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# TOWN TALK



**vs Luton Town**

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# micky mellan



The recent games have shown us the importance of the work we did on player recruitment during the summer and pre-season.

**W**e knew we wanted a type of player who could play the way we want but they also have to be the right type of player to fit the group.

We knew we would need to build a team of first team players who could back up the group and be ready when the chance came.

The players that have come in to cover injuries and suspensions have done well and it goes to show we have a squad of first team players rather than just a first team.

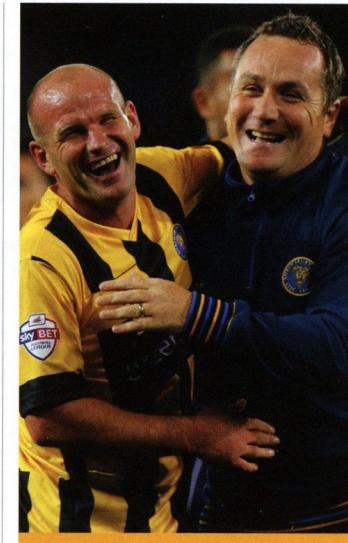
Last weekend's trip to Northampton once again showed the battling spirit that we have within the group. We were disappointed to be undone late on but believe that we gained more than a point as we learnt that these lads will fight and dig in for the football club.

This will be so important over the season as we will be tested and challenged all the way through to the end.

Every game will be a different challenge but these players have shown they are willing to take that challenge on and that they have the spirit to achieve.

The Capital One Cup game away to Leicester on Tuesday night was a great result for the football club, for the chairman, for the players and for the fans.

We went there with the intention of winning the game and on the night



**"The Capital One Cup game away to Leicester on Tuesday night was a great result for the football club, for the chairman, for the players and for the fans."**

thoroughly deserved to get the result against a Premier League side.

That result is just one in isolation and careers are defined over the whole of the season and not on one result. We will enjoy the win over Leicester as we deserved it but we now move on and focus on today's important game.

We have all set our standards high. The challenge is now to maintain those and attack the next challenge which will be Luton Town. It will be a tough one and a different type of game and one where we must be able to meet that challenge.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to John Still and all those connected with Luton Town who have made the trip today.

It will be good to see Stephen McNulty who was my captain at Fleetwood Town during our time together there. He is a great captain and someone who I shared so many great times with at Fleetwood and I'm really pleased and proud that he is doing so well and carrying that on.

I think it's important that once again I finish with a big thank you to the fans for their support in the recent games.

At Northampton you stayed with us all the way through the game and at Leicester the vocal support and atmosphere you created made the win even more special. ■

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# club news

## Junior Shrews Treated To Gaming Afternoon

**Junior Shrewsbury Town supporters were treated to an afternoon of video gaming outside the Greenhous Meadow.**

The young fans got to take on some of Micky Mellon's first-team players, including Captain Liam Lawrence and goalkeeper Mark Halstead, thanks to a visit from the Console Heaven company.

Town also donated prizes to the winners of a FIFA tournament for the juniors, arranged by Console Heaven.

Console Heaven is the ultimate gaming van, with their van being fully customised with full surround sound, air conditioning, HD TV's, Xbox's, Playstation's and Wii U's.

They are the only gaming van in the UK with outside screens and work in partnership with GAME, enabling them to supply any games to suit all age ranges.

Stan Kay, from Console Heaven, said: "It's a new concept that has been brought over from the United States. It's the only one we know of in the Midlands and it's also the only one with outdoor facilities.

"We have four 42 inch screens inside the van and two 40 inch screens outside. It's a great team-building experience for Shrewsbury Town Football Club.

"It's good of the Club to give us this opportunity."

Town skipper Lawrence enjoyed getting involved: "The kids will remember it for a long time and it's good to see the smiles on their faces," he said.



## Academy Physio Joins The Tour Of Britain

**Wayne Peter, one of the Shrewsbury Town Academy physiotherapists, has become part of the Team Rayleigh cycling team for their challenge of the Tour Of Britain.**

Wayne will be swapping his football duties to take care and help out with the elite cyclists as they look to win one the UK's biggest professional cycle races. He will be one of the team's physiotherapists but will also be chipping in with the water bottles, nutritional needs and catering for the cyclist before, during and after the race.

It's a great opportunity for Giggsy and one that he is really looking forward too: "I'm a big cycling fan so it's a great opportunity for me and I can't wait to get involved."

"The profile of cycling over the last few years has continued to increase especially with the likes of Wiggins, Cavendish and Froome, the sport has become massive."

"I'll be starting this weekend with them at the Newport Nocturne so I can meet everyone and get a feeling for the team."

"After that we'll travel over to Ipswich for the Elite Rider series to take part in that. It is a series which takes place all over the year and one of the riders, Yanto Barker, is currently leading that and can come out as overall winner."

"After that the Tour of Britain starts next Sunday in Liverpool and runs over seven days finally finishing in London."

"Stage 3 actually starts in Newtown which is my hometown so it will be nice to be part of the Tour there."

After seeing that the Tour of Britain was passing through Newtown, Wayne asked if he could have a look around on the day

and see how things worked. In the end his cheeky email has landed him a place on the Team Rayleigh staff: "As the Tour was coming through Newtown I sent off a speculative email to a few of the teams to see if I could get into the paddock and see how things work on the physio side during an elite road race."

"I was very surprised to get an email back saying get in touch and then to be asked to be involved with Team Rayleigh."

Working as a physio for the Shrewsbury Town Academy and with Welsh Premier side Newtown, Wayne is used to dealing with football injuries. The demands of cycling will be a little different with different problems and preparations needed: "Cycling focuses a bit more on the lower body and is more about the repetitive nature of the cycling technique, whereas in football you have a lot more injuries that you can pick up."

"You don't tend to see too many injuries from cycling other than the ones that people pick up when they come off and crash."

"I know I'm there if that happens but it will be more about general maintenance of the cyclists through the race, through the evenings and pre-race massage before they go out."

He has been part of the Academy staff for a while and worked with the likes of Connor Goldson, Ryan Woods and Jon Taylor. It is something he enjoys and is thankful for the Club for allowing him to join the Tour: "I'm honoured to be part of the Shrewsbury Town medical team and I've got to thank the club for giving me the chance."



"They've believed in me and given me the opportunity and if wasn't for the likes of Skitt, Pellow, Steve Reece and everyone else I wouldn't be in this position to help out Team Rayleigh."

"They've also given me the opportunity to go on the tour as I will have to miss a few matches."

## Shirts On Holiday

Today's picture is of **Chris @Chris\_Pearsall** wearing the current home shirt on a recent trip to Apoel Nicosia in Cyprus.





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## division round-up

**C**heltenham Town staged a fight-back to stay in touch with League Two leaders Morecambe.

Mark Yates' side have now won three out of their four games to stay within two points of top spot Cheltenham came back from 2-0 down at half-time to maintain their unbeaten league start with a 3-2 victory over Tranmere Rovers on Saturday.

It has been a decent start for Cheltenham with wins over Bury and Accrington Stanley, along with a goalless draw against Carlisle.

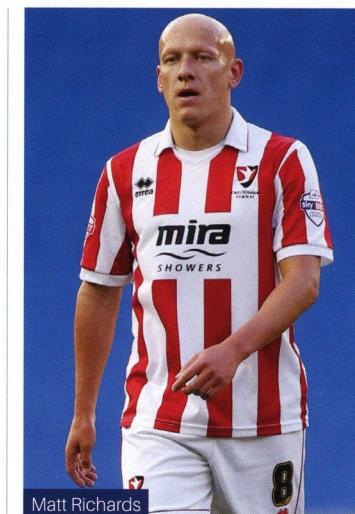
However, they endured a difficult opening 45 minutes at Prenton Park as Eliot Richards and Marc Laird gave the hosts a two-goal cushion at the break.

But Tranmere had picked up just four points from their opening three games and they looked unconvincing as they lost their advantage in the second half.

Three goals in the space of just six minutes from Matt Richards, Koby Arthur and Jordan Wynter sealed victory for the visitors.

Morecambe are the only team still with a 100 per cent record in the Football League this term.

Paul Mullin's brace at Cambridge gave Morecambe their fourth straight win and put them top of League Two.



Matt Richards

Portsmouth are second in League Two after Craig Westcarr's goal ten minutes from time helped them see off winless Oxford United while Burton Albion's winning start ended at Newport County.

Michael Appleton will not have enjoyed losing points to his former club as his poor start continues at the Kassam.

Burton are without a point in four league matches.

Burton remain unbeaten following a 1-1 draw at Newport.

Chris Zebroski's first-half opener looked to have condemned the visitors to defeat but John Mousinho levelled six minutes after the break to keep Burton unbeaten.

The draw ensures Newport are off the mark with their first point of the season while Accrington were able to do the same against Luton Town.

However, James Beattie will likely wonder whether his side could have taken maximum points, having led 2-0 after 16 minutes through James Gray and Luke Joyce.

Luton drew level before the break courtesy of Luke Rooney and Jake



James Beattie

Team	P	PTS
1 Morecambe	4	12
2 Portsmouth	4	10
3 Cheltenham	4	10
4 Burton	4	10
5 Wycombe	4	9
6 <b>Shrewsbury</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
7 Bury	4	7
8 Southend	4	7
9 Wimbledon	4	7
10 Dag & Red	4	6
11 Mansfield	4	6
12 Luton	4	5
13 Northampton	4	5
14 Plymouth	4	4
15 Tranmere	4	4
16 York	4	4
17 Cambridge	4	4
18 Stevenage	4	4
19 Hartlepool	4	3
20 Carlisle	4	2
21 Exeter	4	2
22 Newport	4	1
23 Accrington	4	1
24 Oxford Utd	4	0

Howells to atone for their side's poor start.

York City drew for a fourth consecutive game as Keith Lowe equalised late on against Exeter City.

A debut goal from Charlie Wyke helped Hartlepool United see off his former club AFC Wimbledon 2-1 as Wycombe Wanderers and Dagenham and Redbridge overcame Stevenage and Mansfield Town respectively.

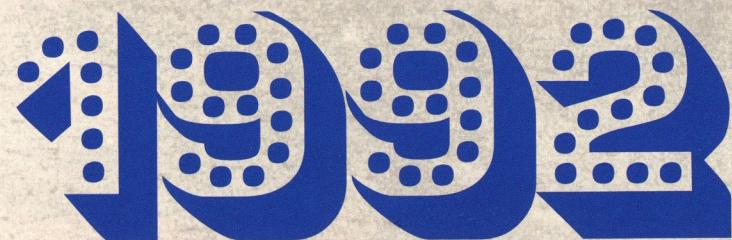
And a goal apiece from Antony Sweeney and Conor Clifford ensured the points were shared between Carlisle United and Southend United at Brunton Park, while Bury were too strong for Plymouth Argyle in their 2-1 win.

Enjoy the match.

**Come on Muckers!**

Follow me on Twitter:  
**@adamcalverley**

## IN THIS YEAR...



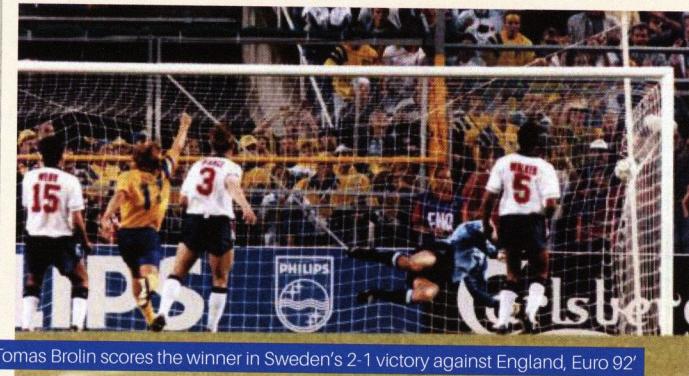
Words: Christian Brown



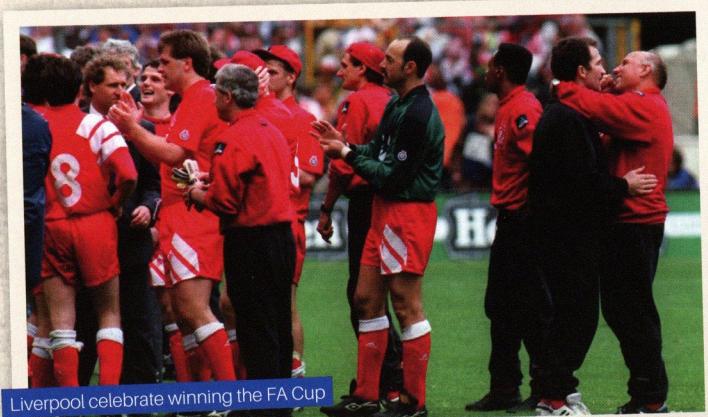
On the 18th December 1992, Shrewsbury centre back Connor Goldson was born. Having come through the ranks at Shrewsbury, since 2010 he has made 63 league appearances for the club, with two goals to his name.

Last season, he spent some time on loan at Cheltenham Town, but returned due to an injury crisis. Following Liam Lawrence's absence against Blackpool in the Capital One Cup this year, the 21-year old took the captain's armband as Town overcame the Championship outfit 1-0. Talk of the Town looks at other notable events which happened during the year of 1992.

In football, England had a horrendous time at Euro 92, finishing bottom of their group on goals scored following goalless draws with France



Tomas Brolin scores the winner in Sweden's 2-1 victory against England, Euro 92'



Liverpool celebrate winning the FA Cup

and Denmark, before losing 2-1 to Sweden. Sweden topped the group with Denmark - who would later go on to remarkably win the tournament - finishing second. Domestically, the 1991/92 First Division season ended with Leeds United winning the league by four points, with Manchester United having to settle for second place. Today's opponents Luton Town were relegated that season, along with Notts County and West Ham United.

That would be the last time winning the First Division meant winning the best league in England, as the Premier League came into

force for the 1992/93 year. Teddy Sheringham scored the first ever Premier League goal on Sky Sports as Nottingham Forest beat Liverpool 1-0 at The City Ground in August, as the soon to be global brand started off. A few months earlier, Liverpool had won the FA Cup after defeating Sunderland 2-0 thanks to goals from Michael Thomas and Ian Rush. In Europe, Barcelona won their first European Cup after beating Sampdoria 1-0 at Wembley - and no less than four future Premier League managers played that day, with Michael Laudrup, Ronald Koeman, Gianluca Vialli, and Roberto Mancini featuring. Current Bayern Munich boss Pep Guardiola also played.

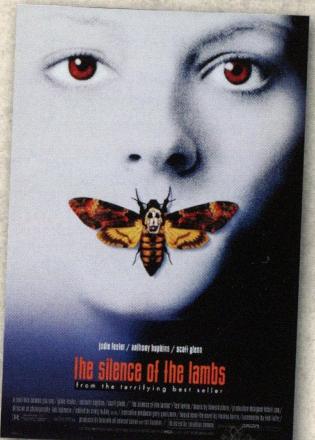
In music, Nirvana played their last ever gig in the UK when they headlined Reading Festival in August. Frontman Kurt Cobain came onto the stage being pushed in a wheelchair, making light of reports of his mental



Barcelona celebrate their first European Cup Win



Elton John and Axl Rose perform at the Freddie Mercury Tribute concert



health in the press. 1992 also saw the Freddie Mercury Tribute concert at Wembley Stadium, where the remaining members of Queen played alongside huge names in music such as Elton John, David Bowie and Robert Plant as they raised money for the Mercury Phoenix Trust AIDS charity organisation. 90's favourites Ebeneezer Goode by The Shamen and Snap's Rhythm is a Dancer both hit Number One, while Whitney Houston's cover of 'I Will Always Love You' was the only single that sold over a million records in the UK.

Elsewhere, The Silence of the Lambs won five Oscars including Best Picture, Director, Actor and Actress, while South Africans voted in favour of political reforms which brought an end to apartheid, Bill Clinton was elected as US President, the first text message was sent in the UK over Vodafone's network, and children's television star Barney made his TV debut.

# andy mangan

Andy Mangan, 27, has started the season well with three goals and four solid performances. The 27 year old is determined to continue the good form to thank manager Micky Mellon for bringing him here.

**T**he Liverpudlian is starting to feel back at home playing football after a tough 12 months at Forest Green. He is very experienced in the lower leagues and is confident that Town have the ability to get promoted up to League one.

The striker who is in great form is happy with the great start and hopes to kick on this season to put as many points on the board as they can.

He has quickly settled at the Greenhous Meadow and just wants to keep up the hard work to gain a first team place.

Mangan said: "It feels like home - I have nothing but thanks and respect to the gaffer for bringing me here. He has given me another opportunity and I hope to repay him with good performances and goals."

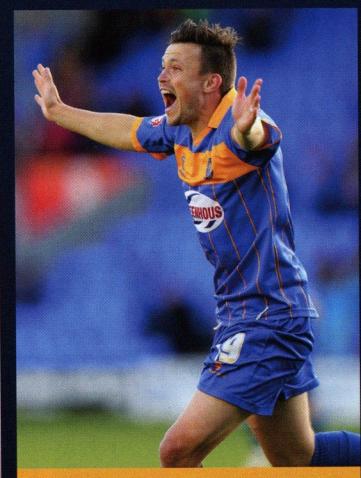
The pair knew each other already from their time at Fleetwood Town and Mangan believes this has helped him to settle into life as a Shrewsbury Town player. By scoring early goals he will soon become a favourite with the fans. This will also help him to settle into the club.

Mangan has high hopes for the season and is eager to continue to fight for promotion. After going down to 10 men away to Northampton early on it shows that the squad will fight for each other to gain points and that they are willing to work hard for one another.

Working together as a unit will be a huge influence in the success of the

club this year. As a new squad it is important to gel together to grind out results.

The former Fleetwood striker said: "The squad and the whole unit are fighting for promotion to League one.



**"It feels like home - I have nothing but thanks and respect to the gaffer for bringing me here."**

We have a fantastic squad with great quality and the team spirit is very high which is vital. The manager and his coaching staff are pushing us harder and harder in training. But we will still need that little bit of luck at some point in the season that every teams needs to get promotion.

The home form will be key this season. We need to make the home ground a fortress. We want teams to be afraid to come here because they will be scared of getting a good battering. Getting 16/17 home wins a season should get enough points on the board to help with the promotion push." Mangan views come after the 4-0 victory against Accrington Stanley in which the forward bagged two goals.

"The confident within the squad is extremely high and beating Championship side Blackpool has helped massively. We are working hard as a unit and will continue to do so."

The training sessions have been demanding and with the new squad being built over the summer, Mellon has added to the squad with quality experienced players.

There are a lot of changes that the gaffer can go with for forward options and it is important we all stay focussed on getting as many points as possible."

It is important for the squad to now stay consistent and not get carried away with the flying start they have had - there is still a lot of hard work to do. ■



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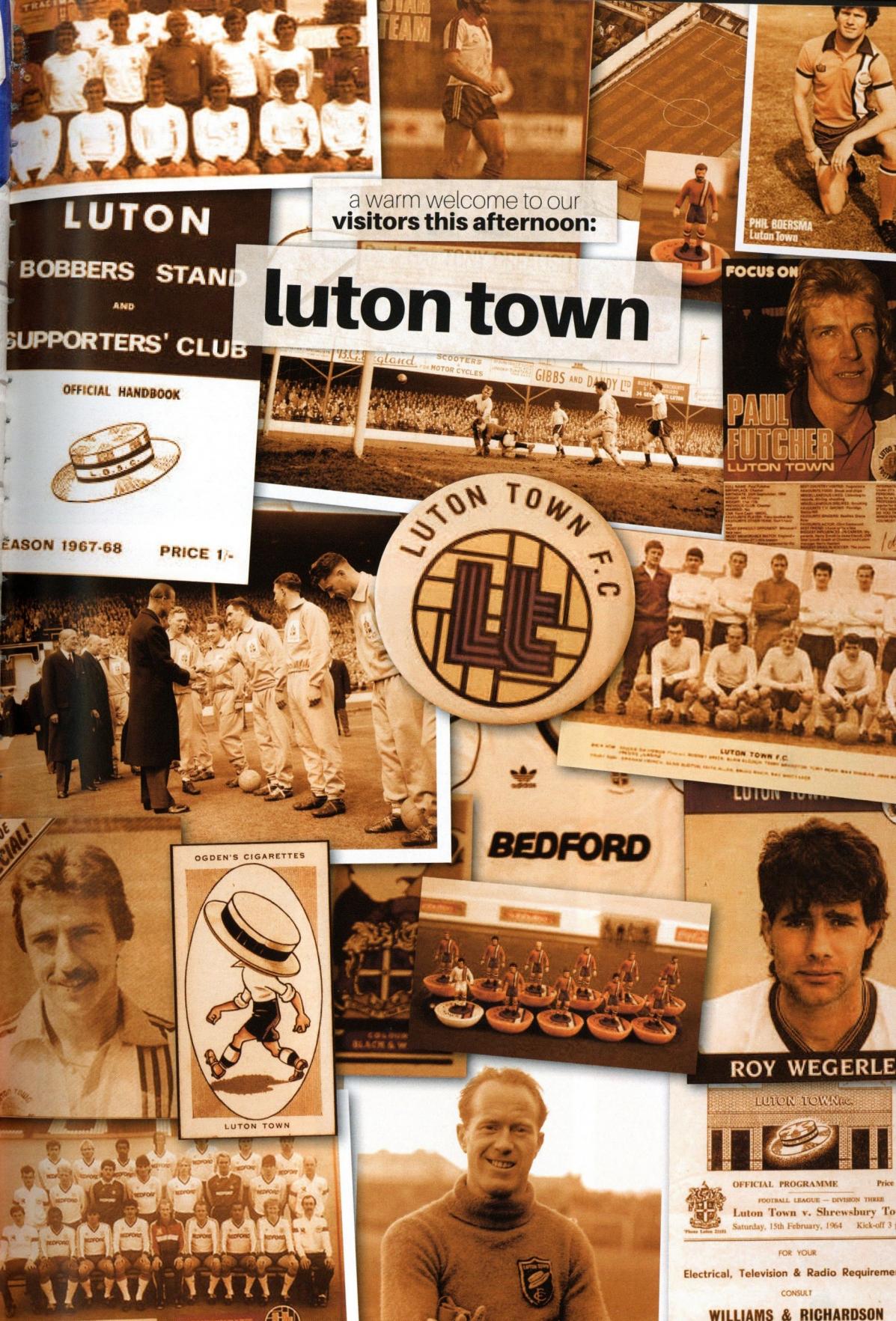
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**Club:** Luton Town FC  
**Established:** 1885  
**Manager:** John Still  
**Stadium:** Kenilworth Road  
**Capacity:** 10,356  
**Best League Position:**  
Seventh Division One - 1986/87  
**Twitter Followers:** 22,773  
**Facebook Likes:** 46,678

## that's a fact

■ Luton Town have called Kenilworth Road home for over 100 years. They started their footballing life at the Excelsior Ground and then a short spell at Dunstable Road before the move to Kenilworth in 1905.

■ One of the club's most famous days was a 3-2 League Cup Final victory at Wembley against Arsenal. The Hatters were trailing 2-1 before a late equaliser and an even later winner by club legend Brian Stein.

■ Comedian Eric Morecambe is one of the club's famous fans. He is greatly appreciated at the club where he has his own suite. Nick Owen, another famous face is the chairman of the club.

■ Luton Town's largest attendance was a Sixth Round FA Cup where a crowd of 30,069 squeezed into the ground to see the Hatters play their FA Cup replay against Blackpool where the Hatters defeated their Lancashire rivals.

## opposition dossier: luton town



### last five managers:



#### john still

February 2013 - Present

#### paul buckle

April 2012 - February 2013

The early reign of former Shrewsbury Town manager Paul Buckle looked positive. A Play off final defeat by York was probably the low point and high point. The following season saw the Hatters drop too many points and with promotion looking unlikely, the club turned to John Still in early 2013.



#### gary brabin

March 2011 - March 2012

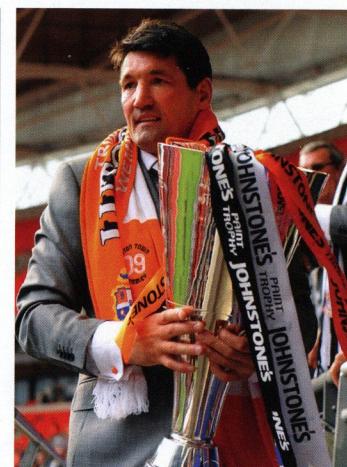
Gary Brabin took over the club following Richard Money's departure but it was another reign that promised more than it delivered at a club that expects more than battling for play off places in the Conference. Brabin's highlight came in his final days as boss as he signed the highly rated Andre Gray who would later go on to have the team built around him. The low light was the penalty shootout defeat by AFC Wimbledon in the play off final at the Etihad Stadium. So close yet so far.



#### richard money

October 2009 - March 2011

Richard Money was placed in charge of Luton a little after a month after Mick Harford had left the beleaguered, newly relegated Hatters. Money managed to gain over a 50% win ratio at a club and lasted almost two and a half years.



#### mick harford

Mick Harford's affiliation with Luton Town started as a player and continued as a manager despite having to battle a 30-point deduction in League Two. Needless to say, that mountain was far too high for the Hatters to climb and just after a little under two months in charge left the club. Harford's highlight in charge of the club was the Football League Trophy victory over Scunthorpe in 2009. To get the already doomed squad to perform on such a big stage is a day the club's fans will not forget in a hurry.

# looking at the opponents: luton town

By Anthony Reeve

Today we welcome to Greenhous Meadow, Luton Town.



**J**ohn Stills men gained promotion for the Conference last season after an impressive season finishing as champions.

This is their first time back in the football league in five years. The Hatters have had a mixed time in recent times, going into administration which meant they had to play in the lower leagues but now a stable owner and their experience manager looks like guiding the club back to the top.

Luton have brought in seven players this summer, whilst letting three players leave. Coming into Stanley are; Lee Angol, Paul Benson who was at the club last season, Paul Connolly and Andy Drury from Crawley, Ross Lafayette from Welling, Ricky Miller from Boston and Luke Rooney and Luke Wilkinson from Maidstone and Dagenham & Redbridge respectively. Departing the club; last seasons top goal scorer Andre Gray to Brentford and Ronnie Henry to Stevenage.

The Hatters faithful will be hoping for a good run this season even though

they have just been promoted into the football league. The project is strong down in Hertfordshire and nothing but Play Offs will be wanted by everything associated with the club

Luton have had a decent start to life back in the football league, winning their opening game away at Carlisle, before a defeat at home to Wimbledon. Their last two matches ended up in draws again Bury and Accrington Stanley. The Hatters lost to Swindon in the Capital One cup first round.



# players to watch: luton town



**Mark Tyler** is a hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a one-year contract extension in May 2013. On the verge of 700 senior appearances, Tyler was one of the Hatters' first signings in their first season in the Conference in the summer of 2009, and - before the beginning of the 2013/14 season - the stopper has since gone on to make 184 appearances between the sticks, keeping 72 clean sheets. Prior to his move to Kenilworth Road Mark had made almost 400 appearances whilst with Peterborough United. The 2013/14 season was Tyler's fifth at Kenilworth Road and he crowned it by playing every match in the 46-game title-winning campaign. He kept clean sheets in exactly half of those games and has made 230 appearances in total for the Hatters.



**Paul Benson** is an experienced striker who signed on a season-long loan from League 1 side Swindon Town in late August 2013. Benson started out with Essex Intermediate League side White Ensign but shot to prominence with Dagenham & Redbridge under John Still, helping the Daggers to win two promotions, scoring over 75 goals. He signed for Charlton Athletic in August 2010 but after a season-and-a-half - in which he scored 10 league goals - the striker moved to Swindon Town in January 2012 and helped the Robins win the League 2 title that season. Having fallen down the pecking order at the County Ground, he was loaned to Portsmouth and Cheltenham last season before he was reunited with Still at Kenilworth.



**Luke Guttridge** is an influential and experienced central midfielder with over 400 senior appearances to his name who signed for the Hatters in August 2013 on a two-year contract. He has twice won promotion whilst with Southend, and also helped Northampton reach the League 2 play-off final last season. Luke enjoyed a fine debut season with the Hatters, scoring an impressive 13 goals in 33 matches before a foot injury curtailed his season in March.



**Kal Naismith**, a Scottish winger or forward who first came to the Store First Stadium in pre-season with a view to a permanent move from Rangers. He weighed in with some good performances and a couple of goals but had to return north of the border. Just hours before Stanley's game with Portsmouth Naismith returned on a two-year-deal having secured his release from Ibrox and he made his debut against Pompey.



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# six of the best



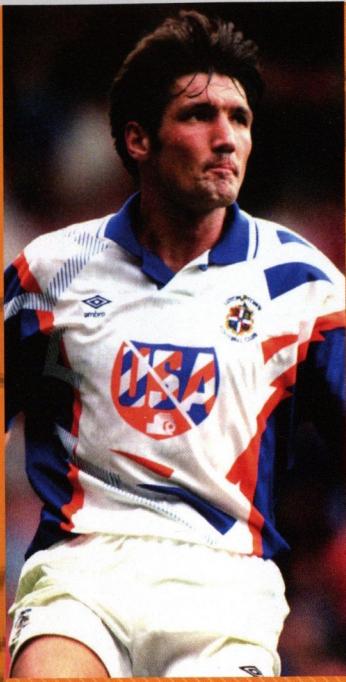
**curtis  
davies**

Curtis Davies only played for Luton Town between 2003 and 2005 but his impression is a lasting one as he the pride of seeing him perform at the top level in the Premier League week in, week out runs thick. Davies played a starring role in Luton's promotion to the Championship and was awarded League One Player of the Year. He was sold in 2005 for a reported £3 million to West Brom.



**steve  
howard**

Striker Steve Howard played for Luton Town between 2001 and 2006 and it is safe to say it was a very fruitful spell as he hit almost 100 league goals in a little over 200 league games to make him third in the all time top scorers list at the club. It wasn't only his goals that made him a club legend. Howard was deployed as an emergency centre back for a spell in the 2005/6 season and still managed 15 goals at Championship level.



**mick  
harford**

Mick Harford had a ratio of almost one in three for Luton Town during his first five seasons at the Bedfordshire club between 1984 and 1989. Harford rejoined the club for a couple of temporary spells. His affiliation with the club also had him manage the club for a season in 2008/9 as he took on the impossible job of trying to keep the Hatters in the football league with a 30 point deduction.

There was one highlight of that season and that was leading the club to the Football League Trophy at Wembley as 40,000 Hatters fans followed the club to the national stadium as they won 3-2 against Scunthorpe.



**brian  
stein**

Brian Stein was signed to Luton Town by David Pleat in 1977 and stayed up until 1988 before a further spell in 1991. The South African striker scored 130 goals over all in 427 appearances for the Hatters including two in the League Cup final win over Arsenal and immediately having legend bestowed upon him. Stein struck up a wonderful partnership with Paul Walsh before the now Sky Sports pundit moved to Liverpool in 1984.



**bruce  
rioch**

Bruce Rioch turned a Luton Town professional in 1964 with the midfielder staying on until 1969 where he moved to Aston Villa. He scored 24 goals from midfield in the Fourth Division as the Hatters won the title in 1968. Luton gave Rioch the starting point to travel all over the world with his football. Highlights include managing Arsenal but he also had a spell playing and managing in Seattle. Other clubs that Rioch managed include Aalborg and Odense.



**john  
hartson**

Welsh striker John Hartson only made 54 appearances for the Hatters but is seen as a product of their famous youth system. Hartson scored 11 goals between 1992 and 1995 in the league before moving to Arsenal for £2.5 million. The target man also played for West Ham, Wimbledon, Coventry, Celtic and West Brom. He also managed to make over 50 appearances for Wales.

# opposition interview: john still

John Still is glad to be back in the Football League as Luton Town manager - and believes his squad have enough spirit for a successful 2014/15 season.

**F**ollowing their promotion from the Football Conference as champions last season, the Hatters have picked up five points from their opening four League Two matches ahead of today's game.

And Still is just pleased to see the club back where he believes they belong.

"It's good to be back," said Still.

"I've achieved it (promotion) with three different clubs, three different groups of players.

"Other than getting into the Premier League, taking a club into the Football League is, I think, the biggest thing you can do.

"It's incredible for the players and the supporters, and obviously for the club itself for different reasons.

"Luton will feel they came out of the Football League unfairly, so in a way we feel we've put right the wrong."

Luton started the 2014/15 campaign with a 1-0 win at Carlisle United, who were relegated from League One last season.

The Hatters were knocked out of the Capital One Cup at home to Swindon Town and lost their second league game against AFC Wimbledon, but draws with Bury and away to Accrington have given confidence back to the squad.

Still's side had to come back from two goals behind to pick up a point at Stanley in their last game.

"We've started okay and had a reasonably tough round of games so far - away to Carlisle and away to Accrington," said Still.

**"Other than getting into the Premier League, taking a club into the Football League is, I think, the biggest thing you can do. It's incredible for the players and the supporters."**



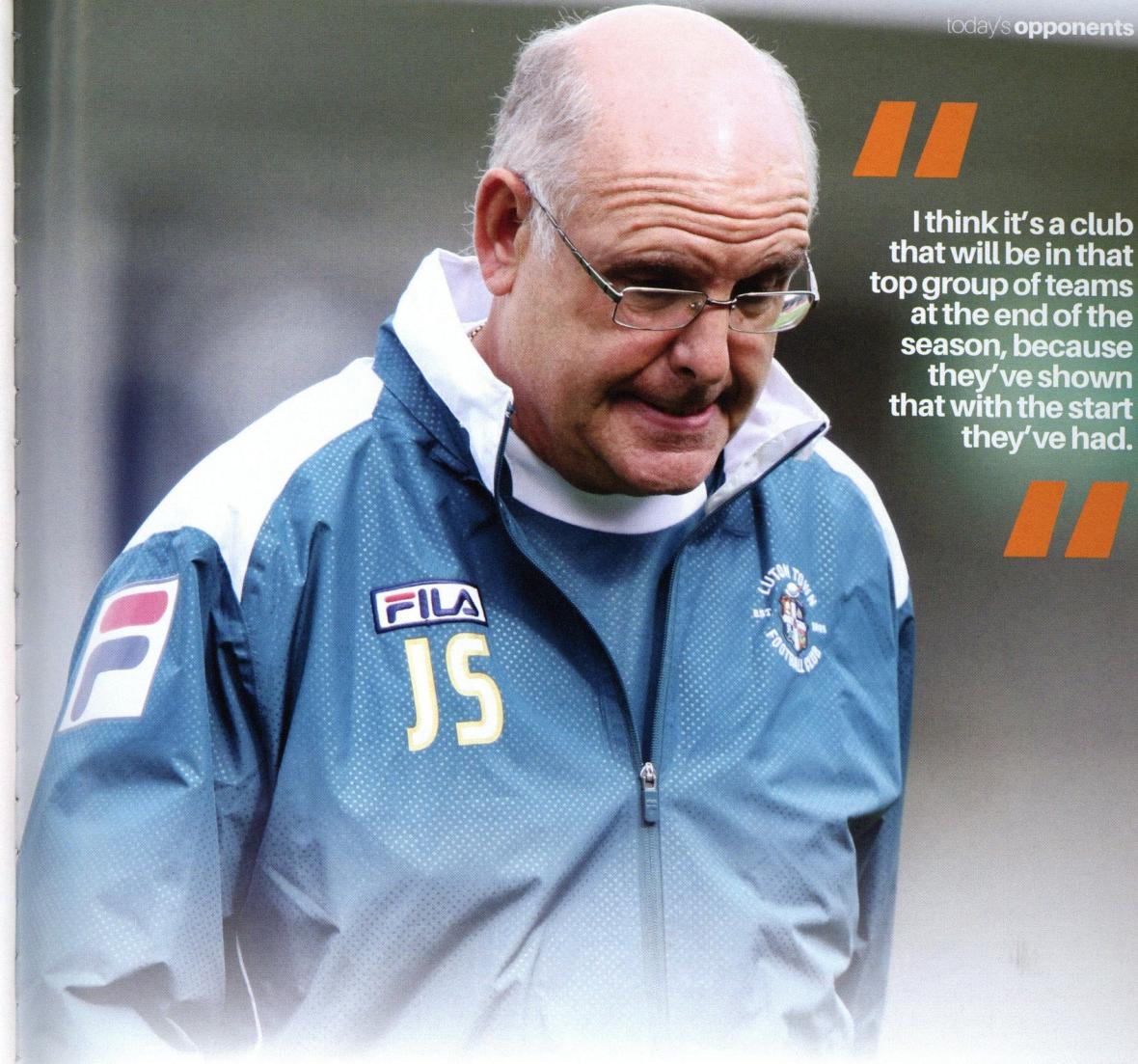
"We've played okay but not great after a tough start, but we never started on fire last season either, so I'm reasonably comfortable with how we've started.

"We know we've got spirit, we know we've got determination and we've got a collective togetherness.

"We've worked hard on those parts of our team so we know they're there.

"We know we have quality, but I think that, in the first half against Accrington, we never played to the standard that we feel we're capable of.

"It was certainly a good fight back when we did come back, though. The disappointment was that we were behind by two goals and we felt that shouldn't have been the case.



"We feel that we are strong enough to compete wherever we go, and we always feel that we have something we can call upon if we need it, and we needed that at Accrington.

"We needed to find that little bit extra, and we did that. We've always been quite happy with that side of our game.

"Now we've got Shrewsbury away and then Bury, who will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season."

Still sees Shrewsbury as one of the sides who will be pushing for promotion this season and knows one or two of the Town players very well, particularly former Hatters forward Andy Mangan, who scored the winner in the Capital One Cup win at Leicester.

"Shrewsbury have made a strong start and brought in some good players," said Still.

"I think it's a club that will be in that top group of teams at the end of the season, because they've shown that with the start they've had.

"We know Andy Mangan well although we appreciate he pulled his hamstring at Leicester.

"He spent a bit of time with us last year and he's been around the lower levels of English football for a while.

"With (James) Collins and (Jean-Louis) Akpa Akpro up front as well, Shrewsbury have got players up front to cause teams problems."

The 64-year-old has not come across Town manager Micky Mellon before,

**I think it's a club that will be in that top group of teams at the end of the season, because they've shown that with the start they've had.**



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## team ties: luton town

**P**erhaps the most high profile man to have donned both shirts is none other than David Pleat.

Having signed from Nottingham Forest in 1964, Pleat spent three years at Luton, making 70 league appearances and scoring nine goals from outside left. In 1967, he joined Shrewsbury but only stayed for one season before being sold to Exeter. In 1978 he would return to Kenilworth Road as manager, a position which he held for eight years. During that time, they were promoted to the old First Division and made the 1985 FA Cup semi-finals, before Pleat left for Tottenham Hotspur in 1986.

If there was ever a case of 'one's man rubbish is another's treasure', it was with Andre Gray. Having come through the Shrewsbury academy, making four league appearances in the 2009/10 season, he was released at the end of that season and began plying his trade for non-league Hinckley Town. After 29 goals in 65 games, Luton took him on loan where he hit five in nine. They made the move permanent, and didn't regret it as Gray almost single-handedly shot Luton back to the Football League with 47 goals in 88 games. This summer, he signed for Championship side Brentford for a rumoured fee of £1m.

Another player to start off at Shrewsbury and become a hero in the eyes of Hatters fans was Graham French. After 27 appearances and one goal, French moved onto Swindon, Watford and Wellington before ending

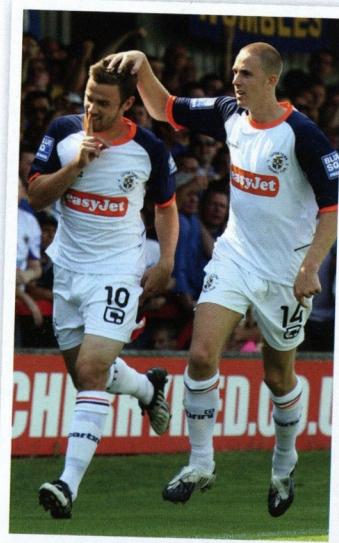


David Pleat

up at Luton. There, he made 182 appearances and scored 22 goals, one of which against Mansfield Town has been classed as the best goal ever to be scored by a Luton Town player by some supporters. Not only an icon on the pitch, but off it he was revered in the local pubs for frequently starting games in an intoxicated state - however, French's ability helped Luton to two promotions and he is still seen as a club legend to this day.

Finally, to a more recent player who has worn both strips, Asa Hall is no stranger to either side. Despite being tipped for huge things at Birmingham and having a successful loan spell at Shrews in 2008, the Blues released the former England U20 and Luton snapped him up, where he became a part of the side that won the 2009 Football League Trophy. In 2010 Luton released him, where

he was signed by Oxford United, but two years later he found himself at New Meadow again. Despite issues behind the scenes, Hall fought for his place at the club, but following relegation last season, he was released. He's now at Cheltenham Town.





# commercial news

## Match Hospitality Competition Winners

Four lucky Shrewsbury Town season ticket holders and their guests enjoyed Towns' excellent victories over Tranmere and Accrington in style after winning our recent match hospitality competition.

**O**ne of our winners, Kieron Seaborne, attended the 4-0 win against Accrington Stanley.

"From start to finish, it was a fantastic experience", Kieron said. "All the staff were incredibly warm and approachable throughout. The pre-match meal was superb, and to see 4 Town goals just completed the night! It makes me even prouder to be a Shrewsbury Town fan to know we have such great staff right the way through the Club. I'd wanted to try a hospitality day for a long time, so I was delighted to win one of the places. I'm definitely looking to do it again in the future, and would recommend it to everyone."

Our VIP hospitality days are available at all our home games throughout the season. Ideal for businesses wishing to impress important clients, just the ticket for that special family event, or perfect for the football supporter wishing to enjoy a day out in style, we can cater for any type of occasion.

After enjoying your pre-match meal in The Arthur Rowley lounge, you will make your way to your reserved padded seat in the executive area of the Roland Wycherley Stand - a superb vantage point from which to watch the game.

At the final whistle, vote for your Man of The Match and witness the presentation to the winner, topping off a day of exceptional hospitality, service and entertainment.



Competition winner, Kieron Seaborne, is pictured with Sovereign Club man of the match Andy Mangan a few minutes after the Accrington Stanley game

- Reserved on-site car parking
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- 3 course pre-match meal
- Exclusive reserved padded seats
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- Vote for man of the match and witness the winning presentation

If you would like to book, or require more information, please call Andrew Tretton on **01743 289177** ex 218 or e-mail [andytretton@shrewsburytown.co.uk](mailto:andytretton@shrewsburytown.co.uk)

Keep an eye out on [www.shrewsburytown.com](http://www.shrewsburytown.com), [www.twitter.com/@shrewsweb](http://www.twitter.com/@shrewsweb) and [www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyTownFC](http://www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyTownFC) for future competitions.

## New Player's Tunnel At The Greenhous Meadow

**S**hrewsbury Town are delighted to unveil our new player's tunnel, sponsored by the Official Supporters Club.

The new tunnel has been in operation at both our home fixtures so far, and performs an important role in relation to player and official safety as they enter and exit the playing field.

Secretary of the Official Supporters Club Brian Jones said, "We had been in discussion with the football club over the close season regarding the tunnel, and we were more than happy to help out and sponsor the new piece of equipment. We think it looks great, and are very proud to be associated with it."

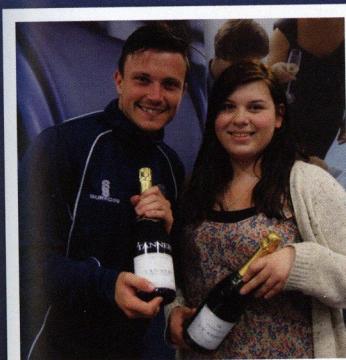
Brian and his fellow Official Supporters Club members dropped by the Greenhous Meadow to have a look at the tunnel, and also had a quick chat with their sponsored players for the season, Jordan Clark and Mark Ellis.

Shrewsbury Town's Commercial Development manager Richard Hill added, "We are grateful for the support the



Official Supporters Club have given us on this occasion, as we are for all the help we receive from our other various supporter groups. Mark and Jordan were also pleased to meet their kit sponsors, all the players are delighted when they see sponsors by their name in the programme, and they all really appreciate the support"

## Man of the Match Photos from Accrington



### Golden Gamble

The winning Golden Gamble ticket was drawn by Dom Smith who picked out number 1112. This was claimed by Dennis Crook who went home with a cheque for £3410. Don't forget to pick-up your Golden Gamble ticket before the game from the sellers around the Greenhous Meadow.



### Sovereign Club Man of the Match

Andy Mangan was named the Sovereign Club man of the match for the SkyBet League win over Accrington Stanley. Andy is pictured receiving his bottle of Tanners champagne from Emily Strange of Brow Golf Club. Emily also guessed Andy as the first goal scorer, and also predicted the correct minute to win herself a bottle of champagne!



### Sponsors Man of the Match

Andy Mangan was named the sponsors man of the match for the home with Accrington Stanley. Andy is pictured receiving his bottle of Tanners Champagne from Lynne Taylor of match ball sponsors Cogent Computer Solutions

exclusive: featured player

# scott vernon

**Born:** Manchester, December 13, 1983

**Former clubs:** Oldham Athletic, Blackpool, Colchester United, Northampton Town (loan), Gillingham (loan), Southend United (loan), Aberdeen.

**Joined Shrewsbury:** June 18, 2014



**Scott, how nice it is for you to be back in English football?**

Yes, it's good. I had been north of the border for four years and had a good four years up there, but now I'm really happy to be back. I felt like I needed a change and I'm really happy being here at Shrewsbury.

It's a good set up, a good club and we're all working in the right direction. I'm really enjoying it.

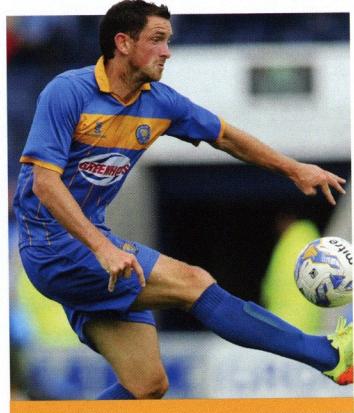
**How do you look back on your four seasons with Aberdeen?**

With good memories. The first couple of seasons we were struggling a little bit and finished in the bottom six in the league, but the club always had ambition.

The third season was a little bit more of the same and then the last season was a real highlight in terms of the team because we managed to finish third and got into Europe, and also won the League Cup, so that was a bonus. It was a really good season.

**Aberdeen are one of the names of Scottish football. How big a club are they?**

It's massive up there. It's the only club in the Scottish Premier League within an hour's radius of any other.



**"It's a good set up, a good club and we're all working in the right direction. I'm really enjoying it."**

It is a well supported club and they were averaging 11, 12, 13,000 fans every home game so it's a big club, a good club, and they do everything right. I've got fond memories but I'm really looking forward to having more at Shrewsbury.

**I understand there were other offers on the table, Scott, so why Shrewsbury?**

I came and had a look around the place, had a chat to various people and really liked what everyone said and really liked coming and having a good look around. I thought this is a proper club with ambition.

I realised there was going to be pretty much a new team for this season and that the manager was going to have a go and go for it and really try and be ambitious this season. It was as simple as that really.

There were other offers and I spoke to other people as well but I felt that this was the best move for me at this stage.

**What about the quality you have already seen in the squad here since coming in?**

It's very good. Obviously, there's some place that are well known





like Liam Lawrence, Robbo, Ashley Vincent, I could name a lot of players. There's a couple that I've either played with before or played against and it's good quality.

You can see in training every day that it's really good quality so we're looking forward to it. The friendlies went quite well for us and we're learning every day what the manager wants to implement.

We're trying to do it to the best we can and we want to be firing on all cylinders.

**As a striker how important was it for you to quickly get off the mark in a Shrewsbury shirt, a goal against West Bromwich Albion in just your second friendly for the club and then two more against Watford?**

I'm one that doesn't read too much into friendlies. They're just really to get your fitness and for the manager to get his ideas across, to get things going. I've had seasons before when

**"You can see in training every day that it's really good quality so we're looking forward to it. The friendlies went quite well for us and we're learning every day what the manager wants to implement."**

I've not scored through pre-season and then I've scored plenty of goals in the season, and vice versa.

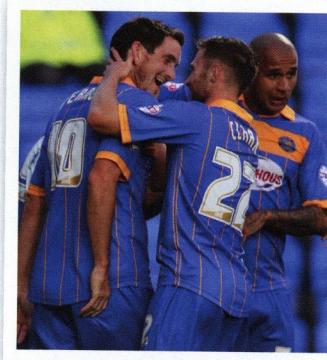
You can't read too much into it but for confidence it's always nice to score, against good opposition as well.

**Have you moved into the area yet?**

Yes, we've moved into Telford. We found a house there that suits us just out of the area. Me and the wife and two kids are pleased to be living locally.

**What are your hopes and expectations for the season?**

We've got to be looking high and our ambitions are there to see. We want to get out of the league as quick as possible. We want to set our standards very high and keep them there. There's obviously going to be ups and downs along the way, we know that, but we feel that we're good enough to really challenge this season so hopefully we can prove that right.



**And how did it feel to be a part of that special win at Leicester on Tuesday?**

It was a great night. Every now and again these great nights come around. We prepared well for the game and went about it the same way as we do for every game. On the night we've put in a really good performance. We were absolutely chuffed. It wasn't just a smash and grab, we had chances and it was a well-worked performance. There were chances for myself and other players which we could have gone on and scored. It was a nice touch from the Leicester fans to clap us off the pitch after the game as well. You have to savour moments like them.

SCOTT  
VERNON



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## today's mascots



Edwin Parry

Aged - 11 Years (and 7 days today!)

My Favourite Shrewsbury Town Players are -

Andy Mangan, Connor Goldson, Ryan Woods and James Collins

Today is a special occasion as -

It was my birthday on August 23rd, and this is a birthday treat!

My score Prediction is -

Shrewsbury Town 3-0 Luton

When I am older -

I want to drive a Landrover series 1

My Hobbies include -

Playing Football for Worthing Juniors, annoying my big sister Molly, swimming and kick boxing

I am most looking forward to -

Meeting the players, and comparing Micky Mellons pre match talk to my managers



Hannah Richards

Aged - 11

My score Prediction is -

Shrewsbury Town 2-0 Luton

When I am older -

I want to be a Vet

My Hobbies include -

Playing the Piano, and Cycling

I am most looking forward to -

Meeting the teams



Amy Richards

Aged - 7

My score Prediction is -

Shrewsbury Town 3-1 Luton

When I am older -

I want to be a Teacher

My Hobbies include -

Going to Brownies and Cycling

I am most looking forward to -

Watching the match, and going out onto the Greenhous Meadow pitch!



Alicia Llewellyn-Bell

Aged - 11

My Favourite Shrewsbury Town Player -

Jordan Clarke

Today is a special occasion as -

It is my first time as mascot!

My score Prediction is -

Shrewsbury Town 3-0 Luton

When I am older -

I want a job where I can work outside

My Hobbies include -

Football, Tennis, Running and being outside

I am most looking forward to -

Meeting all the players



Lewis Young

Aged - 10

Where he is from? Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire

Favourite Player? Luke Guttridge

Predicted score? 2-0 to Luton

### Quiz answers:

1. (c) Arsenal 2. (b) Coventry City 3. (a) France- Jean-Louis played in the top flight of French football for his home town, Toulouse. 4. (c) The Hatters 5. (b) Kennilworth Road 6. True - it was a record breaker- but Joe Payne actually scored an amazing TEN goals in one match!

Where's Lenny? On the English Bridge- he's been looking at the houses where the old Gay Meadow used to be!

# junior shrews

## quick quiz:

- 1. Connor Goldson was noted for his excellent display at Right Back when Shrewsbury played against a very famous Premiership team in the Carling Cup in 2011.
- 2. Was the opposition:
  - (a) Everton (b) Chelsea (c) Arsenal
- 2. Jermaine Grandison formerly played for which midlands team?
  - (a) Birmingham City (b) Coventry City (c) Wolverhampton Wanderers
- 3. Where did Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro begin his football career?
  - (a) France (b) Germany (c) Belgium
- 4. What is Luton's nickname?
  - (a) The Shoemakers (b) The Bakers (c) The Hatters
- 5. What is the name of the stadium where Luton play their home games?
  - (a) Shuttleworth Road (b) Kennilworth Road (c) Lutterworth Road
- 6. True or False: In 1936, a Luton player called Joe Payne scored a record-breaking 9 goals in one match!

Answers can be found on page 33.

## where's lenny?

Lenny's still in his home town- but WHERE?



## lenny's challenge

Lenny's looking for TEN League Two teams. Can you find them? Look for:

**WIMBLEDON, LUTON, TRANMERE, CARLISLE, EXETER, BURY, YORK, MORECAMBE, BURTON, CAMBRIDGE**



## lenny's laughs

### (Goalie Jokes)

**New Goalie on trial:** I learned all my goalkeeping skills in one lesson!

**Manager: Hmm!** I thought as much!

**Mick:** I don't know whether to be a celebrity chef or a celebrity goalkeeper!

**Paul:** I think you should be a celebrity chef!

**Mick:** Have you tried one of my meals, then?

**Paul:** No- but I've seen Nohope United put seven goals past you!

## hello everyone!

Welcome everybody to this afternoons game against Luton Town, and of course a big hello to all fans who have made the trip up today.

Last time we were here we saw the emphatic 4-0 victory over Accrington Stanley, so hopefully we record yet another victory on the Greenhous Meadow pitch!

Joining me today, on mascot duty are sisters Hannah and Amy, who have made the long trip up from Surrey, along side them I have Edwin and Alicia, all of whom are huge Town fans, and I am sure, will bring luck to the lads today!

Those of you who are Junior Shrews members will have been enjoying a few special 'Members Only' events over the past few weeks, these included the chance to see our players in training, and a special FIFA tournament event, which was attended by the players. - It was great to hear so many of you turned up and I really hope you enjoyed the days. - We have so many more events like these planned for this season and beyond, so make sure you keep your eyes peeled!

If however, you are not already a member of the Junior Shrews, then signing up couldn't be easier, - simply pop

into the Club Shop and Ticket Office, and they will sign you up on the spot, it's a great gang to be a part of, and you get lots of benefits as part of the package!

Well, what are everyone's thoughts on today's game?

- Luton have spent the past few years playing in the League below, and after many failed attempts, they gained promotion last season to get themselves back in the Football League. - Historically, Luton are quite a big club and will bring a fair few fans up with them today, so its up to us to make as much noise as possible to out-sing the travelling support and spur our lads onto victory.

Last time Luton visited the Greenhous Meadow, we ran out 2-0 winners, so lets hope for more of the same today!

Lets get behind the lads, and help them on to another Shrewsbury Town win, and help

**#TOWNFIGHTBACK**

**SALOP SALOP SALOP**

**LENNY**



# Junior Shrews

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- \* Voucher for a Free Junior Match Ticket
- \* Junior Shrews Birthday Card
- \* Access to Player Attended Events
- \* Home and Away Mascot Draw
- \* £5 Club Shop Voucher

Plus Many Other Benefits to come!



## New Junior Membership On Sale Now!

Available from the Ticket Office



# flashback

Stuart Dunn covers Town's fortunes for BBC Radio Shropshire and the Shrewsbury Chronicle

**A** HOME game against Luton, stood on the Riverside at the Gay Meadow, provides one my first, albeit hazy, memories of ever watching Shrewsbury Town play.

Aged eight, Town hosted Luton in a season which would end with the Hatters gaining promotion to the top-flight of English football under former Shrewsbury winger David Pleat on a chilly winter's afternoon in December 1981.

My memories of the game are a little vague although I do recall Luton had some top players in their side that day, people like Ricky Hill and Brian Stein, who would both go on to play for England, and also Northern Ireland stalwart Mal Donaghy at the back.

Given what Luton went on to achieve that season and that Town would end the campaign requiring a draw on the final day of the season at Leicester City to stay up, which they just about managed, Town did well to pick up a point from an entertaining 2-2 draw with Pleat's talented side.

Ian Atkins and John Dungworth scored the goals against a Luton side which ended up as champions by eight points.

Luton went on to establish themselves as a strong top division side for several years, but eventually the name Shrewsbury reappeared on their fixture list.

They eventually returned to the Meadow in 1996, easing to a 3-0 win, and they also proved too strong in



the return at Kenilworth Road towards the end of the season, the first time I had visited their tight, atmospheric ground hemmed in by terraced houses.

Those were the days when our Radio Shropshire coverage usually consisted of three or four brief reports each half instead of the full commentary service the station has now provided for several years.

But with Town embroiled in a relegation fight they were destined to lose, the decision makers came to the conclusion that we should carry out second-half commentary of the game.

Town were already 1-0 down by the time our uninterrupted 45 minutes began and I had the

pleasure of the company of former Sheffield Wednesday, Arsenal and England winger Brian Marwood as summariser as Luton scored a second unanswered goal to nudge Shrewsbury closer to the relegation trapdoor.

Two home games against Luton both stand out. The first came on the final day of the 2001-02 season when Town needed to beat Luton to seal a play-off place under Kevin Ratcliffe in the fourth tier.

Luton, under Joe Kinnear, were already confirmed champions and they wrecked Town's hopes of extending their season by winning 2-0.

Gregor Riach, the left back, scored an unfortunate own goal and Steve

Howard made sure of the result with a late second in front of a Gay Meadow full house.

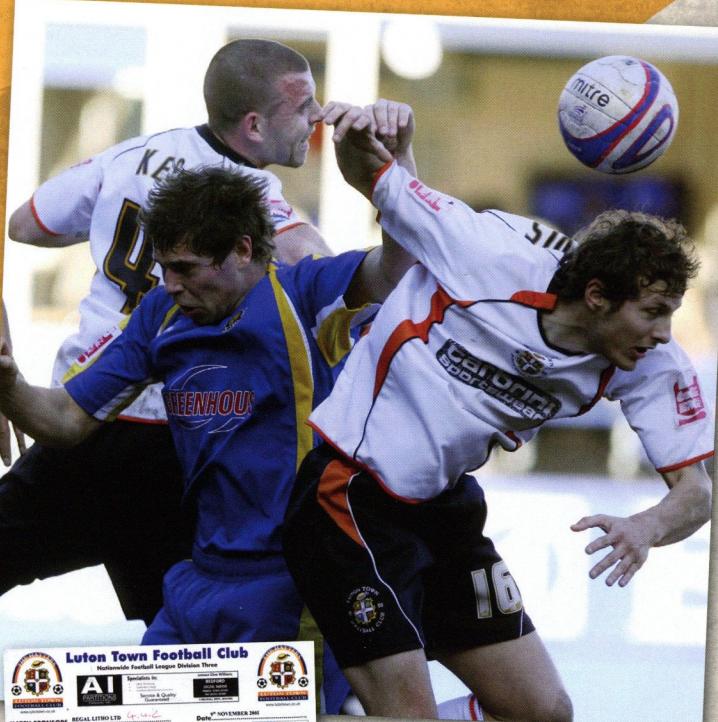
Nigel Jemson, the injured Town skipper, was sat alongside me that day as summariser, as he was a week earlier when Shrewsbury won 2-0 at Southend to move to the brink of snatching a top seven spot.

But such was Jemson's sense of disappointment at Town falling just short in the final reckoning, I seem to remember he had little to say in the last 20 minutes or so. Gutted didn't even come close to Jemson's mood as Shrewsbury's season ended on a low note.

Town enjoyed themselves rather more the last time the Hatters visited for what remains, until today at least, their only previous visit to the club's new stadium on Oteley Road.

It came at a time in November 2008 when Paul Simpson's Shrewsbury team were playing well and scoring plenty of goals having rattled in seven apiece against both Gillingham and Wycombe earlier in the campaign.

Luton, hit by a big points deduction, were struggling and Town proved too strong for them on the day, easing to a 3-0 win with goals from Paul Murray, Grant Holt and a Ben Davies thunderbolt.

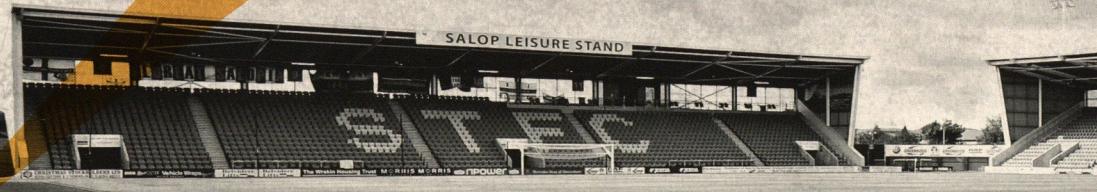


Luton, who would end the season relegated, had their revenge in the Kenilworth Road return by beating Town, despite another well taken Davies goal, 3-1, with Asa Hall, a man well known in these parts, among the home scorers.

It was a day when the normally reliable Holt, who hit 28 goals that season, fired blanks as a string of chances went unconverted.

But perhaps the result should not have been too unexpected as it came during a long run of matches without an away win for Simpson's side which astonishingly lasted from August until April, an incredible sequence considering the talent in that squad.

It's good to see Luton back in the Football League again, particularly under such a good footballing man as John Still, a real gentleman on his last visit to the Greenhous Meadow when his Dagenham & Redbridge side were beaten 1-0 on the day Town sealed promotion from League Two in April 2012. ◀



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# my first:

mickey demetriou



**My first footballing hero?**

Gianfranco Zola



**My first pair of football boots?**

Adidas Predator's 1994

**My first football kit?**

Chelsea



**My first match I attended?**

Chelsea v West Ham in 1998

**My first junior football team?**

Worthing Dynamo's

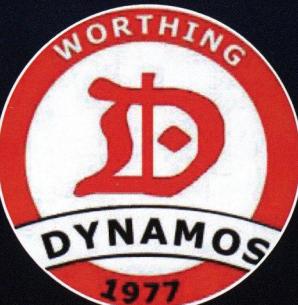


**My first game as a professional?**

Semi pro would have been Eastbourne against Luton away in 2010, Professional was for Kidderminster against AFC Telford in 2011

**My first goal as a professional?**

For Kidderminster and against Braintree



**My first autograph signed?**

Zola on a tour of Chelsea

**My first red card?**

Not had one, touch wood

**My first childhood memory?**

Holiday to USA when I was 6 or 7 years

**My first pet?**

An Irish setter called Kelly

**My first crush?**

Rachel out of friends

**My first record/CD bought?**

R Kelly, World's Greatest

**My first video game?**

Sonic the Hedgehog on the N64

**My first gig attended?**

Westlife with the missus, family and her mum

**My first car?**

Ford Fiesta

**My first holiday?**

USA with the family



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## 2014-15 STAT PACK



SHREWSBURY TOWN

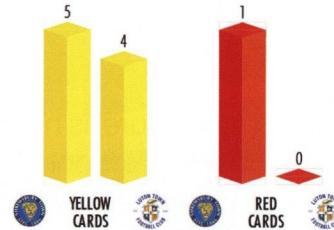
V

LUTON TOWN



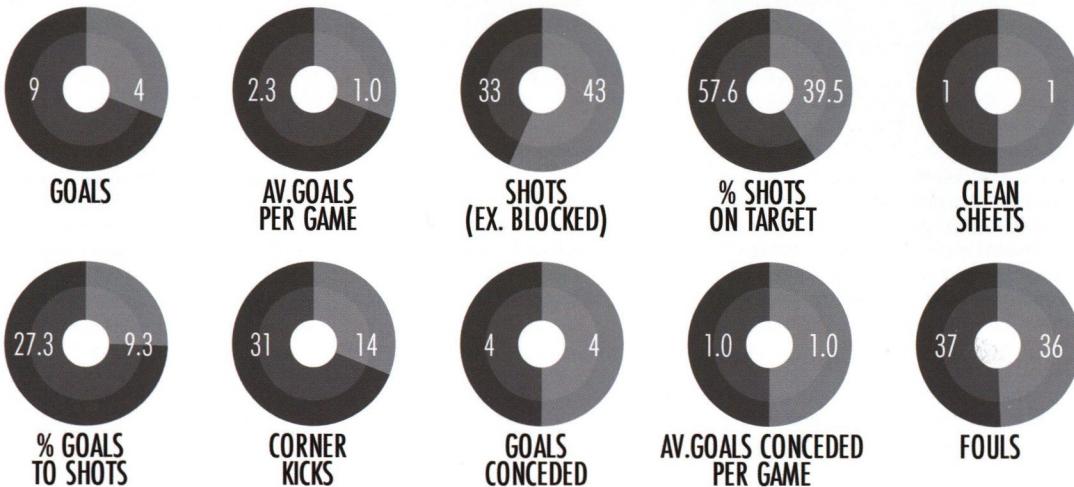
### MATCH FACTS

The Shrews have won only one of their last 12 league encounters with the Hatters, losing eight (D3).



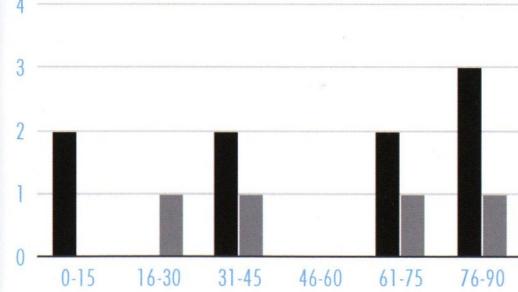
### MATCH FACTS

Luton have netted in eight of their last nine league trips to Shrewsbury, though they failed to score in the last match there (0-3).



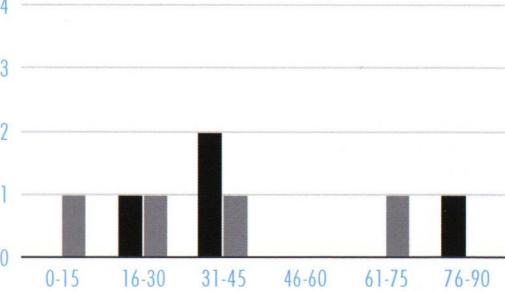
### GOAL TIMES

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### GOAL TIMES

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# celebrity interview



Next up in our new Celebrity Interview feature, is none other than the Hatters Chairman and TV presenter, **Nick Owen**. Not only is Nick a thoroughly nice chap, but he also has quite a soft spot for Shrewsbury Town. **Martin Wild** is asking the questions.

**MW:** First of all Nick, from everyone at Shrewsbury Town, welcome back to the Football League. Erm, what took you so long?

**NO:** Ha, ha. Well everyone warned us when we went into the Conference that it was very competitive, and that it would be incredibly difficult to get out of and that proved to be the case. It's full of teams - as Shrewsbury Town fans would know - that are very strong, and many have recent Football League experience. We were up against teams down the years such as York, Mansfield, Wrexham, Cambridge United, and Stockport County of course, who went even further down - loads of clubs with a Football League background. They were all as equally determined to get up as we were and although we came close a couple of times by getting to the final of the play-offs, we didn't quite manage it until the fifth year when we won the title comfortably. I'm thrilled to be back but it has been an incredibly tough struggle.

**MW:** The Conference is the unofficial Fifth Division and a graveyard for former league clubs. Can I ask what your initial thoughts were, when Greg Dyke announced a controversial proposal for a new League Three to improve the National team's chances?

**NO:** Well I have to say that I don't like disagreeing with Greg because we're old friends. He was my boss at breakfast television, my boss and Director General at the BBC, and my boss as head of the ITV sports committee when I was their main sports presenter. So we go back a long way and he even wrote the foreword to my autobiography. But, I vehemently disagreed with his ideas as I thought the whole idea surrounding

B sides went against the concept of competitive football. I didn't see how it could possibly have worked, especially as there would have been no promotion either after a certain level. So not for me I'm afraid.

**MW:** That 30 point deduction back in 2008 effectively consigned Luton to five years in non-league. Rotherham and Bournemouth escaped the drop despite 17 point penalties and now both reside in the Championship. That's quite a contrast in fortunes isn't it?

**NO:** Yes it is. But I think the difference in points between us and them was quite considerable; another thirteen points. With hindsight with that 30 point punishment - because we weren't a bad team and would have finished halfway without it - I wonder whether we might have been a bit anxious in wanting to win every game because the gap was so huge, instead of being a little bit calmer about it and not worrying about drawing the occasional game. We lost a lot of games that we needn't have lost because we were throwing everything at it. We proved we were a decent side because that very same season we won the Johnstone's Paints Trophy at Wembley against a Scunthorpe side that went on to gain promotion to the Championship. Two weeks later we were down but still managed to take 42,000 fans with us. Rotherham and Bournemouth both did brilliantly, and at one stage we looked close to turning things around, but ultimately I just think that the hurdle was too great to overcome and it was a huge blow.

**MW:** There must be so many highs and lows down the years. I remember David Pleat's extremely dodgy dash across

Maine Road back in '83 I think it was, and of course there was the Littlewoods Cup win over Arsenal. What's been your highlight following The Hatters Nick, as either a fan or a Chairman?

**NO:** Unquestionably as a fan it would have to be that Littlewoods Cup win you mentioned over Arsenal back in 1988. It was a cracking final. We were 1-0 up then 2-1 down, and it could have been 3-1 but our goalkeeper Andy Dibble saved a penalty. We went up the other end and equalised and won with virtually the last kick of the game. Luton were a very attractive side in those days. We had players like Brian Stein, Mick Harford, Ricky Hill and Steve Foster who all played for England. Mal Donaghy was another international - a long established left back with Ireland - and David Prees a little left sided midfielder who came from Bridgnorth in Shropshire. Danny Wilson and Kingsley Black, who had just started to make his way in the game, were other cracking players in a really exciting team and it was a decent decade for us after '83 after we avoided relegation in your reference there to David Pleat. The JPT win was also memorable as it came during a really difficult time against the backdrop of that 30 point deduction, and we knew we were going to lose our FL status after 89 years. In the midst of all that to pull off an extra-time victory was quite something so they're obvious highlights. But every time I walk into Kenilworth Road it's a highlight for me as it's been a special place in my life for 56 years now. It's an incredible source of pride to me that I was asked by the Consortium who were trying to take over the club, to ask me to represent them as their spokesman and figurehead.

**MW:** There must be so many highs and lows down the years. I remember David Pleat's extremely dodgy dash across



**MW:** Why Luton Town Nick? Can you remember when the love affair started?

**NO:** Well it's 'cos they're my local team it's a simple as that. I come from a small town in Hertfordshire called Berkhamsted, and my father used to go to Luton as often as he could. I started to follow their results when he was going to games in the late 50's. I finally put enough pressure on him to take me to my first match on September 3rd 1958 (!) against Leeds United in a game which ended 1-1. If I wasn't hooked before I certainly was after that. It was an amazing experience walking into that ground for the first time, and seeing players I'd only read about in the papers before, as there wasn't much TV coverage back then.

**MW:** It must be hard to contain your emotions in the director's box? I find it hard enough to restrain myself in the press area.

**NO:** Ha, ha. You don't have to restrain your emotions that much really. You're sitting with your fellow directors so you're all passionate fans. The great thing about all the investors who've done so much to save Luton Town is they have no agenda. As you know some football clubs are taken over by investors who have no connection with them whatsoever. All our guys are lifelong Luton fans so when we score or go close we're all ooh, aah, yes and so forth. We go just as bonkers as everyone else!

**MW:** Speaking of investors, we had David Lloyd the ex-cricketer representing Accrington last week, and he was saying he gets really angry when rich foreign investors buy established Premier League clubs. He felt they should consider buying clubs like Accrington if they wanted to help local communities.

**MW:** Do you think the day will ever come when they look at investing in lower league clubs like yours?

**NO:** I don't see why not. A club like ours, and indeed Shrewsbury Town, are clubs with huge potential. If we get a bigger stadium, and hopefully that will come one day because we've been working on that now for a number of years, I think we'd be a very attractive proposition. We're about 30 miles outside of London and we have an airport and an excellent train service, so we're very accessible to a huge amount of the population. There's a great catchment area around Luton itself and I think they could all be sucked in if we were successful - those 42,000 that went with us to Wembley in 2009 proves that point. Having said all that, I wouldn't really want anyone taking over our football club who weren't Luton fans.

**MW:** Do you have any affinity with Shrewsbury - you were educated here I believe?

**NO:** Oh, absolutely. I spent from the ages of 7 to 18 as a pupil at Shrewsbury School. Eleven years in total in what really are your formative years in many ways. I used to watch Shrewsbury quite a lot at the old Gay Meadow so I always keep an eye out for their results and it's always nice to come back here. My late father was born in Shrewsbury and used to play for Shrewsbury amateurs before moving down South and becoming a Luton fan. The rest as they say...

**MW:** That's fascinating. What have you made of Luton's start back in the league Nick - a win, a draw and a defeat?

**NO:** Well, I can't complain. We had a very slow start to last season but went

on to have a brilliant campaign. We've had what you might call a slowish start this time but whilst four points from three games is hardly setting the world on fire, it's not a disaster either as we're finding our feet. We're bedding in a few players for a start and I think we've played some of the best teams in the division - particularly Bury who I thought were very impressive, although they've spent a bit of money haven't they? I'm very hopeful that we'll settle and it will be interesting to see where we are at Christmas. I have great faith in our manager John Still.

**MW:** Where do you think our respective clubs will finish this season?

**NO:** I think Shrewsbury are looking very strong and you'd expect them to do well having just come down. I hate to predict where my club are going to finish but I would be very hopeful that we'll be competing near to the top end of the table. That's all I dare say as I don't want to tempt fate. I think Shrewsbury will be right up there as well.

**MW:** Finally Nick, we ask all our celebrity guests to give us a prediction for the match.

**NO:** (Confidently) 2-0 to Luton. (Ten minutes after the interview, I received the following text off Nick who was preparing for the Midlands Today late night bulletin on BBC One): "I've been thinking a bit more about my prediction and I'd like to change it please. I'll go for 1-1. I know it's sitting on the fence a bit but it's a bit more realistic."

We'd like to thank Nick for taking the time during a hectic schedule to do this interview, and hope he enjoys his trip to the Greenhous Meadow this afternoon.

# ON THE ROAD TO: STEVENAGE F.C.

## TOWN TALK'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE SHREWS FORTHCOMING AWAY TRIP

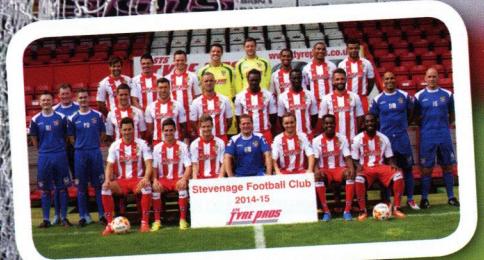


### THE OPPPOSITION

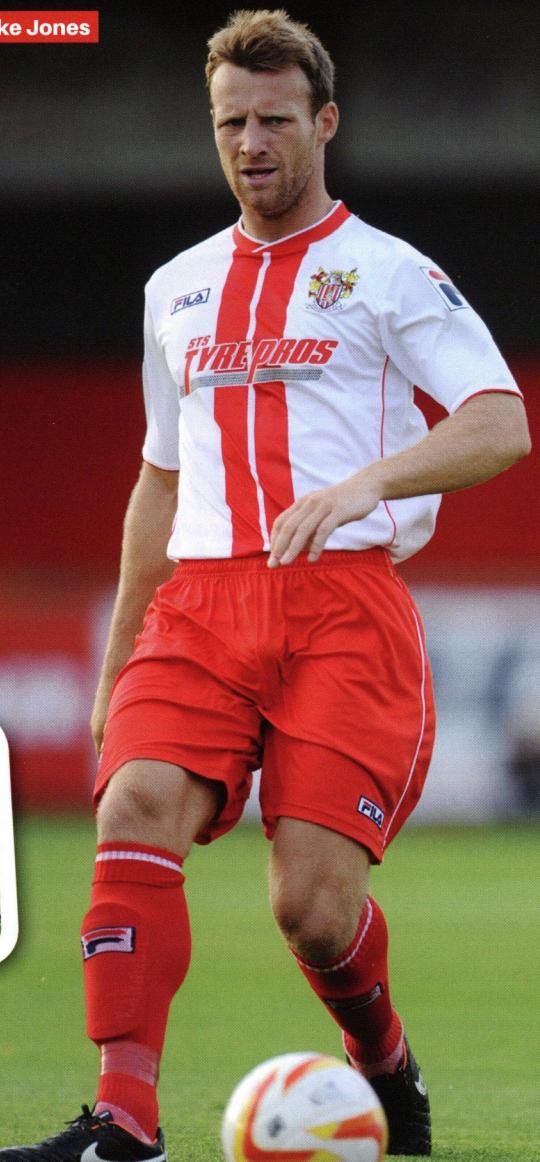
Graham Westley has worked wonders in his three spells at The Boro and will be looking for a positive result against the Shrews.

Stevenage were founded in 1976 and have made their way up to as far as League One in their very short history. The man at the forefront of that is Graham Westley who is now in his third spell in charge. His first spell had him saving them from relegation before his fruitful second spell brought great success including the FA Trophy and back to back promotions from the Conference to League One.

The club's highest attendance at Broadhall Way was in a Fourth Round FA Cup tie in 1998. Newcastle United were the visitors as they drew 1-1 in front of other 8,000 fans.



Luke Jones



Graham Westley

### PLAYER CONNECTIONS

With not so much history to go on there are very few players to have played for both the Shrews and Stevenage. **Luke Jones** represented Shrewsbury between 2006 and 2008 and played for Stevenage last season. He is currently on the books of Mansfield Town.

Shrewsbury Town travel to Stevenage on the 13th September before two home games on the bounce. Below is all you need to know ahead of the trip, courtesy of **TOWN TALK**.

### SHREWSBURY TOWN

### STEVENAGE

1  
0

5th April 2014

A late season game last term yielded a 1-0 victory for Shrewsbury over Stevenage. Jon Taylor netted the winner just before the hour mark as the Shrews recorded their first set of back to back victories at home in four months.



### STEVENAGE SHREWSBURY TOWN

1  
3

30th November 2013

Shrewsbury recorded a resounding victory against Stevenage at Broadhall Way last season despite Francois Zoko scoring an early goal to put the home side one up. Adam Reach equalised before Tom Eaves scored just before half time. Joe Jacobson sealed the points five minutes after half time.

### Ticket Update

Tickets for the game are now on sale to season ticket holders priced at:

£20  
£16  
£8  
FREE

Adults  
Seniors 65+  
Juniors U18  
Juniors U7

Prices will increase by £5 for Adults and £3 for Concessions on the day

Tickets are available via [www.shrewsshop.com](http://www.shrewsshop.com), over the phone on 01743 273943 or in person at the Greenhous Meadow ticket office.

### Away Travel Club Coaches



On Saturday 6th September we are travelling to Hartlepool for another Sky Bet league 2 clash.

#### Coach departs

Wem Council Offices  
Crown Abbey Foregate  
Red Lion Wellington

8.15 am  
8.45 am  
9.00 am

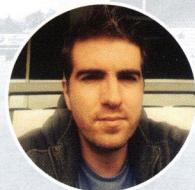
#### Fares

Super blues Members	£22
Junior/Oap travel club members	£22
Junior /Oap non member	£23
Adult travel club member	£24
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Under 11's	£10

To book your seat on the coach email [shrewsawaytravel@hotmail.com](mailto:shrewsawaytravel@hotmail.com) or phone **Chris** on 01952 604742

For the Northampton trip last minute bookings, subject to availability, can be made by phoning **John Bailey** on 07939 259 945.

# LIFE AFTER TOWN



Words: Colin Bloomfield

**David Pleat** only spent one season with Shrewsbury Town, having been signed by manager Arthur Rowley in 1967. Now, nearly 50 years on, the former outside-right still recalls his time at Gay Meadow as though it were yesterday.

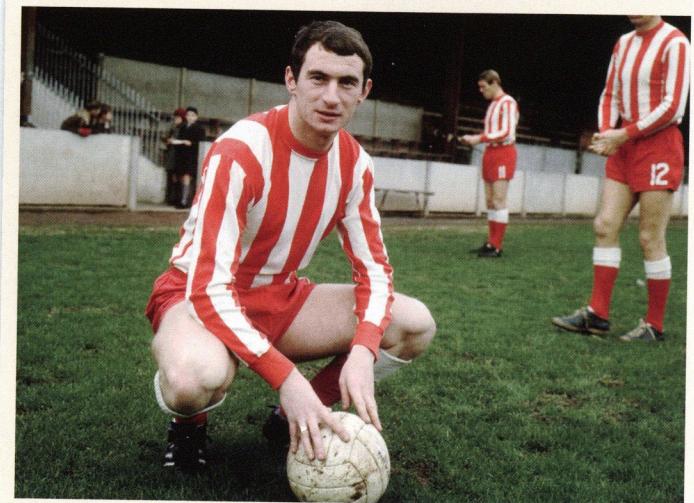
**H**e made his debut against Oxford United in a 2-0 home win on the opening day after leaving today's opponents Luton on a free transfer.

"Arthur was a rather surly character," said Pleat. "He'd been a great player with a great left foot, a real powerhouse. When I was deciding where to go, his words to me after a good meeting with him were 'if you don't make your mind up within 24 hours I'm going to sign Bernard Lewis from Cardiff instead! That was his introduction."

"I joined a very good side. I remember the match against Oxford well. The two Atkinson brothers, Ron and Graham, were playing for them and afterwards the Shrewsbury goalkeeper Alan Boswell - who was a bright brain as well as a very good 'keeper - said to me 'I'm telling you now, although it's only the first game, that's as good a side as we'll play and they'll get promoted.' He was right, and it was Shrewsbury who missed out by a whisker on the final day of that season."

After 10 years at Town as player and manager, which included breaking all scoring records, taking the club to the edge of the second division and twice reaching the last 16 of the FA Cup, it was to be Rowley's final season. Harry Gregg took over the following summer.

"I probably didn't do myself justice at Shrewsbury," admitted Pleat, who only played 16 times for Town. "I'd come to the club after suffering a broken leg and back injury from Luton so my better seasons came later when I left to join Exeter. I never felt Arthur had that much confidence in me, but at the same time I never had enough respect for him. I did have huge respect



for his coach Gordon Lee though. It was a brief spell at Shrewsbury but an interesting one. I think I learnt a lot from my time there in terms of coaching and management. We had some outstanding players. Frank Clarke was as good a lower league centre forward as I saw. He was brilliant at holding the ball up, although he wasn't the quickest. He was lovely guy too."

That season, Clarke moved to Queens Park Rangers for £35,000, with Rowley admitting many years later, the deal cost Town promotion.

"Ted Hemsley was in the team too," said Pleat. "He was a leader - as much interested in the cricket and horse-racing as the football. We had little Trevor Meredith, the outside right who I was competing with for that position - he'd come from Burnley. He and Jimmy McLaughlin were as

good as any wingers in the league. We had a very good team that year and picked up hardly any injuries. I do remember Alf Wood putting a lad from Tranmere in hospital in Shrewsbury for about 5 weeks with a ruptured spleen - it was terrible. George Boardman was a lovely man too, a very good Scottish inside forward and Eric Brodie was another Scotsman who supported Frank Clarke. I remember Tommy Seymour. He was the physiotherapist and kit-man but after 2pm he would go to scout players in Scotland. He was a real stalwart at Shrewsbury. I met some good people. There were a lot of football thinkers in that team."

Pleat's lack of regular starts for Shrewsbury that season meant his missed out on playing in the FA Cup matches against Arsenal. After Peter

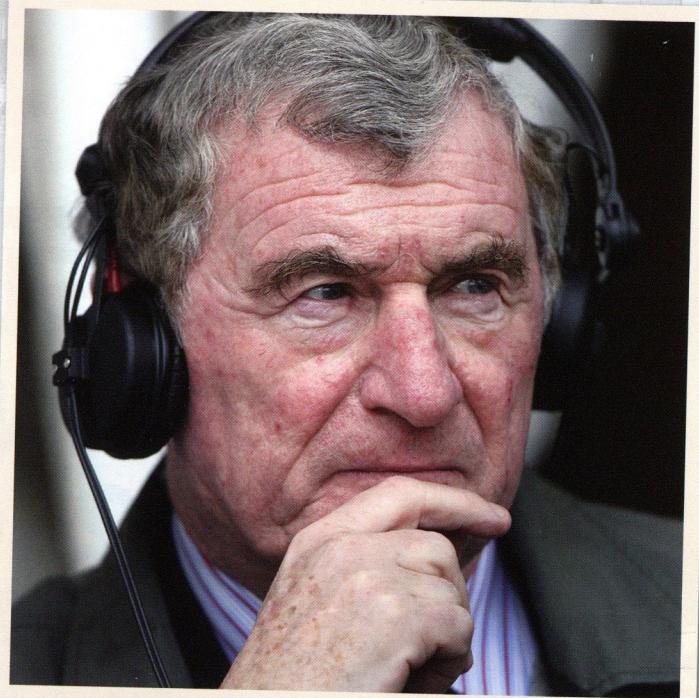
Dolby's late equaliser in front of more than 18,000 at Gay Meadow, Town lost the replay at Highbury 2-0.

"Shrewsbury is a place where people consider it to be a market town," said Pleat. "People might go to watch Wolves, Aston Villa or Stoke instead. We didn't have a big captive audience but had a reputation for being a good cup side and the club made some good money from the replay at Arsenal."

Pleat also remembers the training facilities - or lack of them - at Gay Meadow, and the flood water which used to spill onto the pitch from the River Severn behind the terracing. Pleat is pictured in one famous image looking out onto two feet of flood water in January 1968, ahead of a postponed FA Cup replay with Durham Amateurs Tow Law Town.

"We used to train behind the goal on ash felt," he recalled. "It was really bumpy, the players of today would not believe what we trained on. I remember the Wakeman school backing on to the left of the ground, and the river along the back. When the water got high, we came in our wellington boots and often wondered when the next game would be called off."

"I lived in digs at Meole Brace with one of the Shrewsbury players, Graham Clapham. He was like me in the sense he was more on the bench than in the team. When I became manager of Tottenham, his son Jamie was there. He was a frustrated left-back as he wasn't in the team so I sold him to Ipswich. It's amazing how I was in digs with his dad at Shrewsbury and ended up selling his son who went on to have a really good career. He's now coaching at Newcastle."



Pleat still sees some of his former team-mates on the footballing circuit.

"I bump into George Boardman from time to time," he said. "He's a scout so I catch up with him up and down the country. Pat Wright went abroad to coach in the Middle East. I recommended him to Brian Clough and Peter Taylor at Derby. They paid £8000 for him but unfortunately he got destroyed in his first game and he never got into their good books as a player. I still see him at Villa when I've been to matches."

After an injury hit playing career at Luton, Pleat is able to reflect on his time as Hatters manager with hugely fond memories in an era of unprecedented success.

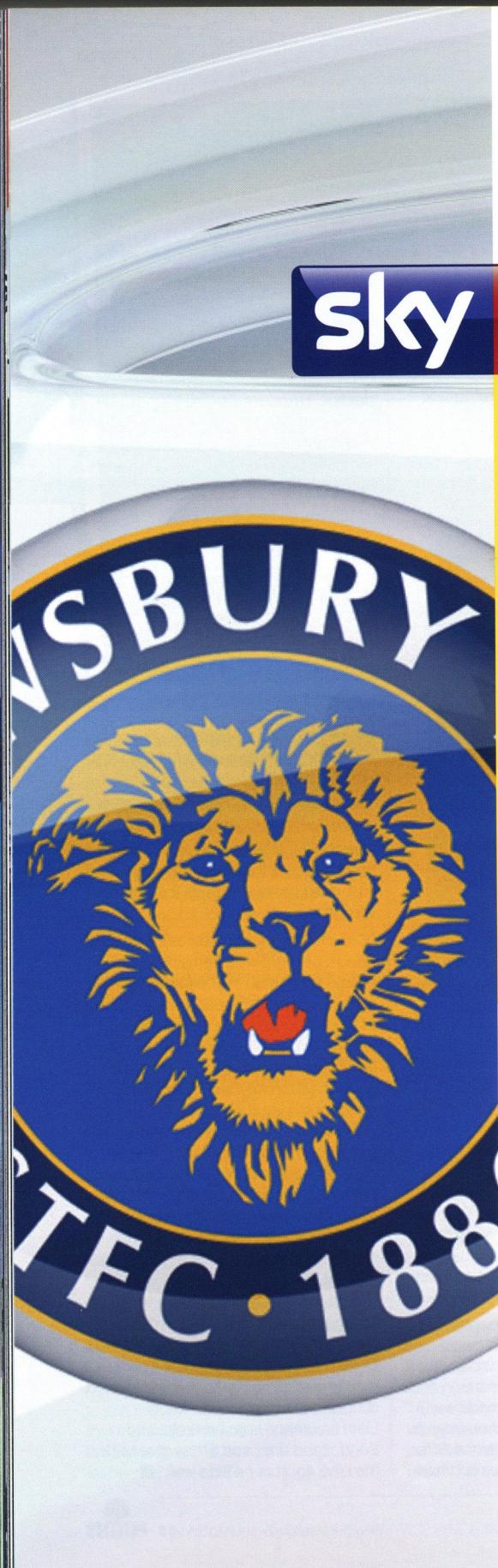
After spells at Shrewsbury, Exeter and Peterborough, he came back to Luton as a coach and was then appointed boss in 1978. He led the Hatters to the first division, and narrowly missed out on a place in the FA Cup final, beaten by Everton in extra time in the semi-final in 1985.

"We had people like Mal Donaghy, Brian Stein, Paul Walsh, Mick Harford and David Moss," he said. "The list is endless. I started out managing at Nuneaton and some of the best signings I made were from the lower leagues and non-league. We had the club's best spell in the 80's, changed the team three times and had

a super time. It's fantastic they're back in the Football League under John Still. I'm delighted."

There were just over 9000 fans inside Kenilworth Road for Luton's return against AFC Wimbledon this season, and Pleat says those numbers show the club can continue to push through the leagues.

"One of the important issues is that they need a new ground," he said. "When I came to the club in 1964 as a player from Nottingham Forest, that was one of the selling points to me yet they're still waiting. That's the sadness of Luton Town. Had they grasped the nettle and gone to Milton Keynes when they had the opportunity, it would have been a good move. We have always had to sell players, more than they average club, and it set a precedent with people Peter Anderson and Andy King leaving to prevent administration. I would like to think Luton will be up there challenging this season. They get good crowds, there's a reasonable budget and I'd love to see big teams coming to Luton and being beaten again. We so much enjoyed being David and beating Goliath. Shrewsbury have got a good manager in Micky Mellon who achieved success with Fleetwood. I know Liam Lawrence from his Stoke and Sunderland days and if they give Micky the time, I'm sure he'll do well." ■



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## Ryan Jervis

*The regular musings of Stadium announcer Ryan Jervis*



The answer surely is the sin bin?

**'Why', asked Mrs Jervis, 'Following the doom and gloom at the end of last season and the prediction that life in league two was going to be so awful and the end of the world is nigh are you so cheerful about your beloved football club once again?'**

I have to admit that occasionally, quite apart from being very trying my wife of very nearly forty wonderful years (she reads the programme) comes up with the occasional bit of astuteness. Football, as a once famous ex footballer said is a funny old game because she is right; there isn't a single town supporter who so far in this very young season would say they are not enjoying life in league two. Our disappointment about playing in a lower league has been replaced with a new found optimism and fresh hope by a manager and a squad of players who in the true spirit of Shrewsbury Town teams over the years don't know when they are beat!

This squad of players with their strength in depth and their character and the resilience they have revealed so far would not have been relegated at the end of last season. Despite the higher standards and the challenge of bigger and higher spending clubs in league one, the late comeback against Tranmere and the survival for more than two thirds of the game with ten men against Northampton is sufficient evidence that the new Shrewsbury are made of sterner stuff. Not only do we have players who can pass the ball and take on defenders they are all winners.

Mrs Jervis is right (for once), we are all more cheerful about our football

club and there isn't a soul who would want to swap places with a year ago – despite our lower league status. A trip to a Premiership Club, unbeaten in the league, plenty of high quality goals created and scored by quality players and most crucially a winning mentality. Early days I know but I predict more of the same.

The rules in Rugby would seem to have been more thoughtfully evolved than those in football. The use of



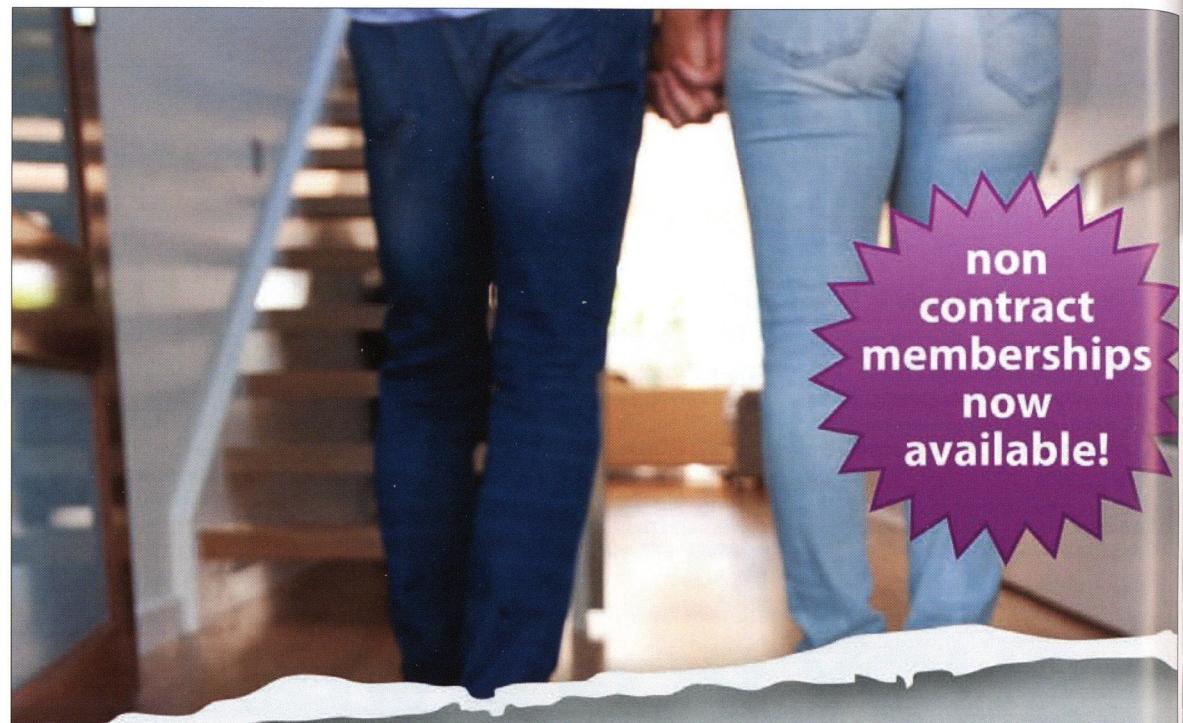
video technology during televised games to support the referees, the total respect for the authority of the referee and the sin bin to punish those thought to have seriously infringed the rules of the game. I have long thought our game could do worse than consider how our own game could benefit from the experiences in Rugby.

Liam Lawrence's red card as a result of a highly contentious refereeing decision made in an instant so early in the game led to the loss of our captain and a key player's services for more than two thirds of the game. The punishment in my opinion was heavy handed and as our eminent friend and fellow supporter Judge Robin Onions might say 'disproportionate' – not forgetting, subject to an appeal, we now lose Liam's services for three games.

On the basis of one man's interpretation of a tackle the team is massively weakened and the public who have paid to watch the game and who have travelled in some cases long distances are denied a fair game of football between two teams of eleven players.

The decision to send a player off so early in the game is huge – the advantage to the opposition is significant; the final outcome is not the result of fair play between two teams especially when an overreaction of an opposition player can inevitably influence the referee's decision. No footballer plays the game with any intent to seriously hurt another player. In their determination to do well for the team, sometimes players might try too hard and a foul is committed. What's more, there is no certainty that the official has got it right – too often video evidence proves he hasn't.

The answer surely is ten minutes in the sin bin for all but the worst of premeditated and serious foul play – the opposition gain a temporary advantage, the foul is punished, the point is made and everyone can once again respect the rules of the game and the difficult role of the referee.



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# Ade Plimmer

A Large Scotch's Shrewsbury Town's Foreign Legion



This season Adrian Plimmer will be sharing this page with Marcus Braddock. For his article Ade will be looking into the players who have represented Town coming from foreign soil. And hopefully learning a few things along the way.

**F**irstly a massive thank you to those that replied to my posts on 'Blue and Amber' and the shrewsTRUST Facebook page. Some interesting names and nominations came up which has probably saved some sleepless nights going forward.

A big shout out to Glyn Price who reminded me that the Blue and Amber Fanzine did an article two years ago on the Best/ Worst Foreign Players in Shrewsbury Town's history. 'devonwhitesprowess' gave the nod to Benny Gall and gave another of those 'following a player to the toilet' anecdotes. Apparently there were some plumbing issues!

Martin Ruscoe also nominated Benny's Danish compatriot Thomas Nielsen. Another wonderful anecdote of seeing young Mr N doing yoga in the Quarry (you see that is what foreign players brought to English Football. You'd never of seen Brian Hornsby doing that would you?).

'Czarcasm' nominated Australian Jason Van Blerk - "a player who always gave 100%". Van Blerk was part of the 2002/3 team who beat Everton and go relegated.

'Huddy' went for Glyfi Sigurdsson. "Has to be worth a shout" The Icelander who came to Salop on loan during Town's first season at the Greenhous Meadow, has gone on to make a name for himself at Spurs and now Swansea City.

'Eric Rex' went for Town's Auto Windscreen Shield Area Final hero and self-confessed 'Maltese Falcon' Ian Stevens. The Valletta born striker, scored 39 goals in 120 appearance

for Town, including "the goal that took us to Wembley against 'The Gas' in 1996".

'Vencremos' went for another Aussie James Meredith "we may see him again in the league one day". We'll he did, playing for Bradford City. He did of course play on loan for Telford, and came to the notice of many during his time at York City. My undying memory of him was being skinned by a part time player running up the slope at Underhill. It was also Gary Peters last game.



Derek Asamoah

My personal favourite has to be Derek Asamoah. The Ghanian international (born in Accra), joined Town at the start of their final season at Gay Meadow. Part of the team that made the first Play Off Final at the new Wembley. Asamoah agonising missed a great chance (when it seemed easier to score) that would have put Town on level terms against Bristol Rovers. What I liked about Derek was his pace and the ability to create something out of nothing. He made 39 appearances for Town, scoring 10 times.

It all ended in acrimony when Asamoah went missing on the eve of the 2007/8 season. It later

transpired that he had joined O.C.G Nice. Eventually costing the French side £50,000. Then Town Manager Gary Peters revealed that Asamoah would have been sacked if he had remained at Town, due to not seeking permission to leave.

Personal 'claim to fame' from me is that I announced Derek's last ever goal for Town (Shropshire Senior Cup Final between Market Drayton Town and Salop at Ludlow Town). I was standing on the balcony at the then SBS Stadium when the Ludlow match day announcer asked if I wanted to tell the 500 or so attending the next goal. Being a total 'media whore', I jumped at the chance. And 'Degsy' duly scored. "Goal scorer for Shrewsbury - DEREK ASAMOAHH!!!!"

For my next article in the Newport County programme we'll start to piece together a squad of Town's 'Foreign Legion'. But as an additional and in keeping with our visitors that day I want to ask 'who is your favourite Welsh player that has represented Town?'. Plenty to choose from.

Don't forget to look out for the link I've put up a link on Blue and Amber and the Trust's Facebook and twitter pages/ feeds, ([@shrewsTRUST2010](http://facebook.com/shrewsTRUST)), would be great to get your thoughts on this one.

Finally if you have stories, anecdotes, and pictures I would love to hear from you. You can contact me at [adep\\_salop@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adep_salop@yahoo.co.uk).

Looking forward to hearing from you. See you in the Newport County programme.

**Ade Plimmer**

# ON THIS DAY

## 1958

Smith, Tucker, Rowley and Russell all find the net as visitors Coventry are despatched 4-1

## 1975

Ray Haywood nets twice as Town are narrowly defeated 3-2 at Grimsby

## 1988

Walsall visit in the League Cup and earn a two-all draw. Melrose and Brown find the net for Town

## 1997

Town visit Cambridge and despite strikes by Evans, Spink and Dempsey lose by a 4-3 margin

**Birthday:** Gary Stevens 60

# TOP 10

## MOST CLEAN SHEETS IN A FOOTBALL LEAGUE SEASON

1.	21	1967/68
2.	20	1978/79
3.	19	1974/75
4.	19	1993/93
5.	18	2011/12
6.	17	2008/09
7.	16	1972/73
8.	15	2010/11
9.	15	1965/66
10.	15	1975/76

## MOST PROLIFIC TOWN MARKSMEN VS. READING

1.	Arthur Rowley	5
2.	Carl Griffiths	5
3.	Mal Starkey	4
4.	Frank Clarke	4
5.	Bobby Brown	3
6.	Harry Middleton	3
7.	George Boardman	3
8.	Alf Wood	3
9.	Willie O'Donnell	2
10.	Jack Hudson	2

## 10 LOWEST AVERAGE HOME GATES 1950 TO DATE

1.	2,402	1997/98
2.	2,471	1973/74
3.	2,575	1998/99
4.	2,832	1999/00
5.	2,897	2000/01
6.	3,082	1972/73
7.	3,178	1996/97
8.	3,317	1995/96
9.	3,371	1977/78
10.	3,379	1992/93

## 10 TOWN PLAYERS WHO HAVE WON THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY (IN ITS VARIOUS GUISES)

1.	Mark Hughes	1990
2.	Robert Hopkins	1991
3.	Simon Sturridge	1991
4.	John Gayle	1991
5.	Vince Overson	1992
6.	Louis Donowa	1995
7.	Nigel Jemson	1996
8.	Alex Smith	2001
9.	Sean Thornton	2007
10.	Joseph Mills	2010

# Classic IMAGES

We will be looking back through the archives and bringing you some classic images from Shrewsbury Town history.

Pat Wright runs out at Leeds United's Elland Road ahead of the FA Cup 5th round tie on Saturday 20th February 1965. Peter Dolby is following Pat out and in the end it was Leeds who ran out 2-0 winners.





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## traveller's **tales**

ian Jones recounts his football trips over the years

**W**hen the citizens of East Berlin pushed the city's dividing wall to breaking point in 1989 a transformation of European politics was unleashed.

The journey to freedom, symbolised by the ordinary East Germany people in their Trabant cars being waved through once impregnable border checkpoints, started a process that would soon become evident on football's international stage. German reunification in 1990 meant that East Germany withdrew from Euro 92 before qualifying began and for the first time since the second world war Germany competed as one nation again. There would, however, be further political disruption to the tournament before the final stages.

Along with England and the hosts Sweden, the nations qualifying for the finals were France, Germany, Netherland, Scotland, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. In 1991 a civil war broke out in Yugoslavia which would ultimately lead to the break-up of the country. The war made Yugoslavia's participation in the finals impossible and the country was disqualified; their place was awarded to qualifying group runners-up Denmark.

On 26 December 1991 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceased to exist, with twelve of its republics becoming independent. The now defunct Soviet Union team retained its place in the tournament competing under the banner of the Commonwealth of Independent States, drawing players from most of the old Soviet republics. After the tournament the new eastern European nations would form their own football associations. The draw for the finals placed England in a group with Denmark, France and Sweden. England's first two matches would be played at Malmö Stadion, with the third scheduled for Rasunda Stadium, then the Swedish national stadium.

While football was the primary purpose of our journey we were also determined to have a holiday



in the Solna Municipality just outside Stockholm. Making our holiday arrangements we decided to base ourselves in the historic city of Helsingborg in the south of the country, a relatively short drive from Malmö. For England's third game it was decided to make a one-day visit to the capital, even though this would mean a round trip of just over 600 miles. Serious consideration was given to staying for the whole three weeks of the tournament.

My friends' visit to Italia 90 had been restricted to England's first phase matches in Cagliari and they had missed following the team's progress through to the semi-finals. Such was the sense of expectation about England's chances in Sweden that they were reluctant to risk missing out again. Eventually caution prevailed and we decided to limit our expedition to a fortnight which would cover all three group matches. These would surely provide sufficient excitement to pack into a memorable holiday.

in the traditional sense. Staying in Helsingborg, which was also a ferry port, would give us the chance to go sightseeing not only in Sweden but also in Denmark a short sea crossing away. There were also thoughts of also seeing some of the Scandinavian night life - although we had concerns about the high price of Sweden's notoriously heavily taxed beer.

A holiday flat near Helsingborg's town centre had been booked. This seemingly routine holiday detail led to an unexpected telephone call from the apartment's proprietor. He was a freelance journalist who contributed to some of Sweden's leading sports magazines. With four England supporters arriving on his doorstep he saw an opportunity for his next commission: a feature on their experiences at Sweden's Euro 92. The fact that they supported a rather obscure small English club made the journalistic angle even sharper. After some discussion we agreed to cooperate in his proposal - it seemed prudent to keep on the right side of our temporary landlord.

# action replay

Saturday 23rd August 2014



Northampton

1



Shrewsbury

1

**S**hrewsbury came within a whisker of what would have been a stunning first away win of the season after playing for more than an hour with 10 men at Northampton.

The Shropshire side looked set for a tough day when they lost skipper Liam Lawrence on 26 minutes – the former Stoke and Sunderland man dismissed for a two-footed tackle on Joel Byrom.

But they made light of their numerical disadvantage and took a deserved lead on 63 minutes when substitute James Collins fired in from close range for his third goal of the season.

It was no less than Town deserved, and they might have added to that lead.

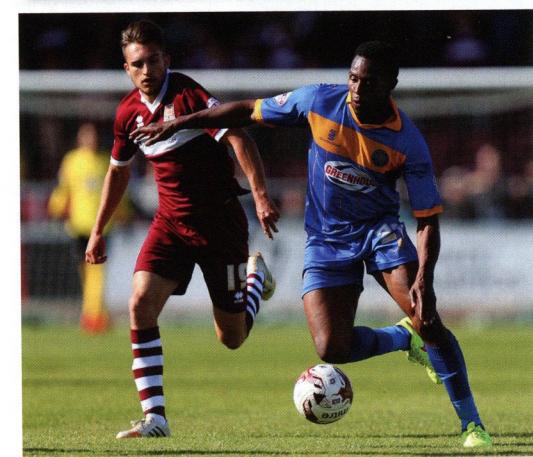
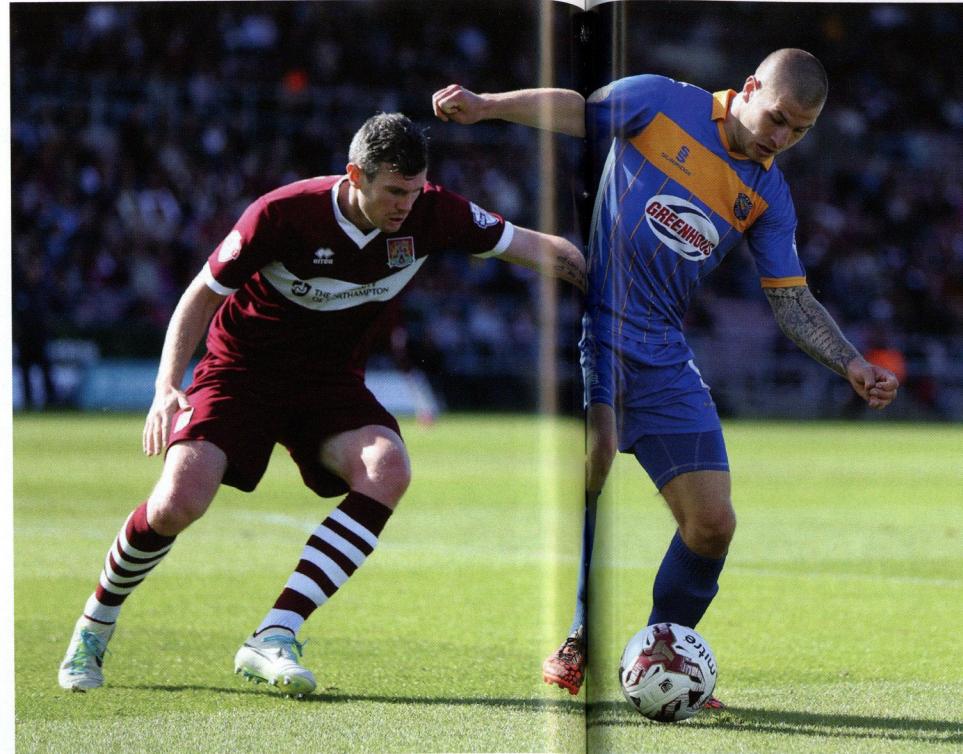
The hard-working Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro got a couple of sights of goal while referee Darren Deadman – who frustrated the visitors all afternoon – dismissed what looked a good penalty shout when Cameron Gayle went down.

Northampton rescued a point, though, with a last minute goal from Emile Sinclair. He headed home off Lawson D'Ath's cross to ensure the spoils were shared.

"This is an incredibly tough place to come, especially when you're down to 10 men, so I've got to be incredibly proud of my boys," said Town boss Micky Mellon.

"It's a great thing when a manager can walk into a dressing room and say how proud he is, and I've had that moment today."

**Town:** Leutwiler, Gayle, Goldson, Knight-Percival, Demetriou; Vincent (Collins 44), Wesolowski, Lawrence, Clark (Robinson 63); Mangan (Woods 28), Akpa Akpro (Vernon 83). Subs not used: Halstead, Grandison, Robinson, Wildig.



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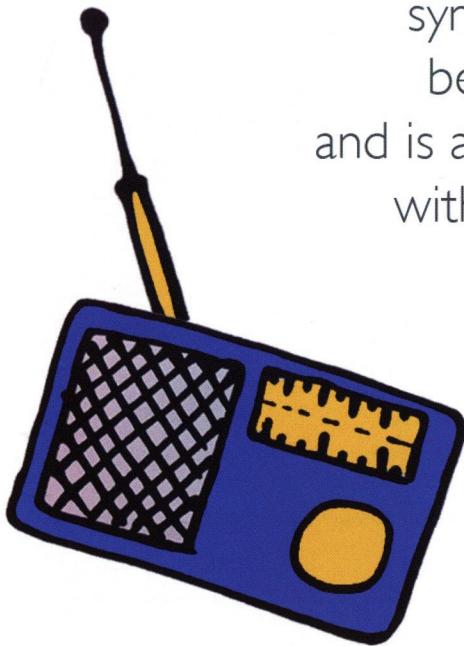
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## view from the pressbox

This weeks Pressbox article is written by Marcus Braddock



This month saw the passing of a football legend, a legend that never played the game or managed or even worked behind the scenes.

**T**his gentleman did on the face of it, quite a simple job, he read the football results.

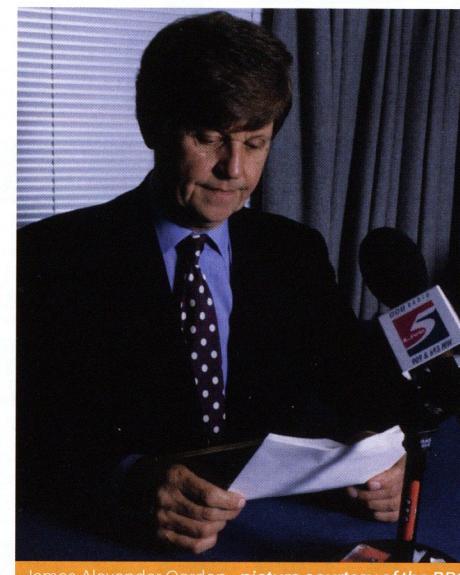
But James Alexander Gordon did it in such a way that he was appreciated and loved by millions. His tone, his intonation and his delivery were pretty much perfect like many others who provide the same service but Mr Alexander Gordon was ever so slightly different. His tone changed when he delivered each scoreline. I remember hearing him interviewed on Danny Bakers show and he described his style. When a team had lost, he felt sad for their fans and when a team drew he felt happy for their fans so he changed the intonation of his voice to reflect that. The widespread affection felt for him goes to shows the love that can be achieved with a little empathy. I certainly loved hearing him, so much so that when he left his post last year I felt bereft.

Amongst the comments and eulogies after his passing, many people said that they used to play a little game when listening to him. They tried to guess by the way he delivered the teams name, what their score would be and that struck a chord with me because we used to do exactly the same on the way home from the Meadow when I was a young supporter. I can remember feeling that the day's football wasn't completely finished until we heard that rousing music that introduced him, usually in traffic along the cemetery wall on Longden Road as my mum drove.

I'm not going to write a biography of JAG (as they call him) there have been many in the last few weeks

and if you missed any, they are all online somewhere. As I regularly write a fantasy team article for this programme, what I would like to do is create a sort of media fantasy team and revel in the warmth of nostalgia for a moment.

Obviously my favourite scores announcer was JAG but he wasn't the only media professional that I remember fondly. My fantasy



James Alexander Gordon - picture courtesy of the BBC

commentator is the great Peter Jones, many of you won't remember him as he passed in 1990 but he had a lyrical poetic way of putting things that was as loved as JAG. He was the radio commentator at Hillsborough on that dreadful afternoon in April 1989, I don't think that any other commentator had the gravitas to put the increasingly bleak picture across in an appropriate way. For me he was the best commentator of any event.

Match of the Days 50 year anniversary is currently being celebrated, so it's a good time to think of my fantasy presenter and pundit team for the show. To present, I think it's between Jimmy Hill and Des Lynham and the main reason I would pick Des over Jimmy Hill is that Hill was such an excellent pundit that he would take his place as my first choice there. Des Lynham was calm, assured and injected a note of humour that the likes of Lineker just can't emulate. Jimmy Hill was a revolutionary, a man who was proud to think differently and unafraid of putting his sometimes unpopular view across. He had critics but those who are different always do.

The second pundit is more difficult, there are a few I have liked over the years, Terry Venables, Lee Dixon and also Leonardo when he did the world cup games. Oddly though, I am going to go for one that I wasn't that keen on, Alan Hanson. I think he makes a great foil for Jimmy Hill as their styles are poles apart. His dogmatic and phlegmatic style of punditry would counterpoint Hills almost freestyle way of saying things

and I think there would be some heated exchanges which makes great television.

Over the years these remarkable individuals come along and maybe I'm just stuck in the past as those previously mentioned have either died or retired, but I'm happy to live in the past occasionally.

R.I.P. James Alexander Gordon

**Marcus Braddock**



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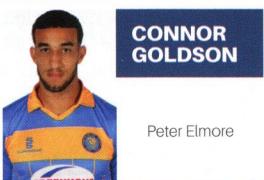
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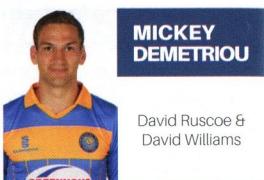
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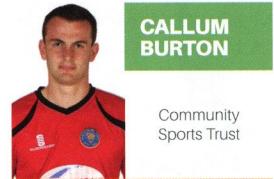
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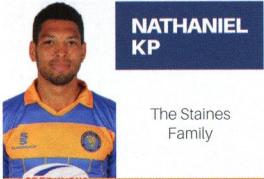
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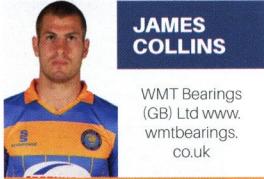
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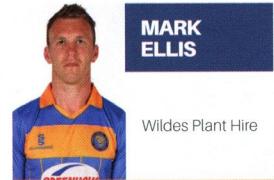
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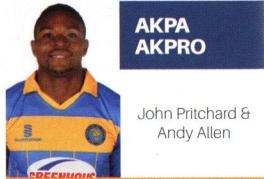
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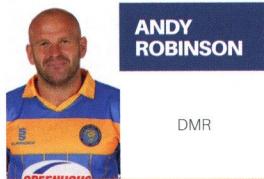
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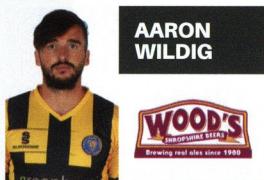
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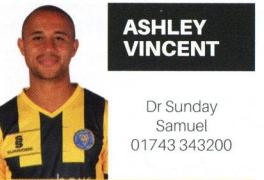
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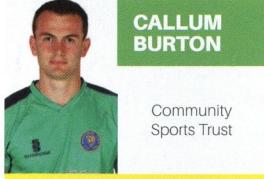
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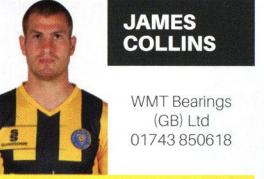
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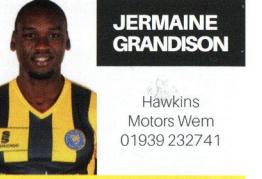
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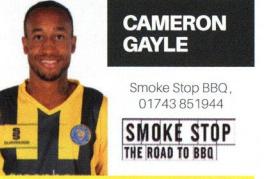
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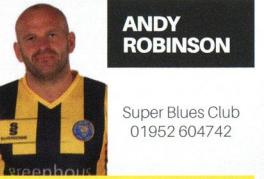
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Hello Super Town fans, with this being only the fifth league game of the new football season, I am sure I can still say welcome back to the Greenhous Meadow.

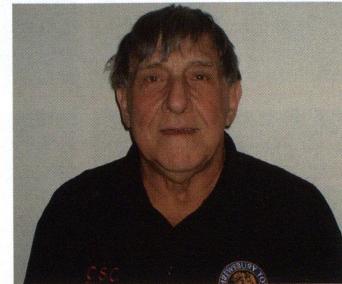
**A** lot of welcomes and thank yous apply to many people at the football club, these being our manager Mickey Mellon, and Chief Executive Officer Matt Williams, a big thank you must go to our loyal chairman Roland Wycherley for allowing Mickey to bring in all the new exciting players to the club, one big welcome must go to all the new players who have signed for us, we do hope they all have a happy and successful time at Shrewsbury Town.

By the time you read these notes we hope we will have lots of points on the board.

A lot of thanks apply to many more people at the football club,

many of them we don't hear a lot of, these being the girls and lads who work in the reception, offices, hospitality, stadium officers, gate men, stewards, and ground staff and of course many more people. We do hope it will be a very successful season for the Town, of course all the other twenty three clubs will be hoping for the same thing, as long as they finish below the Town that will be champion.

I could not complete these notes without saying congratulations to Luton Town on gaining their league status back, it's not a nice experience dropping out of the Football League like we did eleven years ago, but glad to say we returned after only one season in the Nationwide Conference



league. I can imagine the directors saying after returning to League Two, that must not happen again.

Enjoy today's game and give the lads your vocal support.

Cheers

**Barry Davies**  
OSC Committee Member

#### Quiz Night:

The next OSC quiz night will be held on Thursday 4th September in the Arthur Rowley lounge with a start time of 7:30pm, teams of 4 maximum £5 per team with a raffle held and drawn on the night. Everybody welcomed to come along and have a good night.

## News from shrewsTRUST

#### A warm welcome to members of the Trust in Luton in attendance today.

We held our AGM on Wednesday. News on that will be available in the Carlisle programme.

Membership - members whose membership is due to expire will be contacted. Membership is once again £2 for Adults and free for Kids.

Match day presence - as ever we are in the Charles Darwin for allowing us to use the pub as our match day base. Here, you will be able to join the Trust, find out more about what we do, buy our merchandise, and also have a go on the 'Half Time/ Full Time' game. Also there is free parking for fans who use the pub before the game.

We still have a few Supporters Shirts

and our popular Loggerheads T-Shirts available. Supporters Shirts are £29 non-members (£27 members). T-Shirts - £12 non-members (£10 members). Come and see us pre-game in the Charles Darwin or visit our website - [www.shrewstrust.com](http://www.shrewstrust.com).

Match day transport - we are pleased that the opportunity to use the Meole Brace Park and Ride site for midweek games has been re-introduced. It can be particularly difficult for those working outside Shrewsbury, or finishing work late in the county town to make some of the transport arrangements available. So well done to those that raised the issue. Don't forget that we continue to organise the Supporters Buses from the Prince of Wales for Belle View / Coleham/ Reabrook and The Beeches

in Bayston Hill. To book your travel to the Greenhous Meadow contact:

(The Beeches) Russell - **01743 872056**

(The Prince of Wales) Ian - **01743 343301**.

The Trust has had a busy summer. We have spearheaded the Fans Parliament (well done Roger and Mikel!) which has launched the vote on changing the current badge. Not voted yet? Go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BadgeVote](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BadgeVote)

For more information on the Trust visit our website at [www.shrewstrust.com](http://www.shrewstrust.com), like us on Facebook - [facebook.com/shrewsTRUST](http://facebook.com/shrewsTRUST) and follow us on twitter @shrewsTRUST2010.

**Ade Plimmer** - Joint Vice Chair and Acting Secretary - shrewsTRUST



## Super blues

### NEW AND IMPROVED BENEFITS FOR SUPER BLUES!

- 10% of all purchases in the club shop
- 10% off Sunday lunch at the football club when booking for a party of 4 or more.
- Chance to win cash prizes in the monthly draw (10 cash prizes each month)
- Discount on coach fares when travelling to away games on the AWAY TRAVEL CLUB coaches
- 10 points in the STFC fans loyalty scheme (equal to attending 10 home matches)
- Free entry to home reserve games
- Membership card and badge
- Half price membership of the Junior Shrews for members children or grandchildren
- £15 of mascot package for members children or grandchildren
- A special matchday hospitality offer for a named game in the 2014/15 season
- 25% off the cost of putting a name and number on a shirt purchased in the club shop
- Members discount scheme with local shops and businesses

### Winners of the August draw were:

1st prize £200	219	Mr J B Davies
2nd prize £100	73	Mr B Kitson
3rd prize £100	65	Mrs A Jervis
4th prize £50	249	Mr R Oakley
5th prize £50	350	Mr G Hartley

All from Shrewsbury

### Runners up each receive £20

-	-	307	Pam Coe
-	-	379	Mrs H E Rose
-	-	406	Melanie Oldacre
-	-	52	Mr D C Powis
-	-	497	Mr John Phillips

Chester  
Shrewsbury  
Shrewsbury  
Shrewsbury  
Shrewsbury

We don't think this has happened very often before, 9 out of 10 winners from Shrewsbury...

Subs are now due for all members who pay by cash or cheque. If you have not already done so please send your payment to Treasurer David Ruscoe as soon as possible. New members are always welcomed simple application forms are available from the Greenhous Meadow or by emailing membership secretary Jackie Klekot [JKM@live.co.uk](mailto:JKM@live.co.uk) or Chairman Chris Smith [Shrewsawaytravel@hotmail.com](mailto:Shrewsawaytravel@hotmail.com)

### Latest donation

Pictured are members of the Super Blues committee, along with monthly draw co-ordinators Pete Blower and Neil Handley presenting Matt Williams with a cheque for £10,000 representing their latest donation to the football club.

Details that this project is funding will be announced shortly.



### Forthcoming events

#### Tickets now available for our Annual Sportsman's Dinner

Monday 10th November 2014 in the Sovereign Lounge Greenhous Meadow 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Guest speaker Dean Saunders and comedian Garry Marshall. Three course roast beef dinner. Dress: Lounge Suite

Tickets only £35 per person. Individual or group bookings available

Over 140 tickets have already been sold for what promises to be a great night.

Enquires email [Shrewsawaytravel@hotmail.com](mailto:Shrewsawaytravel@hotmail.com) or phone Chris on **01952 604742**

#### Annual Football Programme & Memorabilia Fair Sunday 26th October 2014

11am until 1-30pm at the Greenhous Meadow in the Arthur Rowley lounge (Sponsored by Re Brown Builders Ltd)

Free admission. Why not bring the family along and follow it up by having lunch at the stadium.

Lunch bookings can be made by contacting hospitality **01743 289177** ext 1 or email [hospitality@shrewsburytown.co.uk](mailto:hospitality@shrewsburytown.co.uk)



## COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST

Shrewsbury Town are proud to be in partnership with:



### Network Rail and The Football League Trust

The new partnership between Network Rail and The Football League Trust (FLT) will see Shrewsbury Town CST, along with 9 other clubs, work with Network Rail's community safety managers to boost awareness of railway safety.

The sessions will be delivered on the club's doorstep at Lucozade Powerleague, a prime location to deliver a railway safety education programme, with a railway running adjacent to the football ground.

Tragically, 164 people lost their lives after going onto the tracks in the last five years. Of these, 70% were struck by trains with 18% suffering electrocution by coming into contact with the power supply which can be as much as 25,000 volts. The peak ages for trespass fatalities are late teens and earlier twenties with around one in five deaths in this age group.

Ashley Vincent, STFC Network Rail player ambassador, will take an active role in the project by attending sessions and acting as a role model, re-enforcing the rail safety messages. Ashley commented on his involvement in the programme "It is great to have the opportunity to be involved in a programme which involves keeping young people in our community safe, as well as supporting a national initiative."

Commenting on the partnership, Mike Evans, General Manager at The

## Network Rail



Football League Trust said: "Football League clubs are at the heart of their communities and therefore have the incredible ability to reach people. Our partnership with Network Rail shows how football can use this ability to talk to young people about a serious issue and make a positive difference to people's lives."

Gareth Llewellyn, director of safety and sustainability at Network Rail, said: "We know of too many incidents where seemingly harmless pranks or games along the tracks have resulted in painful injury or even death. The Football League Trust and the clubs

involved can help us raise awareness of the dangers and engage kids in something much more positive. The results will be a safer community and better running railway for all."

The sessions will commence on Monday 15th September, 6-7pm and will be open to all school age children. The programme will be completely free and will continue for 10 weeks.

For further information email [communitysportstrust@shrewsburytown.co.uk](mailto:communitysportstrust@shrewsburytown.co.uk) or call 01743 289177 ext 239.



# If you like football, you'll love Futsal!



If you're aged 16-18 and are interested in joining the course or finding out more, come along to the advice evening at

**Greenhous Meadow**  
**Thursday 21 August, 5-7pm**

Futsal is the only form of indoor 5 a-side football approved by FIFA, UEFA and the FA.

This is a unique opportunity of playing Futsal for Shrewsbury Town Football Club at the Birmingham International Futsal Arena, while studying at Shrewsbury College.

Study on the BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport alongside Futsal coaching to help you start a career in a growing sport and leisure industry.

OR:

- Call Course Advice - 01743 342332
- Call Community Sports Trust - 01743 289177
- Attend the presentation evening
- Visit [www.shrewsbury.ac.uk](http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk)
- Visit [www.fltfutsal.co.uk](http://www.fltfutsal.co.uk)





# COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST

## Extra Time seeking team members

**A** club for those of retirement age seeking social interaction and physical activities. Extra Time takes place every Thursday, 10-12pm at Lucozade Powerleague Shrewsbury.

We offer a variety of activities to encourage older people to come and try a new and different sport or activity in a fun, safe and structured environment. The most important thing is that the Extra Time programme is a social session where people can come along for a tea or coffee, read the paper, or perhaps have a go at other activities such as Archery, Golf, Hockey, Tennis and many other activities.

As well as offering enjoyable exercise, the sessions also give an opportunity for social engagement, contributing to emotional health and well-being. The fully inclusive programme



offers two hours of activity all year round. Refreshments are provided at each session and participants are encouraged to make time for a chat and a brew at the start and end of each activity.

We ask for a donation of £4 per person each week to go towards covering the costs.

Please contact Jessica Lightwood Community Development Officer at Shrewsbury Town for further information.

Telephone 01743 289177 Ext 239 or by email: [jessica.lightwood@shrewsburytown.co.uk](mailto:jessica.lightwood@shrewsburytown.co.uk)

## Girls Development squads are seeking new members

**W**ith the rising popularity of women's and girls football around the county CST are excited to announce that the Girls Development Squads are looking for players.

Sessions are open to players all ability from school 3-11 and are coached by our CST coaches. Coaches will focus on the basic skills to the more advanced following the Shrewsbury Town Philosophy. Sessions take place on Thursdays at Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology at the following times

**School Years 3-5**

**5pm to 6pm**

**School Years 6-8**

**6pm to 7pm**

**School Years 9-11**

**6pm to 7pm**

Sessions are £5 if paying on a weekly basis, or £16 if paying monthly. A kit package is available to purchase for squad members

Players within these squads will take part in match fixtures against other development centres around the local area. Aiden Wassell Womens and Girls Officer commented 'The girls development will look to improve players to solve problems so they can take it into match play. Its about letting them play football and discovering what they can do as players, our coaches will always praise and reward players you are brave and try new things and football is about enjoyment.'

For anymore information contact CST on 01743 289177 or [Aiden.Wassell@shrewsburytown.co.uk](mailto:Aiden.Wassell@shrewsburytown.co.uk)

## Walking Football

**W**alking Football, a slow-paced version of the beautiful game aimed at the over 55s arrives at STFC!

Shrewsbury Town Community Sports Trust have partnered with Age UK to set up Walking Football sessions in Shrewsbury. As well as supporting the current session at Monkmoor Recreation ground, STFC CST are setting up a new session at Lucozade Powerleague.

Walking Football is designed to help people keep an active lifestyle despite their age, as well as getting those back playing football who had to stop due to injuries.

As the name suggests, Walking Football is non-contact and anyone that sprints, runs or jogs while the ball is in play will be penalised with a free-kick awarded to the other team.

Plenty of breaks for stretching and water occur and players must complete a physical activity readiness questionnaire before taking part.

Norman, Walking Football participant commented "I remembered the joy of kicking a football and re-learning



the old skills of controlling the ball and passing. I lost some weight (a trouser size and more) I was fitter and more relaxed. But above all I have made friends with a whole new group of people. If anyone is undecided about giving it a go like I did, think no more, go and make new friends, relive the old days of football and get fitter and healthier".

For more information contact Jessica at STFC CST on 01743 289177 ext 239 or email [jessica.lightwood@shrewsburytown.co.uk](mailto:jessica.lightwood@shrewsburytown.co.uk)

## Summer NCS Brings youngsters and the Community together

**T**he community trust NCS programme ran their social action project last week at the Green wood centre in Ironbridge.

Raising money for hope house hospices and west midlands air ambulance the group of 16 and 17 year olds organised and delivered a fun day for family/friends and people in the local community to enjoy.

Events on the day included a cake sale, tombola, nail painting, as well as live music and other fundraising activities.

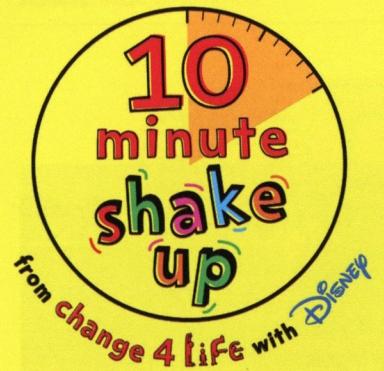
Team leader Andrew Bradbury had this to say "I was really impressed with all the hard work and organisation that has gone into setting up and running this social action project, its great to see a group of young adults that are so mature and really want to make a difference to their local communities"

This Thursday will see the youngsters graduate and receive their certificates signed by the PM David Cameron at



the Greenhouse meadow stadium. The community trust will be running their Autumn NCS programme this October.

For more information about NCS and taking part in future projects contact Andrew Bradbury (NCS co-ordinator) at [Andrew.Bradbury@shrewsburytown.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bradbury@shrewsburytown.co.uk)

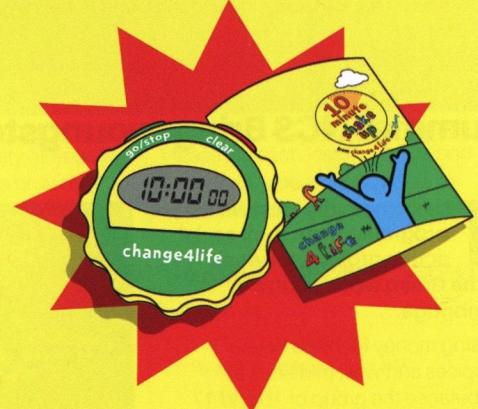


# let the fun start!

Change4Life and Disney have teamed up to help your kids get active and have fun this summer. Sign up for the **10 Minute Shake Up** and you'll get loads of FREE 10 minute games, activities and moves inspired by your kids' favourite Disney stories and characters.

## sign up

for a **FREE STOPWATCH** and activity pack (while stocks last)  
search **change4life**



stfc  
**ladies**



Follow us on twitter-  
@STFCladies



Facebook-  
Shrewsbury Town  
Ladies Football Club

Good afternoon and welcome to today's game with Luton Town. Good luck to Micky Mellon and the team, hopefully we carry on our great start to the new season.

In today's programme we are going to introduce some of the new players that have joined Shrewsbury Town Ladies during the summer.

It has been a busy period on recruitment with many comings and goings, almost carbon copy of the first team. The players coming in over pre-season have settled into the squad very well and have shown me what good players they are and why I signed them. Before we introduce those players we want to wish Anya Taylor, Cait Wrigley, Phoebe Meyrick, Katherine Ratcliffe and Tally Alexander all the very best and thank them for their efforts as they all embark on new challenges. Now onto the new players

Daisy Bradshaw- Daisy joined the team at the end of last season with a view to signing for this season. Playing for local junior team Saha last season, Daisy has proved to be an exciting addition to the midfield. Daisy is the younger sister of ex Town striker Tom. Daisy is still only 16 and will only get better, already scoring two goals over pre-season.



Rhian Townsend- Rhian signed from Llanidloes Ladies in June. Rhian is a strong player who will add a lot of strength to the back four. With Tash Broome and Beth Francis already competing, we look to have strong competition for the centre back role.

Charlotte Sewell- Charlotte came to my attention after a fantastic season at Whitchurch by bagging 20 goals. Goals were not our strong point last season so we were delighted to get her on board. During the summer Charl has shown a lot of promise, and has played very well in our pre-season matches.

Tania Prior- We have added a bit of Portuguese flair with striker Tania signing for the club. Tania, like Charlotte, will add good competition upfront and from what we have seen so far will add plenty of goals.

Kim Winton- An excellent signing for the club, Kim signed from TNS Ladies

in the summer after a very successful time at the Saints, winning the Shropshire Women's Cup two years in a row. She is a very good footballer who can fill in anywhere down the Left side. Her signing is a statement of intent from us.

We will introduce more in the next issue. We have pretty much now completed our pre-season programme with the new season starting on the 7th September. Over that period we have shown glimpses of what we can look forward to. I have been very pleased with how we have done in the matches we have played, competing against higher division teams. For us the main focus over pre-season was to have a squad in place that would offer plenty of competition for places. And a squad that we believe can really challenge for promotion, we feel we have got that. We are ready for the challenge ahead.

# action replay

Saturday 16th August 2014



Shrewsbury

2



Tranmere

1

**S**hrewsbury produced some late, late drama as they came from behind to sink Tranmere Rovers in a Greenhous Meadow thriller.

Town had looked set to begin their home league campaign with a defeat after Abdulai Bell-Baggio had fired the visitors into a half-time lead.

But substitute Andy Mangan bagged a 90th minute equaliser and Mickey Demetriou, on his Football League debut, popped up with a winner in the fourth minute of injury-time.

Demetriou was only in the starting line-up because of an injury to centre-back Mark Ellis, forcing boss Micky Mellon to move Nathaniel Knight-Percival from the left-back slot into the middle.

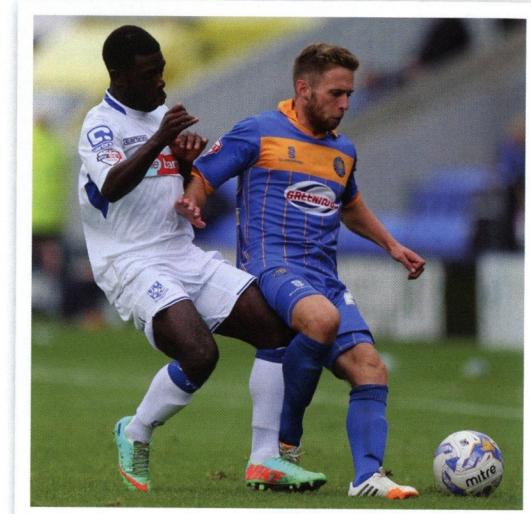
Town had looked the more threatening in a cagey opening period but fell behind to a well-worked Tranmere move on 42 minutes. Jake Kirby broke down the left flank for the away side, and his cross to the back post was knocked down by Mark Laird to gift Bell-Baggio the simple task of firing in from close range.

The hosts dominated possession in the second half but came up against a well-marshalled Tranmere, who were intent on protecting their fragile lead.

They looked set to do just that until the last minute, when Demetriou produced a super cross for Mangan to tap in his first goal for the club.

And Shrewsbury refused to settle for a point, continuing to press for a winner. They got their reward deep into stoppage time as Mangan this time turned provider, crossing from the right for Demetriou to gleefully head home.

**Town:** Leutwiler, Gayle, Goldson, Knight-Percival, Demetriou; Vincent (Caton 57), Wesolowski, Woods, Clark, Collins (Mangan 74), Vernon (Akpa Akpro 74). Subs not used: Halstead, Grandison, Lawrence, Robinson.



# action replay

Tuesday 19th August 2014

Greenhous Meadow  
SkyBet League Two



Shrewsbury

4



Accrington

0

**S**hrewsbury maintained their 100 per cent home record with a four-some performance against 10-man Accrington Stanley.

Boss Micky Mellon rang the changes for Town's fourth game in 11 days - resting strike duo Scott Vernon and James Collins and giving starts to Andy Mangan and Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro.

And they were ahead in the seventh minute as Mangan was rewarded for chasing down a lost cause - Stanley keeper Luke Simpson driving his attempted clearance against the striker's backside and watching helpless as it rebounded in.

Simpson's evening got even worse when he was sent off a minute before the break for bringing down Mangan. Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro despatched the penalty - the first Town had been awarded in almost 17 months - to notch his first goal for the club.

And the points were as safe as safe by the break as Connor Goldson fired in from a corner in first half injury-time.

Town showed less urgency in the second half against their depleted opponents, but still added a fourth goal as Mangan got his second of the night and third in four days.

He got on the end of a pinpoint cross from Akpa Akpro to ensure that Town would end the evening lying in third place.

And a happy Mellon said: "It could've been more than four but I'm not going to be greedy because at the end of the day we wanted the result."

**Town:** Leutwiler, Gayle, Goldson, Knight-Percival, Demetriou; Vincent (Caton 70), Wesolowski (Woods 75), Lawrence, Clark (Robinson 63); Mangan, Akpa Akpro. Subs not used: Halstead, Grandison, Collins, Vernon.



## FREELANDER 2

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With its modern, contemporary exterior and a refreshed interior, the Freelander 2 sets new standards with a wider selection of colour schemes, touch-screen instrument pack, enhanced audio system, command driving position and stadium seating.

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### SHUKERS LAND ROVER

Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Freelander 2 Range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 (8.7) – 39.8 (7.1) Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0) - 48.7 (5.8) Combined 40.4 (7.0) – 45.6 (6.2)  
CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 185 – 158 g/km.

The figures provided are as a result of official manufacturer's tests in accordance with EU legislation. A vehicle's actual fuel consumption may differ from that achieved in such tests and these figures are for comparative purposes only. Shukers Limited are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Ref No.313808). You can verify this information by visiting [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk) or by telephoning 0800 111 6768.



## introducing: jeff watkins

Every team needs a leader - and **Jeff Watkins** is just the man to do that job for Shrewsbury Town's youth side.

**T**he versatile defender, now a second-year scholar in the Under-18s group, wears the captain's armband for Ian Dawes' team.

It's a role Jeff takes great pride in doing and he believes it's the person he is which has led to him being the youth team skipper.

"I believe being a leader on the pitch is the best way to play your own game, and you can help others as well," said Jeff.

"It's not the fact that I've got the band, it's more the person I am that led me to being captain.

"I try to pull the team together and make sure everyone's doing everything right."

"I like to keep everyone positive and be a role model myself both on and off the pitch, which is very important."

Jeff has ambitions to follow the likes of Connor Goldson and Dominic Smith into Town's first team but acknowledges there is plenty of work to be done for that opportunity to come around.

"I want to keep pushing myself and go as far as possible," he said.

"To go as far as possible you have to look at the bigger players."

The 17-year-old insists the education side of his scholarship is crucial to his development and says he takes the same mentality from football into his studies.

"The education side is important because, if things don't go well, that's what I'll need," said Jeff.

"I'm definitely going to push myself as much as possible in education as well as football."

It was a choice between rugby and football for Jeff growing up, but the Liverpool fan followed his heart and went for the sport with the circular ball.

"I used to play rugby and got quite far in that," said Jeff.

"I actually had to make a choice between rugby and football, and with the scholarship offer at this level, I went with my heart which said football."

"I begged my mum near enough every day of my toddler ages. I always had a ball at

my feet and new from that day that's what I wanted to do.

"I started as a striker for Dawley Wanderers which was fun, and I played for Telford at development level and came to Shrewsbury at the end of under-15s. It all just went from there really."

"With all the hard work from my mum, dad and everyone else who's helped me along the way, I'm pretty certain that this is where I needed to be."

"If I wasn't then it would have all come down to nothing. It was about pushing myself when I was younger to get the offer of a scholarship."

"Pete Walden from the under-16s pushed me and helped me a lot. He was one of the coaches who believed in me, so without him I wouldn't be here, like my parents."

Academy manager Steve Reece is also someone who Jeff has reserved praise for.

"Steve (Reece) is brilliant. On and off the pitch he plays his part. He keeps the lads going, has a laugh with us and he's a great person to have around the Club."

"We've got a good squad because there's good players we can bring off the bench. We all get on really well and the team has gelled nicely."

Jeff's versatility saw him pushed up front as a striker in the 1-0 defeat at Walsall, as Town looked to find an equaliser late on.

It's a role the captain is prepared to take on when required.

"I used to play as a striker and I'm pretty versatile. I've played in a lot of positions and I'm happy to play up front when needed to."

"I played there at under-16s level and got a lot of goals."

He's now looking forward to the season ahead with the new head of academy coaching Ian Dawes.

"Ian's got his own way of playing and his own beliefs, and I think he's put that into our team," said Jeff.

"He's the best manager I've come across and I believe he will take us all forward."





# youth team



Words: Sam Gililand

## Youth: Shrewsbury Town 2-3 Oldham Athletic Under-18s suffer first home defeat of the season

**G**oals from Tom King and Kaiman Anderson were not enough for Shrewsbury Town's youth team as they fell to their first home defeat of the season against Oldham Athletic.

Town were back playing at Shrewsbury Sports Village and took the lead after just 50 seconds, when King smashed in across goal from the left.

Oldham equalised through Jordache Walters in the 15th minute but the young Shrews retook the lead when Anderson rounded off a superb passing move by rolling the ball into the far corner.

However, the Latics responded by levelling again on the stroke of half-time via a powerful strike from Devante Jacobs.

And Tony Philliskirk's side nicked all three points with five minutes left when Ryan Ellison converted a penalty, before Town had King sent off in added time to cap a disappointing day all-round.

### FIRST HALF

Having played their home games at Lilleshall National Sports Centre throughout pre-season and for the opening league game against Fleetwood Town, the young Shrews returned to Shrewsbury Sports Village for Saturday's match.

And head of academy coaching Ian Dawes made four changes to the side beaten 1-0 at Walsall a week before, with goalkeeper Harry Lewis, Nathan Millis, Alex Fletcher and Jordan Wilson all coming in for Alex Ashton, Jack Butts, Joel Carta and Ethan Jones.



Rain poured down from the first whistle but it did not stop Town from making the perfect start, as Niall Flint picked out King on the left edge of the penalty area before the latter lashed a left-footed strike into the far right corner, for his third goal of the season, with only 50 seconds on the clock.

Oldham looked to hit back six minutes later when captain Jack Tuohy flicked wide a header from a corner, and they did grab an equaliser in the 15th minute.

Striker Walters collected the ball on the edge of the Town box before turning and rifling a powerful low strike off his left foot to leave Harry Lewis with no chance at his left corner.

The Latics continued to press from long range on the right and Lewis was unable to reach the ball at his right-hand post, meaning the two teams went in level at the break.

One-touch passing between Josh Ginnelly, Wilson and Anderson resulted in the latter finding space on the right side of the box before he rolled the ball across goal into the far left corner for his first of the campaign.

Town could then have created a two-goal lead before half-time when Flint latched onto Lewis' long kick forward on the right and burst down on goal, but the midfielder was unable to loft over the oncoming Chris Renshaw.

Chances continued to arrive for either side before Philliskirk's side again equalised a minute before half-time with another effort into the corner.

This time Jacobs struck low from long range on the right and Lewis was unable to reach the ball at his right-hand post, meaning the two teams went in level at the break.

**HALF-TIME:** Shrewsbury Town 2-2 Oldham Athletic

Town started the second period strongly and skipper Jeff Watkins got up to head a corner from Flint straight into the goalkeeper's hands.

At the other end, Lewis was called into action to save low from Walters when the striker got in behind the Shrews defence. But it was Town who had the better chances of the half, with Anderson being denied by Renshaw at his near post while substitute George Hassall nearly squeezed one in following a corner.

And the best of the lot fell for Anderson with ten minutes to go, but the striker sliced his effort wide from close range after Ginnelly has sprayed a low ball across the box from the left.

Town were then made to pay for their missed chances with five minutes left, when the referee awarded Oldham a penalty after a foul by substitute Butts.

Ellison stepped up to fire the ball low into the bottom left corner to give the Latics a late lead.

The young Shrews struggled to get the ball back from thereon and King was sent off for a late challenge in added time.

**Ian Dawes has called on Shrewsbury Town's youth team to handle the physical side of football better following their 3-2 defeat to Oldham Athletic.**

The young Shrews led twice in the Youth (North West) fixture at Shrewsbury Sports Village but were pegged back before going down to a late penalty from the Latics. Oldham's first two goals came from their muscular strikers, and Dawes, head of coaching, wants the Under-18s to cope better when up against strong opponents.

"Off the ball they had a physical player playing up front and he was more dominant than our players - we've got to learn to deal with that," said Dawes.

"If we had stopped him playing, like we spoke about, then we would have won the game.

"I thought it was a mixed game, on the ball at times we were okay.

"We played our way and created chances, but our decision making and quality at times wasn't good enough."

Goals from Tom King and Kaiman Anderson twice gave Town the lead in the first half before the two teams went in level at the break.

Dawes' side came out and created numerous opportunities to find a third goal in the second half but could not take them, so he wants

It meant Town fell to their first home defeat of the season and gave Oldham their first victory of the 2014/15 Football League Youth Alliance (North West) campaign.

**FULL-TIME:** Shrewsbury Town 2-3 Oldham Athletic

**TOWN LINE-UP:** Harry Lewis, Ryan Hickman (Butts, 72), Nathan Millis, Ben Burton, Jeff Watkins (c), Alex Fletcher, Niall Flint, Tom King, Kaiman Anderson, Josh Ginnelly, Jordan Wilson (Hassall, 63).

**SUBS:** Alex Ashton, Jack Butts, Joel Carta, George Hassall, Joe Kenton.

**GOALS:** King (1), Anderson (22).

**BOOKED:** Butts, King (sent off).

**OLDHAM LINE-UP:** Chris Renshaw, Callum Etches (Parmer, 57), Eddie Fulwood, Ryan Ellison, George Edmundson, Alex Read, Emil Tansinda, Jack Tuohy (c), Jordache Walters, Devante Jacobs, Jamie Stott.

**SUBS:** Jake Hargreaves, Rio Murray, Rahul Parmer, Kallum Mantack, Lee Knight.

**GOALS:** Walters (15), Jacobs (44), Ellison (pen, 86).

### NEXT LEAGUE FIXTURE:

Burnley v Town

(Saturday 6 September, 11am kick-off).



Town's youngsters to learn to manage games better when they do move in front.

"On the other side of things, we've had enough chances to win the last two games but we haven't taken them, and we gift goals away," said Dawes.

"The players need to learn how to manage a game of football, so that when they score a goal they take control of the game."

"As soon as we scored the first goal we dropped off, were sloppy on the ball, thought the game was done and it allowed them to get back into the game."

"They've scored a good second goal from distance, but we didn't press him quick enough."

## youth alliance fixture list

- Sat 2 August - **Fleetwood Town (H)** 2-0
- Sat 9 August - **Wrexham (A)** 2-2
- Sat 16 August - **Walsall (A)**
- Sat 23 August - **Oldham Athletic (H)** 2-3
- Sat 30 August - **Cup 1**
- Sat 6 September - **Burnley (A)**
- Sat 13 September - **Accrington Stanley (H)**
- Sat 20 September - **Port Vale (A)**
- Sat 27 September - **Bury (A)**
- Sat 4 October - **Cup 2**
- Sat 11 October - **Preston North End (H)**
- Sat 18 October - **Rochdale (A)**
- Sat 25 October - **Morecambe (H)**
- Sat 1 November - **Wigan Athletic (H)**
- Sat 8 November - **Tranmere Rovers (A)**
- Sat 15 November - **Carlisle United (H)**
- Sat 22 November - **Blackpool (A)**
- Sat 29 November - **In Service**
- Sat 6 December - **Wrexham (H)**
- Sat 20 December - **Fleetwood Town (A)**
- Sat 3 January - **Preston North End (A)**
- Sat 10 January - **Bury (A)**
- Sat 17 January - **Cup 3**
- Sat 24 January - **Morecambe (A)**
- Sat 31 January - **Rochdale (H)**
- Sat 7 February - **Walsall (A)**
- Sat 14 February - **Oldham Athletic (A)**
- Sat 21 February - **Burnley (H) Cup 4**
- Sat 28 February - **Accrington Stanley (A)**
- Sat 7 March - **Port Vale (H)**
- Sat 14 March - **Tranmere Rovers (H)**
- Sat 21 March - **Wigan Athletic (A) Cup 5**
- Sat 4 April - **Blackpool (H)**
- Sat 11 April - **Carlisle United (A)**





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# shrewsbury town

**W**e welcome Luton back into the Football League and look at our first ever meeting with them at Gay Meadow on 5th October 1963.

A Harry Middleton goal gave us a 1-0 win as Luton were just finding their feet in Division 3 following relegation the previous season. They ended the season in 18th spot, helped by a 2-0 victory over us in the return game.

Eight pages were on offer in the programme for 4d (about 2p). No manager's comments but the programme notes bemoaned a recent run of injuries including goalkeeper Alan Boswell and marksman Arthur Rowley which was put forward as the reason for a recent run of poor results. They also included a welcome to on loan goalkeeper John McLaughlin who had played just five games before returning to his job as a colliery electrician. Whilst conceding seven goals he kept two clean sheets.

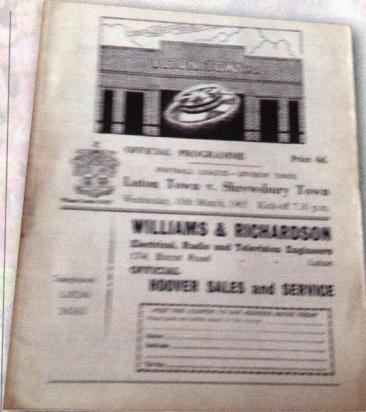
the programme included full line-ups, scorers and attendances from recent games including reserve and youth games. There were 785 at the previous week's 4-0 reserve win but the Club felt there should have been more. "Visitor's Page" gave details of the Sutton players including goalkeeper ex-England International Ron Bayham. And a rather surprising note from the Supporters Club told us that it was now helping "old age pensioners" to attend matches by contributing 1/- (5p) to their entry cost and that this was costing them £10 per match. Would we expect the Supporters Club to offer similar concessions these days?

The following season Luton were on their way to another relegation, to Division 4. We didn't help their cause with a remarkable 7-2 win at Kenilworth Road on 10th March 1965. George Hardman bagged four, Robin Scott two and Bobby Ross one.

on's programme in black and white throughout had an image on the front cover of the ground entrance and a course a hat. Programme notes comed new manager George Martin who had previously been a player and had other roles at the Club. I was described as a "great Luton enthusiast". The notes also hoped for better luck with injuries which they had

struggled against all season and the announcement of a new scheme for supporters which "involves the playing of messages and record requests and tunes over the public address speakers". Alternatively, supporters could join the "Luton Bobbers Stand and Supporters Club for 1/2 (5p) or 21/- (£1-05) for life membership.

The usual crop of adverts including G A Wild & Sons advertising camping equipment (apparently they were suppliers to the football club - clearly for long distance away trips i presume)



**Words:**  
Chris Smith

Hill, Steve White and David Moss lead to a final whistle celebratory pitch invasion.

Manager David Pleat naturally concentrated in his notes on the expectation of a win and promotion. His hope was "that we have a game of football to please without any trouble and everyone ready to appreciate the visitor's good points while encouraging our side to the limit". I expect the Luton Vice Presidents, listed in the programme, would be pleased with the outcome, none more than the late Eric Morecambe OBE who never missed an opportunity to plug the club in his TV shows, usually whilst slapping Ernie Wise on the face!

Plenty to read in the programme including something I had never seen before. Part 21 of "Head for the Heights" was a full page comic strip covering the story of Leatown's Bobbin (I assume that he had a surname as well if that was his first name). In this issue he was playing for his country, Guatador, in a World Cup qualifying game. In true comic style he heard at half time when the score was 2-2 that the President of the South American country who had been held prisoner with him recently had also escaped and that inspired a 3-2 win ensuring his country's place in the finals in Spain. I wonder if Bobbin inspired Leatown to a trophy in the remaining issues of "The Hatter", a sure way to ensure supporters bought the next programme.

Don't forget if you have any old programmes, badges, photos tickets etc for sale please contact Chris on **01952 604742** or email [shrewsawaytravel@hotmail.com](mailto:shrewsawaytravel@hotmail.com)



# fixtures & results 2014/15



The Last word with:

# james bond

BBC Radio Shropshire 96FM

[bbc.co.uk/shropshire](http://bbc.co.uk/shropshire)



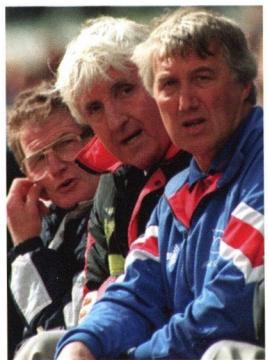
## His Master's Voice

In the recent programme against Tranmere we were celebrating the milestone of Stuart Dunn covering his 1,000th Shrewsbury game for BBC Radio Shropshire.

Stuart himself referred to the hard act he had to follow – respected local journalist Russell Mulford, who was the radio voice of Town games from when Radio Shropshire went on air in 1985, through to when he retired in the mid-90s and handed the reins to Stuart.

"It was really exciting when the radio station started up," Russell recalls, "but it was also that more difficult to get on air what we expect instantaneously these days.

"Reporting on the match itself was on the phone, but we had no way of playing an interview with the manager or the players afterwards.



"So for home matches I had an arrangement to go into the dressing room after the game, tap the manager of the time on the shoulder, and record his reaction on an old tape recorder – which I could hardly see in the steamy atmosphere.

"Then I had to physically drive it up to the Radio Shropshire studios to get it played on air before six o'clock!"

Russell had a long career as a Shropshire journalist. He started life as a reporter on the Wellington Journal and then the Shrewsbury Chronicle, and later set up his own press agency in Shrewsbury, covering everything from Crown Court cases to sport.

With Radio Shropshire he travelled the length and breadth of the country following the Town – "and I was lucky when the radio service started, as Shrewsbury were in the old second division <the Championship today> and playing some big teams. Manchester City, Leeds, Chelsea and more."

Like any long-serving reporter, he saw off a list of Shrewsbury managers. "Interesting fellows, all of them," he says, "but two really stood out for me.



"John Bond was a man of charisma who'd known the big time, and when you put a microphone in front of him he didn't need any warming up. He had a colourful opinion on anything and everything.

"I also remember when Shrewsbury played at Torquay one afternoon. He'd played there briefly towards the end of his playing career (he'd been at the top with West Ham), and he got a standing ovation from the Torquay supporters. And after the game, he did a lap of honour. The opposing manager!

"Another good manager was Ian McNeill. He was honest, open and a genuine character with his Scots brogue and a twinkle in his eye."

With following your team, as any fan will testify, there are highs and lows.

"Some of the big stadiums we went to will always stick in the mind. The magnificent trophy room at the two Sheffield clubs. Teenager Carl Griffiths scoring a couple in a 3-2 win at Leeds. The excitement of the cup.

"And lower down, the hospitality at the likes of Exeter with its corrugated iron stand, and Bury with the black pudding they offered you!

"The lows?

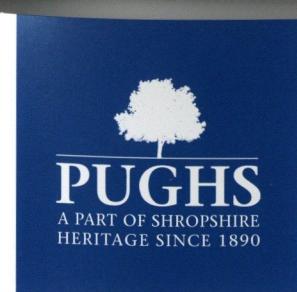
"Going to Newcastle for a midweek Zenith Data Cup game. The press box was being rebuilt, so James Bond and I found ourselves perched on a plank of wood across two buckets between the touchline and the terrace wall, on a night when it hailed, snowed, poured with rain, plus thunder and lightning – with one umbrella to protect us. We were soaked. The ink on our notes just washed away. And Town lost in the last minute.

"Afterwards we would face a long journey back – and I remember thinking, fans listening at home on the sofa would just think we were having a glamorous night out."

Russell still follows the Town's fortunes, and never misses a game on Radio Shropshire.

"Stuart Dunn's done really well. He's knowledgeable, he paints a picture of what's going on, he has good melody in his voice, and he's quite clearly passionate about the team – but, quite rightly, always tells it as it is."

Well – he had a good teacher.



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Mr Fred Davies & family in their coracles  
image: Shropshire Star



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## Shrewsbury Town

Manager Micky Mellon

- 01 ○ Jayson LEUTWILER
- 02 ○ Jermaine GRANDISON
- 03 ○ Mickey DEMETRIOU
- 04 ○ Ryan WOODS
- 05 ○ Mark ELLIS
- 06 ○ Connor GOLDSON
- 07 ○ Ashley VINCENT
- 08 ○ Dave MCALLISTER
- 09 ○ James COLLINS
- 10 ○ Scott VERNON
- 11 ○ Liam LAWRENCE
- 12 ○ Cameron GAYLE
- 14 ○ James WESOLOWSKI
- 15 ○ Aaron WILDIG
- 17 ○ James CATON
- 18 ○ Andy ROBINSON
- 19 ○ Andy MANGAN
- 20 ○ Nathaniel KNIGHT-PERCIVAL
- 21 ○ Mark HALSTEAD
- 22 ○ Jordan CLARK
- 26 ○ Jean-Louis AKPA AKPRO
- 31 ○ Dom SMITH
- 35 ○ Josh GINNELLY
- 36 ○ Callum BURTON
- 99 ○ Theo BARGE

## Luton Town

Manager John Still

- 01 ○ Mark TYLER
- 02 ○ Fraser FRANKS
- 03 ○ Danny FITZSIMONS
- 04 ○ Jonathan SMITH
- 05 ○ Stephen MCNULTY
- 06 ○ Alex LACEY
- 07 ○ Alex LAWLESS
- 08 ○ Andy DRURY
- 09 ○ Paul BENSON
- 10 ○ Alex WALL
- 11 ○ Jake HOWELLS
- 12 ○ Scott GRIFFITHS
- 13 ○ Mark CULLEN
- 14 ○ Andy PARRY
- 15 ○ Luke ROONEY
- 16 ○ Eliot JUSTHAM
- 17 ○ Pelly RUDDOCK MPANZU
- 18 ○ Ross LAFAYETTE
- 19 ○ Ricky MILLER
- 20 ○ Shaun WHALLEY
- 21 ○ Luke GUTTRIDGE
- 23 ○ Matt ROBINSON
- 24 ○ Curtley WILLIAMS
- 28 ○ Jim STEVENSON
- 29 ○ Paul CONNOLY
- 30 ○ Luke WILKINSON
- 32 ○ Brett LONGDEN
- 33 ○ Mark ONYEMAH
- 34 ○ Zane BANTON
- 35 ○ Charlie WALKER
- 36 ○ Charlie SMITH
- 37 ○ Kynan ISAAC
- 39 ○ Ian REES

## match officials

Referee  
Peter Banks  
Assistant Referee  
Joe Clark  
Assistant Referee  
Philip Dermott  
Fourth Official:  
Daniel Meeson

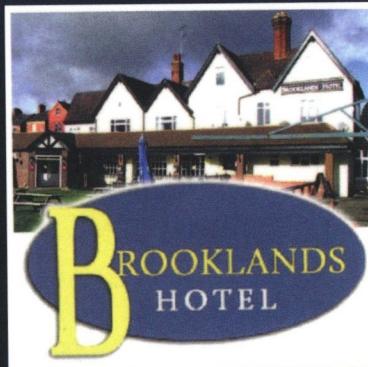


## next at the greenhouse meadow

Carlisle United  
SkyBet League 2  
Tuesday 16th September  
7.45pm kick-off



Newport County  
SkyBet League 2  
Saturday 20th September  
3pm kick-off



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*Christmas party bookings now being taken.*

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