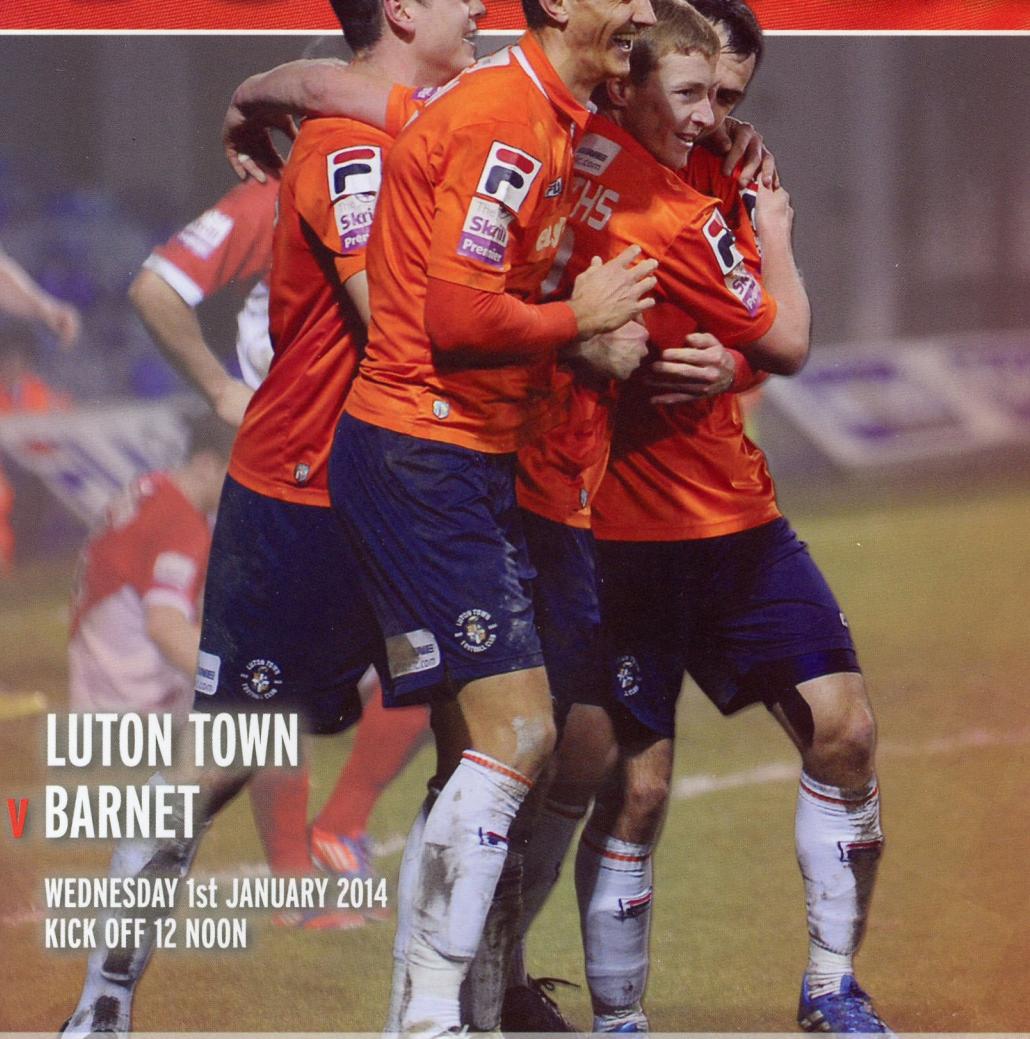


TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
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welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ Happy New Year! Well, if ever there was a late Christmas present then Saturday's stunning 6-0 win over Kidderminster was it.

What's more the victory lifted the Hatters to the top of the table for the first time this season...what a way to start 2014, eh?

We have all the action and reaction from that phenomenal performance against Harriers inside today's programme, as well as your usual favourites including our history and youth and development pages.

It's been a fantastic end to 2013 – crowned by the win, and most importantly over 8,000 Hatters inside Kenilworth Road against Kiddy – so here's to a prosperous New Year. #COYH **”**



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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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the manager

JOHN STILL

Good afternoon, welcome back to Kenilworth Road and a Happy New Year to you all for this New Year's Day game in the Skrill Premier.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to everyone associated with Barnet, including their manager Edgar Davids, plus the directors, staff, players and supporters of the Bees. In particular I'd like to welcome a good friend of mine, Tony Kleanthous, their chairman, who I have known a long time. It was good to catch-up with him on Boxing Day.

Of course this fixture quickly follows the game we had against Barnet last week where we obtained a 2-1 victory in what was a tough match. Any three points away from home is always looked upon as a good result.

That win was followed by another victory against Kidderminster Harriers. I'm sure if you were present for that game you will have made your own mind up about it, but what I can say is that it was an outstanding performance from everyone involved.

Forgive me for saying that my only view of the game was from the DVD, having fallen ill the day before the game. It meant I was unable to make the match but I was kept abreast of the action throughout the 90 minutes.

I think the scoreline was very impressive but the quality of the performance was even more remarkable. I think we've shown our capability of scoring goals now and that was never more evident than against Kidderminster.

It was not only an outstanding team performance but it included some very, very good individual displays too.

It was a nice way to end the year and now we have to look forward to the start of 2014, but we have to continue to play in the same vein to enable us to get enough points to maintain the place at the top of the table.

I think everyone who was here on Saturday, or listened on the radio, will agree that it was a great day to go top of the league with such an outstanding performance.

It's only right that I look back at the year and thank everyone – from the people who work at the training ground, to the office staff at the stadium, the management staff, directors and players – for playing their part this season.

Thank you

I've banged on enough about ingredients and the necessary importance to have all of them since I arrived here. However, it only takes one ingredient to be missing for things not to work, and what we need now is everyone to continue to keep pulling in the right direction. At the moment we have all of them, and long may it continue. Therefore, a big thank you to everyone from me for your contribution – it has helped us reach the position we find ourselves in now.

On Monday we were informed of the news that Pelly Ruddock has been recalled from his loan spell with us by his parent club West Ham. Pelly had done brilliantly for us and I thank him for his fine contribution. However disappointing it is for us to lose Pelly for the time being, it was especially pleasing to see Jake Howells and Matt Robinson deliver mature and match-winning performances in midfield against Kidderminster. Pelly may have gone back for now, but we do not feel weakened by his departure.

Turning attention back to today, however, and I know we will be in for yet another big test this afternoon. Barnet have been going well this season and showed their spirit in the second half against us on Boxing Day. We will have prepared thoroughly like we always do but what we need is your fantastic support to help us once more today.

Remember you are part of the ingredients that help us so please encourage us once more this afternoon.

A happy New Year to you all, and if the end of this year is anything to go by, we have a lot of things to look forward to in 2014.



John Still is sponsored by:



“What I can say is that it was an outstanding performance from everyone involved. ”

boardroom

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID WILKINSON



Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for this televised, early kick-off New Year's Day Game.

We also wish a special welcome to our visitors this afternoon, the players, officials and supporters from Barnet.

What a rollercoaster of emotions we have been through over this Christmas period! From the sickening injury to Jonathan Smith on Boxing Day to the astonishing result and performance against Kidderminster last Saturday.

We were all shocked and saddened by Jonathan's injury and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of us all, to wish him a complete recovery. We will be with him in counting the days until he can pull on his Luton shirt once again. Many players have returned successfully from such injuries – current young stars Ross Barkley, of Everton, and Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey to name but two.

"We will miss you Smudger."

Most of us would have been happy if the game had stopped at half-time, but it didn't and the players deserve huge credit for battling through the second half as they did.

A huge thanks to the 8,000 of you who packed Kenilworth Road out on Saturday



The response two days later was even more inspiring. What a fantastic show.

As you are probably aware John Still was in his sick bed with a nasty virus and so Terry Harris was in charge for the day. In all the years he has been John's assistant he hasn't won when standing in. What a way to break your duck! We shouldn't forget Hakan's involvement and input either.

Well here we are on New Year Day's top of the league with 53 points from 25 games having scored 55 goals and kept 12 clean sheets. Not bad when you think that we had a slow start. For those of us upstairs though it's not just about results and some of the football we have played has been quite stunning.

Confidence

Of course there is a very long way to go yet and "there's many a slip twixt cup and lip" but we must go into the New Year with confidence and do everything we can to help and support John and his team achieve what we all want for our beloved football club.

At the beginning of each the season the Board meet with the manager to find out what he needs and agree a playing budget for the year. Although the Board meet, at least once a month, to discuss all matters concerning the Club from finance and football at one end, to potential relocation at the other, football will currently be top of the list.

As we are coming up to the January transfer window this is a time when it may be necessary to revisit early season requirements depending upon performance and

injuries, as well as the ability - if thought necessary - to extend loans, in or out. The manager keeps in close touch on a regular basis so there are unlikely to be any major surprises.

Perhaps I should reiterate here that John does not have to sell anyone. If he thinks, at some stage in the future, that changes need to be made to strengthen the squad; then so be it, but as a Board we are committed to helping get this club back to where it belongs.

BEING A DIRECTOR

It is very hard to sum up what it's like being a long-term fan and a director and/or shareholder at the same time, but it is different.

As much as you would like to, you can't always say what you feel as you are tied down by so many different considerations. It is almost a constant that we have to think "if I say this how will it affect that?"

Being a football fan is about being able to let yourself go. We can never quite do that, because we are conscious that someone is watching. Someone who doesn't love Luton the way we do and may use what we do or say against us. Conscious also that what we say or do may damage the image of the club in the outside world, the competition we play in or with people who may be important for the long term future of our Club.

We have to entertain visiting directors, which is mostly a pleasure, but what do you say to a chairman whose team you have just demolished 6-0 or, with the boot on the other foot, can you slink out without saying anything when you have just been given a good hiding.

Proud

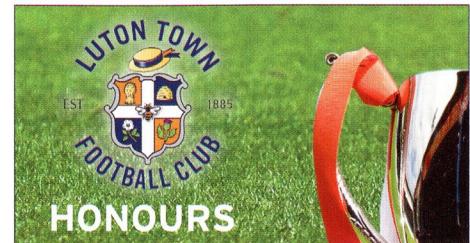
We often wish that we could be out there with you, particularly at away games, but someone has to be a representative. However, it makes us enormously proud to see and hear the support you give from our, quite often less than salubrious seats in the directors' box.

Thank you once again for your amazing support. As always it is quite humbling to see the number of you travelling away and over 8,000 home supporters on Saturday was something else – incredible.

It was yet another example of our potential and rest assured as we enter another new year our ambition is only enhanced by it. Together we can achieve so much and I believe we will.

It is my privilege to be the first to write in the New Year and to wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2014 from all of us in the Boardroom.

Enjoy the game.
COYH – Let's do it.



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

There's no getting away from how fantastic our last home game against Kidderminster Harriers was.

To go top of the table in such style after beating one of our promotion rivals was quite unbelievable but the most important thing we need to do now is not to get too carried away. There is such a long way to go before we can start even thinking about titles or promotion.

Half of the season stands in our way to realising our dream and with so many points to play for we just have to keep our feet firmly on the floor.

The pleasing thing about the Kidderminster game was that we looked strong all over the pitch. What's impressive is that we look as though we're getting stronger with every game. We scored six goals and kept a clean sheet and leapt to the top of the league. Now it's up to us to maintain that level of performance and try and stay at the summit.

I don't think there was any doubt that what happened before half-time against Barnet affected us in the second half of that match. I am sure that many people will have thought the Kidderminster game would be one step too far. With the Smudger injury and the fact the manager was absent through illness I can see why. But we responded in the best possible style and went out there determined to get the result. Kidderminster are a good side but I am sure we put a smile on both the manager's and Smudger's faces come the final whistle.

Another aspect of the victory that we were happy with was the way the likes of Matt Robinson and Jake Howells slotted seamlessly into the team after being given their chance. Matt was excellent in the centre of the pitch,

showing skill and composure whilst Jake scored twice and made another two. It just goes to show the quality of strength in depth we have available to us. It's the beauty of having such a good squad.

Today we welcome Barnet to Kenilworth Road a week after winning at their place. A lot will be made of what happened in that game. As players we were all gutted, it wasn't nice and it's vital that we keep our discipline today. We know if we play like we did in the first half against them then we stand a good chance of getting another positive result.

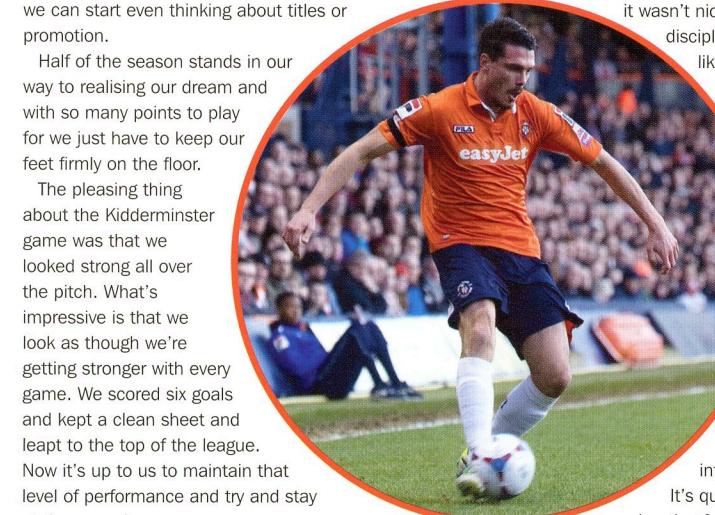
We've now gone an incredible 17 games unbeaten in the league and it seems an eternity since the last defeat, at Wrexham, in early September. It's a great run and we deserve to be where we are as a result.

Putting the actual results and performances to one side for a minute, one of the biggest influences has been your support. It's quite amazing to have 8,500 fans shouting for you in a Conference game.

We know you are right behind us but I urge you all to keep it up. There will be tough times ahead and we need you to stay with us if and when things go wrong. The support you give is a massive part of what we're trying to achieve and that backing is definitely showing on the pitch.

The togetherness of the whole place – from the players, staff, admin staff and supporters – is making the club a good place to be. So let's stay positive and let's keep it going.

Here's to a successful 2014 – starting this afternoon. Enjoy the game.



DECEMBER AWARDS FOR DUO

Manager John Still and striker Paul Benson have won the manager and player of the month awards respectively for December.

The Town shot to the top of the table with a run of six successive wins which was crowned by Saturday's 6-0 victory over Kidderminster.

The Hatters won four of the six games in the Skrill Premier and also



beat Staines and Wrexham in the FA Trophy. The Town scored 21 goals and conceded just three over the course of the six matches.

Benson took his tally for the season to 10 goals by heading home against Harriers on Saturday – the forward's fourth goal in as many games during December. Congratulations to both!

CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY SUCCESS

Our new social media tool on the official website - the Wall - has become an instant success, helped in no small part to our online Christmas giveaway, which saw supporters collect some fantastic prizes over the course of the week's competition.

We hope you enjoyed playing and remember to head to the Wall on the official website for the latest news from Kenilworth Road.

SATURDAY 14th - ANDREW PINNOCK - Training with the first team for 10 minutes. FanFare ID: 224832.

MONDAY 16th - DAVID SHAVE - Half-season ticket. FanFare ID: 169569 and **DAVID EVERITT** Norwich DVD. FanFare ID: 124475

TUESDAY 17th - SEAN CRESSWELL - Two tickets to a home league game. FanFare ID: 117734

WEDNESDAY 18th - TIM SMITH - Two free hospitality tickets in the John Moore Lounge to home league game. FanFare ID: 171069

Lincoln reminder



Hatters supporters must note that this Saturday's Skrill Premier fixture away to Lincoln City is 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.

THURSDAY 19th - PETER HERCOCK - Signed, frame shirt FanFare ID: 225534

FRIDAY 20th - COLIN KEELEY - Two free hospitality tickets in the Eric Morecambe lounge for a home league game. FanFare ID: 142357

SUNDAY 22nd - MICHAEL WILSON - Pie n mash with John Still. FanFare ID: 183666 and **ADAM BRIMMER** - FM14. FanFare ID: 109028

MONDAY 23RD - CAITLIN CALLAN - Five-seater box for one home league game. FanFare: 226389

CHRISTMAS EVE - ANDY MCPHERSON - In the post-match huddle. FanFare ID: 152074 and **DANIEL BRENNAN** - Hospitality in the Eric Morecambe. FanFare ID: 224966

CHRISTMAS DAY - ANDY PEACOCK - EasyJet flights and **NEIL BROOKS** - Santa's Sack of all unclaimed prizes.

Golden Gamble unclaimed

A bumper Golden Gamble prize of £925 remains unclaimed following our home fixture with Kidderminster on Saturday.

The winning ticket number is 16480. Call 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk if you possess the ticket.

Hatters get some hearty help

The Hatters have been equipped with a life-saving new defibrillator, with the help of the Football Association (FA) and the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

In a unique partnership between the BHF and the FA, more than 900 defibrillators have been made available to clubs at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System and clubs in the Women's Super League to help save the lives of cardiac arrest casualties.

The Hatters are the latest club to install a defibrillator, giving players, staff and fans access to the equipment needed to save lives in their community. The club was also given information about Hand-only CPR, which was made famous for the BHF by football legend Vinnie Jones.

Two-thirds of the cost of the defibrillator was provided to the club by the FA and BHF, whilst money from the club fund of the PPD provided the rest of the money in order to purchase this life-saving machine.

Town head physiotherapist Simon Parsell told Talk of the Town: "This vital piece of equipment could prove to be the difference between life and death and it's a welcome addition to this club and its community."

"The FA AND BHF have made it possible for Luton Town to be part of the drive to improve the UK's poor cardiac arrest survival rates.

"Along with CPR, a defibrillator is a vital link in the chain of survival and we're lucky that we now have the skills and equipment at the club to save a life."

Awareness around sudden cardiac arrests was heightened when former England under-21 star, Fabrice Muamba, suffered a cardiac arrest in the Tottenham Hotspur versus Bolton Wanderers FA Cup tie on March 17th last year.

Muamba's story is even more remarkable as only around one in five people normally survive a witnessed, out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the UK.

RUDDOCK RECALLED

On-loan midfielder Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu was been recalled by parent club West Ham United on Monday.



For many years, supporters have wanted to leave a lasting impression of the loyalty that passes from one season to the next at Kenilworth Road and we believe this is a great way to do that.

The Walk of Fame will be located outside main reception and will enable supporters to purchase single or double bricks with a personalised message of their choice. We feel this is the perfect location as it provides all fans with the chance to come and visit the wall on a regular basis.

With bricks starting from £50 and available in black or gold ink, the Wall can serve as a great gift for a friend, family member or loved one.

We welcome all supporters to take part in joining the Wall and look forward to seeing some great memories made and shared through its creation.

Please visit www.hatterswall.co.uk for a full price list of the products and to buy a brick online.

The 20-year-old made a huge impression for the Town in his seven appearances for the club, having made his debut in the 0-0 draw at Staines in the FA Trophy.

A number of injuries have hit the Hammers and Ruddock returns to Upton Park with everyone at Luton Town's best wishes.

Fellow loanees Joe Davis and Alfie Mawson remain with the Hatters until their loans expire on 4th January.

let's go



AFTER TODAY'S FIXTURE, THE TOWN ARE ON THE ROAD ON SATURDAY WHEN THEY MAKE THE TRIP TO SINCIL BANK, THE HOME OF LINCOLN CITY, FOR ANOTHER SKRILL PREMIER FIXTURE.

LINCOLN CITY



WHERE? Lincoln, the county town and administrative hub of Lincolnshire of course. A lovely city and well worth a day trip even if there's no football on. The football club play their home games at the all-seated Sincil Bank stadium.

HOW DO I GET THERE? With difficulty. There are various options open to intrepid travellers. A direct route up the A1 is 119 miles as the crow flies, whilst it's 121 miles if you travel up the M1, come off at the A46 junction towards Braunstone, Frith and Kirby Muxloe before following the A46 easterly. Or, keeping it simple, let the sat nav be your guide. The postcode for Sincil Bank is LN5 8LD.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER. Pretty important point this, so don't forget: it's a 1pm kick-off at Sincil Bank, at the request of Lincolnshire Police, so make sure you set those alarms two hours earlier!

TRAIN, PLANE OR AUTOMOBILE. The Bobbers Travel Club will, as ever, be making the trip to Sincil Bank. It's £20 for adults and £17 for concessions. To book your place call 01234 856542. Meanwhile, if you want to take the train, Lincoln central is a 15-minute walk from the ground.

Tourist Trail. If you like, you can forget the football. The earliest origins of Lincoln can be traced to the remains of the Iron Age (thanks Wikipedia). The castle and cathedral draw thousands of visitors each year whilst the university also has a fine reputation.

IMPISH BEHAVIOUR. The Imps – as they are known (why? Because there's an imp carving on the cathedral – there's the link) – have played their games at Sincil Bank since 1895. In August 2012 this year the club renamed the stadium as the 12th Man Sincil Bank Stadium.

FAMOUS FACES. There are not many grounds in the Conference that can say they've had the Queen, the Who and Westlife visit but it's true of Sincil Bank. Her Majesty paid a visit in 1958; a rock concert in 1966 saw the Who in town; whilst in 2006 Westlife pulled a crowd of 13,000.

MAD ABOUT TOWN. The Hatters will be looking to improve what is an already an excellent record at Sincil Bank. The Hatters may have lost on their first three visits to the Lincolnshire venue between 1887 and 1900, but since have only lost once in the next 15 trips. That defeat was particularly painful. An 8-1 thrashing in December 1966. What made it all the worse was that Lincoln were bottom of the old Fourth Division at the time and the Hatters were directly above them in the table. It's a story my dad never tires of telling me. Let's hope there's no repeat performance next weekend. Jinx.

LAST VISIT. The Town triumphed at Sincil Bank last season with a gritty 2-1 win in early October thanks to an own goal from keeper Paul Farman and a trademark header from Jon Shaw. That was the Hatters' fifth win in seven away games at the time. The Town, however, failed to back that win up in their next match by losing 3-2 at home to Braintree.

HOW THEY DOING? Lincoln haven't been in great form of late, losing 5-1 at FC Halifax on Saturday. In fact the Imps have only won three times in their last 16 matches in the Skrill Premier, with those wins coming over Southport – twice – and Hyde.

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS

SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PRO-RATA PRICES

Adults (22-64) £158, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £113, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £74, Unaccompanied Youths (10-16) and Juniors (under 10s) £22. Accompanied Under-17s FREE



HOME TICKET PRICES

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



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

This game will be pay on the day for Luton Town supporters. We have been allocated 1,600 seats in the South Stand. Prices: £15 adults, £10 concessions, £5 under 16s, free for under 5s.



LUTON TOWN v WREXHAM



The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 18th JANUARY 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



LUTON TOWN v NUNEATON TOWN



The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 25th JANUARY 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

commercial

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Good afternoon and Happy New Year to all of our corporate guests and sponsors who are here present at Kenilworth Road for this game against Barnet.

A number of opportunities are still available for home games for the rest of the season, including matchball sponsorship for a vast majority of games. If you're interested then please do get in touch with me directly at the club.

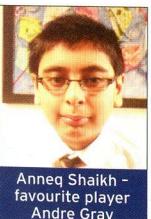
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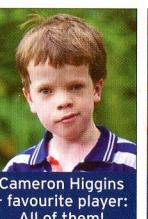
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favourite player
Andre Gray



Lucas Trussell -
favourite player
Mark Tyler



Cameron Higgins -
favourite player:
All of them!



Charlie Racine-
Godfrey - favourite
player Andre Gray



AND OUR LAST TWO MASCOTS...

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favourite player
Jake Howells

James Hannan -
favourite player
Andre Gray

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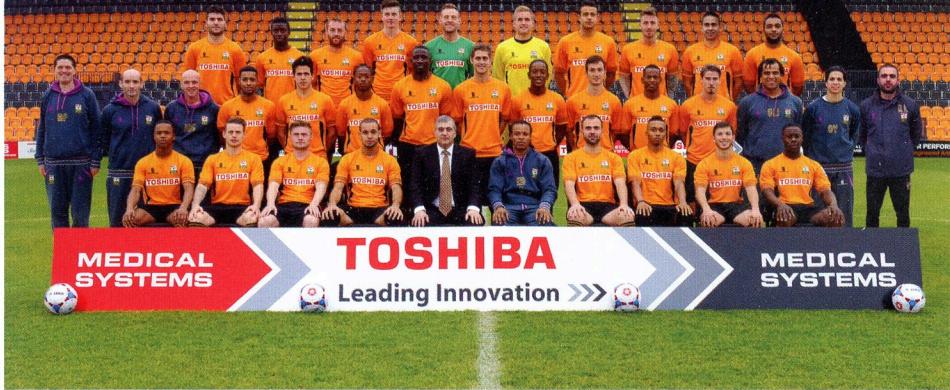


2013/14

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|-------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|---|------------------|---|
| 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 Coward AWAY: Whosh |
| 6 ANTHONY CHARLES | HOME: Matt Crossland AWAY: Bobbers Travel Club | 7 ALEX LAWLESS | HOME: David Goode AWAY: Gill, Julie and Yvonne | 8 SOLOMON TAIWO | HOME: Jonathan Perry AWAY: Available | 9 JON SHAW | HOME: Jacqui Peacock AWAY: Maddie Knight |
| 10 ALEX WALL | HOME: Ben & Richard Banks AWAY: Available | 11 JAKE HOWELLS | HOME: Neil Ehrenzweig AWAY: Sports 262 & lutontownfans.co.uk | 12 SCOTT GRIFFITHS | HOME: CME Heating AWAY: Ben Gray | 13 MARK CULLEN | HOME: Peter & Linda Little AWAY: Mad Hatter |
| 14 ANDY PARRY | HOME: The Walsh Family from Marbella AWAY: Available | 16 ELLIOT JUSTHAM | HOME: Available AWAY: Tommy Lennon GLOVES: Zak Harford Tilley | 17 JJ O'DONNELL | HOME: Kelly Knight AWAY: Available | 18 DAVE MARTIN | HOME: Ronnie Coles AWAY: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin |
| 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: Ashy 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 JIBUDU | 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

BARNET



It is with pleasure that we welcome Barnet to Kenilworth Road for our opening game of 2014.

The Bees visit Bedfordshire just six days after the two clubs met on Boxing Day where the Hatters recorded a 2-1 win at the Hive thanks to goals from Paul Benson and Alex Lawless. After losing by the same score at Salisbury on Saturday, Edgar Davids' side will be aiming to prevent a third straight league defeat this afternoon.

Last season saw Barnet drop out of the Football League following relegation on the final day of the campaign. The Bees were relegated on goal difference with John Still's former club Dagenham & Redbridge surviving by the smallest of margins.

So Barnet returned to the Conference this season for the first time since they departed it as champions in 2005. With the disappointment and frustration of demotion came optimism of an instant return to the 92 club with former Dutch international midfielder Davids at the helm.

The Bees' player/manager is arguably one of the most famous names to have graced this level of football in the world. Having starred at club level with Ajax, Inter, Barcelona, Milan and Juventus, the midfielder threatened at the weekend to quit playing after receiving a third red card of the campaign – and his fifth during his spell with the club – in that defeat in Wiltshire at the weekend.

Suspension, therefore, will mean the Bees will be without their manager in a playing capacity this afternoon but the visitors still have a wealth of talent available

to them. There aren't many better goalkeepers at this level than former Arsenal stopper Graham Stack whilst the Bees' attacking players are sure to keep the Town defence on their toes this afternoon. Leading goalscorer Keanu Marsh-Brown is available after he sat out the Boxing Day fixture against the Town whilst Jake Hyde, who scored in that game, is now fully fit after missing several months through injury. Add to that enigmatic Stevenage loanee Dani Lopez and the visitors have the talent at their disposal to get back to winning ways this afternoon.

The Bees have never beaten the Town in the previous three encounters and today's visitors, who lie in ninth place and three points off of the Play-Off places, will be aiming to record their sixth away win in the Skrill Premier this season. Prior to Saturday's defeat at Salisbury the Bees had won their previous three away matches following victories at Hyde, Dartford and Hayes & Yeading in the FA Trophy. Other victories on the road have come at notoriously 'tough places to go' Hereford, Braintree and Gateshead.

Barnet will be hoping they can improve on their only previous visit to Kenilworth Road in December 2008 in a game that saw the Town register a 3-1 win. Chris Martin and Paul McVeigh had the Town 2-0 up and although the Bees pulled a goal back, cult hero defender Ian Roper forced a late own goal to give the Town all three points in their quest to wipe out the 30-point deduction at the bottom of League 2.

in opposition

MEET THE BARNET SQUAD



THE PLAYER/MANAGER

EDGAR DAVIDS. Former Ajax, Milan, Juventus, Barcelona and Inter midfielder who was capped 74 times by Holland. Joined the Bees in 2012 and after originally taking joint charge of today's visitors he was given sole responsibility of the squad last season.

GOALKEEPERS

GRAHAM STACK. Stopper who signed for the Bees in 2012 following a spell with Hibernian in Scotland. Started his career as a youngster at Arsenal and has enjoyed loan moves with Millwall, Reading, Leeds, Wolves and Blackpool.

NICK JUPP. Young goalkeeper who joined this summer after his release from St Albans. Began his career with Watford, Millwall and Fulham before spells at Harrow Borough and Shepshed Dynamo.

DEFENDERS

ANDY YIADOM. Right-back who has been a regular face in the Conference over the past four seasons. A former Watford trainee, the youngster has played for Hayes & Yeading and Braintree.

ELLIOT JOHNSON. Teenage defender who signed for the Bees in 2010 having come through the youth ranks at the club. Originally joined after previously on the books at Norwich.

ANTHONY ACHEAMPONG. Commanding centre-half who arrived at the Hive this summer from Welling United. Helped the Wings win Conference South last term.

JACK SAVILLE. Hugely talented and highly-rated centre-back who joined the Bees from Southampton in 2011/12. Before turning professional he was on the books at Chelsea's academy.

DAVID STEPHENS. Strong and powerful young central defender who signed from Hibernian. A consistent performer, he established himself in the Bees' defence last season, playing 42 matches

MIDFIELDERS

CURTIS WESTON. Talented central midfielder who joined the Bees in August 2012. Former Swindon, Leeds and, most recently Gillingham man, he began his career at Millwall and appeared in the 2004 FA Cup final.



Player/Manager
Edgar Davids

KEANU MARSH-BROWN. The Bees' leading goalscorer, the winger signed during last the season after being released by Yeovil. The former Fulham trainee signed a new deal this summer.

MARK BYRNE. Versatile midfielder who can also operate on the wing or in defence who joined Barnet in June 2011 following a successful loan spell. Previously on the books at Nottingham Forest and Rushden & Diamonds.

LUKE GAMBIN. Winger who came through the ranks with the Bees and exploded onto the first team scene towards the end of last season, scoring twice.

KIERON CADOGAN. Pacy winger who arrived the Hive in October having previously been on the books at Arsenal, Fulham and Crystal Palace as a younger. Spent last season with Aldershot.

LUISMA VILLA. Spanish midfield playmaker who lists Racing Santander, Real Union and Alaves as his former clubs. Signed this summer and once played 20 minutes at the Nou Camp against Barcelona.

MAURO VILHETE. Exciting young right winger who has risen through the Bees' youth ranks and became the clubs' youngster ever Football League player when he made his debut at 16.

CARL FLETCHER. Hugely experienced midfielder who signed this season having previously been the player/manager of Plymouth. Capped 36 times by Wales.

STRIKERS

HARRY CRAWFORD. Former Southend striker who joined the Bees last season having scored 12 goals for Dartford in the Conference last term. Signed a three-year deal last January.

JAKE HYDE. Talented young striker who scored the Bees' goal on Boxing Day. In his second spell with Barnet having re-joined this summer after a spell in Scotland with Dundee.

JON NURSE. Experienced winger or striker who has enjoyed successful spells with Stevenage and Dagenham & Redbridge. Represented Barbados at international level.

DANI LOPEZ. Talented Spanish striker currently on-loan from Stevenage. Started his career at Atletico Madrid and has also played for Getafe and Espanyol.

FOOTBALL

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

Barnet suffered relegation from League 2 last season by means of goal difference despite only having a -12 record.

Unfortunately for the Bees, John Still's former club Dagenham & Redbridge had a goal difference of just -7 which saw them escape the drop.

Like every ex-Football League club in the Conference these days, Barnet are finding the task of bouncing back to the league much harder than perhaps they anticipated in the summer.

Player/Manager Edgar Davids' distinguished playing career doesn't seem to be aiding his cause in North London and his notorious disciplinary record is certainly causing problems for the club. It is unfortunate, in many ways, that a player of such iconic status will not be on show today at Kenilworth Road.

A closer look at Barnet's season so far

The Bees are three points off the play-off places and sit in ninth position in the Skrill Premier having played 25, won 10, drawn nine and lost six.

Barnet have only really began to falter recently suffering three defeats in their last 6six games to likes of Grimsby, Salisbury and of course the Hatters on Boxing Day, so they will be looking to get back on track in 2014 with a morale-boosting triumph here today.

Away from home, Barnet have the fourth best record in the division winning five of their 13 games and drawing another four and its worth noting that three of their five wins have come in their last five away games.

What's more, Barnet have only failed to score in three games this season so it would be no surprise to see the visitors bag a goal today. They may struggle to add to their 10 clean sheets however, given the Hatters' marvellous goal scoring form at home.

How will they play? Who are their danger men?

With Edgar Davids, Jon Nurse and Carl Fletcher all suspended, Barnet will again need to reshuffle as they have been forced to often in recent games.

Former Arsenal goalkeeper Graham Stack will start in goal for Barnet. 20-year-old Mauro Vilhete, who usually operates on the right flank, will likely start at right-back.



PROBABLE LINE-UP 4-3-3



Jack Saville

6ft4in powerhouse David Stephens will be partnered at the heart of Barnet's defence by 6ft3in Jack Saville in what will be a very young and physical back line completed by 19-year-old Elliot Johnson who is a product of the Barnet academy.

The Bees' midfield will be made up of former Racing Santander man Luisma Villa, Curtis Weston - who has played in an FA Cup Final for Millwall in 2004 against Manchester United - and the versatile Mark Byrne.

The visitors' frontline is certainly capable of scoring goals with Keanu Marsh-Brown, the club's top goalscorer weighing in with eight this season, likely to start on the right, Jake Hyde, who has notched seven this season, on the left and the silky Dani Lopez who has re-joined the club on loan from League 1 strugglers Stevenage, leading the attack.



club data

Established: 1888

Nickname(s): The Bees

Stadium: The Hive Stadium

Capacity: 5,100 (Avg. attendance '13/14 – 1,934)

Manager: Edgar Davids (One year, one month)

Final league position 12/13: 23rd League 2

back to the future

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

1990/91 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

GARY PHILLIPS: Ever-present goalkeeper who became player-boss, joining Aylesbury in June 1995. He then had spells with Aldershot, Aylesbury again, Boreham Wood, Chesham and Hemel Hempstead.

PAUL WILSON: Long-serving favourite who netted 24 goals in 263 League games before moving to Boston United in October 2000. He rejoined Barnet as a coach and had a spell assisting Martin Allen.

GEOFF COOPER: Left-back who returned from a brief spell at Wycombe Wanderers and became Barnet's player/community officer. He then rejoined Bognor Regis, since working as an insurance agent.

MICK BODLEY: Central defender who followed Barry Fry to Southend United in July 1993 and Peterborough United in August 1998. Later with Dagenham & Redbridge and Canvey Island, he is a postman.

RICHARD NUGENT: Central defender who netted four goals in 56 Conference games before joining Woking in August 1992, then played for Stevenage again, Yeovil Town, Kettering Town and Hendon.

GARY POOLE: Defender who reunited with Barry Fry at Southend United in July 1993, then followed him to Birmingham City in September 1994. He later played for Charlton until injury ended his career.

EDDIE STEIN: Long-serving midfielder who scored 26 times in 344 Conference games before joining the Bees' coaching staff, then coached Cape Town Spurs and currently runs Ed Stein City Soccer.

ANDY CLARKE: England Semi-Pro international striker who netted 30 goals in 63 Conference games before joining Wimbledon in February 1991. He reunited with Barry Fry at Peterborough in May 1999.

GARY BULL: Leading marksman who moved to Nottingham Forest in July 1993. He reunited with Barry Fry at Birmingham City in December 1995, then played for York City, Scunthorpe and Grantham.

ROGER WILLIS: England Semi-Pro international who joined Watford in October 1992, then Birmingham, Southend, Peterborough, Chesterfield, Kettering, Cambridge City, Hucknall and St Albans City.

KEVIN DURHAM: Winger who scored Barnet's winner against Northampton in the 1990/91 FA Cup second round, netting twice in 31 Conference games before suffering a fatal heart-attack in June 1991.

2004/05 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

SCOTT TYNAN: Goalkeeper who joined Rushden & Diamonds in January 2006. He was loaned to Hereford United, then played for Ebbsfleet United, Northwich Victoria, Salford and Vauxhall Motors.

IAN HENDON: Former England U-21 right-back who later assisted Paul Fairclough before succeeding him as Barnet's manager until June 2010. He has since had a spell as Gillingham's assistant-boss.

SIMON KING: England Semi-Pro left-back who was Player of the Year in 2006/07 and scored twice in 75 League games, moving to Gillingham in June 2007. Now at Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

SIMON CLUST: Versatile defender who made 14 League appearances prior to joining Forest Green Rovers in June 2006. He moved to Oxford United in February 2009, then played for Hereford United.

ISMAIL YAKUBU: Long-serving England Semi-Pro central defender who netted nine goals in 146 League games before moving to AFC Wimbledon in July 2010. He is currently at Newport County.

RICHIE GRAHAM: Former Northern Ireland Under-21 international who moved to Dagenham & Redbridge in August 2007, then Kettering Town, Grays Athletic, Eastleigh, Dartford and St Albans City.

DWANE LEE: Moved to Stevenage in April 2006, then Maidenhead, Kettering, Halesowen, AFC Wimbledon, Bromley, Boreham Wood, Windsor & Eton, Staines Town, Lewes and Hayes & Yeading.

DEAN SINCLAIR: Young midfielder who moved to Charlton Athletic in July 2007. He had a loan spell back at Barnet, since playing for Grimsby Town, Arlesey, Hayes & Yeading and now Lowestoft.

GIULIANO GRAZIOLI: Leading marksman who scored nine goals in 57 League outings before moving to Dover Athletic in May 2008. He rejoined Barnet as assistant-boss under Lawrie Sanchez.

LIAM HATCH: Striker who netted 11 goals in 87 League games prior to joining Peterborough United in January 2008, since playing for Luton Town, Darlington (twice) and currently Gateshead.

BEN STREVENS: Forward who joined Crawley Town, then won the Conference title again with Dagenham & Redbridge, since playing for Brentford, Wycombe, Gillingham, Daggers and Eastleigh.

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...A BEE

PAUL SHOWLER



A number of players have served both the Town and the Bees down the years, whilst manager John Still has been in charge of both clubs.

Jamie Campbell, Liam Hatch, Brian Stein, David Court, Darren Currie, Alan Garner, Rob Johnson, Tresor Kandol, Michael Leary, Keith Rowland, Barry Silkman, Martin Sperrin, Peter Anderson and Kirk Stephens are names familiar names to both sets of supporters.

One name that does stick out is Paul Showler. Paul started in the football with Altrincham where he combined his part-time playing career with that of a part-time policeman.

A move to the full-time ranks with Barry Fry's Barnet followed for the left-sided midfielder but with cash restraints biting at Underhill, Paul was granted a technical 'free transfer' and was snapped up Bradford City, where he became a crowd favourite, leading to a £50,000 move to Lennie Lawrence's Luton in 1996.

At Kenilworth Road Paul was initially a regular in the side, well regarded as a maker and taker of goals, but then a series of injuries, some bizarre, led to him making only four appearances in two years. Given his injury problems it came as no surprise when Paul was given appointed physiotherapist at Peterborough.

PAUL SHOWLER STATISTICS:

LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 37

LUTON TOWN GOALS: 6

FIRST APPEARANCE: v Bristol Rovers (League Cup) (h) W 3-0 20/8/96

FIRST GOAL: v Walsall (h) W 3-1 5/10/96

LAST APPEARANCE: v AFC Bournemouth

(a) 28/12/98

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Today is the only the fourth time the Hatters and the Bees have met in competitive action and the Town will be aiming to maintain their unbeaten record against today's visitors. Barnet's last visit to Kenilworth Road was five years ago this month, a game which the Hatters ran out comfortable winners.

Chris Martin set-up birthday boy Paul McVeigh to fire the glances in Rossi Jarvis' free-kick for the Town's second on 15 minutes. The Town were well on top but the Bees halved the deficit five minutes before half-time when Kenny Gillet teed-up Abu Ogogo. The former Arsenal striker was then sent-off on the stroke of half-time for a second booking.

Martin and fellow Norwich loanee Michael Spillane hit the woodwork before centre-half Ian Roper forced Bees defender Michael Townsend to find his own net with two minutes left to seal the Town all three points.

Town: Logan, Spillane, Howells, Roper, Pilkington (Hall 81), Keane, Jarvis, McVeigh, Martin, Talbot (Andrews 90), Gallen

Barnet: Beckwith, Gillet, Ogogo, Townsend, De Magalhaes, 46), Birchall (Porter 24), O'Flynn. Subs Not Used: Kadoch, Deverdics.

The two sides met in April in that season with a Jarvis goal earning the Hatters a point in a game that saw Kevin Nicholls sent-off.

Adam Birchall broke the deadlock in first-half stoppage time when he tapped in the rebound after Gary Breen's header had come off the post.

Jarvis levelled when he lofted into an unguarded net after home keeper Lee Harrison dashed out of his area. But the Town had goalkeeper Dean Brill to thank when keeping out Paul Furlong's penalty.

Barnet: Harrison, Devera, Leary, Breen, Gillet, Adomah, Bishop, Tabiri (Charles 90), Bolasie, Furlong, Birchall, Subs Not Used: Porter, Hughes, Nicolau, Kadoch.

Town: Brill, Asafu-Adjaye, Pilkington, Spillane (Henderson 52), Davis, Hall, Livermore, Keane, Nicholls, Jarvis (Howells 90), Craddock (Parkin 84). Subs Not Used: Roper, McVeigh.

from the oak road

The dust has barely settled on the incident-packed Boxing Day game, yet today, Barnet roll into town buoyed by the return of top scorer Keanu Marsh-Brown. Bees fan Josh Ilan discusses Barnet's move from Underhill to the Hive, their decision to go Dutch and their ambition to bounce back following relegation last year.

TALK OF THE TOWN: Talk us through that game on Boxing Day from a Barnet perspective. Do you foresee a different outcome today?

JOSH: Based on the first-half, I'd say Luton are the best team we've faced this season. Extremely well organised from back-to-front, your movement and positioning caused us all sorts of problems and deservedly gave you a 2-0 lead, although your goals came from our, relatively rare, defensive lapses. The game changed for us when Jon Nurse got sent-off for his challenge on Jonathan Smith, who all Bees fans wish a quick and speedy recovery. After this, we transformed and threatened more often - especially when Dani Lopez came on to partner Jake Hyde, who scored a fantastic header. If we play these two strikers, diverting from our usual 4-3-3 formation, along with the return of the influential Keanu Marsh-Brown, we might avenge our defeat.

TOTT: Most teams tend to struggle when they come down from League 2 to the Conference - but Barnet are pushing for a Play-Off place. Is this in line with your expectations? How has your season gone so far?

JOSH: We were very unfortunate to go down last season - no side has been relegated on more points from League 2. We retained most of our best players and strengthened, so our aim is to make an immediate return. Our season, so far, has been decent. Although we are on the cusp of the Play-Offs - which should be commended - given the group of players we've got, we should have more points on the board. It must be said that we have been dogged by a lot of bad luck this season and we need to find some consistency, turning the many games we draw into wins.



Josh Ilan

TOTT: Conference clubs don't generally have Champions League winners among their ranks, but Barnet are an exception. Assess the impact Edgar Davids has on the team as a player and as manager.

JOSH: When Edgar joined, the club was on its knees after a horrific start to last season. Although we were unfortunately relegated, he has changed the club dramatically. It is important to point out that Edgar is not the manager, but joint head-coach alongside Ulrich Landvreugd and Dick Schreuder, and the Dutch trio have changed our philosophy massively. We play a possession-based 4-3-3, giving us a continental flair. His arrival has given us a notoriety, not only nationally but abroad as well. He has some flaws as a manager, notably his tactical rigidity and not turning up for all games, but his reign is the most enjoyable we've had for some time. As a player, though, I am not a fan at all. He is not a snippet of the player he once was. Without him in the side, the team play with more freedom and perform a lot better.

TOTT: Which players in the Barnet team should we be on the look-out for today and why?

JOSH: Keanu Marsh-Brown has been our best player this season. An exceptionally gifted winger destined for greater things, he is our top-scorer this season and someone who can change the game in an instant. Jake Hyde, our top-scorer last season, is arguably the best poacher in the league, while fellow forward Dani Lopez is a natural goalscorer, with fantastic flair and technique. At the back, goalkeeper Graham Stack does an excellent job marshalling the rearguard and is a good shot-stopper. He plays behind a centre-half pairing of David Stephens and Jack Saville, who have formed a wonderful partnership and are able to fend off most offences.



TOTT: How have fans settled into your new home of The Hive this season? Where do you see the club being based long-term?

JOSH: For a temporary stadium, The Hive is fantastic. The view, from wherever you sit, is brilliant but, as with any move, it has nothing on Underhill - especially that unique atmosphere, which we haven't come close to replicating. Our long-term aim is to return to Barnet, something the club want to achieve in the next decade.

TOTT: New Year's Day today: what is the most memorable calendar year for you as a Bees supporter?

JOSH: That's like asking a turkey what Christmas it enjoyed the most! I have supported Barnet for four years, in which we have never finished above 22nd. The past year undoubtedly, despite our relegation, has been my most memorable. The dramatic last ever game at Underhill will live long in the memory, as well as being among a group of fans taken from the side of the motorway on the Barnet coach - after orders from Edgar Davids - after our coach had broken down.



Keanu Marsh-Brown

TOTT: Cambridge manager Richard Money recently called for an extra promotion spot to be given to Conference clubs. As a fan of a team that have been battling against relegation from League 2 for a number of seasons, and now in the Conference, do you believe this is right thing to do?

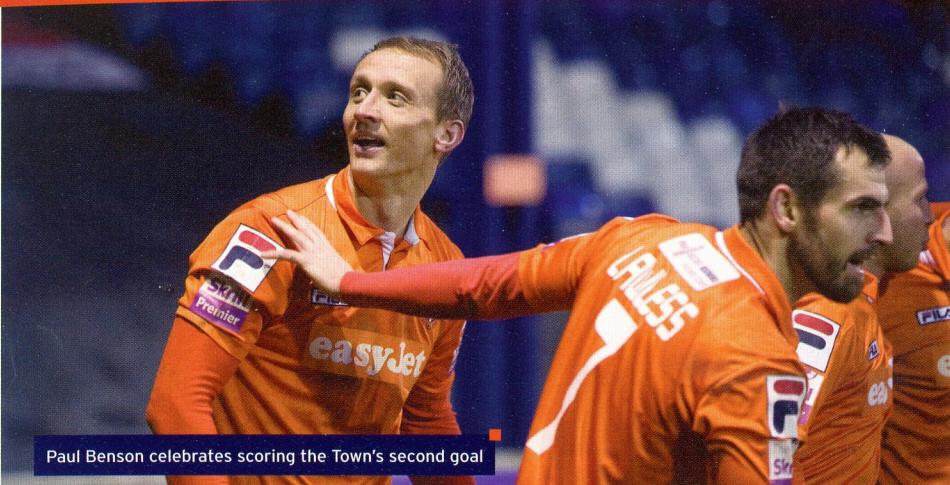
JOSH: If you had asked me that last season, having finished 22nd three years in a row, I'd say that it should be restricted to two spots.

However, as Luton fans are accustomed to, the Conference is not 'non-league' but an extension of the Football League. It is a fantastic league in its own right and most sides that get promoted prosper.

Having come down from League 2, introducing an extra spot would make it an easier transition and could help to ease money woes incurred by many clubs due to it being easier to return.

This is something that has been an issue for a few years, and there has never been a better time to implement it!

TOWN 6-0 KIDDERMINSTER



Paul Benson celebrates scoring the Town's second goal

The Town stormed to the top of the Skrill Premier after hitting Kidderminster for six at a packed-out Kenilworth Road.

Two goals each for Luke Guttridge and Jake Howells plus further strikes from Paul Benson and Scott Griffiths made it 10 home wins on the spin and extended the unbeaten league run to 17 matches.

The result, allied with Cambridge's 0-0 draw at Nuneaton, lifted the Town to top spot for the first time this season.

In front of a season's best 8,488, the Town didn't always have it all their own way. Indeed up until Guttridge's 27th-minute opener it had been an open game. Harriers, who came into the game without an away win since mid-October came close to taking the lead and only a stupendous save from Mark Tyler kept out Joe Lolley's top-corner-bound shot on 20 minutes as visitors pressed in an end-to-end first third of the match.

The Town, though, began to dominate and Guttridge fired the Hatters ahead. He played a smart one-two with Benson to tee-up Matt Robinson for a shot. Robinson's effort was well-saved by Danny Lewis, the Kiddy keeper, but Guttridge was on hand to control and fire home his eighth goal of the season from eight yards.

With their noses in front, one almost became two on 36 minutes for the Hatters but Lewis pulled off a superb one-handed save to prevent Lawless's low shot from putting the Hatters further in front.

Loan star Pelly Ruddock was forced off in the latter stages of the first period and was replaced by Howells, and the Town substitute wasted no time in making an impact in the second half. After running down the left

Howells clipped an inch-perfect cross into the path of Benson and the 34-year-old's head did the rest, rising to nod past Lewis for his 10th goal for the Town.

2-0 on 52 minutes it was 3-0 three minutes later. Andre Gray found Benson with impudent flick of a pass but Benson, haring into the box, was brought down by Chey Dunkley. The result was a penalty and a red card for the visiting defender. Howells stepped up to beat Lewis from 12 yards.

Tyler made another excellent save on the hour, this time denying Michael Gash's 25-yard volley, but a man up and three goals up the Town were in cruise control, and Benson should have made it 4-0 on 66 minutes but could only head wide of the target from six yards after Robinson's fine right-cross.

Shots were raining in on the Harriers goal from all angles but the Hatters did make it 4-0 with 20 minutes left to play when Benson's header from a cross from Gray found its way to the feet of Howells, and he tucked home a finish high into the roof of the net. All four of Howells' goals this season have come against Kidderminster.

Lawless rifled a shot over the bar on 74 minutes as gaps continued to appear in the Kiddy defence, and the Town made it 5-0 with 11 minutes left when Griffiths rose to head home Guttridge's left-wing free-kick. It was his first goal for the club.

By now it was olé stuff from the Town, and Guttridge finished off a fine passing move in the 86th minute to complete the scoring and cap a fine afternoon's work which ensured the Hatters start 2014 at the top of the table.

TOWN 6-0 KIDDERMINSTER

COACH DEDICATES VICTORY TO DUO

Town first team coach Hakan Hayrettin dedicated the 6-0 win over Kidderminster to Jonathan Smith and John Still.

Still was missing through illness – some "dodgy prawns" to blame – whilst the game was the first since midfielder Smith suffered a double leg fracture in the Boxing Day triumph at Barnet.

"Nothing fazes me in football, but what happened on Boxing Day did, that goes to Smudger and we wish him a speedy recovery," Hayrettin told Hatters Player.

"The boys dedicated that victory to him and we hope he's back very, very quickly and of course our leader, our manager wasn't here today.

"The manager made a statement the other day that if any one of the staff couldn't be here the team would still go out and do the job and that's exactly what happened."

The emphatic victory lifted the Hatters to the top spot in the Skrill Premier for the first time this season.

And Hayrettin was left hailing the perfect day as the unbeaten league run extended to 17 games at Harriers' expense.

"We said at half time, 'wouldn't it be nice to go into 2014 as league leaders?' and that is exactly where we are now," said Hayrettin.

"Kidderminster are a good side but with our movement, passing and the tempo they just could not live with us.

"We could not have asked for any more today and know a lot of hard work has gone into where we now sit.

"This squad has shown it has all the capabilities to win this league and along with all the staff and the gaffer, we need to keep guiding them along.

"I think it says volumes about the squad to come back and perform like we did today after what happened to Jonathan on Thursday."

On Smith's injury, Hayrettin added: "I haven't spoken to him, but I know he wants a bit of time to himself now.

"He's had the operation and I believe it's gone OK. I also believe that hopefully this coming week we are going to go and visit him and see how he is. We want him back as quickly as possible. He's an unsung hero for this club. He's been instrumental in everything that we've done so far this season. And that victory today was dedicated to him.



Hakan all smiles after Saturday's 6-0 win

"I had to end my career through injury and I'm sure that he's a stronger character than me. Hopefully he'll come back and he'll be better than ever."

Matt Robinson filled the void left by Smith's unfortunate injury and Hayrettin was full of praise for the young midfielder. "He was excellent, it was a very mature performances from Matt," said Hayrettin. "I said to him before the game that when Jonathan plays for us he is the life-blood of the team, he's the one responsible for pumping blood around the team, and that's what he needed to do and Matt did exactly that."

"He slotted straight in like he'd been playing there for 10 years. Again it's proof that playing in development games has helped."

TOWN 6-0 KIDDERMINSTER

Guttridge 27, 86, Benson 52, Howells 55, 70, Griffiths 79



TOWN: Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Davis; Robinson, Ruddock (sub Howells 45), Guttridge, Lawless; Gray, Benson (sub Cullen 80). **SUBS NOT USED:** Wall, Mawson, Justham.

HARRIERS: Lewis, Vaughan, Jackman, Dunkley, Gowling, Byrne (Angus 88), Storer, Gittings, Lolley (Fowler 60), Morgan-Smith (Johnson 67), Gash. **SUBS NOT USED:** Vaughan, Grimes.



| | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|
| POSSESSION | 54% | 46% |
| CORNERS | 10 | 2 |
| SHOTS ON TARGET | 12 | 4 |
| SHOTS OFF TARGET | 10 | 1 |

| | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| FOULS | 11 | 11 |
| YELLOW CARDS | 2 | 3 |
| RED CARDS | 0 | 1 |

ATTENDANCE: 8,488 (203 KIDDERMINSTER)

reaction

SCOTT'S ALL SMILES

The smile said it all, even though you couldn't see it. But despite wearing a grinning Happy Harry's head in his post-match interview with Hatters Player (check it out on YouTube), Scott Griffiths was beaming anyway.

The reliable left-back had every reason to celebrate following the 6-0 win over Kidderminster after scoring his first goal in Luton colours to put the Town 5-0 up against Harriers when he nodded home Luke Guttridge's left-wing free-kick.

Griffiths has been one of the Hatters stand-out performers in recent weeks and had been, up until the Kidderminster game, frustrated by his misfortune in front of goal in recent matches. A goal-bound rocket at Chester was blocked by a team-mate, he hit the bar against Welling and saw a goal ruled out for a foul against Gateshead.

But his goal against Kiddy, just his fifth in his career, broke his duck much to the former Dagenham defender's delight.

"I'm over the moon," said the 28-year-old. "I thought my first half performance was poor but in the second half I pulled myself together and in the end we've achieved a terrific result.

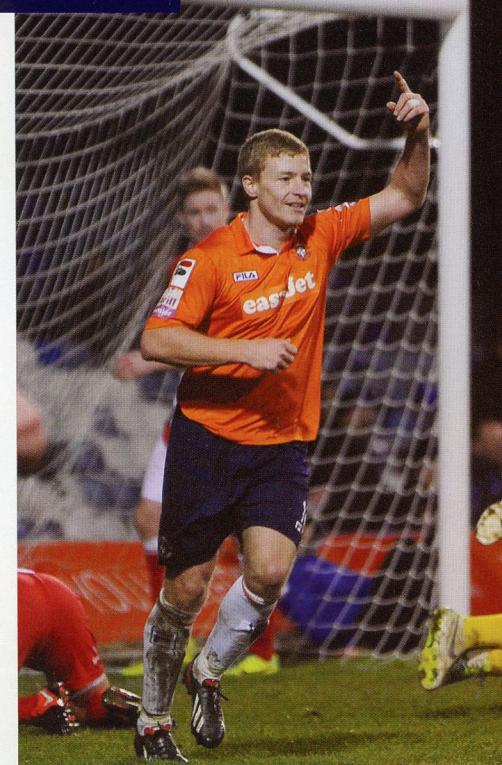
"We had to win today for a number of reasons; for the manager, for Jonathan Smith and for the supporters.

"I feel really bad for Smudger because he's such a big part of the team and has put so much effort in for us this season. It's a massive shame but he's been a credit to himself and we wish him a speedy recovery. You only had to look at the message under Andre's shirt to see how much he means to us. We're a like a family and he is a big part of that and we want him back as quick as possible."

On the victory and his rare goal, Griffiths said: "I've seen people or the woodwork get in the way and I had a goal disallowed so to finally get a goal is great, all I had to do is jump up and nod it in."

"The last goal I remember scoring was in a friendly for Peterborough where I drilled it low into the bottom corner but I'm confident whenever I'm in a good position that I can score."

"Overall, though, I can't fault the way we played in the second half. We kept the ball brilliantly. Our movement, passing, fitness and dedication to the cause is fantastic."



Griffiths celebrates his goal on Saturday
- his first in 31st appearances for the Hatters

The Town moved to the top of the Skrill Premier thanks to the six-goal win, overhauling long-time leaders Cambridge.

"A lot of people sing 'we're coming for you' but we're not coming for anyone, we're coming for the title," said Griffiths. "I know the manager has said it a number of times but we really can only worry about ourselves and nobody else."

"I'm not bothered about any other team. Any club that wants to stand in our way can try, but we will work our hardest to put in the performances to make sure we can win the title. We always work hard and I don't think you'll find a more dedicated team than us."

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reaction

TYLER HAILS HATTERS BELIEF



Mark claims a cross during the first half on Saturday

Mark Tyler has seen plenty of disappointment in his four previous seasons at Kenilworth Road.

Two Play-Off final defeats are right up there for the goalkeeper, but there are high hopes that they can be all forgotten this season as the Hatters stake a genuine claim for the title.

The stopper's 209th appearance in Luton colours was one to remember as the Town leapt to the top of the Skrill Premier with a thumping 6-0 win over promotion rivals Kidderminster.

Having been a part of Hatters sides in the past that have failed to win promotion, what's different this time round?

"Belief," Tyler told Hatters Player after the victory over Harriers on Saturday. "We've got a great set of lads here and we're a very tight-knit group, but, most importantly, everyone knows their jobs and we haven't been chopping and changing the team.

"We're solid all over the pitch and with Paul Benson, Luke Guttridge, Alex Lawless and Andre Gray we've got lots of goals in us. It's a great recipe.

"However, we must guard against complacency. We've got a tough game against Barnet and three days later we're away to Lincoln so we must take every game as it

comes. All we need to do is move on and try and move further clear from the teams below us."

The Hatters didn't have it all their own way on Saturday and, before Guttridge's opening goal, the Town were indebted to Tyler for preventing Joe Lolley's goal-bound effort from giving Harriers the lead.

"We knew that Lolley was dangerous but we knew he was all left-foot," said the 36-year-old. "Scott Griffiths did well to restrict him to that one chance all afternoon but it was good to spring across and make the save, that's what I'm there to do."

With John Still absent through illness it could have been easy for the Town to switch off but Tyler revealed that this team daren't cut corners under the current regime.

"The manager might not have witnessed it but Terry and Hakan did, and it's a respect for them that we showed with that kind of performance.

"Nobody was slacking. Even at 5-0 we were working hard and it meant we scored a sixth. We didn't want to let anybody down because we know that if we do start slacking then we'll be getting a big kick up the back-side."

"The win means we can go into the New Year's Day game full of confidence and hopefully we can stay top of the league."

centre spot

Scott Griffiths gets up above the Kidderminster defence to score his first goal for the club in the 6-0 win on Saturday



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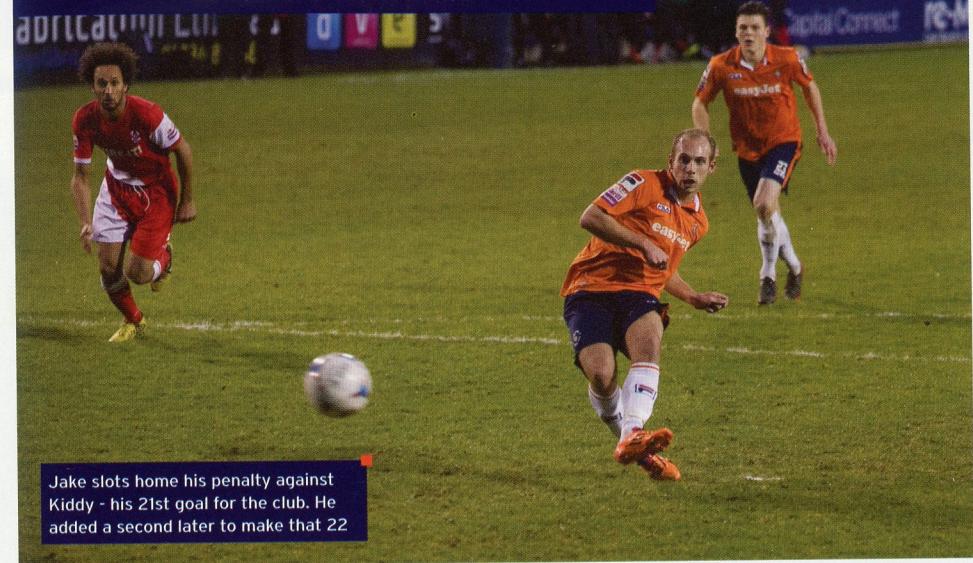


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reaction

A HAPPY HOWELLS



Jake slots home his penalty against Kiddy - his 21st goal for the club. He added a second later to make that 22

Jake Howells must wish the Hatters played Kidderminster every week.

The Town midfielder scored twice against Harriers in the 6-0 victory on Saturday – doubling his tally for the season after hitting two goals against the same side earlier in the campaign.

What's more his performance as a second half substitute against Kiddy – in which he also laid on two goals – may be enough for a start in the Town midfield this afternoon following Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu's injury.

However, the 22-year-old, who has been restricted to starts in the FA Trophy in recent weeks, is happy to help out as and when required as the Town aim to maintain their place at the top of the Skrill Premier.

"I've got no complaints that I haven't been playing because the boys have been playing so well and winning every week," said Howells, who made his 257th appearance in the 6-0 win.

"I'm obviously gutted that I've not been playing but we're in such good form any player who isn't in the team would feel the same. The biggest thing is that we're winning and the club is buzzing at the minute, it's a great place to be."

"We're finally top of the league and the important thing for us is to now stay there. We're in good form - and who knows what we can go on and achieve this season."

Howells' first goal came from the penalty spot after Paul Benson was fouled just a few minutes after he had set-up the striker for the Town's second goal. Benson then laid on Howells' second before the substitute set-up the sixth goal for Luke Guttridge.

Happy

It was an influential display from the Hatters' academy graduate but Howells was keen to play down his role in the victory. "I'm just happy to help the team," he said. "I repaid the favour to Paul. The penalty took a while to get taken and I knew the goalkeeper would know which way I was going to put it because I scored two penalties against them earlier in the season. I decided to change my mind and he went the right way but luckily I found the target."

"As for the second, Paul's headed it into my path and I could miss for a yard out. I've scored all my goals this season against Kidderminster now!"

Howells' final word was for the Hatters faithful who helped sweep the team along to a 17th game without defeat and 10th successive win at Kenilworth Road.

"You can't ask for any more, to have 8,000 inside the ground is unbelievable," he said. "They were our 12th man and all we can do now is keep it going against Barnet on New Year's Day."



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reaction

GUTTRIDGE GLAD ALL OVER

Taking a quick glance at the leading goalscorers list in the Skrill Premier makes good reading for the Town supporters.

Three Hatters players find themselves high on the list with one of them – Luke Guttridge – on nine goals, all scored from the heart of the midfield.

It's a terrific return from the summer arrival from Northampton but, as the 31-year-old admits, he feels that total should be more.

"I think I could have scored a lot more to be honest," Guttridge told Hatters Player after the 6-0 win over Kidderminster. "I think I could have scored four or five more. I've hit the bar, had efforts blocked or saved and felt I could have scored from a good chance at Barnet."

"It hasn't been playing on my mind because I knew if I kept doing what I've been doing the goals would come."

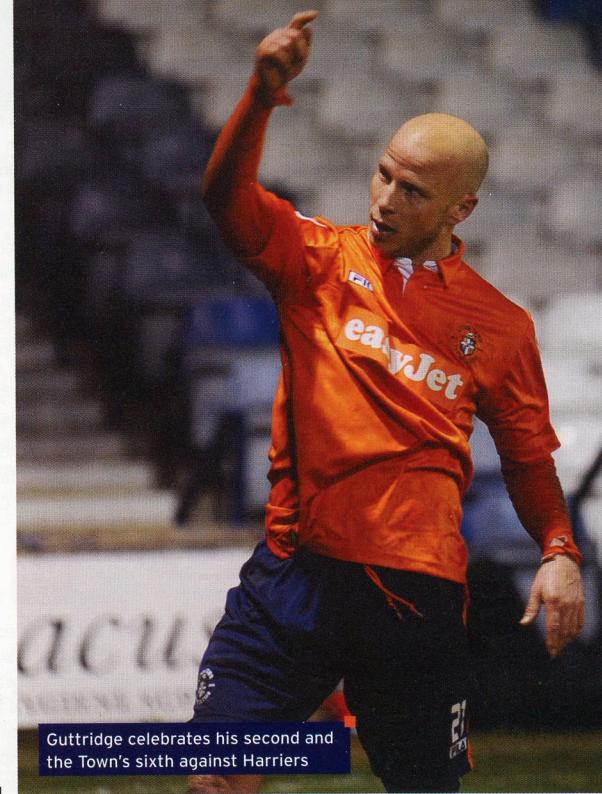
Strike

Indeed they did as Guttridge twice found the net against Harriers, including the all-important first goal which broke the deadlock against a Kidderminster side who had threatened moments before the midfielder's strike.

"I think the difference between us and a lot of teams is we score goals at vital times," explained Guttridge. "Goals change games and if anything at the time of the first goal Kidderminster were on top. Mark Tyler made a great save – I thought the effort from their lad was in all the way – but then we've come back and taken the lead."

Ahead at the break the Hatters really turned on the style in the second half with Guttridge applying the coup de gras four minutes from time when he ended a fine team move to score his second and the Town's sixth.

"The second half we knocked the ball around really, really well," he said. "It was a great team move and I was happy to put the icing on the cake."



Guttridge celebrates his second and the Town's sixth against Harriers

"It was such a fantastic performance, especially after what happened in the second half against Barnet. It's a big plus being top of the league now and that's where we need to stay now. I'm delighted with nine goals but it's not about individual plaudits, we're a team. I don't care who scores – as long as we get promoted – that's the aim."

"We've been slow to start but we're really getting going now and I think we're going to get stronger and stronger from now on."

Like the rest of his team-mates, Guttridge was quick to dedicate the victory to Jonathan Smith.

"Smudger's my room-mate, too, and we all wish him well," said Guttridge. "He's led the way for us this season and we wish him a speedy recovery."

the year that was

IT'S FAIR TO SAY IT'S BEEN AN UP-AND-DOWN LAST 12 MONTHS FOR THE TOWN. IT INCLUDED ONE EXTRAORDINARY HIGH, ONE CHANGE OF MANAGER AND 17 GOOD REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT 2014 WILL BE A HAPPY ONE FOR THE HATTERS.

JAN The Town got off to the worst possible start to 2013 by losing 3-1 at Woking, just six days after the Hatters had beaten the Cards by the same scoreline at Kenilworth Road. However, the Hatters recovered to pick up their first cup shock by beating Championship Wolves at Kenilworth Road in the third round of the FA Cup thanks to Alex Lawless' winner. Jon Shaw hit a hat-trick three days later as the Town thumped Barrow 6-1 in the Conference. A Trophy win over Skelmersdale was followed by a goalless draw at Telford before the highlight of the season. Having kept Norwich at bay for 80 minutes at Carrow Road the Hatters made sure they went down in the history books by becoming the first non-league club to beat a Premier League side thanks to Scott Rendell's goal. 4,000 Luton supporters celebrated a famous win but three days later 75 travelling fans witnessed the Hatters exit the Trophy at the quarter-final stage, a 3-0 defeat at Grimsby.



FEB A week after the Norwich victory the Town suffered a dismal defeat at lowly Barrow to start February and a week later the Hatters were held to a 1-1 draw with Forest Green at Kenilworth Road with Andre Gray guilty of missing a penalty. Three days later the Hatters were beaten 1-0 at Dartford before a 3-0 home defeat to Championship Millwall in the fifth round of the FA Cup ended the Town's run in the competition. That game would be Paul Buckle's last game in charge of the club and Alan Neilson took control of the 1-1 draw against 10-man Macclesfield, who played over an hour with no recognised goalkeeper. A 3-2 home defeat to champions-elect Mansfield followed before newly-appointed manager John Still watched the Town surrender tamely in a 2-0 defeat at Braintree.

MAR Seven games without a win in the league, Still worked his magic in his first game in charge, a 1-0 win at relegation-threatened Stockport thanks to Jake Howells' goal. A goalless draw at Nuneaton came three days later before a David Martin goal secured a 1-1 draw with Hereford in Still's first home game at the helm. However, as the games continued to come thick and fast, Hyde won 2-1 at Kenilworth Road but the Town salvaged some pride by earning a point in a 0-0 draw at promotion-chasing Wrexham four days later. Another 1-0 victory over Stockport followed before a goalless draw in blizzard-like conditions against Tamworth. March ended with a 2-2 draw at Cambridge.

APR The Town lost for the first ever time against Kidderminster on April Fool's Day before a disastrous 5-1 defeat against Gateshead in a game played at Carlisle's Brunton Park. It was the Hatters' heaviest Conference defeat and was watched by just 382 – the lowest ever crowd to watch a first team match. After that set-back, the Town – by now way adrift of the Play-Off places – ended the campaign with an unbeaten run of five games. A 3-0 home win over Lincoln was followed by two televised draws against Play-Off hopefuls Grimsby and Newport. Alex Wall scored his first goals for the Town in a 2-0 win over relegated Ebbsfleet and the season came to a close with a 3-1 win at Southport.

MAY Alex Lawless was named the supporters' player of year and he celebrated winning that prize by signing a new contract, as did Steve McNulty, Solomon Taiwo, Matt Robinson and Mark Tyler. The Town made their first two signings too with Shaun Whalley and Andy Parry joining from Southport. They were joined by striker Mark Cullen and Histon duo Danny Fitzsimons and Jim Stevenson as John Still began to build his squad for the new season.



JUN June saw the Town hit the 4,000 season ticket sales barrier and also saw the arrival of experienced centre-half Anthony Charles. Winger Dave Martin signed a new contract whilst Andre Gray was on target for England C in a win in Bermuda.

JUL Luke Guttridge and goalkeeper Elliot Justham then signed and, after returning to training and a pre-season training camp in Portugal, the Town lost their opening friendly 1-0 at Boreham Wood. Wins over Hitchin and Maidenhead followed before the Hatters beat a full strength Aston Villa at Kenilworth Road. A defeat against Dunstable was quickly forgotten about as the Town bounced back to beat John Still's former club Dagenham & Redbridge 3-0 at Kenilworth Road.

AUG Pre-season continued in good form with three friendlies all won, including a 7-0 win for the Hatters against a young Arsenal XI. However, the Town began the season with a defeat, going down 1-0 at Southport with ex-Sandgrounder Shaun Whalley missing a second half penalty. A 2-0 win over newly-promoted Salisbury got the Hatters up and running before the next three games were all drawn. A Luke Guttridge goal seven minutes into injury time salvaged a point against Macclesfield. Goalless draws against Forest Green and Cambridge was followed by a 2-0 win at Kidderminster with Jake Howells on target twice in a game which marked Paul Benson's debut.

SEP Another goalless draw, this time against Grimsby, kicked off September before the Town slipped to defeat in front of the BT Sport cameras at Wrexham which left the Hatters 14th in the Skrill Premier. However, three days later Dartford were seen off 3-0 at Kenilworth Road with Paul Benson scoring his first Town goal. The Hatters then twice trailed against Lincoln before a Mark Cullen goal secured a 3-2 win and three days later Cullen scored twice in a 4-0 thumping of Woking at Kingfield. The month concluded with a goalless draw at Hereford.

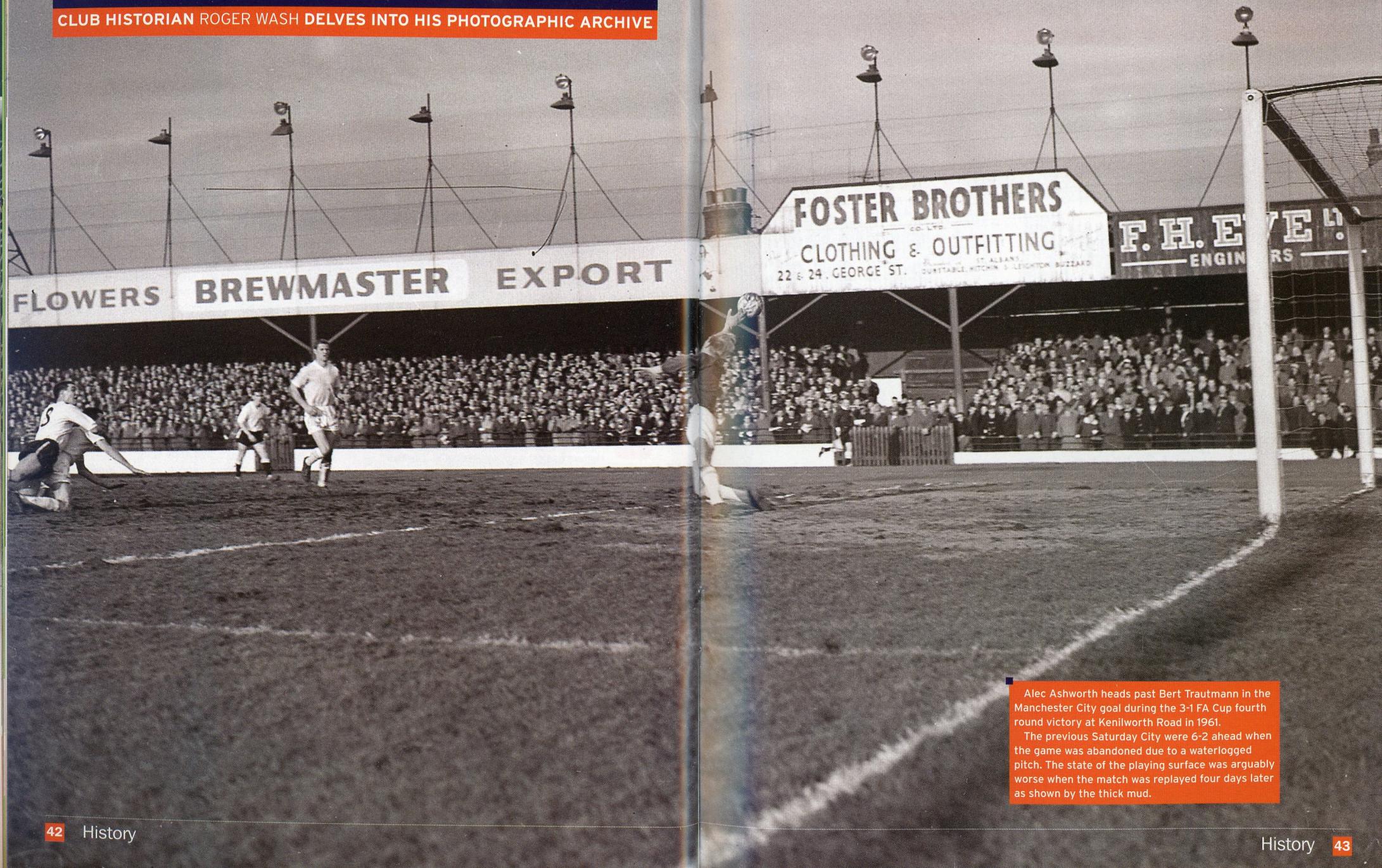
OCT A quite extraordinary 4-3 victory over FC Halifax saw October start with a bang with the Hatters coming back from 3-1 down to collect all three points with Alex Wall scoring a sensational winner. A topsy-turvy 3-3 draw at Aldershot followed three days later. The Club opened the whole of the Oak Road end for the visit of bottom-of-the-table Hyde and an Andre Gray hat-trick helped secure a 4-1 win. The goals kept coming a week later as the Town came from behind to lead 4-1 at Tamworth before two late goals from the hosts gave the scoreline a closer look. The month ended with a win in the FA Cup: Mark Cullen's header sending the Hatters through at Woking.

NOV November started with a goalless draw at Gateshead in a game played in atrocious conditions but a week later the Town exited the FA Cup after a 2-1 defeat at fellow Skrill Premier side Welling. A gutsy 2-1 win Braintree – achieved thanks to goals from Paul Benson and Andy Parry – was followed by a 1-1 draw at Chester. League wins over Welling and Southport at Kenilworth Road lifted the Town into second place in the table. The month ended with a goalless draw at Staines in the FA Trophy.

DEC Staines were seen off in the Trophy replay at the start of December before the Hatters recorded a superb 5-0 win at Alfreton at the Impact Arena with four goals coming in the first 20 minutes. John Still kept the faith with a much-changed squad for the Trophy, and those on duty did themselves no harm with a 2-0 win over holders Wrexham. As the festive period approached, the Town kept up the pressure on leaders Cambridge, beating Gateshead 4-2 at Kenilworth Road. A fine Boxing Day win at Barnet was soured by the horrific injury sustained to midfielder Jonathan Smith but his team-mates responded magnificently to beat Kidderminster 6-0 last Saturday – a result which extended the unbeaten league run to 17 games and sent the Town top of the table going into 2014.

picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



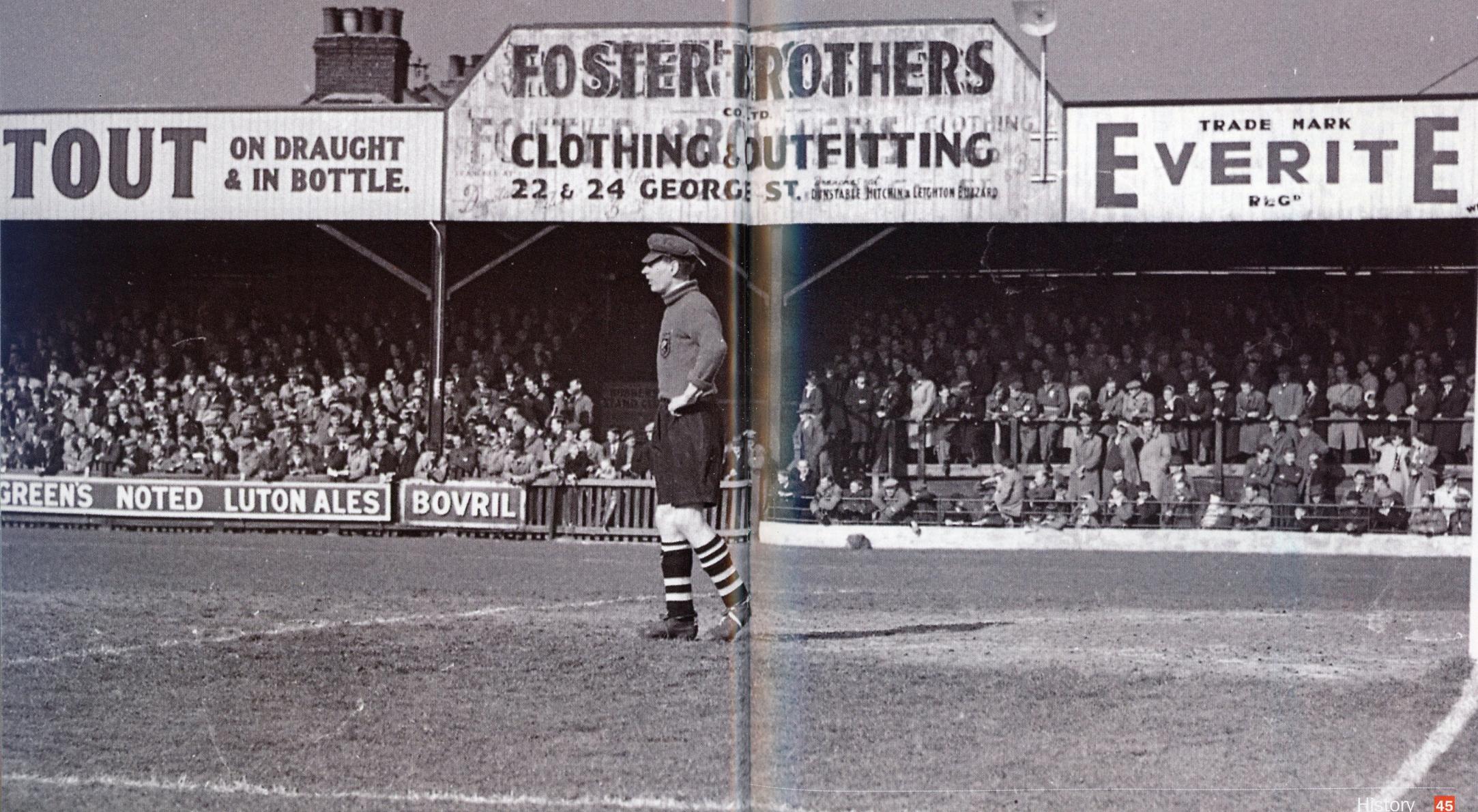
Alec Ashworth heads past Bert Trautmann in the Manchester City goal during the 3-1 FA Cup fourth round victory at Kenilworth Road in 1961.

The previous Saturday City were 6-2 ahead when the game was abandoned due to a waterlogged pitch. The state of the playing surface was arguably worse when the match was replayed four days later as shown by the thick mud.

camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

What the well-dressed goalkeeper was wearing in 1949.
The Town's England international goalkeeper Bernard Streten struts his stuff.





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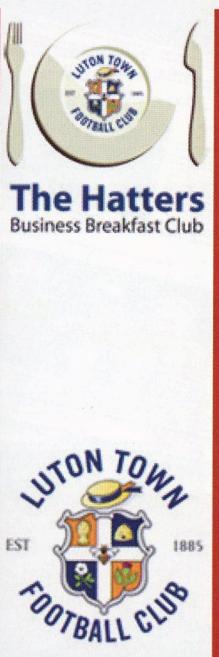


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on this day

1st JANUARY

THE RECORD

It's a mixed day for the Town on New Year's Day over the years. Today is the 30th time the Hatters will play on 1st January and, so far, from the 29 games, the Hatters have won 10, lost 12 and drawn four of these games. The Hatters won their first game played on New Year's Day when beating Manchester City 3-0 in 1898. However, the Town lost on their last appearance on 1st January when losing 3-1 at Woking last year – just a week after beating the Cards by the same score at Kenilworth Road. The Town have failed to score in just seven matches on this day but have also kept seven clean sheets.

SUPER MICK

Legendary Town striker Mick Harford has scored more goals than any other player for the club on New Year's Day with five goals. His first goal on this day in Luton colours came in a 2-1 defeat at Everton at Goodison Park in 1985. A year later the centre forward walked off with the matchball following a hat-trick in a 3-1 home win over Leicester City. Big Mick's final goal on this day for the Town came in a 1988 home victory over Chelsea. The Hatters triumphed 3-0 that particular day at Kenilworth Road with Mark Stein and Brian Stein also on target.



Mick Harford: Five goals
on this day for the Hatters

That afternoon two goals from Matthew Barnes-Homer and one from Claude Gnakpa secured a 3-0 win. That was the Hatters' first game on 1st January since a 2008 victory over Yeovil at Kenilworth Road. A solitary goal from Calvin Andrew gave the Hatters their last Football League victory on New Year's Day.

AWAY THE LADS

Between 1990 and 2003 the Town played six successive matches away from Kenilworth Road on 1st January – and failed to win any of them. A 2-1 defeat at Goodison Park against Everton in 1990 was followed by a 2-0 reverse at Plough Lane against Wimbledon in 1991. The following year a Mark Penbridge goal gave the Hatters a point in a 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest. In 1994 David Preece scored in another 1-1 draw, this time at the Hawthorns against West Bromwich Albion. That was the last Town game on New Year's Day for seven years, until a 2001 defeat at Bournemouth. Two years later the Hatters lost again, this time going down 2-1 at Chesterfield despite a goal from Ahmet Brkovic.

HATTERS, HATTERS

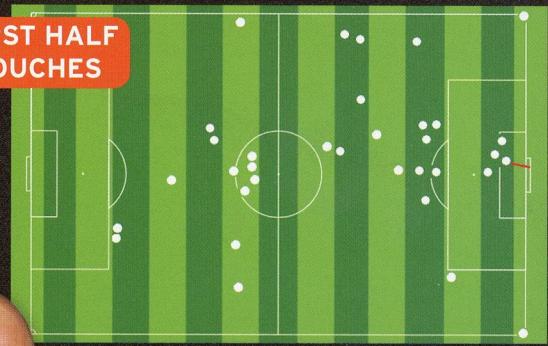
Back in 1938 the Hatters saw off fellow Hatters Stockport County 6-4 in a 10-goal thriller in front of a crowd of 14,138 at Kenilworth Road in the Second Division. It is easily the highest scoring game involving the Town on New Year's Day.

Guttridge

Luke Guttridge was at his influential best in the Town's 6-0 demolition of Kidderminster Harriers on Saturday, scoring twice and setting up Scott Griffiths' goal.

The experienced midfielder had more touches of the ball than any other player on the pitch with an astonishing 103 - 62 of which came in a second half that the Hatters bossed.

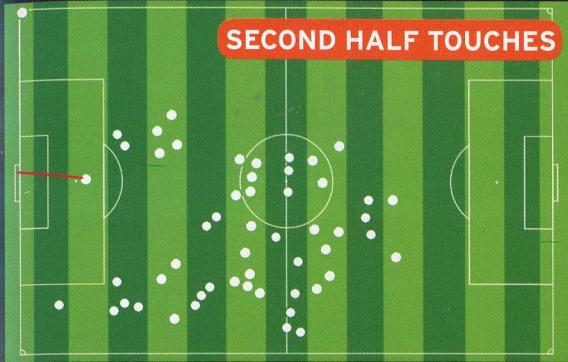
FIRST HALF
TOUCHES



Guttridge was involved in five of the six Town goals. As well as scoring twice and assisting once, he was also involved in the build-up to the second and fourth goals as the Hatters made use of their numerical advantage against a Kidderminster side reduced to 10 men early in the second half.

The former Northampton man took his tally for the season to nine goals, scoring the Hatters' first and last goals against Kiddy. His crucial opening goal, in the 27th minute, came from his 25th touch of the match.

As the graphics show, Guttridge came to fore in the second half as the Town dominated against 10-man Harriers (62 touches in the second half compared to 41 in the first), but the most striking statistic was that his pass completion rate in the second period was a perfect 100 per cent from a total of 27 passes. Overall Guttridge's pass completion rate was 90 per cent throughout the 90 minutes.



GOALS

2

ASSISTS

1

SHOTS
ON
TARGET

3

SHOTS
OFF
TARGET

1

GOALS/SHOT
ON TARGET
RATIO

75%

TOTAL TOUCHES

103

SHOTS BLOCKED

2

RIGHT
WING
CORNERS

7

LEFT
WING
CORNERS

1

TACKLES
WON

6

TOTAL MINUTES
PLAYED

90

PASSES
COMPLETED

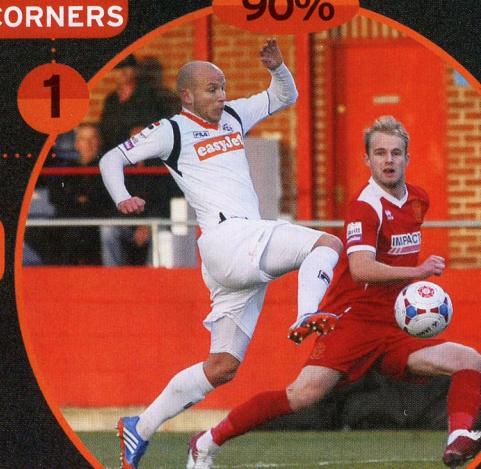
37

PASSES
INCOMPLETE

4

PASSED
COMPLETION
PERCENTAGE

90%



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academy update

WITH JOE DEENEY



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As 2013 has drawn to a close and 2014 commences, the Under 15/16 phase takes on different challenges for players at the club.

The Under-16 players have an eight-week window now to win themselves a scholarship and the pressure is really on for them. It is a difficult age and time in their lives with exams and their football futures still undecided. It becomes their first major pressures they will have encountered as young men. The hardest part and balancing act for the 16s is that even though they are 16 years old and still young, they need to prepare themselves to be 16 year old men when they enter the building full time.

All the players in the group have ability or else they wouldn't be here. The key is being able to show that ability, consistently game in, game out. I have always been a firm believer that form will win you a contract but it is consistency that wins you a career. The message relayed to the Under 15 and 16 players we have is: it doesn't matter where they are at 16 years old. It matters where they are at 26, 30 and 34. The statistics in the game from players signing professional contracts at 18 and being out the game at 22 is alarming and that is why the players have to realise the enormity of the task to achieve a career in the game. A major part of players' development at these ages is how they react psychologically to the different challenges and adversities they are faced with.

Faith

It has been great to see the manager and his staff putting faith in the younger players in recent weeks and give them a taste of first team football. Several young players have made their first team debut in the recent games against Staines and Wrexham in the FA Trophy. That is encouraging as well for the next batch of 15s and 16s who can see a progression path into the first team if they are good enough.

It has been an indifferent season to date for the Under 16s. Consistency has been the biggest thing lacking from our performances this season. We have played excellently for large parts of games but the results haven't always gone our way. There is an ongoing debate in the country amongst coaches as to what ages do results become important? It is a tough one because

at the age of 16 years old players could potentially be 9-12 months away from playing in a competitive first team environment. How can we as a club expect players to turn up in a must win game on a Saturday afternoon if they have never been exposed to pressure or the importance of results? It is about finding the balance. At 16 years old players need to enter the building that are technically efficient, tactically knowledgeable, physically ready and psychologically strong with an ability to handle extreme pressure. It is a difficult task and that is why I am fortunate to work within a department with excellent supporting staff.

Respected

Wayne Turner, our head of youth, alongside Matt Stannard, youth operations manager have continued to run an excellent youth programme that is the envy of many neighbouring clubs. Wayne's knowledge is nationally respected and recognised by many big names in the game and like us all would love to see us finally get back into the Football League.

Scott Smith, our Under-7s-10s coach, has done brilliantly at putting the foundations in place for new recruits at the club in terms of technically preparing them for the next phase. Jordan McCann continues to do an outstanding job of putting the building blocks into players tactically and continuing to get players to strive for technical excellence within the club.

Excellent

This year I have had Lee Cowley with me as the Under 15s coach, and who is our head of coaching. Lee was my coach when I came through the system myself as a young player. His knowledge is excellent and much valued by me and the other staff within the club. The key is getting the players ready and prepared for Paul Driver's youth team, and Lee has been a massive help over the last three seasons. Paul has had a great deal of success so far this season with Zane Banton signing a professional contract and several youth team players having sampled first team football. The Under-18s group at the club we have big hopes for.

I am looking forward to the new challenges 2014 brings us as a football club and like you all hope the current crop of first team players continue their excellent finish to 2013 to get us promotion.

in the community

TALENT IDENTIFICATION AT LUTON TOWN - YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED!

We've had some noticeable youth progression at first team level of late which reflects well on our youth academy where we look to produce elite players.

Of course, like any elite process, the outcome is significantly determined by what you bring into the process. Good a driver as Sebastian Vettel is, and as good as his car is, he couldn't win with a tank full of poor fuel!

This is where talent identification plays a crucial role in any success our academy achieves, and where we are looking to increase our pool of recruitment contacts. I'll bet there are dozens of local youth managers in the crowd today supporting the Hatters who can help us identify local talent and, with our large development squads where boys stay with local clubs and train at the academy once or twice a week, managers know they won't be losing their star player overnight!

Our exile from the Football League excludes us from essential funding that the big boys can use to employ small armies of scouts and it's fair to say we are being increasingly targeted as clubs from all over the South of England and East Anglia head for Luton Town.

So what we are looking for is anyone involved with local football to feel free to contact us with recommendations. We are a true community club and

that means harnessing the collective power of our football community for the good of the Club. We do recruit already and we have a good knowledge of local boys and, with almost 400 boys in our development system, we already have an impressive pool of talent pushing our signed academy boys. Of course our Hatters Cup tournament for 1,500 players is a big recruitment tool for the academy, but we need to constantly keep looking as boys we may have seen can often suddenly kick on and be of interest.

Our player identification criteria is simple - we look for boys principally in the under-7 to under-16 age groups who can effect games through either their ability or determination or athleticism and, because we have several entry levels to our academy, boys shouldn't feel intimidated by coming in - they all receive a friendly welcome and are well looked after in a professional environment.

So if you are reading this thinking I know a boy who deserves an opportunity or you think to yourself 'I don't know why this boy isn't at a club', then ring our talent identification manager, Kevin Thoburn, on 07931 771153 or email tips.ltfc@hotmail.co.uk.

Our academy is only as strong as the pool of talent at the Club and that includes everyone involved in local football.



Have you spotted the next Zane Banton? If so, get in touch.

Luton Ladies

LADIES LOOK FORWARD TO 2014

Luton Town Ladies can look back over 2013 with a good deal of pride as, although things have not always gone as hoped on the field, the club continues to develop and promote its own players from within with six players home grown players making their first team debuts.

At first team level the squad finished the league season strongly with the highlight being a superb away performance at champions Chesham United where the hosts lost their 100 per cent home record and only rescued a point late on.

The Town again reached the County Cup final regaining the trophy from Bedford Ladies with a comprehensive 4-0 victory. The reserves also held their own at the highest level. A reserve team can compete in the pyramid but it was clear that a number of changes and tough decisions would need to be made across the whole squad and the close season was not an easy one.

The summer turnover of players was in the region of 40 per cent and the transition has been a difficult one.

Club manager Dave Baker told Talk of the Town: "It was obvious that the squad had peaked and was not going to progress further as a group.

"We thought long and hard about what changes needed to be made and probably achieved 90 per cent of what we wanted.

"With a turnover like we've had it was always going to be difficult to hit the ground running but freak injuries

have severely disrupted things often leaving us in the position of having to put square pegs in round holes. Every time we thought we had plugged a hole another injury forced us to roll the dice again.

"We have two teams in our division who have budgets of £30,000 plus and pay their players which is in huge contrast to our own situation, but I cannot fault the players' spirit and determination to make things work and hopefully when we again have a full squad of players available results will pick up.

Promising

"As a club it is absolutely vital that we survive this season at this level as next season brings about the inaugural Championship League of which we are founder members which we need to be part of.

"We have a good squad of players and management and a number of promising players developing within our youth ranks who will no doubt progress into our senior teams in the next two years. It is important that we provide them with a standard of football commensurate with their ability and ambition."

With little football over the festive period the only result to report on was the reserves' 3-2 win over St Martins.

The hosts raced into a two-goal lead after Luton were firstly punished for a defensive mix-up and nothing could be done about ex-Town player Shannon Pratt's 30-yard strike into the roof of the net.

This sparked Luton into life and substitute Natalie Richardson pulled a goal back five minutes later with a left-footed strike into the bottom corner.

Richardson then raced down the wing finding Erica Byron 12 yards out and she controlled the ball well before volleying the ball into the net to equalise. Richardson was soon involved again, being tripped on the edge of the area but picked herself up to send a perfect free-kick into the top corner to complete a magical 15-minute spell that did her first team prospects no harm at all.





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my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

MY NAME: James Stephens

MY AGE: 63

MY LOCATION: Devon

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN: I was born in Luton and I was taken to my father in the late 1950s to Kenilworth Road. I have always supported the club and have watched the team in all five divisions and I'm proud to see that my two sons and one grandson have become ardent Luton supporters as well.

MY FIRST LUTON GAME: I honestly can't remember when or who it was against...it was so long ago! I know it was definitely at Kenilworth Road and it was in the late, late 1950s. Part of me wants to say Blackpool or Blackburn, but I seriously don't remember.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME: Without a shadow of a doubt it has to be the 1988 Littlewoods Cup final win over Arsenal. It was a game that had everything. At 2-1 down I thought it was all over. The impetuous was all with the Gunners but when Andy Dibble saved Nigel Winterburn's penalty the game changed completely and the rest, as they say, is history. An unforgettable day.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL: I was fortunate to be in the ground to witness arguably one of the greatest goals ever scored at Kenilworth Road: Graham French's magnificent solo effort against Mansfield in 1968. There have been plenty more specials goals since, though. Scott Oakes' goal against Derby stands out, as does Jean-Louis Valois' against Torquay.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER: It's a toss-up between Malcolm Macdonald or Terry Branston. Supermac was a striker supreme; whilst Terry was the skipper of the 1967/68 squad and as a centre-half in my days as a Sunday league footballer, he was a player I wanted to play like.

MY MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION:

There's no one particular item. I collected a lot of programmes when I was younger, so probably the souvenir issue celebrating promotion at the end of the 1969/70 campaign.



James' hero Supermac, who he met earlier this month at the club's Christmas dinner

MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI:

Goalkeeper: Ian Feuer

– The giant American was unbeatable when he was on his A-game and was always capable of pulling off incredible reflex saves.

Right-back: John Ryan

– Consistent performer at right-back who gave so many years of service.

Left-back: Matt Taylor

– A wonderfully talented

youngster who went onto play in the Premier League.

Centre-back: Terry Branston – The skipper. You wouldn't mess with him.

Centre-back: Steve Davis – A colossus at the back and always a threat at the other end. At one point I think he'd scored 10 goals from centre-half by the turn of the year.

Left midfield: Graham French. A loose cannon but what a player!

Right midfield: Ricky Hill – A precocious talent who should have played more times for England.

Central midfield: Kevin Nicholls – Another leader, this time from the middle of the park. A driving force behind two promotions, including one championship.

Central midfield: David Preece – An assuring presence in the middle of the park who could pass and tackle.

Striker: Malcolm Macdonald – An unbelievable striker who went onto play at the highest level. I was delighted to come to the dinner earlier this month to meet my hero.

Striker: Bruce Rioch – I often wonder what it would have been like to have Bruce in the same team as Supermac. Bruce was another fantastic forward and I was gutted when he left.

YOU ARE MY LUTON, MY ONLY LUTON... A lot of people have said the same thing when I've been reading their memories on this page and I am no different: it is in my blood. I am a Luton boy and have supported my local team through thick and thin. What pleases me most is that my family have continued in the tradition of supporting the team and my only hope is that it continues long after I've gone.

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

My only Luton

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

2014: FOR LUTON LEGENDS IN THE MAKING

All around me people clamber back across seats trying to remember where they were standing before the fourth, no, fifth goal went in.

The Kenny End rises to their feet in spontaneous song. The length of the pitch away Adidas Sambas and Gazelles are held aloft while Christmas-socked-feet dance on the wooden boards below. As the old year departs and a new one starts we're exactly where we want to be: top of the league.

My throat is still hoarse. This is probably still true for me today and maybe for you whether you're reading this online or in the programme on New Year's Day, and not just because of New Year's Eve excess.

Eight-and-a-half thousand crammed mainly into the home areas of our faithful old ground for Saturday's visit of Kidderminster Harriers. Queues in the pub and at the ticket office told us that the ground was going to be bulging and creaking at the seams come kick-off. Like my mum's dining table it never seems built to take the capacity of the whole family, but when they all come home for Christmas and we're forced to huddle shoulder to shoulder, it does the job manfully. A big new one would surely only be useful on days like this?

We came into the game with the continuation of our ever-growing momentum slightly in question. At The Hive on Boxing Day Jonathan Smith suffered a horrific leg break, the sound of which was so loud you could hear it five miles away in *actual* Barnet. A terrible moment for a player who has played a big part in probably the best first half of a season I can remember. Smith is a popular bloke and will be a massive loss to the squad, and I join the scores of supporters in wishing him well with his recovery.

With Smith out of the side and the players and staff visibly shaken by the incident, were we going to be strong enough (6-0) to (six nil) cope with (**it was SIX NIL, mate**) promotion hopefuls Kiddy? Just a bit...

Almost a year to the day that Smith signed his contract a lot has changed in the world of Luton Town. This time last season for one reason or another we had barely played in the league during December and the only thing on people's minds was a cup run that, along with the weather, would contribute to a fixture pile-up that our squad and management at the time were not capable of navigating.

Crowds dropped off. Season ticket stubs remained intact and as winter turned into spring, starting a Luton song in the stands at Kenilworth Road got the kind of reception that it might get at a funeral. The funeral of a Watford fan. The funeral of a Watford fan whose friends and family are all deaf.

Marathon

What a difference a year makes though eh, ladies and gentlemen? You don't need me to tell you how good it feels to finally be top of this league. Or to remind you that this marathon is not a sprint, and that it's a funny old game, and that the rest of the squad, and their bones, are just as human and fragile as Jonathan Smith's.

But while I recharge my vocal chords and loosen my laces for Barnet at home I can't wipe the smile off my face. I won't and neither should you, brothers and sisters.

Because 2014 stretches out before this group of players and their manager; it is theirs for the taking. For Luton legends in the making.

CHALLENGE HARRY



WELCOME TO HARRY'S FUN PAGE. THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES BY SIMPLY HAVING FUN.

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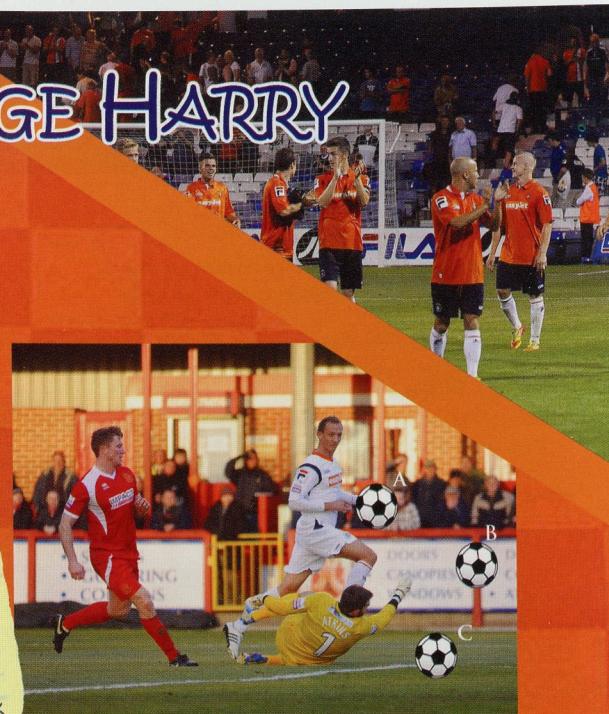
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WHICH BALL HAS PAUL BENSON JUST FIRED INTO THE BACK OF THE NET AGAINST ALFRETON TOWN?

A... B... C...



WHICH PLAYERS NAMES ARE MISSING FROM THEIR SHIRTS?



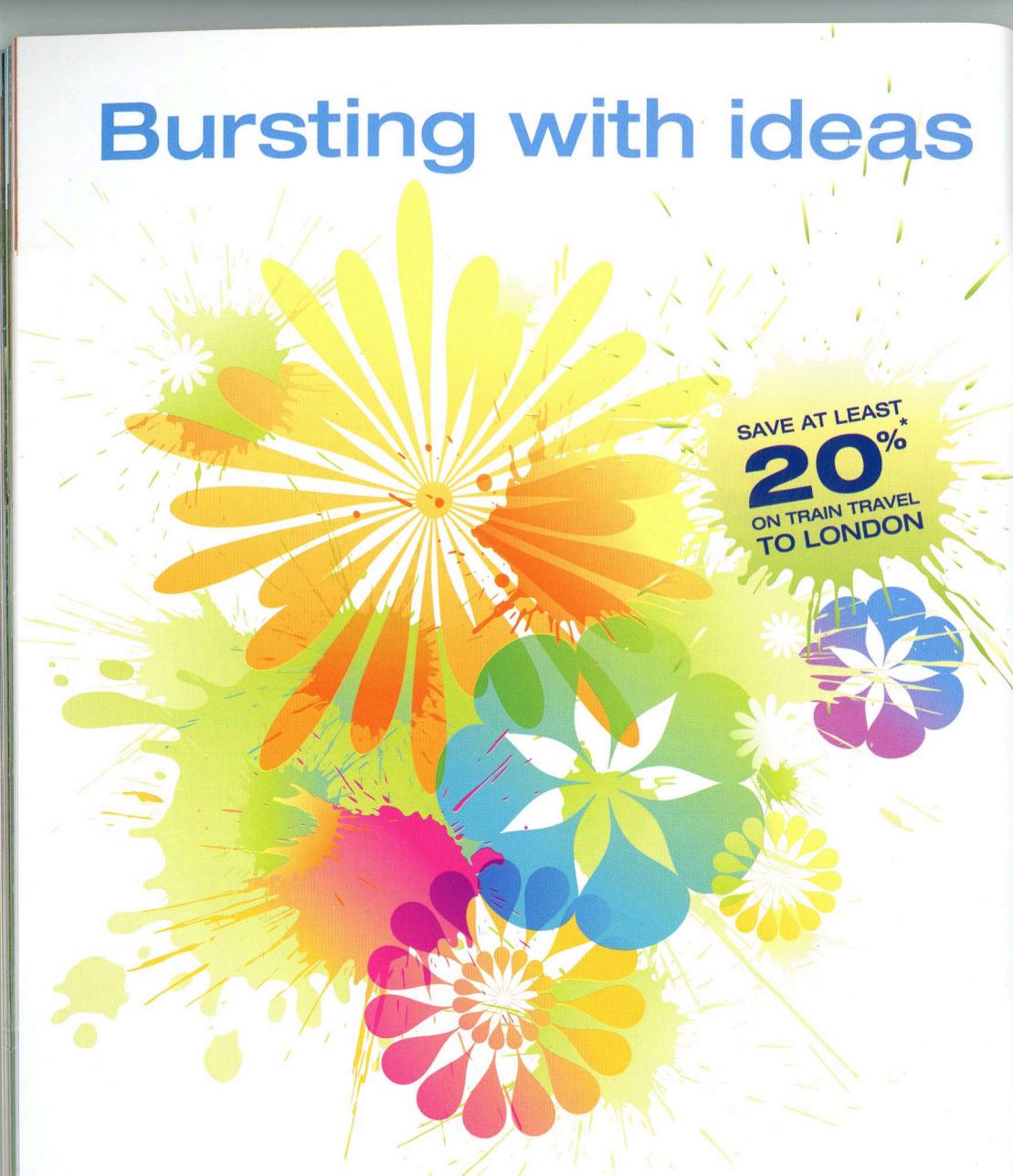
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First Capital Connect

league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

The Town enter 2014 at the top of the Skrill Premier following another dramatic day of action in the division last Saturday.

The stunning 6-0 win over Kidderminster lifted the Hatters above Cambridge in the table, as the U's 0-0 draw at Nuneaton meant Richard Money's side surrendered top spot for the first since September.

Macclesfield gave the Town even more reason for festive cheer with their 3-2 win against Grimsby at Blundell Park. The Mariners had gone 14 games unbeaten in all competitions but, despite coming back from two goals down at one stage to make it 2-2, the visitors secured all three points to move John Askey's side further up the table.

That defeat for the Mariners meant Alfreton jumped into the third place in the table after the Reds secured their fourth straight win since the 5-0 defeat to the Hatters with a 2-1 home win over Southport.

Despite their defeat at Kenilworth Road, Kidderminster remain in fifth place but a number of sides remain in contention behind the Harriers. Halifax lie in sixth place



Andy Scott has guided Aldershot out of the relegation zone after starting the season with minus 10 points

and one point off the Play-Offs after securing an 11th home win of the campaign by thumping Lincoln 5-1 at the Shay.

Nuneaton's point against Cambridge keeps Boro in seventh, whilst Salisbury jumped to eighth following their 2-1 win over today's visitors Barnet. The victory for Mickey Harris' side leaves them two points off a top five berth. Barnet are ninth, and Braintree complete the top 10 after their 2-0 win over Tamworth.

This afternoon Alan Devonshire's side take on Cambridge.

At the other end of the table, Hyde remain without a win going into the New Year after a 5-2 defeat at home to Wrexham. The Tigers led 2-1 at one point but the Dragons fought back to leave the home side 20 points from safety.

Aldershot, deducted 10 points at the beginning of the season, were victorious on home soil once more, beating Welling 3-1 at the Rec to lift Andy Scott's side further away from the relegation zone. The Shots are now three points clear of the bottom four and would sit 12th in the table without the deduction.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Williams (Aldershot) | 15 |
| Jennings (Macc) | 14 |
| Gray (Luton) | 13 |
| Gregory (FC Halifax) | 12 |
| Moult (Nuneaton) | 12 |
| Appiah (Cambridge) | 10 |
| Fritchett (Salisbury) | 10 |
| Norwood (FGR) | 10 |

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Luton Town | 6,639 | FC Halifax | 1,446 |
| Wrexham | 3,380 | Forest Green | 1,190 |
| Grimsby | 3,347 | Nuneaton | 1,178 |
| Cambridge | 3,140 | Southport | 1,104 |
| Lincoln | 2,561 | Dartford | 1,085 |
| Chester FC | 2,279 | Tamworth | 1,077 |
| Kidderminster | 2,225 | Braintree | 1,060 |
| Aldershot | 1,977 | Salisbury | 935 |
| Barnet | 1,933 | Welling | 795 |
| Hereford | 1,664 | Alfreton | 771 |
| Woking | 1,477 | Gateshead | 764 |
| Maclesfield | 1,468 | Hyde | 617 |

TODAY'S FIXTURES

| |
|--------------------------|
| Aldershot v Forest Green |
| Alfreton v Wrexham |
| Braintree v Cambridge |
| Chester FC v Southport |
| FC Halifax v Gateshead |
| Grimsby v Lincoln |
| Hereford v Kidderminster |
| Hyde v Maclesfield |
| Nuneaton v Tamworth |
| Salisbury v Woking |
| Welling v Dartford |

fixtures and results

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

AUGUST

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---|------------------------|-------|-------|-----|----|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| Sat 10 | 3.00pm | A | Southport | L 0-1 | 2,210 | 839 | 18 | Tyler | Smith | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Taiwo ▲ | Guttridge | Martin ▲ | Whalley |
| Tue 13 | 7.45pm | H | Salisbury City | W 2-0 | 6,520 | 92 | 12 | Tyler | Smith | Griffiths | McNulty | Charles ▲ | Taiwo 1 | Guttridge 1 | Martin ▲ | Whalley |
| Sat 17 | 3.00pm | H | Macclesfield Town | D 1-1 | 6,216 | 80 | 13 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Taiwo ▲ | Guttridge 1 | Martin ▲ | Whalley |
| Sat 24 | 3.00pm | A | Forest Green Rovers | D 0-0 | 1,858 | 653 | 14 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Guttridge | Whalley | Cullen ▲ |
| Mon 26 | 3.00pm | H | Cambridge United | D 0-0 | 7,517 | 963 | 11 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Guttridge | Whalley | Cullen ▲ |
| Sat 31 | 3.00pm | A | Kidderminster Harriers | W 2-0 | 2,866 | 821 | 11 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Guttridge | Whalley | Howells 2 |

SEPTEMBER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---|-----------------|-------|-------|-----|----|-------|-------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| TV Sat 7 | 5.30pm | H | Grimsby Town | D 0-0 | 6,131 | 265 | 14 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Parry | Guttridge ▲ | Howells |
| TV Fri 13 | 7.45pm | A | Wrexham | L 0-2 | 3,122 | 190 | 14 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Parry | Smith | Guttridge | Whalley | Howells ▲ |
| Tue 17 | 7.45pm | A | Dartford | W 3-0 | 5,433 | 142 | 11 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Parry | Smith | Guttridge 1 | Stevenson ▲ | Howells ▲ |
| Sat 21 | 3.00pm | H | Lincoln City | W 3-2 | 6,203 | 227 | 9 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Parry | Smith | Guttridge 1 | Stevenson ▲ | Howells ▲ |
| Tue 24 | 7.45pm | A | Woking | W 4-0 | 1,955 | 731 | 5 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey 1 | Smith | Parry | Guttridge ▲ | Howells ▲ |
| Sat 28 | 3.00pm | A | Hereford United | D 0-0 | 2,386 | 580 | 6 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Guttridge | Whalley | Howells ▲ |

OCTOBER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|---|---------|-------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Sat 5 | 3.00pm | H | FC Halifax Town | W 4-3 | 6,519 | 260 | 5 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Parry | Guttridge 1 | Lawless ▲ |
| Tue 8 | 7.45pm | A | Aldershot Town | D 3-3 | 2,693 | 840 | 4 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Parry 1+ | Guttridge | Howells ▲ |
| Sat 12 | 3.00pm | H | Hyde | W 4-1 | 7,081 | 30 | 3 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Parry | Guttridge 1 | Stevenson ▲ |
| Sat 19 | 3.00pm | A | Tamworth | W 4-3 | 2,066 | 1,199 | 3 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith 1 | Parry 1 | Guttridge 1 | Stevenson ▲ |
| Sat 26 | 3.00pm | A | Woking (FAC1) | W 1-0 | 1,452 | 537 | - | Justham | Henry | Howells | McNulty | Charles | Smith | Robinson | Whalley | Martin ▲ |

NOVEMBER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---|-----------------------|-------|-------|-----|---|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sat 2 | 3.00pm | A | Gateshead | D 0-0 | 1,080 | 302 | 3 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Parry | Guttridge | Howells ▲ |
| Sat 9 | 3.00pm | A | Welling United (FAC1) | L 1-2 | 1,555 | 740 | - | Justham | Parry | Howells ▲ | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Parry 1+ | Guttridge | Lawless ▲ |
| Tue 12 | 7.45pm | A | Braintree Town | W 2-1 | 1,518 | 728 | 2 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Parry 1 | Guttridge | Howells ▲ |
| Sat 16 | 3.00pm | A | Chester FC | D 1-1 | 3,291 | 890 | 3 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Smith | Parry | Guttridge | Lawless ▲ |
| Sat 23 | 3.00pm | H | Welling United | W 2-1 | 6,592 | 124 | 3 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Lacey | Stevenson | Parry | Guttridge | Whalley |
| Tue 26 | 7.45pm | H | Southport | W 3-0 | 6,057 | 16 | 2 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty 1 | Lacey | Smith 1 | Parry | Guttridge | Lawless ▲ |
| Sat 30 | 3.00pm | A | Staines Town (FAT1) | D 0-0 | 621 | tbc | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Ruddock | Davis | Robinson | Mandy | Whalley | Martin ▲ |

DECEMBER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------|---|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|---------|---------|-------------|---------|--------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Tue 3 | 7.45pm | H | Staines Town (FAT1R) | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Parry 1 | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | C. Smith ▲ |
| Sat 7 | 3.00pm | A | Alfreton Town | W 5-0 | 1,279 | 649 | 2 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Mawson | Smith | Ruddock | Guttridge 1 | Lawless 1 |
| Sat 14 | 3.00pm | H | Wrexham (FAT2) | W 2-0 | 1,617 | 89 | - | Justham | Longden | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 21 | 3.00pm | H | Gateshead | W 4-2 | 6,913 | 23 | 2 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Davis | Smith | Ruddock | Guttridge 2 | Lawless 2 |
| Thur 26 | 3.00pm | A | Barnet | W 2-1 | 3,608 | 1,700 | 2 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Davis | Smith | Ruddock | Guttridge 1 | Lawless 1 |
| Sat 28 | 3.00pm | H | Kidderminster Harriers | W 6-0 | 8,488 | 203 | 1 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths 1 | McNulty | Davis | Robinson | Ruddock | Guttridge 2 | Lawless |

JANUARY

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|---|-------------------------|-------|-------|-----|---|---------|---------|-------------|---------|--------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| TV Wed 1 | 12.00pm | H | Barnet | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Parry 1 | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | C. Smith ▲ |
| Sat 4 | 1.00pm | A | Lincoln City | W 2-0 | 1,279 | 649 | 2 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths | McNulty | Mawson | Smith | Ruddock | Guttridge 1 | Lawless 1 |
| Sat 11 | 3.00pm | A | Cambridge United (FAT3) | W 2-0 | 1,617 | 89 | - | Justham | Longden | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 18 | 3.00pm | H | Wrexham | W 2-0 | 1,617 | 89 | - | Justham | Longden | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 2 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 25 | 3.00pm | H | Nuneaton Town | W 6-0 | 8,488 | 203 | 1 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths 1 | McNulty | Davis | Robinson | Ruddock | Guttridge 2 | Lawless |

FEBRUARY

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---|-------------------|-------|-------|-----|---|---------|---------|-------------|---------|-------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Sat 1 | 3.00pm | H | Dartford | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Parry 1 | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | C. Smith ▲ |
| Sat 8 | 3.00pm | H | Tamworth | W 2-0 | 1,617 | 89 | - | Justham | Longden | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| Tue 11 | 7.45pm | A | Macclesfield Town | W 2-0 | 1,617 | 89 | - | Justham | Longden | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 2 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 15 | 3.00pm | H | Hereford United | W 2-0 | 1,617 | 89 | - | Justham | Longden | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 22 | 3.00pm | H | Nuneaton Town | W 6-0 | 8,488 | 203 | 1 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths 1 | McNulty | Davis | Robinson | Ruddock | Guttridge 2 | Lawless |

MARCH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---|-----------------|-------|-------|-----|---|---------|---------|-------------|---------|-------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Sat 1 | 3.00pm | H | Alfreton Town | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Parry 1 | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | C. Smith ▲ |
| Sat 8 | 3.00pm | A | Salisbury City | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 15 | 3.00pm | H | Woking | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 2 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 22 | 3.00pm | H | Chester FC | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| Tue 25 | 7.45pm | A | Grimsby Town | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 29 | 3.00pm | A | FC Halifax Town | W 6-0 | 8,488 | 203 | 1 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths 1 | McNulty | Davis | Robinson | Ruddock | Guttridge 2 | Lawless |

APRIL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|------------------|---------------------|-------|-----|----|-------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Sat 5 | 3.00pm | H | Aldershot Town | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Parry 1 | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | C. Smith ▲ |
| Sat 12 | 3.00pm | H | Brantford Town | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 19 | 3.00pm | H | Welling United | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 2 | Parry 1 |
| Sat 26 | 3.00pm | H | Forest Green Rovers | W 2-0 | 911 | 47 | - | Justham | Chabata | Howells | Charles | Davis | Ruddock | Robinson | Whalley 1 | Parry 1 |
| TBA | A | Cambridge United | W 6-0 | 8,488 | 203 | 1 | Tyler | Henry | Griffiths 1 | McNulty | Davis | Robinson | Ruddock | Guttridge 2 | Lawless | |



Key: • First Substitute | ▲ Second Substitute | ▲ Third Substitute

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64 Fixtures

Results

65



LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

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hold the back page

WITH LUTON NEWS' MIKE SIMMONDS

With 2014 now upon us, it seems only right to take a look at just how the last 12 months will be remembered by Luton fans.

It's fair to say, that large parts of it won't be looked back on fondly from those with a Hatters persuasion as the year began with what can only be described as monumental highs and lows.

New Year's Day 2103 saw almost 1,000 Town supporters turn up at Woking for a 3-1 defeat on what could only be described as a ploughed field.

Then came the FA Cup hysteria as Hatters knocked out Championship side Wolves 1-0 in front of a packed Kenilworth Road, which gave those present plenty of chance to reminisce about the good old days, when results like that were the norm.

Town then headed to Carrow Road a few weeks later and took their place in the record books, becoming the first non-league side to beat a Premier League side, as Scott Rendell sealed a famous 1-0 victory.

That was more or less as good as it got though for campaign, as Hatters then failed to win for eight matches, defeated in places like Barrow and Dartford, and saw their cup dream ended by Millwall.

Meanwhile, on 19th February, boss Paul Buckle then stunned the club as he left stating personal reasons just hours before the 1-1 draw at Macclesfield.

Seven days later though and Dagenham & Redbridge manager John Still was named as the new chief, in what could turn out to be the shrewdest appointment made by Hatters in their recent history.

Life at Kenilworth Road didn't start too well for Still, as although he won his first match at Stockport, with hopes of the Play-Offs well and truly extinguished, he only oversaw one more victory in March.



Mike Simmonds

The season continued to stutter to a finish during April, although Still was spared the horrors of a 5-1 hammering at Gateshead, due to a scouting mission elsewhere.

Town did at least give a glimmer of hope to supporters, with three wins and two draws from their final five matches though, but a seventh place finish didn't sit well.

After inheriting a squad shorn of confidence, a summer of activity followed in and out of the club with the likes of Stuart Fleetwood, Janos Kovacs, Adam Watkins and Dan Walker all moving on, while in came Luke Guttridge, Shaun Whalley, Mark Cullen and Andy Parry to name a few.

August began inauspiciously though as Still's new-look team struggled to gel immediately, winning two and drawing three of their opening six league games.

Swindon striker Paul Benson did join the club on loan though, another acquisition that could pay huge dividends.

September again wasn't the greatest to begin with, after a draw with Grimsby and defeat to Wrexham, but since then, Hatters, in the league anyway, have been virtually unstoppable.

October saw four wins from five, while although defeat at Welling in November meant no repeat of Luton's FA Cup heroics, it could well prove to be a blessing in disguise.

A perfect December followed though as not only did Town win all six matches, with boss John Still signing an extended contract and being named Skrill Premier manager of the month, they finally overhauled Cambridge United at the summit with a 6-0 annihilation of Kidderminster.

All in all, it should mean that Hatters fans can look forward to 2014 with a real sense of optimism as they have their best chance yet of finally regaining their rightful place in the Football League, hopefully without having to go through the traumas of yet another play-off campaign this time.

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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 |



BARNET

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Edgar Davids | 16 | Marciano Mengerink |
| 2 | Andy Yiadom | 17 | Roberto Garcia Casabella |
| 3 | Elliot Johnson | 18 | Jamal Lowe |
| 4 | Curtis Weston | 19 | Luisma Villa |
| 5 | Anthony Acheampong | 20 | Mauro Vilhete |
| 6 | Jack Saville | 21 | George Sykes |
| 7 | Keanu Marsh-Brown | 22 | Iffy Allen |
| 8 | Mark Byrne | 25 | Freddie Warren |
| 9 | Jake Hyde | 28 | Jon Nurse |
| 10 | Harry Crawford | 29 | Graham Stack |
| 11 | Luke Gambin | 30 | David Stephens |
| 13 | Nick Jupp | 33 | Jordan Brown |
| 14 | Ahmed Abdulla | 38 | Dani Lopez |
| 15 | Kieron Cadogan | 39 | Carl Fletcher |

Referee: **K. Johnson** | Assistant: **C. Taylor** | Assistant: **L. Wood** | Fourth official: **G. Jerden**

HERE NEXT

v WREXHAM

SATURDAY 18th JANUARY 2014 • 3PM

SKRILL PREMIER

