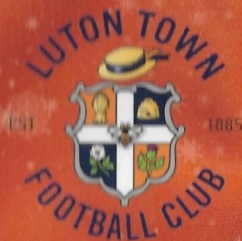
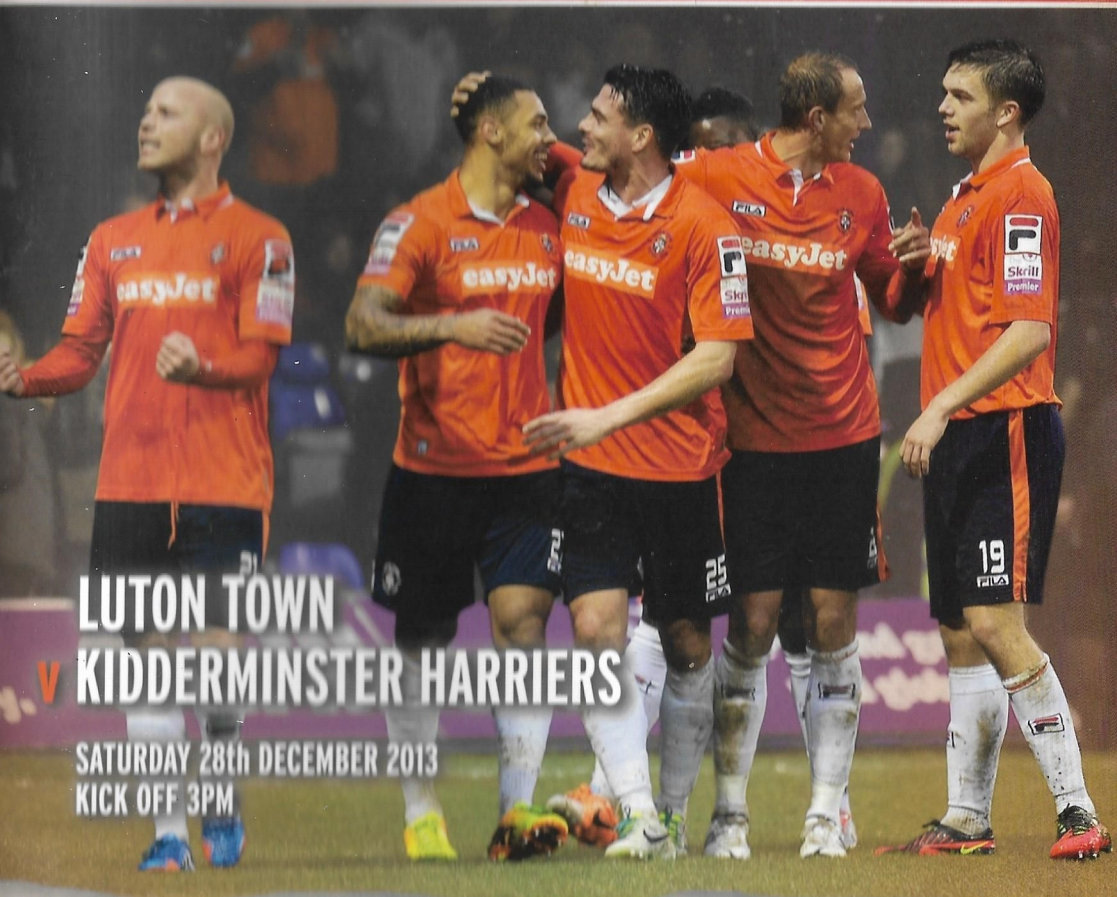


TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 15 • £3.00



LUTON TOWN V KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS

SATURDAY 28th DECEMBER 2013
KICK OFF 3PM

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PROUD KIT SUPPLIERS TO LUTON TOWN

welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ Merry Christmas and welcome back to Kenilworth Road. We trust you've had an enjoyable festive period so far and here's hoping that continues this afternoon.

It's also the last game of an up-and-down 2013 for the Hatters. Despite the fact there hasn't been that one certain 'up' we so desperate crave, who can forget the highs of Wolves, of Norwich and the league form this season?

What's more, win, lose or draw, you've been there every step of the way. We wonder what 2014 lies in store for us but, today, we end the current year with our friends from Kidderminster.

Like ourselves, the Harriers know all too well about the pain of the Play-Offs, and both clubs will be hoping that come the end of the current campaign that they are celebrating a return to the Football League. ”



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John Still looks ahead to today's game

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With director David Blakeman



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64 the season ahead

Fixtures and results for 2013/14



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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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

the manager

JOHN STILL

Good afternoon and Merry Christmas to you all and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this big game against Kidderminster Harriers.

I'd like to welcome Harriers boss Steve Burr and his players and staff, plus the directors and supporters of Kidderminster.

Today we entertain a side who have followed on from their near miss last season to be up and in and around the promotion picture once more. They are renowned for playing good, attacking football and there is no doubt that this will be a really tough, testing game for us, especially at this hectic time of year. Earlier in the season we beat Kidderminster 2-0 at Aggborough in one of our best performances away from home so far, but today we have to be fully motivated and concentrated to produce our best form against a very dangerous opponent.

Blistering

Our last home league game came against Gateshead last Saturday and a blistering first half display made the game safe for us. It was an all-round team performance and we scored some quality goals. What made our performance all the more impressive was that it came against a team in Gateshead who are an excellent side. It wasn't like we were playing a team out of form or at the bottom of the table. The first half display brought the points and it set us up nicely for this series of Christmas fixtures.

On Boxing Day we recorded our sixth away win of the season with a 2-1 win at Barnet. They are another team in good form so to win in the circumstances was terrific. The one obvious disappointment was the injury to Jonathan Smith.

As we went to press I can't give you the full details but I can tell you Jonathan has suffered a broken leg. I'll be able to tell you more in the coming days.

The incident happened close to half-time and, despite being 2-0 up, the dressing room was quite sombre. I think it was only fair to say it really hit home to all the boys that one of their team-mates had suffered a really bad injury.

Fantastic

Although we didn't produce our best form in the second half I thought the lads were fantastic in their work-rate, desire and attitude. It would be wrong to say nobody was affected by what happened because I, myself, was deeply affected by it as I was so close to it. It really shook me up. But credit goes to everyone because we got the result we wanted in the end.

Throughout a season, at different times, you need to deal with certain situations and I thought we showed a real energy on Boxing Day and that was greatly influenced by the 1,700 of you who supported your team throughout the 90 minutes, and for that I thank you.

Remember you can make a massive difference so please continue that this afternoon and get behind us once more.

We are bound to be tested in all sorts of different ways between now and the end of the season and I think what happened at Barnet is going to make us all stronger. If we work hard on and off the pitch we can create great things.

Thanks once again for your support at Barnet and enjoy the rest of the festive period, and today's game.

John Still



“I thought the lads were fantastic in their work-rate, desire and attitude.”

boardroom

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID BLAKEMAN



A hearty seasonal welcome to the players, staff and fans of Kidderminster Harriers, here today for a crucial clash between two clubs chasing promotion. I hope that everybody has enjoyed a pleasant and relaxing Christmas.

We have been playing cat and mouse with Kidderminster over the course of this season so far, although a poor recent run has seen them slip slightly behind us in the table. Nevertheless, we are conscious that Kidderminster are one of the more free scoring sides in the division and that today's game will be by no means straightforward.

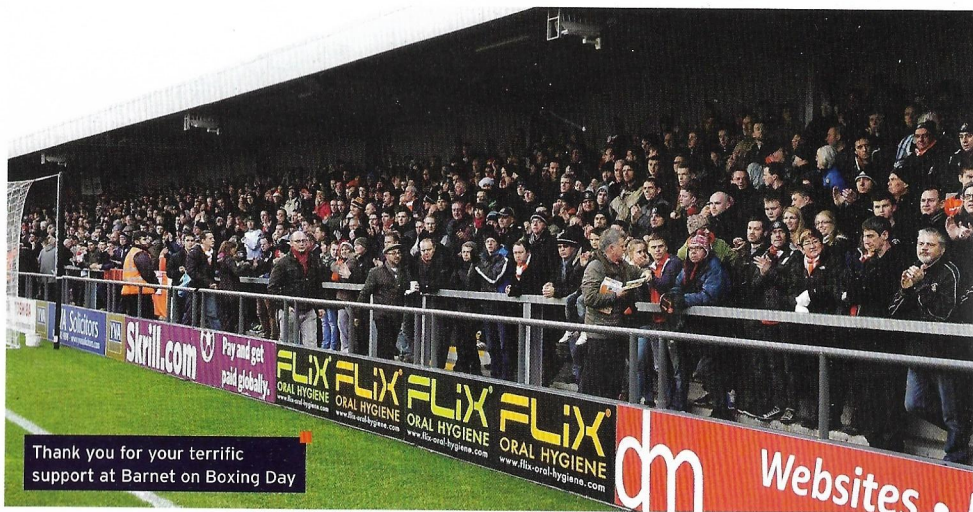
Obviously, I hope that we can continue our spectacular recent form and produce one of the performances that seems to have become commonplace in recent matches.

I have had the privilege of witnessing our recent displays against Alfreton, Wrexham and Gateshead. In each of those matches we have not looked remotely like a non-league side. Against Alfreton we produced a devastating goal-fest early on in the match – effectively killing it. Against Wrexham we fielded a strong development side, whilst Wrexham played their full first-team.

The 2-0 margin in our favour paid us no real compliment, as we were much the better side. Again, against Gateshead, the margin of our superiority was considerably greater than the 4-2 scoreline suggests.

I am confident that if we can maintain the type of form we saw in those matches, we have the capability of winning today's game. Equally, however, John Still and his team will be conscious that anything less than that scintillating form could result in us failing to achieve our best.

From a personal perspective, 2013 has been an interesting year, in the course of which we have continued our work, off the pitch, in respect of the stadium. To reassure any doubting Thomas's, the fact that there have been no definitive announcements does not mean that we are not closely considering all aspects of our premises position.



Thank you for your terrific support at Barnet on Boxing Day

We have also been conducting many more community activities than was the case in previous years. The recent opening of the Oak Road to home supporters has certainly aided that situation. We have invited children from numerous local schools to matches. They have been able to sit in the Oak Road, with their parents and teachers. They've seen, into the bargain, some very exciting football and loads of goals. I, personally, am really hopeful that some of those children will get the Luton bug and become long-term supporters.

Exciting

Even if they do not, they will have seen football of a sufficient quality to convince them that watching non-league football does not mean that you have to watch sub-standard football. Personally, I find it very sad to see you so many young children wearing Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool shirts, even though they do not come from anywhere near the grounds of those clubs. It must be our task to convince more and more youngsters that watching Premier League football is not the only way that you can see exciting matches.

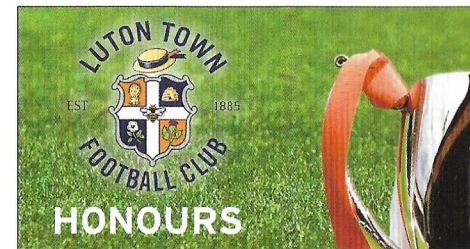
In addition to inviting children to watch matches at Kenilworth Road, we have also been making 'ambassadorial' visits to schools – helping teachers to provide, we hope, an interesting diversion from the usual curriculum – and at the same time, providing a useful opportunity to explain to children the myriad advantages of supporting Luton town football club!

Similarly, we have been helping a large number of local charities – sometimes with the aid of donating LTFC merchandise, and sometimes simply by means of allowing them to use facilities at the stadium to enhance their charitable offering.

We are very keen to assist charities, schools and other community groups as, in doing so, we very often get the opportunity to help spread the LTFC message. If you have any ideas that you think we could consider, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I hope that the New Year is going to be both profitable and enjoyable. I also hope, just as importantly, that we get a final shot of glory this side of the New Year in order to continue our tilt at the championship!

COYH!



Littlewoods Challenge Cup:

Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA Cup:

Runners-up 1959
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:

Winners 2009

Simod Cup:

Runners-up 1988

Football League Division Two:

Champions 1981/82
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Football League Division Three (South):

Winners 1936/37
Runners-up 1935/36

Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 1969/70

League One:

Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:

Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:

Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:

Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:

Runners-up 1913/14

United League:

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

Southern Alliance:

Runners-up 1913/14

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the captain

RONNIE HENRY

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for another big game as we take on promotion rivals Kidderminster Harriers.

I hope you enjoyed a good Christmas. I'd like to hope we gave you some festive cheer after the two wins – one before and one after Christmas Day.

The first win over Gateshead was thoroughly deserved against an in-form team. We knew that Gateshead would play in a certain way and our gameplan was executed to precision. We were 3-0 up at half-time after a commanding first 45 minutes. The goals we scored were absolutely fantastic and we followed that up with a fourth goal in the second half. It was disappointing to concede twice in the manner in which we did but by that stage we were already well on the way to victory.

The result, allied with others elsewhere going in our favour, meant we closed the gap at the top to just one point. I know it's a horrible cliché but we really do not focus on any other team apart from ourselves and, of course, the club we are playing on any given day. We know that we are good enough and it's exciting to see that we are now fulfilling the potential.

On Boxing Day we made the short trip to Barnet and returned with a 2-1 victory and another three points. The first half was another showing of terrific football capped with two goals scored by Paul Benson and Alex Lawless – two experienced and talented players who are really stepping up to the plate.

So far this season performances all over the pitch have been tremendous, none more so than those of Jonathan Smith. Smudge unfortunately picked up a terrible injury just before half-time at Barnet. As a group we were absolutely devastated. We knew instantly how bad it was and I still can't understand why the challenge was made on him like it was.



Smudge has been a bit of an unsung hero for his this season. He doesn't often get the headlines but he does an invaluable job for us. He covers every blade of grass and hunts down the opposition, never giving them any rest. Andre's goal against

Gateshead was a prime example of the kind of work he does for us.

The dressing room was a sombre place after the Barnet game. A fine performance and result was marred by the injury. It was really strange. Our second half display wasn't as good as the first and I definitely think the incident affected some of the lads.

However, the most important thing we need to do is to stick together. We must go and succeed for our team-mate who has given his all this season. Boxing Day was difficult to deal with but today we must focus our efforts on another very big match.

Kidderminster were unlucky not to win the league last year and beat us fair and square in the meeting here in April. They are up there challenging for promotion once more and today will be tough test for us.

Impressive

We can take heart from our hugely impressive home form. We've won nine matches in a row here at Kenilworth Road and I must admit I never thought I'd ever write that in my notes, especially given our form here last season.

Your support has been a driving force behind that, as it was at Barnet on Boxing Day. That was almost like a home game for us such was the noise and numbers of you at the game.

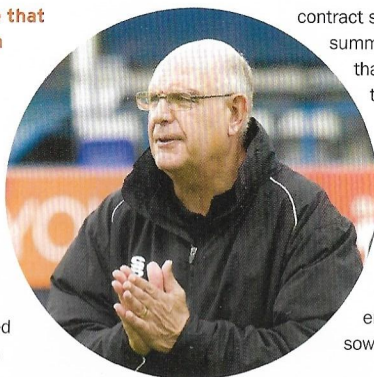
Please keep it up this afternoon. It promises to be a fascinating 90 minutes today so please get behind us all and I trust you'll join me in wishing Jonathan all the best in a speedy recovery.

NEW DEAL FOR BOSS

We were delighted to announce that manager John Still has penned a contract extension through to the summer of 2015 in our last programme against Gateshead.

Managing director Gary Sweet revealed the news first in his boardroom notes in the Gateshead programme.

He wrote: "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.

Delighted

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

The boss himself said: "I'm delighted to be here. I'm really enjoying my time here and we're sowing some seeds, which is important."

OPENING HOURS

Supporters wishing to obtain tickets and merchandise from the ticket office and club shop over the holiday period should note the opening hours below.

Sunday 29/12: CLOSED

Monday 30/12: Open 10am until 5pm

Tuesday 31/12: Open 10am until 1pm

Wednesday 1/1: Open 9am until queues are cleared after the game.

Thursday 2/1 onwards: Normal 10am to 5pm hours

Remember in these technologically advanced years you can pop online and get what you need, so visit www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown or www.hattersworld.co.uk to buy those gifts or guarantee your tickets for our games with Barnet and Lincoln.

Rest in Peace

It is with sadness that we report the death of Keith Lowe at the age of 64.

Keith was a lifelong supporter of Luton Town, inheriting his love of the club from his father.

From school he joined the navy, then went on to work at Vauxhall Motors. In later life he spent a lot of time in Spain.

Keith will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

NEW DATES NEW TIMES

The Hatters' Skriff Premier fixture away to Lincoln City on Saturday 4th January has been made all-ticket and will kick-off at 1pm following a request from Lincolnshire Police.

Further tickets details, including pricing and selling arrangements, can be found on page 13.

Meanwhile, the Town's game away to Macclesfield Town has been rearranged for Tuesday 11th February (kick-off 7.45pm).

The game at Moss Rose was due to take place on 11th January, but the Town have since progressed to the third round of the FA Trophy where they will meet Cambridge United.

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.

Town spread Christmas cheer

Members of the Town squad paid the Children's Ward at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital last week.

Club photographer Gareth Owen was on hand to capture the smiles as the Hatters players presented gifts to the youngsters.

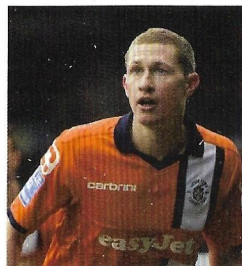


The trip touched two of the Town players.

Jake Howells tweeted: "Seen the children at the hospital, hope they get well soon and have a good Christmas #reallife" and and striker Andre Gray tweeted: "Just left hospital to see the kids #humbled"



Loan movement



Town winger Dave Martin has returned to Darford on a second month's loan.

The 28-year-old winger made seven appearances for the Darts last month, a club he played for as a teenager.

Having spent more than 28 days already at Princes Park, the Hatters have the right to a recall giving 24 hour's notice.

Meanwhile young professionals Jake Woolley and Jerome Jibodu have extended their loans at St Neots Town and Biggleswade Town respectively. Striker Woolley's deal ends on 14th January while left-back Jibodu's ends on 13th.

BON CHANCE, ARNAUD



The Hatters have mutually terminated the contract of midfielder Arnaud Mendy with immediate effect.

The Frenchman joined the Town from Macclesfield last season and played 27 times for the Hatters last season,

including the FA Cup victories over Wolves and Norwich.

This season he made just one appearance, in the 0-0 FA Trophy draw away to Staines Town last month.

Everybody at Luton Town wishes Arnaud well in his future footballing career.

up next



THE TOWN ARE BACK IN SKRILL PREMIER ACTION AGAIN ON NEW YEAR'S DAY WHEN THEY HOST BARNET IN FRONT OF THE BT SPORT CAMERAS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

BARNET



WHO? Barnet, aka the Bees. Dutch superstar midfielder Edgar Davids is the man at the helm at the Hive. Barnet were relegated from the Football League last season, finishing in 23rd place in League 2. They were relegated on goal difference, with John

Still's former club Dagenham & Redbridge the club surviving instead on the final day of the season.

LONG TIME NO SEE. Both sides meet at Kenilworth Road on New Year's Day just six days after the Town's 2-1 win over the Bees on Boxing Day. Barnet went into the game in fifth place but dropped out of the Play-Off places following the defeat to the Hatters. Davids' side head to Salisbury this afternoon.

X-FACTOR. Town boss John Still has twice been in charge with our New Year's Day visitors. The manager twice led Barnet to the Play-Offs, losing on both occasions in Division 3 (now League 2). He has also held the post of Director of Football with the Bees.

HOW THEY DOING? The Bees slipped out of the top five following defeat to the Hatters and are now three points off of a place in the top five, a position currently held by this afternoon's visitors Kidderminster.

ON THE ROAD. Away from their Hive home the Bees have a decent record, winning five and drawing four of their 12 matches on their travels, losing just three times. The Bees have won their last three away matches in all competitions without conceding a goal. A 2-0 win at

Dartford was followed by a 1-0 win at Hayes & Yeading in the FA Trophy, and last weekend a solitary goal from Jon Nurse secured a 1-0 win at bottom-of-the-table Hyde.

LAST TIME HERE. Barnet will make only their second visit to Kenilworth Road on New Year's Day. The Town beat the Bees on their only previous trip to Bedfordshire in December 2008. Goals from Paul McVeigh and Chris Martin had the Town 2-0 up before Abu Ogogo pulled one goal back for the visitors. The Bees striker was then sent-off before the Hatters wrapped up the win when Ian Roper forced Barnet's Michael Townsend into an own goal two minutes from time to complete a 3-1 win.

NEW YEAR CHEER? The Hatters have an inconsistent record on the first day of the new year. Of the 29 games the Town have played on 1st January, 10 have been won, 12 have been lost and seven have ended all square. The Town were beaten 3-1 at Woking on New Year's Day this year. That ended a run of three successive wins on New Year's Day between 2008 and 2012. A 1-0 win over Yeovil in League One in 2008 was followed by a 3-0 win over Rushden & Diamonds in 2011 and a 5-0 victory against Kettering Town at Nene Park in 2012, where five different goalscorers found the net.

TELLY ADDICTS. Beware the TV curse. The Town haven't won a televised live game since the 2-1 win over Hyde in August last season, a run of seven matches. Defeats at Grimsby and Newport were followed by a live FA Cup fifth round defeat to Millwall. Last season drew to a close with televised draws at Kenilworth Road against Grimsby and Newport. This season the Town drew at home to Grimsby and lost at Wrexham.

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS



SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PRO-RATA PRICES

Adults (22-64) £174, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £124, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £81, Unaccompanied Youths (10-16) and Juniors (under 10s) £24. Accompanied Under-17s FREE

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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. Ticket are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



LINCOLN CITY v LUTON TOWN



The **Skrill** Premier

SATURDAY 4th JANUARY 2014, KICK-OFF 1PM

Please note the kick-off time for this match. This game is all-ticket for Luton Town supporters. Prices: £18 adults, £13 concessions and £7 under-18s. Concession - 60+ / Student U22 (Photo NUS) / Disabled (Medium/High rate of DLA, Carer only issued FOC on production of a high rate of DLA) Sales plan: Tickets are now on general sale to all supporters and will remain on sale until 2pm Friday 3rd January at 2pm.



CAMBRIDGE UNITED v LUTON TOWN



FA TROPHY THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY 11th JANUARY 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Prices and sales to plan follow once received from Cambridge. Further details will appear in the Barnet programme.



LUTON TOWN v WREXHAM



The **Skrill** Premier

SATURDAY 18th JANUARY 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

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WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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COMMERCIAL MASCOTS

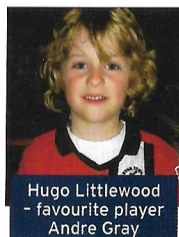
Today we have the pleasure of welcoming five mascots to Kenilworth Road.

First we have **Louie Henry** and his favourite player is Andre Gray.

Our second mascot is **Luca Payne** whose favourite player is Ronnie Henry.

Welcome to you both and, of course, to the other three mascots pictured opposite.

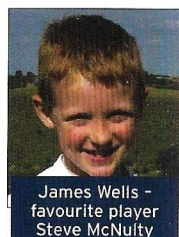
We hope you all have a fantastic day with us.



Hugo Littlewood - favourite player Andre Gray



Seth Burden - favourite player Luke Guttridge



James Wells - favourite player Steve McNulty

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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 Goodge AWAY: Gill, Julie and Yvonne	8 SOLOMON TAIWO HOME: Jonathan Perry AWAY: Available	9 JON SHAW HOME: Jacqui Peacock AWAY: Maddie Knight
10 ALEX WALL HOME: Ben & Richard Banks AWAY: Available	11 JAKE HOWELLS HOME: Neil Ehrenzweig AWAY: Sports 262 & lutontownfans.co.uk	12 SCOTT GRIFFITHS HOME: CME Heating AWAY: Ben Gray	13 MARK CULLEN HOME: Peter & Linda Little AWAY: Mad Hatter
14 ANDY PARRY HOME: The Walsh Family from Marbella AWAY: Available	16 ELLIOT JUSTHAM HOME: Available AWAY: Tommy Lennon GLOVES: Zak Harford Tilley	17 JJ O'DONNELL HOME: Kelly Knight AWAY: Available	18 DAVE MARTIN HOME: Ronnie Coles AWAY: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin
20 DAVID VIANA HOME: Available AWAY: Available	21 LUKE GUTTRIDGE HOME: Luton Outlaws AWAY: Luton Town Supporters club of Scandinavia	22 SHAUN WHALLEY HOME: Re-Mark-It AWAY: Keyholder Lettings & Management	23 MATT ROBINSON HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Whosh
25 RONNIE HENRY HOME: Mark Francome AWAY: Tommy Lennon	26 PAUL BENSON HOME: Ashby World Domination AWAY: The Mad Hatter	27 ANDRE GRAY HOME: Tom AWAY: Jack Keenan	28 JIM STEVENSON HOME: Luton Outlaws AWAY: Available
30 ALEX LACEY HOME: Peter & Linda Little AWAY: In memory of Bill Lacey	31 JAKE WOOLLEY HOME: Total Motion Vehicle Management AWAY: Available	32 BRETT LONGDEN HOME: Available AWAY: Available	33 JEROME JIBODU HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Available
34 ZANE BANTON HOME: Loyal Luton AWAY: COYH	JOHN STILL HOME: Thompsons Accountants AWAY: Country Properties	TERRY HARRIS HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Available	HAKAN HAYRETTIN HOME: Available AWAY: Available

welcome

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS



Everyone at Luton Town wishes a warm festive welcome to Kenilworth Road to Kidderminster Harriers.

Going into the final game of last season our visitors today still had a sniff of winning the Conference title, and with it the opportunity to return to the Football League, but following Mansfield's victory over Wrexham it was the Play-Offs for Steve Burr's side.

The Hatters don't like the Play-Offs much and Kiddy found the end-of-season lottery too much too – going out on aggregate to Wrexham, who were eventually beaten by Newport in the final.

Cracker

But enough talk of the Play-Offs and promotion heartbreak – this afternoon's game promises to be a cracker against two sides chasing the promotion dream.

Harriers have been perennial slow starters – remember last season they hadn't won a single game after 10 matches last term before finishing second – but this campaign has seen Burr's side in among the front runners since the first few weeks of the season.

Kiddy arrive at Kenilworth Road in fifth place in the Skril Premier following their 2-1 win over Hereford United on Boxing Day. That victory ended a run of three successive defeats which saw Harriers drop from second in the table to out of the Play-Off places all together.

Harriers lost to Woking and promotion rivals Alfreton and Grimsby in that run, but Boxing Day's victory – achieved thanks to goals from Michael Gash and Danny Jackman – lifted Kiddy back into fifth place, eight points behind in the Hatters in the table.

Last season, on their way to finishing as league runners-up, Harriers achieved their first ever win over the Town – at the 11th time of asking. The Hatters had remained unbeaten in all of the 10 previous meetings between the two clubs until goals from Anthony Malbon and Josh Gowling secured a 2-1 win for Harriers.

The Town gained revenge on that defeat by inflicting another defeat on Kiddy with two Jake Howells penalties doing the damage at Aggborough in August.

Results

However, this afternoon the Hatters will still have to be wary of a Kidderminster side who have four wins on the road to their name already this season. Their Boxing Day win also meant, with other results going their way, they opened up a two-point gap over sixth placed Nuneaton.

Player-wise the Town defence will have their work cut out to keep striker Michael Gash (nine goals) and highly-rated winger Joe Lolley (seven goals) quiet. Goals are evenly spread among the Kiddy squad with Callum Gittings and Anthony Malbon on six apiece and Kyle Storer and former Hatter Amari Morgan-Smith on five each.

in opposition

MEET THE KIDDERMINSTER SQUAD

THE MANAGER

STEVE BURR. Named Harriers boss in January 2010 having left Stalybridge Celtic. The highly-sought after boss guided Kiddy to the Play-Offs last term and is also involved in the England C set-up, assisting as a coach to the non-league Three Lions.

GOALKEEPERS

DANIEL LEWIS. Considered part of the furniture at Aggborough, the stopper first joined the club in 2004. Since signing for Kiddy he has gone on to make over 100 appearances.

NATHAN VAUGHAN. Experienced goalkeeper who first signed for Kiddy on non-contract terms in 2011/12 before signing permanently. More than an able deputy for Lewis, he played 15 times last term.

DEFENDERS

LEE VAUGHAN. Consistent performer at right-back who has made over 100 appearances for Harriers since signing from AFC Telford in 2010.

MICKEY DEMETRIOU. Set-play specialist and versatile defender who arrived at Aggborough in 2011 having been brought through the Glenn Hoddle Academy. Also been on the books at Eastbourne.

CHEY DUNKLEY. Highly-rated young centre-half now in his second season with Harriers having joined from Hednesford last year. Began his career as a youngster at Crewe.

AARON BROWN. Experienced former Aldershot defender who signed in October and can play anywhere across the back four.

JAMIE GRIMES. Towering centre-half in his second spell at Aggborough having previously played on non-contract terms last term. Invited back for pre-season training this summer and impressed enough to earn a deal for this campaign.

JOSH GOWLING. Last season's player of the year, the defender joined Harriers from Lincoln in August 2012 and has gone onto be a regular at centre-half.

MIDFIELDERS

KYLE STORER. Ball-playing midfielder who has become an established member of the Harriers side since his arrival from Nuneaton in 2011.

LEE FOWLER. Another Conference regular, midfielder Fowler served successful Wrexham and Fleetwood sides in reason seasons. Joined this year after leaving Doncaster.

MARVIN JOHNSON. Emerging young winger who signed for Harriers from Romulus in January 2012. Made 40 appearances last season before penning a new deal in the summer.

DANNY JACKMAN. Another experienced midfielder, the former Aston Villa scholar joined Kiddy in January 2013. Previously on the books at Stockport, Gillingham and Northampton.

JAMES DANCE. No stranger to Kenilworth Road, winger Dance arrived at Aggborough last season after a two-year spell with the Hatters. A former Conference winner with Crawley.

CALLUM GITTINGS. A 2010 arrival from Alvechurch, the midfielder has been a mainstay in the middle of the park for Harriers and has made over 100 appearances in red and white.

STRIKERS

MICHAEL GASH. Natural goalscoring striker who joined Harriers in January from Cambridge and scored seven goals in 13 appearances last term. A regular finder of the net during his time at York and Ebbsfleet.

ANTHONY MALBON. Last season's top goalscorer who shot to prominence with a run of 15 goals in 19 games last term as Harriers reached the Play-Offs. Began his career as a youngster at Port Vale before moving to Newcastle Town.

JOE LOLLEY. Redditch-born hitman who signed a one-year deal with the club this summer having scored 88 goals in 83 at Midland Combination level with Littleton.

AMARI MORGAN-SMITH. Another former Hatter in the Harriers squad, the forward re-joined Kiddy this summer after a successful loan spell towards the back end of last season.



Kidderminster boss Steve Burr

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

Kidderminster Harriers will be even more intent on securing promotion back to League 2 this season after their colossal effort last season saw them win 22 of their last 26 league games, but still fail to make the step up after losing to Wrexham in the Play-Offs.

The Harriers started the 2012/13 season in dire form failing to win a single game in their opening 10 matches, but this time around they are sitting on a better points total at the same stage in the season and will be confident of re-creating the relentless run they went on last year in order to either win the division or put right what went wrong last year.

A closer look at Kidderminster's season so far

Steve Burr's side are sixth in the Skrill Premier with 39 points having played 23, won 12, drawn three and lost eight games.

The Harriers home record is impressive (eight wins in 11 matches), but it has been their away performances that have inhibited the side being able to challenge for the title so far this campaign. Kidderminster have suffered six defeats in 12 games on their travels and have only been averaging one goal scored per game.

What's more, their recent form on the road has been a major cause for concern seeing as they have only won one in six and scored just four goals in over 360 minutes of action.

Interestingly, though, Burr's side have a knack for taking the initiative early in games. Harriers are top of the first-half league table having gone into the break leading on 12 occasions and have also only conceded first in six of their 23 games; scoring first in 15 of those.

How will they play? Who are their danger men?

Kidderminster are expected to line-up in their 4-3-3 formation today and possess a lot of strength in the middle of the park with a blend of energy, physicality and creativity.

Daniel Lewis will start in goal for the visitors and will be protected by the complimentary central pairing of commanding 6ft3in centre-half Josh Gowling and the more cultured, ball-playing centre-back 22-year-old Cheyenne Dunkley.

Lee Vaughan will be one to watch with his raiding runs from right-back, whilst Mickey Demetriou will complete a



PROBABLE LINE-UP 4-3-3

back four that is identical to the one used for the majority of last season.

Tenacious central midfielder Jack Byrne will relish a battle in the middle of the pitch and will look to provide protection for the two midfielders playing just ahead of him. 5ft4in Danny Jackman will play alongside goal-threat Callum Gittings who has shown his talent and versatility in recent years by scoring goals from both central midfield and wide

positions. This season, Gittings has six goals and two assists in 19 games.

Joe Lolley, who some may call the 'Cristiano Ronaldo of the Midlands Combination League' for his sublime record of 88 goals in 83 games, will likely start out wide, with former-Hatter Amari Morgan-Smith on the other flank. Former Cambridge United target-man Michael Gash will spearhead the visitors' attack and will be looking to add to his tally of six Skrill Premier goals.



Josh Gowling



club data

Established: 1886

Nickname(s): The Harriers, Kiddy

Stadium: Aggborough

Capacity: 6,250 (Avg. attendance '13/14 - 2,117)

Manager: Steve Burr (Three years, 11 months)

Final league position 12/13: 2nd BSBP

back to the future

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

1993/94 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

KEVIN ROSE: England Semi-Pro international goalkeeper who also helped Harriers to reach the FA Cup fifth round in 1993/94. Settling in Ross-on-Wye, he has since worked for a water treatment company.

SIMEON HODSON: England Semi-Pro international right-back who joined Rushden & Diamonds in December 1996, then Sutton Coldfield. He has become a Warwickshire Police community support officer.

PAUL BANCROFT: England Semi-Pro international left-back who had two spells at Aggborough. Moving to Shepshed Dynamo in September 1995, he returned from New Zealand to coach Hinckley United.

MARTIN WEIR: Central defender who was twice voted Player of the Year and appeared in two FA Trophy finals, netting 24 goals in 496 Conference games before joining Worcester City in October 1999.

CHRIS BRINDLEY: Central defender who later appeared for Stafford Rangers, Hednesford again and Gresley Rovers, becoming coach/manager at Stourport, Rushall, Stafford, Chasetown and Hednesford.

RICHARD FORSYTH: England Semi-Pro midfielder who joined Birmingham City in July 1995, Stoke City, Blackpool, Peterborough, Cheltenham and Northwich Victoria. He is currently a PE teacher.

NEIL CARTWRIGHT: Midfielder who netted 14 goals in 103 Conference games, then appeared for Telford United and Halesowen before spells at Bromsgrove Rovers, Redditch United and Stourbridge.

PAUL GRAINGER: Midfielder who missed the 1995/96 season through injury and joined Stafford Rangers in August 1996 where further injury problems curtailed his career. He has settled in Penkridge.

DELWYN HUMPHREYS: England Semi-Pro striker who joined Northwich Victoria in September 1995, then played for Stafford Rangers and Bromsgrove Rovers. He is now managing Ellesmere Rangers.

PAUL DAVIES: Long-serving England Semi-Pro striker who became player-coach, netting 176 goals in 451 Conference games. He was Worcester City's assistant-boss and briefly managed Stourport Swifts.

JON PURDIE: Much-travelled winger who scored 17 times in 82 Conference games in two spells, returning to Worcester City in January 1999. Later playing for Bilston, he has settled in Littlemore, Oxon.

1999/00 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

TIM CLARKE: Goalkeeper who rejoined Halesowen Town in July 2001. He later played for Evesham United, Weston-Super-Mare, Bromsgrove, Alvechurch and Willenhall before coaching Halesowen.

IAN CLARKSON: Right-back who made 77 League appearances while at Aggborough, moving to Nuneaton Borough in August 2002, then Stafford Rangers, Leamington and Forest Green Rovers.

SCOTT STAMPS: Left-back who made 129 League appearances prior to joining Tamworth in August 2004, then Bromsgrove Rovers, Boldmere St Michael, Hednesford Town and Sutton Coldfield.

PAUL WEBB: England Semi-Pro international midfielder who played in the 1995 FA Trophy final and scored 11 times in 396 Conference outings before moving to Evesham United in January 2002.

CRAIG HINTON: Central defender who netted three goals in 173 League games, moving to Bristol Rovers in July 2004, then later Northampton Town, Bristol Rovers' assistant-boss and Solihull Moors. Once had a loan spell with Luton.

ADIE SMITH: England Semi-Pro international central defender who scored eight times in 122 League games before joining Tamworth in February 2004, then playing for Chasetown and Rushall Olympic.

DEAN BENNETT: England Semi-Pro midfielder who netted 16 goals in 154 League outings prior to joining Wrexham in August 2004, then Chester City, Harriers again, Dundalk and Solihull Moors.

STEWART HADLEY: Ex-Mansfield Town striker who netted six goals in 43 League outings before moving to Worcester City in January 2002 and hung up his boots in May 2003. He has settled locally.

MARK DRUCE: Former Oxford United and Rotherham United striker who joined Oxford City in July 2000, then played for Woking before returning to Oxford City. He has since settled in Kidlington.

IAN FOSTER: England Semi-Pro international striker who returned from a spell at Chester to score 20 goals in 110 League games overall, becoming Harriers' physio, then managed Galway and Dundalk.

MIKE MARSH: Former Liverpool midfielder who later played for Southport again, Boston United, Accrington Stanley, Burscough and Skelmersdale. He held various coaching posts, now back at Liverpool.

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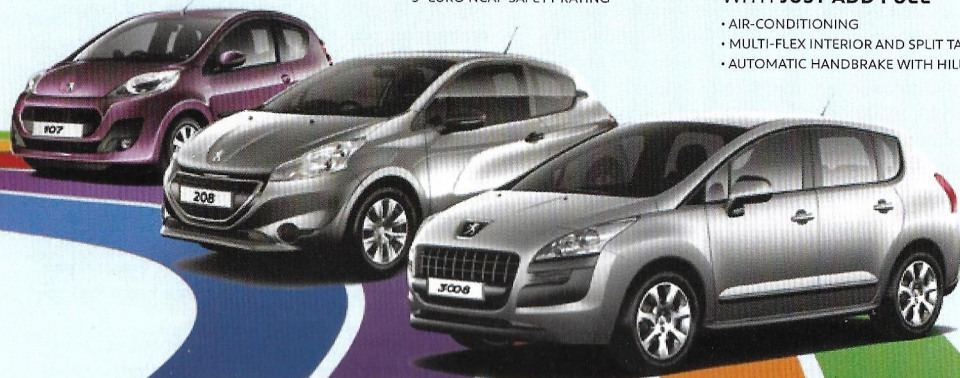
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a hatter and...

...A HARRIER

MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER

A number of players have worn the colours of both the Town and Kidderminster in recent years.

Two, in fact, still currently do. Harriers have striker Amari Morgan-Smith and winger James Dance in their ranks.

Morgan-Smith netted 18 times in 48 games for the Hatters having joined the club in 2010 having been made available after former club Ilkeston went into liquidation. Dance joined the Town in 2011 from Conference champions Crawley and made 32 appearances for the Hatters, scoring four times.

Gavin Caines – who signed on-loan for the Town from Kiddy but never played a game – and Adam Watkins are two players who have been temporarily on the books of both clubs, but perhaps the most prominent players to have represented both clubs his striker Matthew Barnes-Homer.

The 27-year-old is now plying his trade at fellow Skrill Premier side Forest Green Rovers, but was a regular goalscorer for both the Hatters and the Harriers.

He joined Kiddy on a free in 2007 and went on to net 34 goals in 77 league starts at Aggborough and his form in front of goal alerted the attentions of the Town. After originally signing on-loan in November 2009 the move was made permanent and in total he hit 23 goals in 81 games, with 20 of those strikes in 67 league appearances.

Barnes-Homer left Kenilworth Road in January 2012, and after short spells in Sweden and with Nuneaton, he signed for Macclesfield last summer where he scored 18 league goals in the last campaign, helping the Silkmen reach the fourth round of the FA Cup.

MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER STATISTICS:

LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 81

LUTON TOWN GOALS: 23

FIRST APPEARANCE: v Kettering (h) L 0-1 2/12/09

FIRST GOAL: v Eastbourne (h) W 4-1 28/12/09

LAST APPEARANCE: v Forest Green (h) D 1-1

16/8/11

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Today will be the 13th meeting between the Hatters and the Harriers and will be the sixth at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters have an excellent record against today's visitors, winning nine of the 12 matches. Two have ended all square whilst Kidderminster have won just the once.

That sole victory for Kiddy came last season and it came at Kenilworth Road. Steve Burr's side were in flying form when they visited Bedfordshire on April Fool's Day last year. Josh Gowling and Anthony Malbon scored in the first half and, despite an Andre Gray goal seven minutes from time, Harriers secured their one and only win over the Hatters.

The Town reaffirmed their dominance over the Harriers earlier this season thanks to a 2-0 win at Aggborough thanks to two Jake Howells penalties. It maintained the Town's excellent record in Worcestershire which reads five wins and one draw from six visits.

At Kenilworth Road the Hatters have won three for the five games. The Town's last win on home soil against Kiddy came in late April 2012. In a crucial game, with the winner putting themselves in pole position or a Play-Off place, the Town triumphed thanks to a fine Robbie Willmott goal.

The previous campaign, 2010/11, saw the two clubs share the points in a 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road in March 2011. Former Harrier Matthew Barnes-Homer put the Hatters ahead before Tom Shaw equalised in the second period.

In the season before that – in the Town's first in the Football Conference in 2009/10 – two goals from Kevin Gallen and one from Jake Howells secured a 3-1 win over Kiddy in March 2010.

The two sides first met at Kenilworth Road for the first time eight years prior in the Football League, and a solitary goal from Paul Hughes gave the Town a 1-0 win in March 2002.

from the oak road

Finishing just two points behind champions Mansfield last season was a bitter pill to swallow for Kiddy fans - yet they still have every chance of putting that disappointment behind them this season. In fact, Harriers fan Mike Peplow believes both of today's sides will be smiling come May.

TALK OF THE TOWN: Kiddy were desperately unlucky not to secure promotion last season. Are you happy with the progress you've made this season?

MIKE: Absolutely. It is important to look at the long-term perspective and be philosophical about last season's achievements. Admittedly, being just one more positive result away from promotion back to the Football League was difficult to take at the time, but, as I'm sure Luton fans will appreciate, it is fantastic to see our club competing at the right end of the table after tumultuous financial times just three years ago. With a forward-thinking board of directors and a settled managerial team, it's pleasing to see us in touch with the front-runners and enjoying an extended run in the FA Cup.

TOTT: Steve Burr has been the subject of much interest from various other clubs - however, he has remained loyal to Kidderminster. Tell us why your manager is in such high demand.

MIKE: Steve is a connoisseur of fast-flowing, attacking football that yields goals and entertainment. He also has a roving eye for emerging talent from the lower reaches of the non-league system, and converts them into accomplished performers in much the same way as John Still is renowned for doing. He's also undertaken sterling work with the England C side. It's important to note that Steve has an excellent backroom team, none more so than Gary Whild, an assistant with a wealth of knowledge from around the local footballing scene. Steve also enjoys a good working relationship with our chairman, and the open and honest way with which he has publicly dealt with approaches from Grimsby Town and Forest Green Rovers in the past symbolises the trust that exists between the two men.

TOTT: Which players should we be looking out for today in the Kiddy side - and why?

MIKE: It is very hard to pick the outstanding threats from our side as all areas of the team have contributed with their share of goals throughout the season. However, two young players who have attracted much attention are Cheyenne Dunkley and Joe Lolley. Dunkley has been a solid and dependable asset and formed an indomitable partnership at the heart of the defence with Josh Gowing last term. Lolley meanwhile has emerged from step six of the non-league pyramid and has ravaged full-backs with his pace and skilful trickery on the ball. Expect a bright future for both of these youngsters.

TOTT: The Hatters and the Harriers have shared some ding-dong battles over the last few seasons - with Luton generally coming out on top. What are your memories from past encounters? How do you see the game going today?

MIKE: I still have nightmares about our two encounters during the 2001/02 Division Three campaign, especially the night Matthew Spring and Matthew Taylor tore us apart in a 4-1 demolition at Aggborough. For the most part since we have crossed paths again, Luton have shown a clinical class when playing against us that we have struggled to cope with. The only two exceptions have been the breathtaking 3-3 draw at Aggborough in 2010/11, and our first ever victory at Kenilworth Road last season, in possibly our most complete performance of that campaign. Today will be a close encounter with two footballing sides giving it their all. My only worry is that John Still seems to have a hoodoo over us stretching back over 25 years. Hopefully we'll break that today!



Joe Lolley



TOTT: Which two teams do you think will win promotion from the Skrill Premier this season and why?

MIKE: This will seem like a cop-out but I genuinely think today's sides will both be members of the 'Great 92' come August of next season. Luton have an excellent manager and an effective squad with a mixture of experienced campaigners and youthful flair. Luton's strength in depth was illustrated by the victory over Wrexham in the FA Trophy. Harriers will have the know-how and resolve to gain promotion this season and I feel the Play-Offs will suit our ability to produce big performances in important, one-off situations. So Luton for the title and Harriers for the Play-Offs, with Richard Money's Cambridge faltering in a post-Christmas slump and Grimsby's FA Cup and Trophy exploits producing a terminal fixture pile-up. You read it here first!

TOTT: What are your thoughts on your cup draw against Peterborough? Do you think an upset is possible?

MIKE: I was hoping for a re-draw to be honest! Peterborough did not whet the appetite immediately, especially as the dream for all sides in round three is a date with a top-flight side.

However, on reflection we have a home draw - only yourselves and Alfreton have beaten us at Aggborough this season - and we have a habit of performing against decent footballing sides. Our greatest cup upset was when we beat Birmingham City 2-1 in round three at St. Andrew's in January 1994. The manager that day? Barry Fry! 20 years on, the stage is set...

TOTT: How shocked were you by the revelations of fixing in English football recently? What do you feel should be done to stamp this out?

MIKE: I'm not surprised it occurs - more nervous as to how widespread the practice may be. Seven Liverpool players were banned in 1915 for fixing a Good Friday fixture with Manchester United and there were betting scandals with Sheffield Wednesday in the 1960s, it

is not a new phenomenon, and it would be naive to think otherwise. For the integrity of the game it has to be tackled head-on, and life bans must be imposed and enforced for any transgressions. A zero-tolerance approach is the only way forward, and the footballing authorities could be proactive by insisting clauses in contracts that force a player to pay back wages and other monies earned whilst undertaking such activities.



Cheyenne Dunkley

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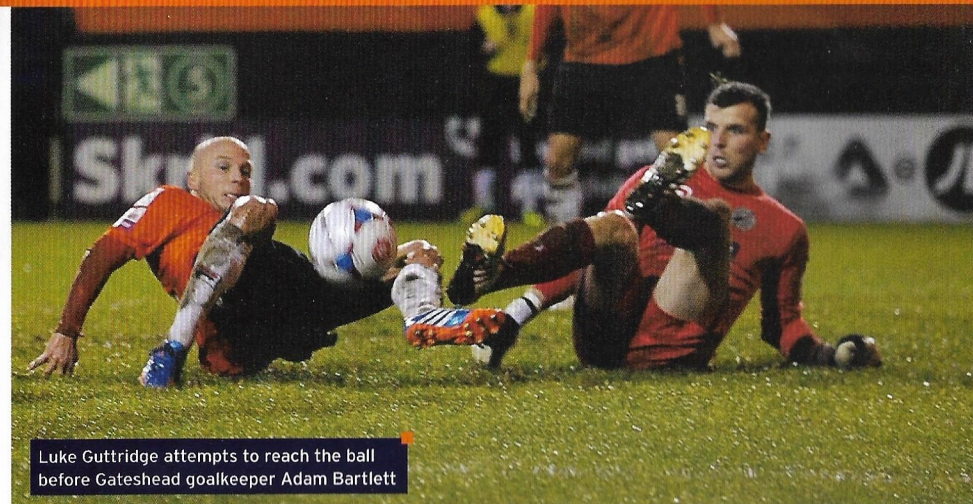
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TOWN 4-2 GATESHEAD



**Luke Guttridge attempts to reach the ball
before Gateshead goalkeeper Adam Bartlett**

**The Town moved to within a point of leaders
Cambridge United after stretching their unbeaten
league run to 15 games with a 4-2 win over
Gateshead.**

In-form Gateshead were torn apart by a rampant Hatters side who were three goals to the good at half-time following goals from Paul Benson, Alex Lawless and Andre Gray.

Lawless bagged his second on the hour and, although Gateshead scored twice to give the scoreline a closer look, the victory was never in doubt as the Town celebrated news that John Still has signed a contract extension until 2015 in style.

The manager made just one change to the side that dismantled Alfreton in the last league fixture, with Joe Davis preferred at centre-half over Alfie Mawson.

After an even open first quarter-of-an-hour – which had seen Davis have a header cleared off the line – the Town took control the minute Benson nodded home his eighth goal of the season. Lawless did the donkey work, winning the ball down the left to pick out Benson with a perfect cross and the striker just needed to guide the ball home with his head into the corner of the net for his eighth goal of the season.

In front, the Town were playing some lovely football and the same combination almost led to a second goal when Benson flew to attempt to meet another Lawless cross but the striker couldn't quite reach it. However, on 27 minutes it was 2-0. Gateshead failed to clear their lines in the six-yard box and Lawless took full advantage to coolly finish past visiting goalkeeper Adam Bartlett.

And two became three just three minutes later. Mark Tyler kept out a rasping drive from John Oster and, after clearing the subsequent corner the Town broke. Jonathan Smith found Gray and he did the rest: lashing home an unstoppable shot from just inside the penalty area for his 13th goal of the season.

Gateshead continued to be put under pressure in their own 18-yard box as the Town hunted a fourth goal before half-time. Benson and Gray almost combined on 40 minutes only for the visitors to clear before Luke Guttridge's curling effort was blocked by the head of a visiting defender.

After the break Smith sent a shot wide of the post on 49 minutes before Gray blasted a drive goalwards that was blocked three minutes later.

Guttridge then almost notched an impressive volley following Bartlett's wayward goal-kick only for the keeper to claim gratefully.

The Town did, though, find the net for the fourth time on the hour. Ronnie Henry did well down the right and, as the Hatters swept up-field, Benson's shot was pawed away by Bartlett – but Lawless was on hand to hammer home the rebound with a fine first-time shot.

4-0 up the Hatters then switched off with John Oster and Liam Hatch halving the deficit for the visitors but, with time on their side, the Town were still well in command.

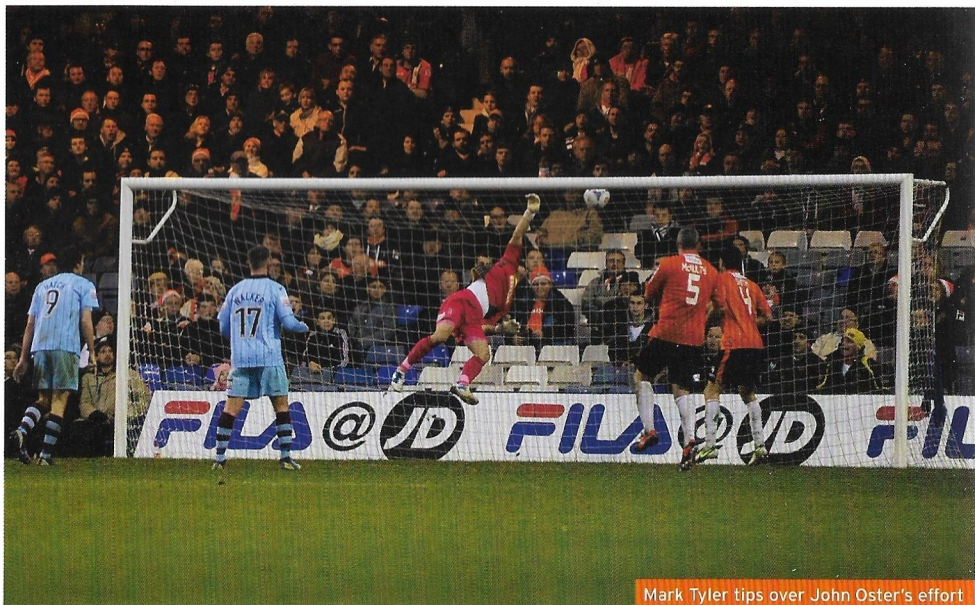
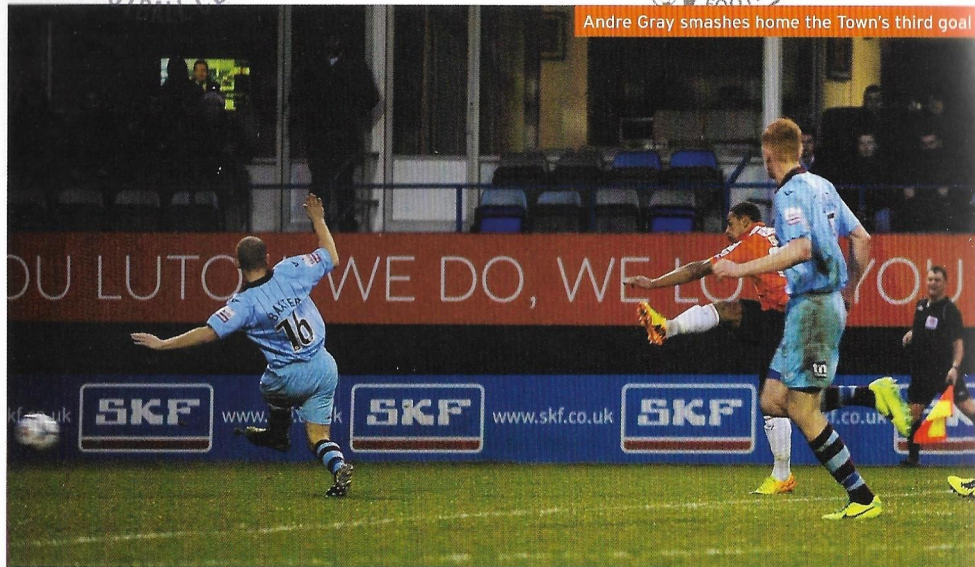
Scott Griffiths was denied a fifth for the Town when his header was chalked off for a foul five minutes from time and in the end it stayed 4-2 as the Hatters recorded their ninth straight home win in all competitions.

TOWN 4-2 GATESHEAD

Benson 16, Lawless 27, 60, Gray 30

Oster 70, Hatch 84

Andre Gray smashes home the Town's third goal



Mark Tyler tips over John Oster's effort

TOWN: Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Davis; Smith, Ruddock, Lawless, Guttridge (sub Robinson 79); Benson, Gray. **SUBS NOT USED:** Mawson, Cullen, Howells, Justham.

GATESHEAD: Bartlett, Baxter, Curtis, Magnay, Sirrell, Turnbull, Oster, Walker (sub Cummins 77), Boyes (sub Maddison 66), Hatch, Larkin (sub Ramshaw 76). **SUBS NOT USED:** Chandler, Baird.



Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu races forward

POSSESSION	52%	48%
CORNERS	10	4
SHOTS ON TARGET	8	3
SHOTS OFF TARGET	12	3

FOULS	10	11
YELLOW CARDS	2	3
RED CARDS	0	0

ATTENDANCE: 6,913 (23 GATESHEAD)

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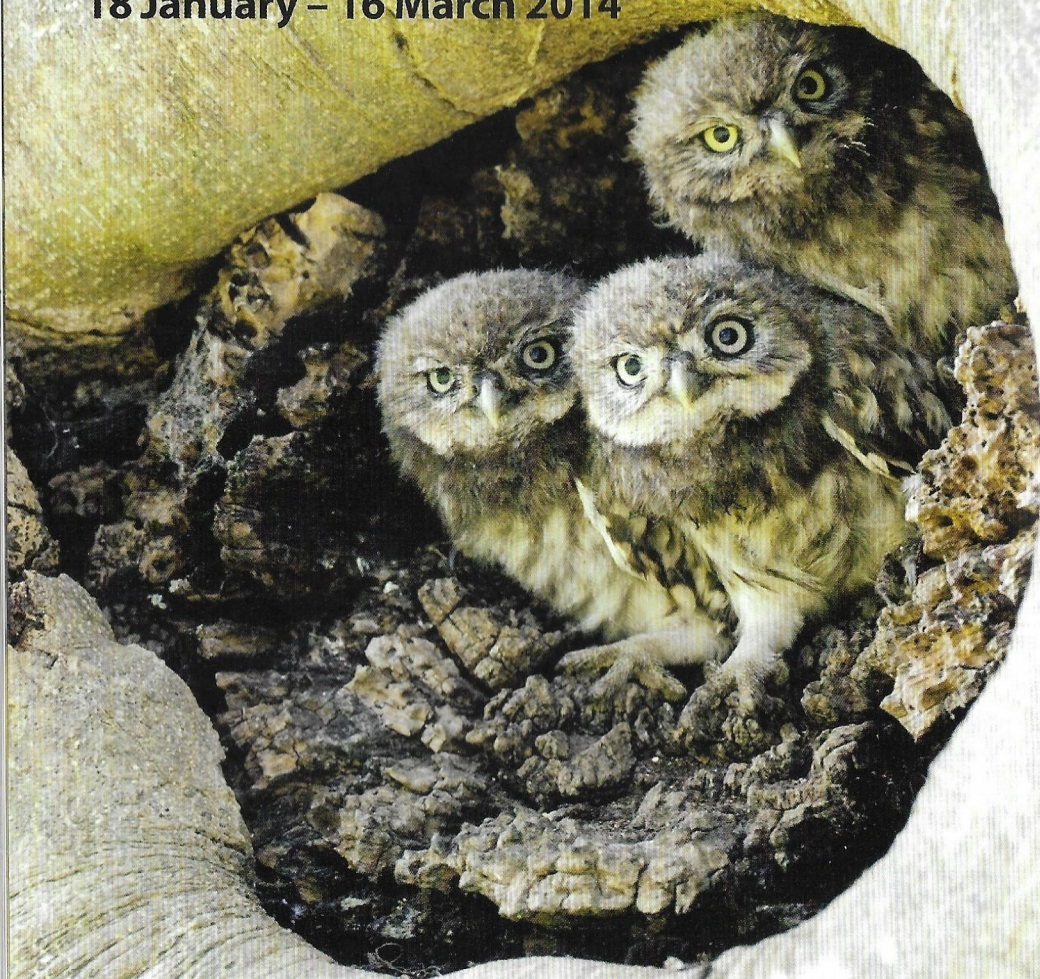


Photo: Richard Peters - Young Little Owls

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BARNET 1-2 TOWN

The Hatters overcame a strong second half display from 10-man Barnet to move to within a point at the top of the Skrill Premier in a game overshadowed by an injury to Jonathan Smith.

First half goals from Paul Benson and Alex Lawless had the Hatters ahead before the Bees were reduced to 10 men on the stroke of half-time when Jon Nurse was sent-off for an awful challenge on Smith.

Striker Jake Hyde pulled one back for the home side in the second half but the Town saw out their sixth win on the road.

The hosts tested Mark Tyler early on, Luisma Villa arrowing a shot from distance that the Hatters stopper had to turn around the post on three minutes.

Benson warmed Graham Stack's gloves on 10 minutes with a snap-shot half-volley and seven minutes later Ronnie Henry's deep cross from the right was nodded back across by Benson but Joe Davis, with the goal at his mercy, failed to prod the ball over the line.

Celebrating

It came at a time that the Town were on top but the 1,700 travelling hordes needn't have worried as on 22 minutes they were celebrating an opening goal. Smith spotted Andre Gray's run in the right-hand channel and the striker's pass across goal was tapped home by Benson for his ninth goal of the season.

Deservedly ahead it got better for the Hatters on 34 minutes. The Town did well to block a shot from the hosts' Hyde. Lawless then carried the ball upfield from the left flank, cut inside and sent a wonderful curling drive beyond the reach of Stack.

Benson then capitalised on a defensive mishap from David Stephens to bear down on goal but his finish looked all the world it would make it 3-0 until a superb clearance from defender Jack Saville.

Concern

Lawless came close to scoring his second and the Town's third on 38 minutes when shooting wide but the celebrations and smiles in the away end disappeared on 45 minutes when Smith was on the receiving end of a terrible challenge by Nurse.

There was immediate concern for the midfielder and referee Whitton was quick to book the former Dagenham winger Nurse. But, with it becoming more apparent that Smith was in discomfort, the referee – after consulting his fellow officials – reached for a straight red card.

After the restarted Barnet upped the ante in a flurry of action in the Town half. The Bees should have pulled a



Alex Lawless celebrates his goal on Boxing Day

goal back five minutes into the second period when Mark Byrne was able to cross from the right flank but his pull back rolled agonisingly across the face of goal with Hyde unable to reach it.

The Hatters though were looking dangerous on the break and on 63 minutes they spurned an even better chance when Guttridge strolled through on goal and past the home defence but couldn't beat Stack. And that looked an ever bigger miss five minutes later when Barnet pulled a goal back. Scott Griffiths' slip down the left presented Andy Yiamdom the chance to streak through and his cross was on a plate for Hyde to head past Tyler.

It was end-to-end in the closing stages: Tyler saved a Lopez header; Davis brilliantly denied Hyde the chance for an equaliser, before Gray and Lawless both fired shots at goal but, after one final chance for Barnet with Curtis Weston firing wide, it was all over and the Town could celebrate a sixth away win.

BARNET 1-2 TOWN

Hyde 68

Benson 22, Lawless 34

Paul Benson puts the Hatters in front



Alex Lawless doubles the lead

BARNET: Stack, Saville, Johnson, Stephens, Byrne, Cadogan (sub Vilhete 83), Weston, Villa Lopez (sub Dani Lopez 55), Yiadom (sub Acheampong 90), Hyde, Nurse. **SUBS NOT USED:** Jupp, Abdullah.

TOWN: Tyler, Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Davis; Smith (sub Robinson 45), Guttridge, Lawless, Ruddock; Gray (sub Cullen 90), Benson. **SUBS NOT USED:** Mawson, Howells, Justham.

Substitute Matt Robinson keeps his eyes on the ball



POSSESSION	47%	53%
CORNERS	5	6
SHOTS ON TARGET	4	5
SHOTS OFF TARGET	5	8

FOULS	14	8
YELLOW CARDS	2	1
RED CARDS	1	0

ATTENDANCE: 3,608 (1,700 LUTON)

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The Hatters squad pose for a photograph at their pre-Christmas visit to the Children's Ward at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital





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reaction

LAWLESS LOVING LEFT-SIDE ROLE

Midfielder Alex Lawless was understandably delighted with the Town's 4-2 win over Gateshead.

The Welsh midfielder scored twice to double his tally for the season and set up Paul Benson's opening goal in the victory over the Tynesiders.

Lawless was given a place on the left-hand side of midfield – a change from his usual position on the right flank for the Hatters so far this season.

"I played there a few times when I was younger but I haven't done it so much here," admitted the 28-year-old. "I have drifted over there a few games in the last few months.

"I enjoy just as much playing on the left anyway because sometimes if you cut inside and the defender doesn't know you're dominantly right footed, it's quite a surprise to them and you get more shots on goal on your strong side.

"I just enjoy playing though, and it's another option for us. But it's important throughout the season to have more than one string to your bow with formations.

"It's a long season, we play all different types of teams, so it's good to see us having those variations."

On his decision to employ Lawless on the left, boss John Still said: "I've been toying with playing Alex on the 'wrong' side a little bit because he's very clever when he comes in from the left side on to this right foot.

"We do a little bit in training with it and I was looking at an opportunity to do it. I thought it was a good opportunity as they play 4-3-3, which quite suits us as well.

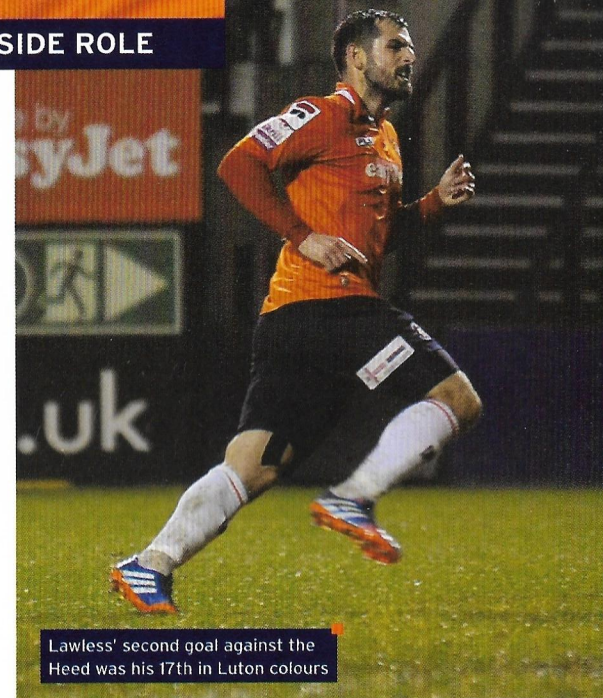
"Sometimes having a player on the wrong side can help your front people too as they can come off the line and serve it into them."

Form

The former Forest Green and York man been in fine form for the Hatters and has already scored three goals this month having netted in the 5-0 win at Alfreton in the previous game.

"You set the goal targets and being a midfielder I most definitely set assists targets as well," explained Lawless

"I know Paul thanked me for the cross, but he had a lot to do with the header I thought as well.



Lawless' second goal against the Hatters was his 17th in Luton colours

"It was a great finish from him, but when you see players doing that you know if you put it in, it gives you more confidence to do it.

"I played on the left and it was a left-footed cross. Things like that give you a confidence boost as you can take that on and help the team again."

The game also saw defender Joe Davis keep his place in the side after impressing in the FA Trophy ties against Staines and Wrexham.

And the on-loan Port Vale man, who came on as a substitute in the league victory over Alfreton, explained that the manager wanted the team to attack from the off once more.

"I think we started out pretty much the same. It was a bit of déjà vu, scoring so many goals in the first half," said Davis. "The gaffer put in our head before the game that it's important we go out there and attack right from the start. We came out of the traps fast and I don't think they could live with us.

"It's nice to watch and see the link-up play, and hopefully it can continue and I'm sure it will do if we will carry on the way we are playing."

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reaction

DUO REFLECT ON BARNET WIN

Ronnie Henry and Paul Benson hailed the Hatters' excellent 2-1 Boxing Day win at Barnet as the Town won for the fifth game in succession in the Skrill Premier.

Benson put the Hatters in front in the 22nd minute when tapping home Andre Gray's pass before Alex Lawless doubled the lead 12 minutes later and despite a second half rally from the Bees the Town held on despite spurning a number of chances.

Defender Joe Davis somehow missed an open goal in the first half before Luke Guttridge failed to convert an one-on-one opportunity in the second period.

"We made it hard for ourselves because we had a few opportunities to go 3-0 up," admitted Benson, who scored his ninth goal in 19 appearances in Luton colours. "We needed the third because it would have tough for Barnet to turn that around.

"I told Joe to just stick to defending! I don't know how he's missed, I think it's one of the worse misses I've ever seen. But he grew in stature as the game went on and he performed admirably in the end and helped us to achieve the victory.

Tough

"I thought Barnet were brilliant in the second half, though. As bad as we were in the second half – we did look a couple of yards off it – they took full advantage. They're a good side and this is a tough place to come. Barnet did well in the second half and did to us what we did to them in the first half. Credit to them because at 2-0 down and a man down it must have been difficult to pick themselves up but they sure gave us a game.

"However, we held on and I think our support helped us a lot, it was superb and it's getting better and better. I think we responded and hopefully we can keep marching on together and get out of this league."

Henry, who made his 66th appearance for the Town in the win, also bemoaned the Hatters' failure to take their chances.

"It's a great win and this is hard place to come," said the skipper. "But we could have been out of sight by the



Benson netted his ninth goal in Town colours at the Hive

time they scored. Joe's missed, and I don't know how, and Luke's had his one-on-one. If they go in it's 4-0 and things are different.

"Barnet showed character and not many teams are going to win here this season. We've come through it with three points in difficult circumstances.

Confident

"We're a confident side, the manager's given us that, and this is the kind of game we've got to win. We've done that and although the injury to Smudger is a downer, hopefully this can go on and make us stronger."

On those misses, boss John Still added: "Joe Davis will come up on some Christmas show somewhere in the next few years because that was a howler and Luke Guttridge should have scored in the second half."

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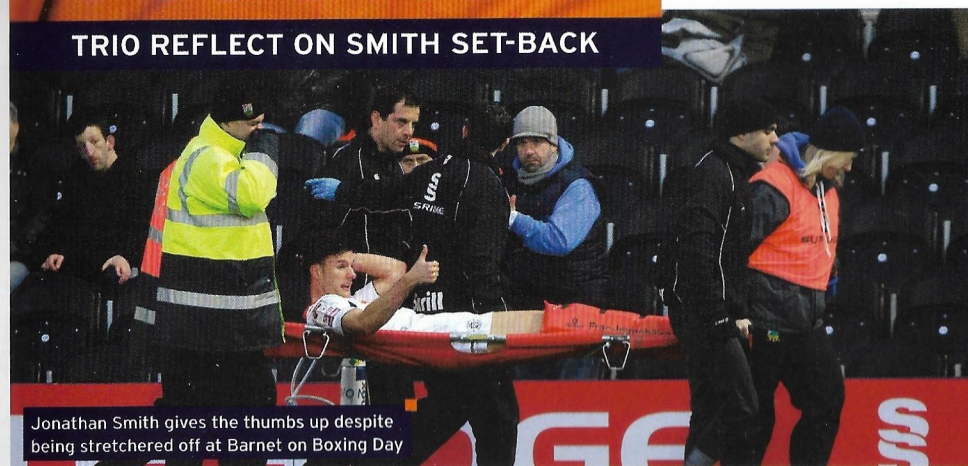
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reaction

TRIO REFLECT ON SMITH SET-BACK



Jonathan Smith gives the thumbs up despite being stretchered off at Barnet on Boxing Day

Manager John Still, captain Ronnie Henry and Paul Benson spoke of their heartfelt shock of Jonathan Smith's injury which overshadowed the Hatters' 2-1 win at Barnet on Boxing Day.

Smith was on the receiving end of Jon Nurse's awful tackle late in the first half at the Hive with the result a broken leg.

It was a tackle that clearly affected the Town manager, who was visibly shaken at half-time and during his post-match interview with Hatters Player.

"It was a difficult dressing room at half time," said Still. "It was difficult to focus 100 per cent on the game in all honesty. I am surprised it affected me as much as it did. The word I would use is horrific. I do not mean horrific by the offending player but just hearing that noise was horrific.

"I do not blame Jon Nurse. There is not a bad bone in Jon's body but it was a sending off for a late challenge.

"At the end of the day though I am not bothered whether it was or it was not a red card to be honest. My thoughts are with Jonathan."

The Town almost let their half-time advantage slip against Barnet's 10 men as their minds wandered towards their injured team-mate, but Still saluted his side's courage to see home the three points.

"The effect it must have had on the players like it did myself would have made it hard to concentrate but to come here and win is great," added Still.

"We had to dig in at the end and show what we are made of and we did that again. "We played well enough to win the game and Barnet had a go second half but in the circumstances I was really happy."

Goalscorer Benson, who played with Smith at Swindon, however refused to use the midfielder's injury as an excuse for the Town's second half performance.

"There was no reason for us not to be on it in the second half – we should have doubled our efforts to get the win for Smudge," said the 34-year-old frontman who played with Nurse whilst with Dagenham & Redbridge.

"If you want to make an excuse then you can do but to be honest I thought we should have enough determination to go and win the game.

"It's something we had to put to the back of our minds and concentrate but, from my point of view we can't use it as an excuse for that second half performance because we made it hard for ourselves."

Skipper Henry added: "It was unfortunate, a terrible injury and I wish Jonathan a speedy recovery.

Determined

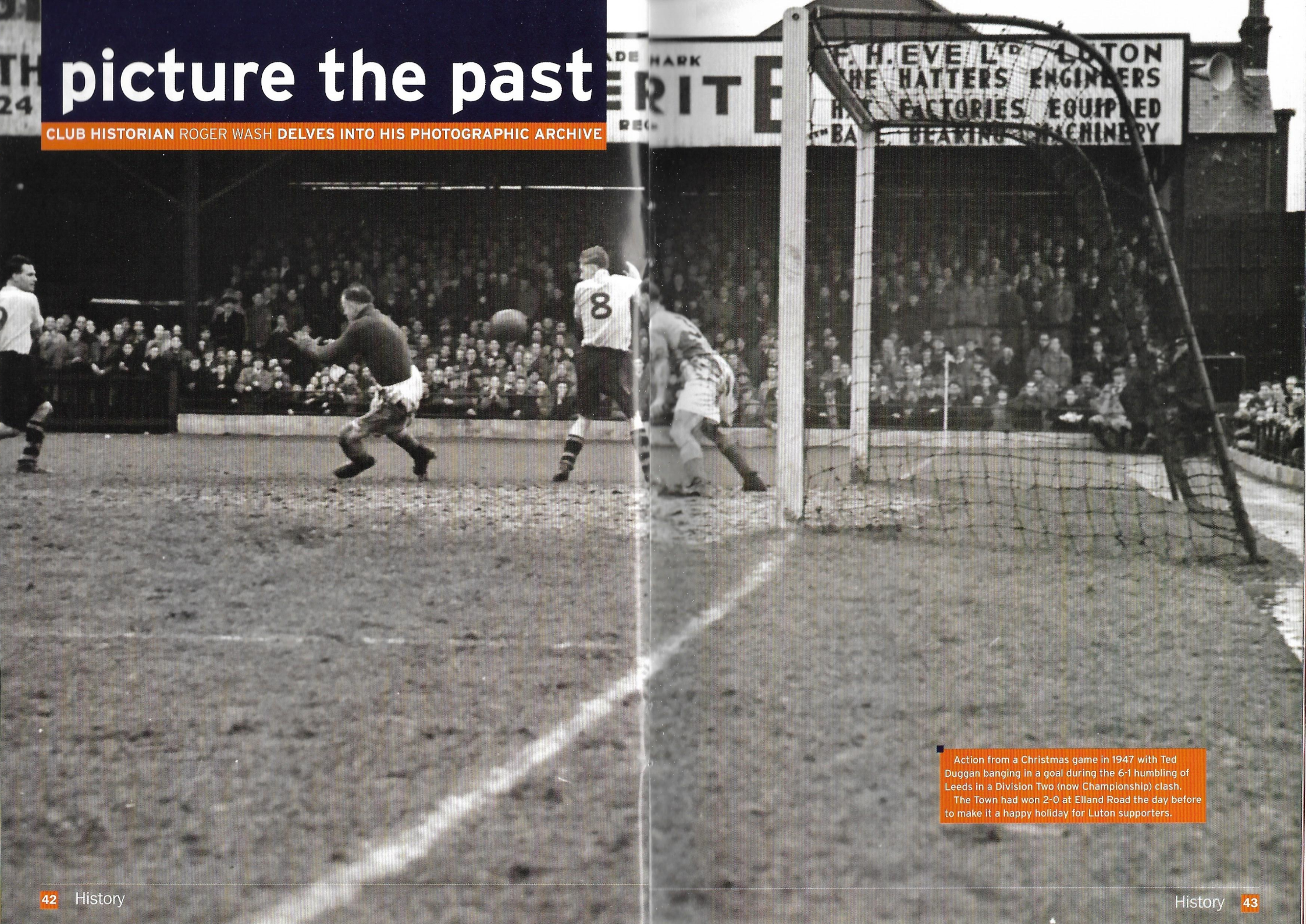
"He's a strong and fit lad and determined, and he'll be back. He's a key player but we responded by grinding out the win and hopefully we can go on and become stronger as a result of what's happened."

On the incident itself, which saw Nurse originally yellow carded before then receiving his marching orders from referee Rob Whitton, Henry said: "I couldn't understand why the ref had run over and booked him because I thought it was a red card straight away.

"I spoke to the linesman and he told me that he hadn't had a chance to speak to the referee about it so at that point I knew there was a chance he could send him off. If I'm being honest I didn't know what the rules were but in the end they got the decision right."

picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Action from a Christmas game in 1947 with Ted Duggan banging in a goal during the 6-1 humbling of Leeds in a Division Two (now Championship) clash. The Town had won 2-0 at Elland Road the day before to make it a happy holiday for Luton supporters.



CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

camera never lies

My vote for the least convincing Father Christmas. The children attending the players and wives Christmas Party in the early 1950s put on a brave face.

yesterday's pages

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS THROUGH PAST PROGRAMMES

LUTON TOWN 2-2 MANCHESTER UTD 26th DECEMBER 1957

It was a tradition for many years that back to back matches were played on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, but by the mid-1950s crowds for the first of the 'double-header' games were dwindling due to cut-backs in public transportation.

It was also deemed particularly anti-social according to my wife, who could not believe that husbands would disappear leaving the other half to entertain over-excited children whilst preparing Christmas dinner.

It was probably not so bad when the games were local derbies but when the Town supporters were expected to travel to places like Cardiff, Barnsley, Bournemouth, Torquay, Swansea and Leeds on Christmas Day it was pushing things a bit. The Town's last pair of Christmas fixtures came in 1957 when they were paired with another local side, Manchester United...

United's Busby Babes were current League champions and the Town travelled to Old Trafford having never won there before. The fear and trepidation was increased by the absence of three mainstays in the side. Bob Morton, Gordon Turner and skipper Syd Owen were all injured with their places taken by Dave Pacey, making his debut, and, making their first appearances of the season, Terry Kelly and Tony Gregory.

United officials were worried about the potential size of the crowd but the attendance of 39,444 was still 10,000 higher than anything else that day.

Goalmouth action against Manchester United on Boxing Day 1957



The home side went ahead on 19 minutes after John Groves was deemed to have fouled Bobby Charlton in the area leaving Duncan Edwards to net from the spot. Just before the interval Tommy Taylor deflected a Charlton shot past the, by now, injured Ron Baynham in the Luton goal and the goalscoring was completed by Charlton in the 70th minute when he netted from close range.

The players and officials of both clubs travelled back to Luton by train together that evening ready for the return the following day. A Kenilworth Road crowd of 26,478 greeted both sides with the Town depleted still further by the absence of Baynham following his injury the previous day - Eddie Marsh, a perennial understudy, deputised for his Luton debut.

The game seemed over by half-time with Albert Scanlon and Taylor netting to give United a commanding lead but the injury-hit Town side refused to lie down and when Groves pulled a goal back just after the interval with a shot that deflected off Edwards into the net the crowd anticipated an upset. United had chances to put the game to bed but Marsh was equal to everything thrown at him and when Allan Brown soared high to connect to a high cross from Ken Hawkes with his head in the final minute the fans went wild.

Sadly, five of the Manchester United players appearing at Kenilworth Road that day were to lose their lives a few weeks later in the Munich air disaster.



THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced their normal eight-page issue for the visit of United but added a bit of festive cheer with a colour edging.

The Club Notes section eulogises over the visitors but a glance at the League table shows that United were only one point ahead of the Town when the programme went to print.

It was announced that a special train was to be put on for the forthcoming FA Cup trip to Stockport at a return fare of 25/-, a price that would remain unchanged 12 years later when the club started to run specials to most League and Cup games.



ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

The proof that Christmas Day games were falling from popularity was evident in 1957 with quite a number of clubs opting not to play on that day. On Christmas Day 1958 only nine games were staged in the Football League although it was not until 1965 that the practice died completely.

Boxing Day was a different matter and in 1957 over 58,000 crammed into White Hart Lane to see Tottenham beat leaders Wolves 1-0 while 48396 were present at St Andrews where title challengers West Brom beat Birmingham 5-3.



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on this day

28th DECEMBER

THE RECORD

A busy day in the history books as far as the Town are concerned with 36 games played on this day down the years. The Hatters have a very good record, too when it comes to playing on 28th December, winning 28 and losing just nine of the 36 matches. Seven have ended in stalemate.

The Town went goal crazy the first time they played on this day with an 8-1 thumping of Loughborough in 1897 in the United League. The Hatters' first Football League game on this date was a 5-0 Third Division victory over Gillingham at Kenilworth Road in 1920. It was four years ago that the Town last played on this day where two goals from Kevin Gallen and one each from Matthew Barnes-Homer and Rossi Jarvis secured a 4-1 win over Eastbourne Borough at Kenilworth Road.

RECENT RECORD

The Town are currently unbeaten in their last seven games on 28th December and haven't tasted defeat since a 1-0 defeat away to AFC Bournemouth in 1998 – 15 years ago. The Hatters have, in fact, lost just once on this day in 30 years.

FORTRESS KENILWORTH

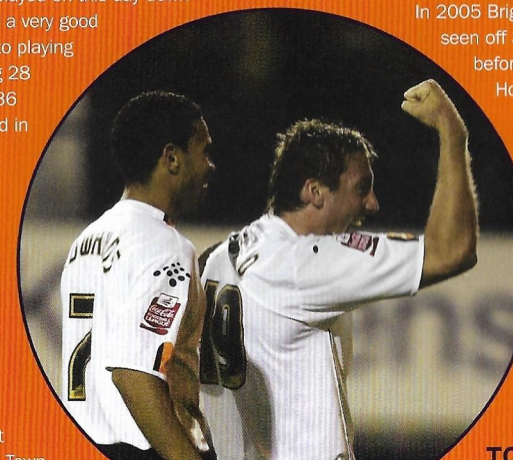
The last five matches the Town have played on 28th December have all been at Kenilworth Road. Four have ended in victory and one in a draw and have been played across four different divisions.

The most recent was the aforementioned win over Eastbourne in the Conference whilst the previous game was a 3-2 win over Lincoln in 2008 in League 2, which

was achieved thanks to two goals from Chris Martin and one from Ian Roper.

In 2005 Brighton & Hove Albion were seen off 3-0 in the Championship before a crowd of 9,429. Steve Howard, Warren Feeney and Steve Robinson were on target.

The Town were held to a 2-2 draw with Colchester the season before with Rowan Vine scoring both Luton goals, and in 2003 strikes from Emmerson Boyce and Adrian Forbes secured a 2-0 win at Kenilworth Road over Notts County.



Steve Howard: Scored on this day for the Town in 2005

TOP FLIGHT TOWN

The Hatters have played matches in nine different divisions on this date, including eight games in the top flight.

The Hatters have won four of these and drawn two and lost two.

An Allan Brown hat-trick helped the Town achieve their first win in Division One on this day back in 1957 with a 4-0 win over Arsenal before a crowd of 27,493 at Kenilworth Road.

The Gunners gained revenge exactly two years later, winning 1-0 at Kenilworth Road before another bumper crowd of 27,055.

In 1974 a Ron Fletcher hat-trick saw off Wolves at Kenilworth Road in the top division and eight years later Norwich won 1-0 at Carrow Road.

Draws against Ipswich – 1-1 at Portman Road – and Nottingham Forest – 2-2 at the City Ground – followed before a solitary strike from Danny Wilson secured a 1-0 win over Charlton in 1987. The Town's last game in the top flight on this day came over Chelsea in 1991. Goals from Richard Harvey and John Dreyer secured a 2-0 win in front of 10,738 at Kenilworth Road.

LAWLESS



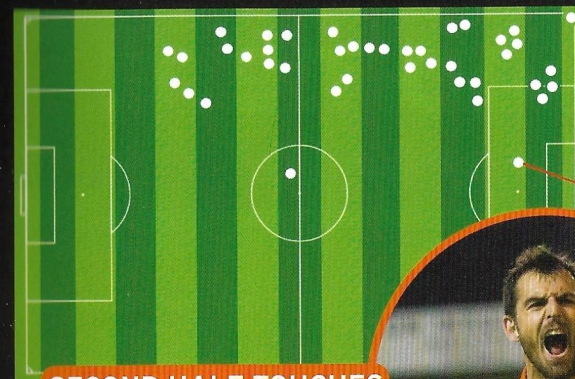
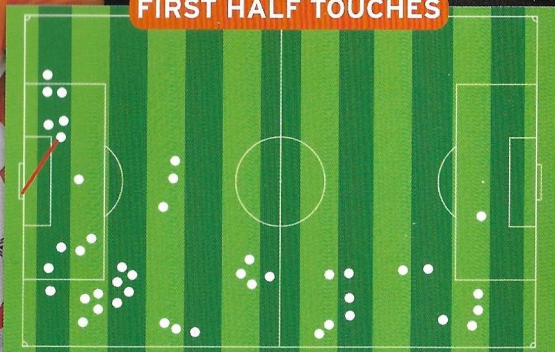
Alex Lawless doubled his tally of Town goals for the season in the 4-2 win over Gateshead in our last match at Kenilworth Road.

The midfielder was again a major influence in an unfamiliar role on the left-hand side of midfield. As you can see from the graphics, the majority of the 28-year-old's touches of the ball were on the left flank, including the all-important cross from which Paul Benson headed the Hatters in front.

Just 10 of his 94 touches occurred on the right-hand side of the pitch, but ironically his first goal came from a touch on the right-hand side of the pitch. His three touches on the right side of the pitch in the first half came from receiving short corners from Luke Guttridge.

What's also worth noting is the midfielder's touches in his own half. Interestingly seven out of Lawless' first eight touches in the first 10 minutes came in the Town's half of the pitch as Gateshead enjoyed the best of the early exchanges.

FIRST HALF TOUCHES



SECOND HALF TOUCHES

GOALS

2

ASSISTS

1

SHOTS
ON
TARGET

4

GOALS/SHOT
ON TARGET
RATIO

50%

SHOTS
OFF
TARGET

0

TOTAL TOUCHES

94

TOUCHES IN
PENALTY AREA

14

% OF TOUCHES IN
PENALTY AREA

15

TOTAL MINUTES PLAYED

90

PASSES
COMPLETED

15

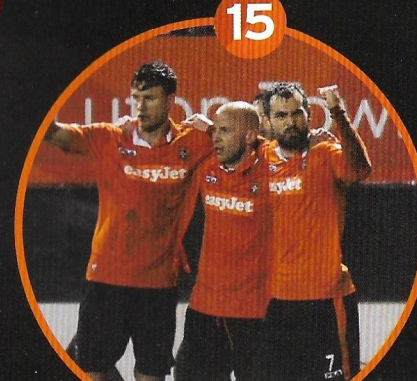
PASSES
INCOMPLETE

6

PASSED
COMPLETION
PERCENTAGE

68%

Following Guttridge's second half substitution, Lawless took over corner-taking duties and his first flag-kick - from the left side - almost led to a goal: Scott Griffiths' header found the back of the net but the referee disallowed the goal.



YOUNGSTERS VICTORIOUS AGAIN

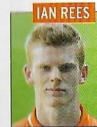
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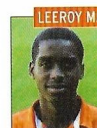
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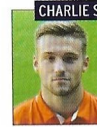
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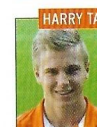
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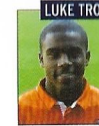
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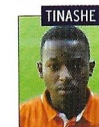
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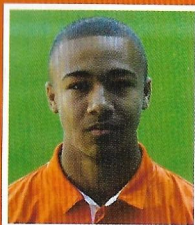


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	P	W	GD	PTS
1 Colchester United	9	8	16	24
2 Luton Town	8	7	11	21
3 Watford	10	6	8	19
4 Portsmouth	9	6	7	19
5 Peterborough United	10	5	12	17
6 Southend United	10	5	1	16
7 Gillingham	7	4	7	14
8 Milton Keynes Dons	10	3	-3	11
9 AFC Wimbledon	9	3	-6	10
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:
Lucas Perry
DATE OF BIRTH:
22/11/1996
POSITION:
Left-back
YEAR JOINED LUTON TOWN: 2010

FORMER CLUBS:
Crawley Green

BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP
Never give up and chase your dreams

BEST FOOTBALL MOMENT
When Sergio Aguero scored in the last minute to win Manchester City the title

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID
Arsenal

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND Thierry Henry
FAVOURITE TV SHOW
Fresh Prince of Bel Air

OTHER SPORTS GOOD AT
Badminton

FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT
PE

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOU
Hard-working, dedicated, athletic

MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE
Zane Banton

TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER SO FAR

I had a chance to join Luton earlier in my career but I decided it wasn't the right time. However, I then joined the following year, in 2010, and I am now enjoying with the club.

academy update

WITH PAUL DRIVER



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As we sit at the halfway point of the season, I feel that we can be happy as a youth team with how we have progressed so far both collectively and as individuals.

As a team, we are in the top three of our league with games in hand which, if won, could take us higher.

We also reached the third round of the FA Youth Cup, acquitting ourselves well against Huddersfield before losing in extra-time having overcome two tough away trips to Boston and, particularly, Gateshead. If we maintain our league position, we will have met the targets set at the start of pre-season.

While the achievements of the team are always important, and are a good indication as to the progress of the youth system as a whole – especially when we consider that we compete against funded Football League teams, some from as high as the top end of League One and the Championship – it is how the players progress as individuals through into the first team set up that we are all, ultimately, judged by.

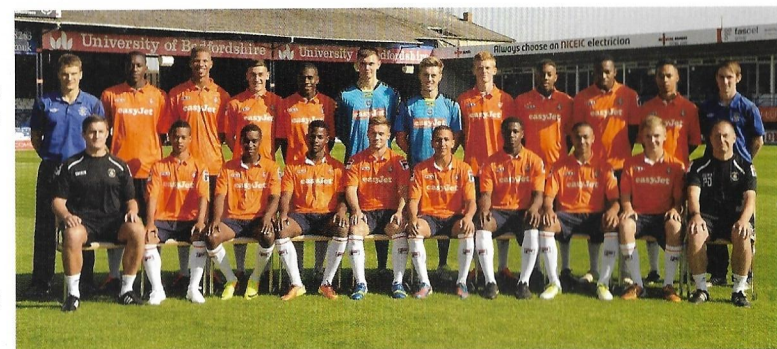
Zane Banton's hard work throughout pre-season then his early season form saw him secure his first professional contract and senior debut away at Woking and this has given the whole group a big boost. A number of the other second year boys have shown excellent progress as they look to be similarly rewarded. Ian Rees and Tinashe Chabata have both made their debuts in recent FA Trophy games against Wrexham and Staines respectively, with Charlie Smith playing in both of the Staines games and Arel Amu on the bench for all three of those matches also.

These appearances follow on from good performances for Hakan Hayrettin in the development matches and the trust shown by John Still to take this on another step and play the boys in the FA Trophy should serve as a spur to them all to kick on yet again.

The physical demands of the development and Trophy games have been met by all of the players and I have to compliment the work done by Jon Chatfield and our strength and conditioning team, Pete Habershon and Chris Wing, to get them into the shape needed for the step up. The best example of this has been, in my opinion, the performance of 17-year-old Ian Rees against the likes of Keates, Hunt and Harris of Wrexham.

In readiness for our next season's squad, we have played a number of Under 16/17 combined games against, amongst others, Swindon, Leyton Orient and Leicester City, and these games have been really beneficial to me. They have allowed me to get game time for the first years who are not yet making the main team line-up to keep their match fitness up for when they are called upon but also it has enabled me to see the next potential crop of scholars in our current Under-16s alongside them and against the level of opposition they will encounter next season. I have been very impressed with the players that have joined us from the 16s squad thus far and can see a number of them coming into the group next season and it is quite likely – as with this season – that the entire youth team squad is made up of players from within our own system, and this is a great credit to the coaching team in the academy right up from the Under-9s looked after by Scott Smith, and through the middles ages under the guidance of Jordan McCann and into the older age groups handled by Lee Cowley and Joe Deeney.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. COYH!



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in the community

TRUST LAUNCHES DALLOW ASIAN FOOTBALL INITIATIVE

Luton Town's community trust and the Bedfordshire Football Association have teamed up to assist with a new Sport England funded project to provide pathways to local competitive football for Asian youths aged 11-18 years living in the Dallow area of the town.

As well as looking to identify untapped talent on the club's doorstep, the project also aims to boost social inclusion and community cohesion bringing the football club closer to the local community.

The club's community coaching staff have already established 2 coaching centres at Dallow Community Learning Centre on a Tuesday night and Luton Sixth Form College on a Thursday night with a further centre starting in January at Denbigh High School.

Town talent identification manager Kevin Thoburn told Talk of the Town: "There is no doubt a significant pool of untapped ability exists on our doorstep and its growing.

"We need to tap into it and show local youngsters

there is no barrier to football success at our youth academy. Our tie up with the Beds FA and local partner clubs in Dallow, such as Luton Allstars, Luton United and Luton Sporting Club will help us identify talent and to encourage the boys to play regular organised week-end football in the local leagues where we do a lot of our recruitment."

The scheme is open to all boys living in Dallow and anyone wishing to take part, or who needs more information on these and other centres that the club's community department will be running, can contact James Hatch, the Hatters' football development officer, on 01582 583618 or by email at james.luton@live.co.uk.

The long-term aim of the project is to provide more opportunities for boys in Dallow to take part in affiliated football either with existing local clubs or through the establishment of additional teams from the area. Anyone interested in forming teams in Dallow should contact the Beds FA on 01582 565111.



Luton Ladies

UNDER-14S IN FOCUS

Today we turn our attention on the Town's Under-14 squad where three of the girls have been with this squad since its inception as an Under-10 side five seasons ago.

A number of other girls have been with the team for most of that period. The squad of very talented girls consists of Maddie Lewis, Natalie Case, Chloe Jenkins, Leila Palmer, Morgan Gilling, Macey Collins, Charlotte Motto, Chloe Gisborne, Nicole O'Brien, Jodie Bellinger, Jodie Brooks, Rebecca Ferris, Grace Stewart and Taylor Worrell.

This is the girls' first season at 11-a-side having moved into the Herts Girls Football Partnership League last season at nine-a-side to give the girls more of a challenge having romped to the CJ7's league title the previous season at Under-12s. In the 2012/13 season the Hatters finished a very credible fifth place having been put straight into Division 1 with all the other teams already having the benefit of having had a season at nine-a-side.

This season got off to a great start, beating one of the three Watford teams in the division, the Wasps, 4-0. Victories over both St Albans sides, Garston and Watford Harts followed, with the highlight of the season so far when summer signing Jodie Bellinger scored twice to

beat Watford Hornets who were once the Academy side. An especially satisfying victory for all the Hatters fans within the team!

The Town were brought back down to earth the following week, however, when thoroughly beaten by the same team at home in the league. This squad showed great character getting back to winning ways away at Bedwell Rangers and then at home the following week against our closest adversary over the last couple of seasons, Harvesters, running out winners 4-3.

This was followed the next week by another very satisfying win in the next round of the cup with 1-0 victory over Watford Wasps!

A week later the girls had the performance of the season to date away at Hitchin: a thoroughly deserving 3-0 victory. This promising first half of the season to the season has left the team joint-second in the league and in the League Cup semi-final. We look forward to 2014 with this squad developing further and going onto greater things.

The team is constantly looking to improve and develop further, so if there are any girls out there who would like to join the Hatters then follow the link on our club website and contact the manager Ian Lewis or the assistant Steve Worrell.



The Luton Town Ladies
Under-14 squad

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my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

MY NAME: Denis Taylor

MY AGE: 50

MY LOCATION: Luton

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN

I started going as a young boy with my dad and my uncle and I carried on coming along with my uncle. My father wasn't particularly happy about watching the club because he missed out on securing a ticket for the 59 cup final! Since then though I have watched the team home and away and in all five divisions. Once it's in the blood it's there forever!

MY FIRST LUTON GAME

It was an Anglo-Italian Cup tie at home to Bari in March 1973. We won 4-0 and I know that Shanks scored twice. I remember standing in the Bobbers as a nine-year-old. Funnily, or not so funnily enough, I was hit in the face by a stray ball. My dad warned me to pay more attention at football matches in the future!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME

There's been so many. The Littlewoods Cup final, obviously, but the Johnstone's Paint Trophy win over Scunthorpe was really enjoyable, not to mention the numerous last-day-of-the-season relegation survival battles. If there's one match I had to choose it would be the 3-2 win over QPR in 1982 that saw us clinch the Division 2 title – with three of my favourite players of that season all scoring: Ricky Hill, David Moss and Steve White.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL

Paul Walsh's goal against Notts County at Kenilworth Road in 1982. I remember his mazy run and dribble and cool finish.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER

Ricky Hill. He was the most skilful player I've seen ever wear a Luton shirt. I just loved watching him play.

MY MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION

I'm an avid collector of all things Luton Town. I have a signed, framed shirt from the 2004/05 title-winning season that I probably treasure the most.

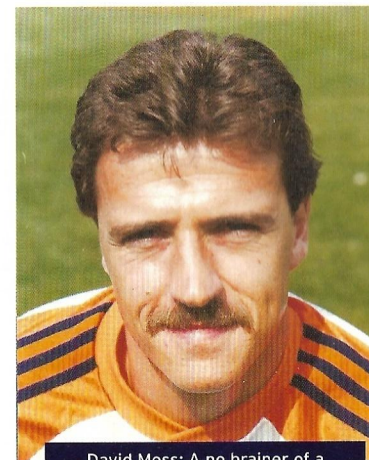
MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI:

Goalkeeper: **Les Sealey** – Simply the best keeper in my time supporting the Hatters.

Right-back: **Kirk Stephens** – Mr Consistent.

Left-back: **Sol Davis** – He gave his all with such gritty performances.
Centre-back: **Mal Donaghy** – Class.

Centre-back: **Paul Elliott** – There was just something about him that was special, it was unfortunate that



David Moss: A no brainer of a selection in Denis' all-time Hatters XI

his career came to an end through injury.

Left midfield: **David Moss** – No brainer.

Right midfield: **Ricky Hill** – Enough said.

Central midfield: **Ron Futch** – A pleasure to watch.

Central midfield: **John Aston** – I know he's another winger but I can't leave him out.

Striker: **Paul Walsh** – I can't leave my favourite player out, can I?

Striker: **Mick Harford** – No nonsense centre-forward who gave so much loyal service to the club. Deserves to be in the team just for that.

YOU ARE MY LUTON, MY ONLY LUTON...WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPIEST ABOUT FOLLOWING THE HATTERS?

It's just something that's in my blood. Supporting the club is infectious and the amount of ups and downs we've endured over years makes it all the more entertaining in a strange kind of way. You never quite know what will happen next.

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

THE REAL THING: ANDRE GRAY AND PAUL BENSON

Many have promised much only to fall short, but the litingly powerful partnership of Andre Gray and Paul Benson finally feels like the real thing.

Andre Gray puts burns on seats. He's the player whose first touch in an attack makes conversations from the Kenny End to J Block stop in their tracks. With a drop of his shoulder six thousand individual darting glances are transformed into a synchronised sea of dilated pupils, focussed as one on the marauding movement of the front man.

Gray spends his Saturdays devastating tall men from provincial towns who stand motionless, confused; powerless to stop him. They weren't ready for Andre Gray. They can barely even see him.

Trusting

Benson came to Town, a rare thing at this level: a signing that some people had already heard of. He'd caught the eye in his previous life as a Football League player, but at 34 you can never be sure of the legs holding out, or the desire. But as we increasingly learn, trusting John Still's judgement won't steer you far wrong.

Benson looks a League player. He's tall but elegant and intelligent in his movement and despite his Paul Buckle tan he has a poise and balance that don't often come in a package with a graceful aerial presence and the ability to hold the ball up and bring others into the game. A Teddy Sheringham-esque aura emanates from balls hitting his feet or his chest.

Whether you're on the pitch or trying to un-wedge your knee from the seat in front of you in the stand, you know he's going to make the right choice.

The whole squad looks strong at the moment, not just in their number and collective skill, but each looks strong individually, mentally, frighteningly so in patches against Gateshead – and Gray and Benson typify this up top.

It was frustrating to see Andre in and out of the side early on in the season, but he has responded in exactly the right way to that little knock-back. He's a young player who, you could be in danger of concluding, is capable of winning games on his own at times, especially when he presses high up the pitch and back fours of fragile form start to look terrified of receiving the ball, doubting their ability: "Don't knock it back to me, I'm only a centre half!" they tremble.

But with Benson alongside him Gray looks more settled. To say he's matured would be patronising but he definitely seems happier, more assured and a much better player. At 22, he retains the fire in his belly and the explosive power of youth, but these days he gets less frustrated and the result has been goals, and lots of them.

There are players whose fortunes, be it their health, their form, their contractual status (sometimes even their mood) can come to personify a season, and this year these are them.

At the moment Gray and Benson are really hitting it off. They are in the first throws of what we hope will become a beautiful long-term relationship, and happier for them both we could not be.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY MATT BADCOCK

It's that time of the year for resolutions and reflections. So what better place to begin those resolutions and reflections than looking at last year's...err...resolutions and reflections.

At the end of 2012, we at The Non-League Paper, along with Alan Alger and BBC Non-League Show's Caroline Barker, donned our tin hats and gave our opinions of the previous 12 months.

Best moment, best goal seen live, player and team of the year – you know the drill. We also took time to look ahead to 2013 so let's now see how that went.

HOPES FOR 2013

Our News Editor Sam Elliott was clearly fed-up of all the postponements we were having at the time with his call for no more rain. Ambitious maybe, but compared to last November/December we're not in bad shape so far!

Elsewhere, Alan Alger and NLP reporter Steve Coney were hoping for a Conference Premier title race that went to the wire – and they got that with Mansfield Town winning it on the final day.

Chief reporter Stuart Hammonds is still waiting for the Football League to allow clubs to play on 3G pitches, while my vision of successful Non-League managers getting a chance higher up the chain has been met with a big fat slap in the face.

FEAR FOR 2013

Caroline Barker said it was time for more clubs to get fans on board in order to halt the worrying trend of clubs dying.

That was a familiar answer for this one and still we see clubs like Hinckley United going to the wall with insurmountable debts. Overall clubs seem to be getting better and new financial rules appear to be having an effect. But you wouldn't bet your last pound on everyone surviving 2014.

Sam was worried about more rain.

WHAT YOU'D CHANGE IN 2013

The powers that be obviously didn't agree with this section. Alan wanted three-up/three-down between the Conference Premier and League Two, Sam thought the FA should fund new pitch covers.

Stuart wanted away with the rule that every player who receives treatment has to leave the pitch, Steven said clubs should lower ticket prices and Caroline insisted on allowing Conference clubs to play on 3G pitches.

At least the Conference North and South Play-Off finals will be on a Saturday this season as was my wish.

PLAYER TO WATCH 2013

A roaring success here. Alan, Sam and Steve went for Kidderminster Harriers' Jamille Matt who was soon on his way to the Football League when Fleetwood Town forked out around £300,000.

Stuart went for Antoni Sarcevic – now at Fleetwood – after continuing to star in Chester's Conference North title win before a wonderful goal on his England C debut.

And I went for Altrincham's Duncan Watmore. He scored one of the goals of the season and, after interest from Peterborough, was snapped up by Premier League Sunderland.



Mansfield celebrate winning the Conference title last April

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league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

Prior to the Boxing Day fixture (apologies, this is one of the pages we had to send to the presses before the printers barked at our editor), the Town were just one point behind league leaders Cambridge at the top of the Skrill Premier.

By the time you read this you'll know if the Town have overtaken the U's but for that to happen the Town will have needed to better Cambridge's result on Boxing Day. Richard Money's side entertained Braintree Town and today the U's travel to Nuneaton Town.

The race to secure a top five spot by the turn of 2014 is really hotting up. Third-placed Grimsby have games in hand to consolidate their place in the top five but a whole host of clubs are still within a shout.

The Mariners beat Kidderminster in a recent televised clash on BT Sport and today's visitors could well be back among the chasing pack. Harriers dropped to sixth place in the table after the results last Saturday but they hosted Hereford United on Boxing Day.

Alfreton, 21st December winners at home to Dartford, and Barnet – 1-0 winners at bottom-of-the-table Hyde

on the same day – had held the fourth and fifth spots in the division prior to the Boxing Day matches but Kidderminster, Nuneaton and Halifax were all on their coat-tails.

Pre-season title favourites Wrexham and Forest Green were both unable to pick up victories in their games before Christmas. The Red Dragons were held to a 1-1 draw at Welling whilst Rovers were beaten 1-0 at Halifax. Both clubs were marooned in mid-table but will no doubt take heart from Mansfield's and Kidderminster's form in the second half of last season which took those two clubs to first and second place in the division.

At the other end of the table, Hyde failed in their quest to earn a first win before Christmas when losing 1-0 at home to Barnet, but there was reason for festive cheer for those involved at Aldershot Town. The Shots, deducted 10 points before the season kick-off, moved out of the relegation zone for the first time this

season following a 6-0 thumping over Tamworth on 21st December.

That defeat left Tamworth in the bottom four along with Hyde, a Dartford side that had lost nine games in a row prior to Boxing Day and Chester. Southport – conquerors of the Town on the opening day of the campaign – are one place above the dropzone.



Conference leading goalscorer Connor Jennings

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Jennings (Macc)	14
Williams (Aldershot)	14
Gray (Luton)	13
Moult (Nuneaton)	12
Gregory (Halifax)	11
Appiah (Cambridge)	10
Fitchett (Salisbury)	10
Norwood (FGR)	9

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town	6,471	Woking	1,424
Wrexham	3,381	FC Halifax Town	1,405
Grimsby Town	3,287	Nuneaton Town	1,141
Cambridge United	3,045	Braintree Town	1,085
Chester FC	2,301	Dartford	1,029
Lincoln City	2,275	Southport	1,027
Kidderminster Harriers	2,116	Salisbury City	901
Aldershot Town	1,971	Welling United	795
Barnet	1,781	Gateshead	755
Hereford United	1,649	Alfreton Town	754
Macclesfield Town	1,433	Hyde	590

*statistics up-to-date as of 21/12/2013

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Aldershot v Welling
Alfreton v Southport
Braintree v Tamworth
Chester FC v Gateshead
Dartford v Woking
FC Halifax v Lincoln
Grimsby v Macclesfield
Hyde v Wrexham
Nuneaton v Cambridge
Salisbury v Barnet
Hereford v Forest Green (7.30pm)

hold the back page

WITH BILL COLE

After too many seasons in the Conference, we Hatters fans might have learned just a little about what is needed to get back into the Football League.

Consistency is the key.

And indeed we have seen its benefits with our superb pre-Christmas run moving us up a division where apart from the Town, Cambridge and to a slightly lesser extent Grimsby, consistency has been in short supply.

Salisbury City are a case in point. I thought the newly promoted side looked out of their depth here in the first home game of the season, but then put together some impressive results to challenge, until disappointing in the last few weeks to drop out of current contention.

Threats

Forest Green and Wrexham, whom I thought would be threats before the start, have been in and out - barely moving from mid-table. Both will need to improve to feature in the promotion shake-up. A couple of weeks ago the Welsh side pushed League 2 high flyers Oxford United close in the FA Cup to raise hopes of a resurgence, only for their full strength side to be trounced four days later by the Town's Reserve/Youth team in the Trophy. Cue much wailing and gnashing of teeth in North Wales.



Bill Cole

Today's opponents have been pulling up trees since losing comprehensively to the Hatters at the end of August, but two Luton loanees knocked them back this month. Firstly, Scott Rendell scored the only goal of the game for Woking, before Lethaniel Rowe-Turner came back into the Alfreton side after their mauling by a rampant Andre Gray and co. to help register a shock 3-1 win away at Aggborough the following week. Woking, complete with Rendell, meanwhile crashed out of the Trophy 4-0 to North Ferriby United from the division below. Nuneaton Town are another side to have had a yo-yo first half. Top of the table in late September until six games without a win saw them slip back from the leaders into a tight chasing pack.

Perhaps that is the reason for this widespread inconsistency, a whole host of teams capable of beating any other in the scramble for that one elusive automatic promotion spot. After all, relegation threatened Southport with hardly a win to their name have triumphed over both Luton and Cambridge.

Consistency is the recipe for success. Perhaps with some more of that - plus their talent, a good pinch of team spirit and a bit of luck the Hatters will have a happy 2014. Happiness is of course bound up with the fortunes of your beloved football club. Have a good new year yourselves folks, whatever.



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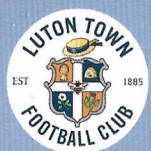
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64 Fixtures

today's teams



LUTON TOWN

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



KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Danny Lewis | 14 Dior Angus |
| 2 Lee Vaughan | 15 Jamie Grimes |
| 3 Mickey Demetriou | 16 Danny Jackman |
| 4 Kyle Storer | 17 James Dance |
| 5 Jamie Tolley | 18 Callum Gittings |
| 6 Chey Dunkley | 19 Ryan Rowe |
| 7 Jack Byrne | 20 Tyrone Williams |
| 8 Lee Fowler | 21 Joe Lolley |
| 9 Michael Gash | 22 Amari Morgan-Smith |
| 10 Anthony Malbon | 23 Nathan Vaughan |
| 11 Marvin Johnson | 25 Aaron Brown |
| 12 Thomas Paine | 30 Josh Gowling |
| 13 Nathan Blissett | |

Referee: **N. Kinseley** | Assistant: **J. Richardson** | Assistant: **G. Ions** | Fourth official: **L. Marshall**

HERE NEXT

v BARNET

WEDNESDAY 1st JANUARY 2014 • 12 NOON

SKRILL PREMIER

