always get behind you and they've been good to me since I've been at the club.

Stanbridge @NathanLtfc
@LTFC_Official Summarise your Luton Town career so far in three words. #AskJon

JON: Up. And. Down.

Peter Galvin @JustPete
@LTFC_Official If you were not a professional footballer, what would have liked to have a career in? Making cakes? #askjon

JON: No, I wouldn't be making cakes, that's my wife's job, but I'd probably have been an athlete or a teacher. I was keen on athletics as a kid and I had the option of choosing either football or athletics. Rightly or wrongly I chose football.

Rob Hadgraft @RobHadgraft
@LTFC_Official Teams seem to raise their game against Luton. Having played for Gateshead as well, can you confirm this does happen? #askjon

JON: It is true but it isn't just a Luton thing. Of course a lot of people raise their game against Luton. We're a big club who draw massive crowds at this level and it's a club which has always been there at the top of the table to be shot at. But, it's not just here, teams raise their games against the good teams, the Fleetwoods, the Crawleys, and when I was playing in this league a few years back, Aldershot.

Jamie Muir @JamieM84
@LTFC_Official #AskJon Would you ever consider playing a match at centre back, as @9howie did in 2005/06? #TargetManToLastMan

JON: Yes. In fact I started as a centre-back. I've probably played about 30 league games as a centre-half, too, during my spells at Burton and Halifax, and when I was a youngster at Sheffield Wednesday.

Cameron Lambie @CameronL95
@LTFC_Official @jonshaw101 What has been your most memorable game in a Luton shirt so far? #AskJon

JON: One from the Wolves, Norwich or Barrow games last season. The Norwich result was the most memorable but, as a striker, it's good to score goals, and it was a good night against Barrow where I scored a hat-trick against a former club and manager.

Dan Blackwell @dblackwell55
@LTFC_Official Do you enjoy playing against former clubs? And would you celebrate against them? #AskJon

JON: I've always had a really good relationship with all my former clubs. I don't celebrate if I score against them and people sometimes say that's disrespectful to the team you're currently playing for but I've never been one to rub it in.

gemma louise @Gemma_nathan_TW
@LTFC_Official #askjon who inspired you to become a footballer?

JON: It was by luck, actually. As a young boy for many years football didn't interest me. My cousin started playing and I was told it would be good to go along. I enjoyed it, starting scoring goals and never looked back.

Martin Short Do you think Luton will win promotion this season? #AskJon

JON: Yes I do. I think this club has waited long enough. We're organised, hard-working and honest and we have a good mix of youth and experience which complements really well.

Mark Ashworth: With all the tempting crosses flying into the box in recent weeks from the Town players and manager John Still's policy of "never turn a crossing opportunity down" is Jon more eager than ever to return to fitness and force his way into the first team so he can finally capitalise on this service?

JON: Absolutely. It's obviously frustrating and I'd love to be playing in this team right now. We're playing with great confidence and you can see how many goals we're scoring from crosses. I want to be part of this team and help this club and the lads win promotion...but let's just get fit first.



JAKO
LIVING SPORTS

Official Match Ball Supplier



**EVERYTHING FOR YOUR TEAM.
EVERYTHING FOR YOU.
TOGETHER UNBEATABLE.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: JAKO-UK • 3 PEAKS LANE • NEW WALTHAM • DN364QL GRIMSBY

WWW.JAKOSPORT.COM

HTTP://EN.JAKO.EU



jakosport.com

on and off...

... THE PITCH WITH JON SHAW

ON THE PITCH

**WHAT IS THE BEST GOAL
YOU HAVE SEEN THIS
SEASON?**

It has to be Steve McNulty's volley against Southport. It was a great strike and so unexpected. If I'm being honest it was a goal I'd expect Mark Tyler to score more than Macca!

**WHO IS THE TOUGHEST
OPPONENT YOU'VE EVER FACED?**

Markus Babbel. It was for Sheffield Wednesday reserves against Liverpool reserves. I think they had a reserve team with £45m of talent playing and it wasn't long after he'd won the World Cup with Germany. I'm not sure I got a kick.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE ABOUT YOUR
GAME?**

Every year I always look to improve. So everything. I want to score more goals, improve my hold-up and link-up play, as I said, everything.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUPERSTITIONS?

No.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PAIR OF BOOTS?

They were a pair of Quasars. I couldn't tell you which player was wearing them at the time. I was about six or seven but you never forget your first pair of boots.

HAVE YOU GOT A TIP FOR YOUNGSTERS?

Work as hard as you possibly can. You will always get out what you put in, and working hard gives you that better chance.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?

Hillsborough.

WHO SIGNED YOU AS A PRO?

Chris Turner at Sheffield Wednesday.

WHO DO YOU SUPPORT?

Sheffield Wednesday.

WHO AT THE CLUB WILL PLAY AT A HIGHER LEVEL?

Andre Gray and Alex Lacey



OFF THE PITCH

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

My family: my wife and children. We moved around a lot together and my wife has always been there. Providing for them motivates me the most.

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN FOOTBALL?

Richard Wood, the brave centre-half at Charlton Athletic.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST QUALITY?

Honesty and hard work. I'll admit that my best points have never been my ability, but I have always thought I'm an honest, hard worker.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME?

With the kids at home I don't often get to watch the tv, but if I do get the chance then I enjoy the Walking Dead.

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

My Dad.

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

A food blender...but I've got a garage full of the stuff I buy but never use!

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

Gerard Butler

WHAT DON'T WE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I've moved house 27 times.

picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



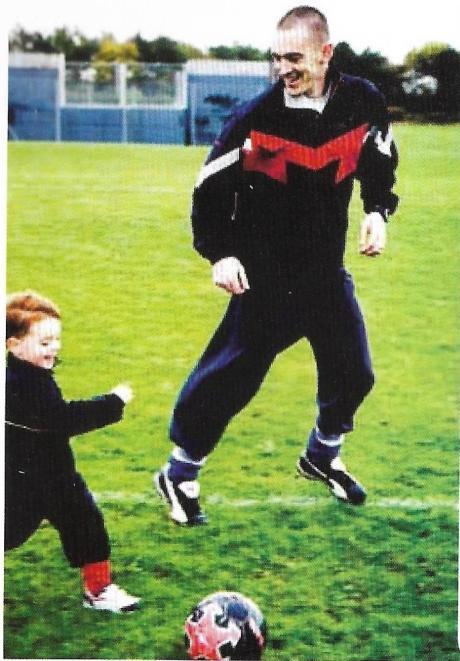
Jimmy Ryan swings a free-kick past a wall consisting of Alan Gowling, Bobby Charlton and George Best of Manchester United. This pre-season friendly in August 1971 was put on at only two days' notice but an incredible crowd of 16,397 still turned up, which is a record for this type of game at Kenilworth Road.

camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Pre-season training 1953 style. Action from the Davis Sports Ground in Dallow Road where the Town players trained at the time. No well-manicured grass or designer training gear in those days!





**"It's easier to keep up
now that I've quit"**

Your local **Stop Smoking
Service** is here to help you.

Text '**quit**' to **60003** 
Call **0800 013 0845**



**The Hatters
Business Breakfast Club**

Membership includes:

- Monthly breakfast meeting held at Luton Town Football Club
- The opportunity to generate new business
- Encourage other members to learn about your business
- Network with local and likeminded businesses and their guests
- Business referrals
- Support local businesses
- Only one member per business sector

For further information contact David Hoskins on 01582 411622 or email david.hoskins@lutontown.co.uk


**LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB**
EST 1885

The Hatters
Business Breakfast Club



on this day

21st DECEMBER

THE RECORD

The Hatters' overall record on this day in history reads played 12, won five, drawn three and lost four. Just 14 goals have been scored and 15 conceded on a very low scoring day in terms of goals. The Town have kept five clean sheets and have failed to score in three games.

LONG TIME NO SEE

The Town are playing for the first time on this day in over 10 years this afternoon. It's been 11 years since the Hatters drew 1-1 at Bristol City in a Division 2 (now League 1) clash at Ashton Gate.

The Town took the lead through Steve Howard's strike but then had defender Sol Davis sent-off in injury time. But, with Joe Kinnear's side holding on, Peter Beadle snatched a 96th-minute equaliser for the Robins to break the Hatters hearts.

WAITING TIME

It's been 34 years since the Hatters tasted victory on this day. Charlton Athletic were beaten 3-0 at Kenilworth Road in a Division 2 (now Championship) match in front of 7,277. A first-half brace from Brian Stein had the Hatters in control before Bob Hatton made sure of the points five minutes into the second half. The victory lifted the Town up to third in the table, but they would go on and end the campaign in sixth place, four points off of promotion.

TOP FLIGHT TRIUMPHS

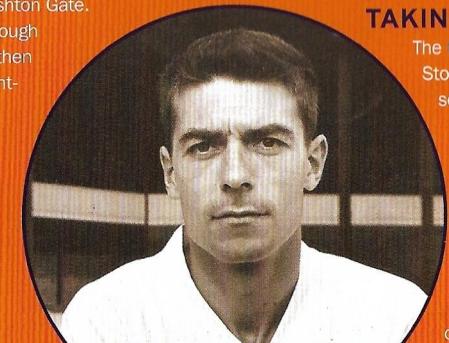
The Town have twice tasted victory on this day in the top flight. In 1974 a penalty from Jim Ryan nine minutes from time secured a 1-0 win over Derby County in front of 12,882 at Kenilworth Road. Derby would eventually finish the season as champions, but the Town suffered relegation just a season after winning promotion.

It was back in 1957 that the Hatters also won in the top division on this day in history. Goals from all-time record goalscorer Gordon Turner and John Groves secured a win 2-1 win at Burnden Park against Bolton Wanderers. Turner went onto net 33 times in 40 top flight games that season as the Hatters finished in eighth place.

The Town would play Bolton at Burnden Park again 19 years later but were on the receiving end of a 2-1 defeat, despite taking an early lead through Lil Fuccillo.

TAKING STOCK

The Hatters appointed manager Alec Stock midway through the 1968/69 season and the new boss oversaw a 2-0 victory in his first game in charge against Plymouth Argyle at Kenilworth Road. A season's lowest attendance of 10,971 witnessed the win thanks to goals from Brian Lewis and Keith Allen. The Town missed out on promotion by three points come the end of the campaign.



Record goalscorer Gordon Turner has scored in two games on this day six years apart

HIGHFIELD HELL

The Town have a miserable record at Coventry and have only won three times on the Sky Blues' patch in 33 meetings, with 31 of those coming at their old Highfield Road home. The Town lost 5-1 there in a Division 3 (South) encounter on this day in 1929 before improving on that considerably exactly 17 years later with a 0-0 draw at the same venue in a Second Division game in 1946.

STILL GOT IT

Turner, who netted in that win over Bolton in 1957, was also on target for the Hatters in a 1963 win over Reading on this day. It turned out to be Turner's final season for the Town in which he scored 18 goals in 30 appearances in all competitions. His record overall was 276 goals in 450 matches for the Hatters.

GRAY

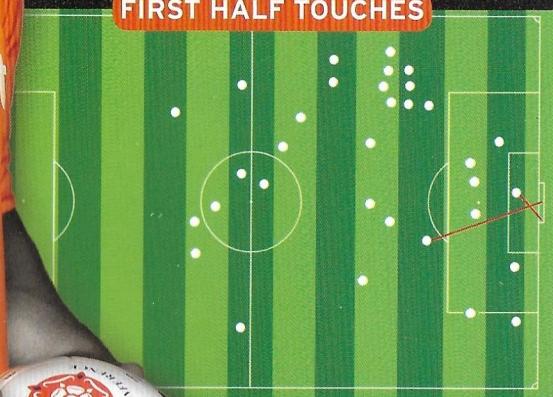


In the 5-0 win at Alfreton two weeks ago Andre Gray took his tally to 12 goals for the season with two first half strikes.

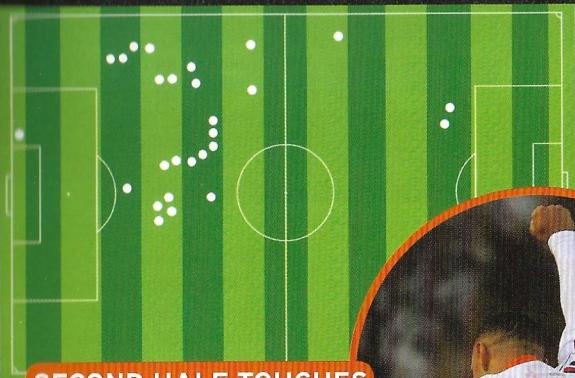
And, if that wasn't enough, the 22-year-old also weighed in with two assists, setting up goals for Luke Guttridge and Alex Lawless.

At Alfreton Gray's and the Town's fantastic performance was built on a strong first half showing. As the graphic below shows, the striker touched the ball a total of 33 times in the first half with seven of those touches coming in the penalty area. His first goal was hit from outside the box having taken a pass from Guttridge.

FIRST HALF TOUCHES



In the second half it is interesting to note that Gray only touched the ball once in the Alfreton penalty area (see opposite page). In total, Andre had 58 touches of the ball against the Reds, but only 12 per cent of those came in the 18-yard box. Both assists and one goal came from outside the area.



SECOND HALF TOUCHES

GOALS

2

ASSISTS

2

SHOTS ON TARGET

2

SHOTS OFF TARGET

GOALS/SHOT ON TARGET RATIO

100%



TOTAL MINUTES PLAYED

90

TOTAL TOUCHES

58

TOUCHES IN PENALTY AREA

7

% OF TOUCHES IN PENALTY AREA

12

DRIBBLES

5

PASSES COMPLETED

9

PASSES INCOMPLETE

3

PASSES COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

70%

A number of Andre's touches at the Impact Arena came from the occasions he dribbled with the ball. He went on five rampaging runs during the 90 minutes and interestingly, the majority of his touches came down the left-hand flank in the first half and the right-hand wing in the second period.

in development

WALL THUNDERBOLT EARNS DEV SQUAD DRAW

A youthful Town development side were held to a 1-1 draw by a stronger Northampton side at Ely Way on Tuesday.

The Hatters included six players who were involved in last Saturday's FA Trophy win over Wrexham and one of those players, Alex Wall, fired the Town ahead with a stunning free-kick.

After taking the lead the Town spurned a number of opportunities to double the lead and put the game beyond the Cobblers. Charlie Smith saw an effort strike the post while Zane Banton skied an easy chance from close range.

Encouraging

In the final few minutes the Hatters made a number of changes and soon after the Cobblers levelled to earn a share of the spoils.

First team coach Hakan Hayrettin told Talk of the Town: "We should have won. We created numerous chances but couldn't take them, but it's still an encouraging performance.



"We played with a good tempo throughout and the only disappointment was their equaliser in the closing stages.

"The team might have been younger than it was on Saturday but the philosophy and ethos remained the same. We approach games in a positive frame of mind and always want to play quick, attacking football.

Successful

"We've always maintained that these games are for the benefit of the football club as a whole; developing players and creating a healthy competition for places.

We want a successful club and want all of our players to be on their toes.

"Alex Wall's come through another 80-odd minutes and he looked very good and scored an exceptional goal."

TOWN: Justham; Longden, Trialist, Davis (sub Tamplin), Chabata; Amu (sub Trialist), Rees, C. Smith, Viana; Wall (sub McKenzie-Lowe), Banton.

NYC: First Substitute | ▲ Second Substitute | ▲ Third Substitute

	DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	POS	STARTING XI	
AUG	Sat 10	11.00am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 4-2	3	Barnes	Trotman
	Sat 24	11.00am	A	Leyton Orient	W 3-1	6	Barnes	Trotman
SEP	Sat 31	11.30am	H	Portsmouth	W 4-2	3	Barnes	Trotman 1
	Sat 14	11.00am	A	MR Dons	W 1-0	2	Barnes	Crilley
	Sat 21	11.00am	H	Watford	L 0-1	3	Barnes	Crilley ●
	Wed 25	7.30pm	H	Rothwell Corinthians (FAV1Q)	W 6-0	-	King	Crilley 1 ●
	Sat 28	11.00am	A	Leyton Orient (LC)	L 1-3	-	King	Crilley
OCT	Sat 5	11.00am	H	MR Dons (LC)	D 2-2	-	King	Crilley ●
	Wed 9	7.30pm	H	Corby Town (FAV2Q)	W 5-1	-	Barnes	Hawkes
	Sat 12	11.00am	A	Barnet	W 4-1	2	Barnes	Crilley
	Sat 19	11.00am	A	Dagenham (LC)	W 2-1	-	King	Chabata
	Tue 22nd	7.30pm	H	Leighton Town (FAV3Q)	W 3-0	-	Barnes	Hawkes
	Sat 26	11.00am	H	Northampton (LC)	L 0-1	-	King	Chabata
NOV	Sat 2	11.00am	A	Northampton	W 2-1	2	King	Trotman
	Wed 6	7.30pm	A	Boston United (FAV1)	W 4-0	-	Barnes	Trotman ●
	Mon 18	7.00pm	A	Gateshead (FAV2)	W 2-1	-	Barnes	Trotman
	Sat 23	11.00am	H	Peterborough	W 1-0	2	Barnes	Trotman
DEC	Sun 8	2.30pm	A	Huddersfield Town (FAV3)	L 1-3	-	Barnes	Trotman
	Thu 19	2.00pm	H	MK Dons	W 4-2	-	Barnes	Chabata
JAN	Sat 4	11.00am	H	Gillingham				
	Sat 11	11.00am	A	Watford				
	Sat 18	11.00am	H	Barnet				
	Sat 25	11.00am	A	Colchester				
FEB	Sat 1	11.00am	A	Stevenage				
	Sat 8	11.00am	H	Northampton				
	Sat 22	11.00am	H	Stevenage				
MAR	Sat 1	11.00am	A	Peterborough				
	Sat 8	11.00am	H	Colchester				
	Sat 15	11.00am	A	Southerndown				
APR	Sat 5	11.00am	A	AFC Wimbledon				
	Sat 12	11.00am	H	Crawley Town				

youth team



KIT SPONSORS 2013/14

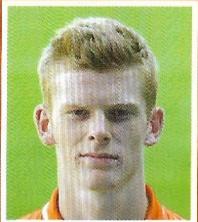
BENJI CRILLEY LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Fascel AWAY: Available	LEEROY MAGURAUSHE LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	BEN BARNES LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: First Capital Connect AWAY: Available	JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available
IAN REES LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Mike Tearle AWAY: COYH	CHARLIE SMITH LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Peter Mitchell AWAY: 2MB	EKENE AMADI LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	ISAAC GALLIFORD LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available
LEE HAWKES LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	CRAIG KING LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	DARIL NGWALA LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	LUCAS PERRY LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available
ZAK STEPHENS LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	TUKI-TAYALI LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	LUKE TROTMAN LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	AREL AMU LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: University of Bedfordshire AWAY: Available
OSAMU ALLMAN LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Machins Solicitors AWAY: Available	HARRY TAMPLIN LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Allianz AWAY: NPA Commercial	TINASHE CHABATA LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	PAUL DRIVER LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	HOME: Available AWAY: Available

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

	P	W	GD	PTS
1 Colchester United	9	8	16	24
2 Luton Town	8	7	11	21
3 Watford	10	6	8	19
4 Portsmouth	9	6	7	19
5 Peterborough United	10	5	12	17
6 Southend United	10	5	1	16
7 Gillingham	7	4	7	14
8 Milton Keynes Dons	10	3	-3	11
9 AFC Wimbledon	9	3	-6	10
10 Stevenage	7	3	-7	10
11 Leyton Orient	9	3	-6	9
12 Barnet	9	3	-6	9
13 Northampton Town	8	2	-8	7
14 Crawley Town	8	1	-9	3
15 Dagenham & Redbridge	7	0	-17	0

stars of the future

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

**NAME:**

Ian Rees

DATE OF BIRTH:
22/02/1996**POSITION:** Central
midfield**YEAR JOINED LUTON
TOWN:** 2007

FORMER CLUBS: Knebworth FC, Cambridge United, Rushden & Diamonds

BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP
Just enjoy what you do

BEST FOOTBALL MOMENT

Scoring the winning free-kick in a County Cup final

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID Manchester United

**WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN
THE PLAYGROUND** Paul Scholes

FAVOURITE TV SHOW Friends

OTHER SPORTS GOOD AT Cricket

FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT Media**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOU**

Dedicated, intelligent, ambitious

MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE Zane Banton**TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOTBALL**

CAREER SO FAR My career so far has been full of hard work but I've loved every moment of it. I am looking forward to greater achievements, both individually and with my team.

DID YOU KNOW? Ian made his full first team debut during last Saturday's 2-0 win over Wrexham in the FA Trophy and came close to scoring when his shot hit the post in the 22nd minute.

WITH SCOTT SMITH



OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF
THE LUTON TOWN ACADEMY

of Manchester United and Liverpool already lined up for the same group.

Our Under-9 and Under-10 age groups have also made exciting starts to the 2013/14 season. Both groups contain some truly outstanding footballers and both contain some exciting prospects for the club to look out for in the future if they remain as focused and dedicated as they have been thus far.

The Under-10s, meticulously led by Pip Davis, have continued to display some eye-catching and attacking football and regularly rack up outstanding numbers of goals scored each weekend.

I am once again privileged to be coaching the club's Under-9s this season. It is always fascinating to see the bond that quickly forms between the boys and their families alike during their first season of academy football with Luton Town – especially as we see them four times a week.

This group more than any other have come together and is undoubtedly one of the key reasons why they have performed to such a high standard this season. It is particularly exciting times for this group as, straight after the New Year, we will be heading off to Bielefeld in Germany to partake in a prestigious indoor tournament. This should prove to be an invaluable experience for all the boys to be able to test themselves against Europe's finest, with eight Bundesliga teams in the draw, including the likes of Wolfsburg and Hannover.

Here's hoping that the boys have a successful tournament – and that they will be practising their penalties during their Christmas break!

academy update

WITH SCOTT SMITH

of Manchester United and Liverpool already lined up for the same group.

Our Under-9 and Under-10 age groups have also made exciting starts to the 2013/14 season. Both groups contain some truly outstanding footballers and both contain some exciting prospects for the club to look out for in the future if they remain as focused and dedicated as they have been thus far.

The Under-10s, meticulously led by Pip Davis, have continued to display some eye-catching and attacking football and regularly rack up outstanding numbers of goals scored each weekend.

I am once again privileged to be coaching the club's Under-9s this season. It is always fascinating to see the bond that quickly forms between the boys and their families alike during their first season of academy football with Luton Town – especially as we see them four times a week.

This group more than any other have come together and is undoubtedly one of the key reasons why they have performed to such a high standard this season. It is particularly exciting times for this group as, straight after the New Year, we will be heading off to Bielefeld in Germany to partake in a prestigious indoor tournament. This should prove to be an invaluable experience for all the boys to be able to test themselves against Europe's finest, with eight Bundesliga teams in the draw, including the likes of Wolfsburg and Hannover.

Here's hoping that the boys have a successful tournament – and that they will be practising their penalties during their Christmas break!



The Town and
Everton' Under-8s

in the community

USING FOOTBALL TO STEER YOUNG PEOPLE AWAY FROM CRIME

The Hatters Community Trust have just begun a new project which will use sport to engage, empower and improve the lives of disadvantaged young men.

Following a successful bid by Active Luton, the Hatters Community Trust is teaming up with other local organisations to deliver the innovative programme which will aim to improve community integration in the Marsh Farm, Lewsey Farm and Farley Hill areas.

Following recent concerns about antisocial behaviour and crime in the three wards, a range of sporting activities, including football, will be offered to young men living in these areas. Aimed at 14-19 year-olds, young people from all three wards will come together to take part in activities such as football, cricket, basketball, athletics, street golf, health and fitness, swimming and more.

It is hoped that potential young leaders will be identified from the programme so that they can be offered coaching, training, mentoring and employment opportunities to give them the skills to teach and deliver sporting activities to others.

All of the planned activities will take place in a safe environment and will also include educational elements such as raising the awareness of the dangers of criminal activity.

The project is being funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Sport



England through their 'Community Integration through Sport' fund and under the umbrella of Active Luton. The Community Trust is teaming up with a number of organisations to deliver this project including Bedfordshire Cricket, Team Beds and Luton, Luton Borough Council, the Beds FA and Street Games.

Helen Barnett, Chief Executive of Active Luton, told Talk of the Town:

"We are absolutely delighted to receive funding for this exciting new project and to work with the Luton Town's Community Trust to use and harness the strong brand the football club has in the town.

"These are going to help change the lives of a number of disadvantaged young people in the community.

"By positively engaging with young people through sport and education, we will not only boost their health and self-esteem, but we are confident it will also help them to avoid common paths into offending and antisocial behaviour.

Kevin Thoburn, Head of the Hatters Community Trust added: "The football club have fully backed this scheme not just with football coaches but a significant matchday ticket donation as well as future stadium use for events.

"Everyone is fully behind the project - it's a 15-month project we are backing to try to make a difference in Luton and everyone at the Club is fully committed to the project."



Luton Ladies

LADIES END YEAR WITH POINT

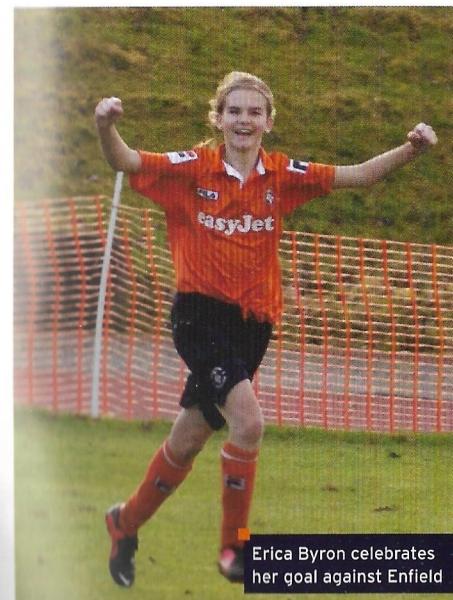
The end of a difficult 2013 comes to an end for a beleaguered Luton Town Ladies first team squad who have been overcome with injury problems since the season began.

The Town entertained Enfield Town with six players who had been regular starters missing but a young and inexperienced squad put in a superb team performance to record a 1-1 draw.

Town certainly had the better of the first half with shots with perhaps the best chance going to Maisie Wyatt who ran onto a cross field pass to strike a volley which narrowly missed the near post.

Lauren Goodier and Jess McKay both went close before the Hatters deservedly took the lead when 16 year-old debutant Erica Byron broke down the right and her driven cross was deflected in at the near post to give Town the lead.

Enfield began the second half in command and Town were hard pressed to retain their lead and the equaliser arrived after an hour via a neat move and a fine strike into the bottom corner.



Erica Byron celebrates her goal against Enfield

That was the signal for both teams to go for three points and the game completely opened up. Byron almost scored her second when she just failed to convert a looping cross but Town's best chance of the game came deep into injury time when breaking from their own box after defending a corner. At one stage Wyatt had three players with her surging towards goal. She picked out Nicky Livingstone who seemingly could not believe she had so much time and her shot rolled tamely wide of the post with the goal at her mercy.

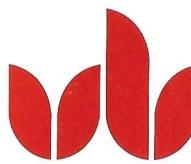
A delighted manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "With all the odds stacked against us the girls really played for the shirt and each other, and I have nothing but praise for the whole squad.

"It's been a tough season for a rebuilt squad and the countless injuries we've endured but this result and performance proved that we have the fight and I know that there is far more to come from this squad given time.

"It was a really open game and could have gone either way but a point was the very least we deserved."

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
	Sun 8	A Denham United	L 2-3
	Sun 22	H Ipswich Town (League Cup)	L 1-3
	Sun 29	A Cambridge	W 3-2
OCT	Wed 16	H MK Dons	D 1-1
NOV	Sun 17	A Q.P.R.	L 0-7
	Sun 24	H Brentwood Town	D 3-3
	Tues 27	A MK Dons	L 1-3
DEC	Sun 8	H Enfield Town	D 1-1
	Sun 15	H CK Basildon	L 0-9
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	



University of
Bedfordshire

It's not too late to start your degree

JOIN BEDFORDSHIRE

in January 2014

Call: 0800 013 0925

Visit: www.beds.ac.uk/january2014



my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

Today it's the turn of season ticket holder Terry Hopper to reflect on the best things about being a Town fan.

It's a very special day for Terry, too, as he is here celebrating his 50th birthday with friends and family. What's more, by the time he reads this, he will have been told by his friends that he is a mascot for today's game and get the chance to hold of the players' hands as the team emerge from the tunnel! Enjoy the game and the experience, Terry.

MY FIRST LUTON GAME

I was first taken by my dad, who was a Rotherham fan, when I was a three-year-old. We were in the old Bobbers stand. I spent the entire game sitting on my dad's shoulders but I can't remember who we were playing. As a child I could watch reserve matches from the back bedroom window of my grandparent's house which overlooked the Kenny end.

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN

I have always been an ardent Town, even when I've lived in exile in Birmingham and Manchester. When working nights in Birmingham I used to insist the commentary on the Hatters' evening games was put on the shop floor radio much to the annoyance of the Villa and Blues fans.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME

There can be only one! The 1988 League Cup final. A fantastic game of football, a great all round team performance and above all beating the Arsenal as underdogs. What a great day!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL

There's so many to think about but my all-time favourite comes from one of the best debut performances by a Town player. Jean Louis Valois's goal against Torqua. What a goal capping a brilliant team performance. Another goal worthy of a mention is Steve McNulty's recent cracker against Southport and the third goal against Alfreton, which was a great team goal.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER

The one and only Malcolm Macdonald. The all-round striker with pace and power to spare. Good in the air and an unbelievable left foot. He's closely followed by Graham French - what talent a potential sadly unfulfilled.

MY FONDEST TIME FOLLOWING THE TOWN

The 1981/82 promotion season under David Pleat. It was a great entertaining team. Some of the football we played was breath-taking. To only lose four league games in a season fantastic achievement. A truly magical team.

MY MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION

All my Luton memorabilia is treasured, but the one closest to my heart is my signed shirt.

MY ALL-TIME TOWN XI

Goalkeeper – **Milia Alekscic** – Best

goalkeeper I've seen at Luton.

Made everything look easy.

Right-back – **Kirk**

Stephens – Basher was a fast, enthusiastic, good overlapping full-back with a never-say-die-attitude. Played with a smile on his face and scored his first goal against them.

Centre-back – Mal Donaghy – Mr Dependable. Cool, calm and collected. Could play anywhere – including in goal.

Centre-back – John Faulkner – Big, commanding, solid centre back who took no prisoners.

Left-back – Steve Buckley – Tenacious, solid full-back with a fierce shot. Took great penalties.

Right midfield – Ricky Hill – Great ball player, highly skilful midfielder who could score goals too.

Central midfield – Bruce Rioch – Battling midfielder not afraid to put his foot in. Nothing fancy but great shooting ability.

Central midfield – Brian Horton – Captain of the 1981/82 title winners. A no nonsense leader with 100 per cent passion and pride. The perfect skipper.

Left midfield – Graham French – On his day could terrorise entire teams and beat an entire team on his own. Made it look so easy.

Striker – Malcolm Macdonald – Who else? Power, pace to burn and good in the air.

Striker – Brian Stein – Fox in the box, instinctive finisher who passed the ball into the net. Surprisingly good in the air.



Fox in the box, Brian Stein

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

SPARE A THOUGHT

At this most festive and reflective time of year, join me, fellow Hatters, in sparing a thought for those less fortunate.

Spare a thought for those Premier League managers who have lost their jobs, with only seven-figure settlement packages for Christmas comfort. A thought too for clubs and supporters, like that one in darkest Hertfordshire, in turmoil and set to face a yuletide of rudderless uncertainty as the managerial merry-go-round flails leaving casualties in its wake.

Yeah that's right Spurs, West Brom and Watford, we feel all smug. AHHA! Us! Down here in the queue outside the Football League food bank, sheltering from the long, cold winter, ignoring the bustle of the wealthy shoppers with their shopper's problems around us.

We're all smug because it's coming up to Christmas and we haven't lost in the league since half of the Main Stand were dripping in shorts and ill-fitting polo shirts.

Grinned

We're feeling a bit smug alright. I can't remember the last time the place grinned and, well, didn't boo like this.

We scoff at the First World Problems of Premier League clubs in their pre-transfer window crisis, and the intricate workings of that peculiar Italian conglomerate down the road as they shuffle their hand from Udine to try and halt the decline of their little English "project".

Because there's no crisis before Christmas this year. Not for us.

This year in Bedfordshire all the online shopping will arrive on time, the family will be civil round the table and everyone's getting drunk by the fire and singing Fairytale of New York to the ones they love 'til the New Year.

Together

And we'll tell you why. This year the ship has been steadied after a turbulent time for the Luton family. Our new father figure has stepped in and is keeping us all together. The kids seem to be thriving too, and may even pick up a Trophy along the way for their efforts. We've seen long lost relatives return for a nostalgic visit via the old Oak Road, and welcomed them with open arms.

And while it's not befitting of the time of year to gloat at the misfortune of others, you might forgive us a wry smile as we tuck into our turkey with the whole family together again, grateful for what we've got and relishing the fight ahead.

Because we're going to do it this year. That's right; we're going up as champions. Sorry if it sounds a little optimistic for the middle of December, but it's got to me, all this. The positive crowds, the young players coming through. No wintry games in hand to plough through in order to claw back a seemingly insurmountable lead.

All that lies ahead are beatable teams and modest football league dreams.

So while it all appears to be going well for a change, spare a thought my fellow Hatters.



THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY CHIEF REPORTER STUART HAMMONDS

What's in a name? Not a lot if you're one of the myriad of Non-League and lower Football League players who share the same christian and surnames, but it can get confusing.

Take last Saturday for example. I get the St Albans City teamsheet for their FA Trophy second round tie with Cambridge United at Clarence Park, and find that Danny Green is on the bench - but then he's not, as striker Mark Nwokeji feels an injury in the warm-up and the two swap places.

Now, is this the Danny Green who John Still plucked from Bishop's Stortford's right-wing when he was Dagenham & Redbridge manager, and turned him into a League One player?

Or is it the 'other' Danny Green who went from Billericay to Dagenham a year later, and who also played on the right flank, and had been at Bishop's Stortford previously.

No, because the first is now at Charlton Athletic, the second is back at Stortford and a local reporter informs me that this one came from Harpenden Town, has spent time on loan at Potters Bar Town this term and plays right-back or central midfield. But, lo and behold, he comes into the team on the right wing!

These lads' stats have all probably merged into one on the internet - and there are others, like the two Mike Greens who both play for Gloucester City, or the father-son, manager-player combinations we've seen over the years with the Craig Edwards at Grays, Chelmsford and Billericay, and Chris Kinnear at Dover.

There are the two Steve Browns who have both managed or coached at Dover, and it must be something about the name Danny, because boy, just like with the Greens I've had trouble with the two Danny Rowes up north.

It doesn't help that these same-namers tend to frequent the same part of the country, and often the same clubs.

So one Danny Rowe has played up front for Barrow and Stockport - and so has the other!

Oh what fun it was to try and decipher which was which when they were both at County and going by the names of Danny L Rowe and Danny M Rowe.

One is now at Lincoln City, and I think it was the one I once interviewed in the middle of a purple patch at Edgeley Park about his formative years at Manchester United.

The other, last Sunday's copy of The NLP informed me, came on as sub in Macclesfield's 1-0 win over Salisbury.

But who the 'L' is who I have not really got a clue!

The other name game I like are the famous names - or ones very similar - in the Non-League ranks.

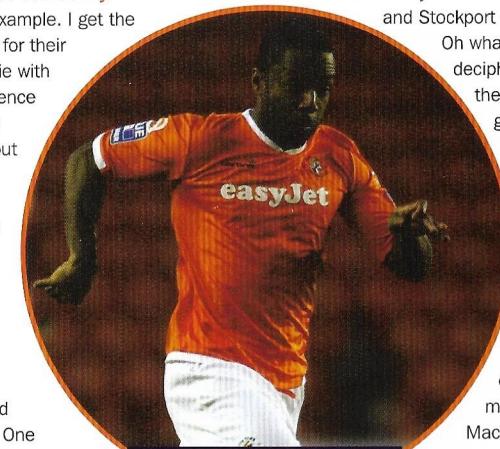
I was impressed by Stourbridge left-back Jamie Oliver at Stevenage recently. Thankfully he kept his clothes on, but couldn't come up with a recipe for 15 minutes of FA Cup fame.

Another one who starred in this year's qualifying rounds is Brighouse Town's Nick Jaggar, while Jason Bourne has reigned supreme during Tunbridge Wells' recent FA Vase efforts.

At Chester we used to have the original Mark Wright and David Cameron, as manager and striker respectively, while the various Non-League versions of Michael Jackson and Robbie Williams have provided plenty of entertaining headlines over the years.

See how many grass-roots celebs you spot over the festive period and let me know at stuhammonds@gmail.com or [@stuhammonds_NLP](https://twitter.com/stuhammonds_NLP)

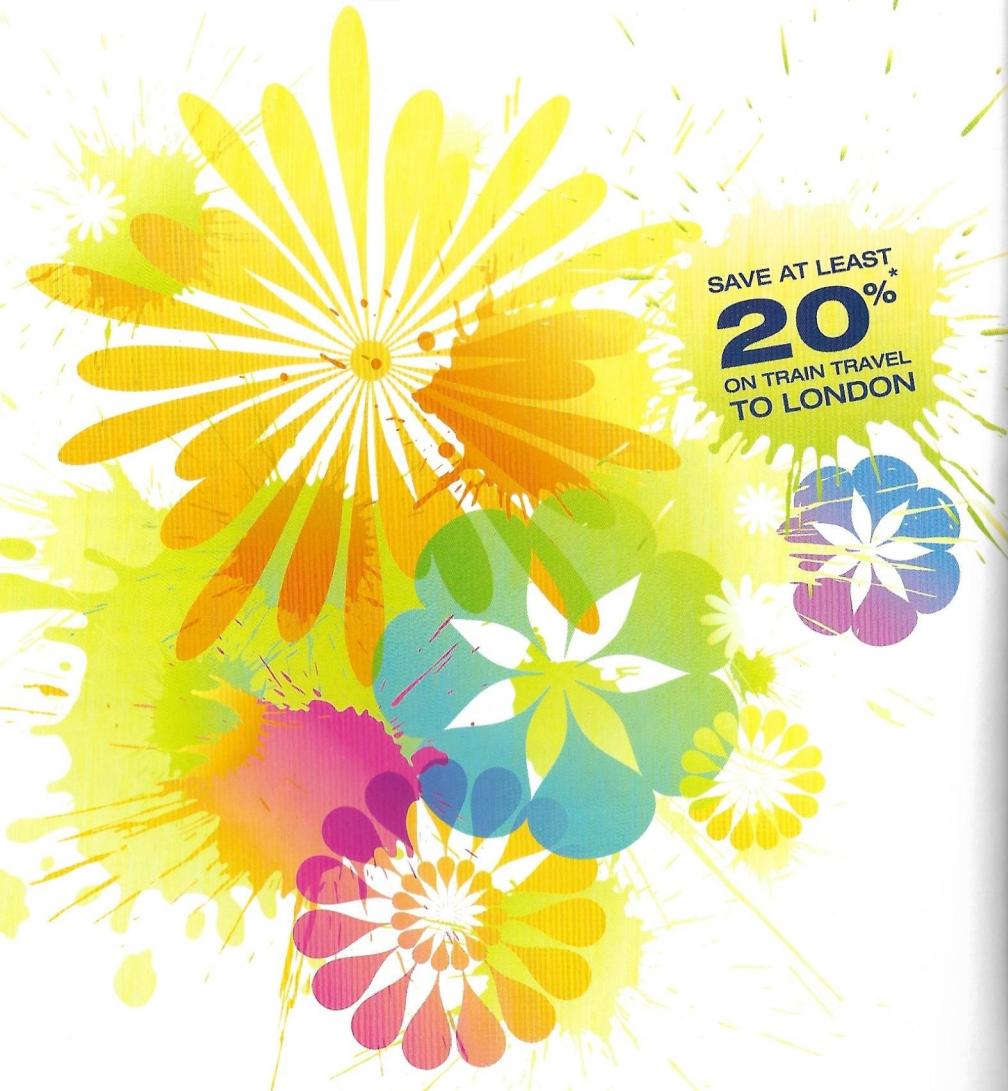
Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



Off and on the bench: Former Town loanee Mark Nwokeji

Bursting with ideas

SAVE AT LEAST*
20%
ON TRAIN TRAVEL
TO LONDON



Travel by train to London and take advantage of our great value tickets. Visit firstcapitalconnect.co.uk and find heaps of ideas for free days out with all the top places to head to.

*Valid for Super Off-Peak tickets only. Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

Today is the Town's first game in Skrill Premier action since the 5-0 win at Alfreton two weeks ago and a win this afternoon could take them to within a point of leaders Cambridge should they slip up at Hereford.

Richard Money's U's opened up a four-point gap over the Hatters after a routine 3-0 win over Macclesfield in their last league out a week ago last Tuesday. Loan star Kwesi Appiah netted twice to take his tally to 10 goals for the season but the leaders will be without his services over the Christmas period as he has returned to parent club Crystal Palace.

The Town cemented their position in second place without even playing after nearest challengers Kidderminster lost their last two matches. Steve Burr's side lost both of their matches in hand, with Scott Rendell doing the Town a favour by scoring a winner for Woking in a 1-0 win before Alfreton responded to their 5-0 mauling by the Town to record an impressive 3-1 win at Aggborough last Saturday.

Nuneaton have revived their fortunes to break back into the top five as Christmas approaches. After nine

games without a victory, Kevin Wilkin's side have now won their last four matches and currently sit fourth and five points behind the Town.

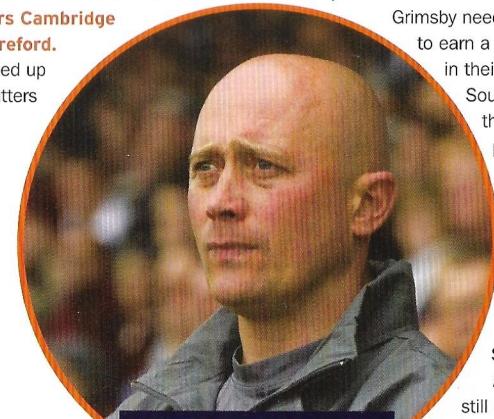
Grimsby needed a last-minute equaliser to earn a point at home to Welling in their last league fixture. Dayle Southwell's injury-time strike kept the Mariners in the hunt for the promotion places. The Blundell Park outfit lie seven points behind the Town but do have two games in hand.

Before we went to press Grimsby and Kidderminster met on Thursday night in game screened live on BT Sport.

At the other end Hyde are still looking for their first win. The Tigers have now gone 21 games without a win and today entertain the Town's festive opponents Barnet. Hyde are 17 points from safety.

Aldershot, who started the campaign on minus 10 points, are now only a point from safety, and without that deduction the Shots would be sitting in mid-table.

Chester and Dartford complete the bottom four, whilst Tamworth and Southport are also looking nervously over their shoulders in the two immediate places outside the dropzone.



After losing 5-0 to the Hatters, Nicky Law's Alfreton beat Kidderminster 3-1 last weekend

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Jennings (Macc)	14
Gray (Luton)	12
Williams (Aldershot)	12
Moul (Nuneaton)	12
Gregory (Halifax)	11
Appiah (Cambridge)	10
Filchett (Salisbury)	10
Alende (Alfreton)	8

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town	6,426
Wrexham	3,381
Grimsby Town	3,307
Cambridge United	3,045
Chester FC	2,342
Lincoln City	2,275
Kidderminster Harriers	2,116
Aldershot Town	2,005
Southport	1,977
Salisbury City	917
Barnet	1,781
Hereford United	1,657
Macclesfield Town	1,433
Woking	1,424
Gateshead	755
Hyde	598

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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

fixtures and results

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
AUGUST								
Sat 10	3.00pm	A	Southport	1-0-1	2,210	839	18	Tyler Smith Griffiths
Tue 13	7.45pm	H	Salisbury City	W2-0	6,520	92	12	Tyler Smith Griffiths
Sat 17	3.00pm	H	Macclesfield Town	D1-1	6,216	80	13	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Forest Green Rovers	0-0-0	1,858	653	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United	D0-0	7,517	963	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W2-0	2,866	821	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths
SEPTEMBER								
TV Sat 7	5.30pm	H	Grimsby Town	D0-0	6,131	265	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths
TV Fri 13	7.45pm	A	Wrexham	L0-2	3,122	190	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Tue 17	7.45pm	H	Dartford	W3-0	5,433	142	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Lincoln City	W3-2	6,203	227	9	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Tue 24	7.45pm	A	Woking	W4-0	1,955	731	5	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Hereford United	D0-0	2,386	580	6	Tyler Henry Griffiths
OCTOBER								
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	FC Halifax Town	W4-3	6,519	260	5	Tyler Henry ● Griffiths
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Aldershot Town	D3-3	2,693	840	4	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Hyde	W4-1	7,081	30	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Tamworth	W4-3	2,666	1,199	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Woking (FAC1Q)	W1-0	1,452	537	-	Justham Henry Howells
NOVEMBER								
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Gateshead	D0-0	1,080	302	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Welling United (FAC1)	L1-2	1,555	740	-	Justham Parry Howells
Tue 12	7.45pm	A	Braintree Town	W2-1	1,518	728	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Chester FC	D1-1	3,291	890	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Welling United	W2-1	6,592	124	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Tue 26	7.45pm	H	Southport	W3-0	6,057	16	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Staines Town (FAT1)	D0-0	621	lbc	-	Justham Chabata Howells
DECEMBER								
Tue 3	7.45pm	H	Staines Town (FAT1R)	W2-0	911	47	-	Justham Chabata Howells
Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Alfreton Town	W5-0	1,279	649	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Wrexham (FAT2)	W2-0	1,617	89	-	Justham Longden Howells
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Gateshead					
Thur 26	3.00pm	A	Barnet					
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Kidderminster Harriers					
JANUARY								
TV Wed 1	12.00pm	H	Barnet					
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Lincoln City					
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United (FAT3)					
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					
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Macclesfield Town					
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Hereford United					
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Nuneaton Town					
MARCH								
Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Alfreton Town					
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Salisbury City					
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Woking					
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Chester FC					
Tue 25	7.45pm	A	Grimsby Town					
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	FC Halifax Town					
APRIL								
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	Aldershot Town					
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Braintree Town					
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Welling United					
Mon 21	3.00pm	H	Forest Green Rovers					
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Hyde					
TBA	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United					

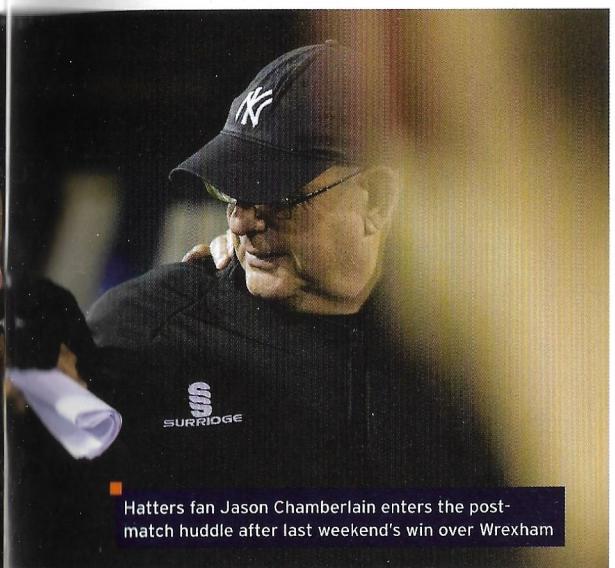
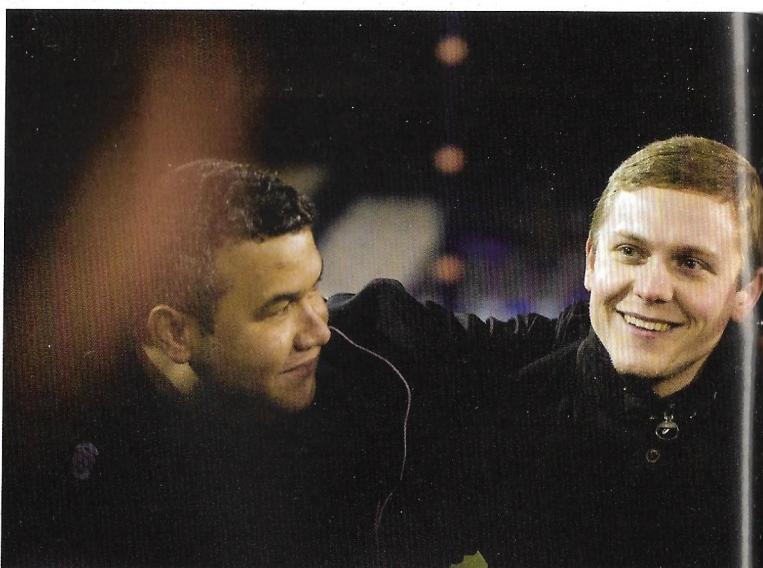
SUBS					
Charles ♦	Parry ▲	Gray ♦	Robinson	Justham	
Lacey ♦	Howells ▲	Gray ♦	Robinson	Justham	
Parry	Howells ♦	Cullen ♦	Smith ▲	Justham	
Parry ♦	Howells ♦	Martin	Robinson	Justham	
Parry	Howells ♦	Martin ♦	Robinson	Justham	
Martin ♦	Whalley	Wall ♦	Cullen	Justham	
Stevenson ♦	Whalley ♦	Wall ▲	Cullen	Justham	
Stevenson	Lawless ♦	Wall ♦	Gray ▲	Justham	
Marlin ♦	Whalley	Taiwo ▲	Gray	Justham	
O'Donnell ♦	Whalley	Taiwo ▲	Gray ♦	Justham	
O'Donnell ♦	Whalley ▲	Taiwo	Banton ♦	Justham	
Charles	Whalley ♦	Taiwo	Gray ♦	Justham	
Howells	Whalley	Robinson ♦	Wall 1 ♦	Justham	
Charles	Whalley 1 ♦	Robinson	Wall	Justham	
Charles	Whalley ♦	Robinson ♦	Cullen▲	Justham	
Charles ♦	Lawless ♦	Robinson	Cullen	Justham	
Gray ♦	Parry ♦	Viana	Wall	Stevenson	Tyler
Stevenson	Cullen ♦	Taiwo	Wall ♦	Justham	
Lawless ♦	Taiwo	Griffiths	O'Donnell ♦	Robinson	Banton ▲
Cullen ♦		Whalley	Robinson	Banton	Tyler
Cullen ♦		Whalley ▲	Guttridge	Stevenson ♦	Justham
Cullen		Guttridge	Howells ♦	Stevenson	Justham
Cullen ▲		Whalley	Howells	Robinson ♦	Justham
				Robinson	Justham

LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14

		P	W	D	L	F	A	G	AD	PTS
1	Cambridge United	21	14	6	1	36	9	27	48	
2	Luton Town	22	12	8	2	43	19	24	44	
3	Kidderminster Harriers	22	12	3	7	38	27	11	39	
4	Nuneaton Town	22	11	6	5	32	27	5	39	
5	Grimsby Town	20	11	4	5	30	19	11	37	
6	Alfreton Town	23	12	1	10	37	39	-2	37	
7	Barnet	22	9	9	4	32	22	10	36	
8	Braintree Town	22	10	5	7	30	22	8	35	
9	Gateshead	21	11	2	8	32	26	6	35	
10	FC Halifax Town	23	10	4	9	43	37	6	34	
11	Salisbury City	21	10	3	8	30	28	2	33	
12	Forest Green Rovers	21	9	3	9	39	33	6	30	
13	Welling United	21	8	6	7	30	27	3	30	
14	Macclesfield Town	22	8	5	9	29	31	-2	29	
15	Wrexham	21	8	4	9	34	32	2	28	
16	Lincoln City	21	7	5	9	20	23	-3	26	
17	Woking	22	7	5	10	28	34	-6	26	
18	Hereford United	22	6	7	9	25	28	-3	25	
19	Southport	21	6	3	12	18	34	-16	21	
20	Tamworth	20	5	5	10	20	32	-12	20	
21	Aldershot Town	21	8	5	8	28	29	-1	19	
22	Chester FC	22	4	7	11	17	32	-15	19	
23	Dartford	24	5	3	16	21	45	-24	18	
24	Hyde	21	0	3	18	18	55	-37	3	

PLAYER STATS 2013/14

	THIS SEASON						ETC	
	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL	DISCIP	CARRIER TOTAL	APPS GLS	APPS	GLS
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS
Jane Banton	0 (1)	0	1 (3)	0	1 (4)	0	0	5
Paul Benson	15 (6)	2	6 (1)	1	17 (0)	7	2	17
Anthony Charnley	1 (2)	0	2 (0)	0	3 (2)	0	0	5
Janishe Chabata	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	0	2
Mark Collen	8 (6)	4	5 (0)	2	13 (6)	6	0	19
Dee Davis	0 (1)	0	3 (0)	0	3 (1)	0	0	4
Enda Gray	16 (5)	12	1 (0)	1	16 (6)	12	0	88
Scot Griffiths	22 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	22 (0)	0	2	28
Duke Guttridge	20 (1)	7	1 (0)	0	21 (1)	7	5	22
Connie Henry	20 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	21 (0)	0	1	64
Jade Howells	11 (5)	2	5 (0)	0	16 (5)	2	1	256
Illiot Justham	0 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	0	5
Leanne Lacey	17 (1)	1	1 (0)	0	18 (1)	1	0	28
Dee Lawless	9 (2)	2	1 (0)	0	9 (3)	2	0	136
Brett Longden	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1	2
David Martin	3 (3)	0	2 (0)	0	5 (3)	0	0	24
Leanne Mawson	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0	1
Steve McNulty	22 (0)	1	2 (0)	0	24 (0)	1	3	44
Paula Menden	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	28
John O'Donnell	0 (2)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (3)	0	0	51
Andrew Parry	16 (2)	3	2 (1)	1	18 (3)	4	2	21
Sam Rees	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	0	2
Matt Robinson	0 (4)	0	4 (0)	0	4 (4)	0	0	22
Reilly Ruddock	1 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	0	4
Sam Shaw	4 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	1	42
Charlie Smith	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	0	3
Jonathan Smith	20 (1)	2	2 (0)	0	22 (1)	2	5	57
Sam Stevenson	3 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (2)	0	0	6
Olomon Tawo	3 (2)	1	0 (0)	0	3 (2)	1	2	14
Mark Tyler	22 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	22 (0)	0	0	206
David Viana	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0	1
Leanne Wall	0 (6)	1	2 (1)	0	2 (7)	1	1	21
Janin Whalley	8 (8)	1	4 (0)	1	12 (8)	2	0	20



Hatters fan Jason Chamberlain enters the post-match huddle after last weekend's win over Wrexham

hold the back page

WITH DIVERSE FM'S STEVE MOORE

In the last fortnight, the Hatters have produced probably their best performances of the season and, in doing so, have recorded two results that have laid down a marker for not only Cambridge United but any other team who are seriously considering themselves in the title race.

American sports journalists would call them 'statement victories' and in a sense they are right. The 5-0 away win against Alfreton and the 2-0 FA Trophy victory over Wrexham we have achieved in the last fortnight certainly do make a 'statement' to the rest of the division.

The four-goal, 20-minute destruction of the Derbyshire side was not only a relief given our poor record there in our non-league era (including the 3-0 reverses suffered both last year and in a pre-season friendly the week before our first non-league game), but also a stunningly sublime performance against a side that have gone from the physical side we first came up against to adding the kind of quality that will see them challenge the Play-Off spots this term.

Further outlining how good a side Alfreton are was Nicky Law's side recovering from the drubbing to beat Kidderminster 3-1 at Aggborough last week. As a result, our performance was highlighted as a top-draw one from a top-draw side.



Steve Moore

If anything though, the FA Trophy win was an even bigger statement. Although the holders have had an awful season by their standards, on paper, the quality of side that Wrexham put out would certainly have been stronger than any other likely to have lined up last weekend.

This was the first team of last season's Play-Off finalists, with most of the same players.

So to not only beat them with our development squad, but to completely dominate them, as even the North Welsh press agreed was the case, is huge.

It shows that not only is the entire club moving in the right direction but the depth is there that the injuries and suspensions that the Christmas and New Year period can bring will not expose huge holes in areas of the side because they simply don't exist.

Of course, that victory has set up a last 16 clash with Cambridge United. But as long as John Still continues to treat

the competition as the biggest fixtures in the development squad's calendar (as he has actively said he will on many occasions) I honestly don't see how we can lose from this tie psychologically.

If our development squad win that game, it is a huge shot across their bows whichever team Richard Money elects to play. If they beat us, then not only is it a result that has little bearing on our first team, but puts them on course for a lot more games on the schedule.

Skrill

Pay and get paid globally.

Skrill is the easiest way to pay for your bets online. Upload your funds, place your bets, and manage your winnings securely.

skrill.com



today's teams



LUTON TOWN

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Mark Tyler |
| 3 | Danny Fitzsimons |
| 4 | Jonathan Smith |
| 5 | Steve McNulty |
| 6 | Anthony Charles |
| 7 | Alex Lawless |
| 8 | Solomon Taiwo |
| 9 | Jon Shaw |
| 10 | Alex Wall |
| 11 | Jake Howells |
| 12 | Scott Griffiths |
| 13 | Mark Cullen |
| 14 | Andy Parry |
| 15 | Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu |
| 16 | Elliot Justham |
| 17 | JJ O'Donnell |
| 18 | Dave Martin |
| 19 | Joe Davis |
| 20 | David Viana |
| 21 | Luke Guttridge |
| 22 | Shaun Whalley |
| 23 | Matt Robinson |
| 24 | Alfie Mawson |
| 25 | Ronnie Henry |
| 26 | Paul Benson |
| 27 | Andre Gray |
| 28 | Jim Stevenson |
| 30 | Alex Lacey |
| 31 | Jake Woolley |
| 32 | Brett Longden |
| 33 | Jerome Jibodu |
| 34 | Zane Banton |

GATESHEAD

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Adam Bartlett |
| 2 | Carl Magnay |
| 3 | Luke O'Brien |
| 4 | Jamie Chandler |
| 5 | James Curtis |
| 6 | Ben Clark |
| 7 | Colin Larkin |
| 8 | Phil Turnbull |
| 9 | Liam Hatch |
| 11 | Micky Cummins |
| 12 | Adam Boyes |
| 13 | Alex Baird |
| 14 | James Brown |
| 15 | Joe Tait |
| 16 | Craig Baxter |
| 17 | Josh Walker |
| 18 | James Marwood |
| 19 | Dan Smith |
| 21 | Rob Ramshaw |
| 22 | Lewis Sirrell |
| 25 | Marcus Maddison |
| 29 | John Oster |

Referee: **D. Cook** | Assistant: **D. Spain** | Assistant: **C. Green** | Fourth official: **L. Forrester**

HERE NEXT

VS KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS

SATURDAY 28th DECEMBER 2013 • 3PM

SKRILL PREMIER

