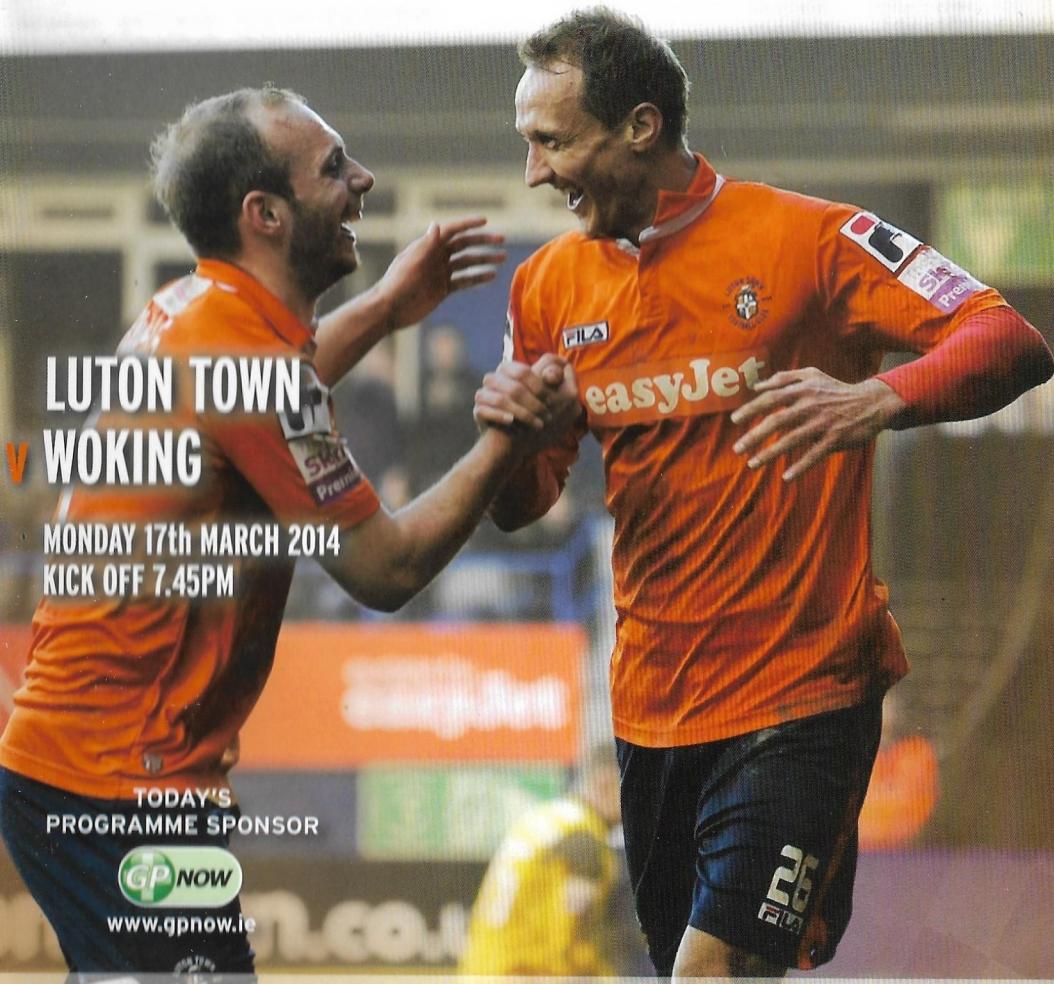


# TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY  
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN  
FOOTBALL CLUB

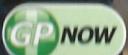
ISSUE 24 • £3.00



LUTON TOWN  
v WOKING

MONDAY 17th MARCH 2014  
KICK OFF 7.45PM

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**welcome**  
TO KENILWORTH ROAD

**“** Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what will be some Monday Night Football in front of the BT Sport cameras.

The channel has risen the profile of the Skrill Premier to a huge nationwide audience and it is with pleasure we welcome all connected with them to Bedfordshire tonight.

Since we were last at home the Town remain unbeaten but the run looked as though it was going to come to a sad end last Tuesday night but, as so often is the case with this group of players, they found a way, and Mark Cullen's last-gasp equaliser left the Hatters hordes happy come the final whistle as a vital point was taken at the Abbey Stadium.

There's plenty of more reaction from that game, as well as our two previous matches – against Alfreton and Salisbury – to digest through these 68 pages so enjoy! #COYH **”**



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With managing director Gary Sweet

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#### LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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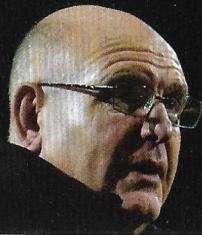
The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.

**“ I said to the press after the game that when I look in the paper the next day the goalscorer would read “Cullen 90 + 2,200 Luton supporters” ”**



# the manager

## JOHN STILL



**Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for tonight's televised Skrill Premier game with Woking.**

I would like to welcome Garry Hill and Steve Thompson from our visitors tonight. I know Garry very well having taken over from him at Dagenham & Redbridge where he had done a magnificent job. He helped build a really good side and is now putting together another one at Woking.

Tonight follows on from two really tough away games where we came away with two points. Last Saturday we went to Salisbury who have an outstanding home record and are harbouring hopes of a Play-Off place.

We worked our socks off on a difficult surface and they made it very difficult for us. However, we handled the challenge well. Had we not put the amount of effort in as we did I am sure the game would have gone against us. However, as always, we did work hard and it turned out to be a draw, and a point, all things considered, was satisfying.

### Attention

From Salisbury we then went to Cambridge on the Tuesday, the one game that everybody has been looking forward to for a long time. It had attracted a lot of media attention as it was first versus second and it was a great occasion to be involved in.

To equalise so late in the game through Mark Cullen's fantastic goal left us all with a huge feel-good factor. It was a competitive game, played at a good tempo but without really hitting the heights of quality. There were very few goalscoring opportunities for either team and I can only count three, two for Cambridge and one for ourselves. Two of those were goals.

I have to say that the game was a marvellous spectacle for everyone connected with Luton Town Football Club. The ground was almost half-full with Luton supporters and for an away game that is unbelievable support.

I said to the press after the game that when I look in the paper the next day the goalscorer would read “Cullen 90 + 2,200 Luton supporters” because that's what it felt like. You really got behind your team.

The noise in the last 10 minutes was frightening and believe me it really does make a massive difference.

### Reaction

Just look at how much it meant to the players. They don't need me to tell you that your support is appreciated – the reaction at the final whistle said it all. I think it was a game which you will tell your friends about and say “you really had to be there”. It was a truly fantastic evening for us because we kept the gap between ourselves and Cambridge to 15 points.

If I look back at the past two away games we have taken two points. Although you could consider that as dropping four points, it actually worked out that over the two matches we actually came out a point better than our rivals, and that's something that is very important.

Turning attention back to tonight, Woking are sure to test us once again and I am sure Chester will do the same next weekend. We are reaching the business end of the season where all teams are fighting for the points for different reasons.

### Support

With that in mind we really need your support to make the difference again tonight. I could write a page of notes on your support alone such is its passion and loyalty...not to mention noise!

So get behind the team tonight, and remember you are part of that team. Remember TEAM – Together, Everyone, Achieves, More.

Enjoy the game.

# boardroom

WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR GARY SWEET



Good evening, one and all and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this televised Monday Night Football fixture with Woking.

I'd like to offer a warm welcome to Woking officials, staff and supporters and, in particular, in particular to Gary Hill and Geoff

Chapple, both respectable characters who I've got to know well over recent months and years. I'd like to offer a special welcome also to Scott Rendell and Adam Newton; two former Hatters who served the club excellently during their time here, and thank you Scott, for nicking that goal last January against Norwich!

Well, what a week we've all just had!

On Tuesday, many of us experienced a very good draw at Cambridge which could be classified as a single point victory given the respective positions we adopt in the League table. A goal in the last couple of minutes of normal time is never a bad time to score an equaliser but the importance of the goal sent over 2,000 of you into raptures, including a handful of us in the main stand.

But, what an event the television cameras missed! Perhaps not so much for the quality of play on the pitch but for the atmosphere both clubs created off it which was a marvellous showcase for fifth tier football.

With a certain trepidation, we decided to attempt to stream the game in the Eric Morecambe Suite using rudimentary kit, for those supporters who couldn't obtain tickets. The feedback received was that – even though the quality wasn't quite BT Sport HD – it worked very well indeed; certainly sufficiently so for us to repeat the event in future as the circumstances demand.

'The Eric' was the venue of another supporter event last week – an evening with John Still and Terry Harris, organised by Trust In Luton and Luton Town Supporters' Club.

We'd like to thank everyone who attended (particularly John and Terry of course) for what turned out to be, a very entertaining and engaging evening enjoyed by all, leaving a sense of satisfaction that our football team is most certainly in very appropriate and capable hands.

At the same event, on behalf of Trust In Luton and Luton Town Football Club, I announced that the Club's identity assets were to be protected by you, the supporters, by offering the right to veto any changes the Club wishes to make at any point in the future to its club name, nickname, crest, team colours and even Happy Harry.

## Pioneering

This pioneering agreement – the first of such an agreement made in English football – means that current and future custodians of our great Club cannot change the brand heritage of what instantly identifies us as a Club and as a community.

As English football becomes an ever more attractive proposition to every wealthy corner of the globe whatever the motivation, supporters, communities and clubs have a duty to indoctrinate outside investors into the heritage and the importance of identity – notwithstanding the commercial sensibility of embracing every aspect of the club.

Sadly, we are seeing too many examples of the dilution of a club's character which ultimately leads to a disconnection with its community without remembering what (almost) every club's origins are.

## Protect

We believe this agreement will give supporters – including the directors and shareholders of 2020 – the ability to protect our uniqueness.

Additionally, whilst we have no intention whatsoever of selling the Club – especially as we hope to be embarking upon a more positive transitional period – we are always looking to attract new investment, as long as any such investor wishes to join us for the right motivation, which would, in part, include retaining our historical identity.

You too, may also have the opportunity to invest. Supporters have a big part to play in helping the Trust fulfil its duty in this agreement.

The Trust has given its undertaking, not only to boost its membership numbers (which have indeed seen an incredible rise since last Thursday), but also to work with the Club to create a scheme which allows supporters to invest in Luton Town shares via the Trust.

Of course, such schemes take time to put into place but we hope to get started on this as soon as possible. We'll bring more news as we progress.

It won't have gone unnoticed among you, of course, but as soon as we had announced the image rights agreement with the Trust we launched a campaign to allow you to vote on what you think the primary colour of our home shirt should indeed be; orange or white.

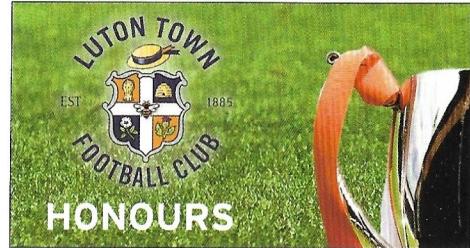
## Interest

Whilst we can't guarantee it of course, we stand well positioned in the Skrill Premier excited by the prospects of promotion back to the Football League. Since we adopted orange again as our home kit in 2009, our potential return could provide an ideal opportunity to review our options. We've been stunned at the level of interest in the poll. Not just from database members but from many in football.

Personally, for me, it's a tough choice and I can see advantages to either option. Whatever colour is finally announced we are prepared to put the wheels in motion; season 2014/15 kits will be ordered immediately just in time for our pre-season friendlies. If you haven't voted so far, please do! The more active the campaign is the more accurate the result will be. Further details can be found elsewhere in this evening's programme.

If we can get as much support for this campaign as we have attending matches this season we'd all be delighted. The levels of support have been overwhelming both home and, especially, away for which we'd like to thank you all. Please keep it up as I know it means so much to the team.

Meanwhile, enjoy this evening's match and sing loud and proud!



## HONOURS

### Littlewoods Challenge Cup:

Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

### FA Cup:

Runners-up 1959

Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

### Johnstone's Paint Trophy:

Winners 2009

### Simod Cup:

Runners-up 1988

### Football League Division Two:

Champions 1981/82

Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

### Football League Division Three (South):

Winners 1936/37

Runners-up 1935/36

### Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 1969/70

### League One:

Champions 2004/05

### Football League Division Four:

Champions 1967/68

### Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 2001/02

### Blue Square Premier:

Runners-up 2009/10

### Southern League Division One:

Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

### Southern League Division Two:

Runners-up 1913/14

### United League:

Champions 1897/98

Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

### Southern Alliance:

Runners-up 1913/14



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# the captain

**RONNIE HENRY**

After two tough away games it's great to be back at Kenilworth Road as we aim to continue our unbeaten record here against Woking.

Since my last notes against Alfreton we have had three really difficult matches in which we have worked hard to keep our record going and maintain that advantage at the top of the league.

Against Alfreton we remained patient and were rewarded for our persistence with what was, in the end, a comfortable victory against a team who have defied the odds to challenge for promotion this season.

#### Difficult

Salisbury away was never going to be easy: they have a fine record on home soil and have beaten some of the top teams there this season. The pitch, though, was difficult to play on, it was dry and bouncy.

In the end a point was probably fair although I thought we could have snatched it right at the end. A point's a point and it was another positive result and you know I love keeping clean sheets. With Cambridge dropping points at Forest Green, that Saturday was a positive one.

That meant we headed into the Cambridge game on Tuesday in good spirits.

There's no doubt that it was a big occasion but to us, as players, it was just another game. We know how much it meant to you, the fans, and I think the scenes at the end showed that. To score an equaliser in the final minute made it that extra special.

I've watched Mark's goal a few times now. The move that led to the goal is something we work on: putting balls into the box and winning the first header. Mark's finish was tremendous and it's a goal he really deserves for his hard work and ability.

A lot of people will look at the substitution the manager made taking Andre off but remember the manager knows what he's doing! Cully's got an eye for goal and he put

it away nicely to send thousands of you berserk in the away end. I think I almost got carried into the stand celebrating the goal such was the frenzy. What a time to score in such an important game.

#### Positive

Tuesday's game is sure to have a hugely positive effect. Although we were, in my opinion, outplayed by Cambridge for spells, we showed that never-say-die attitude. It's a mentality that we have really embraced this season

It reminds me of the 4-3 win over Halifax when we were 2-0 and 3-1 down, and the Lincoln game when we were also behind. The attitude shown throughout the season has been first class and I think Tuesday night epitomised that.

The two draws might not be so impressive on paper but it's another two points in the right direction and we're still unbeaten.

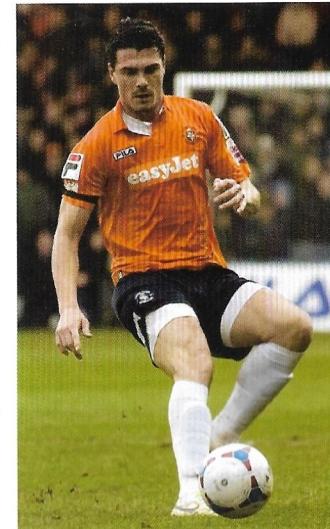
#### Loyalty

One thing that stands out from the last two away games has been the support. I honestly couldn't believe the numbers that went to Salisbury – 1,500 – almost half the crowd. And then on Tuesday at Cambridge, almost 2,500! It is unbelievable and true testament to your unyielding loyalty.

No matter what, you have stuck behind us this season and it's great to see so many smiling and happy faces. All we need now is for you to continue that in the last 11 games and give us that last little push.

We have some difficult games coming up against teams either fighting to stave off relegation or push for promotion so we will not be resting on our laurels.

There will be times when we won't have things our own way and that's when we need you to turn up the volume. Please get behind us again tonight and enjoy the game.



# Trusting in Luton

Luton Town and Trust in Luton - working together to protect the future of your club

Can you imagine Luton Town being renamed London Luton Dons on the whim of a new owner?

Or see changing our colours to yellow and red?

Perhaps the club crest was swapped for a moose head? How about our nickname being changed from the Hatters to something? Or even worse, Happy Harry being killed off and replaced by a dragon, or something else considered lucky on the other side of the world?

Stranger things have happened – and are happening – in the world of modern football. It's an alarming, and unwelcome, trend.

But we are Luton Town. With over 125 years of proud history. For generations, we have been an essential part of the identity and fabric of the town. And that's the way we all want it to stay.

Luton Town 2020 – all of us lifelong Luton fans – have always said that we are little more than custodians of this wonderful club of ours. We're not planning on leaving; in fact, we'd like to think that we, and our successors, will be here for another 125 years.

But events in our relatively recent past, and currently in the news elsewhere, show just how fragile a club's identity can be.

That's why Trust in Luton is such an important organisation - and why 2020 and the Trust have been working together to protect the future of your club from the perils of potential bad owners, chancers and asset strippers. Potentially people who don't care about Luton Town in the way true fans do.

With this in mind we are delighted to announce that 2020 and Trust in Luton have agreed a deal to protect



**trust in luton**  
luton town supporters' trust  
[www.trustinluton.info](http://www.trustinluton.info)

the exclusive image rights of Luton Town, which includes the name, nickname, mascot, colours and crest.

The Trust, the official fans' shareholders in the Club, will from now on have the legal right to veto any changes in the decision on club name, kit colours and alterations to the club crest and mascot identity. This means that the club's image is protected and protected by people who will always care and always be there.

Asset identity like this is a major step forward towards securing our club for the next generation, and the next.

The agreement between the Club and the Trust will also set out aims for a greater 'fan ownership' scheme conditional upon an increase in membership presenting the chance for members to invest in the Club through shares owned by the Trust. But it can only truly succeed with a strong Trust in place. And that's where you can do your bit.

Don't just think about joining the Trust. Do it today, if you haven't already.

Membership costs just £10 per year to join for which you will now have a part to play in protecting your club's identity; The Hatters playing in Luton colours with the proper club crest. You'll even help keep good old Happy Harry in a job too!

To join the Trust visit [www.trustinluton.info](http://www.trustinluton.info).



The big news was revealed at the Meet the Manager evening last Thursday

# Orange or White?

WANT YOUR SAY IN LUTON TOWN? WELL NOW YOU CAN...

Following Thursday night's news that Trust in Luton have been handed the rights to veto the club's identity assets, the two organisations are now enabling Hatters fans the chance to vote on next season kit colours.

In a step approved by the Trust, the Club are delighted to ask Town supporters one big, simple question, should the club win promotion:

**Should the first choice shirt colour be white or orange next season?**

Forget manager idol: there's no suspect phone voting and it won't cost you a penny. We're just giving YOU the chance to have your say in YOUR club.

It's a question which will divide generations. Did you grow up watching the Town lift the Littlewoods Cup in white? Or do you love the current orange – the colour the Hatters donned when winning promotion to the top flight in 1974?

So what colour do you associate with Luton Town? Whether we play in orange or white we're pretty sure they'll be some lively debate...there's been plenty of that between staff in the offices at Kenilworth Road already.

It's all about what you feel...football's a game of opinion but this goes deeper than that. What colour best represents Luton Town to you? Orange or white? It's time to make your mind up!

Now here's the important bit...

## HOW TO VOTE:

Voting is now open and closes on Wednesday night at midnight. The results, which will be verified and audited by Trust in Luton, will be released before kick-off at Saturday's home match against Chester.

Any supporter on the club's database will be sent an email with instructions on how to vote. Essentially, the database contains details of all supporters who have purchased tickets or merchandise from the club.

Executive members and season ticket holders will get two points per vote. Supporters on the database will count as one point. All club staff, including directors, players and management will receive three votes.

## THE VERY IMPORTANT BIT:

If you think you haven't received the email, firstly check your junk email box. Alternatively, please check

any old email addresses you have may registered with in the past. Emails should all have been delivered by Saturday morning.

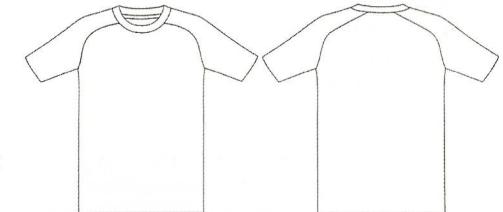
If you still have not received the details we are more than happy to deal with your enquiries so please email [haveyoursay@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@lutontown.co.uk). Please only this email address will deal with these enquiries.

Terminals at the ticket office and club reception will also be available for people to vote.

We are giving YOU the opportunity to have your say but don't delay – remember voting ends on Wednesday night.

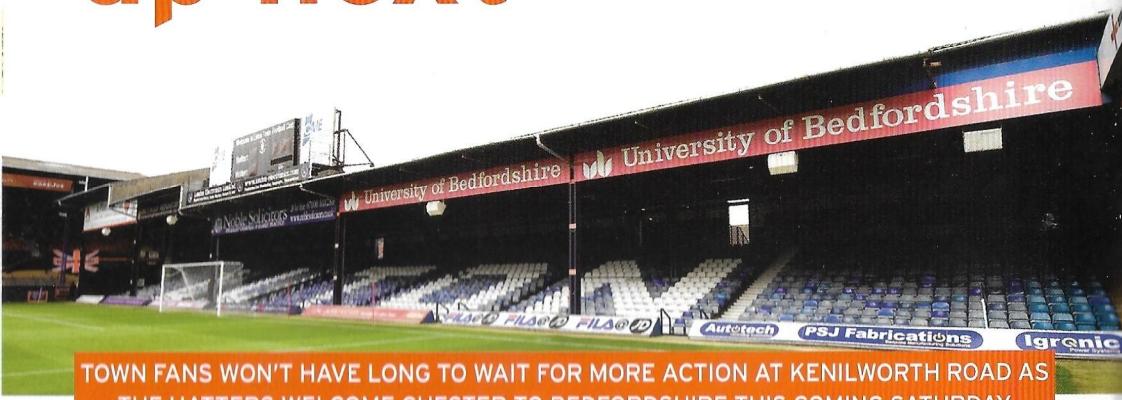
So the question is: a return to white or keep it orange?

Have your say online. Check out the Wall and get talking on Twitter using the hashtags #VoteWhite #VoteOrange.



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for guidance only

# up next



TOWN FANS WON'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT FOR MORE ACTION AT KENILWORTH ROAD AS THE HATTERS WELCOME CHESTER TO BEDFORDSHIRE THIS COMING SATURDAY

## CHESTER FC



**WHO?** Chester FC – to give them their full name (more on that in a bit) – play their games at the Deva Stadium, and have done since 1992.

**DO WHAT?** Deva is Latin for Chester, don't you know.

**PHOENIX.** The new club find themselves back in the Conference just three seasons after the old club ceased thanks to three successive title-winning campaigns. The club have gone from the Northern Premier League Division One North straight through to the Conference. Their points tally for the last three seasons reads: 97, 100, 107. Goal-wise it's: 107, 102, 103.

**FC OK?** Following the old club's (aka Chester City) liquidation, a new club formed – Chester FC. Don't forget the FC either – it's officially part of their name, just like AFC Bournemouth or AFC Wimbledon.

**IT NEVER HAPPENED.** The Hatters will be playing Chester for the 13th time in their history on Saturday, although technically it will only be the 11th time. To cut a long story short, the old Chester club had its playing record expunged in 2009/10, a season the Town drew twice 0-0 with the Blues.

**ZERO ZEN.** Chester were the side that the Town drew 0-0 against in January 2009 – a point which wiped the 30-point deduction during the League 2 campaign of 2008/09. Both clubs were relegated come the end of that season.

**HEAD2HEAD.** The Town drew 1-1 at the Deva Stadium back in November and overall – excluding the expunged results – the Hatters' record is three wins, six draws and one defeat.

The Town last beat Chester 46 years ago in October 1967. On that day the Town won 3-1 at the Blues' old Sealand Road ground in October 1967 thanks to two goals from Keith Allen and one from Ian Buxton. The Hatters went onto lift the Division Four championship come the end of the season. The Town haven't won a home game against Chester since a 1-0 victory in March 1967 in Division Four. Keith Allen got the Luton goal.

**DRAWING BOARD.** There have been six draws in the nine games between the two clubs, and eight draws in 11 if you count the expunged results. What's more Chester have drawn more matches than any other team in the Skrill Premier this season with 12, although nine of those have come at home.

**FUTCHER BROS.** In 1974 the Town purchased Futcher brothers Ron and Paul from Chester. The pair went onto make 275 appearances between them for the Town.

**TOWN CONNECTION.** Winger Shaun Whalley began his career with Chester and made his Football League debut for the club – against Cambridge in 2004.

**HOW THEY DOING?** Chester hosted Alfreton on Saturday and a positive result could see Steve Burr's side pull further away from the relegation zone. As we went to press, Chester were 19th in the table having taken 39 points from 36 games. Not bad considering they lost their first five matches of the campaign.

**ON THE ROAD.** Chester have won six, drawn three and lost 10 matches on their travels this season. In fact Saturday's visitors have won two of their last three away games with victories at relegation rivals Tamworth (4-3) and Dartford (1-0).

Last Tuesday, however, they lost 2-0 at another rival in the fight for survival, Aldershot.

# tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS

## OAK OPEN!

For the foreseeable future the Oak Road stand will be available to Hatters on a permanent basis. Tickets are available from the ticket office and, subject to availability, on the day of the match on the turnstiles. If you are a season ticket holder who wishes to swap their seat for one in the Oak Road stand please contact the ticket office.

## 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.

### LUTON TOWN v CHESTER FC



The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 22nd MARCH 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal matchday prices. The Oak Road stand remains open to home supporters for this match.



### GRIMSBY TOWN v LUTON TOWN



The Skrill Premier

TUESDAY 25th MARCH 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

This game is pay on the day for Town supporters. We have been allocated 1,250 seats. Hatters fans can make a £2 saving on adult and concessionary tickets by purchasing in advance from Grimsby by calling 01472 605050 before 1.30 on the day of the game. However, Grimsby charge a 50p telephone booking so in essence the saving is £1.50. Price: £18 adults, £12 over-65s, students with ID, 15-18-year-olds, £4 under-14s.



### FC HALIFAX TOWN v LUTON TOWN



The Skrill Premier

SATURDAY 29th MARCH 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

We are awaiting ticket details for this match.



### DARTFORD v LUTON TOWN



The Skrill Premier

TUESDAY 1st APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets for this match originally sold out. Further information about the availability of unwanted tickets will be communicated next week and in next Saturday's Chester programme.

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WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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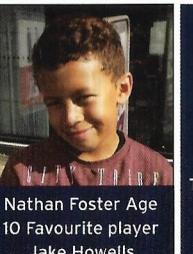
Matthew Coffey Age  
9 Favourite player  
JJ O'Donnell



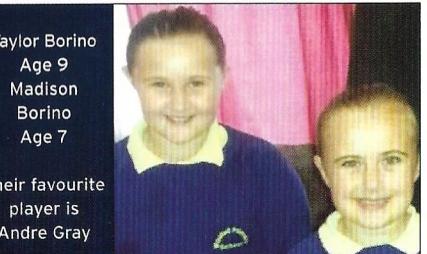
Keelan Prior Age 9  
Favourite player  
Andre Gray



Dredan Foster Age 4  
Favourite player  
Andre Gray



Nathan Foster Age  
10 Favourite player  
Jake Howells



Taylor Borino  
Age 9  
Madison  
Borino  
Age 7  
Their favourite  
player is  
Andre Gray



#### EXECUTIVE BOX HOLDERS

##### 6: G.P. QUORENTON

12: EASYJET



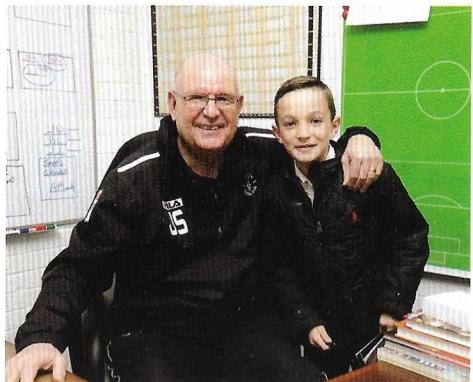
13: BARTHAM GROUP

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26	PAUL BENSON	HOME: Ashby World Domination AWAY: The Mad Hatter	27	ANDRE GRAY	HOME: Tom AWAY: Jack Keenan	28	JIM STEVENSON	HOME: Luton Outlaws AWAY: Available	29	KANE FERNANDIN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available
30	ALEX LACEY	HOME: Peter & Linda Little AWAY: In memory of Bill Lacey	31	JAKE WOOLLEY	HOME: Total Motion Vehicle Management AWAY: Available	32	BRETT LONGDEN	HOME: Available AWAY: Available	33	JEROME JIBODU	HOME: Mad Hatter AWAY: Available
34	ZANE BANTON	HOME: Loyal Luton AWAY: COYH	43	PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU	HOME: David Alexander AWAY: Ben & Richard Banks	JOHN STILL	HOME: Thompsons Accountants AWAY: Country Properties	TERRY HARRIS	HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Clive and Graham		

# welcome

WOKING



It is with great pleasure we welcome everybody associated with Woking Football Club to Kenilworth Road this evening.

Garry Hill's side arrive on Bedfordshire soil in great form with five wins from their last eight matches. It is form that has propelled them away from the relegation zone and, before Saturday's matches, the Cards were 15th in the table and, importantly, some 12 points clear of the dropzone.

Woking's form in the first four months of the campaign gave everyone at Kingfield cause for concern. The Cards lost 10 of their first 18 matches in all competitions – winning just three times. That sequence included two defeat to the Hatters. The Skrill Premier meeting at Kingfield saw the Hatters triumph 4-0 before the Town knocked the Cards out of the FA Cup a month later.

Since that late October defeat to the Hatters, tonight's visitors have improved drastically. Hill's side have won 12 times have inflicted defeats on the likes of Kidderminster, Macclesfield, Gateshead and Barnet.

The Cards have won their last two games and three of their last four to sit just behind the Hatters in the Skrill Premier form table. Remarkably, however, Hill's side have drawn just once in their last 24 matches - a 2-2 draw at Lincoln in late January. Visiting supporters in the Oak Road end will be wondering which Woking will turn up

tonight: the side that won 3-1 at Barnet on 1st March or the side that got thumped 5-1 at Dartford on 18th February.

There are two major reasons for the Cards' revival and both lie in attack. Hill was able to bring in highly-rated Ipswich striker Jack Marriott on loan. The young forward has netted 10 goals in 15 games and has forged a fine partnership with former Town striker Scott Rendell. The former Hatters man has also been in terrific form in front of goal with 12 goals in 24 appearances this term. Since making the loan move permanent in January, the former Wycombe and Cambridge man has scored five goals in as many games – scoring three times in the last two matches in wins over Barnet and Southport.

On the road, the Cards have a decent record, with six victories and two draws – a record better than many other clubs in the top half. At Kingfield their form has picked up, with eight wins and four draws from their 18 home games.

Woking will be hoping for better memories than their only previous visit to Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day last season. Goals from Janos Kovacs, Jon Shaw and Rendell secured the Hatters a 3-1 victory in front of 6,744. The Cards, however, got their revenge when beating the Town in the reverse fixture by the same scoreline on New Year's Day.

# in opposition

## MEET THE WOKING SQUAD

### MANAGER

**GARRY HILL.** The boss. Took over at Kingfield in January 2011 and led the Cards to the Conference South Play-Offs in his first four months in charge. The following season he guided the club to the title. Hugely experienced manager has also enjoyed successful spells at Dagenham & Redbridge and Rushden & Diamonds.

### GOALKEEPERS

**SAM BEASANT.** Towering stopper and son of Wimbledon keeper Dave, who arrived at Kingfield in the summer. Started his career as a youngster at Chelsea and has been on the books at Billericay and Maidenhead.

**AARON HOWE.** Graduate of Woking's academy and now in his second spell at the club. Made his debut in 2007 but left that year and signed for Hayes & Yeading and then Havant & Waterlooville. Re-joined the Cards in the summer of 2011.

### DEFENDERS

**MIKE CESTOR.** French left-back or centre-half who signed for the Cards in the summer of 2012 from Leyton Orient having impressed on-loan the previous season.

**BRETT JOHNSON.** Left-sided central defender or left-back who signed from AFC Wimbledon in 2012. An experienced defender, he has been on the books at Northampton, Aldershot, Grays and Cambridge.

**JOE JONES.** Young defender on loan from Championship club Yeovil. The Northern Ireland Under-21 international first started his career at Leicester.

**JOE McNERNEY.** Versatile, powerful young academy graduate defender who can also play in midfield or attack. Made his Cards debut in February 2009 and has gone on to become a firm fans' favourite.

**ADAM NEWTON.** Experienced former Luton defender who joined the Cards in 2011. Began his career as a youngster at West Ham. Joined Peterborough in 2002 where he made over 200 appearances before a move to Brentford where he won the League 2 title.

**JOHN NUTTER.** Another experienced man in the Cards defence, the former Lincoln skipper arrived at Kingfield in January 2013 after initially impressing on-loan. Enjoyed success in spells at Stevenage and Gillingham.

**WILL SALMON.** Right-back who signed this season following a spell at Bath. Previously been on the books at Aldershot, AFC Wimbledon, Ebbsfleet and Telford.

### MIDFIELDERS

**KEVIN BETSY.** Woking academy graduate who went onto enjoy a hugely successful career with spells at Fulham, Bournemouth, Hull, Barnsley, Wycombe and Bristol City. Re-signed in February 2012.

**GEORGE FRITH.** Talented young central midfielder who came through the Cards' academy and was offered his first professional deal in summer 2012.

### JOHN GODDARD.

Former Reading midfielder who arrived at Kingfield in September this season. Came through the ranks at the Madjeski Stadium but left the season the Royals won promotion.

**KEIRAN MURTAGH.** Creative central midfielder who joined the Cards on-loan from Mansfield. The Antigua international has plenty of experience following spells at Yeovil, Wycombe, Cambridge and Macclesfield.

**JOSH PAYNE.** Highly-rated central midfielder who signed in the summer. Began his career with youth spells at Portsmouth and Southampton before joining West Ham. Also been on the books at Doncaster, Oxford and Aldershot.

**MARK RICKETTS.** Dependable and combative defensive midfielder who has been with the Cards since a 2009 arrival from Ebbsfleet. Won the FA Trophy with the Fleet but started his career with Charlton.

### STRIKERS

**JACK MARRIOTT.** Talented young forward on-loan from Championship Ipswich. Scored nine goals in his first spell in November before extending the deal in January.

**SCOTT RENDELL.** No stranger to Kenilworth Road, the experienced striker signed permanently for the Cards in January after a successful loan spell. Went down in Hatters folklore following his goal against Norwich in the FA Cup last season.

**GIUSEPPE SOLE.** Another former academy graduate back at Kingfield for a second spell. The striker has spent spells at Basingstoke, Ebbsfleet, Newport, Havant & Waterlooville and Dorchester prior to re-signing in early 2012.

# a hatter and...

...A CARDINAL

## ADAM NEWTON AND SCOTT RENDELL

This evening we welcome two former Town men back to Kenilworth Road in the shape of defender Adam Newton and striker Scott Rendell.

They are two of three players who have represented both clubs with Billy Holmes the third. Holmes made just one substitute appearance for the Hatters, coming on as a substitute in a 3-0 home win over Blackpool in 1973 before moving to Barnet.

Newton joined the Town in the summer of 2009, signing for Mick Harford two months after he had won the League 2 title with Brentford. He scored against the Town in his final appearance for the Bees before receiving his championship winners' medal in what was the Hatters' last game in the Football League.

Newton scored his first goal for the Hatters in a 1-0 win over Barrow in September 2009 and went onto make a total of 66 appearances for the club in which he netted a total of four goals. His final appearance for the Hatters came in the Play-Off final against AFC Wimbledon where the former West Ham trainee scored in the unsuccessful penalty shootout.

Newton signed for Woking in the summer of 2011 and immediately helped the Cards win the Conference South and has been a regular at Kingfield ever since.

Rendell, meanwhile, arrives at Kenilworth Road tonight as one of the most in-form strikers in the division with 12 goals from 24 matches with the Cards this term. He has scored five goals in his last five games, including two in their 3-1 win at Barnet in their previous away fixture.

The forward's Town career spanned 46 matches and saw him hit 12 goals with one particularly unforgettable: the winner at Carrow Road in the 1-0 victory at Norwich in the fourth round of the FA Cup. Rendell's first goal for the club came in a 3-1 win over Ebbsfleet in August 2012. His final match in Luton colours also came against Ebbsfleet.

## HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

The Town have met Woking five times in the past and have come out winners in four of those fixtures.

The two sides first met in an LDV Vans Trophy tie at Kingfield in 2002 at a time where Conference teams were admitted to the competition. Goals from Peter Holmes and David Deeney secured a 2-0 win for the Hatters in a game that saw Kevin Foley and Leon Barnett make their Luton debuts. It wasn't until the Hatters were relegated to the Conference that the two clubs' paths would cross again last season.

The Town triumphed 3-1 on Boxing Day thanks to goals from Rendell, Jon Shaw and Janos Kovacs – but the Cards gained revenge a week later Andre Gray scored the Town goal which had levelled the game at the time. Woking's goals came courtesy of a Billy Knott brace and one from Jayden Stockley.

This season, however, the Hatters have won both matches against tonight's opponents by an aggregate score of 5-0.

The Town cruised to a 4-0 win at Kingfield in the Skrill Premier meeting in late September with two goals from Mark Cullen and one each from Gray and a first-ever from Alex Lacey.

A month later a much-changed Hatters side booked their place in the first round of the FA Cup thanks to another goal from Cullen with his header earning a 1-0 win at Kingfield.



# from the oak road

It's just shy of 14 months since Scott Rendell stabbed in that close-range winner at Carrow Road, sending 4,000 travelling Hatters ballistic and giving us one of our great FA Cup moments of all time. Now, as Woking fan Graeme Morton explains, Scott is making a name for himself in Surrey by keeping the Cards on course to avoid relegation...

**TALK OF THE TOWN:** After being thrashed by the Town 4-0 in September, Woking put on a steely showing in the FA Cup qualifying game. What was your assessment of those games? What can we expect from your side today?

**GRAEME:** Back in September we were in an uncomfortable spot where every time the ball went in our box from a corner, it went in. By October this was sorted, but not being able to play Scott Rendell meant we were lacking firepower. In truth we'd have rather faced anyone but Luton at that time and I can't argue with either result. We're a different animal now – although it'll take a huge effort to take anything from Kenilworth Road.

**TOTT:** Scott Rendell will always have a place in Hatters' folklore after his goal at Premier League Norwich last season and he's chipped in with crucial strikes for you too. How's he settling in?

**GRAEME:** He's been superb from the get go. Runs himself into the ground, great first touch and is a clinical finisher. It says everything about Luton's options that he was surplus to requirements. Keeping him until the season's end was a huge statement from the club.

**TOTT:** Are there any other players less familiar to Hatters' fans who we should look out for today?

**GRAEME:** Josh Payne has been in exceptional form over the last three months, running many games and chipping in with goals from midfield. Jack Marriott, on loan from Ipswich, looks a real future star up top with Scott.

**TOTT:** What's the best game you've seen involving your side this season and why?

**GRAEME:** Just recently at Barnet. Big away following, controlled the game despite being away to a side in the



top three, and could have had a couple more. It's the difficult thing about Woking this season - at our best we're a match for anyone. At our worst...

**TOTT:** Woking have flirted with relegation at times this season. Have you done enough to secure another season in this league – or are you set for a nervous run in?

**GRAEME:** I won't relax until we get 54 points on the board. We should be home and hosed but until it's settled, I won't be planning away trips for the next campaign.

**TOTT:** What are the club's ambitions long-term? Do you foresee a rekindling of your club's unlikely rivalry with Stevenage any time soon?

**GRAEME:** We've got to be realistic and say lower Conference Premier or upper Conference South is our level. The management team have done some wonderful things since they've come in, on a limited budget, so we're enjoying the ride. If someone gave them the cash of an Aldershot or a Cambridge, I think this game would be a title decider. Yes, it would be great to see Stevenage go down and then plummet through from whence they came - but the off-field set up is very good there.

**TOTT:** The draw for the European Championships recently took place, when for the first time, 24 nations will take part in Europe's premier international competition. Is it a good thing that smaller nations will get to play on the big stage – or are these changes making a mockery of qualifying and the tournament itself?

**GRAEME:** I'm Scottish, we've got Gibraltar in our group. Knowing we can't finish bottom has already made for a great campaign!

# back to the future

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

## 1958 AMATEUR CUP WINNERS

**JOHN BURLEY:** Goalkeeper who joined Walton & Hersham in July 1961, then Addlestone and Hounslow before coaching back at Woking. He was a toolmaker with BAC and has settled in New Haw.

**RON ELLERY:** Right-back who moved to Staines in July 1960. He worked in the public health department for the local council in Chertsey, St Albans and Peterborough and died in January 2010.

**GEOFF PARSONS:** Left-back who netted five goals in 225 Isthmian League games and was a lathe turner at Henshalls in Weybridge. He emigrated to Western Australia and lives in Rockingham Park.

**JIM COLLINGWOOD:** Right-half who scored once in 132 Isthmian League games before leaving in May 1965. Working in estate management, he later settled in Sandbanks and died in October 2007.

**KEN TURNER:** Experienced centre-half who scored once in 204 Isthmian League games before hanging up his boots in May 1964. He worked as a water board inspector and died after emigrating to Australia.

**ERNIE CLACEY:** Left-half who netted three goals in 95 Isthmian League games before leaving in May 1960. He was a self-employed painter and decorator until his death in Wokingham in October 1991.

**ROY LITTLEJOHN:** England Amateur international winger who joined Poole Town in October 1959, then Salisbury, Bridport and Christchurch. He spent 33 years with Leslie Jones Architects in Poole.

**JOHNNY HEBDON:** Inside-right who netted 43 goals in 118 Isthmian League games. He was a metal inspector at Vickers Armstrong (BAC), then a policeman in Woking and now lives in the Wye Valley.

**CHARLIE MORTIMORE:** England Amateur international centre-forward who netted 175 goals in 263 Isthmian League games and had a spell as manager. He was PE teacher and deputy head at Cove School.

**GEOFF HAMM:** England Amateur international who joined Wimbledon in July 1958. He spent 49 years in office management with James Walker packing manufacturers in Woking and still lives locally.

**REG STRATTON:** England Amateur international who joined Fulham in August 1959, then Colchester United, Brentwood, Dover and Basingstoke. He was a storeman for Solartron in his native Farnborough.

## 1990/91 FA CUP GIANTKILLERS

**TIM READ:** Goalkeeper who understudied Laurence Batty and had a lengthy loan spell with Aldershot before returning to Worthing in December 1995. He now works as an area manager for a national bank.

**STEWART MITCHELL:** Right-back who helped Woking win the Isthmian League title in 1991/92 and joined Basingstoke in August 1992, then Marlow, Aldershot, Aylesbury United and Barton Rovers.

**ADIE COWLER:** Inspirational skipper who led Woking to their first Isthmian League title in 1991/92, moving to Kingstonian in July 1992. He later played for Walton & Hersham, Camberley and Hendon.

**BRADLEY PRATT:** Central defender who featured in the 1991/92 Isthmian League title triumph and rejoined Farnborough Town in December 1992, then Chertsey, Sutton United, Hampton and Bracknell.

**TREVOR BARON:** Central defender who was ever-present in the 1991-92 Isthmian League title triumph. He later played for Slough and Walton & Hersham, then became Windsor & Eton's assistant-boss.

**SHANE WYE:** Utility player who was in his second spell with Woking, helping the Cards to win the Isthmian League title in 1991/92. He later played for Molesey and New Zealand side Wanganui Athletic.

**DERECK BROWN:** England Semi-Pro international midfielder who joined Walton & Hersham in July 1994, then Welling United, Chesham and Yeading, becoming Maidenhead United's assistant-boss.

**MARK BIGGINS:** Midfielder who joined Aldershot in September 1994, then Wealdstone, Harrow, St Albans City, Hendon, Hampton, Kingstonian, Hampton again, Ashford Town, Carshalton and Bedfont.

**MARK FRANKS:** Winger who was in his second spell at Woking. He returned to Windsor & Eton in August 1991, playing against Woking in the 1991-92 FA Cup first round, then joined Bracknell Town.

**TIM BUZAGLO:** Striker who scored a hat-trick in the win over West Brom. He moved to Marlow in March 1993, then played for Wealdstone, Walton & Hersham, Godalming Town and Wealdstone again.

**LLOYD WYE:** Fans' favourite who appeared alongside his twin brother Shane. He joined Aldershot in July 1997, then Kingstonian, Staines, Farnborough and Molesey, becoming Guildford City's joint manager.

## 1994 FA TROPHY WINNERS

**LAURENCE BATTY:** England Semi-Pro goalkeeper who made 271 Conference appearances, then played for Chesham, St Albans, Maidenhead United and Molesey before managing Walton & Hersham.

**MARK TUCKER:** Right-back who made 103 Conference appearances for his hometown club before joining Rushden & Diamonds in May 1996, then Kettering Town, Worcester City and Bedford Town.

**LLOYD WYE:** Favourite who appeared alongside his twin brother Shane. He joined Aldershot in July 1997, then Kingstonian, Staines, Farnborough and Molesey, becoming Guildford City's joint manager.

**GEORGE BERRY:** Former Welsh international central defender who joined Sutton United in January 1995, then appeared for Welling United and Stafford Rangers. He has since worked for the PFA.

**KEVAN BROWN:** England Semi-Pro international defender who scored three times in 246 Conference games before hanging up his boots in May 2001. Now director of sport at St Francis School in Pewsey.

**ANDY CLEMENT:** Defender who was in his second spell at Woking and moved to Slough Town in August 1994. He later played for Yeovil Town, Salisbury City, Staines Town and Walton & Hersham.

**DERECK BROWN:** England Semi-Pro international midfielder who joined Walton & Hersham in July 1994, then Welling United, Chesham and Yeading, becoming Maidenhead United's assistant-boss.

**COLIN FIELDER:** Influential midfielder who moved to Yeovil Town in December 1996, then had spells with Aldershot again, Chertsey, Staines and Alton. He became a sales rep for a carpet manufacturer.

**SCOTT STEELE:** Scottish midfielder who made 346 Conference appearances before joining Kingstonian in November 2002, then Walton & Hersham. He was Guildford City's joint-boss with Lloyd Wye.

**DARRAN HAY:** Striker who joined Stevenage in July 2000, then appeared for Chesham, Carshalton, Harrow Borough, Hitchin, King's Lynn and Aylesbury. He managed Arlesey and hometown Hitchin.

**CLIVE WALKER:** Experienced winger who joined Cheltenham Town in November 1997, then was Molesey's player-manager. He worked at an auction house and is now an analyst for BBC Radio London.

## 1997 FA TROPHY WINNERS

**LAURENCE BATTY:** England Semi-Pro goalkeeper who made 271 Conference appearances, then played for Chesham, St Albans, Maidenhead United and Molesey before managing Walton & Hersham.

**KEVAN BROWN:** England Semi-Pro international defender who scored three times in 246 Conference games before hanging up his boots in May 2001. Now director of sport at St Francis School in Pewsey.

**TERRY HOWARD:** Experienced defender who moved to Yeovil Town in December 1997, then Aldershot, Boreham Wood, Braintree Town and Great Wakering. He works in Billingsgate Fish Market.

**STEVE FOSTER:** Defender who netted three goals in 28 Conference games prior to joining Bristol Rovers in May 1997, then played for Doncaster Rovers, Scunthorpe United, Darlington and Spennymoor.

**ROBIN TAYLOR:** Midfielder who made 86 Conference appearances before joining Kingstonian in November 1999. He has since coached in the United States and become a teacher in Walton-on-Thames.

**SHANE WYE:** Utility player who was in his second spell with Woking, helping the Cards to win the Isthmian League title in 1991-92. He later played for Molesey and New Zealand side Wanganui Athletic.

**STEVE THOMPSON:** England Semi-Pro international midfielder who joined Yeovil Town in March 1998. He became their manager, then was in charge of Truro City, rejoining Woking as assistant-boss.

**ANDY ELLIS:** Welsh Semi-Pro international who netted 11 goals in 170 Conference games before moving to Worcester City in August 2001, then Leamington. He has since become a lecturer.

**SCOTT STEELE:** Scottish midfielder who made 346 Conference appearances before joining Kingstonian in November 2002, then Walton & Hersham. He was Guildford City's joint-boss with Lloyd Wye.

**CLIVE WALKER:** Experienced winger who joined Cheltenham Town in November 1997, then was Molesey's player-manager. He worked at an auction house and is now an analyst for BBC Radio London.

**JUSTIN JACKSON:** England Semi-Pro international striker who joined Notts County in September 1997, then Halifax Town, Morecambe, Rushden & Diamonds, Doncaster Rovers and Accrington Stanley.



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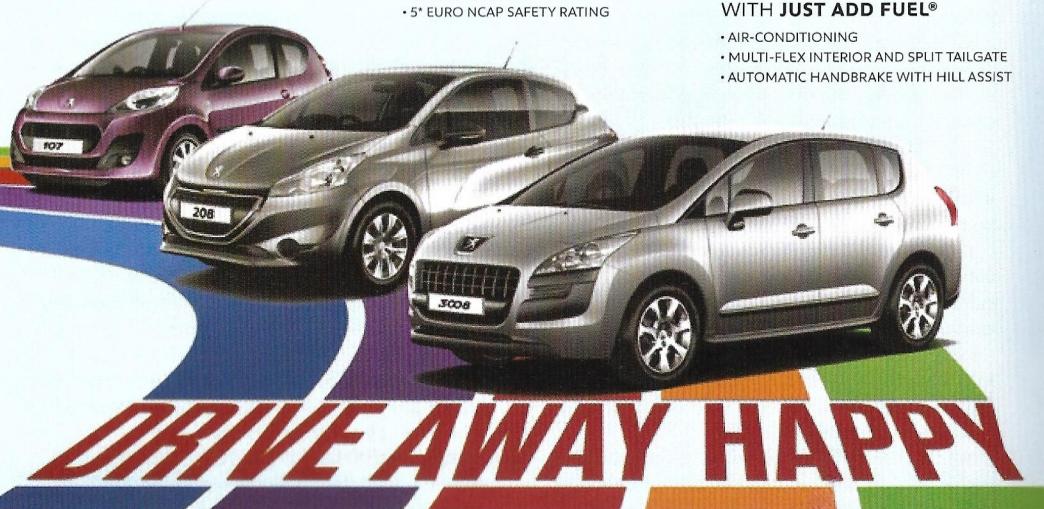
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# news extra

## RIP NELSON STEPHENSON

We are sad to report the recent passing of Nelson Stephenson who played a number of games for the Hatters during the war years.

Nelson moved from Huntingdon to Luton with his parents in 1937 and was soon playing for Holly Rangers who were a well-known local side of the time.

When the Town decided to form a 'Colts' side in 1940 a number of the Holly Rangers players were invited to Kenilworth Road for trials leading to Nelson signing for the club.

Games during the war were hit and miss affairs with constant changes of personnel leading to Nelson playing in, amongst others, 7-1 and 11-3 defeats at

Northampton and Millwall respectively and scoring 11 goals in a 16-0 friendly win over an RAF XI.

After being called up to the RAF in 1943, Nelson continued to play forces football and did manage to make a couple of appearances for the Hatters in the 1945/46 season, the last before normal Football League services resumed.

A knee injury in 1946 put paid to a blossoming football career but Nelson continued to live and work in Luton for the rest of his life and was a regular at Kenilworth Road until relatively recent times.

Our condolences go out to his friends and family on their sad loss.

## TOWN ON TV – AGAIN!

The Hatters' home Skrill Premier fixture with Braintree Town on Saturday 12th April will be broadcast live on BT Sport.

As a result this game will now kick-off at 12.45pm. It will be the fifth time the channel will show a live Town fixture this season, with the Hatters of course live on television tonight against Woking.

## WELLING KICK-OFF CHANGE

The Hatters' Skrill Premier away fixture with Welling United will kick-off at 12.30pm on Police advice.

Both clubs were against the local Police's proposal but bringing forward the kick-off time was insisted on despite the protests.

Ticket news for this match will be released in due course.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We'd like to wish three ardent Town supporters many happy returns this evening.

A very happy 16th birthday today to Jack Gaskell and to Neil Gaskell on 23rd March, love from all your family and friends.

And a very special 81st birthday to Jim McIntosh from his wife, family and friends. Jim has been a Town supporter since 1954.



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# TOWN 3-0 ALFRETON

**The Hatters made it 13 wins on the spin in Skrill Premier at Kenilworth Road with a hard-fought victory over Play-Off chasing Alfreton.**

After being frustrated for almost half-an-hour against a visiting team intent on wasting time and defending for their lives, the Town broke the deadlock thanks to another goal from Luke Guttridge – his 13th goal of the season on 29 minutes.

That meant the visitors had to come out and attack and that allowed the Town time and space to exploit, and two goals in the second half from strikers Andre Gray and Paul Benson secured yet another win and make it an incredible 25 matches unbeaten.

## High-tempo

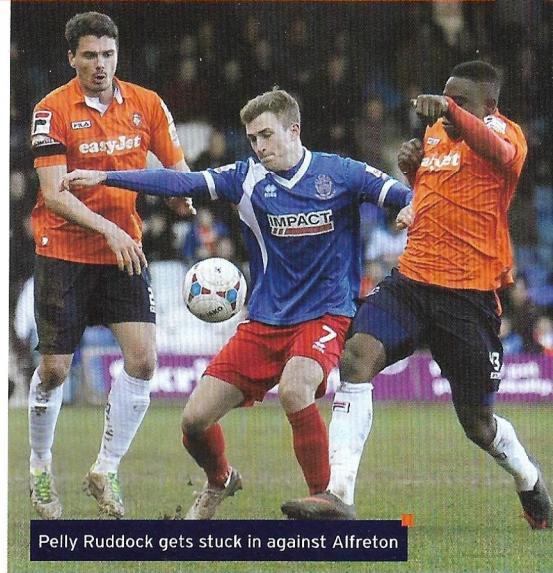
The first half saw Alfreton, who began the day in fourth place, work hard to deny the Town the opportunity to play their high-tempo game and it wasn't until Guttridge's goal that the Hatters threatened the visitors' goal. Gray moved out to the left to hang up a high ball that was half-cleared to Guttridge. His first shot was bravely blocked but the ball kindly fell back into his path and he thundered a low shot home via the aid of a deflection. It was his 13th goal of the season and his 11th at Kenilworth Road.

Ahead, the Hatters could now exploit the space created by Alfreton's need for an equaliser. Pelly Ruddock's rampaging run into the box almost teed up a chance before Benson's solo effort a minute later, 10 minutes before half-time, was blocked.

Alfreton knew they needed to attack in a bid for an equaliser and Tom Shaw volleyed straight at Mark Tyler on 38 minutes but a minute before the break a fine Town move resulted in Gray whacking a shot high over the crossbar. Having upped the tempo now in front, the Town started the second half with gusto: Gray burning through the gears was causing Alfreton all kinds of problems to win a corner that saw Fraser Franks' header cleared off the line by Josh Law.

Still the Hatters probed and probed. A Guttridge free-kick was deflected behind for another corner by Andrei Jones on 51 minutes but 60 seconds later it was another Andre who made it 2-0.

Alfreton fussed around attempting to clear their lines, enabling Ruddock to hoist a ball back into the box. Jones' hesitation allowed Scott Griffiths to steal in, and he stabbed a ball across goal into the path of Gray and he tapped home the easiest of tap-ins from two yards. It was his 25th goal of the season.



Pelly Ruddock gets stuck in against Alfreton

Two goals to the good the Town were almost pegged back immediately. Shaun Harrad's firm low effort was parried well by Tyler before the Hatters' number one tipped over a goal-bound header from Dan Bradley on the hour.

That near miss spurred the Hatters on again. Gray saw a shot blocked from the edge of the box three minutes later before Benson's near-post thunderbolt was well beaten out by Jon Worsnop in the visiting goal.

## Concern

However, there was concern for the Town with 20 minutes to spare when Guttridge was stretchered off with a foot injury. That didn't deter the Hatters from hunting a third goal. Gray came mighty close to doing so on 73 minutes when bursting clear and rounding the goalkeeper but his shot from a narrow angle hit the post.

Ruddock's shot whistled wide on 79 minutes before the Town did make it 3-0 with five minutes to go. Worsnop's kick struck his own defender allowing Jake Howells to drive at goal and his unselfish square pass found Benson and his first-time touch looped past the keeper for his 16th goal of the campaign.

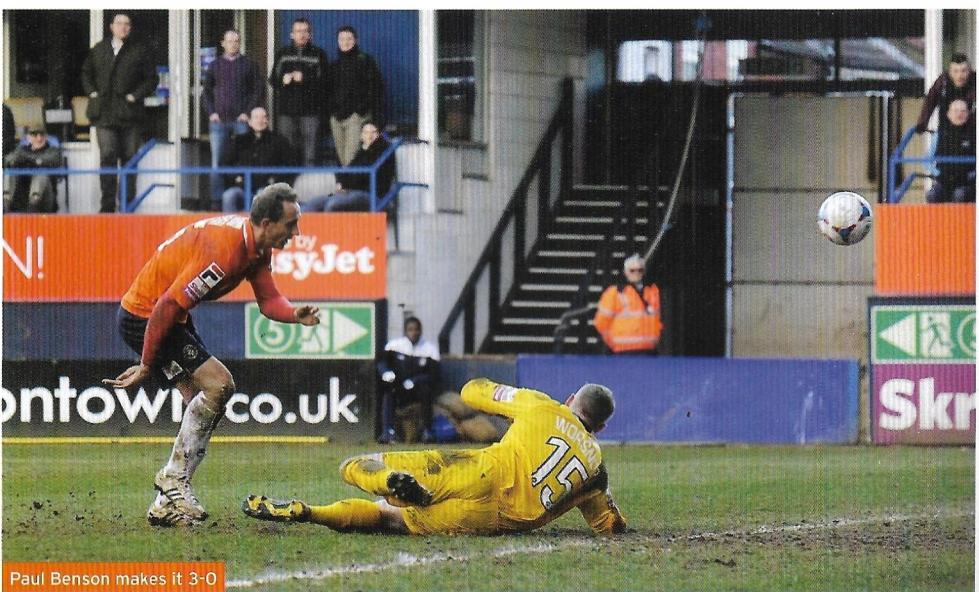
As the game entered five additional minutes, an acrobatic stop from Worsnop denied a curling effort from Howells from the edge of the box from finding the top corner and that was that as the Town won again to keep up their advantage at the top.

LUTON TOWN 3-0 ALFRETON

Guttridge 29, Gray 51, Benson 85



Mark Tyler punches clear

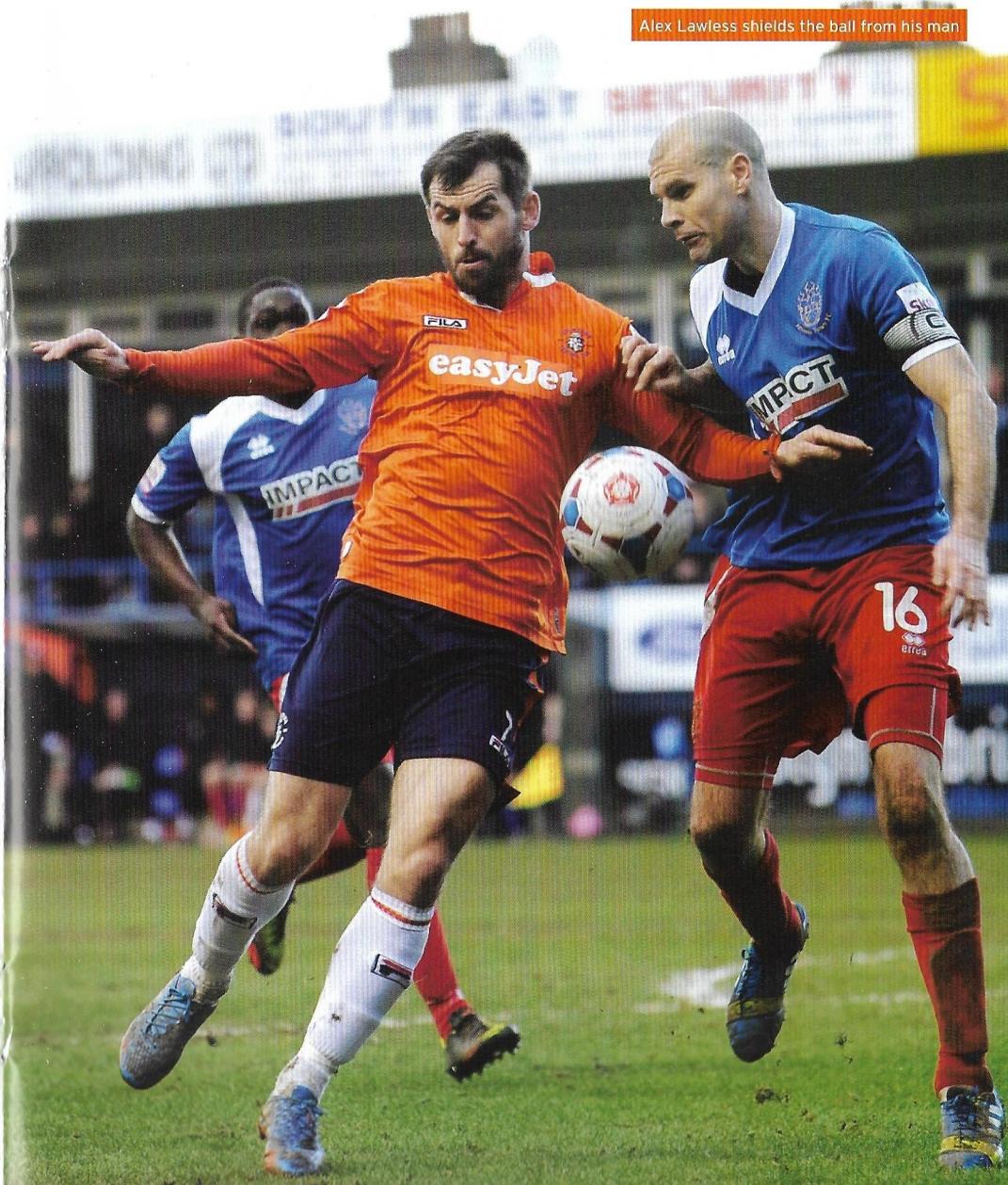


Paul Benson makes it 3-0

**TOWN:** Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks, McGeehan (sub Robinson 65), Ruddock, Guttridge (sub Lawless 70); Howells, Gray, Benson (sub Shaw 88), SUBS NOT USED: Charles, Justham.

**ALFRETON:** Worsnop, Bradley, Franklin, Law, Wylde, Fenton, Wood (sub Akindé 76), Jones, Shaw, Poku, Harrad. SUBS NOT USED: Meadows, Clayton, McFadzean, Kempson.

Alex Lawless shields the ball from his man



POSSESSION	55%	45%
CORNERS	8	3
SHOTS ON TARGET	5	2
SHOTS OFF TARGET	6	5

FOULS	14	11
YELLOW CARDS	0	2
RED CARDS	0	0
ATTENDANCE: 8,412, (79 ALFRETON)		

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## SALISBURY 0-0 TOWN

The Town stretched their lead at the top of the table to 15 points and their unbeaten run to 26 matches but had to settle for a point in a goalless draw at Salisbury.

The first half was one which was dominated by the home side. Chasing a Play-Off place and with just two home defeats all season, they should have gone in at the interval ahead.

Dan Fitchett missed their first chance, Mark Tyler doing well to get his fingers on the home striker's shot on the turn on 10 minutes following a left-wing corner.

Tyler, the only Town man who played in their only previous visit to the Raymond McEnhill Stadium in September 2009, comfortably gathered Scott Sinclair's low strike from the edge of the box 11 minutes later.

### Chances

Salisbury were enjoying the better of the ball and the chances for the home side kept on coming. England C winger Elliott Frear sent a shot scuttling narrowly wide on 23 minutes but five minutes later the Whites spurned an even better chance. The Hatters had just engineered their best move of the match to win a corner but City broke: Sinclair threading Fitchett through one-on-one with Tyler but his shot was weak and the Town keeper could save.

After that near miss the Hatters upped the ante and out of nothing came mighty close to taking the lead. Andre Gray, making his 100th appearance for the Town let fly with a rocket of a shot from 25 yards that beat home goalkeeper Will Puddy but not the woodwork, with the shot crashing back off the post. It was the Town's only real chance of the first half.

As the first 45 minutes came to a close Gray saw a low free-kick from distance blocked and Jake Howells saw the follow-up also charged down, whilst the hosts' Frear found the side-netting on 44 minutes.

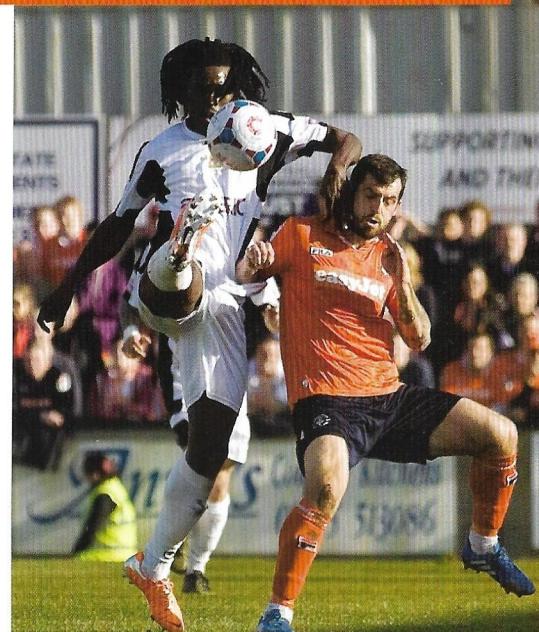
### Shot

The second half was much the same. The home side continued to pepper the Town goal but failed to really test Tyler.

After the Hatters keeper caught another Salisbury shot on 53 minutes the Town went 4-4-2 in a bid to make the breakthrough.

Salisbury, however, threatened again when Rob Sinclair's well-hit shot from distance was also calmly taken by Tyler.

All of a sudden, though, the game was swinging from end to end with both sides realising there was a game there for the taking. Salisbury's shoot-on-sight policy



Alex Lawless attempts to fend off Klovio Kamdjo

continued with Tyler catching another potshot before Gray raced up the other end but failed to get a shot away.

As time ticked away, the Town upped the ante. Paul Benson, Gray and Alex Lawless combined well on 76 minutes that saw Gray prod home but the strike was ruled out for an offside against Benson.

Gray then sensed a chance three minutes later but after wrestling his marker out of the way he couldn't find a finish from close range with just the keeper to beat.

### Hunted

The final 10 minutes belonged exclusively to the Town as they hunted a late winner and they almost got one in the third minute of stoppage time. Salisbury failed to clear their lines from a right-wing corner, allowing Pelly Ruddock to loft a dangerous ball back into the box but Benson, unmarked and on the stretch inside the six-yard box, poked a shot over the bar with the goal gaping.

That would have been harsh on Salisbury but any disappointment from a goalless draw was soon forgotten with news that Cambridge had lost at Forest Green and that the Town's lead at the top was extended a point further.

# SALISBURY 0-0 TOWN



Andre Gray goes close on his 100th Luton appearance



Mark Cullen rises highest to flick the ball on

**SALISBURY:** Puddy, Wilson, Kamdjo, Clarke, Macdonald, Amankwaah, Frear, R. Sinclair, McPhee, S. Sinclair (sub White 90), Fitchett (sub Wellard 90). SUBS NOT USED: Brett, Hart, Bittner.

**TOWN:** Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks, McGeehan (sub Robinson 75), Ruddock, Lawless (sub Cullen 90); Howells, Gray, Benson. SUBS NOT USED: Charles, Shaw, Justham.



The Hatters push for a late winner

POSSESSION	55%	45%
CORNERS	4	4
SHOTS ON TARGET	8	1
SHOTS OFF TARGET	2	7

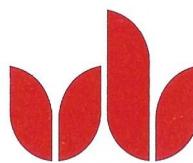
FOULS	7	7
YELLOW CARDS	1	1
RED CARDS	0	0

ATTENDANCE: 2,633 (1,536 LUTON)

# centre spot



Mark Cullen keeps his eyes on the ball to guide home the Hatters' 90th-minute equaliser at Cambridge last Tuesday



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## CAMBRIDGE 1-1 TOWN

A 90th-minute equaliser from substitute Mark Cullen ensured the Hatters maintained their 15-point lead at the top of the Skrill Premier in a dramatic finale at the Abbey Stadium.

Trailing to a Tom Elliott header midway through the second half the Town striker sent 2,300 away supporters into raptures to stretch the unbeaten run in the Skrill Premier in a game that looked lost against their only opposition for the title.

The Town started unchanged following Saturday's goalless draw at Salisbury but it was the home side that began the top-of-the-table clash the better. In truth the U's bossed the first 45 minutes and the Hatters were unlucky not to be behind.

However, it was Town top scorer Andre Gray that actually had the first shot on seven minutes, a flying effort way over the top and that was swiftly followed by a similar effort from the hosts' Ryan Donaldson.

Cambridge were beginning to get on top and the Town needed to be alert on 16 minutes when Luke Berry ghosted into the six-yard box but Fraser Franks' fine block thwarted the midfielder.

### Crucial

It was a crucial block and the Hatters were then indebted to a fine stop from Mark Tyler two minutes later when Ryan Bird's thumping left-foot drive was kept out acrobatically by the Town number one.

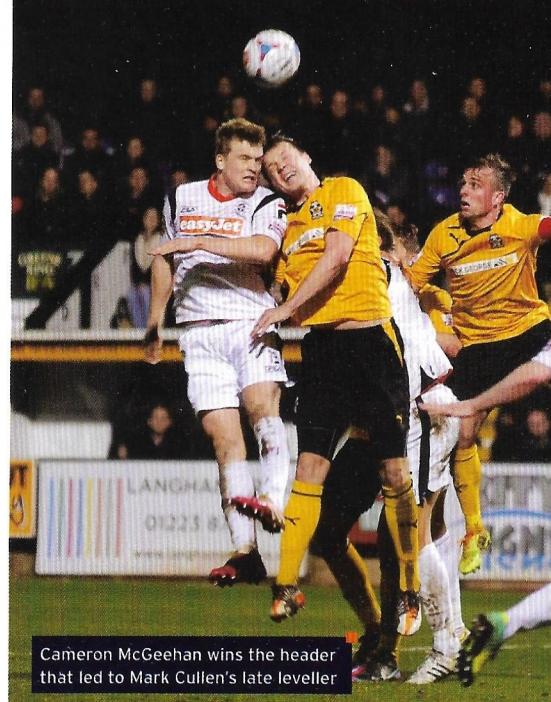
Cambridge continued to push forward in search of breaking the deadlock. Tom Champion's goal-bound header was blocked behind for a corner by Ronnie Henry.

The Hatters were struggling to create any concrete chances with a wayward Alex Lawless header from a teasing Jake Howells cross on 33 minutes all the Town could muster.

An error from Steve McNulty, however, almost handed Cambridge a great chance to take the lead on 38 minutes when he decided to leave a long ball over the top. Bird was on it and almost clear on goal only for an inch-perfect sliding tackle from Scott Griffiths to snuff out the chance.

The Town started brighter after the break, winning a succession of corners, one of which came via a deflected 20-yard effort from Howells.

The U's though were still enjoying the better of the ball and the home side deservedly took the lead on 62 minutes. Captain Kevin Roberts' right-wing cross was nodded home by Elliott's bullet header from six yards, despite the best efforts of Tyler to keep it out. It was the first time the Town had conceded a goal in 564 minutes.



Cameron McGeehan wins the header that led to Mark Cullen's late leveller

It was also the first time the Town had been behind in a game in the Skrill Premier since the 4-3 win at Tamworth on 19th October. With that in mind, John Still made his first change on 71 minutes, replacing Howells with Matt Robinson. Robinson volleyed a shot wildly wide with his first touch.

Half chances came and went. The Town upped the pressure in search of an equaliser, winning a series of corners but which failed to bear fruit. Still also introduced Mark Cullen and Andy Parry from the bench in a bid to find that leveller.

The Hatters continued to push for late equaliser. McNulty headed an effort inches over following Lawless' right-wing corner on 86 minutes and at that point it seemed that was it.

However, in the final minute, Henry's lofted ball in the box was headed on by Cameron McGeehan and Cullen was unmarked in the six-yard box to volley acrobatically past Norris with what was the Town's only real shot on target of the match.

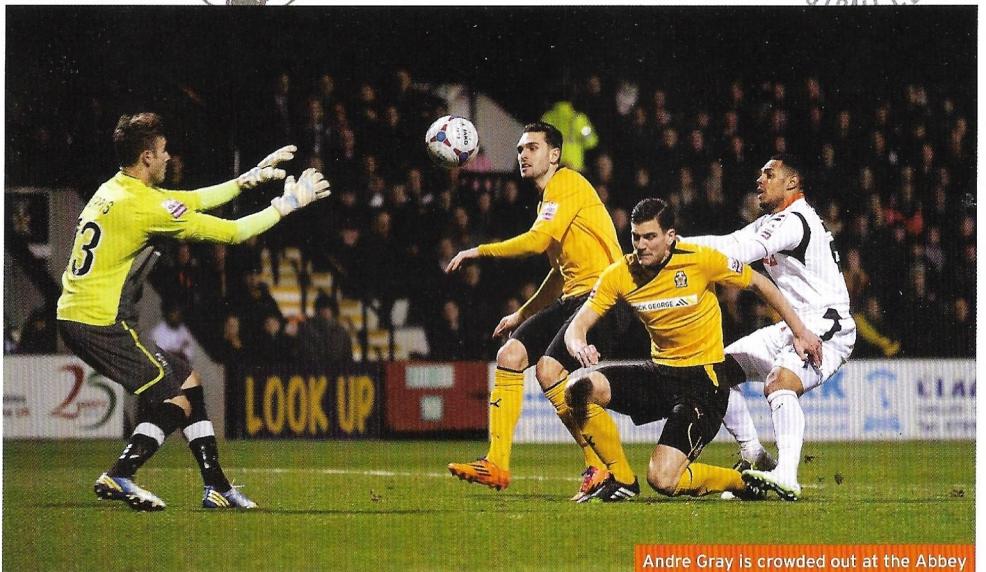
Cue pandemonium in the away end. The Town sensed a dramatic later winner as they pushed forward but in the end they had a point to celebrate come the final whistle.



# CAMBRIDGE 1-1 TOWN

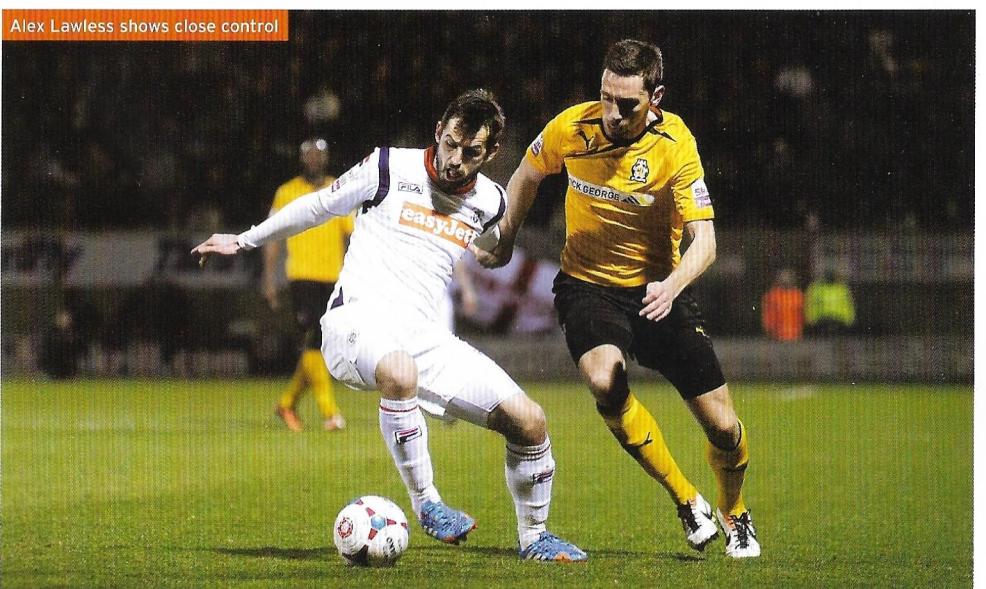
Elliott 62

LUTON TOWN  
ST FOOTBALL CLUB  
Cullen 90



Andre Gray is crowded out at the Abbey

Alex Lawless shows close control



**CAMBRIDGE:** Norris, Coulson, Bonner, Roberts, Taylor, Donaldson, Champion, Berry, Bird, Elliott, Hughes. **SUBS NOT USED:** Austin, Tait, Arnold, Sam-Yorke, Gillies.

**TOWN:** Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks; Ruddock (sub Parry 80), McGeehan, Lawless; Howells (sub Robinson 71), Benson, Gray (sub Cullen 78). **SUBS NOT USED:** Shaw, Justham.

Celebrations after the Town's late, late equaliser



POSSESSION	49%	51%
CORNERS	7	6
SHOTS ON TARGET	2	1
SHOTS OFF TARGET	6	5

FOULS	6	12
YELLOW CARDS	2	1
RED CARDS	0	0
ATTENDANCE: 6,050 (2,286 LUTON)		

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# reaction

## CULLEN DELIGHT AT LATE STRIKE

Mark Cullen delighted the Town faithful as his last gasp equaliser sent 2,200 Hatters fans wild at the Abbey Stadium last Tuesday night.

It took until the 90th minute for the Hatters to find that elusive equaliser that would dampen the hopes of Cambridge United in their quest to catch Luton at the top of the table, and it was 21-year-old Cullen who netted the important goal for John Still's men.

It was Cullen's seventh goal of the season, but could prove to be one of the most important in the Town's quest to gain promotion back into the Football League.

The striker reflected on his late strike in front of the Hatters faithful, in what was one of his first touches having come on as a substitute with 12 minutes remaining on the clock.

"It's always good to come off the bench and get a goal. It wasn't working for us and luckily I came on and got the goal that we needed," Cullen told Hatters Player.

### Ready

"We work hard in training on our finishing. You might only get one chance in a game and you have to be ready to take it. Tonight I was there at the right time and put it in the back of the net."

Cullen paid tribute to the Town's magnificent support this season, as upwards of 2,000 Luton fans made the trip to the Abbey Stadium last Tuesday night to cheer on the Hatters in the vital clash.

"The fans have been fantastic all season and to see that many following us in an away game is unbelievable for this level of football," said the striker. "They are behind us every game and it's a pleasure to have them."

The 21-year-old striker has returned to the squad recently following time out due to personal reasons and admits that he is ready to start challenging for a place in the starting line-up.

"The manager can't play everyone; Andre and Benson have been scoring goals. I have to be patient and work hard in training to get my chance," he said.

"I missed a couple of games as my wife gave birth and I took ill. The lads were flying at the time, but I'm having such a good time at the minute and long may it continue."



Mark Cullen celebrates his equaliser

"We have so many good players in the squad. There are a lot of players who aren't even making the bench who are more than good enough to be playing in the team; it's good to have the competition."

"I'm a different type of striker to Gray and Benson; it's good to have a variety of players throughout the squad who can change things up when needed."

### Delighted

Cullen was delighted with his late goal and believes that every goal is important for him, regardless of what manner they find the back of the net, as he hopes to send out a message to Town boss John Still.

"It was a good goal for me, but they are all the same. It doesn't matter what way they go in whether it's off my backside or a 40-yard volley."

# picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



A young Gordon Turner scores the only goal during the FA Cup 3rd round clash with Charlton in front of a Kenilworth Road crowd of 25,554 in January 1952.

Powerless to stop the shot is Charlton goalkeeper Sam Bartram, who was later to become the Town's manager.

# camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



An unusual team line-up taken in June 1969 immediately before the sale of Bruce Rioch and the purchase of Malcolm Macdonald. Typically, Graham French is looking the wrong way!

From front: Stevenson, Lewis, Sheffield, Bannister, Phillips, Jardine, Harrison, French, Guild, Bruce Rioch, Ryan, Dougan, Slough, Davie, Moore, Neil Rioch, Branston, Wainwright, Allen, Keen, Read.

# yesterday's pages

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS THROUGH PAST PROGRAMMES

## LUTON TOWN 7-0 SOUTHAMPTON

19th OCTOBER 1985

On 19th October 1985 the Hatters were due to take part in a run of the mill Division One (now Premier League) game against Southampton at Kenilworth Road but, by the time of the final whistle, the word 'ordinary' was the last one that could be used to describe an amazing match.

The 1985/86 season had started off to a fanfare of trumpets as the club unveiled its new artificial surface at Kenilworth Road but, after the London press had travelled up the M1 to take a look and offer their grudging approval, the football started off in a gentle fashion. After an opening day draw at home to Nottingham Forest the Town drew at Newcastle before winning 1-0 at West Ham with Mick Harford netting the only goal from the spot.

The next three away games were all lost and although points were still being picked up at home the season was rapidly turning into a disappointment given the high expectations of the club following the massive investment on the playing side during the previous campaign. At great cost, by normal Luton standards, Mick Harford, David Preece, Peter Nicholas and Steve Foster had been brought to Kenilworth Road and a position in the bottom half of the table was seen as unacceptable.

The season then actually turned with, of all things, a home draw. Manchester United came to Kenilworth Road in early October on the back of 10 straight wins and were hoping to equal the winning start to a campaign set by Tottenham in 1960. In a tremendous game, watched by a crowd of 17,454, the Town were more than a match for United and but for a glaring late miss by central defender Paul Elliott, all three points would have been won.

Manager David Pleat felt that he still needed more firepower and was on the lookout for another forward, after narrowly losing out in the chase for Frank McAvennie who had decided to opt for West Ham rather than the Town in the summer. In the lead up to the Southampton game Pleat was quoted as saying that he was frustrated by the lack of goals which the general build up play deserved.

Equally frustrated were the Luton supporters as only 8,876 bothered to turn up for the visit of the Saints, half the attendance that had witnessed the game with United



Harford, Stein and Hill celebrate the Luton goal at Oxford the week before the Southampton clash

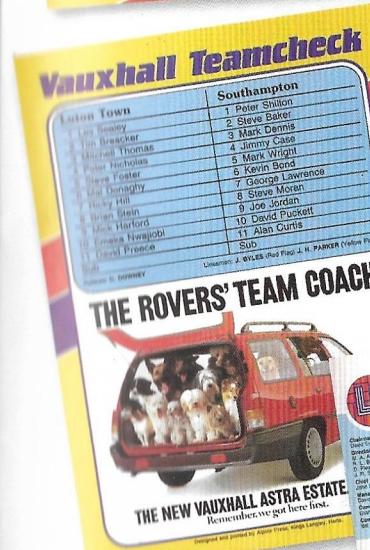
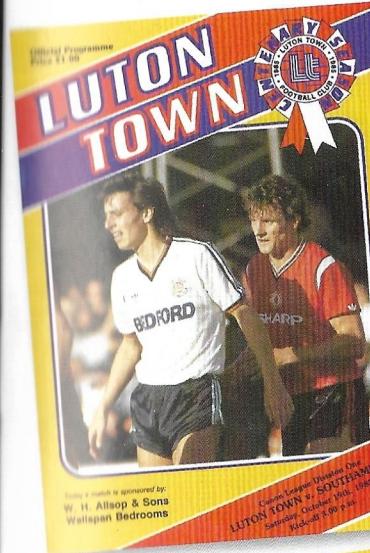
only a fortnight previously. The fans who stayed away missed a treat as the Hatters went goal crazy making a complete mockery of Pleat's misgivings.

Seven goals were slammed past England goalkeeper Peter Shilton without reply making it the most miserable day of his career. He was offered no protection by his defenders when Harford and Brian Stein interchanged passes to set up Emeka Nwajobi to open the scoring after only five minutes. Ricky Hill and Harford combined to put in Stein to double the score on the half hour and, when Hill side-footed home the third before the interval, the game was as good as over.

Harford was dragging another England international, Mark Wright, around in circles as the Town continued in the second period as they finished the first. With gaps appearing all over the place Foster found time to join the attack and when his shot was blocked Stein followed up to make it 4-0. Preece was on hand to touch in a far post cross for the fifth with substitute Ray Daniel knocking in number six just before the end. Stein's hat-trick was completed in the final minute when he converted a penalty after Harford was pushed by Wright in the area.

Pleck was as dumbfounded as the crowd and could only say at the post-match press conference, "Just write about the football, it spoke for itself." Saints manager, and ex-Luton centre-half, Chris Nicholl bravely attended the conference even though he was shell-shocked.

"It was just rank bad defending," fumed Nicholl. "My defenders badly let me down. I was always an honest player but there are a few in the dressing room who can't look me in the face right now."

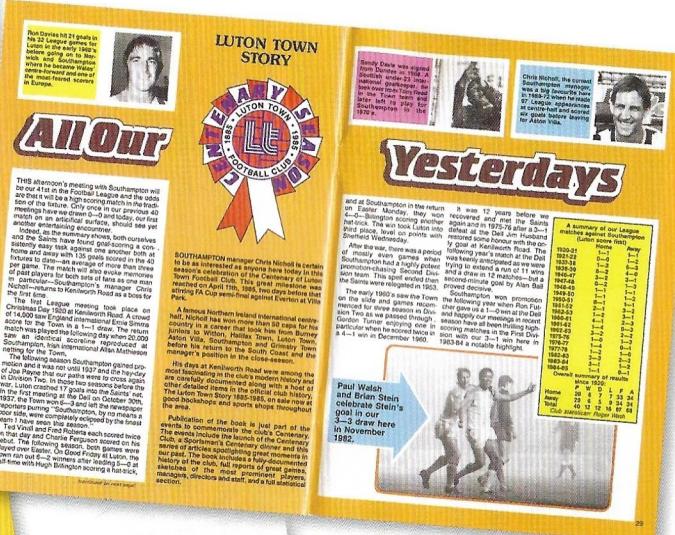


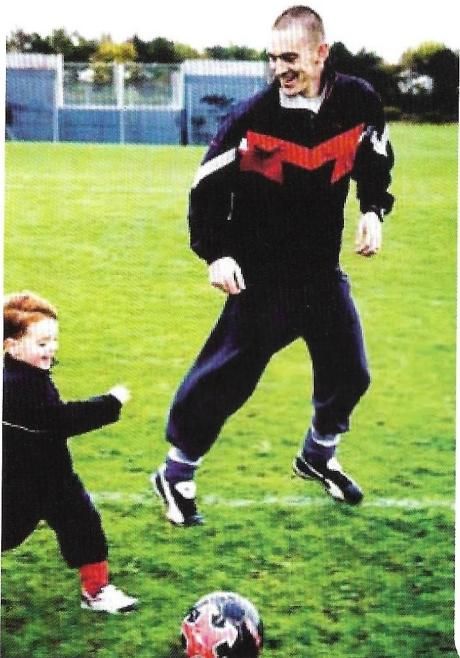
## THE PROGRAMME

It was reported that Mitchell Thomas, Peter Nicholas, Paul Elliott and Mal Donaghy had been called up for International duty during the previous week.

A seat at Liverpool, where the Town were due to play the following Saturday, would set you back £4.25 although you could pay £2.50 on the day to stand on the terraces.

The Hatters had travelled to Trinidad during the week to contest the 'Trinidad Cup'. After seeing off the Armed Forces 4-1 the Town beat Norwich 3-2 in the final in front of a 20,000 crowd. The goalscorers were Mick Harford, Brian Stein and Garry Parker.





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# on this day

**17th MARCH**

## THE RECORD

The overall record for the Town on this day is mixed. Of the 18 games the Hatters have won five, drawn six and lost seven. The Town have scored 19 and conceded 24. Doing the maths that's 43 goals, which works out at just under two-and-a-half goals per game.

## THE LAST TIME

The Hatters last played on this day two years ago when they were held to a 1-1 draw against York City at Kenilworth Road in an FA Trophy semi-final second leg. Trailing 1-0 in the first leg (which saw the Town play most of the game with nine men) a Robbie Willmott strike levelled the aggregate score. With extra-time looming York's Matty Blair scored an injury time goal to send the Minstermen to Wembley.

## HOME COMFORTS

Tonight will see the Town play their sixth successive home match on this day. Prior to the York game the Hatters beat Grimsby Town 2-1 at Kenilworth Road on this day in 2009. Former Town manager Mike Newell was managing the Mariners that particular evening, and goals from Mark Bower and Asa Hall secured all three points for the Hatters.

The Hatters were in Championship action at Kenilworth Road on this day in 2007 when they were defeated 2-0 at home to Ipswich.

That fixture was the first played on 17th March involving the Hatters since a 1993 goalless draw with Swindon Town at Kenilworth Road in the Old Division One (now Championship). The Town also drew their previous engagement on this day - a 1-1 draw with Manchester City in the top flight. A Danny Wilson penalty earned the Hatters a point in front of a crowd of 9,765.

## TOP FLIGHT TOWN

The draw with Manchester City is one of three matches the Hatters have played in the top division on 17th March. The previous time the Hatters had played in the First Division on this day came in 1984 when David Pleat's side were held to a goalless draw against Norwich at Carrow Road.

The Town triumphed in their only other top flight game on 17th March back in 1956. That day 32,339 watched the Hatters beat the great Wolves side at Molineux 2-1 with goals from Tony Gregory and Roy Davies.

## AWAY THE LADS

The Hatters first played on this day in 1900 when they were beaten 1-0 by Bolton Wanderers and it wasn't until 1951 that they would play on 17th March on home soil - a run of seven successive away fixtures played on this day.

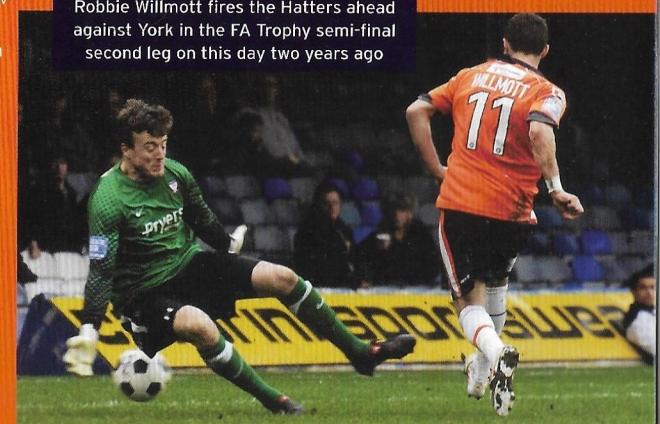
The Town won two of those away games, both 1-0. A 1915 win at Brighton was followed by a victory at Merthyr Town by the same scoreline in 1923.

In the Hatters' first home game on 17th March, in 1951, the Town beat Bury 4-2 at Kenilworth Road in the old Second Division (now Championship) thanks to two goals from Bernard Moore and one each from Charlie Watkins and Pat MacAuley.

## CUP EXIT

The Town won through to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup in 1973 having beaten Crewe, Newcastle and Bolton. But, on this day, the Hatters were beaten 2-0 at Sunderland. The Rokerites went all the way to the final that year and lifted the trophy after beating Leeds at Wembley thanks to Ian Porterfield's first-half goal.

Robbie Willmott fires the Hatters ahead against York in the FA Trophy semi-final second leg on this day two years ago





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# reaction

## DUO REFLECT ON ALFRETON WIN

**Paul Benson netted his 16th goal of the season the last time the Town played at Kenilworth Road in the convincing 3-0 win over promotion chasing Alfreton Town.**

This was the Town's fourth consecutive clean sheet at home in the league in yet another confident home performance by the Hatters, who are yet to concede on home soil in over six hours of football.

The last time the Hatters conceded at Kenilworth Road was that very wet day a long time ago when the Hatters emerged 2-1 winners over Barnet and Jake Hyde netted a consolation goal for the visitors.

Since then the men in orange have yet to concede a goal in the league and have racked up a remarkable 18 goals in the process.

### Strike

Benson was the last man to net a goal at the Kenny, when his 86th minute strike against Alfreton ensured that Luton went away with maximum points on the day. Benson reflected on the 3-0 win over the Reds following his fourth goal at home in his last five appearances.

"There's a real team effort and togetherness in the side; I wouldn't have had a word to say to Jake Howells if he had of gone on himself, but he unselfishly squared it and put it on a plate for me to tap home," the striker told Hatters Player following his goal.

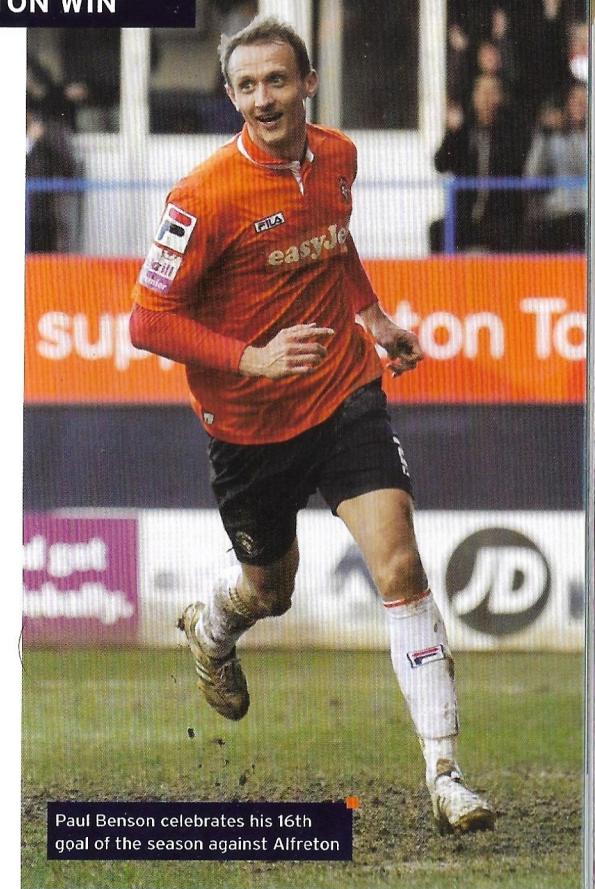
"The first half was really tough; we had to dig in and try not to lose focus. The first goal by Luke Guttridge was so important, if we had of went in 0-0 at the half it could have been a different story."

### Good

Benson compared the current Luton Town squad to that of the Dagenham side in which he gained promotion with from the Conference Premier in 2007 and believes that this Town side is just as good.

"It's a very similar side to the Dagenham team we won promotion from the Conference with. I can compare players we had at Dagenham to the ones we have now," said Benson.

"Andre Gray reminds me of Craig Mackail-Smith and Guttridge reminds me of a player we used to have at Dagenham, I honestly think this side is on another level to that team [Dagenham] and I hope we can go on and gain promotion."



Paul Benson celebrates his 16th goal of the season against Alfreton

Another major factor to the Towns recent success is their impressive defensive record. Fraser Franks was on hand to ensure that the Town kept their fourth successive clean sheet at Kenilworth Road, the type of form which seen him earn a call up to the England C squad in a friendly against Jordan.

### Honour

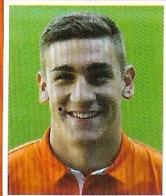
"My game is based on clean sheets. The boys in front of us make it easier, but if we keep it tight and keep a clean sheet we know we will win games," said Franks.

"It's an honour for me to have been called up to my national side, no matter what level it is at."



# stars of the future

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



**NAME:** Lee Hawkes

**DATE OF BIRTH:**

29/4/1997

**POSITION:** Left-back

**YEAR JOINED LUTON TOWN:**  
As an under-13 in 2009

**FORMER CLUB:** Crawley Green

**BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP**  
Never give up

**BEST FOOTBALL MOMENT**

Scoring against Wolfsburg in the Cordial Cup

**TEAM SUPPORTED AS A KID**

West Ham United

**WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND** Gareth Barry

**FAVOURITE TV SHOW** The Inbetweeners

**OTHER SPORTS GOOD AT** Rugby

**FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT** PE

**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOU**

Smart, athletic, handsome

**MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE**

Zane Banton

**TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOTBALL CAREER SO FAR**

I started as a centre-back before I began playing at left-back from my under-16 year. That means I can now play in both positions. It's great to be a part of the youth team and I'm glad I was offered a scholarship. I'm now predominately a left-back, but if Paul Driver needs to me to play centre-half I'm more than willing to do so.

## Supporting the grassroots



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# academy update

WITH NEWLY-APPOINTED OPERATIONS MANAGER  
MARC TRACY



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Tonight I would like to start by introducing myself as Luton Town's new academy operations manager. It is with great pleasure and honour to be recruited by the football club to be part of the long term vision and future, which I know is exciting.

As a life-time Luton Town supporter, having been born in the L&D and having grown up in the town, I know exactly how it feels at present with the opportunity to progressing towards where we really belong – back in the Football League!

We are not there just yet – but with your continued loud support I'm sure it's a matter of time.

Having watched my first fixture in 1985 against Coventry, which incidentally we lost 1-0, I was hooked. I was a regular at all home fixtures before moving away in 1991. Despite being away from the area, I have always, when time has allowed, come to fixtures to view and support.

### Standards

I have been fortunate enough to have worked previously with both John Still and Wayne Turner at different times, and I know their true values and standards so I will be ensuring everyone can continue to strive to be the best we can be in all aspects.

My previous roles to date involving a variety of positions at Peterborough United, Cambridge United, Rushden & Diamonds, Colchester United, Southend United and again Cambridge United which have enabled me to work with some top coaches and people.

### Value

Therefore I believe I can add great value to the academy with my experiences and own values.

The opportunity I have here is to build on the existing good work being underlined by the staff as we begin to prepare for EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan). Naturally there is work to be done behind the scenes to ensure our talented youngsters can continue to demonstrate their full potential on the pitch and I am very much looking forward to progressing with this.

The role primarily involves responsibility and supporting other staff members with managing the whole academy infrastructure including the following aspects:



Mark Tracy

- Strategy, leadership and management of the academy
- Performance management, player development and progression
- Staffing
- Coaching
- Games programme including european tour programme
- Sports science & medicine
- Talent identification & recruitment
- Facilities
- Finance
- Compensation

There are many components within each section, which is very detailed and over the coming months I will be very busy together with the staff ensuring we put ourselves in a strong position to take our youngsters forward further in all four corners of player development.

As the weeks progress, I will no doubt keep you updated with the latest news within the Academy.

# in the community

## FOOTBALL CONFERENCE TRUST

We are pleased to welcome Brian Lee, Chairman of the Football Conference and of its associate charity, the Football Conference Trust, and Lord Faulkner of Worcester, one of their trustees to this evening's game.

They will be presenting a cheque for £40,000 to Town director and Trustee Bob Curson to mark the Trust's grant over the last two years to support the Luton Town Community Trust's schools football programme.

The Trust is a charity set up in April 2012 with the objective of encouraging and supporting community projects managed by clubs who are members of the Football Conference. This is done through grant aid and advice.

Projects clubs have been involved in so far include working with young people at risk of offending, supporting health initiatives, cheerleading, music, dance and other arts activities, encouraging volunteering, work with young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), helping different disability groups to play sport, creating educational initiatives for adults and children, work with isolated community groups, green projects, healthy eating and lifestyle and working in partnership with schools to deliver football coaching and other initiatives.

Clubs in the Conference Premier can receive up to a maximum of £20,000 and those in the North and South



### Supporting football clubs and their communities

£15,000 each year. So far, the Trust has awarded grants totalling £2.15m to 68 clubs for over 170 projects costing £5.3m. Community programmes enable clubs to work with local people and provide activities that might not otherwise be available.

This support is made possible by the generous contributions of the Trust's funding partners: the Premier League and the Professional Football Association. In October 2010 both bodies committed an initial three years contribution giving a total fund of £2.4m. They have recently announced that they will be offering funding for a further three years until 2017.

The Hatters Football Development Officer, James Hatch told Talk of the Town: "The Conference Trust Fund has provided fantastic essential support for our free schools visit project and the grant received has enabled well over 100,000 local schoolchildren to receive free PE lessons from the Club in the last two years. We are really grateful for everyone's support."



# reaction

## STRIKER REACHES CENTURY

Andre Gray made his 100th appearance for Luton Town in the 0-0 draw with Salisbury City at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium just over a week ago.

The Town striker who has scored a remarkable 25 goals for the Hatters this season, joins the century club along with the likes of current teammates Mark Tyler, Alex Lawless and Jake Howells.

Centurion Gray will tonight make his 102nd appearance in Town colours and will be looking to improve on his goalscoring ratio for the Hatters, which boasts a goal in every two appearances since his move from Hinckley United.

### Goals

The 22-year-old striker came closest to breaking the deadlock in the 0-0 draw with Salisbury after striking the woodwork in the first half following a cracking 30-yard effort. Gray reflected on the draw with the Whites and was delighted to reach a milestone of appearances with the town.

"I didn't know until before the game that it was my 100th appearance. It has been great for me so far and hopefully I can finish the season strongly and continue to score goals," Gray said following the scoreless draw with Salisbury.

"The lads are frustrated as we are so used to winning now. It is a great point for us and as long as we aren't losing and keep gaining points it's good for us.

"Salisbury were a very stubborn side that are hard to break down at times. We didn't feel like we were under much threat in the game. It was just a case of finding that bit of quality to win the game, but it wasn't to be."

### Difficult

Conditions at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium were difficult for the Town, as John Still's side had to dig deep in order to continue the unbeaten run which now stretches to more than 26 games.

"The conditions weren't the best," continued Gray. "It's a good pitch but it was quite slippery and sticky on the surface due to the shortage of grass. We can't blame the pitch it was just one of them days."

Gray had a chance to win the game in the second half after being put through one-on-one with Will Puddy, but the Whites goalkeeper was out quickly to deny the Town striker.



Andre's record for the Hatters now stands at 52 goals in 101 games

"I was put through and in the end I was stretching for it," said the Town's talisman. "I tried to get as much contact as possible, but I think it came off the defender and went towards the keeper. He came out quite quickly and it was a difficult chance."

### Delighted

Another player who is a part of the century club at the Town is midfielder Alex Lawless. The draw against the Whites saw a return to the starting line-up for the Welshman, and the 28-year-old was delighted to get 90 minutes under his belt.

"I feel good; I've been itching to get back into the team," said the Welshman. "I feel that there are instances on the pitch that if I had of been playing regularly I could of done a bit better. I can take that in over the next six weeks and hopefully continue to play in the side regularly."

# my only luton

## A FAN'S TALE

**MY NAME:** Chris Nicoll **MY AGE:** 64

**MY LOCATION:** Stopsley

**MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN:** I had to wait until 1957 for my first visit to Kenilworth Road. I lived in Wheathampstead and you had to earn your mother's trust before you were able to go on a more regular basis with your friends. In my case this was not until the 1960/61 season. Match day was an exciting adventure. I would get the train from the village to Luton Bute Street Station. I received five shillings (25p) pocket money per week. For this it paid for my rail fare, 1s10d, admission 2s6d, programme 4d, with some left over for a chocolate bar or the Saturday evening sports paper, The Green 'Un. On some Saturdays when I was in credit, a visit to Milk Bar in Bute Street was included while I waited for the sports paper to hit the streets. I would then return home armed with my essential weeks reading, paper and programme. I was able to do this every week; when the first team were away the reserves would be at home. The Football Combination was a very strong league and gave you the opportunity to see 'fringe' players of Luton and also most of the southern based First Division clubs. These games attracted crowds of 2,000 – 5,000 each week. Since this initial period I have seen Luton fall from Division 1 to Division 4, rise again from Division 4 to Division 1, then fall again, eventually being pushed out of the league.

Within the next few years I became an autograph collector, during school holidays I would come and watch the players train. I would get their autographs as the players came into the ground, many of them would walk to the ground. Once they were all changed, the players

and us boys would walk from the ground to Stockingstone Road. As long as we did not make a nuisance of ourselves we were able to watch the sessions and act as ball boys. At the conclusion it was the walk back to Kenilworth Road and then the wait until the players changed to get any further autographs you had missed on their way in. I was to experience this again many years later with my own two sons. At the final training session before Luton played Chelsea at Wembley in the FA Cup semi-final, we were outside the ground getting autographs when David Pleat turned up and invited us inside the ground to watch them train. My boys were able to witness the match preparations for themselves and also to get as many autographs as they required. Once again a special day.

The Soccer Special trains were also the brainchild of the club. You could go anywhere in the country for £1.25. I was able to go to many grounds you would never have had the opportunity to visit. The first trip was to Plymouth. During the course of this venture I only missed a handful of trips. Also as an added bonus the players invariably travelled on this service as well. It is hard to believe in my early years watching Luton the local football scene was a hotbed. The town had many works teams who were very strong, in a few instances players did step up to play professionally for Luton. The Chiltern Youth League supplied many young players both to Luton and many other Football League clubs. The progression of these local players was a great source of pride for the supporters. The other great debate during my years of watching Luton has been the new ground. Ever since I was in short trousers we have been moving. Almost 50 years later we are still at Kenilworth Road. Long may it continue!

**MY FIRST LUTON GAME:** Saturday 30th March 1957 v Chelsea League Division 1. This was a belated birthday treat. My dad worked on Saturdays so my uncle took me to the match. It was my first visit to a stadium to watch a match. I could not believe the number of people (15,083), the colour and the noise. I was hooked from that moment. It would be another two, long years before I would return. The result was 4-0 to Chelsea. Unfortunately in my early years this was something I had to get accustomed to.

**MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME:** This is difficult to choose. Three games spring to mind, they are all FA Cup related. Youngsters nowadays do not understand the FA Cup.



Bob Morton: "Mr Luton"

It was the most important club competition in the world. It was also one of the only live matches that was shown on television, England internationals on Wednesday afternoons being the other. Luton played Blackpool in a sixth round replay on Wednesday 4th March 1959. This attracted their record attendance of 30,069. This time my dad was able to take me as Wednesday was his half day. He also managed to excuse me from school that afternoon. Obviously space was at a premium inside the ground. I was passed over heads to the front and allowed to sit on the sand track around the pitch in the corner of the Bobbers Stand/ Kenilworth Road Terrace. What a day, what a game. We won 1-0, Allan Brown scored. My claim to fame happened during the game, Stanley Matthews trod on my feet whilst taking a corner.

The other two games mentioned earlier were against Nottingham Forest on Thursday 9th April, an FA Cup Final rehearsal, Luton won 5-1 and dreams of winning the FA Cup were now becoming a possible reality. Finally the biggest game of all, little Luton in the FA Cup Final. Somehow my dad managed to get a couple of tickets for the final. A magical day for the whole town of Luton but was to end in disappointment. I had convinced myself that Luton would win especially after the earlier 5-1 win. A harsh lesson for me learn.

**MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL:** Scott Oakes v Derby County in 1994. Luton were down to 10 men and drawing 1-1 when Scott dribbled from inside his own half, seemed to take on the whole Derby defence and then finished it with a powerful shot. I do recall Graham French scoring a similar goal but am not sure when it was or who it was against.

### MOST TREASURED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION:

Over the years I have accumulated hundreds upon hundreds of Luton programmes and autographs. Most have been given away or sold due to lack of space. I do have a handful left that are special to me. The most important possession I have are my memories. They can never leave me.

Andy Jones

### MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI:

**Goalkeeper - Ron Bayham:** We have always had good goalkeepers, the best by far and an England international.

**Right-back - John Ryan:** As with a lot of our players did not make it with a top club. The fastest full back I have seen with a fierce shot.

**Centre-back - Terry Branston:** Not the best centre half, but Luton's best ever captain.

**Centre-back - Mal Donaghy:** Pure class, never seemed to get injured, very consistent.

**Left-back - Bobby Thomson:** A footballing full-back, stylish and a former England international.



The Town FA Cup final team of 1959

**Right-wing - Graham French:** The world was his oyster. He could have been in the same bracket as George Best. Did not make use of his exceptional skills.

**Inside forward - Bob Morton:** Mr Luton, was excellent in midfield and centre forward. This also was his problem, if he had specialised in one position he would surely have played for England.

**Inside forward - Bruce Rioch:** First came across this youngster when he played for his school team at my school. His reputation even then preceded him with a record crowd for a school game in attendance. Outstanding player for Luton, always destined for bigger things.

**Left-wing - David Moss:** Wizard of wing play, weighed in with many goals.

**Forward - Gordon Turner:** One club man and our record goal scorer. Never quite understood why he was left out of the Cup Final team, criminal. Another who would have played for England if he was at a more fashionable club.

**Forward - Malcolm Macdonald:** Another cast-off from a bigger club. Bought as a left back converted to a centre forward and the rest as they say is history. The most exciting player ever in my time supporting Luton, never scored a simple goal they were all special.

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

I still get the same sense of excitement as I walk up Hazelbury Crescent. With Luton you never know what to expect. With the exception of this season, games you expected to win were lost, the games you expected to lose were either won or they performed really well. That sums Luton up during my 57 years of support, in victory or defeat you always came away entertained. We have always remained a small, friendly, approachable club, even when with the big boys in Division 1. Let's hope we can continue our climb once more through the Football League come next season. COYH.

# from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

## CAMBRIDGE AWAY: ALL BECAUSE OF HIM

Down an alley along a country path to a cow shed terrace on the way out of Cambridge. For 89 minutes, the brooding frustrations of old: then suddenly pandemonium.

With nearby pubs bolted shut like a seaside town preparing for a tsunami, the away areas of Cambridge's Abbey Stadium were strangely full a good 10 minutes before kick-off. Surely a Luton record.

The U's mascot, a grown man sporting the over-sized head of what looked like a cartoon dog that had lost a fight, lifted his shirt to reveal a "Why always me?" T-shirt and waved-on the traditional volley of abuse. Fitting perhaps.

Fitting because the air of Cambridge-as-victim would hang heavy atop the corrugated iron and scaffold of the Abbey tonight; victims of our superior financial clout and fan base. Victims of the success of the team "down the road". Or so we thought.

Because without threatening Tyler too much, the team in Amber looked unnervingly confident on the ball and largely got the better of our young upstarts in the middle of the park. The Guttridge shaped hole glared almost as brightly from the pitch as if his shiny dome had been on there.

The ease by which we've brushed teams aside in recent months means we're less used to an even contest, and so the sense that we were being given more than a run for our money was exaggerated perhaps. Speaking of Money, with deep banks of four swelled by the imposing Elliott, the manager's tactics were sound and the team's resolve strong. For 89 minutes...

At one nil down a hint of mild panic crept across the Cambridgeshire night. Though this may not have been "a mustn't lose" game in the mathematical sense,

for the massed ranks of Hatters who had braved the queues and the engaged tones to get a ticket, losing this lot would more than stick in the craw. But we don't panic on the terraces anymore, because we've got a not-so-secret weapon.

Standing just in front of his dugout across the pitch, a man dressed all in black, like an effortlessly wily old Milk Tray Man too enraptured with passion for his work to ever retire, took it all in.

Off went Howells, who had been flying in the last month. Then Pelly, Still's big signing from his bit-on-the-side West Ham. Next he took off the league's top scorer, Gray, at a time when the desperation for a goal had left those of us in the Habbin Stand hoarse just 50 or 60 yards away.

The sound of the lonely drummer from the home end began to throb quietly like a vein in 2,200-odd Lutonian foreheads as cross after cross was cleared by Cambridge's lean and lanky back four; the referee playfully adding to the tension with hilarious decision after mindboggling call.

Then suddenly, unbelievably...relief.

From the jaws of defeat the persistent crossing of Henry finally found a proud Luton forehead, and on the stroke of 90, McGeehan nodded down for Cullen who spun like a rabid David Platt-a-like to volley it home. Two thousand journeys home rescued.

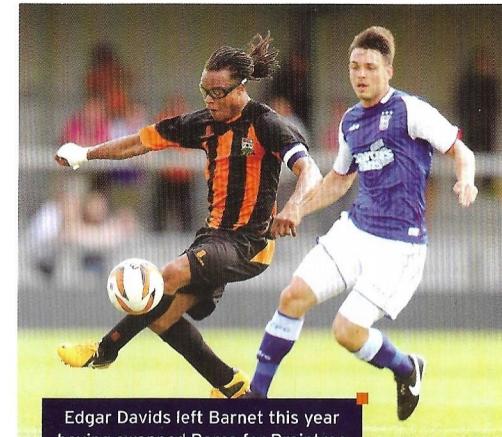
The finest sight and sound in football followed: the singing and pogo-ing continued to the final whistle and long into the night. I kissed a man, maybe two.

In the away end, as the weekly lap of honour approached, all eyes were fixed on Luton Town's John Still. Because as our heart rates recovered and the distant drummer retired, we were certain that it was all because of him.

# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

WITH STEVEN CONEY



Edgar Davids left Barnet this year having swapped Barca for Braintree

Another week and another managerial departure in the Skrill Premier - albeit one that was entirely avoidable and predictable.

The Andy Thorn experiment at Kidderminster was ended after 54 days with Harriers slipping down the league table and in danger of missing out on the Play-Offs.

That the club decided to sack Steve Burr back in January was bizarre enough but they then committed the ultimate sin – appointing a man with no Non-League experience.

Thom is obviously well respected throughout the game and was scouting for Roy Hodgson ahead of this summer's World Cup. But did he have any real knowledge of Non-League prior to his Aggborough appointment?

This seems to happen time and time again yet clubs don't seem to be learning from each other's mistakes.

When Stockport County's rapid decline led them into Non-League, they pinned their hopes on Dietmar Hamann.

A fantastic footballer with top level experience no doubt, but a Non-League manager? Not surprisingly, he lasted just the four months before resigning.

And then last season the Hatters did it all over again. Mid way through the season they appointed Darije Katicic as their boss.

On paper he was as impressive as you can get. A Dutch Second Division winner with De Graafschap and then a manager in the Belgian top-tier with Zulte Waregem. He has since taken over as reserve team boss at PSV Eindhoven so he's no mug. But he didn't know Non-League.

After Katicic's departure, County vice chairman Spencer Fearn said: "Despite Darije having excellent qualities and being a top quality coach the move, for a number of reasons, just hasn't worked out how either party had envisaged." Quite.

Barnet are another decent example although the Bees have done well on their return to Non-League despite the Edgar Davids sideshow.

The 'will he? won't he?' attend debacle that followed every Barnet away game was farcical but a lot of players have spoken about his positive influence on the club.

Davids resigned back in January but did anybody really expect a man who had played for Ajax, Juventus, Barcelona and Inter Milan to relish away trips to Braintree and Hyde?

At least Barnet had a man who knows Non-League like the back of his hand in Paul Fairclough to steer the ship in the right direction.

And what makes these errors even more frustrating is the amount of good Non-League bosses without jobs.

When openings outside the League crop up, the same names seem to be circulated – and all with good reason.

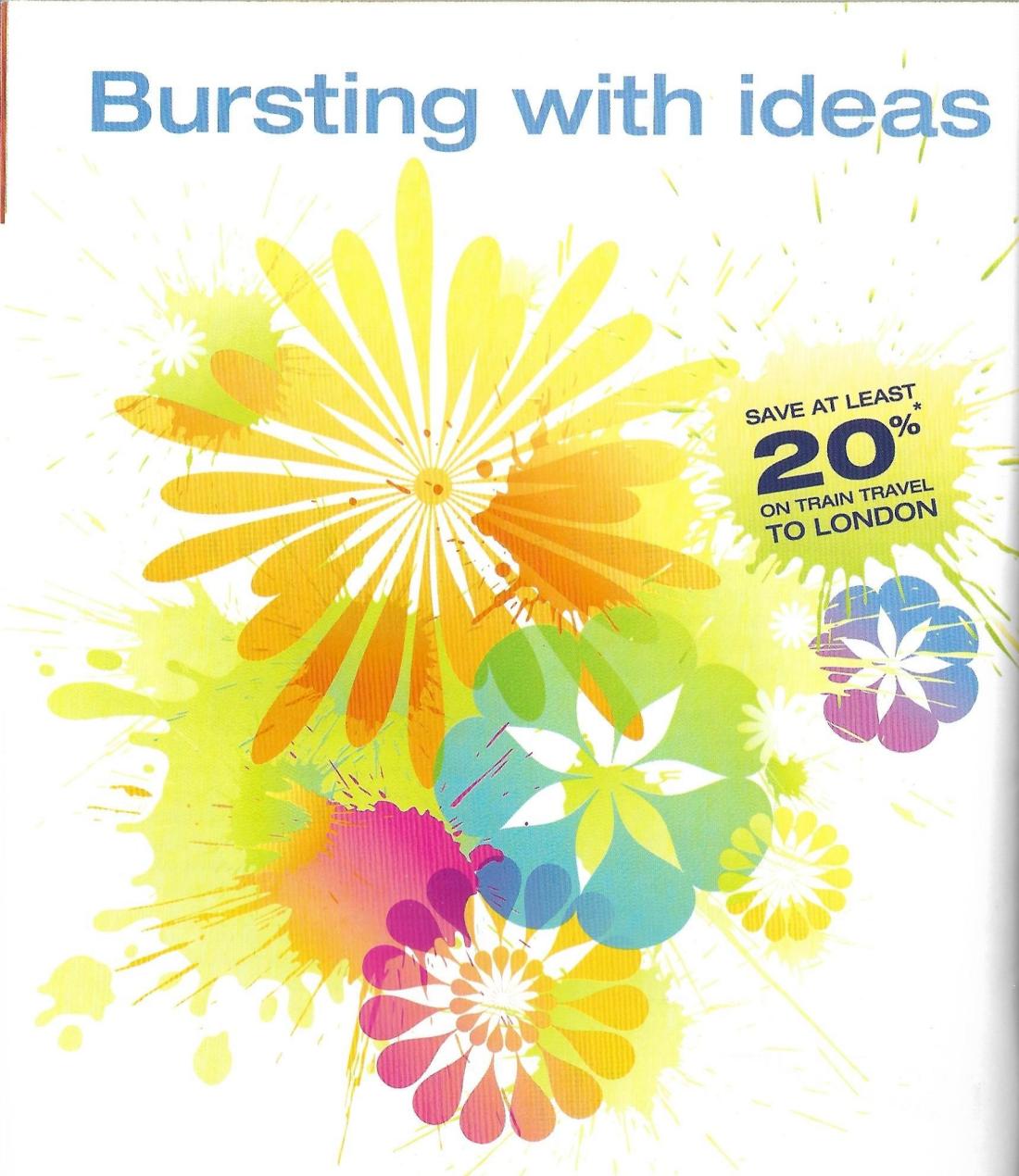
Gary Brabin has experience at the top of the Non-League game with Cambridge United and Luton and has been out of the game for a while, much like Hyde's Conference North winning chief Gary Lowe.

Marcus Law had a phenomenal record with Barwell and then continued his education at Kettering and Tamworth while former Barrow boss Dave Bayliss is an FA Trophy winning manager.

Despite the amount of capable names on the market, clubs are still falling into the trap of so called 'high profile' appointments.

And if you really need the proof of what Non-League experience can do, go down to Kenilworth Road. Would the Hatters swap John Still for a flashy appointment from the continent? I doubt it!

# Bursting with ideas



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# league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

The Hatters remain clear at the top of the Skrill Premier after Mark Cullen's last gasp equaliser at Cambridge last Tuesday night made sure the U's were kept at bay.

Cullen's 90th minute strike at the Abbey Stadium ensured that Cambridge did not make up any ground on the Town in the league standings and stretched the Hatters unbeaten run to 27 games.

The Town's late equaliser also meant that third placed Alfreton Town closed the gap on the U's to just a single point. Alfreton emerged 3-0 winners at home to Hyde to keep their hopes of a Play-Off spot alive, in what is a remarkable season for the part-time side.

Last week's set of fixtures saw Nuneaton Town move into a top five spot with back-to-back wins over Welling United and Tamworth, after 2-0 and 1-0 wins respectively. The Boro leapfrogged Barnet in the league standings as the Bees moved down to fifth place after back-to-back home losses to Woking and Gateshead.

Braintree are one of the current form sides in the league standings. Having played fewer games than any other team in the league, with 31, the Iron could make a late push for promotion during the remaining of the season. Alan Devonshire's side picked up a tremendous six points last week after beating a strong Wrexham side 3-0 at home last Tuesday and winning 2-0 away at

Forest Green just two days later, as the Iron try to make up ground on the teams above them.

Other sides lingering just outside of the top five are Gateshead, Halifax and Grimsby. Halifax are the second most in-form team at home, second to the Town, following Cambridge's slip up against the Hatters last Tuesday night. Halifax have only lost once at home this season which is an impressive record. The Town visit the Shay later this month.

With the season coming to a close, nobody can predict who will finish inside the top five. At the start of the season, fans everywhere would have predicted that both Forest Green and Wrexham would be inside a Play-Off spot at this point of the season. However, Wrexham sit in a disappointing 16th position, but are by no means out of contention as they sit just 10 points off a top five spot. Forest Green, meanwhile sit in 13th

position, but have games in hand over teams ahead.

At the other end of the table, a number of sides could be in danger of facing the drop.

With Hyde a firm favourite to finish rock bottom at the end of the season, three more sides will have to join them. Tamworth picked up a vital win at home to Aldershot last week to make sure that the Shots were dragged back into a relegation scrap. The Shots responded by beating Chester 2-0 last Tuesday to keep their hopes of survival alive.



Scott McNiven's Hyde suffered relegation last week

## LEADING GOALSCORERS

Gray (Luton)	<b>25</b>
Gregory (FC Halifax)	<b>23</b>
Williams (Aldershot)	<b>20</b>
Jamison (Lincoln)	<b>16</b>
Benson (Luton)	<b>15</b>
Norwood (FGR)	<b>15</b>
Moult (Nuneaton)	<b>14</b>
Burridge (Luton)	<b>13</b>

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town	<b>6,916</b>	Woking	1,410
Grimsby Town	3,439	Nuneaton Town	1,233
Wrexham	3,182	Dartford	1,167
Cambridge	3,154	Forest Green Rovers	1,156
Lincoln City	2,359	Southport	1,018
Chester	2,248	Braintree Town	996
Kidderminster	2,059	Salisbury City	979
Aldershot Town	1,916	Tamworth	975
Barnet	1,749	Alfreton Town	790
Hereford United	1,674	Welling	774
Macclesfield Town	1,530	Gateshead	720
Halifax	1,441	Hyde	628

## TOMORROW'S FIXTURES

Aldershot v Kidderminster
Alfreton v Tamworth
Braintree v Lincoln
Cambridge v Welling
Chester v Southport
Forest Green v Grimsby
Macclesfield v Barnet
Wrexham v Hereford



# hold the back page

WITH DIVERSE FM'S JOE FLEMONS

**It's a phrase coined by every football pundit in the country: "Champions win games when they're not at their best".**

Granted, the Hatters didn't win the game on Tuesday against Cambridge, but you try telling Mark Cullen and the thousands in the terrace that his goal in the dying seconds didn't feel like a winner.

It wasn't just a point, it was a statement. I was lucky enough to be in attendance and John Still hit the nail on the head in his post-match interview when he said it was the fans and players as a collective that won us that point on Tuesday night.

I'm sure I wasn't the only one who left the ground without a voice that night and the drive home was incomparable to anything else with only one thought ringing through my mind... We're nearly there.

No one said it was easy, however, it certainly felt it for a while when we were scoring five plus on a regular basis, but with every hard earned point, the 'P' word gets a little bit closer to the lips of every Hatter in the world.

The home form has been ruthless. Perfection is a word that is overused in modern football, nothing can be without fault, but I certainly can't find one with the recent performances here at the Kenny.

A fortress some might say. Others will probably call it a torture chamber after our recent dismantlements of Hereford, Wrexham and Tamworth but to frequent another footballing phrase, "attackers win you matches, defenders win you championships".

It's tough to pick a stand-out performer from the back-line because they've all been virtually faultless, as our goals against column will prove, but for me, Scott Griffiths has epitomised everything positive about Luton's defensive stance.

I'm struggling to remember a tackle he has mistimed this season. He certainly didn't on Tuesday. Every time

he went to ground he emerged with the ball and then had the positivity to surge forward, which gives us yet another attacking option, if we were ever short.

It's that tenacity in the tackle and passion in his all around play that has seen the fans take to him so warmly. All we ever really want from players is to earn the shirt and work hard don't we?...Well, that and a bit of silverware wouldn't go a miss if its there for the taking...

That has been the staple of John Still's team this season. Every player works hard for 90 minutes and that's something we as fans will never tire of seeing.

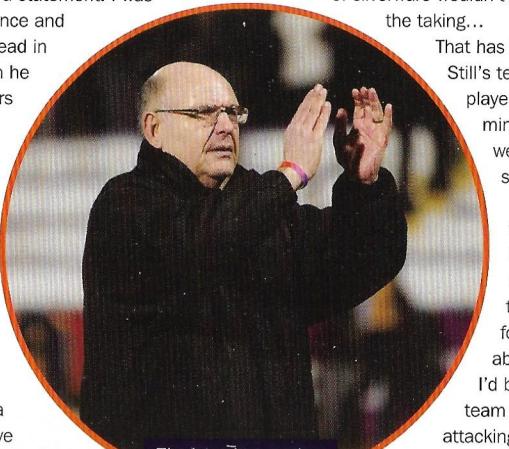
Offensively, Andre Gray's form in front of goal has been nothing short of mesmeric and not only is the page not big enough for me to talk about his ability and influence, but I'd be doing the rest of the team an injustice by singling his attacking threat out as our only source of goals.

You see a lot of teams lose ground after Christmas. Not to poke fun, but Cambridge are a prime example. The chant that hit home most on Tuesday night was probably the one reminding them of their earlier points advantage over us in the league... The language isn't really appropriate for a matchday programme but I'm sure you can fill in the gaps.

This shows the potential of this squad and the ambition of the football club. The mix of youthful exuberance and experienced know-how has blended supremely to make the 'John Still Promotion cocktail' we now call Luton Town Football Club.

We now head into the final few games of the season quoting "control the controllables" as our new team mantra meanwhile our opponents head into the game with our boys are quoting "Beat the Unbeatables".

Our time is coming, and it won't be much longer until we are back where we belong. COYH.



**The boss has made a "promotion cocktail"**

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# tonight's teams



## LUTON TOWN

1	Mark Tyler	20	David Viana
2	Fraser Franks	21	Luke Guttridge
3	Danny Fitzsimons	22	Shaun Whalley
4	Jonathan Smith	23	Matt Robinson
5	Steve McNulty	24	Jernade Meade
6	Anthony Charles	25	Ronnie Henry
7	Alex Lawless	26	Paul Benson
8	Solomon Taiwo	27	Andre Gray
9	Jon Shaw	28	Jim Stevenson
10	Alex Wall	29	Kane Ferdinand
11	Jake Howells	30	Alex Lacey
12	Scott Griffiths	31	Jake Woolley
13	Mark Cullen	32	Brett Longden
14	Andy Parry	33	Jerome Jibodu
16	Elliot Justham	34	Zane Banton
17	JJ O'Donnell	39	Ian Rees
18	Dave Martin	43	Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu
19	Cameron McGeehan		



## WOKING

1	Aaron Howe	17	Niall Wright
2	Adan Newton	18	Sam Beasant
3	John Nutter	20	Josh Payne
4	Mark Ricketts	21	Scott Rendell
5	Joe McNerney	22	John Goddard
6	Brett Johnson	24	Will Salmon
10	Giuseppe Sole	25	Jack Marriott
11	Kevin Betsy	26	Kieran Murtagh
14	Anthony McNamee	28	Joe Jones
15	Mike Cestor	34	Reece Beckles
16	George Frith		

Referee: **C. Kavanagh** | Assistant: **A. Neil** | Assistant: **R. Cox** | Fourth official: **R. Atkin**

## HERE NEXT

## v CHESTER FC

SATURDAY 22nd MARCH 2014 • 3PM

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