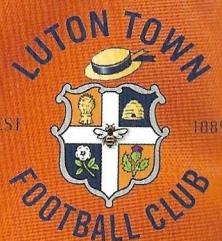


TALK OF THE TOWN



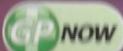
OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
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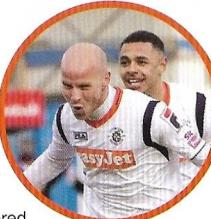
“ Welcome back to Kenilworth Road once again as we welcome Alfreton Town to Bedfordshire for the first time in over 12 months.

Tuesday night saw Alfreton manager Nicky Law in the crowd to watch the Hatters' game against Wrexham and no doubt the visiting boss will be keen to keep a close eye on a Town side who scored five goals for the second match in succession.

The 5-0 win made it 17 goals in just three games and there's a whole host of reaction and photographs in the wake of that victory among these 68 pages today.

We've also got plenty on manager John Still who celebrated a year in charge of the Hatters on Wednesday, including some questions that you put to him via Twitter.

Enjoy today and see you a week on Monday when we entertain Woking in front of the BT Sport cameras #COYH **”**



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Fixtures and results for 2013/14

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

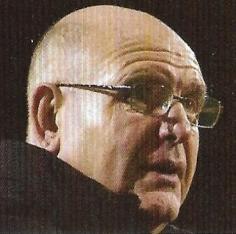
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The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.



the manager

JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this important Skrill Premier encounter against Alfreton Town.

A warm welcome to Nicky Law and his staff and players plus everyone associated with our visitors who are on course to complete a wonderful season.

On Tuesday night we were delighted to beat Wrexham 5-0. We were even more delighted with the amount of goals we scored and the quality of one-touch football we played. We kept yet another clean sheet which is always a massive plus.

First class

The players' performances this season and in particular in recent matches has been first class but I had to remind them on Tuesday at half-time of their jobs. I felt we started the match a bit loose and even though we were 4-0 up there were parts of our game I wasn't entirely happy with. After half-time, however, we upped the pace and could have scored a few more goals but overall I was delighted with the performance.

Also this week we had a development squad game which took part at Creasey Park against a very, very strong Gillingham side. We ran out 3-2 victors which I was very happy with.

All of the lads currently not in the first team got some important game-time and once again scoring three goals is a huge bonus. A big well done to everybody who has been involved in the Wrexham and Gillingham games. It shows the strength of our squad which is going to be needed in the coming weeks.

After this afternoon's game three players will leave us to go and represent their country at international level. Andre Gray and Fraser Franks travel to Jordan with England C whilst Cameron McGeehan will be on duty for Northern Ireland Under-21s.

Congratulations to those three, and I hope they do well.

They've done fantastic for us and I'm sure they will do their country proud.

The congratulations are also in order to Andre for his player of the month award for February. I think Andre will be the first to say he's had superb service all over the pitch to help him score the goals he's scored. He's been in sensational form; his finishing has been first class and his work-rate has been phenomenal for the rest of the team. A big well done for his efforts and goalscoring.

I was also informed that I was awarded the manager of the month award for last month. I'd like to thank the players for their performances and my staff, who have absolutely worked their socks off all season, for the award. I might have been given it but it is very much for the whole team that I accept the award on behalf of.

Amazing

This week I also passed one year in charge of Luton Town and my word it's gone unbelievably quick. I'm hoping we finish this season with everyone getting want they hoped for when I first joined the club. This club has tried to achieve promotion for a number of years now and it would be amazing if we could achieve that in my first year. We are all hoping we can make those dreams come true by the end of the season.

We have a lot of tough games coming up but we've already had plenty of tough games this season and we've overcome them thanks to the team ethic we've created. That includes the staff, the players, the club staff and you the supporters. Let's keep it going, please get behind us again today and continue to push us forward and over the line.

Enjoy the game.

boardroom

WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR GARY SWEET



A warm welcome one and all to Kenilworth Road for our second home fixture in the space of five days for yet another eagerly-anticipated Skrill Premier match.

We welcome everybody associated with Alfreton Town to Bedfordshire for what

will be their third visit. Huge congratulations are in order to Nicky and his team, on what has been an excellent campaign so far. We hope they are successful in their endeavours this season – after today's 90 minutes of course!

Incredible

I remember the excitement of the journey home from the Impact Arena in December following our 5-0 victory and, probably, at the time, never envisaged that our performances or results could be topped. How wrong was I?

The season so far has been a joy, but the last two months – the last in particular – have been an incredible ride for us all.

A win at Macclesfield is a collectors' item for any Luton supporter, but to then win 7-0 and then 5-0, twice, as we have done in the last few days, is nothing short of remarkable.

It makes a welcome change for our boardroom notes to be talking about the joys of an incline from our beloved rollercoaster rather than the, apparent, gut wrenching freefall which we have all experienced over the past few years. Until now.

On Wednesday John Still was, deservedly so, announced as the Skrill Premier manager of the month for February – a year to the day that John was appointed by the board.

Congratulations to John and the team on not only that award but a fantastic 12 months. At this rate I'm sure to

run out of superlatives by the end of this article, however, I am sure John will be the first to say that the accolade isn't for him alone.

It's apt that the award should be announced on the anniversary of his appointment and it also gives me the opportunity to reflect on a typically Lutonesque 12-months, full of ups and downs.

Like his predecessor, John had the misfortune of sitting through 90 minutes of a defeat at Braintree before getting his teeth into things, and slowly but surely the magic started to happen.

Losing at home to Hyde and 5-1 at Gateshead before last season are just two instances. Who doubted John after eight games this season? It has been a remarkable turnaround. Almost too dramatic to put into words.

Our position in the league table at the moment is testament to the hard work of John and his staff. I think it's important I place on record the enormous support that John has received from his staff; Terry Harris, Hakan Hayrettin, Dave Richardson, Jeff Wood, Simon Parsell and Darren Cook - plus a number of supporting technicians behind them.

These men are John's unsung heroes, his extra pair of eyes, or ears. Without them, I can assure you, we would not be in the position we are today.

Oak Road

Before the Wrexham game on Tuesday we revealed the news that, from here on, the Oak Road end of the stadium will now be open to home supporters on a permanent basis.

Getting the green light from the authorities – and on that, our sincere thanks to Bedfordshire Police and the Safety Advisory Group at Luton Borough Council – has been a major breakthrough and we are delighted with this exciting opportunity which I trust and hope you will take advantage and benefit from.

We also have Kevan Platt and Leon Blackburn to thank greatly too. Without a club secretary and safety officer of Premier League standard the technical solution to this would never have been crafted.

The experiments this season of allocating the whole stand to home supporters has worked tremendously well

and this permanent housing of home supporters in this section has meant an increase of 1,000 seats available in this section to Hatters fans. Further detailed answers to questions can be found elsewhere in this programme. We hope you enjoy it.

So, other than the news of an effective capacity extension and reclaiming some home turf, we also have some other good news and, alas some bad.

The good news is Luton Town is going to get promoted. The bad news is that we can't guarantee when.

We've won nothing yet this season, other than admiration. Yes the league table looks mighty impressive, but we are still a long, long way from realising that dream. Many clubs will have a lot to say about that, indeed we have some almighty difficult fixtures to overcome between now and the end of the season, today being one.

Opportunity

There's no disputing that we remain in an excellent position presenting a golden opportunity but what we need from everybody – staff, players, management, supporters, directors – is to be united as we continue to progress, just as unity has got us into this magnificent position.

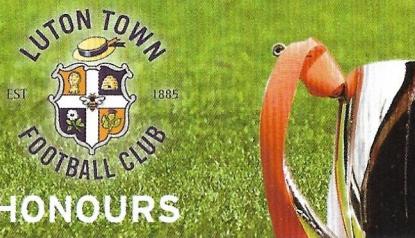
We know our players will remain focused and will not get complacent. If we all continue to support as we can the club will be ready.

We will be in a much better position to progress in a multitude of ways. Knowing our efforts wouldn't be wasted some day, tireless efforts across all aspects of the business have been invested into methodical preparations for whenever the day comes.

I'd like to end by saying one thing: embrace today and our final 14 matches of what could turn out to be one of the most defining periods in our history.

Gradually the belief and pride has been restored. Let's keep it that way and enjoy these times whatever the outcome. Sing loud and be proud of your football team. Enjoy the game.

COYH



Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

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

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup:
Runners-up 1988

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

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

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One:
Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

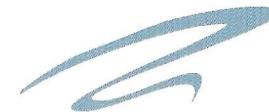
Southern League Division One:
Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

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

Southern Alliance:
Runners-up 1913/14



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the captain

RONNIE HENRY

Tuesday night's victory over Wrexham was another good result for us and it kept the pressure on those below us in the table to continue to keep winning.

It was the perfect night for us. To win 5-0 and see a number of our promotion rivals drop points is always good to see. It's impossible for us as players to ignore other results and the league table but, like the manager said, we will be putting our feet firmly on the accelerator right the way until the end of the season.

Many will have seen that Wrexham parted company with their manager the day before. Would that turn out to be a good thing for them or not? As it turned out I'm not sure whether it did or not. Regardless of that, it was always something out of our control. The manager has got us into the mindset that every game is different. Every game has its challenges and it's up to us to overcome them.

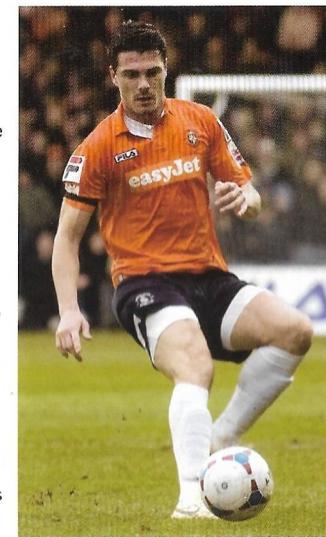
At the minute we are going into games with such confidence and belief that we are bulldozing teams into submission early on.

Ruthless

On Tuesday Wrexham were punished for not taking their chances and we were ruthless, scoring four first-half goals. The manager, though, was not happy with us and he reminded us of our jobs during the half-time break. He, like us, and like you all, want the best for this club. Cutting corners or laziness will simply not be tolerated. The manager said that we have now set the standard and that must be maintained if we are to be a success this season.

This afternoon we welcome Alfreton to Kenilworth Road. They are enjoying a really good season.

It's fair to say they have been the surprise package so far and they have an outstanding chance of winning promotion. It means that today's game will be one of the toughest we have faced recently because their record speaks for itself.



They have won at Kidderminster, Cambridge and Wrexham – all very, very tough places to go. We'll give them the respect they deserve but all we will do is focus on our game. At the minute, as I've said already, we are going in to games expecting to win. Our home form especially has been sensational and we want that to continue.

This week saw the anniversary of the manager's appointment and it was great that we could mark it with yet another 5-0 win but the most pleasing thing for me that I've noticed in the last 12 months has been your support. It really has been a massive turnaround and I can't thank you all enough. I felt it was right to address the pockets of negativity after the 4-3 win over Halifax back in October and many people have since told me they think it has had a positive impact. As I said at the time, if we wanted to be successful we needed everyone singing from the same hymn sheet and since then I have been astounded by the levels of vocal support we have received. Please, please keep it up.

Congratulations

In other news, the development squad won again on Wednesday with a strong team beating Gillingham. The winning mentality throughout the club has been evident all season and long may that continue.

I'd also like to congratulate the manager and Andre for their monthly awards. They are well deserved. Andre has been on fire. Seven goals in four games? That is truly incredible going.

I'm sure there will be another big crowd in for this afternoon's game so please continue to push us on. As the manager says this is a team game – and that includes you too, so sing loud and we'll try and make you proud.

Enjoy the game.



Oak Road open permanently

On Tuesday night we were delighted to reveal that the Oak Road stand will now be open to Hatters fans for the foreseeable future after getting the green light from the authorities.

The stand will be shared with visiting supporters with as many as 1,000 seats available to Town supporters, depending on the number of expected away followers.

What games is the Oak Road available for?

The Oak Road will be available for all the remaining seven games this season and beyond. However, this is continually reviewed by Luton Borough Council's Safety Advisory Group and Bedfordshire Police.

How many seats are available to home supporters?

Approximately 1,000 extra seats will be available in the Oak Road, dependant on expected away support.

How do I purchase matchday tickets in the Oak Road?

Tickets can be purchased from the ticket office, via phone on 01582 416976 or in person. Tickets can now be bought online on the eticketing website. Supporters can do this by clicking on the Oak Road stand in the interactive map and zooming into the area and clicking any available space. Seats are unreserved so it doesn't matter which seat you choose. Alternatively you can select the 'best available seat' option and choose the Oak Road stand from the drop-down box.

Can I move my season ticket seat into the Oak Road on a match-by-match basis?

Yes. Season ticket holders can move into the Oak Road

for individual games by contacting the ticket office. Their existing seat will be released for sale and the appropriate season ticket voucher can be exchanged at the ticket office for an unreserved Oak Road Stand matchday ticket.

Can I move my season ticket seat for the remainder of the season?

Yes. Season tickets for other areas of the ground can be moved into the Oak Road stand for the remainder of the season by contacting the ticket office in person. The existing season ticket seat will be cancelled and your season ticket book will be converted into an Oak Road season ticket. Your season ticket vouchers can then be used to gain entry on a match-by-match basis as usual.

Can I pay on the day for the Oak Road stand?

Cash turnstiles will be available on the day, subject to availability.

Where do I gain entry to the Oak Road stand?

Home supporters can gain access to the Oak Road stand from the set of turnstiles numbered 27 in Oak Road (adjacent to exit gate 8) and also a set of turnstiles numbered 25 on the Maple Road Bridge (between exit gates 9 and 11). Away supporters will use the separate set of turnstiles in Oak Road.

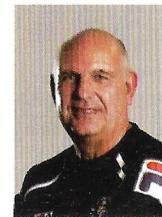
What refreshment and toilet facilities are available?

There are separate toilet and catering facilities available for the home and away supporters that will be sharing the Oak Road Stand.

FANTASTIC FEBRUARY

John Still and Andre Gray have scooped the Skrill Premier manager and player of the month awards for February.

The Hatters have swept all before them in the four games this month, winning every game, scoring 19 and conceding just once.



The run of results has helped the Town stretch their lead at the top of the table to 14 points.

Gray has been in inspired form in front of goal with seven goals in the four games, including a hat-trick in the 7-0 win over Hereford.

Many congratulations to both!

SAFETY MINDED

Hatters' chairman Nick Owen is pictured presenting an NVQ Level 4 diploma certificate in Spectator Safety Management to stadium control manager Phil Abbott.

The safety and enjoyment of all spectators visiting Kenilworth Road is hugely important and Luton Town Football Club take great pride in the hard work of the entire safety management team and stewarding workforce who ensure that this is the case.

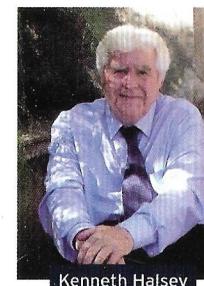
Phil first joined the Hatters' safety team in 1997 and his dedication and hard work over the years have been rewarded by his success in achieving this high level qualification which enables him to deputise as safety officer should Leon Blackburn ever be absent on a matchday.

Everyone at Luton Town would like to congratulate Phil on achieving this prized qualification.



REST IN PEACE

Everyone at Luton Town was saddened to hear of the deaths of two long-standing Town supporters.



Kenneth Halsey



Brian Ellis

Kenneth Halsey was head gatekeeper at Kenilworth Road between 1950 and 1994. Kenneth sadly passed away on 6th February at the age of 92. He will sadly be missed by all his family and friends.

The club also received the sad news of the passing of Brian Ellis, a familiar face to many at Kenilworth Road, on 11th February aged 58.

A regular member in the Luton Bobbers Club, Lutonian Brian's knowledge of the Hatters was second to none. He was one of three contributors to the Definitive Statistical History of Luton Town which was published in the late 1990s.

Our condolences go out to all the family and friends of both Kenneth and Brian, who will be sorely missed, but greatly remembered, at Kenilworth Road.

BUSINESS EXHIBITION RETURNS IN APRIL

Luton Town's Business Exhibition is returning to Kenilworth Road. The exhibition is only offered once a year and gives you a unique insight into some excellent local companies so it is an opportunity you cannot miss.

Wednesday 23rd April will see the Eric Morecambe suite open its doors to 20 local businesses that will all be on hand to offer their knowledge advice and services to you for one day only.

Any business looking to be a part of the exhibition, there are still several stands available. To enquire about prices and availability please contact the commercial department on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk

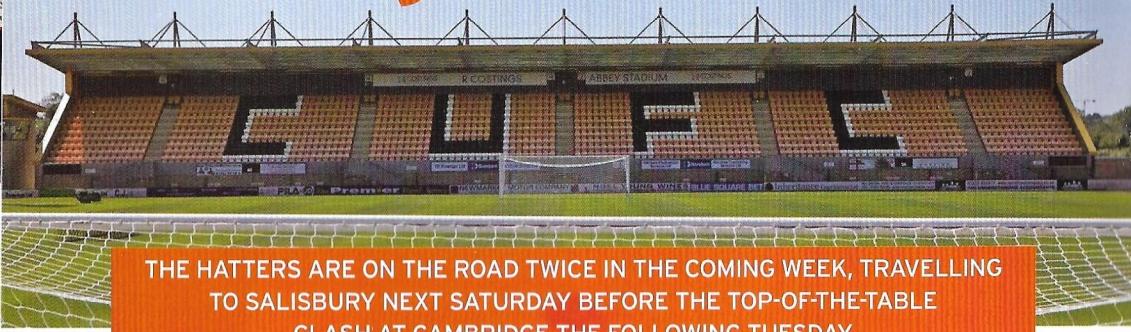
The exhibition offers the public the perfect opportunity to spend a bit of time getting to know some of the most reliable businesses in the area. There will be the chance to make new connections, form partnerships and collect free samples of local services.

This event is completely free to the public and you do not require a ticket so can just turn up on the day. Doors are open from 2pm until 7.30pm

Venue: Eric Morecambe Suite, Kenilworth Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, LU4 8AW.

For further information phone 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

let's go



THE HATTERS ARE ON THE ROAD TWICE IN THE COMING WEEK, TRAVELLING TO SALISBURY NEXT SATURDAY BEFORE THE TOP-OF-THE-TABLE CLASH AT CAMBRIDGE THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY

SALISBURY CITY



WHO? Salisbury City, aka the Whites, the men from the Raymond McEnhill Stadium, that's who. City have, like our visitors today, enjoyed a superb season in the Skrill Premier, defying the pre-season predictions of a season of struggle.

HOW COME? Young manager Mikey Harris steered the Whites to Conference South Play-Off glory last season and, after overcoming a slow start to the season, the form from the last campaign has continued.

Salisbury have been in and around the Play-Off places for much of the campaign and very much find themselves in the mix to grab a place in the top five come the end of the season.

AWAY THE LADS. The match next Saturday is all-ticket for Town supporters, and details of how to purchase your tickets can be found opposite. Hatters fans have been allocated 2,000 tickets for this match, which is well over double City's average home attendance of 881 this season.

The Whites have begun an "operation 2,000" campaign to entice more supporters to come and watch them. That could be achieved next weekend.

FORTRESS RAY MAC. Salisbury's success has been helped by a fantastic home record this season – one of the best in the Skrill Premier. Harris' side have won 12 of their 17 matches at the Raymond McEnhill this season, beating the likes of Barnet, Hereford, Macclesfield and Grimsby.

WATCH OUT FOR... Dan Fitchett. Last season's top goalscorer has continued from where he's left off this season and so far has 13 goals to his name in the Skrill Premier, which included an 11-goal burst in 11 games between the end of September and early December. Fitchett has scored three times in his last two games.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED



WHO? Cambridge United, the league's second place team who have been jostling for the one automatic promotion place with the Town all season. They have enjoyed an excellent season and have justified pundits' dark horse tags.

EX-FACTOR. United have former Town boss Richard Money at the helm, and he is assisted by another ex-Hatter in Alan Neilson. The U's also have another two former Town men in their ranks in the shape of defender Greg Taylor and striker Matthew Barnes-Homer.

DOUBLE DELIGHT. United might be trailing the Town in the league at the minute but the U's have a game in hand to keep them well in contention in the race for the title. Furthermore the U's have a date at Wembley to look forward to later this month. United will be aiming for a promotion/FA Trophy double when they take on Skrill South's bottom club Gosport Borough on 23rd March.

SELL OUT. Town supporters were quick to snap up the 1,800 initial allocation for tickets for the game and 450 more go on sale on Monday. Further details are on the opposite page. Remember it's all-ticket so don't travel without a ticket.

FORTRESS ABBEY. Like Salisbury, Cambridge's success this term has been built on solid foundations at home. Money's men won their first 12 matches at the Abbey Stadium this term. However, United have stumbled at home in recent weeks. Their 100 per cent home record was ended by Grimsby before today's visitors Alfreton also won at the Abbey. United then drew their last home league game: a goalless draw with Wrexham. United have, however, conceded just five goals at home in the league this term.

HELLO AGAIN. The meeting with the U's in 10 days' time will be the fourth this season.

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS

SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PRO-RATA PRICES

Adults (22-64) £95, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £67, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £44, Unaccompanied Youths (10-16) and Juniors (under 10s) £16. 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.



SALISBURY CITY v LUTON TOWN



SATURDAY 8th MARCH 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

THIS MATCH IS ALL-TICKET FOR LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS. We have an allocation of 2,000 tickets, including a small number of seats that will be available to transfer into on a first-come, first-served basis.

We request that these be kept for disabled and elderly supporters. Tickets are on sale to diamond and regular season ticket holders. Diamond supporters will be able to purchase two tickets per person and regular season ticket holders one each. They will stay on sale until close of business on Saturday 1st March. Any remaining tickets will then be available on general sale from Monday 3rd March until 3pm on Friday 7th March.

Prices: £14 adults, £12 over-65s, £10 students (17-18), £5 six-16-year-olds, free under-6s. A transfer into the seats costs £2. Ambulant Disabled tickets are normal price with a carer free of charge.

Wheelchair disabled tickets can be purchased directly from Salisbury by calling 01722 776655.



CAMBRIDGE UNITED v LUTON TOWN



The Skrill Premier

TUESDAY 11th MARCH 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

THIS MATCH IS ALL-TICKET FOR LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS. We have sold our initial allocation of 1,863 tickets for this match. A further 450 tickets go on sale at 6pm on Monday by calling the ticket office on 01582 416976.

No email or personal callers at the ticket office will be sold tickets.

Tickets are available to season ticket holders at one per person. If any tickets remain on Tuesday 4th March these will be available to from the ticket office to personal callers or via phone as normal. If any tickets remain tickets will be available on general sale on Wednesday 5th March. For further details visit the club website.



LUTON TOWN v WOKING

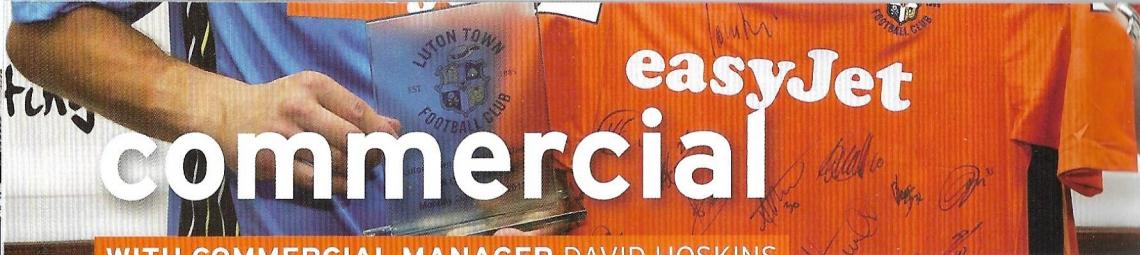


The Skrill Premier

MONDAY 17th MARCH 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Please note the change in date and kick-off time for this match.

This game will be screened live by BT Sport. Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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15 members of Luton Town Supporters Club of Scandinavia (www.luton.no) are attending today's match. There are hundreds of Town supporters based in Scandinavia.

We follow the matches live on radio and are really enthusiastic. Many of us visit Luton several times each season. Best of luck to all players and staff during the 90 minutes of action, which we hope will be entertaining and exciting.

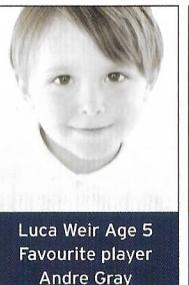
Come on You Hatters!

TODAY'S MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming five mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon. All of whom will get to meet their favourite players in the dressing room, posing for photographs and getting those all-important autographs. They will then lead the team down the tunnel and out on the pitch before the game. We hope you all have a great day with us.



Lewis Barratt Age 14
Favourite player
Steve McNulty



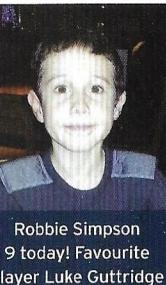
Luca Weir Age 5
Favourite player
Andre Gray



Kian Weir Age 6
Favourite player
Andre Gray



Tom Norman Age 9
Favourite player
Andre Gray



Robbie Simpson
9 today! Favourite
player Luke Guttridge

MATCHBALL SPONSORS



THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF IAN SAUNDERS

It is with joy and with sadness that we are here today. Joy because Luton Town was my brother's team. Sadness because my brother Ian died in January. He was a Hatter through and through, from the day the LTFC team

bus accidentally ran over his glasses, to the very end of his life.

This team and its supporters represent all that is best in football, and it is entirely due to the generosity of the fans that we, his family and friends are match day sponsors today in his memory – Kate Bromfield.



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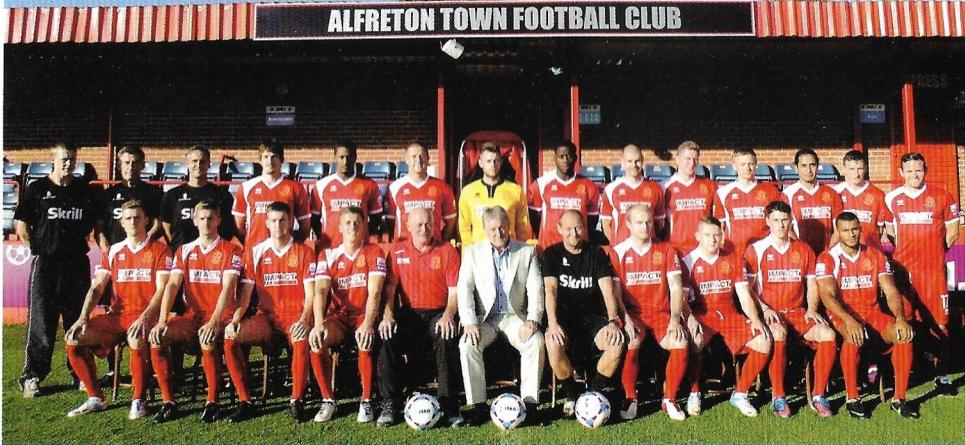
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welcome

ALFRETON TOWN



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

It's fair to say that the Reds are absolutely flying in the Skrill Premier as they arrive on Bedfordshire soil in fourth place in the table – making a mockery of the pundits' pre-season prediction of a season of struggle.

Manager Nicky Law has worked wonders with a small squad to give the Impact Arena regulars a chance of seeing Football League action next season. The Reds hold a handy advantage over the teams below them in the table, giving the Derbyshire outfit a great chance of qualifying for the end-of-season Play-Offs.

What's even more remarkable is that Alfreton made the decision to go part-time in the summer but today's visitors have stayed in and around the top five in the division all season thanks to some consistent performances both at home and on their travels.

Alfreton's home record is among the best in the league, with 11 wins from 15 games, while success has also come on the road with seven away wins. The Reds score and concede their fair share of goals, as their goal difference of exactly zero shows.

Impressively, Law's side have picked up a number of superb results, most notably a 1-0 win at the Town's promotion rivals Cambridge United two weeks ago. It was only the second time the U's had dropped points at home.

In recent weeks the Reds have won seven of their last 11 games. Four of those seven victories have come away

from the Impact Arena, including wins at Kidderminster, Welling and Wrexham before that triumph at Cambridge.

This afternoon's game will be the Reds' sixth away game in seven matches after a lengthy spell on the road. A week ago Law's side drew 1-1 at home to Gateshead in their first home match since a New Year's Day win over Wrexham. Like the Hatters, Alfreton have enjoyed fine form from players all over the pitch with 14 different players finding the net in the Skrill Premier this term. Leading the way is striker John Akinde with 10 goals in 30 games. Midfielder Tom Shaw has weighed with seven whilst Paul Clayton, another frontman, has five.

The Town had loaned Lathaniel Rowe-Turner to the Reds earlier this season and the defender enjoyed 22 games whilst at the Impact Arena.

Today will be Alfreton's third visit to Kenilworth Road, and Law's side will be aiming to pick up their first points here after losing in the two previous games at Kenilworth Road. Last season the Hatters won 3-0, a match watched by comedienne Miranda Hart who was present filming part of a documentary about her comedy hero Eric Morecambe.

Alfreton's form this term has been nothing short of fantastic but the supporters in the away end today will remember only too well of their biggest defeat of the season so far: the 5-0 thrashing by the Hatters at the Impact Arena back in December.

However, Law and co. will be hoping to repeat their awayday showings at Cambridge, Wrexham and Kidderminster here at Kenilworth Road today.

in opposition

MEET THE ALFRETON SQUAD

MANAGER

NICKY LAW. The boss now in his seventh season in charge at the Impact Arena. Guided the club into the Conference after winning the Conference North title in 2011. Previous managed Chesterfield, Bradford and Buxton, winning promotion with the Spireites from League 2.

GOALKEEPER

JON WORSNAP. Excellent shot-stopper who joined the Reds from FC United in December. Previously on the books at a whole host of non-league sides in the north-west, including Chester and Guiseley.

DEFENDERS

BRADLEY WOOD. Right-back who arrived in the summer following his release from Grimsby. Made 113 appearances for the Mariners and was their young player of the year in 2010/11.

CONNOR FRANKLIN. Left-back now in his fourth season with the club having joined the club from Hinckley in 2010. Won promotion with Alfreton in 2011 and has also been capped by England C.

DARRAN KEMPSON. Commanding centre-half who signed for the Reds in January 2012. Vastly experienced defender has played for Morecambe, Wrexham, Shrewsbury, Crewe, and Accrington.

CHRIS WESTWOOD. Another hugely experienced defender, Westwood joined the Reds this summer having previously been on the books at Wrexham. Has also played for Hartlepool, Walsall, Peterborough and Cheltenham.

MICHAEL WYLDE. England C international defender who signed from Cambridge United. Won the Conference North with Tamworth in 2009 but started his career as a youngster at Cheltenham.

NICK FENTON. Defender who arrived in summer having impressed on trial. Another player with plenty of Football League experience with spells at Notts County, Rotherham, Doncaster and Morecambe.

MIDFIELDERS

DANIEL MEADOWS. Attacking midfielder who signed for Alfreton having been released by Nottingham Forest. Pacey and with an eye for goal, he was Forest's apprentice of the year in 2011.

DAN BRADLEY. Former Aston Villa, Tamworth and Kidderminster central midfielder who signed for the Reds in 2012. Scored 11 goals last term and was rewarded with an England C cap come May.

JOSH LAW. Long-serving midfielder with now over 250 appearances for the club. Began his career with the club as a right-back before being switched to midfield. Began his career with Chesterfield before signing for Alfreton in 2007.



TOM SHAW. Summer signing following his release from Cambridge United who he had scored 13 times in 79 games. A former Forest trainee who has also had spells with Mansfield, Tamworth and Kidderminster.

ALASTAIR TAYLOR. Midfielder now in his second season with the Reds. Started his career at Barnsley, making his debut in the Football League in 2010.

JOHN MCGRATH. Experienced midfield man who signed a one-year deal in August after impressing on trial. Previously on the books at Villa, Doncaster, Shrewsbury, Kidderminster and Tamworth.

GODFREY POKU. Former Luton midfielder now on-loan with Alfreton from Mansfield. Signed for the Hatters from St Albans before leaving Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2012 after 29 appearances for the Hatters.

STRIKERS

PAUL CLAYTON. Fans' favourite and prolific goalscorer now in his seventh season at the Impact Arena. Was top scorer last term with 23 goals and has previously won caps at England C level. Started his career with Barnsley and had spells at Parkgate and Gainsborough.

DANIEL WISHART. Versatile striker, who can also play in defence, who signed for the Reds at the start of this season from Hayes & Yeading. Pacey, and left-footed, Alfreton fought off competition to grab his signature.

JOHN AKINDE. Powerful and prolific striker who signed for Alfreton this summer. Originally came through the ranks at Ebbsfleet and made such an impression he signed for Bristol City in 2008. Loans spells at Wycombe, Brentford, Bristol Rovers and Crawley followed before joining Portsmouth last season.

FOOTBALL

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

Alfreton Town have been improving and making progress every season under manager Nicky Law who has been on a building mission at the club for over six years now.

After gaining promotion to the non-league top-flight in the 2010/11 season, the Reds survived relegation comfortably in their first season finishing 15th. They then improved to finish 13th last season and have sprung a huge surprise on the division this year by nestling right in amongst the Play-Off contenders.

A closer look at Alfreton's season so far

The Derbyshire-based side currently sit in fourth position in the Skrill Premier with 57 points having played 33, won 18 drawn, drawn three and lost 12. Despite their lofty position in the table, Alfreton actually have a neutral goal difference and have managed just five clean sheets all season. To put that into perspective, the Hatters have kept 17.

Alfreton's overall form over the last six games has been mixed. Two wins, two draws and two defeats mean they have been collecting enough points to maintain their Play-Off place, but they have scored just five goals in six games – not a problem our Hatters can relate to.

Away from home, the Reds have won three of their last six including a win at Cambridge. Over the course of the season, Alfreton's record on the road puts them sixth in the away table.

Interestingly, Alfreton are top of the 'points gained' table with 19 points having won six and drawn one from losing positions, but the Hatters are top of the 'points dropped' table having dropped only four points from winning positions all season – two draws. So, you would imagine one of those records will have to give in to the other today.

How will they play? Who are their danger men?

The Reds would normally line up in a 4-4-2, but Nicky Law openly admitted ahead of the game that he will not try that system here given the form Luton are in. We can expect a 4-3-3 or 4-5-1 depending how cautious Law is feeling.

Former FC United of Manchester goalkeeper Jon Worsnop will start in goal for the visitors. Burnley loanee Andrai Jones made his Reds debut at right-back against Gateshead on Saturday and should keep his place



because of an injury to first-choice Chris Westwood. Connor Franklin will start at left-back.

Michael Wylde, who has sadly been plagued with injury throughout his career, will form a central defensive partnership with 33-year-old Football League veteran Nick Fenton.

Ex-Hatter Godfrey Poku should receive a warm welcome today after being something of a fan favourite during his time here.

He will hope to form a solid midfield three with defender-cum-midfielder Bradley Wood and the highly-rated Dan Bradley who is a box-to-box dynamo, playmaker and solid athlete all in one. One of Poku and Wood could make way for seven-goal midfielder Tom Shaw, should Law hand him a start.

In attack, Alfreton's front three will be made up of top goal scorer John Akinde, ex-Bury striker Shaun Harrad and Nicky Law's son Josh Law.



club data

Established: 1959

Nickname(s): The Reds

Stadium: The Impact Arena

Capacity: 3,600 (Avg. attendance '13/14 – 774)

Final league position 12/13: 13th BSBP

from the oak road

Top of the pile of surprise packages in the Conference this year, Alfreton Town's rise up the league is all the more impressive given that they became part-time in the summer. David Bedlow tells us the Reds' success is a far cry from their role as Conference North strugglers...

TALK OF THE TOWN: Alfreton are in the thick of the promotion picture in the Play-Off places – did any of your fans expect this when the season started? What's been the secret to your success this year?

DAVE: I don't think any fans other than those with exceptionally rose-tinted glasses expected a promotion challenge. The secret has been getting a side together that has gelled well and the manager has once again improved the squad superbly with some excellent signings.

TOTT: What's been your highlight of the season so far and why?

DAVE: I've not been to all games, so can't definitely say what the best performance has been, but beating Wrexham, Kidderminster and Cambridge away take some beating.

TOTT: Alfreton's position is all the more remarkable considering they made the decision to revert to part-time status this year, having been fully professional in their previous seasons in the Conference Premier. How do you feel this has helped the club? If the Reds were to win promotion, presumably they would become fully professional again?

DAVE: Bizarrely it may well have helped the club, as a number of high quality signings have been made due to their ability to play part-time and coincide this with another career. Whether or not the club would go full time if they got promotion would depend on the finances, so that's one for the chairman.

TOTT: Which of your players should Hatters fans be particularly on the lookout for today?

DAVE: If fit, John McGrath can be a ringmaster in midfield and Jon Obi Akinde and Paul Clayton upfront are a threat to any defence.



TOTT: The Reds have an experienced manager in Nicky Law – tell us about the job he has done since taking over at the Impact Arena.

DAVE: The easiest of all the questions to answer. Nicky Law has done a remarkable job to turn perennial Conference North strugglers to Conference North champions, to holding their own in the Conference and now promotion challengers on such limited resources. I'd be hard pushed to name another manager who has done such a great job.

TOTT: Do you believe Alfreton will be celebrating a historic promotion to the Football League come May? And what do you think the score will be today?

DAVE: I may be in danger of upsetting fellow supporters but I don't think the club will get promoted as I fully expect Luton to be champions, and I think Grimsby will come through the pack and win the Play-Offs. I'd be surprised

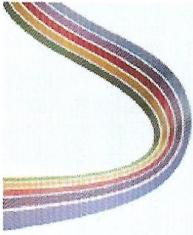
to get anything at Kenilworth Road today, but I remember thinking the same about Wrexham, Cambridge and Kidderminster.

TOTT: The game recently paid tribute to the great Tom Finney, following his death in February. Who in your opinion is the greatest English player ever – and why?

DAVE: It's always difficult to pick a greatest ever player because you are comparing players from eras you have never seen, such as Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton et al, so I will answer this purely from the players I have seen, and the most naturally gifted player I have seen is Paul Gascoigne. If he had signed for Manchester United under Ferguson, when he had the opportunity, instead of Tottenham, I don't think he'd have gone down the same path as he did. He'd have won 100 caps and been classed as a true great.

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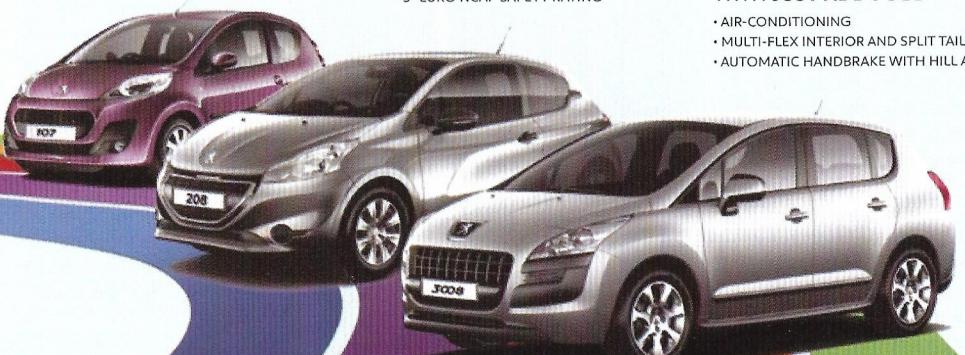
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a hatter and...

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MIKE SAXBY



This afternoon Alfreton are likely to include one former Hatter in their ranks in the shape of Godfrey Poku, the midfielder who made 29 appearances for the Town before leaving the summer before last for Mansfield.

Another player to feature for both clubs is defender Lathaniel Rowe-Turner who spent six months on-loan at the Impact Arena this season. The former Leicester trainee has made 48 appearances for the Hatters and was an influential member of the Alfreton side this season before his return to Kenilworth Road.

However, perhaps the most famous player to have featured for both the Town and Alfreton is Mike Saxby.

Big, commanding centre-half Mike made his League debut as an 18-year-old for his local side Mansfield and soon became a cult hero at Field Mill.

Looking for a replacement for Chris Turner, Town manager David Pleat paid a massive £200,000 to bring him to Kenilworth Road where he soon formed a solid defensive partnership with Paul Price and later Mal Donaghy.

With the Hatters walking away with the Division 2 title in 1981/82, Mike hurt his knee turning in the box during a home clash with Crystal Palace, an injury which effectively ended his playing career at Luton in which he scored seven goals in 91 games.

Attempts at a comeback with Newport, Middlesbrough and Alfreton, who he played three times for, failed leaving Mike to go into a career into journalism and radio in the East Midlands.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

This afternoon will be the sixth competitive meeting between the two clubs with the Hatters holding the advantage in the head-to-head meetings.

The two sides first met in a pre-season friendly at the Impact Arena before the start of the 2010/11 season. Nicky Law's side ran out comfortable 3-0 winners and would end the campaign as champions of Conference North.

The Hatters' failure to win promotion in the same season meant the two clubs would play each other in the Conference in 2011/12.

A first half penalty converted by centre-half George Pilkington earned the Town a 1-0 win in the first league meeting between the two sides. Godfrey Poku came on as a substitute in this match.

Later that season, in April, the Town by now had a different manager in charge in the shape of Paul Buckle and his unbeaten start at the helm continued with a goalless draw at the Impact Arena that saw the Hatters waste two late chances to grab all three points.

Last season saw Alfreton beat the Hatters for the first time with a comprehensive 3-0 win at a sunny Impact Arena in September 2012. Anthony Wilson had Bradley penalty doubled the lead before half-time. Wilson added his second in the second half to seal a comfortable win.

The Hatters got revenge for that defeat by beating Alfreton by the same scoreline in the return fixture in January last year. Goals from JJ O'Donnell, Jonathan Smith and Andre Gray in a five-minute spell in the second half was enough to earn all three points.

The Town then earned their first win at the Impact Arena this season when thrashing the Reds 5-0 in December. Andre Gray scored twice and he was joined on the scoresheet by Paul Benson, Luke Guttridge and Alex Lawless.

back to the future

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

1969/70 MIDLAND LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

JOHN MYCROFT: Goalkeeper who moved to Long Eaton in July 1971, then was Borrowash Victoria's player-boss. He became an engineer surveyor with General Accident and Bureau Veritas.

PETER JOHNSON: Right-back who later played for Sutton Town, Worksop, Boston United, Buxton, Ashby Institute and Skegness. He was coach/manager of several clubs while a maths teacher.

DICK BATE: Left-back who moved to Boston United in July 1971, then Frickley Athletic. He has since held various coaching posts, also managing Southend United, becoming an FA staff coach.

MICK BAGNALL: Right-half who joined Frickley Athletic in July 1971, then managed Bethesda youth team. He was a plumber with Rotherham Borough Council, now a self-employed plumber.

PETER NEALE: Former Scunthorpe and Chesterfield centre-half. Now living near Chesterfield, he was an insurance salesman, then became a bus driver and later a HGV driver at Markham Colliery.

GORDON NEEDHAM: Captain who lost his place after injury and briefly rejoined Heanor in September 1970. He was a self-employed painter and decorator in Sheffield until retiring in May 2001.

ALAN WOODWARD: Winger who later played for Grimsby, Boston United and Worksop, then managed Louth, Ashby Institute and Skegness. Now deputy head at a primary school in Cleethorpes.

ALAN ROBERTS: Young inside-forward who joined Belper in July 1970, then Worksop, Eastwood Town and Linby Colliery. He has since been an operative for the 'Derbyshire Times' in Chesterfield.

BILL NAYLOR: Centre-forward who was a PE teacher at Hurlfield School and served Frecheville CA in various capacities. Settling in Sheffield, he died from motor neurone disease in June 2004.

JOHN HARRISON: Favourite who set Alfreton's appearance and goalscoring records. He was a clerk at John Derbyshire Engineering, living in South Normanton until his death in September 1994.

KEN FORD: Former Oldham Athletic winger. He lives in his native Sheffield and was an electrician at British Steel and Dormer Tools, then a supervisor for Sheffield Reclamation plastics firm.

1995/96 PROMOTION WINNERS

PAUL NORTON: Goalkeeper who joined Ilkeston Town in July 1996. Returning to Alfreton four months later, he played for Frickley Athletic, Denaby United, Armthorpe Welfare and Gainsborough.

ANDY GLENISTER: Long-serving defender who helped Alfreton to finish Northern Premier League First Division runners-up in 1995/96. Later with Matlock, he lives in Beighton, near Sheffield.

JOHN MEGSON: Experienced left-back who also helped Alfreton win the Evans Halshaw Floodlit Cup in 1995/96. He followed Paul Mitchell back to Worksop in March 1997, settling in Worksop.

JASON MAYBURY: One of several players who followed Paul Mitchell back to Worksop Town in March 1997. He later appeared for Denaby, Alfreton again and Hallam, then managed Alfreton.

LEE HIRST: Former Scarborough central defender who reunited with Paul Mitchell at Worksop Town in February 1998. Later with Frecheville CA and Denaby United, he has settled in Sheffield.

CRAIG WESTON: Midfielder who was 'Player of the Year' at hometown Alfreton in 1995/96. He moved to Belper Town in July 1998, then Leek Town and Long Eaton United. Now living in Ripley.

PAUL ESHLEY: Winger who had played in the Football League with Exeter City and Scarborough. He moved to Ilkeston Town in November 1996, then Worksop, Gainsborough and Ilkeston again.

MATTHEW WALSH: Experienced midfielder who was in his second spell at Alfreton and another player who followed Paul Mitchell back to Worksop Town in March 1997. He still lives in Sheffield.

PHIL STAFFORD: Ever-present striker who was leading marksman with 38 goals in 1995/96. He was an important figure as Alfreton consolidated at a higher level, moving to Worksop in March 2001.

ROB DAWES: Striker who had followed Paul Mitchell from Sheffield Aurora to Alfreton. He scored many important goals for the Reds before hanging up his boots and still lives in his native Sheffield.

ANDY TIBENHAM: Former Exeter City winger who returned to Stocksbridge PS in October 1996, then had spells playing for Hallam, Buxton and Hallam again. He has settled in his native Sheffield.



2002/03 PROMOTION WINNERS

STUART FORD: Goalkeeper who played in the Football League for Rotherham United, Scarborough and Doncaster Rovers. He joined AFC Barnsley in August 2003 and now sells goalkeepers gloves.

STEVE CIRCUIT: Versatile right-back who had previously appeared in the Football League with Halifax Town. He briefly moved to Buxton in October 2003, then gave Matlock Town lengthy service.

CARL BRADSHAW: Experienced full-back with almost 400 Football League appearances. He hung up his boots in May 2004, then briefly played for Buxton and became a bricklayer in Sheffield.

DARREN BROOKES: Central defender who had played in the Football League with Doncaster Rovers. He was in his second spell at Alfreton and joined Stocksbridge PS in July 2003, then Buxton.

LEE HOBSON: Influential former Worksop Town central defender who moved to Stocksbridge PS in October 2003. He hung up his boots four months later and has settled in his native Sheffield.

STEVE JOHNSON: Tenacious midfielder who was in his second spell at Alfreton. He joined Stocksbridge PS in August 2003, then played for Leek Town, Glapwell, Ilkeston, Buxton and Staveley MW.

MICK GODDARD: Attacking midfielder who overcame a serious injury and joined Ilkeston in December 2004, then Stocksbridge PS, Retford United, Sheffield FC, Goole AFC and Frickley Athletic.

RYAN FRANCE: Young midfielder who moved to Hull City in September 2003 and featured in their rise to the Premier League, playing in all four divisions. He joined Sheffield United in July 2009.

MICK GODBER: Striker who was leading marksman in Alfreton's 2002/03 promotion success. He joined Retford United in August 2006, then played for Glapwell and became Belper's assistant-boss.

CHRIS BETTNEY: Striker with 70 Football League appearances. He moved to Harrogate in July 2006, then Bradford PA, Retford United, Worksop, Matlock, Staveley MW and Stocksbridge PS.

CHRIS DOLBY: Winger who was in his second spell at Alfreton, joining Wakefield-Emley in September 2003, then Bradford PA, Ilkeston, Stocksbridge PS, Belper and Sheffield FC's player-boss.

2010/11 CONFERENCE NORTH CHAMPIONS

ROSS TURNER: Goalkeeper who was in his second spell at Alfreton, having helped to win the Northern Counties East League title. He briefly played in the Football League for Scunthorpe United.

JOSH LAW: The son of manager Nicky Law, he was Player of the Year in 2010/11. He has also featured in a central midfield role and helped Alfreton to reach the FA Cup second round in 2012/13.

CONNOR FRANKLIN: Versatile left-back who has also appeared in the heart of Alfreton's defence. The long throw expert scored once in 75 Conference games for the Reds by the end of last season.

THEO STREETE: Central defender who helped Alfreton to reach the FA Cup second round in 2012/13 and scored twice in 80 Conference games before moving to Nuneaton Town in June 2013.

ADEN FLINT: Young central defender who joined Swindon Town in January 2011, making a significant contribution as they were League Two champions in 2011/12. He is now with Bristol City.

ANTHONY HOWELL: Midfielder who moved to Mansfield Town in June 2011. He helped the Stags to win the Conference title in 2012/13 and played against Liverpool in the FA Cup third round.

ANTON BROWN: Influential midfielder who was Player of the Year in 2007/08 and 2011/12. He was Alfreton's longest-serving player at the time he switched to Harrogate Town in June 2013.

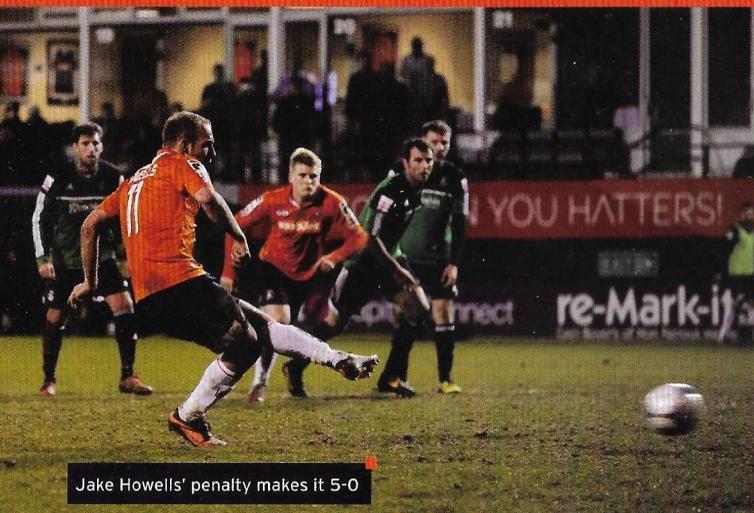
NATHAN JARMAN: Striker who was leading marksman in 2011/12, netting 12 goals in 29 Conference games before moving to Chester in May 2012. He is currently with North Ferriby United.

PAUL CLAYTON: Ex-England C international who has been Alfreton's leading marksman in successive seasons. He netted in their 2012/13 FA Cup first round win at Wrexham and is still at the club.

LIAM HEARN: England C international striker who moved to Grimsby Town in June 2011. He was top scorer for them in 2011/12, then appeared in the 2012/13 Conference Play-Offs semi-final.

NATHAN ARNOLD: Ex-Mansfield Town winger who played a key part in Alfreton's 2010/11 Conference North title campaign. He netted 15 goals in 73 Conference games by the end of last season.

TOWN 5-0 WREXHAM



Jake Howells' penalty makes it 5-0

The Hatters stormed 14 points clear at the top of the Skrill Premier with a thumping 5-0 win over Wrexham.

The Town were 4-0 up at half-time after a stunning first half display in which Luke Guttridge scored twice and Andre Gray and Paul Benson scored once.

The Hatters managed a fifth midway through the second half through a Jake Howells penalty to make it back-to-back 5-0 wins following Saturday's triumph at Nuneaton. Showing an unchanged side for the fourth match running the Town could have been behind as early as the first minute if it wasn't for a glaring miss by Wrexham striker Rob Ogleby. However, a minute later the Town were ahead when Benson and Howells combined to tee-up Guttridge to slide a right-foot finish beyond Wrexham goalkeeper Andy Coughlin.

It got better for the Hatters just six minutes later as a breathless start to proceedings continued. Fraser Franks was the architect, side-footing a pass into the path of Gray. He bundled his way past three Wrexham defenders before coolly slotting home his 24th goal of the season.

The Town kept coming forward ominously so. Pelly Ruddock was urged to shoot by the Kenilworth Road crowd on 15 minutes following a fine flowing move. This time his shot was held by Coughlin.

Two minutes later, though, the majority inside Kenilworth Road were on their feet again as Guttridge made it 3-0 with his second of the night. Benson, Gray and Howells were again involved in a superb one-touch move that Guttridge finished with aplomb into the bottom corner of the net.

The Hatters were playing some breathtaking football but Wrexham, managerless after Andy Morrell's decision to quit the day before the game, were still creating chances. Brett Ormerod should have scored on 19 minutes when poking over a shot from close range before defender Joe Clarke's cross-cum-shot from the right two minutes later clipped the top of the Town crossbar.

Back came the Town. Ruddock's shot was blocked on 26 minutes before Gray's effort – after a swift counter-attack from Howells – was also charged down by the Wrexham defence on 29 minutes.

However, the Hatters didn't have long to wait for yet another goal to celebrate when Benson got on the act seven minutes before half-time. Gray's cross was headed straight into the path of Ronnie Henry and his unselfish cross was met by Benson who side-footed home his 15th of the season and fourth in three games.

By now the Town were sensing blood and a fifth before half-time. A wonderful move in first half stoppage time almost led to a fine goal and the Hatters continued in the same vein after the break.

Half-chances came and went as Wrexham tightened up defensively after a ramshackle first 45 minutes and John Still made his first substitution on 64 minutes when Jon Shaw replaced Benson. Within six minutes of coming on, Shaw's header freed Howells before he was upended by Mark Carrington in the penalty area and Howells dusted himself down to slot home his seventh of the season to make it 5-0.

The crowd thought the Town had a sixth on 80 minutes only to realise Shaw's rasping low drive had hit the side-netting following another slick build-up involving Ruddock and substitute Alex Lawless, and it wasn't until the first minute of stoppage time that Wrexham tested Mark Tyler for the only time – a comfortable save following a piledriver from Clarke.

Cambridge's defeat at Braintree meant the Hatters could celebrate going further clear at the top. It was a 24th game unbeaten and a 12th successive home league win at Kenilworth Road, not to mention 17 goals in the last three games.

TOWN 5-0 WREXHAM

BOSS HAILS WREXHAM WIN

It was a testament to how well the Town have been playing in recent weeks that manager John Still thought his team's second half performance was better than the first in which they led 4-0 at half-time.

The Hatters made it 12 straight home league wins and 17 goals in their last three matches in the 5-0 win over Wrexham to extend their lead over Cambridge to 14 points after another breathtaking display of attacking football.

But the Town's display in the first half did not entirely please the manager despite two goals from Luke Guttridge and one each from Andre Gray and Paul Benson.

"I didn't think we were that good in the first half," Still told Hatters Player. "We were 4-0 up but I thought we were better in the second half even though we only scored once.

"I can understand if that sounds like I'm being critical but the thing with this team is they've set the standard and it's important to keep it that way.

Winners

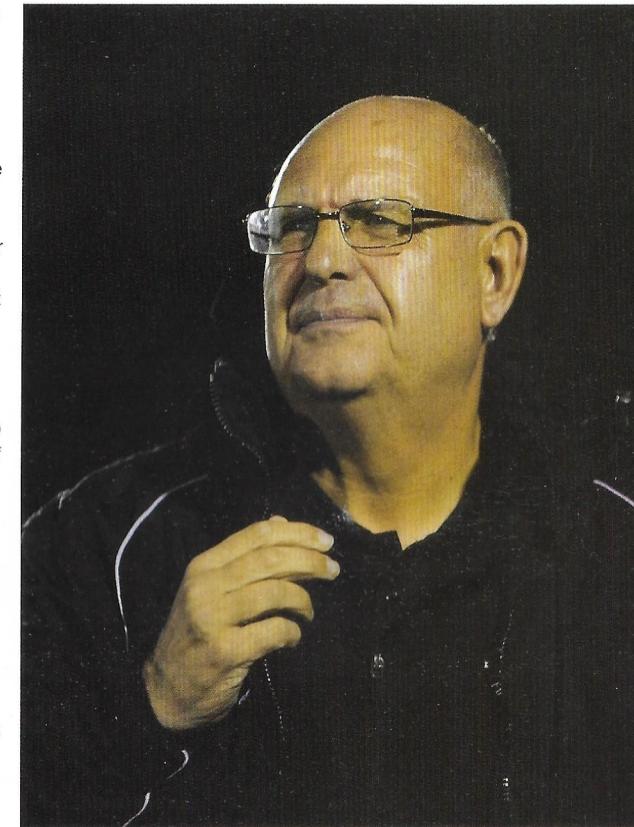
"Are the players playing well? Of course they are. Do they need a reminder if they're not doing their jobs? Yes, and that's my job.

"It's fantastic to win and to score five against a decent team. The last three games we have been absolutely terrific in front of goal and it's important that we keep it going. That's what winners do. Winners have one way of playing.

"In the second half we've shown how to close down and I can't remember Wrexham having a shot until the last minute. They got in a couple of times in the first half and we're better than that. I'm not going hard them but it was important to remind the players about what's important.

"At 4-0 I could have gone in the dressing room at half-time and given them all a pat on the back but that isn't going to make them better players.

"As I've said, it's not meant to sound critical. The players needed a reminder. The second half pleased me most but even in the first half some of our passing was fantastic. It just helps us create so many chances.



"We have standards, we want to be winners and therefore our standards have got to be higher."

Cambridge might have lost 1-0 at Braintree but the boss wasn't interested one bit.

"We've won and that's great," he said. "The only time I'm interested is the time when we've won and they've lost and that means we've won the league. We can only control what we can do. We can't control what they do."

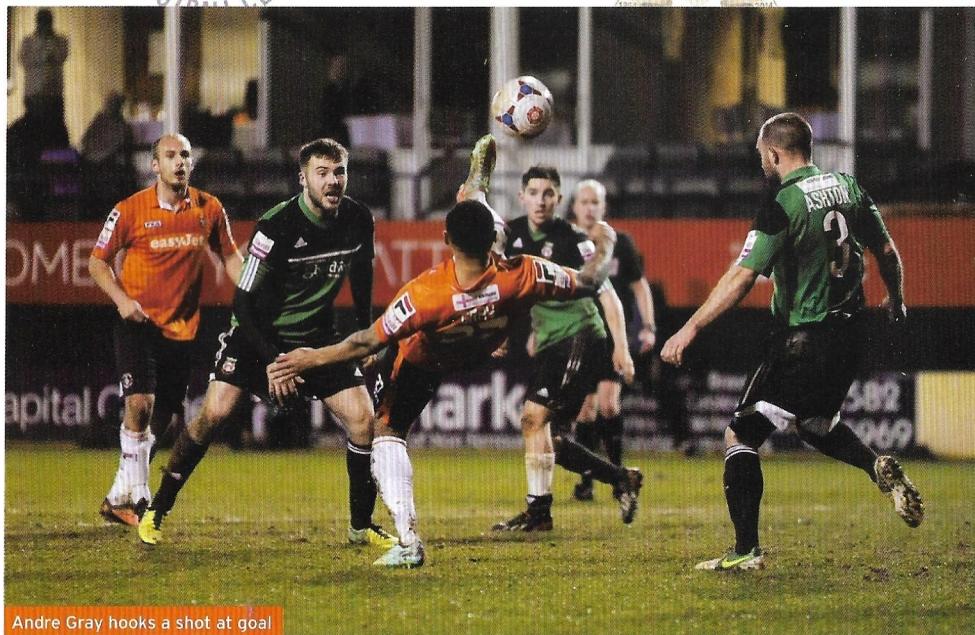
Over 7,500 fans roared the Town on – the third highest of the season. Not bad for a Tuesday night.

"It was unbelievable," added Still. "The stronger the team, the stronger the team. On and off the pitch it's a strong team and that's important. Is it getting stronger? I think it is. I can feel it."

LUTON TOWN
1885

TOWN 5-0 WREXHAM

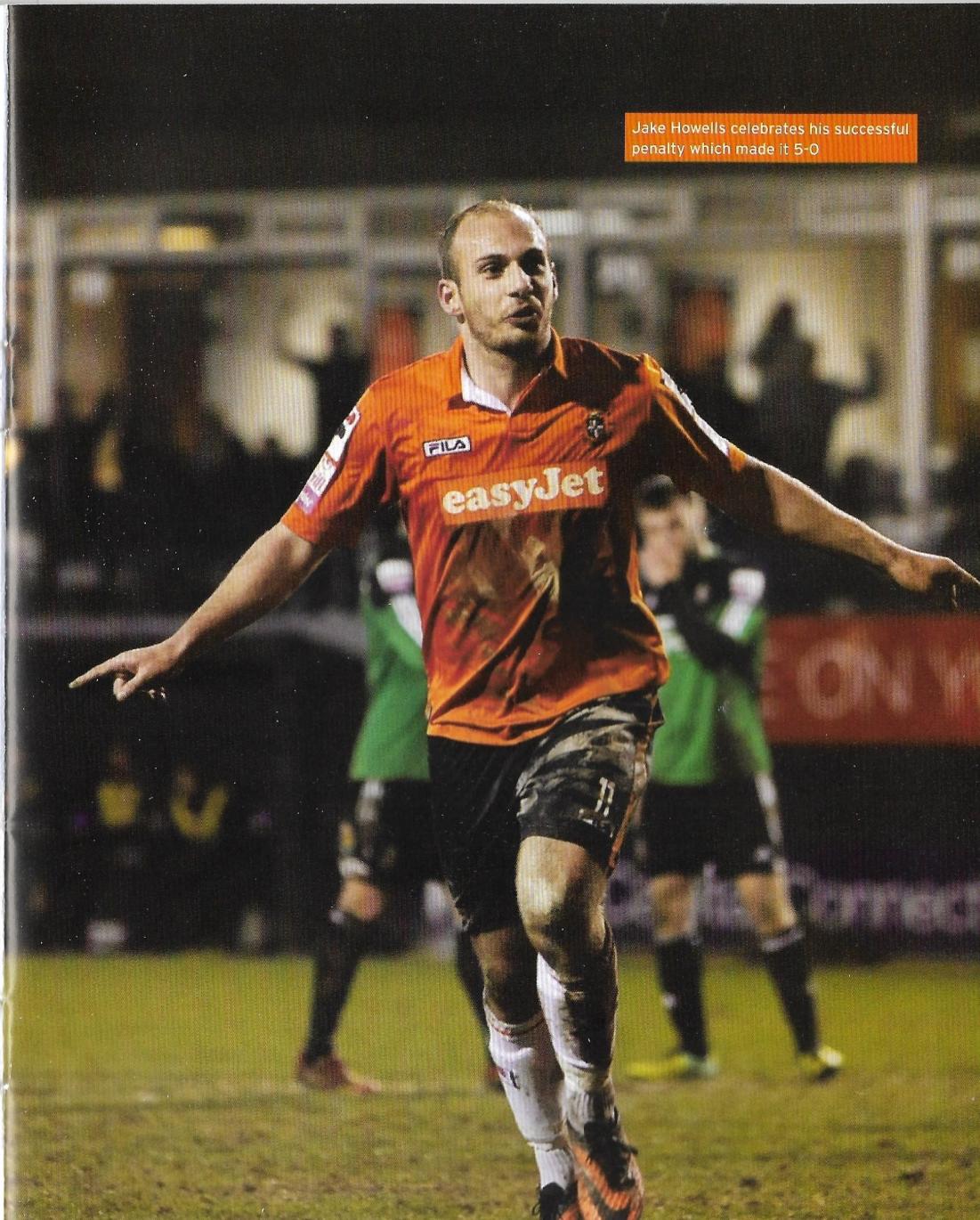
Guttridge 3, 17, Gray 9, Benson 38, Howells 70 (pen)



TOWN: Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks, McGeehan, Ruddock, Guttridge (sub Robinson 76), Howells, Benson (sub Shaw 64), Gray (sub Lawless 72). **SUBS NOT USED:** Charles, Justham.

WREXHAM: Coughlin, Tomassen, Livesey, Ashton, Carrington, Evans, Clarke, Hunt, Keates (sub Anyinsah 66), Ogleby (sub Bishop 72), Ormerod. **SUBS NOT USED:** Artell, Wright, Mayebi.

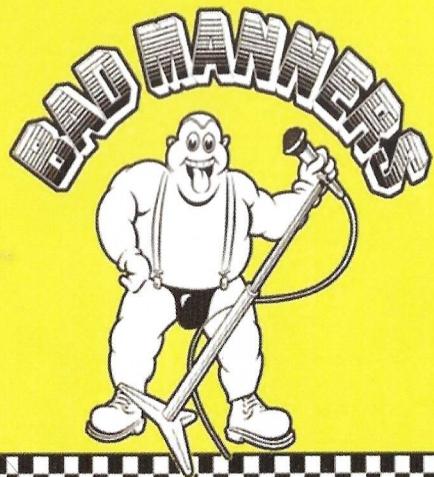
Jake Howells celebrates his successful penalty which made it 5-0



POSSESSION	61%	39%
CORNERS	9	3
SHOTS ON TARGET	7	2
SHOTS OFF TARGET	7	6

FOULS	11	11
YELLOW CARDS	0	2
RED CARDS	0	0
ATTENDANCE: 7,526 (124 WREXHAM)		

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reaction

SKIPPER'S DELIGHT

Town captain Ronnie Henry is delighted with how his back four have performed in recent weeks, as the Hatters recorded their third clean-sheet on the bounce following the 5-0 win over Wrexham at Kenilworth Road.

The Town skipper takes pride in making sure his side keep as many clean-sheets as possible, and despite not yet scoring for the club this season Henry is focused on making sure he does his job at the back.

"I'm not that bothered about scoring, I could have scored today but I decided to cross to Benson instead. It will come when it comes and as long as I keep a clean-sheet I'm happy with that," Henry told Talk of the Town.

Solid

"As soon as I came to the club I based my career on keeping as many clean-sheets as I can. That's what we're doing at the moment and we're doing it very well.

"The back four and Charles work very hard on the training ground to make sure we keep clean-sheets. It's showing out on the pitch that we are a solid unit and long may that continue."

It's not just down to the tremendous work of the Town back four to make sure that the Hatters pick up the points in the league, but also the brilliant form of the midfielders and strikers who score and create the chances.

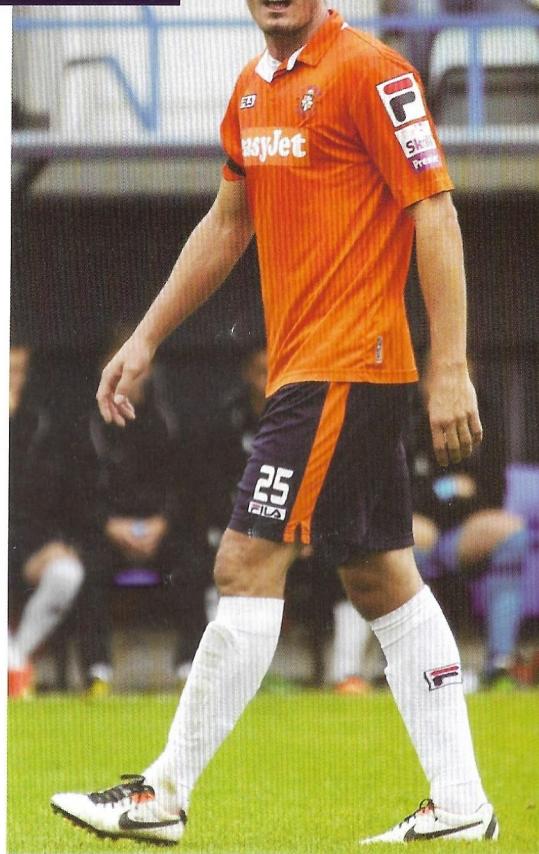
Quality

The Hatters have scored a total of 17 goals in their last three fixtures as well as keeping a clean-sheet in each of the games, and skipper Henry has nothing but praise for the Town's attacking force this season.

"Our performances in recent weeks have been of very high quality. It made a change to go 4-0 up in the first half rather than doing it all in the second half. We're keeping clean-sheets and scoring goals and that's exactly what we want to be doing at this stage of the season," Henry said following the 5-0 victory over Wrexham.

"It's a joy to watch the lads in front of me, we were 2-0 up and I had only made one header. It's amazing what the lads are doing. We are all working hard in training to get in the team, we are flying at the moment and we just need to keep on going," the skipper added.

The Town skipper is no stranger to gaining promotion from the Conference Premier, as Henry was part of



the Stevenage side which lifted the league title in the 2009/10 season. Henry compared the current Luton Town side to Stevenage side he gained promotion with almost five years ago.

Flair

"This Luton side is completely different to the side I won the league with. It was a team which was a lot stronger in terms of physical strength and we won a lot of games 1-0 and 2-0," the Town captain said.

"This Luton team has got players with a lot of flair and very good players that can change a game in an instance such as Gray, Benson and Lawless. You can just sit back and watch them play, they are very good players for this level."



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*Subject to EV. Based on 2012 data

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fifty (one) goals of andre gray

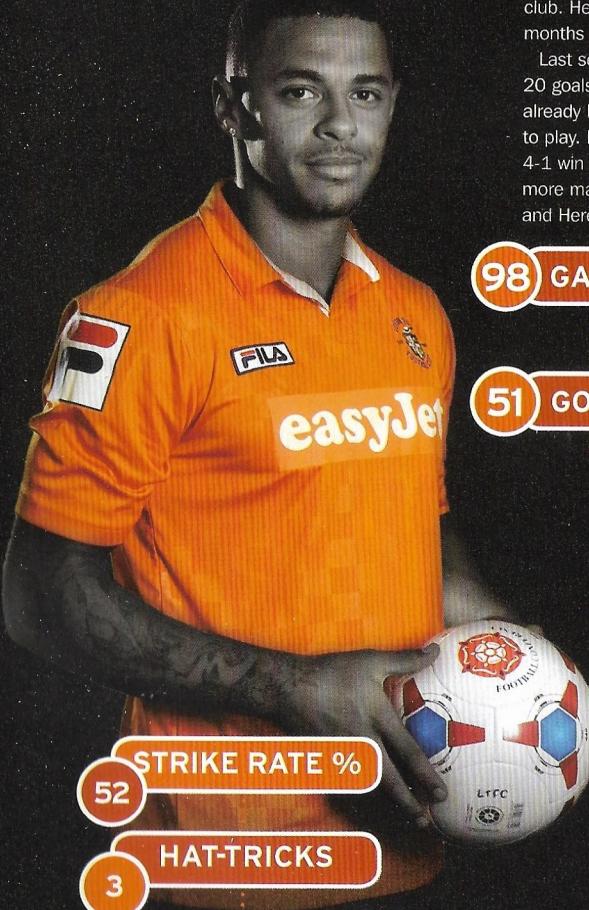
Andre Gray reached a half-century of goals for the Hatters when scoring the second goal in the 5-0 win over Nuneaton last Saturday.

The striker made it 51 on Tuesday night with another goal in the 5-0 win over Wrexham at Kenilworth Road, which took his tally for the season to 24 – all of which have come in the Skrill Premier.

That goal against the Dragons was the 22-year-old's 24th goal in his last 21 starts and kept Gray four goals clear of his nearest challenger to the golden boot, FC Halifax's Lee Gregory.

After signing from Hinckley United, Andre scored on his Town debut in a 1-1 draw against Grimsby on 24th March 2012, and scored seven goals in his first season with the club. He scored the opening goal in the Play-Off final two months later.

Last season the Wolverhampton-born frontman scored 20 goals in his first full season with the Town and has already beaten that tally this term with 14 matches still to play. He grabbed his first hat-trick for the Hatters in the 4-1 win over Hyde in October and has since grabbed two more matchballs with trebles in the wins over Nuneaton and Hereford.



98 GAMES

FIRST GOAL:
v GRIMSBY TOWN

51 GOALS

GOALS SCORED AT
KENILWORTH

32

LEAGUE GOALS

46

FA CUP GOALS

2

PLAY-OFF GOALS

2

FA TROPHY GOALS

1

STRIKE RATE %

52

HAT-TRICKS

3

DOUBLES

6

GOALS IN 2014

14

centre spot

All four goalscorers from Tuesday night's 5-0 win over Wrexham celebrate Andre Gray's 24th goal of the season





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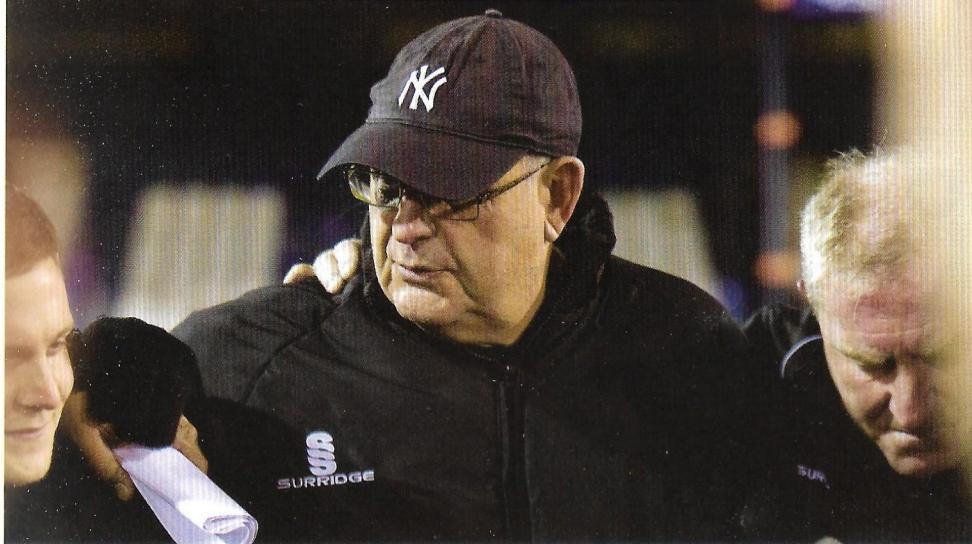
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a year in charge

BOSS LOVING LIFE AT LUTON



Hatters manager John Still has admitted he has loved his first year in charge of the Town.

Twelve months after taking charge at Kenilworth Road, Still's side find themselves 14 points clear at the top of the Skrill Premier after a phenomenal 24-match unbeaten run.

Having watched the Town slump to a 2-0 defeat at Braintree on 26th February his tenure began with a 1-0 win at Stockport and since then the Hatters have lost just seven matches in all competitions.

Terrific

It's been a year that has impressed everyone, not least Still himself.

"I've loved it, it's been a terrific year. It's everything that I hoped it would have been," said Still.

In his first press conference the manager outlined his project. "No quick fixes," he said following his arrival from Dagenham & Redbridge.

"From day one, I had a belief of how I wanted to do it," he said. "When I came in, I suppose it was still possible to get into the Play-Offs.

"I think, if I'd done things slightly differently, we might have done but, by the time this season started, we wouldn't have been any further forward. It might have been a bit of false economy."

"I think that we chose the right path. I have been surprised because you don't know how quickly people grab things."

Elements

"When I came in, I said there is no quick fix. I didn't know how long it would take to get the elements all together.

"At the moment, we have the elements together. That's a big plus about what we're doing."

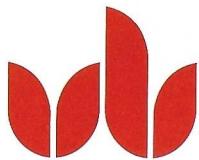
Some may have questioned the manager's approach – indeed Still criticised himself after a 2-0 defeat at Wrexham where he admitted he picked the wrong team.

But the manager has a tried and tested – and hugely successful – formula and that's rubbing off on the Town at the minute as they continue to conquer all before them.

Build

"You have to have a philosophy and a way of doing things. I tried really hard to put [in] the right mentality [and] to have the right type of player."

"The first thing we had to do here was put a foundation in: how we play, how we train, how we live, how we approach games. Once you get them in place you can build."



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#askjs

It's all well and good us asking the questions but we can't (and don't) think of them all.

So Talk of the Town asked the army of followers on the club's social media channels Twitter and Facebook to submit their questions for us to put to boss John Still.

Sandpit Turtle @SarahPls

@LTFC_Official what is the best goal you have seen a Town player score since you've been in charge? #AskJS

JS: Individually, Alex Wall's goal against Halifax. Team goal = Luke Guttridge's second against Kidderminster.

Peter Galvin @JustPete

@LTFC_Official #askjs What is your proudest footballing moment?

JS: I've said before how proud I was on winning the Play-Offs with Dagenham to win promotion to League 1, but there's no better, no prouder feeling, than taking a club in the Football League. I did it with Maidstone and Dagenham and that will always take some beating.

Derek Borino @DelBoy1976

@LTFC_Official if West Ham came knocking how quick would you empty your desk? #AskJS

JS: [Laughs] I don't know! I've always said that when I talk to clubs I need to feel as though it's the right job for me. I'd ask them a lot of questions first! Obviously it would be massive for me but, let's just say how about we do well with Luton that one day we're in a position to play them in the league. That would make me very proud.

Richard Armstrong @habbyhatter

@LTFC_Official How hard was it leaving Dagenham to come to Luton after spending so long at Dagenham? #AskJS

JS: It wasn't easy. I said when I arrived here that I thought I'd reached a stage at Dagenham that it was the right time. Deciding which job to take next was always going to be difficult. I needed to go to a club with a challenge, and this was easily the biggest.

jenni @jenn_ifer_jenn

@LTFC_Official #AskJS Have you ever seen Squeeze live and what's your favourite track?

JS: Yes, yes, yes. I have seen Squeeze live many, many, many times. I have Up the Junction as my ringtone but my favourite track is Some Fantastic Place. Listen to the words.

Callum @callumLtfc

@LTFC_Official #AskJS Does it make you smile seeing a player like Dwight Gayle play in the Premier League?

JS: Yes, of course it does. It gives me such a buzz, but it's not just because he's playing in the Premier League. I enjoy watching the careers of all my former players flourishing, and when it's at the top level it's very special.

Peter Galvin @JustPete

@LTFC_Official #askjs What is the single thing that impressed you most about Luton Town, apart from the fantastic support that is:-)

JS: It's fantastic history. I get moved by looking back at club's successes; their players and certain games. I remember Raddy Antic and David Pleat at Man City in 1983, and the Littlewoods Cup in '88. What I'd love though is for my grandchildren to look up in the future and see that I played a role in creating history for Luton Town.

Andrew Kingston @treblethre

@LTFC_Official How does the current Luton team compare to your Dagenham side that won the Conference in 2006/07 #AskJS

JS: It compares very favourably. At Dagenham we had a forward line of Paul Benson and Craig Mackail-Smith, who scored plenty of goals – here we've got Paul and Andre Gray, who score lots of goals. Both squads are very strong and competitive. If we maintain the same vein of form this season it will go and compare even better.

Peter @mcintyre_peter

@LTFC_Official #AskJS Which player do you regret not signing the most?

JS: Tough question – there's not been many players I've missed out on. I'd have to say Linvoy Primus when I was at Peterborough.

At the time I had the chance to sign both Linvoy and Gary Breen and opted to go with just Gary because I thought signing them both meant too little experience in defence. Linvoy went on to, of course, enjoy a very good career, as did Gary.

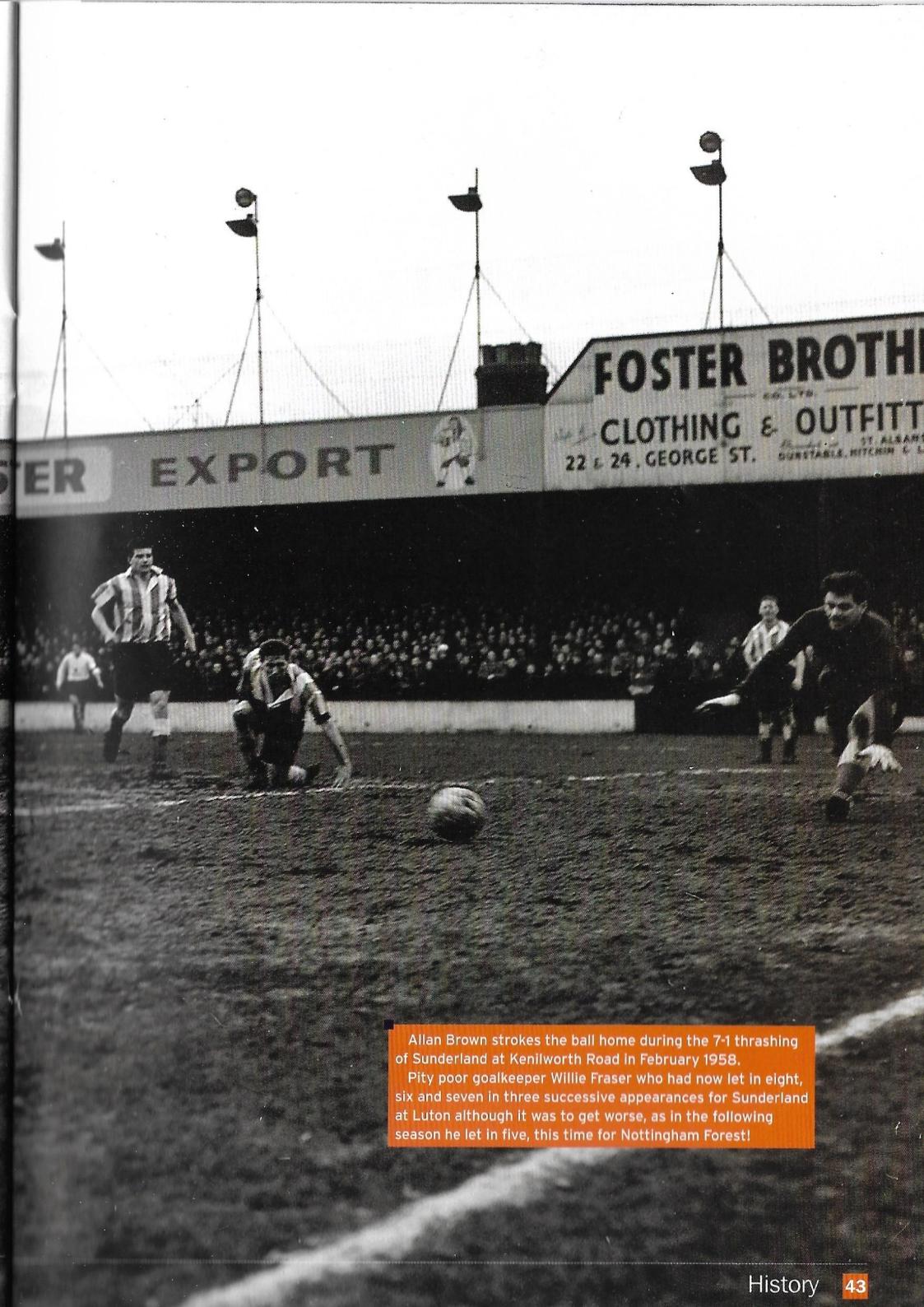
Hannah @Hannah_8

@LTFC_Official #askJS What has been your best moment of managing Luton so far? :) #coyh

JS: Going top of the league.

picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Allan Brown strokes the ball home during the 7-1 thrashing of Sunderland at Kenilworth Road in February 1958.

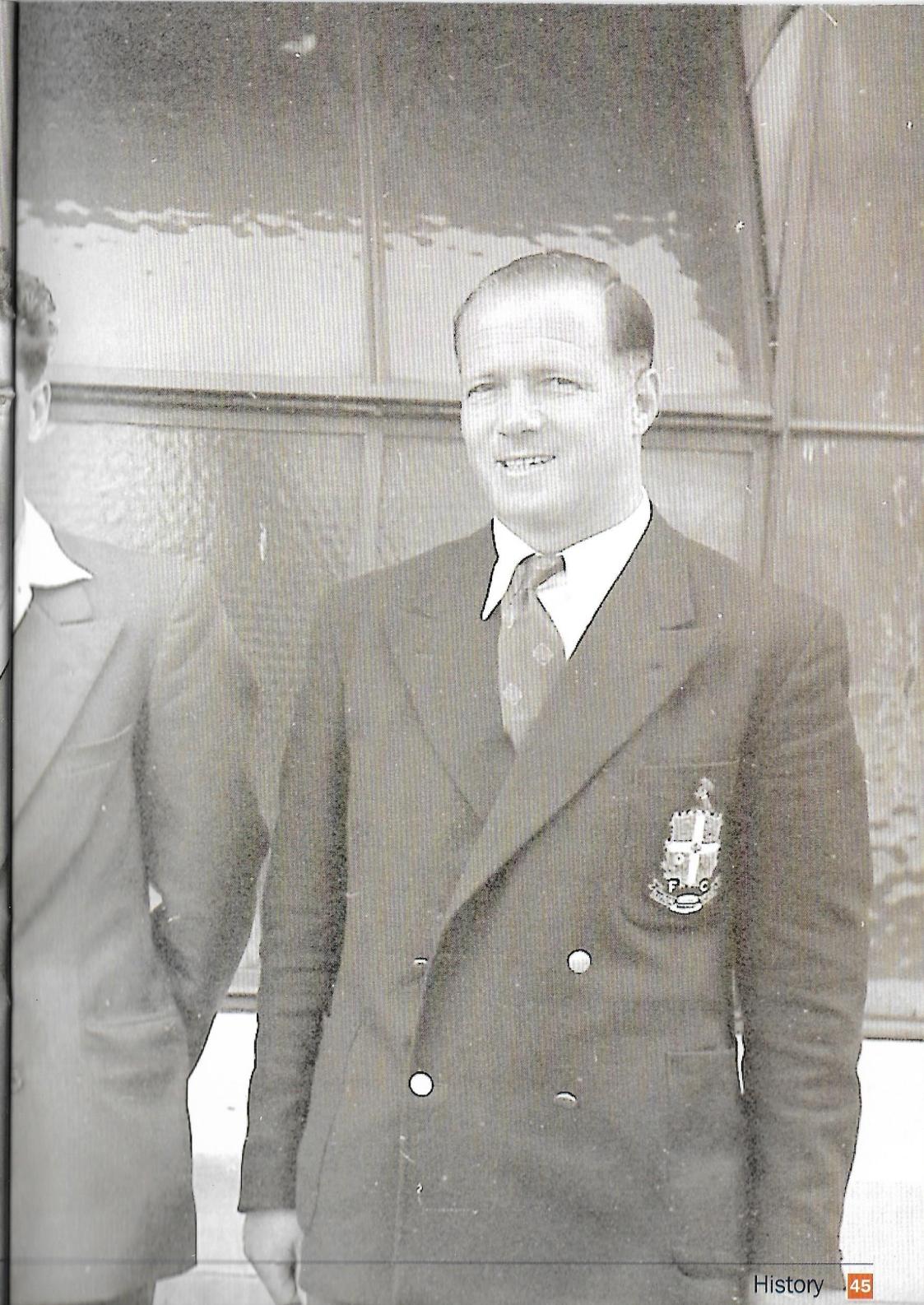
Pity poor goalkeeper Willie Fraser who had now let in eight, six and seven in three successive appearances for Sunderland at Luton although it was to get worse, as in the following season he let in five, this time for Nottingham Forest!

camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Luton Chairman Charles Jeyes and manager Dally Duncan show off George Cummins, the Town's new signing from Everton in 1953. Cummins, a clever inside-forward, was to go on to make 209 first team appearances for the Hatters over the next eight years, netting 30 goals.



yesterday's pages

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS THROUGH PAST PROGRAMMES

LUTON TOWN 3-1 SWANSEA CITY

23RD APRIL 1983

Inconsistency seemed the name of the game when the Town embarked on their first season back in the old Division One (now Premier League) in 1982/83.

After gliding to the championship the previous season, largely untroubled by the teams around them, the top flight was obviously going to prove a different proposition. And so it turned out. Early season form was fairly encouraging, although a 5-3 home win over Notts County followed by a 4-1 thrashing at Aston Villa was a sign of things to come, and by early October after a 3-2 victory at Birmingham we were up to eighth position. Unfortunately this was to be our final victory until mid-December but through all the inconsistency we had managed to keep out of the dreaded bottom three positions until a run of four straight defeats in March and April changed all that.

High flying Aston Villa were the next visitors to Kenilworth Road after this poor run and with the game entering its final minute, with the score at 1-1, we were all glad of a point to end the losing sequence. Then David Moss struck with a goal out of the blue, as only he could, and suddenly Luton supporters felt that perhaps we could avoid a quick return to Division Two.

Two goals from Ricky Hill then helped the Town to a 3-1 home win over a Birmingham side that included Mick Harford followed by a last minute Mal Donaghy strike in a 1-1 draw at Notts County. The point at Notts County had put a bit of daylight between the Town and the three teams below them, one of which was Swansea who were the next visitors to Kenilworth Road. Swansea, managed by John Toshack, had won promotion the year before the Town and had taken Division One by storm in 1981/82 taking many notable scalps along the way. Now 12 months later a run of injuries to influential players had left the Swans struggling and they arrived at Kenilworth Road looking for their first win in five games.

Swansea made their intentions obvious from the kick-off by pulling almost everyone back behind the ball. Toshack, realising that his side did not have the attacking flair of the Hatters, looked to frustrate and then perhaps pinch a goal on the break. This policy almost bore fruit in the 22nd minute when a hopeful punt out of defence was contested by Bob Latchford and Luton



Paul Walsh flashes in the Town's decisive third goal during the 3-1 victory over Swansea at Kenilworth Road in 1983

goalkeeper Tony Godden with the ball running loose to Chris Marustik who netted with a low shot. Fortunately, the referee penalised Latchford and the Town were determined to learn from that lesson and wait patiently for an opening.

Naturally the fans were a tad nervous when the half-time whistle sounded with the game still scoreless, but 10 minutes into the second period the deadlock was finally broken. A long diagonal ball from full-back Kirk Stephens was threaded through the massed Swansea rearguard to Paul Walsh who looped a header into the net for his first goal in 13 games.

Obviously the game opened up after this and Moss saw an effort flash wide and Walsh hit the bar. It all seemed over in the 74th minute when Donaghé headed on a Moss corner for Walsh to hook the ball into the net but the game still had a final twist before the crowd of 11,561 could relax.

With five minutes left Latchford glanced a header home and suddenly the crowd was stunned and restless. They need not have worried, however, for within a minute Moss had swept down the wing to send in a cross which was met with a little flick from Walsh at the near post for his hat-trick and three points in the bag.

The Town were now four points clear of the drop zone with games in hand and a superior goal difference to all the sides below them and we could all be excused for thinking that safety was assured.

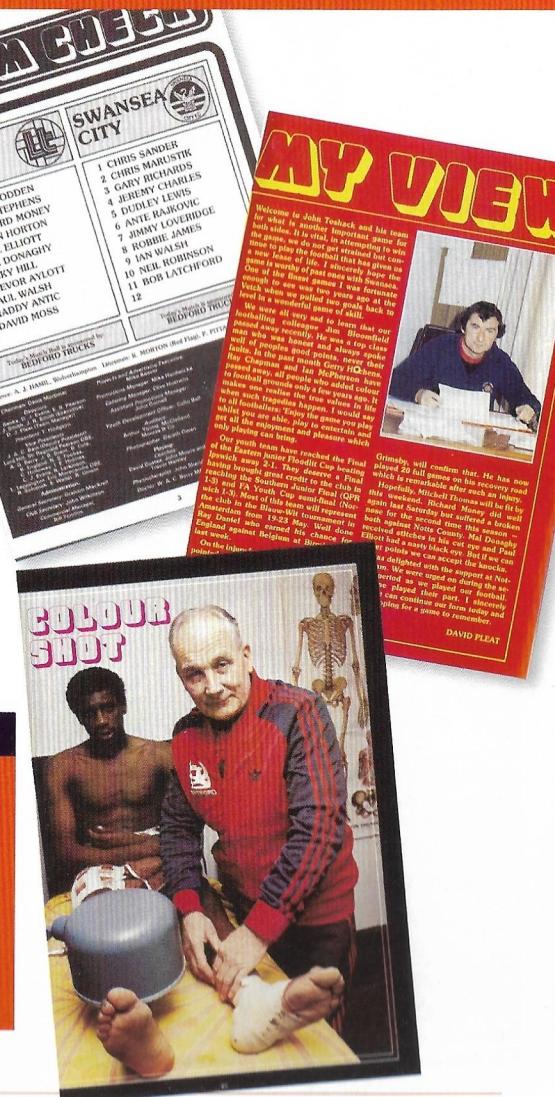
Little did we know that we would not win again until the final day leaving a few more sleepless nights en route before that never to be forgotten victory in Raddy Antic's game at Maine Road against Manchester City.

THE PROGRAMME

The Town's programme, as beffited a top flight side, was full of articles and colour and was as good as anything in the Football League.

David Pleat, in his column, was urging the players and supporters to remain cool in an attempt to make sure of keeping the hard won Division One spot. He also reported on the injury position and commented that Richard Money had broken his nose twice that season, both against Notts County!

Bearing in mind that this was only 31 years ago it was advertised that for only £45 per person you could travel by coach to Southampton, stay two nights bed and breakfast in a decent hotel, have a guided tour of the Dell, a coach trip around town and a seat to see the Saints against the Hatters. What would the cost of that package be now?





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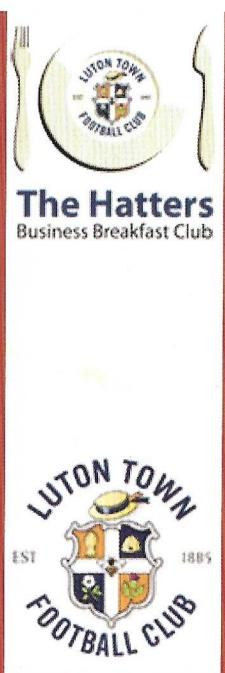


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- Support local businesses
- Only one member per business sector

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



on this day

25th FEBRUARY

THE RECORD

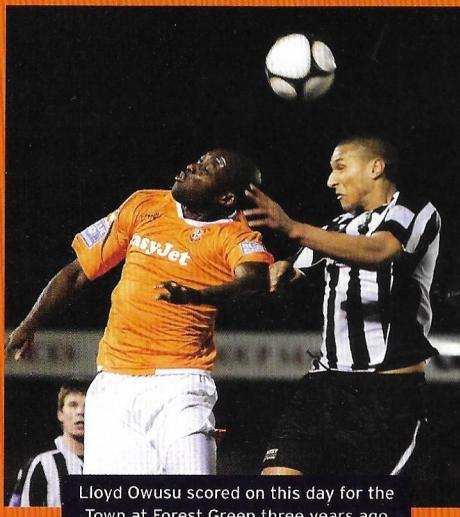
It's a mixed record of results for the Hatters on this day in history. Of the 17 matches played on 1st March the Town have won six, drawn six and lost five. The Hatters have scored 22 and conceded 17. The Hatters have failed to score in three of the matches and have kept five clean sheets.

The last time the Town played on 1st March was three years ago in the Conference Premier. The Hatters secured a 1-0 win at Forest Green Rovers in 2011 thanks to a solitary goal by striker Lloyd Owusu.

The Hatters' first game on this day came in March 1902 when the Town were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Bristol Rovers. It was the Hatters' 300th game.

BIGGEST WIN

The Town's biggest margin of victory on this day is just three goals and that has happened just once – which came in a 4-1 win over Stoke City in fourth round of the Simod Cup at Kenilworth Road in 1988. Two goals from Brian Stein and Mick Harford helped the Hatters progress to the semi-final of the competition. The Town would go on and reach the final at Wembley that year, but lost 4-1 to Reading at Wembley.



Lloyd Owusu scored on this day for the Town at Forest Green three years ago

Harford. That victory over the Iron was the last time the Town tasted success at Kenilworth Road on this date.

AWAY THE LADS

The Hatters have played 10 of the 17 matches on this day away from home, winning just once. That sole win came at Boundary Park against Oldham in Division 3 (now League 1) in 1969. The 1-0 win came courtesy of a bizarre own goal from Latics defender Alan Lawson whose header after just 30 seconds beat his own goalkeeper who had advanced too far out of his goal. The win kept the Hatters in the hunt for promotion but the wheels fell off of their challenge and the Town would eventually be pipped to promotion, finishing in third place.

TOP FLIGHT TOWN

Just three of the Town's 17 matches on this day have taken place in the top flight. The Hatters have won one and

lost two. The two defeats both came away from home. A 2-1 defeat at Sheffield Wednesday in 1958 was followed by a 1975 loss at Queens Park Rangers by the same scoreline. The sole top tier win came against Sheffield Wednesday in 1986 thanks to a Mick Harford goal.

LAST TIME HERE

It's been six years since the Hatters last played at Kenilworth Road on this day. However, it was not a day to remember as the Town were beaten 1-0 by Walsall in a League 1 clash watched by 6,157. A fourth-minute goal from Stefan Moore gave the Saddlers all three points. Future Hatters centre half Ian Roper starred at the heart of the Walsall defence. The Town would end the season relegated to the bottom tier.

GOALS + PASS MASTER

pass master

Luke Guttridge was again at his influential best in the Town's 5-0 victory over Wrexham on Tuesday night, scoring twice in the first half against the Dragons.

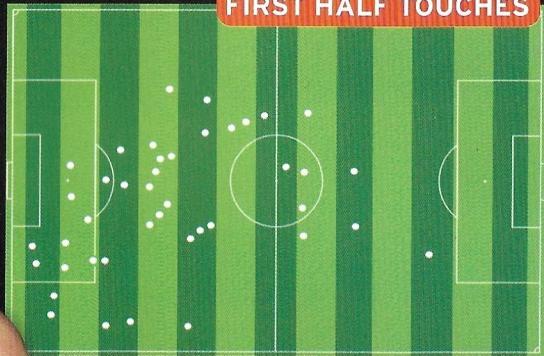


The experienced midfielder made a total of 88 touches, and scored with his first one – taking Paul Benson's pass to put the Hatters in front after just three minutes.

Guttridge made exactly the same amount of touches in the first half as he did in the second – 44, although he was substituted with 14 minutes left for Matt Robinson, receiving a standing ovation in the process.

The midfielder's second goal of the night put the Town 3-0 up and came from his 21st touch of the football. It was his 12th goal of the season – 10 of which have come at Kenilworth Road. Guttridge has been one of the Hatters most consistent passers of the ball and his pass completion rate was still a very healthy 66 per cent.

FIRST HALF TOUCHES



SECOND HALF TOUCHES

GOALS

2

SHOTS
ON
TARGET

2

SHOTS
OFF
TARGET

0

GOALS/SHOT
ON TARGET
RATIO

100%

TOTAL TOUCHES

88

SHOTS BLOCKED

1

RIGHT
WING
CORNERS

LEFT
WING
CORNERS

3

TACKLES
WON

2

TOTAL MINUTES PLAYED

76

PASSES
COMPLETED

24

PASSES
INCOMPLETE

8

PASS
COMPLETION
PERCENTAGE

66%



stars of the future

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



NAME: Harry Tamplin

DATE OF BIRTH:
17/12/96

POSITION: Centre-back
YEAR JOINED LUTON

TOWN: 2011
FORMER CLUB:
Croxley Guild FC

BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP
Work hard and you will succeed

BEST FOOTBALL MOMENT

Being offered a scholarship at Luton Town

TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID
Arsenal

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND
David Beckham

FAVOURITE TV SHOW The Simpsons

OTHER SPORTS GOOD AT Rugby

FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT Geography

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOU

Determined, hard-working, focussed

MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE

Zane Banton

TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER SO FAR

I started playing for Watford and Arsenal at a very young age.

I got offered a trial at Chelsea but did not go. I got released a few years later and played Sunday League football until 2011 where I was scouted by Luton in a Hertfordshire county match. I've been with Luton ever since.

I tore my anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and had knee reconstruction in May 2012.

academy update

WITH MATT STANNARD



OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF
THE LUTON TOWN ACADEMY

So a huge thanks again to SoLYD and, as I've said, please give them a warm round of applause today. Look out for their forthcoming events and remember to keep donating. Every little helps!

The Under-18s unfortunately went down to a defeat on Tuesday but still remain in contention for honours come the end of what has been a campaign disrupted by the bad weather.

Paul Driver has done a sterling job in the circumstances and it is a credit to him that results have continued despite losing some of his 'senior' players on-loan. However, our second year scholars must undertake this experience as it will be of huge benefit to them playing senior football.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that I am leaving Kenilworth Road after two seasons with the club to undertake a new role outside of football.

I have been astonished with the support I have received from everyone, and I would like to thank, in particular, Wayne Turner, Lee Cowley, Jonathan Chatfield, Jordan McCann, Scott Smith, Joe Deeney and Kevin Thoburn for the backing they have given me.

Without their support, Zane Banton and Ian Rees would not have signed professional contracts with the club as they have done this season. Without SoLYD's involvement the youth team would have not enjoyed a terrific run in the FA Youth Cup this season. It is worth noting that Huddersfield, the team our Under-18s lost to in extra-time in December, have since reached the sixth round of the competition, knocking out Manchester United in the progress.



Without Solyd's help young players like Ian Rees would have never got the opportunity to sign pro forms with the Hatters

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in the community

LLOYDS COMMUNITY FUND 2013
£3,000 AWARD UP FOR GRABS - AND WE WON IT!

You may remember the Hatters Football in the Community Trust were shortlisted for the Lloyds Bank Community Fund 2013 this season by the staff (who are all big Hatters fans) at the Trusts branch of Lloyds in Barton-le-Clay.

The Community Trust had the chance to be awarded a £3,000 grant with the help of supporters' votes - and we've won it thanks to all of your votes!



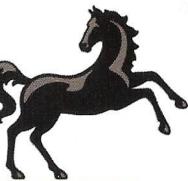
The Community Trust was one of over 1,300 groups across England and Wales who were shortlisted and in total over 2,300,000 votes were received for all groups. We're not sure how many of you voted, but it must have been quite a few for us to win one of the awards in amongst so many other votes.

Free

So what does this mean to the Community Trust? Well you voted for us to continue to provide free PE lessons in local schools and free coaching sessions to our partner youth football clubs in the County and spread the word about our great Club to the next generation of supporters and that's exactly what the trust will deliver.

The £3,000 will help fund well over 50 sessions to schools and clubs reaching around 1,000 youngsters in

LLOYDS
BANKING
GROUP



the Town and surrounding area. So why not give James Hatch, our Football development Officer, a ring or email if you want the Hatters to visit your school or Club - there's never been a better time to get involved! You can contact James on 01582 583618 in the Community office or email james.luton@live.co.uk.

Once again a massive thanks to all of our supporters who voted for us. COYH!



reaction

A HAPPY HOWELLS

Jake Howells took his total tally for the season to seven goals as the midfielder converted yet another penalty in front of the Kenilworth Road end on Tuesday night.

Howells scored a rare headed goal last Saturday in the 5-0 win at Nuneaton and the product of the Town's academy was on hand again to put away his fifth penalty of the season, which helped cap off a wonderful team performance from the Hatters against the Red Dragons.

The midfielder reflected on the 5-0 win over Wrexham on Tuesday night and believes that promotion is now within reaching distance of the Town.

Bonus

"It's three points at the end of the day, no matter how many you score," Howells told Hatters Player. "It's a big bonus to keep a clean-sheet as well. You can't take the credit away from the back four and Tyler. The boys are on fire at the minute, everyone is full of confidence and we're playing well."

"We go into every game trying to come away with three points, if we can do that we know we have done our job. We're at the top now and 14 points clear, we just have to keep working hard and push for promotion."

Howells has been through it all with the Town, having made his debut as League 1 player back in 2008 he now finds himself helping the Hatters out of the Skrill Premier. The 22-year-old believes that there is no better way to repay the fans for sticking by the side than gaining promotion back into the Football League.

Deserve

"The fans have been through a lot at this club and I've seen a lot myself, we've come down through the leagues with the deduction 30 points at one stage. That wasn't easy; we'd be winning games and still be on minus points."

"The fans deserve it more than anyone, they come here week in week out as well as our massive away following."

DID YOU KNOW?

Jake scored his 25th goal for the Town in his 265th game in Tuesday night's win. His seventh goal of the season means he is enjoying his best season in front of goal. His next best seasonal haul was the six he scored in the 2009/10 campaign.



The Town face Alfreton today at Kenilworth Road, a part-time side who see themselves sitting inside the Play-Off places. Howells believes that Luton have a tough test on their hands, but knows if the Hatters come out all guns blazing

then the three points should be there for the taking.

"It's a massive game, it was a good result for us down at their place (5-0) but that result aside we can't take anything for granted," said Howells.

"They're in the Play-Offs for a reason and they're a good side, it won't be easy for us, but if we go into the game like we did against Wrexham then hopefully we can come away with all three points."



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my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

MY NAME: Kasey Wilding

MY AGE: 16

MY LOCATION: Flitwick

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN:

I My dad who has been supporting Luton all of his life. Introduced me in the 2002/03 season when I was five. We sat in the Kenilworth Road end block D, where we still sit now.

MY FIRST EVER GAME:

This was an away game in the League Cup against Watford. We won the game 2-1 with a 35 yarder from Matthew Spring and then Steve Howard's goal from Spring's pass.

I remember the atmosphere that night which was pretty scary for a five-year-old! However, I was instantly hooked by the noise and the emotion of players like Kevin Nicholls and Howard at the final whistle.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME:

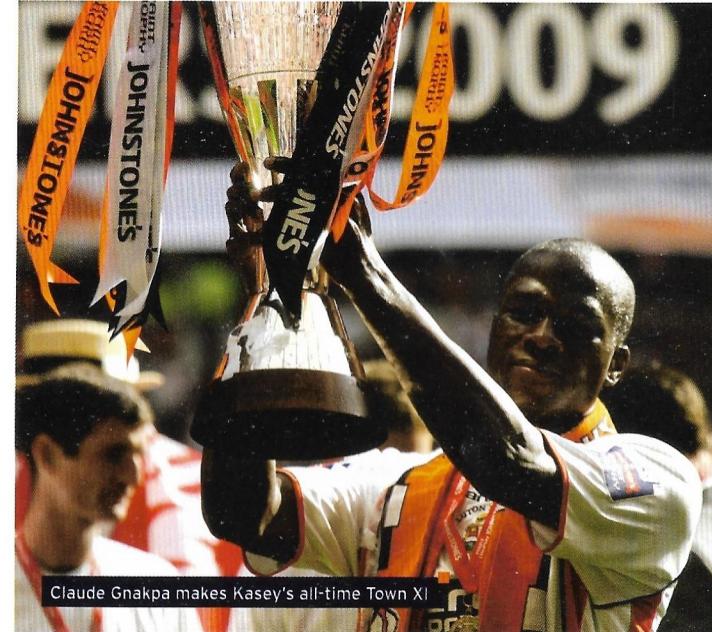
This would be the FA Cup game with Liverpool when we lost 5-3. Even though in the end we were beaten, the quality of the Liverpool players like Xavi Alonso and Steven Gerrard was something I had never seen at Kenilworth Road before. The Johnstone's Paint Trophy final is obviously a very, very close second!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL:

My all-time favourite has got to be Ahmet Brkovic's overhead kick away at Leicester. I was at the game and the technique and quality used was world class. Afterwards I remember going down the park to try to recreate the goal with my mates crossing the ball in! In the end I gave up with a slight headache!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER:

It has got to be Steve Howard just for his amazing goalscoring record.



Claude Gnakpa makes Kasey's all-time Town XI

MY MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION:

My mum used to work at a tanning station and Matthew Spring's wife was a regular customer. She managed to get me a signed shirt which I was very happy with!

MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI:

(4-3-3) Mark Tyler; Emmerson Boyce, Sol Davis, Marvin Johnson, Keith Keane; Matthew Taylor; Kevin Nicholls; Matthew Spring; Jean-Louis Valois, Steve Howard, Claude Gnakpa.

YOU ARE MY LUTON, MY ONLY LUTON, YOU MAKE ME HAPPY WHEN...

I set off in the car on a Saturday with my dad get to the ground and sit down behind the goal with a burger! Nothing better. Plus it's never boring watching the Town! COYH!

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

My Only Luton

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

OAKES, HARTSON, 1994: YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST

At 11 years old your footballing hormones are all over the shop. I'd been to a few games in the years previously and on the mean streets of mid-Beds I already considered myself resolute a Hatter, but that 1993/94 side was the first team I really fell for.

At school, your football team was everything. It dictated your choice of lunchbox, the posters on your bedroom wall, the design of your birthday cake; important things. I have vague memories of coming up with reasons why I supported Luton in arguments with my mates. Normally the debate was fairly high-brow: "Because Arsenal are poo" or "Man United are shortsighted, tra la la la la..." you know, stuff like that.

Though we were in a relatively lofty league position at the time I always sensed Luton had an underdog appeal, but it was the chance to actually go to games down the road with my mates swayed it in the end. There was and still is something more special about going, rather than being a fan that just lived through the football sticker albums and end of season VHS videos.

Though I had vague memories of mum buying me some moody looking Luton merchandise in Littlewoods in the Arndale during the late 80s, I was too young to go to Wembley then, or to really understand the magnitude of '88, so the 1993/94 FA Cup run was my first taste of something close to football glamour.

The first game I remember was the Newcastle replay. We managed to get tickets from my uncle who had a corporate thing in the Main Stand's Century Club (does that still exist?) It was fried chicken and chips, rather than prawn sandwiches, but still, it turns out I was well Modern Football before it was even a thing.

Scott Oakes and a cartoon, teenaged version of John Hartson were the heroes that muddy day: Oakes' goal featuring a typically rapid break followed by an unbelievably cool-headed assist from Des Linton.

West Ham at home was next. There was a mini-rivalry going in my village with some of the plastic cockneys that had led to a few posters and some graffiti celebrating an earlier 2 nil Luton win appearing in the alleyway that we used to kick a football down after school. I had no idea what it meant, but I wanted in.

The flying floppy-haired form of Oakes ripping the heart out of the mid-table Premier League side will stay with me forever. I watched it on TV with my Dad in a pub, and ate scampi fries and drank Coke out of a glass bottle. It was on Sky, which was like normal telly but better (#AMF).

The setting couldn't have been more sedate in hindsight, but I felt part of something bigger, shinier. At full-time Oakes grabbed the match ball and stuffed it under his shirt after his hat-trick, just as I did down The Rec a thousand times afterwards in imitation. Young Scotty Oakes could do anything. Luton could do anything too.

The semi-final was a bit of a let-down. A pigeon pooped on my programme before kick-off. Was I being punished for the Century Club and watching Sky? Almost certainly.

I've still got the Straw Boater I wore to Wembley that day. It's got a special place on my old bedroom wall in my mum's house and I'll keep it forever. It's a part of me, just as that glorious team of Oakes, Hartson, Preece, Linton et al are a part of me too.

You never forget your first.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY STUART HAMMONDS

The FA Trophy is reaching its conclusion and it's fair to say the competition has taken a bit of a beating this season - but maybe the cure has been found.

If there's one thing the British public love above all else it's an underdog. And come Sunday 23rd March, Gosport Borough will be just that against Cambridge United.

Not only are Gosport underdogs, but they also provide us with a fantastic story. From playing at Wessex County League level just seven years ago to Wembley with Non-League's top competition, it's the stuff of dreams and a great model to aspire to for all ambitious Step 5 clubs.

And maybe all this is just what the Trophy needed. There have been grumbles about the competition and its format over recent years but these have seemingly intensified this season.

The other club involved in the final have been one of the main perpetrators. Boss Richard Money and even director of football Jez George have made their stances clear.

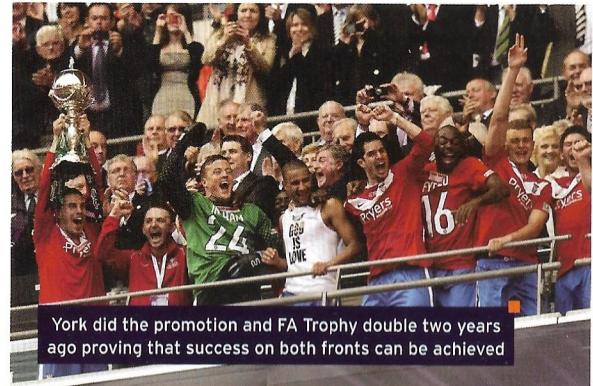
The Trophy should follow the Johnstone's Paint Trophy and become a midweek competition to alleviate fixture problems and allow clubs to focus on promotion to the Football League.

At one point, Money said there was "no incentive" for a team going for promotion to win the Trophy. First and foremost as a football fan, I would be disappointed with that view from my manager.

Every game should bring an incentive, irrespective of what competition it is in and that is called winning. And that's without mentioning the chance to watch your team at Wembley, which is an extremely special one.

I was lucky enough to watch mine a few years ago in the Capital One Cup final. Tinpot competition to some but watching my club at Wembley was a childhood dream and is something I'll never forget.

I'm sure some Cambridge and Gosport fans will feel exactly the same when their sides walk out onto the hallowed turf - that's exactly the incentive to go all the way. Bradford City's brilliant run to the League Cup final last



York did the promotion and FA Trophy double two years ago proving that success on both fronts can be achieved

season seemed to raise the prestige of the competition somewhat and maybe Gosport's story will do the same.

Bottom of the Skrill South following two straight promotions, getting to Wembley is no mean feat for a relatively small club compared to their rivals.

And the argument that really gets to me is the promotion versus Trophy glory. They aren't exclusive; you can achieve both, as demonstrated by York City two years ago.

Wrexham almost followed in the Minstermen's footsteps last season but after winning the Trophy, they lost to Welsh rivals Newport County in the play-off final.

If you look at the Skrill Premier, I don't think you can claim the Trophy has affected Cambridge much. The fact is that Luton have been unstoppable in recent months and there's not much the U's can do about that.

I hope this year's final can help mend some of the animosity towards the competition and for Alex Pike and Gosport, it's a fantastic challenge.

The manager, who is frankly a breath of fresh air to football, could make history by becoming the first ever boss to win both the FA Vase and Trophy.

And for the U's, it could give them all the incentive in the world to end their season with a promotion and Trophy double - if not only so they don't have to play in it again!

It's Non-League's top cup competition for a reason and maybe soon it'll be treated with the respect it thoroughly deserves.



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league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

The Town stretched their lead at the top of the Skrill Premier to a massive 14 points as Cambridge United lost 1-0 at Braintree and the Town picked up maximum points at home to Wrexham last Tuesday.

Daniel Sparkes' 67th minute goal ensured that Braintree saw off Cambridge on Tuesday night, in the Iron's first home game since December of last year.

Another 5-0 win for the Hatters meant that John Still's men are now within touching distance of promotion into League Two, with a 14-point advantage over Cambridge and a monstrous goal difference of +55.

Elsewhere in the league, Barnet moved into third place with a win over Forest Green away from home, meaning that the Town's opponents today Alfreton Town, dropped to fourth position. The Bees are now just one point behind Cambridge in third place, although the U's have three games in hand over Alfreton.

Today's visitors were without a game on Tuesday night, but a win today against the Hatters could see them move into second position, if Cambridge fail to pick up three points against Kidderminster.

Kidderminster edged closer to a Play-Off spot after a 2-0 win at home to Woking. The Harriers are now just three points away from a top five position and a win today against Cambridge could see them move into a top five spot with the possibility of Luton increasing their lead at the top to 17 points.

Grimsby take on high-flying Salisbury this afternoon. The Mariners sit in eighth place, but today face a Salisbury side who are inside the top five. A win for

Grimsby could close the gap on City to just one point, with the Mariners having four games in hand over Salisbury and a far superior goal difference.

Braintree are another side who could push for a Play-Off spot despite sitting in 16th place. The Iron have played the least amount of games in the league, having played only 27 games. They sit 11 points outside the Play-Offs following the win against Cambridge and could see themselves move into contention if they pick up points in their games in hand over other teams.

In sixth and seventh place lie Nuneaton and Gateshead. Despite losing 5-0 to the Town last Saturday, Nuneaton still see themselves sitting just outside the top five, with goal difference keeping the Boro outside of a play-off spot.

Gateshead are another side lingering outside of the Play-Off spots, the Heed could of moved into contention if they had of beaten Woking last Tuesday, however this was not the case and the Tynesiders lost 2-0 as Woking ended their streak of having not won a game in their last five in the league.

At the other end of the table Southport moved out of the relegation zone following a 2-1 win at home to Grimsby. This meant that Aldershot were pushed into the bottom four, a win for the Shots today against Lincoln would move them out of the relegation zone.

A 4-3 win for Chester away at Tamworth also meant that the Blues moved out of the drop zone, pushing Dartford back inside the bottom four following their 1-1 draw with 10-man Aldershot.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Gray (Luton) 24
Gregory (FC Halifax) 20
Williams (Aldershot) 18
Tomlinson (Lincoln) 15
Benson (Luton) 14
Norwood (FGR) 14
Fitchett (Salisbury) 13
Moult (Nuneaton) 13

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town 6,822
Grimsby Town 3,479
Wrexham 3,184
Cambridge United 3,003
Lincoln City 2,400
Chester FC 2,251
Kidderminster Harriers 2,088
Aldershot Town 1,939
Barnet 1,774
Hereford United 1,662
Macclesfield Town 1,495
FC Halifax Town 1,449

Woking 1,404
Nuneaton Town 1,258
Forest Green Rovers 1,176
Dartford 1,141
Braintree Town 1,056
Southport 1,017
Tamworth 978
Salisbury City 881
Welling United 778
Alfreton Town 773
Gateshead 724
Hyde 613

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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

fixtures and results

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
AUGUST								
Sat 10	3.00pm	A	Southport	L 0-1	2,210	839	18	Tyler Smith
Tue 13	7.45pm	H	Salisbury City	W 2-0	6,520	92	12	Tyler Smith
Sat 17	3.00pm	H	Macclesfield Town	D 1-1	6,216	80	13	Tyler Henry
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Forest Green Rovers	D 0-0	1,858	653	14	Tyler Henry
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United	D 0-0	7,517	963	11	Tyler Henry
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,866	821	11	Tyler Henry
SEPTEMBER								
TV Sat 7	5.30pm	H	Grimsby Town	D 0-0	6,131	265	14	Tyler Henry
Fri 13	7.45pm	A	Wrexham	L 0-2	3,122	190	14	Tyler Henry
Tue 17	7.45pm	H	Dartford	W 3-0	5,433	142	11	Tyler Henry
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Lincoln City	W 3-2	6,203	227	9	Tyler Henry
Tue 24	7.45pm	A	Woking	W 4-0	1,955	731	5	Tyler Henry
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Hereford United	D 0-0	2,386	580	6	Tyler Henry
OCTOBER								
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	FC Halifax Town	W 4-3	6,159	260	5	Tyler Henry
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Aldershot Town	D 3-3	2,693	840	4	Tyler Henry
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Hyde	W 4-1	7,081	30	3	Tyler Henry
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Tamworth	W 4-3	2,066	1,199	3	Tyler Henry
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Woking (FA Cup)	W 1-0	1,452	537	-	Justham Henry
NOVEMBER								
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Gateshead	D 0-0	1,080	302	3	Tyler Henry
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Welling United (FA Cup)	L 1-2	1,555	740	-	Justham Parry
Tue 12	7.45pm	H	Braintree Town	W 2-1	1,518	728	2	Tyler Henry
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Chester FC	D 1-1	3,291	890	3	Tyler Henry
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Welling United	W 2-1	6,592	124	3	Tyler Henry
Tue 26	7.45pm	H	Southport	W 3-0	6,057	16	2	Tyler Henry
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Staines Town (FA Cup)	D 0-0	621	tbc	-	Justham Chabata
DECEMBER								
Tue 3	7.45pm	H	Staines Town (FA Cup)	W 2-0	911	47	-	Justham Chabata
Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Alfreton Town	W 5-0	1,279	649	2	Tyler Henry
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Wrexham (FA T2)	W 2-0	1,617	89	-	Justham Longden
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Gateshead	W 4-2	6,913	23	2	Tyler Henry
Thur 26	3.00pm	A	Barnet	W 2-1	3,608	1,700	2	Tyler Henry
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Kidderminster Harriers	W 6-0	8,488	203	1	Tyler Henry
JANUARY								
TV Wed 1	12.00pm	H	Barnet	W 2-1	7,543	292	1	Tyler Henry
Sat 4	1.00pm	A	Lincoln City	D 0-0	2,928	974	1	Tyler Henry
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United (FA T3)	D 2-2	3,194	687	-	Justham Longden
Tue 14	7.45pm	H	Cambridge United (FA T3R)	L 0-1	2,312	326	-	Justham Trotman
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Nuneaton Town	W 3-0	7,310	182	1	Tyler Henry
FEBRUARY								
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Macclesfield Town	W 2-1	1,705	401	1	Tyler Henry
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Hereford United	W 7-0	7,111	156	1	Tyler Henry
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Nuneaton Town	W 5-0	3,480	1,991	1	Tyler Henry
Tue 25	7.45pm	H	Wrexham	W 5-0	7,526	124	1	Tyler Henry
MARCH								
Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Alfreton Town					
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Salisbury City					
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Cambridge United					
TV Mon 17	7.45pm	H	Woking					
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Chester FC					
Tue 25	7.45pm	A	Grimsby Town					
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	FC Halifax Town					
APRIL								
Tue 1	7.45pm	A	Dartford					
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	Aldershot Town					
Tue 8	7.45pm	H	Tamworth					
Sat 12	3.00pm	A	Braintree Town					
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Welling United					
Mon 21	3.00pm	H	Forest Green Rovers					
Sat 26	5.30pm	A	Heads					

The Ha
corner

The Hatters prepare to attack a right-wing corner against Wrexham on Tuesday



SUBS

LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	55	PTS	
1 Luton Town	32	21	9	2	79	45	34	55	72	
2 Cambridge United	31	16	10	5	43	18	25	55	58	
3 Barnet	34	16	9	9	46	35	11	57		
4 Alfreton Town	33	18	3	12	50	50	0	57		
5 Salisbury City	33	16	5	12	45	45	0	53		
6 Nuneaton Town	34	15	8	11	41	45	-4	53		
7 Gateshead	34	14	9	11	52	45	7	51		
8 Kidderminster Harriers	32	15	5	12	51	47	4	50		
9 Grimsby Town	29	14	7	8	44	31	13	49		
10 FC Halifax Town	34	13	9	12	63	53	10	48		
11 Macclesfield Town	31	14	5	12	49	43	6	47		
12 Welling United	32	12	10	10	46	40	6	46		
13 Forest Green Rovers	30	13	5	12	58	44	14	44		
14 Wrexham	33	12	7	14	49	49	0	43		
15 Lincoln City	34	11	10	13	43	47	-4	43		
16 Braintree Town	27	12	6	9	35	26	9	42		
17 Woking	34	12	6	16	43	54	-11	42		
18 Hereford United	33	10	9	14	36	47	-11	39		
19 Chester	33	8	11	14	34	51	-17	35		
20 Southport	33	9	7	17	30	50	-20	34		
21 Aldershot Town	32	11	10	11	50	45	5	33		
22 Dartford	34	9	6	19	39	58	-19	33		
23 Tamworth	32	7	8	17	32	53	-21	29		
24 Hyde	34	1	6	27	31	89	-58	9		

PLAYER STATS 2013/14

	THIS SEASON						UFC RECORD			
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISCIP	IT	APPS	GLS
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS
Zane Banton	0 (1)	0	1 (4)	0	1 (5)	0	0	0	6	0
Paul Benson	25 (0)	14	2 (0)	1	27 (0)	15	4	0	27	15
Timashka Chabata	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	0	0	2	0
Anthony Charles	1 (2)	0	4 (0)	0	5 (2)	0	0	0	7	0
Mark Cullen	0 (9)	4	7 (0)	2	15 (9)	6	0	0	24	6
Joe Dow	5 (1)	0	3 (0)	0	8 (1)	0	0	0	9	0
Kane Ferdinand	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1	0	2	0
Fraser Franks	4 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	0	0	4	0
Andrey Gray	26 (5)	24	0 (1)	0	26 (6)	24	2	0	98	51
Scott Griffiths	32 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	32 (0)	1	3	0	38	1
Luke Grittridge	30 (1)	12	1 (0)	0	31 (1)	12	7	0	32	12
Ronni Henry	30 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	31 (0)	0	3	0	74	0
Jake Howells	18 (6)	7	6 (0)	0	24 (6)	7	2	0	265	25
Ryan Inness	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	1	3 (0)	1	0	0	3	1
Elliot Jusitham	0 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	0	0	7	0
Alex Lacey	17 (1)	1	1 (0)	0	18 (1)	1	0	0	28	1
Alex Lawless	14 (6)	6	0 (1)	0	14 (7)	6	0	0	145	18
Brett Longden	0 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	3	0	4	0
David Martin	3 (4)	0	2 (0)	0	5 (4)	0	0	0	25	3
Alfie Mawson	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	1	0
Cameron McGeehan	5 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	1	0	5	0
Steve McNulty	32 (0)	1	2 (0)	0	34 (0)	1	4	0	54	2
Arnau Mendy	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	29	0
UJ O'Donnell	0 (2)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (3)	0	0	0	51	3
Andrew Parry	16 (2)	3	2 (1)	1	18 (3)	4	2	0	21	4
Sam Rees	0 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	2 (2)	0	0	0	4	0
Matt Robinson	4 (9)	0	4 (0)	0	8 (9)	0	1	0	31	1
Pelly Ruddock	8 (0)	1	3 (0)	0	11 (0)	1	0	0	11	1
Jon Shaw	4 (3)	0	1 (1)	0	5 (4)	0	1	0	47	10
Charlie Smith	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	3	0
Jonathan Smith	22 (1)	2	2 (0)	0	24 (1)	2	5	0	59	3
Tim Stevenson	3 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (2)	0	0	0	6	0
Solomon Taiwo	3 (2)	1	2 (0)	0	5 (2)	1	2	0	16	2
Luke Trotman	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	1	0
Mark Tyler	32 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	32 (0)	0	0	0	216	0
David Viana	0 (0)	0	2 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	0	0	3	0
Alex Wall	0 (6)	1	4 (1)	1	4 (7)	2	2	1	23	4
Shaun Whalley	8 (8)	1	6 (0)	1	14 (8)	2	0	0	22	2

hold the back page

WITH DIVERSE FM'S SIMON PITTS

It's all been about records recently and in the 16 years I've been commentating on Luton, quite a few have been broken - some good some bad.

As a keen statistician I'm always looking at figures, record runs, appearances and goals scored by players proudly wearing the Luton shirt.

Jake Howells, albeit only 22 years of age, has made 265 appearances for the Hatters, which is the most of the current squad. This puts the Welsh Under-21 international in 30th place in the all-time Luton appearance table. He recently passed Tim Breacker's 262 appearances, and now it's a case of trying to catch Dave Pacey (280), Keith Keane (285) and breaking 300 will see Howells pass Bernard Streten (299).

As far as goals are concerned Andre Gray has netted 24 times this season, and is currently sitting in 24th place in the all-time Hatters table with 51 goals in all competitions. He'll be looking at Phil Gray (53), Bob Morton (55) and both Allan Brown and Malcolm Macdonald (58) as players to pass before the end of the season.

Achievement

Twenty-four matches unbeaten in any league is quite an achievement, the management and players can be particularly proud of their involvement, given it's been over 45 years since the previous record of 19 games was set, back in early 1968.

Back then it was 12 wins and seven draws, with 33 goals scored and just 10 conceded in the old Division Four, or League Two as it is now known. In comparison this season the 19 games consisted of 14 wins and five draws, with an incredible 52 goals scored and 19 conceded.

To put this run into more perspective I recently posted on Twitter the league table following the weekend of the



defeat at Wrexham, in mid-September. After eight games and the Hatters were sitting in 14th place on 10 points and a +1 goal difference, which was 10 points and 10 goals behind leaders Cambridge United.

Fast forward 24 games and after the victory over Wrexham in midweek, and Cambridge's defeat to Braintree, the table now has Luton 14 points and a goal difference +14 ahead of Cambridge, as the Hatters took an incredible 62 points from the 72 available.

Record

Four players, from the 30 that have featured in the record breaking run, have started every one of the matches, Mark Tyler, Scott Griffiths, Ronnie Henry and Steve McNulty.

Some people have started asking about consecutive home wins, as at the time of writing Luton have 12 in a row, but there is still a little way to go before the current record of 20, over three seasons, in the Southern Leagues is beaten.

Luton beat Ton Pentre 7-1 on 22nd February 1913 in Southern League, and the 20th consecutive victory came against Southampton in the Southern League on 9th September 1914.

It does appear though that 15 consecutive home league wins is a record during one season, and this was part of the above run, during the 1913/14 campaign in Southern League 2.

The 7-0 victory against Hereford equalled the 11 consecutive victories that occurred between August and December 1967, the last time a run into double figures was achieved in one season, with the midweek win against Wrexham now eclipsing that run. As manager John Still said recently only one record counts for this season though, and that's the one that says Luton Town are promoted back to the Football League.

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today's teams



LUTON TOWN

1	Mark Tyler	19	Cameron McGeehan
2	Fraser Franks	20	David Viana
3	Danny Fitzsimons	21	Luke Guttridge
4	Jonathan Smith	22	Shaun Whalley
5	Steve McNulty	23	Matt Robinson
6	Anthony Charles	24	Jernade Meade
7	Alex Lawless	25	Ronnie Henry
8	Solomon Taiwo	26	Paul Benson
9	Jon Shaw	27	Andre Gray
10	Alex Wall	28	Jim Stevenson
11	Jake Howells	29	Kane Ferdinand
12	Scott Griffiths	30	Alex Lacey
13	Mark Cullen	31	Jake Woolley
14	Andy Parry	32	Brett Longden
16	Elliot Justham	33	Jerome Jibodu
17	JJ O'Donnell	34	Zane Banton
18	Dave Martin	43	Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu



ALFRETON TOWN

2	Bradley Wood	14	Alistair Taylor
3	Connor Franklin	15	Jon Worsnop
4	Chris Westwood	16	Nick Fenton
5	Michael Wylde	17	John McGrath
6	Darran Kempson	18	Job Ayo Akinde
7	Josh Law	19	Jack Andrews
9	Paul Clayton	20	Jay McFadzean
10	Dan Bradley	23	Godfrey Poku
12	Daniel Meadows	24	Shaun Farrad
13	Daniel Wishart	25	Andrai Jones

Referee: **P. Banks** | Assistant: **C. Pollard** | Assistant: **J. Burridge** | Fourth official: **M. Potkins**

HERE NEXT

v WOKING

MONDAY 17th MARCH 2014 • 7.45PM

SKRILL PREMIER



University of Bedfordshire