

TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v SOUTHEND UNITED

SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER 2014

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welcome TO KENILWORTH ROAD



“ After Tuesday night's exploits in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy it is with pleasure we welcome you all back to Kenilworth Road for yet another hugely-anticipated Football League fixture, this time against Southend United in Sky Bet League 2.

Not since November 2007 have both clubs met at Kenilworth Road, and while a lot has changed in that time for both teams, this afternoon the sides go head-to-head looking for important points in their push for promotion.

We look back at the history between both clubs throughout this issue of Talk of the Town and talk to former Shrimper Luke Guttridge on his time at Roots Hall.

Also inside today's edition is a look-back at our last three matches, including the fine 2-1 victory at Stevenage last Saturday that saw the Hatters break into the top seven of the division. We hear from match winner Alex Wall and Charlie Walker, who came on for his Football League debut, in the win.

As ever, we have plenty more inside this issue of Talk of the Town to keep you entertained so happy reading and enjoy the game! #COYH ”

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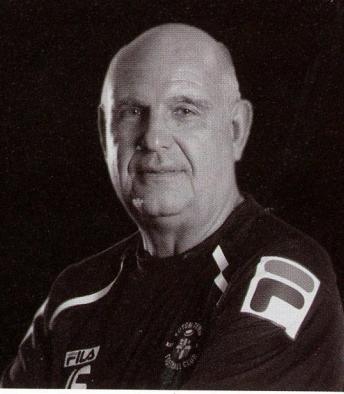
Follow the Hatters' progress throughout 2014/15

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

JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and a warm welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the second time this week as we entertain Southend United in Sky Bet League 2.

A very warm welcome to Phil Brown and his staff and players plus the directors and supporters of the Shrimpers. Southend are a club I know very well and so far this season they have started in good form. It is not always easy for clubs to banish the disappointment of losing in the Play-Offs but Phil has galvanised his squad and they look well set for another strong campaign this year.

On Tuesday we faced a very good Crawley side and more than held our own against a team doing well in the division above. Just like we did against Swindon in the Capital One Cup, we were unlucky to find ourselves on the wrong end of a defeat. That little rub of the green was just missing on Tuesday. We hit the woodwork three times and I'm sure on another day those second half efforts from Luke Guttridge and Charlie Walker would have found the back of the net.

Vital

It wasn't to be but we move on. It was another important match for us, though, because the tie also enabled us to give a number of players some vital minutes on the pitch. Luke Guttridge and Paul Benson got 90 minutes whilst we gave 45 minutes to Matthew Robinson, Jonathan Smith and Alex Lawless. Slowly but surely the injury and illness that has affected the squad over the past few weeks is clearing up and we enter a competitive period of matches with more bodies to choose from.

Our injury problems at right-back have frustrated us this season with Paul Connolly and Curtley Williams unavailable. Alex Lacey has done a sterling job in their absence in that position but on Thursday we were able

“THE PLAYERS NEED LITTLE MOTIVATION FOR MATCHES LIKE THIS BUT HAVE EXCELLED SO FAR THIS SEASON WHEN FACED WITH SUCH HIGH-PROFILE FIXTURES.”

to secure the loan signing of Michael Harriman from Queens Park Rangers for 28 days. Michael is a player I have watched many times and could have taken on-loan earlier this season.

He might only be 21 but in the last two seasons he has played regular football whilst out on loan with Wycombe and, last season, at Gillingham in League 1. We wish Michael well during his short time with us.

This afternoon Southend will again pose plenty of questions for us but we go into the match full of confidence on a run of five matches without defeat in the league. During that time we have played Cambridge, Oxford and Stevenage, clubs we could easily consider regional rivals given their location in the country.

STILL MOTIVATED

They have all been tight, competitive games and have had that added edge given previous history between the two clubs. Those kind of matches are difficult to predict and tough to prepare for.

Wonderful

We face a similar challenge once more this afternoon and with another full house expected it promises to be a wonderful occasion. The players need little motivation for matches like this but have excelled so far this season when faced with such high-profile fixtures. Our attitude in the Stevenage game in particular will stand us in good stead, especially during the second half which saw us grab all three points.

Celebrations

So far this season your support has been wonderful, both in terms of numbers and noise. Like so often already, the backing at Stevenage really acted as a 12th man. I know it's an old cliché but kicking that way in the second half spurred the players on and it was a great sight to see the celebrations when Alex Wall hit the winning goal.

More of the same this afternoon would be fantastic. Remember your part in what we are achieving here. You are no less important than any of the players, management or staff. We are in this together so please get behind us and enjoy the game today.



BOARDROOM

WITH VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON



Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for today's game against the Shrimpers.

Special greetings go out to our visitors this afternoon, the players, officials and supporters from Southend United.

We both have similar records this year and are currently in Play-Off positions so an exciting, challenging and competitive game is in the offing.

The last week has seen the magic of Saturday followed by the disappointment of Tuesday. At times at Stevenage we were up to our best playing some lovely football although sitting where we were behind the dug-outs it wasn't always easy to avoid the distractions.

In a nutshell Tuesday was largely about the woodwork – they hit it once and scored from the rebound – we hit it twice and didn't. It was a decent game though, and it's good to see players coming back from injury, gaining fitness and getting some game time.

Appreciated

At this point could I thank every one of you for your fantastic support at Stevenage. It never ceases to amaze us the numbers who travel and I'm sure you know how much it is appreciated by the players and staff.

Keith Keane, one of my Luton heroes, came back with Crawley on Tuesday and it was tremendous to see the reception he received. I also enjoyed Ronnie Henry being greeted with "you'll always be a Hatter" on Saturday, and the legend that is Mick Harford in the stands on Tuesday to see our first defence of the Trophy he helped us win five years ago.

Most of the time we can't get in amongst you the fans and have to look on from a distance, but it's all these things that make us proud to be Hatters.

These notes are headed up "from the boardroom" so I thought for once it might be an idea to give you a little insight into the Board and how we operate.

The Board consists of nine directors (five full and four associate). It has a mixture of executives and investors. The latter having delegated Gary Sweet to run the Company under their direction.

There are three working directors, Gary Sweet (CEO), Roger Bannister (Finance) and David Blakeman (Legal and Property), the rest of us are founders or investors, who provide the investment needed and help out a bit when necessary.

Of the three working directors only Gary is full-time and all are salaried. None of the other directors take anything out of the business. Gary's employment terms are agreed by the board on an annual basis.

There are monthly Board meetings normally chaired by me, as our Chairman is not a member of the Board.

The principal agenda is fairly consistent with the main topics being finance, football, administration and relocation.

Disciplines

At the start of the year the Board meets to approve a budget for the year knowing that any loss has to be covered by a cash injection.

Management accounts are prepared monthly and compared to the budget.

In turnover terms we are quite a small company, but the number of different disciplines required, make it more complicated to manage.

Apart from senior and youth football and all that they entail from recruitment, through training and fitness, to arranging fixtures and caring for the staff, there is accounting, administration, catering, ticket sales, retail, commercial, IT, public and press relations, pitch and stadium maintenance including the training ground.

Each part of the business requires different skills and experience and is a cost/profit centre in its own right and its performance is closely monitored to get early warnings of any problems that need to be addressed.

The decision was taken, at some cost, when we first became involved to maintain the Football League structure rather than downsize to become a more typical Conference club so it hasn't been necessary to gear up too much since gaining promotion.

As we are all fans obviously football is the most popular agenda item. Every meeting will discuss where we are, how we are doing, who is injured, what is needed.

Sometimes during the season John Still will join us and tell us how he sees it and what, if anything, will help to improve performances. Obviously more time is spent pre-season and pre-windows to discuss and plan for whatever they may bring in terms of opportunities to strengthen the squad.

Since we bought the Club, with a commitment to have a feasibility study to report on potential stadium locations, potential relocation has been high on our agenda.

Gary has already covered this at some length, but we are all aware that to enable us to secure the long term future and even existence of the Club we love we have to move.

Home

Sadly Kenilworth Road, however much some of us, including me, love it, is too small, too old, too restrictive, too expensive and if we want to secure the future of the Club for another 130 years we must find a new and bigger home in the not too distant future. Painful as this may be to some of us the Club is in our hearts and to adapt an old song "wherever we lay our hats will be our home".

I know this isn't a new topic it has been on the agenda for 50 years or more, but this is to say that we have the will and are working long hours and committing not a little money to finding a way.

I feel that this is a little heavier than my normal tone, but sometimes we take it for granted that you know what we know when you don't so please take this as a reminder if you do or a bit of an explanation if you don't.

On a closing note I can report that the Board is very happy with the progress being made on all fronts.

Isn't it great to have our club back where it belongs? In the Football League under the control of its fans.

Phew! I hope you still enjoy the game!

Come on you Hatters



HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA Cup:

Runners-up 1959

Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:

Winners 2009

Simod Cup:

Runners-up 1988

Football League Division Two:

Champions 1981/82

Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Football League Division Three (South):

Winners 1936/37

Runners-up 1936/36

Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 1969/70

League One:

Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:

Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 2001/02

Skrill Premier Champions:

2013/14

Blue Square Premier:

Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:

Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:

Runners-up 1913/14

United League:

Champions 1897/98

Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

Southern Alliance:

Runners-up 1913/14



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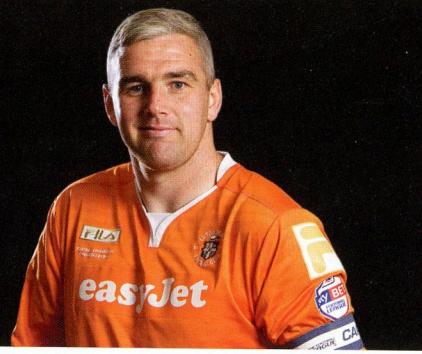
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THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



This afternoon we turn our attention back to the bread and butter of the league after Tuesday night's defeat to Crawley in the JPT.

I thought we were unlucky not to win the game, we hit the woodwork three times and considering we were playing a decent side in the league above I think we can hold our heads high after more than matching them for 90 minutes.

Crawley, as we found against Swindon in the League Cup earlier in the season, have a lot of good players so to play in the manner in which we did was hugely promising. Our aim is to get in to League 1 – that is the level we're all striving for and our performances so far during this campaign certainly suggest we are capable of doing just that.

While it was disappointing to go out of the JPT, especially given the club's affection for it, the exit could turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Last season we were knocked out of competitions early and it seemed to help us in our league schedule because we didn't have a fixture backlog.

Confidence

In our previous home league match we beat Oxford 2-0 and then won 2-1 at Stevenage last Saturday. It means we go into today's game full of confidence with an unbeaten run of five matches taking us up into the top seven of the table for the first time since the opening weekend of the season.

There was no denying that we had a slow start, but just like last season we have gradually improved and now find ourselves in good form. In the games against Oxford and Stevenage we scored early goals – both from the head of my centre-half partner Luke Wilkinson. Wilko has been in great form, he's still a young lad and we are forming a great relationship together at the back. His goals have given us a strong platform to go on and win the last two matches.

"We are a strong, fit and committed group of players and you could see how much it meant to us all at the final whistle."

Against Stevenage we were pegged back but showed that spirit and determination to go and win the three points thanks to Alex Wall's great strike near the end.

I thought it was typical of our never-say-die attitude, and reminded me very much of last season. We are a strong, fit and committed group of players and you could see how much it meant to us all at the final whistle. The gaffer and his staff have instilled this mentality into us

and last season's experiences are really coming to the fore. I think many teams in this league would have been happy to settle for a point away to Stevenage if they were drawing with 10 minutes to go. Not us, though. This kind of attitude cannot be bought and I think the kind of

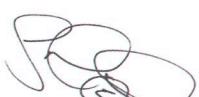
performance shown at Stevenage will help us many more times throughout this long season.

Tough

I must thank those supporters who made the short trip to Stevenage because the atmosphere and noise you created was absolutely unbelievable. When we walked out before kick-off it seemed like we were the home team. Their ground is pretty small so to have 2,000 noisy Luton supporters cheering us on really did make a massive difference. I hope you enjoyed your afternoon.

The tough games keep on coming with an in-form Southend side here this afternoon. We'll treat them with the respect they deserve but we will be confident that we can continue our good form. As the manager says to us, we must learn from playing the top sides so if we can come out with a positive result today we will really be onto something special.

Get behind us once again and enjoy the game.



Ladies in action at Kenilworth Road

The Club are delighted to announce that it will host a Luton Town Ladies fixture at Kenilworth Road next Wednesday, 15th October.

The Ladies' match against Bedford Ladies in the Women's Premier League South East Division will kick-off at 7.30pm under the Kenilworth Road floodlights and entry is absolutely free to supporters. Admission for spectators will be via the press gate in Kenilworth Road, with seating available in the main stand enclosure.

Oak Road end ticket offer

The Luton Town ticket office is offering an up-to-half price offer on tickets in the Oak Road stand for three upcoming League 2 matches at Kenilworth Road.

Last season, for the first time in over 20 years, the stand was opened to home supporters on a regular basis, and for the games against Dagenham & Redbridge, Northampton Town and Tranmere Rovers, fans can take advantage of a special bundle ticket offer.

Supporters can purchase tickets to all three matches for just £30, which doesn't take a mathematician to work out that's just £10 per game – a 50 per cent saving on adult prices.

The offer is open to all age groups, subject to availability. However, supporters wishing to take up this promotion must buy their three tickets before the Dagenham match in person at the ticket office or by calling the ticket office on 01582 416976.

NEWEST TOWN FAN

Say hello to one of the Hatters' youngest supporters, Evie Peacock.

Evie is pictured here looking comfy in Hatters wear already. Congratulations to Town fans Andrew and Hayley Peacock on Evie's arrival into the world!

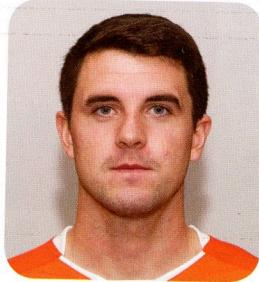
New shop to open next Saturday

The new club shop in the Mall in Luton town centre will now open on Saturday 18th October and not today as previously advertised.

The outlet, positioned close to Marks & Spencer and Debenhams and next to the Body Shop, will enable customers to purchase Hatters merchandise and tickets from a central location in the town centre.

Further announcements about the launch will be made during next week on the official website.

OUT ON LOAN

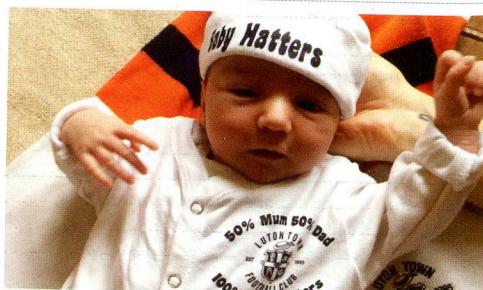


Andy Parry joined Conference Premier outfit AFC Telford United on a month's loan on Monday last week.

The 23-year-old, who has been sidelined with injury this season, made his return to training late last month and played in the development squad's 5-2 win over Gillingham last week at centre-half.

The former Southport and England C international made his debut in the Bucks' 1-0 home defeat to Forest Green on Tuesday.

Meanwhile Ricky Miller and Solomon Taiwo had their loans at Dover extended for another month. Miller notched his fourth goal in eight games for the Whites in their 3-2 defeat at Nuneaton on Tuesday.



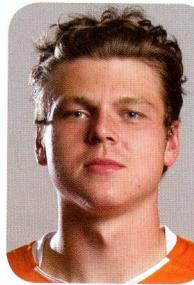
Matt Robinson pens contract extension

Since we were last at Kenilworth Road we were pleased to announce that midfielder Matthew Robinson signed a contract extension, keeping him at the club until 2017.

The 20-year-old, who joined the Town from Leicester City in the summer of 2012, has made 53 appearances for the club and scored three times.

Last term Robinson played an important role in helping the Hatters to the Conference title, appearing 31 times and scoring two important goals, against Chester and at Grimsby.

"Matthew has shown enormous maturity for a player so young, especially last season when we had a very youthful



midfield in the latter half of the campaign," said manager John Still.

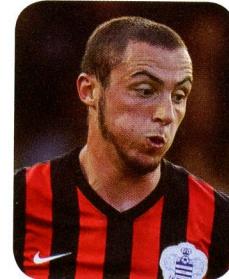
"He is one of many players that encapsulate what we are trying to do at this club. He's young and hungry and always strives to better himself. Matthew is a great example to players of all ages because his attitude and work ethic has been second-to-none.

"Matthew is a player who has already made a huge contribution to this club and we hope last season's success is the first of many he will enjoy with Luton Town."

Robinson added: "It's nice to have people put faith in you and with an extended deal shows that the manager and the staff want me here for the long haul.

"The manager has ambitions to take this club much higher than League 2, and to be a part of that would be amazing."

STOP PRESS!



On Thursday the Hatters signed Queens Park Rangers defender Michael Harriman on a 28-day emergency loan.

The 21-year-old right-back is a Republic of Ireland Under-21 international who spent last season on-loan

at Gillingham, playing 38 of the Gills' 46 matches in League 1.

Harriman made his debut for Rangers in 2011 in a League Cup tie and has also enjoyed experience out on loan with Wycombe Wanderers.

Boss John Still told Talk of the Town: "Our problems in the right-back position have been well documented with both Paul Connolly and Curtley Williams unavailable through injury.

"Michael is an excellent player and was a fantastic performer in League 1 last season with Gillingham. He might only be 21 but he has experience of playing a full season in the division above."

let's go



THE TOWN HIT THE ROAD NEXT WEEKEND WHEN THEY MAKE THE LONG TRIP TO THE NORTH EAST TO FACE HARTLEPOOL UNITED



HARTLEPOOL UNITED

WHO? Hartlepool United, aka the Pools, aka the Monkey Hangers. The club are known as Pools as they were once known as Hartlepools United, whilst their Monkey Hangers moniker takes a little more explanation. According to local folklore the term originates from an incident in which a monkey was hanged in Hartlepool. During the Napoleonic War a French ship was wrecked off the coast of the town with the only survivor a monkey dressed in uniform. Believing it be a French spy the creature was the hanged and ever since the term has been attached to the town.

LET'S TALK FOOTBALL. Enough of this hanging malarkey, the town's football club play their home matches at Victoria Park and were founded back in 1908. Pools finished 19th in League 2 last term and have never played above the third tier. Jeff Stelling is one of their most famous fans, whilst the late, great Brian Clough cut his teeth in management with the club back in the mid-1960s.

HOW TO GET THERE. The trip to the North East is one of the Town's longest of the season, some 227 miles from the Maple Road car park to Victoria Park. On a good day it should take just a smidgen over four hours in the car. Coming off the A1 take the A19 and from the A19 take the A689 towards Hartlepool. Stay on this road following the town centre signs for 2.8 miles, over two roundabouts. Go straight over the next two sets of lights, passing Hartlepool College on your right. The next left takes you to the stadium. There is a fair sized car park at the ground. For the sat-nav savvy punch in TS24 8BZ to get you there.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? The two clubs have met 17 times in total down the years with the Town holding sway in the head-to-head record with nine wins to Pools' seven. Only once have the two sides drawn a game. At Victoria Park, however, the Town have won three to Hartlepool's six. Two of the Hatters' wins at VP came in Football League came during seasons that the Town went on to win promotion (December 2001 and February 2005). The Hatters were hammered 4-0 in the last meeting in the North East in League 1 in February 2008.

OLD BOYS NETWORK. Steve Howard is perhaps the best-known player to have represented both clubs. The centre-forward first signed professional forms whilst with Pools, joining from Tow Law Town. He moved to Northampton before he was snapped up by Joe Kinnear in 2001. Howard went onto enjoy huge success at Kenilworth Road, scoring 103 goals in 228 appearances. The Town signed Adam Boyd from Hartlepool in 2006 but never truly reached his potential with the Hatters and returned to the North East in 2009. Manager Mike Newell also managed both clubs, and guided both the Town and Hartlepool to promotion.

THIS TIME ROUND. As you read this Hartlepool currently sit bottom of League 2 and, as we went to press, without a manager following Colin Cooper's decision to resign following Pools' 3-0 home defeat to Carlisle last weekend. United have won just twice so far this term, and once at home: a 2-0 victory over Shrewsbury on 6th September. No team in the Football League has scored fewer goals than the Monkey Hangers, with the VP faithful cheering just five times in 11 matches this season.

tickets please



HARTLEPOOL UNITED v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

This game is not all-ticket for Luton Town supporters but savings can be made by purchasing in advance from the Luton Town ticket office. We have received an initial allocation of 536 tickets in the Smith and Graham Away Stand. Tickets are now available to diamond and season ticket holders at two per person until close of business today. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale online from 6pm tonight and from the ticket office from Monday 13th October until 3pm on Friday 17th October. **Prices if purchased in advance:** Adults £20, concessions (over-60s, under-16s, under-19s, students) £10. Ambulant and wheelchair disabled tickets are available to any supporter with Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance (proof of this will be required at the turnstiles). If purchased in advance these are available at the above prices with a carer free of charge. Tickets will be available on the day, however, they increase by £5 for adults and £3 concessions. Away season ticket holders' tickets will be reserved and sent out on Friday 3rd October if no notification has been received advising they are not required. This information can be given via phone or email to ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk.



LUTON TOWN v DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

TUESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal matchday prices. £20 adults, £15 seniors and young adults, £12 golden seniors, £8 youths, £5 juniors.



LUTON TOWN v NORTHAMPTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal matchday prices. £20 adults, £15 seniors and young adults, £12 golden seniors, £8 youths, £5 juniors. Please note tickets for this match are only on sale to supporters on the club's database.



EXETER CITY v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match is not all-ticket for Luton Town supporters but tickets are available in advance from the ticket office at a reduced rate. We have received a full allocation of 260 seats and an initial allocation of 300 terrace tickets for this game. The total allocation of terrace tickets is 1,053. Tickets will go on sale to diamond season ticket holders from Wednesday 8th October until close of business on Tuesday 14th October, at two per diamond season ticket. Season ticket holders will have from Wednesday 15th October until close of business Wednesday 22nd October (also at two per season ticket). Any remaining tickets will go general sale online at 5pm on Wednesday 22nd October and over the phone or in person from Thursday 23rd October. Away season ticket holders' tickets will be sent seats in the Stagecoach stand on Monday 13th October.

If you would like terrace tickets instead, or do not require tickets for this fixture, please advise the Ticket Office by email at ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk. **Tickets are £1 cheaper to buy in advance, the prices are as follows:** Stagecoach Stand seating: adults £21, seniors over 61 £16, under-18s/students with valid NUS card £7, under-12s £4.

St James Road away terrace: adults £16, seniors over 61 £13, under-18s/students with valid NUS card £7, under-12s £3. Ambulant disabled fans are charged the appropriate age related price with a helper free of charge.

Three wheelchair spaces are available at £20 and can also be purchased through the Luton Town ticket office.

Tickets will be available on the day subject to availability priced £1 more than the buy if bought in advance.



SPEAKING Commercially

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Good afternoon and welcome back to all of our corporate guests and sponsors who are here present at Kenilworth Road for this game against Southend United.

A number of opportunities are still available for home games for the rest of the season, including matchball sponsorship for a number of games. We only just one match sponsorship package left, too, for our Sky Bet League 2 match with Accrington Stanley, on 28th February are available. Remember if you're interested in any of these please do get in touch with me at the club.

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TODAY'S MASCOT



OSCAR KEARNEY

It is with great pleasure that we welcome 12-year-old Oscar Kearney from Wood Green, London as our mascot for this afternoon's game.

Oscar attends the Felixstowe Academy and his hobbies evolve solely around playing and watching football. Oscar's favourite Hatters player is striker Alex Wall, and Oscar will get the chance to meet Alex in the dressing room before kick-off. We hope you have a great day with us, Oscar.

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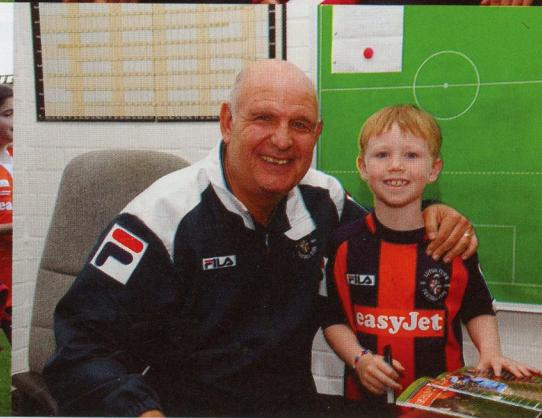


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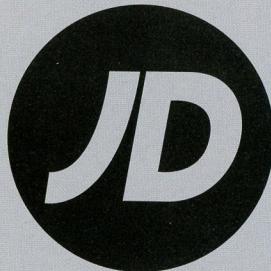
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welcome

SOUTHEND UNITED



It is with great pleasure that we welcome everyone associated with Southend United to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

The Shrimpers make the trip to Bedfordshire for the first time since November 2007 and arrive in terrific form which has seen them win four of their last five matches to lift them to within touching distance of the automatic promotion places.

Former Hull City boss Phil Brown is currently in the Roots Hall hotseat having taken over in March 2013 and last season he guided the Essex club to the Play-Off semi-finals where they were beaten by Burton Albion.

Given their campaign last year much is expected of Southend this term as they look to bounce back to League 1 for the first time since they were relegated from the third tier in 2009/10. Brown has built a strong, talented squad which includes several young players plucked from the Shrimpers' successful youth system.

After the aggregate to Burton in the Play-Offs last

season, the Shrimpers began their fifth campaign in League 2 with a 1-0 victory at Accrington before winning 2-0 against Stevenage at Roots Hall.

Four games without a win followed, including defeats to Wimbledon and Plymouth, before Brown's side strung four successive victories together in October. Wins over Portsmouth, Cheltenham, York and Shrewsbury propelled the Shrimpers up the table. However the good run of form came to an end last weekend with defeat to bogey club Morecambe.

The Shrimpers will be aiming to improve on a dire record at Kenilworth Road in recent times this afternoon. The Essex outfit haven't recorded a win on Bedfordshire soil in 50 years. Not since a 1-0 win here in 1964 have the Blues won a game against the Town at Kenilworth Road.

The Town have won seven and drawn five of the last 12 matches here. With Brown's side keen to make up for a blip in form last week the travelling Shrimpers will be hopeful of breaking that winless streak this afternoon.

in opposition

OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM ROOTS HALL

► THE MANAGER

PHIL BROWN. 55-year-old boss and former defender with Hartlepool, Halifax, Bolton and Blackpool who took over the Shrimpers in March 2013. Has also managed Derby, Hull – in the Premier League – and Preston.

► GOALKEEPERS



DANIEL BENTLEY. Local lad who rose through the ranks from the Shrimpers' academy. Broke into the first team as a regular in 2012/13, and kept 20 clean sheets and missed one game last season.

PAUL SMITH. Experienced goalkeeper who joined

Southend in 2012 from Nottingham Forest. Spent six years at the City Ground having signed from Southampton in 2006 for £500,000.

► DEFENDERS

JOHN WHITE. Right-back and Brown's first signing this summer after spending nine years with Colchester. Also capable of playing at centre-half or left-back.

BEN COKER. Last season's Players' Player of the Year who joined the Shrimpers from Histon at the start of last season. Also spent time with Colchester having originally started his career with Histon.

MADS IBENFELDT. Experienced Danish defender who penned a one-year deal at Roots Hall this summer having impressed during pre-season. Spent the whole of his career – until now – in Denmark.

ADAM THOMPSON. Highly-rated defender who signed permanently at Roots Hall in January from Watford having excelled during a loan spell earlier last season.

LUKE PROSSER. Former Kidderminster and Port Vale defender who joined the Shrimpers on a two-year deal in the summer of 2013. Has also enjoyed a loan spell at Rushden & Diamonds.

CIAN BOLGER. Irish defender who signed from Bolton for an undisclosed fee in August this year. Started his career at Leicester and has been on loan at Bristol Rovers and Colchester.

► MIDFIELDERS

DAVID WORRAL. Summer acquisition following his release from Rotherham, the midfielder's career began at Bury. Then moved to West Brom and then back to Bury before switching to Rotherham.

MICHAEL TIMLIN. Cultured, left-footed midfielder who joined Southend on a permanent basis after two successful loan spells in August 2011. A Republic of Ireland under-21 international.

MYLES WESTON. Former Brentford and Gillingham winger or striker who penned a two-year deal at Roots Hall in June this year following his release from Priestfield.

WILL ATKINSON. A mainstay of the Shrimpers' side last term, the midfielder began his career at Hull, working alongside Phil Brown. Twice won promotion from League 2 with Bradford and Rochdale.

KEVAN HURST. Winger who arrived at Roots Hall in the summer of 2012 and has played for a dozen sides in the Football League. Ended last season with more assists than any other player in the Football League.

CONOR CLIFFORD. Former Chelsea youth team captain and England youth international who signed for the Shrimpers at the start of last season after his release from Leicester.

RYAN LEONARD. Last season's Supporters' Player of the Year. Joined Southend at the start of the 2011/12 season following a successful trial having previously been at Plymouth.

JACK PAYNE. Talented young midfielder who penned his first pro contract last summer and went onto enjoy a fine debut season last term.

► STRIKERS

LEE BARNARD. Frontman who returned to Roots Hall for a second spell last summer. Originally moved to the club from Tottenham before his impressive displays earned a move to Southampton.

BARRY CORR. Last season's top goalscorer who joined the Shrimpers from Swindon and has also been on the books at Sheffield Wednesday, Bristol City and Exeter.

SHAQUILLE COULTHIRST. Highly-rated striker currently on a season-long loan from Tottenham. Spent last season on loan at Leyton Orient and Torquay and has played in the Europa League for Spurs.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

Fans at Roots Hall are expecting promotion this season – yet their winning run was checked by Morecambe last week. Life-long Southend United supporter and football reporter for the Yellow Advertiser **Brian Jeeves** believes they can bounce back today.

TALK OF THE TOWN:

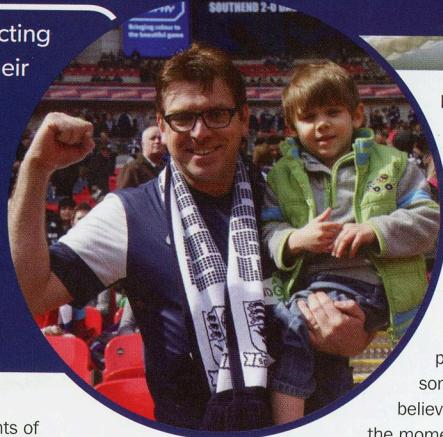
What have been the high and low points of your season so far?

BRIAN: It's probably too early in the season to have any standout points in either direction, although the recent run of victories certainly has had the fans talking of a possible promotion push. I guess the low point was losing at home to AFC Wimbledon after passing up a clutch of chances.

TOTT: Which Southend player do Luton need to keep an eye on today and why?

BRIAN: Goalkeeper Daniel Bentley has been watched by a number of big clubs and has a great future ahead of him. I predicted a year ago that he'd play for England one day and I still believe that will happen. Just bursting onto the scene is Jack Payne, a busy midfielder who has come through the ranks. He has regularly found the net of late and is establishing himself as a fan favourite.

TOTT: Has Phil Brown held at half-time team talk on the Roots Hall pitch yet? Sang 'Sloop John B' to the fans after the game? Or done anything else interesting? Does he have a good relationship with the fans?



Phil Brown

BRIAN: We've not had any of that yet, but he's a bit of a character, so I wouldn't rule anything unusual out. Phil's relationship with the fans is fairly good. I think it would improve if he brought a potent striker to the club, something the supporters believe is the missing link at the moment.

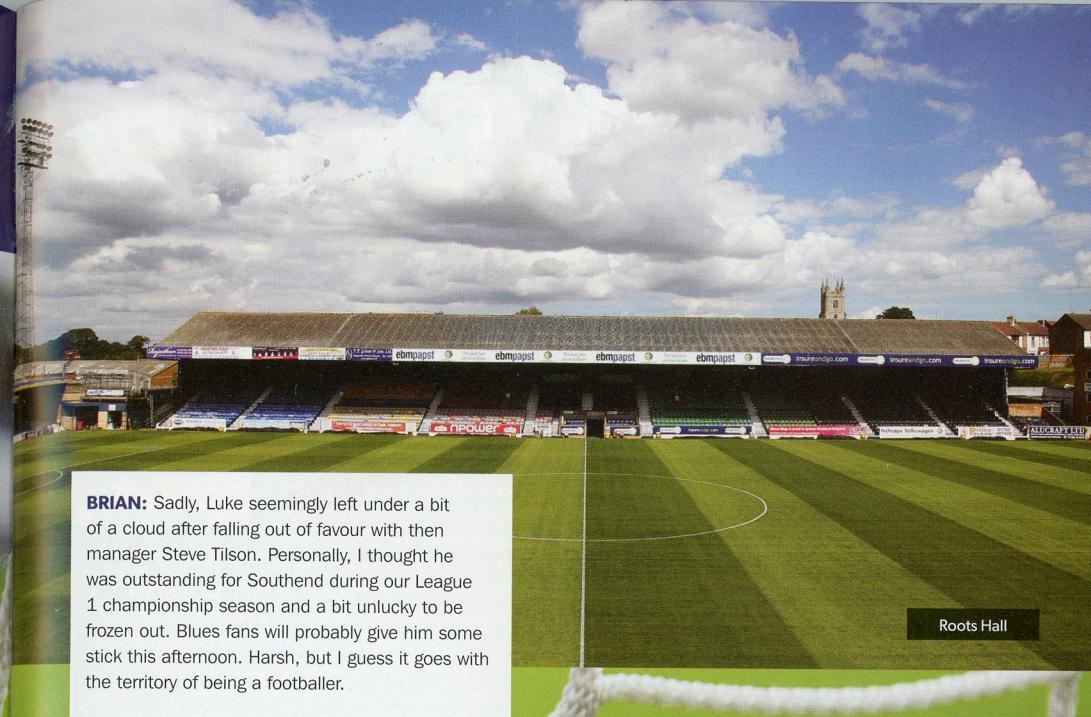
TOTT: What's the latest on Southend's plans for a new stadium? Are fans excited about the prospect of moving? Is there part of you which is anxious about leaving Roots Hall, a ground full of character - and ending up in a modern development similar to (dare we say it) Colchester's new ground?



BRIAN: That's the great question. Things have gone rather quiet on the stadium front just now – indeed, some believe it will never be built. I think the club need it, but Roots Hall is home to me and has been since my dad first took me there 41 years ago. If the club could sustain its existence by staying where they are, I'd favour that, but I don't think we can. As for Colchester, like it or not, they have shown us and others the way.

The U's have staged four international matches and a sold-out Elton John concert at the Weston Homes Community Stadium. We need to be able to bring those type of events to the people of Southend.

TOTT: Current Hatters playmaker Luke Guttridge won the League 1 title with Southend in 2005/06 - how is he remembered by Southend fans?



Roots Hall

BRIAN: Sadly, Luke seemingly left under a bit of a cloud after falling out of favour with then manager Steve Tilson. Personally, I thought he was outstanding for Southend during our League 1 championship season and a bit unlucky to be frozen out. Blues fans will probably give him some stick this afternoon. Harsh, but I guess it goes with the territory of being a footballer.

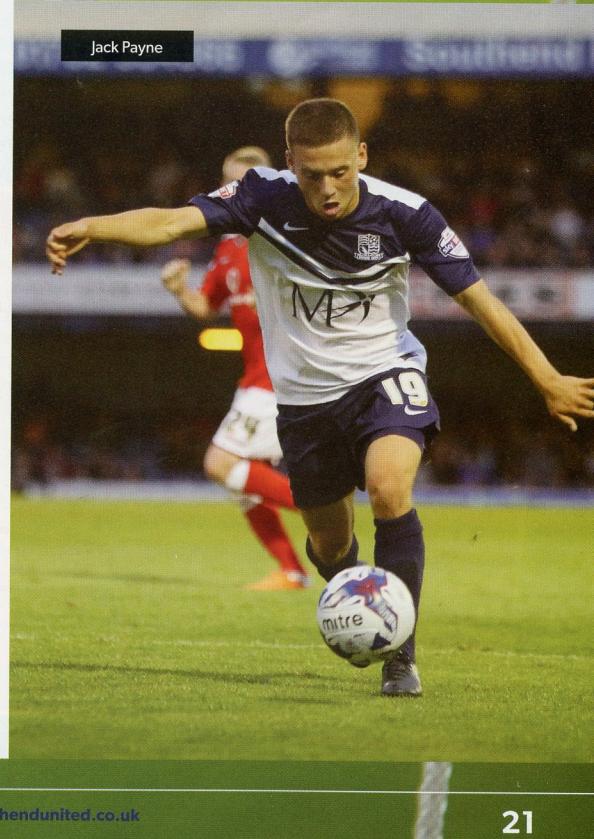
TOTT: The clubs were both in the Championship in 2006/07. What happened next to Luton has been well documented, but what changed at Southend? Can the Shrimpers make it back to the Championship?

BRIAN: Like the Hatters, we've slipped, but not quite as disastrously. Potentially, yes we can - Southend have the fan base and catchment to sustain Championship football. However, without the infrastructure of a new stadium and revenue streams to support the football club, then I can't see us returning there any time soon.

TOTT: What would be a successful season for Southend? And what's your prediction for today's game?

BRIAN: I think the only thing fans see as success for Southend this season is promotion. We've had two failed attempts at the Play-Offs and a Wembley appearance in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final. The squad has been improved, and now they need to deliver. I don't think the Roots Hall faithful will settle for anything less.

As for today, it's difficult to say. Kenilworth Road isn't a particularly happy hunting ground for the Shrimpers. However, I believe we can grab a rare victory today. I'm going for 2-1 to Southend.



Jack Payne

A HATTER...

AND A SHRIMPER

You can read more about Luke Guttridge's time with Southend elsewhere in this programme, but for the record the Town midfielder, who twice won promotion during his time at Roots Hall, played 72 times for the Shrimpers before moving to Leyton Orient and then Colchester.

Three other players to represent both clubs are defender Duncan Jupp, goalkeeper Simon Royce and striker Ian Benjamin.

Benjamin burst onto the scene in the mid-1980s with his goalscoring prowess firstly at Peterborough and then Northampton. After spells at Cambridge, Chester and Exeter he joined Southend in 1990 and hit 33 goals in 122 League games before joining the Town in 1992/93. The striker only made 13 appearances for the club but scored his first goal in a 2-0 win over Watford on his second appearance.

Jupp only featured five games for the Town under manager Joe Kinnear late in the 2002/03 campaign having previously played under the boss at Wimbledon.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Absolutely! The Town and Southend have been regular adversaries down the years and this afternoon will be the 85th meeting between the clubs.

The Hatters hold the edge in the head-to-head records, winning 37 to Southend's 28, while 19 of the 84 matches have ended all square.

The Town's biggest win over the Shrimpers came in a 7-0 victory at Kenilworth Road in March 1914. Southend have twice won 5-0 against the Town at Roots Hall, in January 1929 and in April 1965. The highest scoring draw came during a 4-4 draw at Kenilworth Road in December 1923.

Southend have only ever won five times on Bedfordshire soil and the Shrimpers go in search of their first victory against the Town here since a 1-0 win

However, he moved to Roots Hall in the summer of 2003 and went onto become a regular for the Shrimpers, playing 102 Football League games as the Essex club twice won promotion.

Keeper Royce made his name with the Shrimpers, playing over 150 games for the club between 1991 and 1998. After a move from Charlton to Leicester he rejoined the Addicks in 2003. However, the stopper joined the Hatters on a brief loan spell in 2004. He would only play twice but was involved in 4-0 and 5-1 home wins for the Town during that time.

The first was a 4-1 win over Bradford (best remembered for Ahmet Brkovic's over-head kick) and the second was a 5-1 victory over Wrexham (best remembered for Sol Davis' first goal for the club). The Hatters ended that campaign as League 1 champions, whilst Royce went onto join QPR, Gillingham and Brentford, where he is now a coach.

November 1964. The Town have since won seven of the next 12 meetings at Kenilworth Road with five games ending in draws.

The Hatters have won four of their last five matches at Kenilworth Road against today's visitors, with Calvin Andrew scoring the only goal of the game the last time the Shrimpers came here for a League 1 fixture in November 2007.

Given the amount of meetings there's no surprise to see that 258 goals have been scored across the 84 meetings, with the Town netting 138 to Southend's 120.

The clubs first met in an FA Cup fifth qualifying round tie in December 1908 at Kenilworth Road that ended 1-1. The Town won the replay four days later 4-2.

And although the Town hold sway at Kenilworth Road, the Essex club have won the last two meetings between the sides, both at Roots Hall. The Shrimpers won 3-1 in an FA Cup tie in November 2008, Michael Spillane scoring the Hatters' goal.



Ian Benjamin

back to the future

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

► 1990/91 PROMOTION WINNERS

PAUL SAN SOME: Ever-present goalkeeper who made 308 League appearances before joining Gravesend & Northfleet in November 1996. He has since run a tool hire company in the Medway area.

DEAN AUSTIN: Young right-back who moved to Tottenham Hotspur in June 1992, then Crystal Palace and Woking. He managed Farnborough before being assistant boss at Watford and Reading.

CHRIS POWELL: Left-back who joined Derby County in January 1996. Later with Charlton Athletic, West Ham, Watford and Leicester, gaining five England caps, he then managed Charlton.

DAVE MARTIN: Ex-England Youth midfielder who joined Bristol City in July 1993, then Gillingham, Leyton Orient, Northampton, Brighton and Welling United. He is a London black cab driver.

PAT SCULLY: Republic of Ireland international who joined Huddersfield in March 1994. He later played for Shelbourne, Shamrock Rovers and Drogheda, since managing Kilkenny and Shamrock.

STEVE TILSON: Long-serving favourite who moved to Canvey Island in July 1997. He rejoined Southend as player-coach, then was the Blues' manager for seven years before managing Lincoln City.

PAUL CLARK: Ex-England Youth international who joined Gillingham in July 1991. Later assisting Tommy Taylor at Cambridge United and Leyton Orient, he became a summariser for Radio Essex.

PETER BUTLER: Midfielder who moved to West Ham in August 1992, then played for Notts County, West Brom, Halifax Town and Australian side Sorrento before coaching clubs in Malaysia.

ANDY ANSAH: Striker who joined Peterborough United in July 1996, then Gillingham, Leyton Orient, Hayes, Bromley, Heybridge, Brighton and Farnborough, becoming an actor and film director.

IAN BENJAMIN: Ever-present striker who joined Luton Town in November 1992. Later at Brentford, Wigan, Kettering, Chelmsford, Corby, Raunds and Warboys, he managed Soham Town Rangers.

BRETT ANGELL: Leading marksman who moved to Everton in January 1994. He then played for Sunderland, Stockport County, Preston, Walsall, Rushden & Diamonds and QPR, becoming a coach.

► 2005/06 LEAGUE ONE CHAMPIONS

DARRYL FLAHAVAN: Goalkeeper who made 291 League appearances before joining Crystal Palace in July 2008, then played for Portsmouth and reunited with Lee Bradbury at AFC Bournemouth.

DUNCAN JUPP: Scotland Under-21 right-back who made 100 League appearances before moving to Gillingham in July 2006, then Bognor Regis. He is now a PE teacher at Ardingly College, West Sussex. Also had a short spell at Kenilworth Road.

CHE WILSON: Left-back who also appeared for Southend in two LDV Vans Trophy finals, scoring twice in 106 League games before hanging up his boots. Now head coach at Cambridge University.

KEVIN MAHER: Former Republic of Ireland Under-21 midfielder who netted 22 goals in 383 League games prior to joining Oldham Athletic in August 2008, then Gillingham and Dagenham & Redbridge.

ADAM BARRETT: Central defender who scored 27 times in 247 League games, moving to Crystal Palace in July 2010. He has since appeared for Lee Bradbury's AFC Bournemouth and Gillingham.

SPENCER PRIOR: Centre-half who netted five goals in 210 League outings during two spells at Roots Hall, then emigrated to Sydney and is now assistant coach of the Australia women's team.

LUKE GUTTRIDGE: Midfielder who scored five times in 63 League games before moving to Leyton Orient in November 2006, then Colchester United, Northampton (twice), Aldershot and is now with the Hatters.

MARK BENTLEY: Midfielder who had also helped Southend to win promotion in 2004-05, netting 12 goals in 93 League outings before moving to Gillingham in August 2006, then Hayes & Yeading.

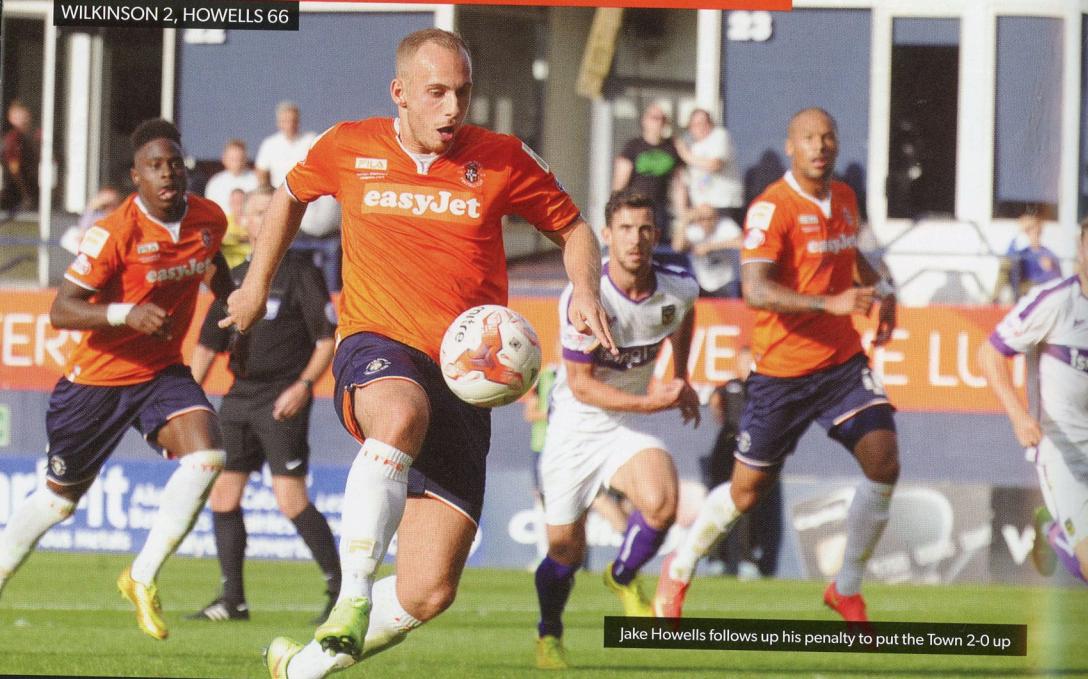
FREDDY EASTWOOD: Leading marksman who netted 53 goals in 115 League games prior to joining Wolves in July 2007. He then had a spell with Coventry City and has since returned to Southend.

SHAUN GOATER: Bermuda international striker who scored 11 times in 34 League games for Southend before retiring. He now has telecom, construction and aviation interests back in Bermuda.

MARK GOWER: Former England Semi-Pro midfielder who netted 35 goals in 203 League games for Southend before joining Swansea City in August 2008. He has since appeared for Charlton Athletic.

TOWN 2-0 OXFORD

WILKINSON 2, HOWELLS 66



Jake Howells follows up his penalty to put the Town 2-0 up

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters made it four games unbeaten and kept a fourth successive clean sheet with a comfortable victory over Oxford United.

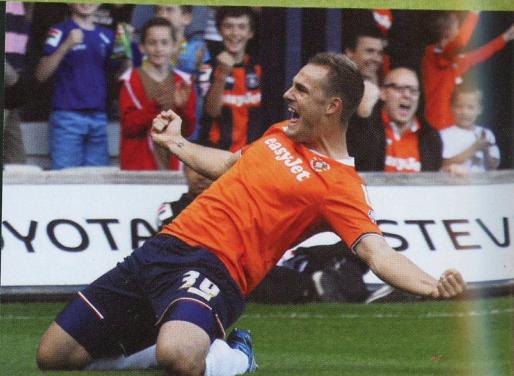
Luke Wilkinson celebrated his 24th birthday by putting the Town in front when he headed home Jake Howells' free-kick after just 80 seconds.

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu spurned a great chance to double the lead moments later when he shot wide of the post with the goal gaping.

That missed spurred Oxford on with the visitors going close without seriously testing goalkeeper Mark Tyler.

The U's started the second half the better and Tyler needed to be at his best to stop Tyrone Barnett's effort but the Hatters made the game safe midway through the second period. Visiting defender Johnny Mullins handled in the penalty area, and although Howells saw his penalty saved, the midfielder followed-up to convert the rebound.

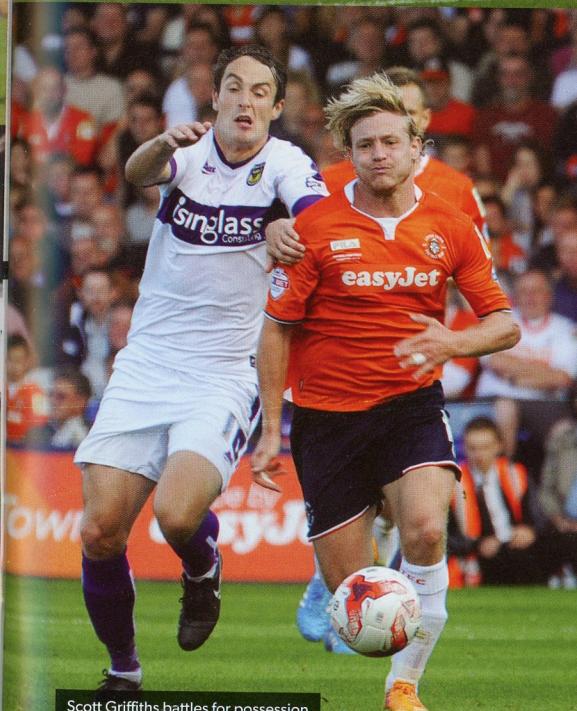
Oxford tried in vain to pull back the deficit with Barnett again guilty of missing two decent chances but the Town were always in control and held on to record their second home win of the campaign.



Luke Wilkinson rises highest to nod the Hatters in front after just 80 seconds



Scott Griffiths battles for possession



Mark Tyler claims a high ball

TOWN: Tyler; Lacey, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson; Smith (sub Stevenson 74), Ruddock Mpanzu, Doyle (sub Drury 67), Whalley (sub Lafayette 51), Howells, Cullen. **SUBS NOT USED:** Guttridge, Robinson, Walker, Justham.

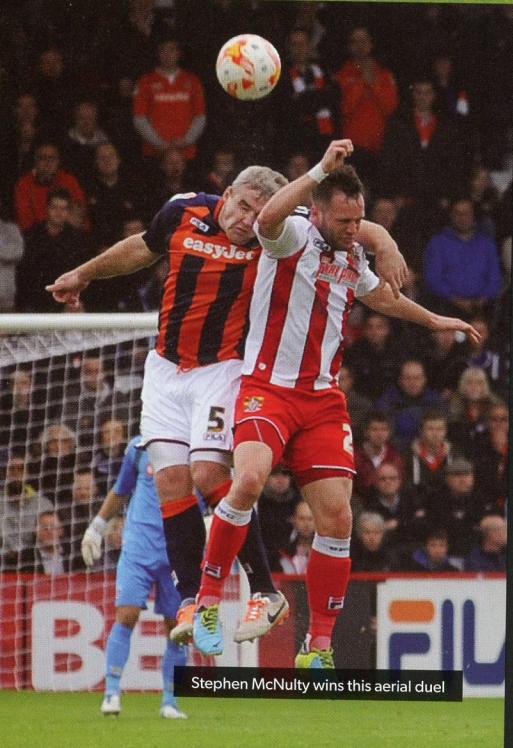
STEVENAGE 1-2 TOWN

PETT 33

WILKINSON 10, WALL 83



Luke Wilkinson celebrates his second goal in as many games



Stephen McNulty wins this aerial duel

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Substitute Alex Wall scored within a minute of coming on as the Hatters registered their third straight win to push them into the League 2 Play-Off places.

The striker's winner came with just seven minutes left in a gripping local derby when Wall took Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu's pass, cut inside and curled a fine shot past Stevenage goalkeeper Chris Day.

With 2,000 Hatters fans in an attendance of just over 5,000 the away support were celebrating in the 10th minute when defender Luke Wilkinson headed his second goal in as many games when meeting Andy Drury's free-kick.

With the Town ahead the chances continued to fall their way but Day made a smart stop to prevent Paul Benson's flick from Wilkinson's shot from making it 2-0.

That proved crucial at the time as just after the half-hour Tom Pett found the top corner to level the score.

After the break Pett spurned a glorious chance to put Boro in front in the six yard box but the Town finished the game stronger and after substitute Charlie Walker saw a shot hacked desperately off the line, Wall had the last word when finding space in the box to curl home the winning goal.



The Town await a first half corner



Paul Benson puts Stevenage on the back foot

TOWN: Tyler; Lacey, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson; Smith (sub Stevenson 66), Ruddock Mpanzu, Doyle, Drury, Benson (sub Walker 70), Cullen (sub Wall 83). **SUBS NOT USED:** Guttridge, Robinson, Howells, Justham.

TOWN 0-1 CRAWLEY

EDWARDS 51



Paul Benson seeks out a pass

Scott Griffiths heads at goal



WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town bowed out of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in their first match in the competition since lifting the trophy at Wembley in 2009 as Crawley registered a narrow victory at Kenilworth Road.

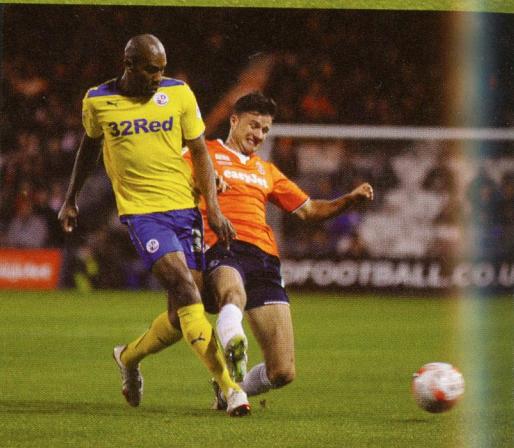
The visitors earned their place in the area quarter-finals thanks to Gwion Edwards' early strike in the second half but the Hatters went close on several occasions as they more than matched their League 1 opponents, hitting the woodwork on three occasions.

The Hatters began showing four changes to the side that beat Stevenage with Saturday's match-winner Alex Wall joining goalkeeper Elliot Justham, Luke Guttridge and Jake Howells in the starting XI. Guttridge hit the post in a first half that saw Crawley create the best chances with Justham called into action and Nathan Doyle clearing a shot off the line.

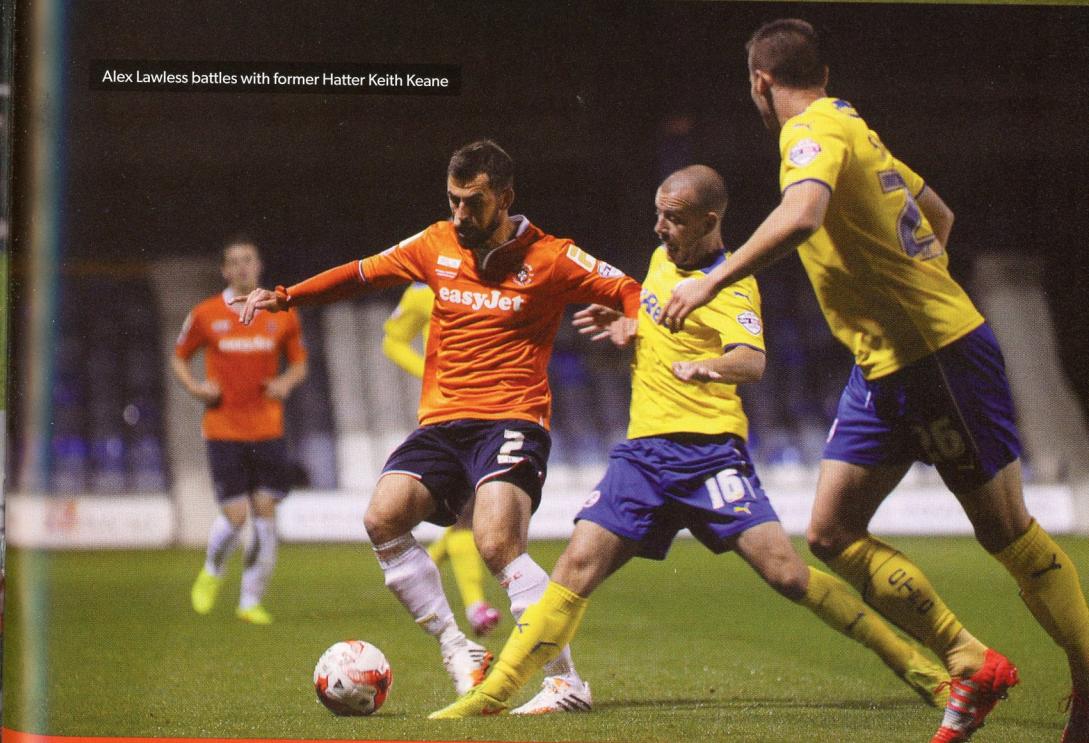
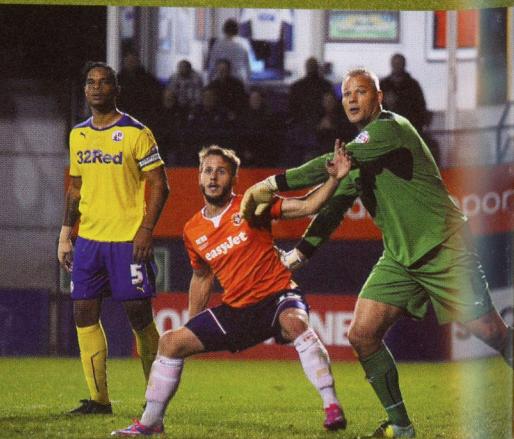
The visitors took the lead six minutes after the restart when Edwards smashed home the loose ball after Matt Harrold's shot had rebounded off the crossbar.

Substitute Charlie Walker was then denied an equaliser by the woodwork when his lob came back off the inside of the post and with seven minutes left Guttridge saw a terrific effort rattle the crossbar.

Paul Benson came close twice in the final stages but after waiting five years to defend their trophy, the Hatters faced an early exit in the competition.



Alex Lawless battles with former Hatter Keith Keane



TOWN: Tyler; Williams (sub Drury 28), Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson, Lacey; Ruddock Mpanzu, Stevenson, Guttridge (sub Robinson 82); Wall (sub Lafayette 60), Cullen. **SUBS NOT USED:** Whalley, Doyle, Walker, Justham.

Guttridge

AN INFLUENTIAL FORCE BEHIND THE TOWN'S TITLE SUCCESS LAST SEASON, LUKE GUTTRIDGE'S FINE FIRST CAMPAIGN AT KENILWORTH ROAD ENDED WITH INJURY. HE'S FIT AGAIN NOW AND AFTER FACING ONE OF HIS FORMER CLUBS THREE WEEKS AGO, TODAY HE REAQUANTS HIMSELF WITH ANOTHER

"They probably won't even recognise me," laughs Luke Guttridge as his mind begins to wonder about his time with this afternoon's visitors Southend United. "I had a full head of hair back then!"

Nine years ago a 23-year-old Guttridge joined the Shrimpers from Cambridge United. The midfielder was substituted at the Abbey Stadium last month, and was heckled as he left the pitch – much to his amusement. "I knew it was coming to be honest," he says. "That's football, though. I know I served Cambridge well, I did well there, I was captain at a young age...but that was a long time ago."

After 20 goals in 159 games for the Abbey Stadium outfit, Guttridge joined Southend in 2005 and 72 appearances later the midfielder went from languishing in League 2 to starring in the Championship with the Shrimpers.

"I had a great couple of seasons at Roots Hall," continues the Barnstaple-born playmaker. "I loved it there. We went up through the Play-Offs from League 2 and then won the League 1 title. However, things started to go wrong once we reached the Championship and the wheels fell off a bit."

His departure from the Essex club came in 2007 but Guttridge's decision to join Southend's arch rivals Colchester via a brief spell at Leyton Orient did not go down too well.

"I'm not sure if they've forgiven me for either," he says, before also quickly realising another former club, Northampton, lie on the horizon in a fortnight's time. "Again, I felt I did well for Southend, but I'm not sure leaving and then joining their close rivals went down too well but I can hand on heart say that I enjoyed my time there. Southend is a great club."

In a career which has now spanned 15 years, Guttridge made his 500th senior appearance, according

to our abacus, in the Town's 1-0 home defeat to Crawley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

So what's changed? How has he adapted his game as he's grown older and lost those flowing blond locks?

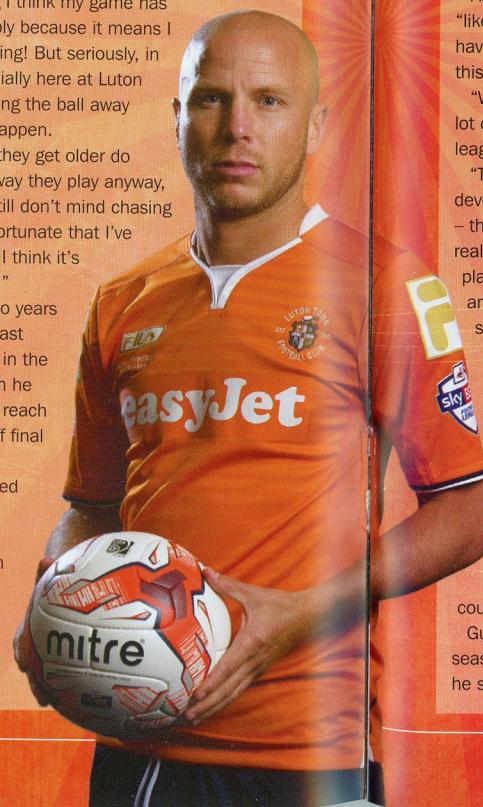
"I've always been the same kind of player," Guttridge says. "Like any player, your game always changes depending on how the manager sees you. I've played left wing, right wing, sitting in the centre, as a box-to-box midfielder, in behind the striker – all in a variety of formations.

"I feel athletic, but have never really been one to eat the turf and bomb on, say like Jonathan Smith or Pelly Ruddock. If anything I think my game has got smarter...probably because it means I have to do less running! But seriously, in the final third, especially here at Luton it's a case of not giving the ball away and making things happen.

"Some players as they get older do tend to change the way they play anyway, but in all honesty I still don't mind chasing the ball. I think I'm fortunate that I've been quite versatile. I think it's prolonged my career."

It has only been two years since Guttridge was last showcasing his skills in the Football League when he helped Northampton reach the League 2 Play-Off final in 2013.

Eyebrows were raised in Northamptonshire circles when he decided to drop down to the Conference last summer but Guttridge has no regrets.



"I knew there wasn't a lot of difference in quality between League 2 and the Conference," he says. "A lot more football is played in the Conference than people think but still the standard is very high."

"I think the biggest difference in League 2 is that you're not necessarily playing better individuals, you are playing against better, stronger teams. Teams who are well drilled, know what they are doing. That collective quality is better."

"The standard in League 2 probably has improved since I was last in the division. Given that, I think the way we have performed in the opening two months of the season has proven how much of a good side we are."

While the Town possess the experienced heads of Guttridge, Mark Tyler, Stephen McNulty and Paul Benson, there is a group of players who are tasting League football for the first time.

As John Still has said, many have already taken to it "like a duck to water" and Guttridge believes the Town have got what it takes to mount a promotion challenge this time round.

"We have a squad with a lot of good individuals, a lot of good characters and a manager who knows the league inside-out."

"The players know that if they do well in training, or in development games – like Alex Wall and Charlie Walker – they will get a chance in the team. That is a sign of a really strong squad. They'll be times this season where players will be injured, suspended or out of the team and we have players chomping at the bit ready to step in."

So can the Hatters really win back-to-back promotions?

"100 per cent," says Guttridge. "We need to realise there will be a few ups and downs, but it's a long season. We need to overcome the disappointments when they come along. Staying consistent is the key."

"I think we'll do well. We have a few tricky games coming up so if we're able to come through this period with some positive results we could find ourselves in a good position."

Guttridge has been in and out of the Town side this season as he continues his recovery from the foot injury he sustained in March last season.

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Still has revealed he has been careful in utilising last season's players' player of the year in a bid to keep him in tip-top condition.

Guttridge came through 90 minutes against Crawley on Tuesday and came close when hitting the post in the first half and the bar in the second.

"It's been frustrating," he says. "The injury is a really intricate one and it's been quite uncomfortable. I'm doing my best and I know the manager is trying to manage me the best he can. All I can do is try and repay him when he does use me."

"It's getting there, and it was nice to get 90 minutes against Crawley. I had a few shots. The first one was never going in, the second one I hit cleanly. I thought it would hit the bar and come down over the line but it wasn't to be."

It was the second time that the Town have come up against League 1 opposition this season after losing at home to Swindon in the League Cup.

And the midfielder thinks the performances in both cup ties can give the Hatters confidence for the rest of the season.

"I thought to myself on Tuesday that we also gave Swindon a good game," says Guttridge. "And look how well Swindon are doing in League 1 now."

"Crawley aren't doing too bad either so we've not played any easy teams. For us to come up against players from a higher division is great for us, especially our young players who are learning all the time."

"Some of the Crawley players came off the pitch saying 'well done' but I think we can play better than that."

"So far this season it's been a steep learning curve but our hard work is paying off. You can see just by looking at the league table."

500 CLUB

If you believe the statistics on Soccerbase then Luke Guttridge made his 500th career appearance on Tuesday against Crawley. It was the midfielder's 43rd appearance in Luton colours. He scored five goals in 72 appearances for today's visitors, and scored 20 goals in 159 matches for Cambridge.



Luke in his Southend days

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BIRTHDAY BOY DELIGHT



It was a birthday to remember for Luke Wilkinson when he scored his first Town goal and helped his side keep a clean sheet in the 2-0 win over Oxford United in the Hatters last home league game.

The 24-year-old scored the opener just two minutes into the home win over the U's. Wilkinson reflected on the victory and what it was like to score his first goal for the Hatters.

"It was a brilliant feeling," Wilkinson told Hatters Player. "I should of scored against Cambridge the weekend before, I'm happy that I'm of the mark now and hopefully there will be more to come."

The defender is beginning to find his feet at Kenilworth Road and in recent weeks has put in some brilliant displays at the back. Wilkinson reflected on his performances of late, he said: "I started a bit slow this season but I'm happy to pick up my form now. Hopefully I can get better and better as the season goes on."

It was the Town's fourth league clean sheet of the season and their fourth on the bounce as the Hatters have picked up their form both going forward and at the back.

"I'm very happy we have kept our fourth clean sheet of the season," said Wilkinson. "That's the main goal when you go out on the pitch as a defender. Everyone at the back and in front of us have been outstanding in stopping teams from breaking us down."

Wilkinson believes he is no stranger to scoring a goal as his record of six goals in one season for previous club

Dagenham & Redbridge proves that he is a real threat when in the opposition's penalty area.

"I like to think I'm dangerous going forward," the defender said. "I'm always happy to get up there and try and put the ball in the back of the net, it isn't always the case but hopefully I can score a few more goals this season."

Another player who found himself on the scoresheet was midfielder Jake Howells. His goal put the Hatters 2-0 up and gave the Town breathing space to win the game and take all three points.

Assist

"They're a good side I don't think they deserve to be where they are in the league," Howells told Hatters Player. "It was a lucky goal, the keeper saved the penalty and I put the rebound away."

The 23-year-old also managed to assist the first goal of the game, as it was his ball in which found the head of Wilkinson to give the Hatters an early lead.

"We've been working on set pieces every week," said Howells. "Luckily I put the ball in where it needed to be and it was a great header in the end. The gaffer keeps telling us how important set pieces are in this league and we proved that today with an early goal."

Howells praised the team effort over the past few weeks as the Town have begun to pick up their form in the league and push up the table.

"It starts from the front, Cullen has been amazing," said the midfielder. "The back four and keeper have been great but I think it starts from the front, the boys have done really well today."

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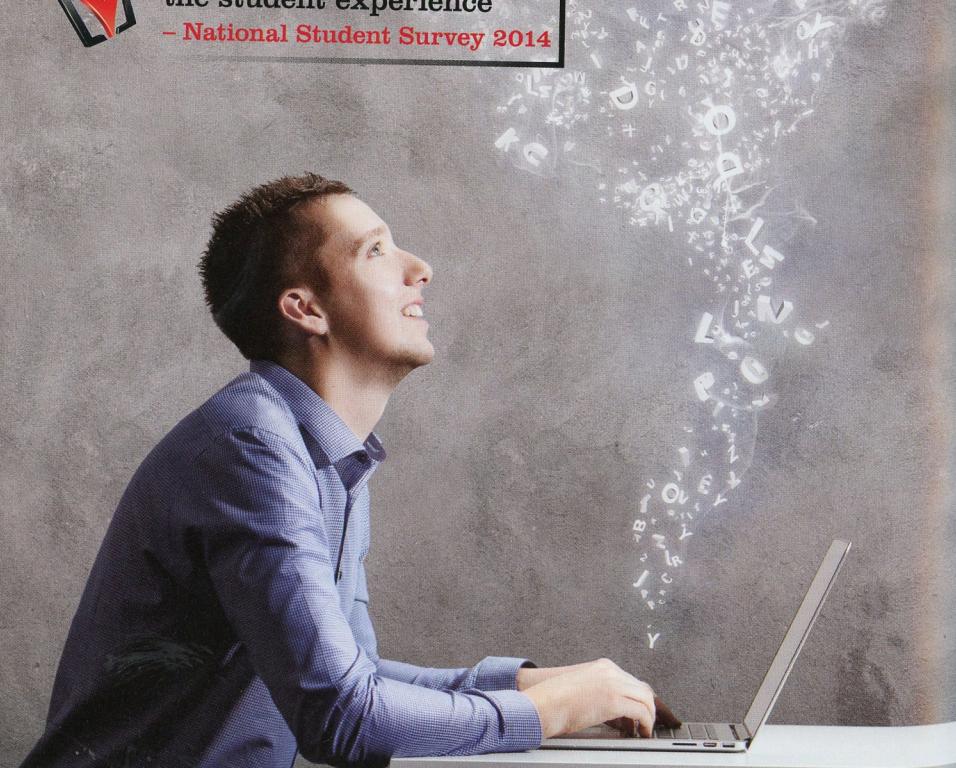
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STRIKER PAIR ON BORO VICTORY



Alex Wall and Charlie Walker came off the bench to make the difference in the Town's 2-1 win at Broadhall Way last Saturday.

Wall got the winner in the 83rd minute to send the Luton away fans into delirium, but it was the impact of both Wall and debutant Walker off the bench that made the difference on the day.

The chance fell to Wall just moments after he entered the pitch as a substitute, and the striker was happy that he took his chance and hopes he has proven a point to manager John Still.

"The gaffer sent me on with a job to do and luckily I was in the right position at the right time," Wall said. "The chance came straight away and I was happy to get on the end of it and put it away, hopefully I can show the gaffer that I can do it week in week out."

The win at Stevenage now means that the Hatters have moved into a Play-Off position and currently sit seventh in the league standings. Wall believes that the Town have only just started to get going following a tough start to the season.

"We are just starting to get going now and we are beginning to pick up momentum," Wall told Hatters Player. "We experienced last season that if we pick up momentum we are unstoppable, so hopefully we can take that into this season and do the same again."

Wall admitted that he has been working harder in training and giving an extra 10 per cent to try and push his way into the side. The striker is happy that his hard work has paid off through getting the winner against Boro.

"I've been working hard, I always give 100 per cent but sometimes you have to give 110 per cent," said Wall. "I've tried my hardest every day in training and it's paid off to help the team get three points."

Walker, meanwhile, made his first league appearance in Town colours, having been signed from non-league side Peacehaven before the season began. Walker could have had a goal of his own when his effort seemed to have crossed the line, however, the linesman did not award the goal and the debutant believes the goal was wrongly disallowed.

"I thought it was in," said Walker. "It would have been nice for it to count and to have scored the winner but we got the win and that's all that matters. I thought it was in but I turned round and seen the linesman didn't give it."

Walker admitted that both he and Alex Wall were keen to get on the pitch and make a difference. In the end both came on and made a real impact in the final result.

"Myself and Alex were sitting next to each other and we were both saying that we wanted to get on," said the striker. "We weren't sure if it was going to be one of us or both of us, but in the end we both got a chance and I'm happy Wall has got the winner."

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OLD PALS MEET AGAIN



Former Town player Keith Keane made his return to Kenilworth Road in the Hatters Johnstone's Paint Trophy exit against Crawley.

Keane had previously played for the Hatters up until 2012, having enjoyed a nine-year spell with Luton, breaking through the academy to earn his place in the side. Keane faced up against his old club in the mid-week trophy exit and former teammate Jake Howells was delighted to see his face again.

"It was lovely to see Keith and I'm glad he's doing well at Crawley," Howells told Hatters Player. "It's one of those things in football and you have to change clubs at times. It's nice to see him playing at Crawley and doing well for himself."

It was the first time that Keane had returned to Kenilworth Road following his departure. Howells believes that his former teammate was excited to make a return to the place he used to call home.

"It was weird to come up against him but I think he was excited to come back here," said the midfielder. "He hasn't been back since he left Luton, he was appreciated by the fans and I'm glad that he enjoyed it."

Howells admitted that the former Hatter was a great influence to him, both players broke into the first team at a young age and Howells looked up to Keane during his time at Kenilworth Road.

"I looked up to Keith a lot and had respect for him," said Howells. "He helped me massively on the pitch and in training. He guided me as well as he could and I have a lot of respect for that. I have a lot of time for Keith."

The Hatters fell short in the trophy clash, having lost 1-0 on the night. Howells believes it was not to be for the Town as his side could not find a leveller, despite hitting the woodwork on several occasions.

"We held our own against a League 1 side," Howells said. "They're a good side who are always there or there about, we had lots of chances and on a different night we would have scored two or three of them. Unfortunately they took their chance and won the game; that's football."

Despite the trophy exit it's not all doom and gloom for the Hatters. Howells believes that the main objective on everyone's mind is to achieve promotion come the end of the season.

"To do well in this trophy is good but our main objective is to win the league or gain promotion," said Howells. "Hopefully we can go on and achieve promotion, that's more important for us."

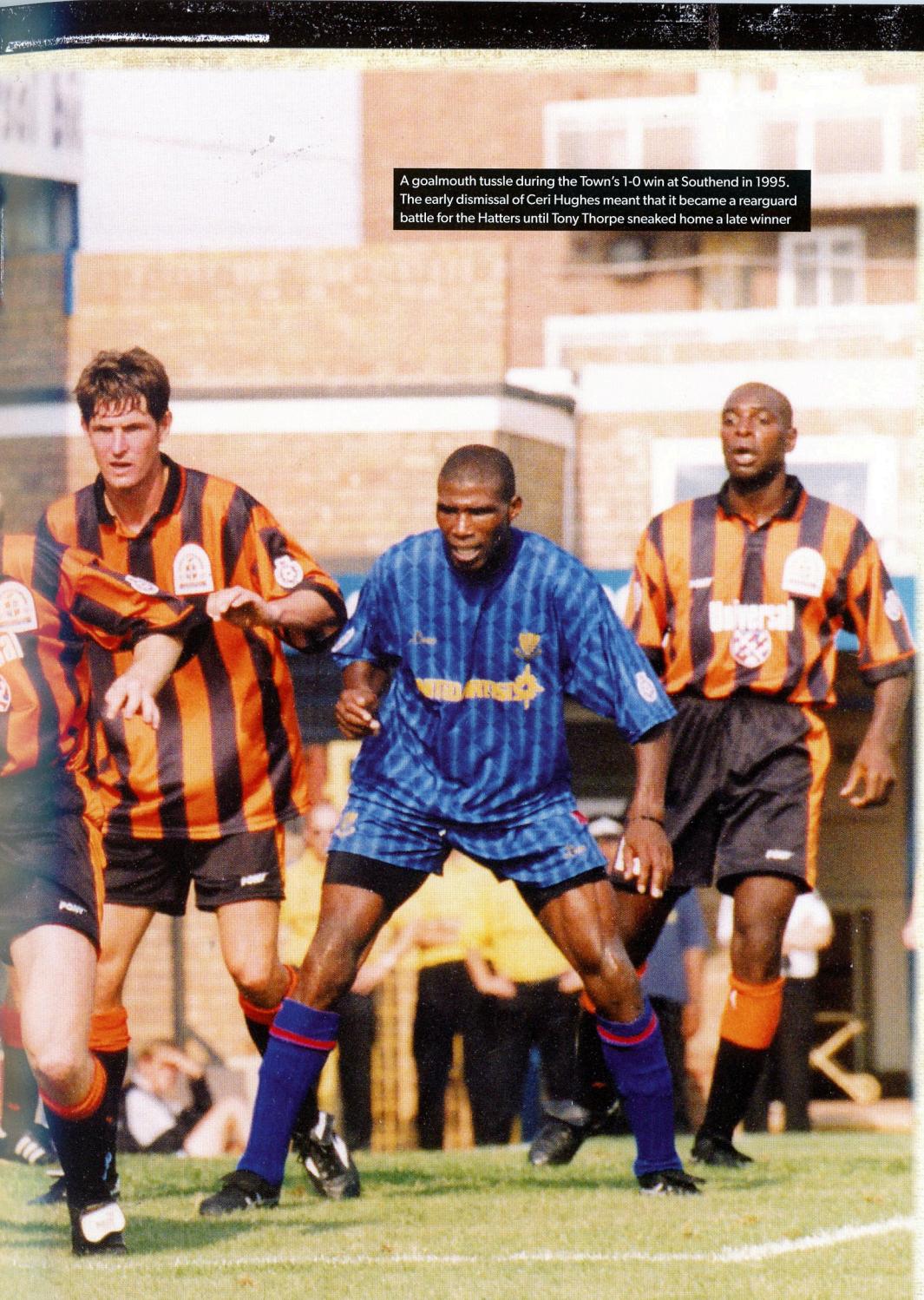
centre spot



What a great photograph! The Town players (and supporters) celebrate
Luke Wilkinson's opening goal at Stevenage last Saturday

PICTURE THE PAST

Club historian **ROGER WASH** delves into his photographic archive



A goalmouth tussle during the Town's 1-0 win at Southend in 1995. The early dismissal of Ceri Hughes meant that it became a rearguard battle for the Hatters until Tony Thorpe sneaked home a late winner

Camera Never Lies

Club historian **ROGER WASH** delves into his photographic archive



Luton supporters in full voice before the FA Cup fifth round replay at Leicester in 1949. The Town had drawn 5-5 at Kenilworth Road in the first game and were to go down 5-3 in the re-match.

YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian ROGER WASH looks back an historic Luton versus Southend clash at Kenilworth Road back in 1967

Luton Town 1-0 Southend United - Division Four - 12th April 1967.

A glance at the League tables featured in the programme for the game played against Southend on 12th April 1967 shows the Town one place off the re-election places at the bottom of Division Four (now League 2) while the reserves were bottom of the London Midweek League.

The youth team were faring no better and were holding up the rest in the South East Counties League having conceded 103 goals in only 28 games!

After a mid-season mini revival where we flattered to deceive, the Division Four side went into the game against promotion chasing Southend having picked up only one point from the previous five matches.

Easter, as usual, had produced three defeats including two against a Brian Clough inspired Hartlepool, while on the previous Saturday evening the Town had been beaten 3-1 at Crewe where winger Ray Whittaker had been sent off to cap a miserable night.

Southend were in a handily placed fourth spot and looked likely to achieve an immediate return to Division Three which they had left the season before.

Battle

A crowd of 4,666 turned up at a wet, muddy Kenilworth Road to see whether the losing run could be halted and were treated to a bad tempered, bruising battle as both sides fought for the points for different reasons.

Manager Allan Brown welcomed back mercurial winger Graham French after two games out through injury and decided to drop goalkeeper Ron Swan who had hardly covered himself in glory after a run of 14 matches.

His replacement was Tony Read who had already



Hatters of 1967. Back row (left to right): Bobby Thomson, Alan Slough, Alan Rivers, Tony Read, John Moore, Fred Jardine, Tony Thear. Front row (left to right): David Pleat, Graham French, Gordon Riddick, Bruce Riach, Ray Whittaker.

turned out in goal as well as centre-forward that season, although he had not repeated his exploits of 1965/66 when he scored 12 goals, including an incredible hat-trick in a 5-1 home win against Notts County.

Surprisingly, the Hatters had much the better of the first half and kept the Southend defence at full stretch for most of the time, although the final breakthrough could not be achieved. The Shrimpers opened up more in the second half but found the Luton defence uncompromising with Max Dougan and John Moore in commanding form.

After French had been booked for a nasty challenge on Southend winger John McKinven, the game seemed to be petering out for a draw, when Keith Allen struck what was to prove the deciding goal. Allen, signed a month earlier from Stockport in an exchange deal involving ex-England international Derek Kevan, hit a long, hopeful shot that slipped through the hands of Southend goalkeeper Trevor Roberts and ended in the net.

The Hatters followed up this win with another victory over a promotion chasing side when Barrow were seen off at Kenilworth Road the following Saturday and the threat of a re-election plea was eventually overcome with a final position of 17th in the table which was the lowest in our history at that time.

THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced their normal 12-page issue and, apart from the aforementioned League tables, there was nothing of note to report apart from the fact that young Alan Slough, later to give the Hatters sterling service, was to go into hospital for a cartilage operation which meant that he would be out for the remainder of the season.

Of more interest were the adverts, of which there were many. Rons' Gentleman's hairdressers and Stylists boasted seven chairs operating and an 'International Staff', Chamberlains Hardware Merchants sold 'Siscolin Distemper' and Bob Monkhouse was about to appear at Cesars, 'Luton's leading night spot'.

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Match 13: Luton Town v. Barrow
Match 14: Luton Town v. Hartlepool United
Match 15: Luton Town v. Notts County
Match 16: Luton Town v. Crewe Alexandra
Match 17: Luton Town v. Macclesfield
Match 18: Luton Town v. Bury
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Match 560: Luton Town v. Wrex



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LUKE

Wilkinson



Defender Luke Wilkinson scored his first goal in Luton colours in our last match at Kenilworth Road, setting the Town on their way to a 2-0 win over Oxford with his header after just 80 seconds.

The centre-half has been in fine form since joining from Dagenham & Redbridge in the summer and was again in the thick of the action in both boxes against both Oxford and Stevenage last Saturday.

Against Oxford, Wilkinson made 69 touches, 51 of which were classed as 'successful' by our analyst boffins InStat. 28 of his 34 defensive actions were successful while it is interesting to note that the defender, who celebrated his 24th birthday that day, made one more 'attacking' action than he did defensively.

Wilkinson's threat in the opposition half is becoming more and more dangerous and Southend will be aiming to keep him quiet again this afternoon.

The graphics on this page show an analysis of the defender's passing in both halves.

TOTAL
TOUCHES

69

SUCCESSFUL
ACTION %

74%

PASS
COMPLETION

65%

AERIAL
CHALLENGES WON

GOALS

1

TACKLES
WON

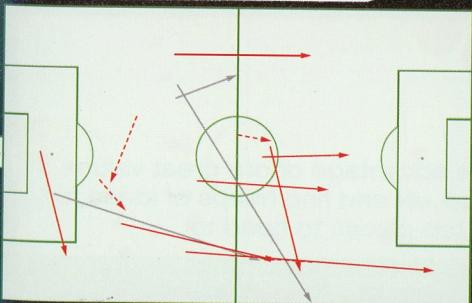
80%

TOTAL
INTERCEPTION

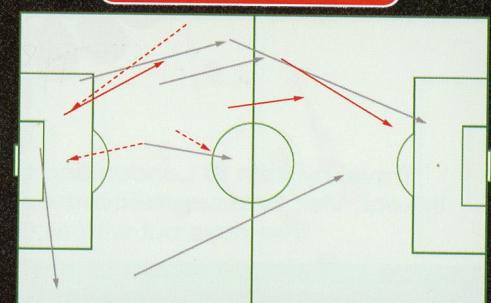
13

75%

FIRST HALF PASSES



SECOND HALF PASSES



Key to graphs: Red arrows: accurate passes. Grey arrows: inaccurate passes. Dotted arrows: non-attacking passes

Bursting with ideas



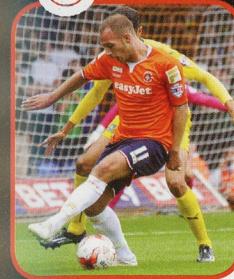
SAVE AT LEAST*
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First Capital Connect

Jake Howells



For the second game running the Town missed a penalty but scored the rebound as, at our last home game, Jake Howells scored after having his second-half spot-kick saved.

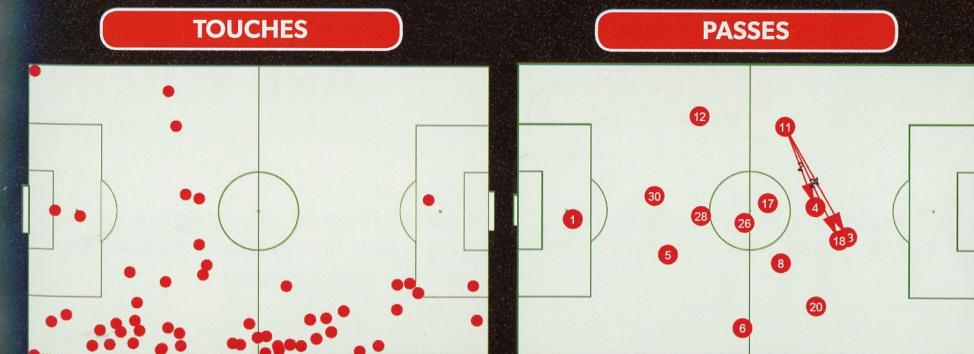
The 23-year-old made his 285th appearance against the U's and his goal was his 28th in Luton colours when following up Sam Long's penalty save.

But the midfielder had made a major contribution earlier on in the match when his accurate right-wing free-kick was met by Luke Wilkinson whose header in the second minute put the Town 1-0 up.

As his touch graphic shows, Howells was used almost exclusively down the left flank, and only wandered to the right to swing in set pieces.

52 of Howells' 62 actions, according to statistical boffins InStat, were made on the left flank with 61 per cent of those actions deemed a success by the analytical data. Despite that figure, his two most important actions led to goals.

However, it wasn't just his play in the attacking third of the pitch that was a big part of Howells game, as the product of the Town academy made 10 successful defensive challenges from the 14 he contested.



Direction of passes (three most frequent receivers)



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WITH FOUNDATION PHASE LEAD COACH ROSS O'KANE

Over the past few years I have been on the outside observing, learning the workings of the foundation phase alongside Scott Smith.

Since his departure I have stepped up as foundation phase lead coach and intend to continue to recruit and develop the best young players in our catchment area.

I am supported by a strong team of coaches and would like to take the opportunity to introduce to you Andy Elderton, who has been coaching in our academy for a number of years. We welcome new coaches, Carl Short, Pedro Carreira and Manraj Sucha who are already proving to be a credit to our club.

Journey

As we begin the season recruitment is at the forefront of our minds, as we look to continue to add to our already strong groups of players. The journey for some academy players begins with our community staff who coach over 2,000 children in schools in the local area. From here players may be invited to train with our elite group from the age of 6. In addition we recruit from Herts, Beds and

Bucks, and work tirelessly to form good relationships with local clubs, and invite the best talent to join us. At present we have an elite group of under-sixes, three groups of under-sevens and four groups of under-eights. Whatever the journey into our system, all players are working towards gaining an academy place and wearing our team colours.

We have lots to look forwards to in the coming weeks and months. Our games programme is now well under way and we have winter tours scheduled in which we will compete against the likes of Wolfsburg, Dortmund and Werder Bremen. In addition the under-sevens and eights have fixtures against Norwich City and Southampton, where our players will be treated to some of the best facilities in the country.

I would like to thank our talented young players for their hard work and dedication. In training and matches I am always immensely proud of the way they represent our club, both on and off the pitch. I thank our parents for the support they give the staff and their boys as together we strive to bring out the best in all our players. Looking forward to another three points today COYH!



Youth Team &

Development

FIXTURES & RESULTS

YOUTH

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI							
AUGUST												
Sat 2	11.00am	H	Milton Keynes Dons	W 3-1	King	TROTMAN 1	Hawkes	Atkinson ♦	TAMPLIN	Musonda		
Tue 12	12 noon	A	AFC Bournemouth (LC)	W 2-1	King	Justin	Magaraushe	TAMPLIN	Musonda	McGhan-George ♦		
Sat 16	11.00am	H	Stevenage	D 1-1	King	Trotman	Hawkes	Justin	Musonda	TAMPLIN		
Wed 20	11.00am	H	Cambridge United	W 2-0	King	Trotman	Magaraushe ♦	TAMPLIN	Musonda	Justin		
Sat 23	10.30am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 5-0	King	Trotman	Perry ♦	Justin	ATKINSON 1	TAMPLIN		
Sat 30	11.00am	H	Watford	W 3-0	King	TROTMAN 1	Perry	Justin	TAMPLIN ♦	Musonda		
SEPTEMBER												
Tue 2	12 noon	A	Dagenham & Redbridge (LC)	L 1-3	King	Trotman	Perry	Hawkes	Musonda	Magaraushe ♦		
Sat 6	10.30am	A	Barnet	L 2-4	King	Trotman	Magaraushe ♦	TAMPLIN 1	Parry	Hawkes	McGhan-George	
Sat 20	11.00am	H	Northampton Town	D 1-1	King	MAGARAUSHE 1	Perry	Justin	McJannett	Hawkes		
Sat 27	10.30am	A	AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	King	Magaraushe	Perry	Justin	Hawkes	McJannett		
OCTOBER												
Sat 4	11.00am	H	Southend United	D 1-1	King	Magaraushe ♦	PERRY 1	McGhan-George	Musonda	Hawkes		
Sat 11	10.30am	A	Leyton Orient									
Sat 18	11.00am	H	Gillingham									
Sat 25	11.00am	H	Dagenham & Redbridge									
NOVEMBER												
Sat 1	11.00am	A	Cambridge United									
Sat 8	11.00am	H	Barnet									
Sat 15	10.30am	A	Watford									
Sat 22	11.00am	A	Northampton Town									
Sat 29	11.00am	H	Peterborough United									
DECEMBER												
Sat 6	11.00am	A	Southend United									
Sat 13	11.00am	H	AFC Wimbledon									
Sat 20	11.00am	A	Gillingham									
JANUARY												
Tue 6	11.00am	H	Leyton Orient									
Sat 10	11.00am	A	Milton Keynes Dons									
Sat 24	11.00am	A	Stevenage									
TBA			Peterborough United									

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI							
SEPTEMBER												
Tue 9	1pm	H	AFC Bournemouth	W 5-0	Justham	McNeil ♦	Brown	TAMPLIN	Williams	Smith		
Tue 23	2pm	A	Portsmouth	D 2-2	Justham	Justin	Brown ♦	Perry	Andoh	Doyle ♦	Guttridge	
Tue 30	1pm	H	Gillingham (Cup)	W 5-2	Justham	Robinson	Brown	Lacey	Parry			
OCTOBER												
Tue 14	1pm	A	Gillingham									
Tue 28	1pm	H	Peterborough United									
NOVEMBER												
Tue 4	TBA	TBA	Cambridge United (Cup)									
Tue 18	1pm	A	Cambridge United									
Tue 25	1pm	H	Leyton Orient									
DECEMBER												
Tue 2	1pm	H	AFC Wimbledon									
Tue 9	TBA	TBA	AFC Wimbledon (Cup)									
JANUARY												
Tue 6	1pm	A	AFC Bournemouth									
Tue 13	1pm	H	Brighton (Cup)									
Tue 20	1pm	H	Gillingham									
Tue 27	1pm	H	Milton Keynes Dons (Cup)									
FEBRUARY												
Tue 3	1pm	A	Peterborough United									
Tue 24	1pm	A	Leyton Orient									
MARCH												
Tue 10	1pm	H	Cambridge United									
Mon 23	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon									
Tue 31	1pm	H	Portsmouth									



Jonathan Smith fires home against Gillingham

SUBS												
Galliford ♦	Atkinson	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Tayali	Ngwala ♦	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Tayali	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Justin ♦	Magaraushe ♦
Atkinson	Ngwala	Galliford	Atkinson ♦	Tayali ♦	Tayali	Atkinson	Atkinson	Atkinson	Atkinson	Atkinson	Amadi ♦	Amadi
Galliford	Atkinson	Galliford	Atkinson	Ngwala	Ngwala	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Ngwala	Ngwala	Ngwala	Amadi	Amadi
Musonda	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Tayali	Tayali	Tayali	Amadi	Amadi
Ngwala	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Tayali	Tayali	Tayali	Amadi	Amadi
Galliford	Atkinson	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Tayali	Tayali	Tayali	Amadi	Amadi
Justin ♦	Tayali	McGhan-George	Tayali	Ngwala	Ngwala	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Ngwala	Ngwala	Ngwala	Brown	Brown
McGhan-George	McGhan-George	Tayali	Tayali	Tayali	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Tayali	Tayali	Tayali	Hawkes	Hawkes
Amadi ♦	AMADI 1	AMADI 1	AMADI 1	AMADI 1	AMADI 1	Amadi	McGhan-George	AMADI 1	AMADI 1	AMADI 1	Smith-Bubbins	Smith-Bubbins
AMADI 1	AMALMAN 1	AMALMAN 1	AMALMAN 1	AMALMAN 1	AMALMAN 1	Amadi	McGhan-George	AMALMAN 1	AMALMAN 1	AMALMAN 1	Brown	Brown
AMALMAN 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	Amadi	McGhan-George	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	McJannett	McJannett
NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	Amadi	McGhan-George	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	King	King

A FAIR POINT

The Town Under-18s earned their third successive 1-1 draw in the Youth Alliance as they fought back to earn a point against Southend United at Ely Way last Saturday.

Lucas Perry got the Hatters level with 20 minutes to go with a fine strike from the edge of the box which flew into the top corner. Although both teams pushed for a late winner the points were shared.

Boss Paul Driver said afterwards: "A point was fair on both sides. They started the better and took the lead but we fought back and deservedly equalised. Lucas Perry doesn't score many but his goal was excellent as was the whole team performance."

SUBS												
STEVENS 3	Saunders	Walker	LAFAYETTE 1	WALKER 1	MUSONDA 1	Ngwala	Trotman ♦	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford	Galliford
Rees	WHALLEY 1	SMITH 1	WALKER 1	BENSON 2	Amadi ♦	Magaraushe ♦	King	King	King	King	King	King
Lawless ♦	Doyle ♦	SMITH 1	BENSON 2	WALKER 2	Stevenson ♦	Hawkes ♦	Amadi	Amadi	Amadi	Amadi	Amadi	Amadi

WIN FOR DEV SQUAD

A strong Town development squad earned a 5-2 League Cup win over Gillingham at Kenilworth Road last week.

First team coach Hakan Hayrettin gave starts to a host of senior players. Paul Benson, Andy Parry, Alex Lacey, Matt Robinson and Luke Guttridge all played 90 minutes, whilst Alex Lawless, Nathan Doyle and Jonathan Smith got 63 minutes under their belts before being substituted. Given the strength of the team compared to an inexperienced Gills side, the Hatters ran out comfortable winners.

Charlie Walker fired the Hatters in front when converting Benson's cross before Smith's low shot from the edge of the box made it 2-0.

Walker added a second with a delightful lob following Benson's flick-on to make it 3-0 at half-time.

After Gillingham pulled a goal back Benson scored from close range to make it 4-1, and after Benson scored again from close range the Gills pulled a second back and that completed the scoring.



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COMING SOON

THE SOCIAL NETWORK



Last week our official YouTube channel hit the two million-view mark a little over a year since its inception at the beginning of last season.

The amount of views has elevated the channel to one of the most-watched football club channels in the country and has now almost 5,000 subscribers logging on to watch behind-the-scenes footage, interviews and match highlights.

The top five most-viewed videos include a top two centring around the skills of a certain Stephen McNulty, as the screengrabs, below, show.

Remember to subscribe to the account visit www.youtube.com/lutontown. All the interview snippets can be found in full on Hatters Player, which also offers extended highlights of the Town's matches.

Elsewhere in social media, the official Twitter account surpassed the 24,000-follower mark a few days ago.

Last week saw National Poetry Day trending and, naturally, we opened up the conversation to followers and asked for their Hatters-based 140-character poems.

Here's the best of what we received.

• **Dave O'Flanagan @LTFC_Dave**
@LutonTown Back in the League, after five years of pain. With Still in charge, I smell promotion again #OptimisticPoetry #NationalPoetryDay

• **Joanne Stuckey @Lutontilidie**
@LutonTown There's ups, downs and plenty of frowns, but no-one brings sunshine like my Luton Town. #coy #NationalPoetryDay

• **John Earls @EarlsJohn**
@LutonTown #haiku These penalty rebounds Are starting to look tactical Whose tap-in is next?

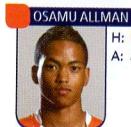
• **George @Lobby27**
@LutonTown Back in the 4th tier With nothing to fear, A year of devotion Will bring us promotion, And a party on Southend pier. #PoetryDay

• **jonathon palmer @jonpal70**
@LutonTown Wise Emperor Still Stares at the tea in his mug Not long, yellow foe #haiku

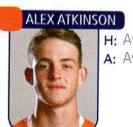


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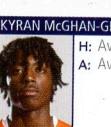
OSAMU ALLMAN
H: Machins Solicitors
A: Available



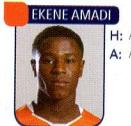
ALEX ATKINSON
H: Available
A: Available



GEORGE CRAIG
H: Available
A: Available



KYRAN MCGHAN-GEORGE
H: Available
A: Available



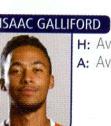
EKENE AMADI
H: Available
A: Available



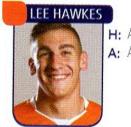
LIAM GOOCH
H: P.J.R. Bacon Builders
A: Available



FRANKIE MUSONDA
H: Available
A: Available



ISAAC GALLIFORD
H: Available
A: Available



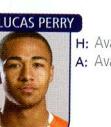
LEE HAWKES
H: Available
A: Available



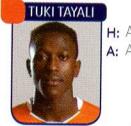
CRAIG KING
H: Mike Tearle
A: Available



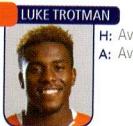
DARIL NGWALA
H: Available
A: Available



LUCAS PERRY
H: Available
A: Available



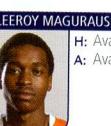
TUKI TAYALI
H: Available
A: Available



LUKE TROTMAN
H: Available
A: Available



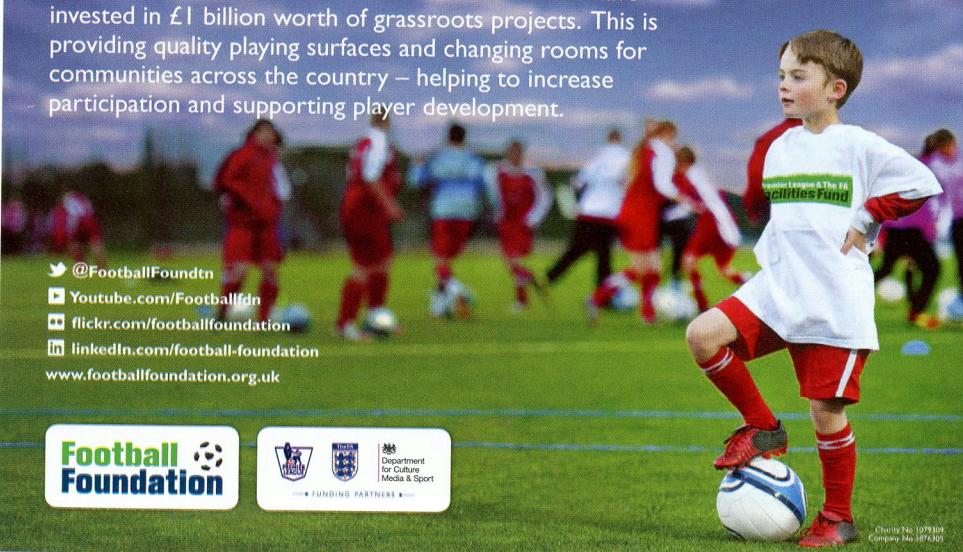
HARRY TAMPLIN
H: Allianz
A: NPA Commercial



LEEROY MAGURAUSHE
H: Available
A: Available

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www.footballfoundation.org.uk



Luton Ladies

THE LATEST FROM THE LUTON LADIES

The Hatters' senior squads took on Milton Keynes and AFC Wimbledon last weekend but both teams were unable to register a point.

The first team squad entertained Milton Keynes for their third meeting of the season and on this occasion it was Luton who went down 1-0.

The goal came early when a mis-struck effort looped up dropped onto the top of the crossbar but fell favourably to ex-Town striker Lauren Goodier who had the simple task of scoring from close range as the Town defence switched off.

Pressure

The visitors were suitably buoyed by their good fortune and really put the Hatters defence under pressure. It proved to be a real rearguard action and the visitors should have wrapped up the points before the interval. However, a mixture of wasteful finishing, good defending and some top goalkeeping from Hollie Staples kept Town within reach. The pick of her saves came from an angled drive which she pushed over the bar with her top hand diving at full stretch.

Invigorated

A reorganised and invigorated Hatters appeared for the second half and a much improved showing saw a sustained period of pressure during which Jess McKay forced a diving save from the keeper and Michelle Byrne struck a rising shot just over the crossbar. Unfortunately, striker Lydia Radley joined the ever growing injury list suffering a badly broken wrist which is likely to see her missing for six weeks.

Town manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "With the squad stretched to the max we are running on empty at the minute and cannot seem gain momentum and slow starts continue to cost us.



"Lydia's injury adds to the problem and is another freak injury which we'll just have to deal with. This next week will be testing with three games in seven days beginning with a Premier League Cup tie away to Plymouth Argyle.

Tough

"This will be a tough test for the squad but if we perform to our full capability then we have every chance of a win."

The reserves, picking up the pieces from the injury crisis, were unfortunate that the fixture computer sent them away to an unbeaten AFC Wimbledon side who were quickly in the lead and added two more before the break. An improved second half showing proved they could compete, but a late goal rounded off a 4-0 win for the Dons, although the Town remain in fourth place.

Meanwhile, the Club was delighted to announce on Thursday that on Wednesday 15th October the Town Ladies entertain their Bedford counterparts in an FA Women's Premier League match at Kenilworth Road with a 7.30 kick off.

This is the return league fixture which saw Town triumph 2-1 with goals from Clare Howe and Jess McKay.

community

THE LATEST WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

SOCER CAMPS

It seems unbelievable that today we are already only two weeks away from October half-term but rest assured plans for our popular soccer camps are well advanced. If you were one of the over 600 youngsters who attended during the summer then you will know the format and how to book and you probably have all of the details already. However, if you've not tried a soccer camp they are great fun, open to all abilities from 10am to 3pm each day and great value at £15 each day you attend - and of course everyone receives the legendary Luton Town free medal! Our courses run throughout the county from Bedford down to Luton, and you can download our leaflet from either the main club website or just give us a call at the community office on 01582 737568 for further information or to book a place.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

As well as running soccer camps in a couple of weeks, the coaches are also looking forward to the matches arranged for our centre of excellence and pre-academy squads and our player development centre boys in Kempston. This half-term we have games with Crystal Palace, Ipswich Town, Northampton Town and Wycombe

Wanderers so it will be a busy five days to finish off the month and an important one for all of the boys as they try to gain a place with our main academy. We have progressed quite a few boys recently so it is good to see the system working and good to know that these boys are putting pressure on our academy boys. We're also due to play today's visitors, Southend United, next year as part of our programme - but in the meantime we will be reporting on the games after the school holiday.

WOMEN & GIRLS FOOTBALL (FFD)

"That's great for the boys," I can hear the girls shouting! – "but what about us?" Well, as you know, we are associated with Luton Ladies and we recently met with Ladies club chairman Dave Baker to discuss our proposed involvement with the Female Football Development (FFD) programme which is run by the Football League Trust and aims to increase player numbers. We are at a very early stage in the programme and we will be returning to this exciting project in our next programme notes as it does illustrate the new opportunities that are now open to the Community Trust following our return to the Football League.



FOOTBALL LEAGUE TRUST

The FFD programme is one of a number of projects that we were introduced to following last month's Football League Trust conference on strategies for successful communities, which was attended by all 72 clubs. As well as listening to some interesting key note speakers, including Dame Julia Cleverdon CBE from The Princes Trust who gave Luton a special mention, it was a great opportunity to network with all of the other clubs and gain an insight into their community programmes. It brought home how much we have been excluded from over the last few years, but every agency and club we met seemed really pleased to meet us and we even had a few drinks with the guys from Watford!

DISABILITY FOOTBALL

One new project we are just becoming involved in is an association with the guys from the New Horizon group who are based on our doorstep up Farley Hill at the local community centre. We received an invitation from the Bedfordshire FA to have a look at their disability league which runs every Friday and I think it's fair to say they have blown us away with their enthusiasm for the game and their support for the Hatters. We've initially agreed to coach the guys on a Friday morning when they don't have a game and we have other initiatives planned with them to raise the profile of disabled sport - so watch this space.

So from young school children, girls, women and disabled footballers, I hope you can see our Community Trust covers a fair cross - section of the local population involved in the game and we continue to engage with as many as we can on behalf of the Club. If you know of any community group who would like to become involved with us then please encourage them to get in touch.

Over the coming weeks we will be talking about some of the new projects that the Community Trust are now able to bring to Luton and become involved in through our renewed membership of the Football League Trust.



The New Horizon team from Farley Hill



Travellers' TALES

In case you didn't know Luton are back, and back in the Football League after five years away, and ardent Hatters fan Kevin Harper will see it all this season. In between sleeping on the coach and munching on a pie at away games he'll be writing of his experiences for Talk of the Town...?

THE JOURNEY

Away game number six of the campaign was the shortest journey of the season, as myself and just under 2,000 Luton fans made the short trip 17 miles down the A505 to Stevenage. It had been just over four years since we last descended on Broadhall Way and after three wins and a draw from our last four matches everyone went there full of optimism of three more points which would see us go further up the table.



The Bobbers coach left Luton Station just after 1pm and was in Stevenage by 1.45pm. After a short walk from the car park where the coaches were parked over to the away end we were inside the Lamex Stadium shortly after 2pm as the atmosphere began to build ahead of the local derby.

THE GROUND

This was our fourth competitive fixture at Broadhall Way and in truth not much has changed since we were last there in 2010. Just like that occasion the Town fans were given the entire stand behind the goal and this time we had a third of the Main Stand where most Town fans were sat. Thankfully on what started off as a rotten day weather wise both stands had a roof so the rain didn't affect things.

I was sat in the Main Stand where the facilities weren't the greatest. A set of six portable loos were provided for toilets which wasn't ideal given the big crowd and it wasn't easy to see the entire pitch from our seats as the dugouts were in the way as were the managers when they were out giving their instructions.

THE FOOD

There was a sole tea bar in our end which catered for pretty much everyone with burgers, hot dogs, bacon rolls, pies and pasties all on the menu as well as chips and veggie burgers for vegetarians. The usual array of hot drinks were also available and everything was reasonably priced which was good. Although there was quite a crowd in our end there were enough people serving to make sure we didn't have to queue for long. I took the burger option which was pretty good by general football standards.

THE PROGRAMME

A 66-page programme was produced for this match. It cost £3 and contained all of the usual things you would expect from a programme.



The 1,897 Town fans certainly made themselves heard at Stevenage last Saturday

The manager notes were quite hilarious with Graham Westley pointing out our penalty record this season was solely down to our support base, and he assured his own fans that their players would deliver "a special display". Clearly the Stevenage players didn't read that part of the programme!

Our former captain Ronnie Henry reflected on his time with us in his captain notes and there were also five pages dedicated to the Town, one of which declared Stephen McNulty as our star player. Another page highlighted previous meetings between the two clubs with the next page showcasing three players - Efe Sodje, Ronnie Henry and Andy Drury, who had played for both clubs. All in all it was a decent read.

THE GAME

The match itself was what most of us expected really. Paul Benson and Andy Drury replaced Jake Howell and Shaun Whalley from the win over Oxford. We flew out of the traps and could have been out of sight inside 20 minutes, but after that it went a bit scrappy as derby matches do only for us to finish the match well to claim the win.

We started very well and could have scored a couple of times before Luke Wilkinson finally put us ahead from Andy Drury's free kick 10 minutes in. We had a couple more chances after that but the Stevenage keeper made good saves. At that point it was literally us vs us. Stevenage came into the game the longer the half went on and equalised just after the half hour in what was their only shot on goal in that half.

The second half began in a very scrappy fashion, not helped by the regular Stevenage time wasting pit stop 10 minutes after half-time. If anything that seemed to rile us

and sparked us into a life. A couple of feisty challenges from Jonathan Smith and Paul Benson angered Graham Westley who seemed to confuse himself with the referee, but while he and his side began to lose their heads, John Still kept his. He brought Charlie Walker on for his debut with 15 minutes to go and Alex Wall soon after. Walker had a good goal ruled out when his header was ruled not to have gone over the line but Wall curled into the top corner with his first touch seven minutes from time to send the travelling hordes wild. From there we saw the game out for a deserved three points.

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

Luke Wilkinson showed just why he has been nominated in the player of the month nominees for September in this match. Not only did he open the scoring but along with McNulty he dealt with the barrage of long balls and defended our box very well in the second half when Stevenage had 10 minutes where they were on top. Wilkinson recently claimed we are now seeing the best of him and we definitely saw that here as he put in a colossal centre half performance.

SUMMARY

Derby days are always good days when you win and even though Stevenage aren't our biggest rivals it was nice to quieten them and their manager down. The Luton fans created an excellent atmosphere from start to finish and the players responded with a solid away performance and three wonderful points to move us up into the Play-Off places for the first time this season. We were on the coach and back in Luton just before 6pm which left us with plenty of time to celebrate a top win in style!

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WHAT'S IN STORE ONLINE AT THE HATTERS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Hatters Player has been busy already this season with exclusive interviews, match highlights and exclusive live online commentary on the channel, which complements our official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/lutontown.

Player really is the best way to keep up-to-date with everything at Kenilworth Road with the biggest change from previous seasons in the Conference being exclusive online match

commentary. Player is the only way that you'll be able to listen to commentary online through your computer or mobile device this season with the Hatters back in the Football League.

A number of previous subscribers have returned to the new improved video service and if you are wondering what complementary services the video subscription site, www.player.lutontown.co.uk, provides in addition to the official website, www.lutontown.co.uk, on a matchday, we have provided a taster below.

TEAMSHEETS

Match line-ups have to be confirmed in writing to the referee one hour before kick off; not long after the match officials have seen them they are available to you to view on www.lutontown.co.uk.

FREE CLOCKWATCH

On the homepage of www.lutontown.co.uk, you can see our popular live, minute-by-minute text commentary, absolutely free, direct from the press box. Every incident is reported from the games - chances, goals, substitutions, bookings, you name it - it is the most comprehensive free service for Town games anywhere on the internet.

LIVE COMMENTARY

If you want to get closer to the action, Hatters Player's Match Live console brings you full live and interactive audio commentary in association with Diverse FM. Complemented with score flashes from around the country and real-time match stats everything you need to know will be right here.

FULL-TIME REPORT

As soon as the full-time whistle blows, a match report is available to read on www.lutontown.co.uk. Complemented by all the statistics that matter, as supplied to us by Opta, as well as our breakdown of the key incidents as the match unfolded.

POST-MATCH REACTION

We will bring you all of manager John Still's reaction from his post-match press conference on www.lutontown.co.uk. Hatters Player subscribers can then watch to a more in-depth interview on the site, later in the evening, along with player reaction from the dressing room.

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

Approximately 24 hours after the final whistle, you can re-live all of the action again with home match highlights on Hatters Player.

MOBILE INTERNET

If being by a PC isn't practical for you, you will be pleased to know you can view our Mobile Internet site on a handheld device. You can see the team line-ups, read the live updates, check the match report and find out what the manager and the players had to say after the game. Simply visit lutontown.wap.com on your phone. For full details, please visit the Mobile Services section of www.lutontown.co.uk.

STAY IN TOUCH AND HELP THE HATTERS TOO...

On the occasions when you can't make it to a match, you can connect to the club's official services and keep abreast of event, knowing that the cost of these products is directly benefiting Luton Town.

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11th OCTOBER

ON THIS DAY

► THE RECORD

Today is not a good day in the Hatters' history books from the 18 matches played on 11th October down the years. The Town have won just five, lost nine and drawn four, scoring 22 and conceding 29. Taking into consideration the first time the Hatters won on this day, way back in 1897, that record isn't the greatest. That first 11th October win came against Tottenham Hotspur in the United League and that day saw the Town triumph 5-0. That particular fixture was the Hatters' 90th match.

► THE LAST VICTORY

It has been 11 long years since the Hatters last tasted success on 11th October. At the time, in 2003, the Town were in League 1 under Mike Newell's stewardship. Two goals from loan star Gary McSheffrey and a header from Russell Perrett gave the Hatters a 3-1 victory over Wycombe Wanderers before a crowd of 5,695 at Kenilworth Road.

► THE LAST TIME

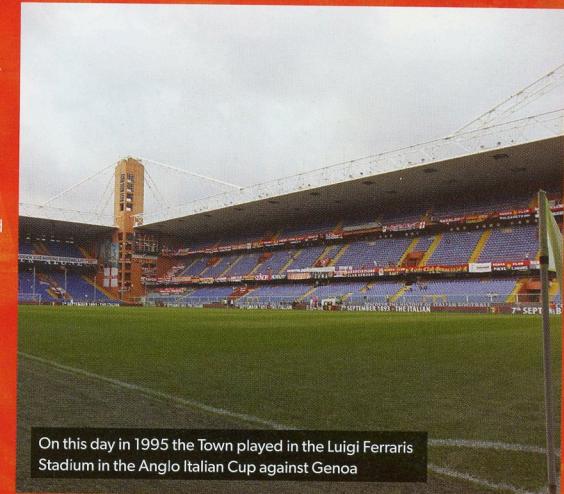
The Hatters' surrendered a two-goal lead the last time they played on this date, back in a Conference fixture in 2011. The Town went 2-0 up on a cold October night in Ebbsfleet thanks to fine goals from Amari Morgan-Smith and James Dance. However, the Fleet had other ideas and two goals in the final 10 minutes earned the home side a point.

► SPRING'S EARLY BATH

On this day in 1997 Matthew Spring was given his full league debut by then manager Lennie Lawrence as the Town welcomed Plymouth Argyle to Kenilworth Road. The midfielder's day would end in tears though as the 17-year-old was sent-off despite protestations from both sets of players. The Town, however, a week after losing 4-0 at home to Watford, restored some pride as two goals from Tony Thorpe and one from Simon Davies earned a 3-0 win over the Pilgrims.

► ANGLO ITALIAN

The Hatters' foray into the Anglo Italian Cup during the mid-1990s was pretty fruitless given the results in the competition. On this day in 1995 the Town's record in the



On this day in 1995 the Town played in the Luigi Ferraris Stadium in the Anglo Italian Cup against Genoa

tournament was summed up by a 4-0 thumping away to Genoa, a game played in the Luigi Ferraris Stadium and watched by over 3,500 fans – a handful or so of those Luton supporters. The Hatters would then draw away in Cesena (watched by 471 fans) before ending their interest in the competition with a 5-0 home win over Ancona later in the season.

► THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY

One of the Town's five wins on this day came in a League Cup tie at Burnley in 1988. Ricky Hill scored the winning goal as the Hatters beat the Clares 1-0 and 2-1 on aggregate. The Town would go on and go all the way to the final for the second successive season but lost at Wembley to Nottingham Forest.

► 69 YEARS OF HURT

After the Hatters beat Brighton & Hove Albion 2-0 in the Southern League in 1919 it wouldn't be until Hill's strike at Burnley some 69 years later that the Town would taste victory on 11th October again – a run of nine matches without a win. During that sequence the Hatters lost six matches in succession on this day (1930-1969) and only drew twice. A 1-1 draw at Carlisle in 1975 and a top-flight goalless draw at home to Norwich in 1986 were the only bright spots on this particular day during that time.

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FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



JOHN STILL: THE MASTER OF MOMENTUM

So, we're out of the cups nice and early then; we've had a slow-ish start and are just starting to pick up points as the evenings begin to draw in. Familiar ring to it, all this.

No one likes losing, but defeat to Crawley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, of which we were proudly undefeated since 2008 BC (Before Conference), makes way for the cockney prophecies of John Still to begin to bear fruit once more.

Forget five years ago when Team England's new No Fun Wembley bulged with the surreal sight of the largest following from a single club ever to grace the national stadium. Put aside memories of the Mawhinney-baiting and communal crates of cut price lager. Pack away your photos of homemade flags hanging from the railings of the Sit Down, Shut Up and Clap your Clappy Sticks™ entertainment venue.

The JPT, or the Auto Windscreens Shield as its Nan would call it if it swore, was never much of a crowd-puller for Luton despite the framed photo you've got of Micky Harford skipping along like Eric in the sunshine. So, as only the sorest loser would admit, I'm glad we're out of it. Tin Pot, Paint Pot Trophy etc. etc. (PS. Love you Claude!)

Last season we saw the benefit of a leaner looking and largely cup free fixture list come the spring - when the latter stages of the FA Trophy and League Cup can tear up your best laid Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday plans while the rain and the snow take their traditional toll on lower league soil.

That said, Mr Still mate, let's try and stay in the FA Cup for a bit, just in case we draw that Udinese C. I've never seen us win in Europe.

The more this season shapes up like the last the better, if, like me, you're a fan of open top bus parades and jubilant, pitch-invaded Directors Box Hip Hop, Happy Harry beheaded Bedfordshire afternoons.

John Still sat in the stands for the JPT game rather than the dugout, and with the attendance down to what the bean-counters would dub "A Stevenage", many Town fans seemingly chose to watch from afar too. More and more we're morphing into the same person, us and him.

John Still is the master of momentum. With carefully chosen and enthusiastically repeated mantras he can make a season slowly build from a few sparks of promising play but "not quite there yet" to that "solid platform" of clean sheets and beyond; Our John relentlessly drills home the latest step in the season's inevitable, yet somehow un-arrogant, climb to victory - a cycle he's seemingly repeated many times.

If all that sounds a bit over confident, it's because for the first time in a while the pressure is off.

For a blissful change there is no desperation here. At the moment we seem to be at John's "Just about there" stage. The new players are beginning to gel with the old, and the back three or four or five look eminently watertight despite the personnel changing almost as regularly as the Watford manager.

Still says his teams always finish strongly. The detail of that particular prophecy might in fact be that we *finish more strongly than the rest*, and being out of a few cups won't hurt. Ask Richard Money.

If you remember this time last year you'll be as excited as me about the next stage in a John Still season. Because this next stage, lads, is what I like to call The Goals.

The lovely, lovely goals.

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It's a big step forward towards protecting the Luton Town we all love for generations to come, and the Trust has been especially delighted to welcome lots of new young members. We're still sorting out membership cards so please be patient if you've not received yours yet. We're getting there! But the more the merrier, of course - so as we set out on this exciting new season, why not join the Trust and 'do your bit' too!

Join TiL online today at www.trustinluton.info – simply click on 'sign up' and fill in a short form. Membership costs just £10 a year for adults, or £5 for under 16s/ over 60s.



If you're a whizz on the web - your Trust needs you!

We're in urgent need of a webmaster to help us get the Trust up to speed with all things 'techie' – like content management, domain names and data bases etc. If you can help, please email info@trustinluton.info Thank you!

"The Original Rude Boy"

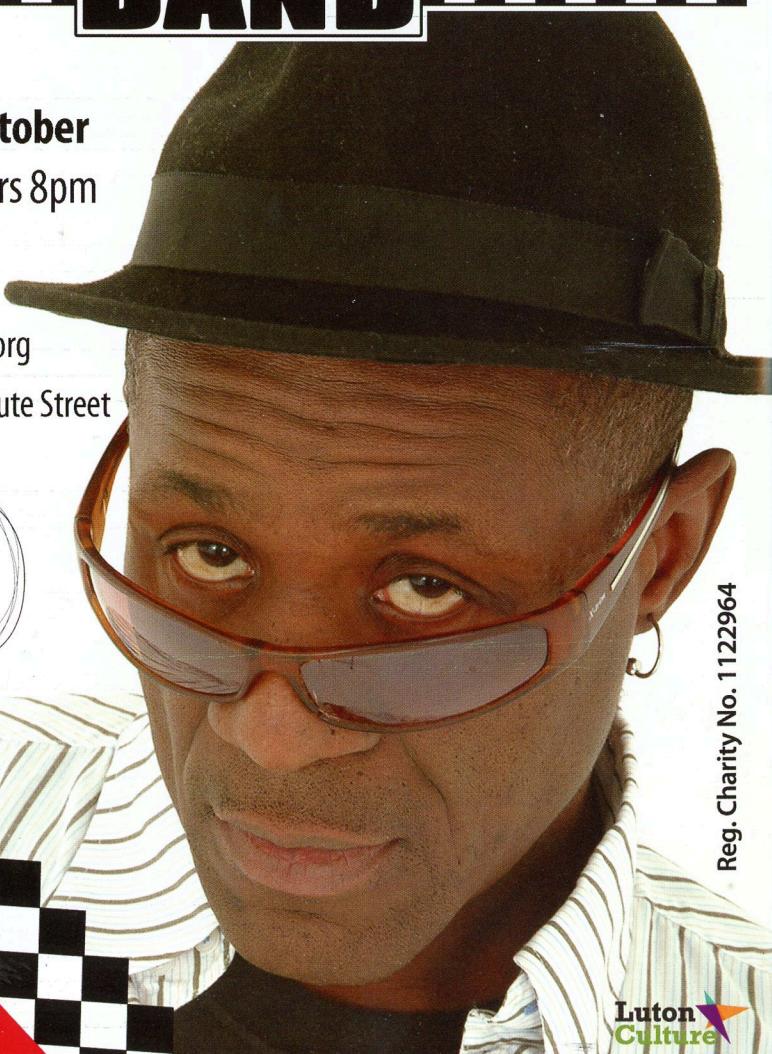
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LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

The Town moved into a Play-Off place following their third win on the bounce after last weekend's set of results.

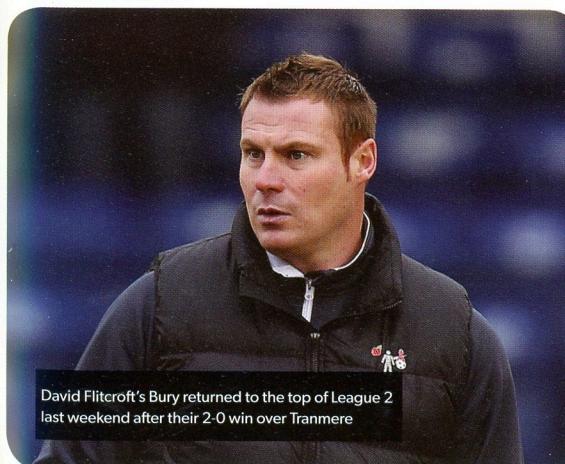
The Hatters are now only five points adrift from league leaders Bury after defeating Stevenage last Saturday. A win today for the Hatters could see them move up to fourth in the table and overtake opponents Southend United.

Alex Wall's late winner meant that John Still's side moved up to seventh and Stevenage moved down the table to 17th place.

Winning

Bury retained top spot after winning 2-0 at home to Tranmere. Rovers have now tasted defeat in each of their last three games and are lingering just above a relegation spot in 22nd place. Bury have now won four of their last five games to continue their good run of form.

Wycombe Wanderers now sit in second position after drawing 1-1 with Northampton Town. Wycombe are the only side in League Two to have lost just a single game and remain undefeated in their last six league games. A point for Northampton was good enough to move the Cobblers up to sixth position and inside a Play-Off spot. Southend's run of form was put to an end last Saturday



David Flitcroft's Bury returned to the top of League 2 last weekend after their 2-0 win over Tranmere

when they lost out at home to Morecambe who moved up to fifth with an important win. Jack Redshaw's early strike put an end to a winless streak of three games for Morecambe.

Elsewhere Accrington Stanley won their third game on the trot after a narrow victory away to Mansfield Town. Accrington sit just two points behind the Town and are closing in on a top seven place.

Losing

At the other end of the table Hartlepool United remain bottom of the bunch as they lost heavily at home to Carlisle United. Who leapfrogged above Hartlepool and into 23rd place, but still inside relegation spot. Carlisle's two wins on the bounce means that they now sit only one point away from safety at this early stage in the season.

Oxford United picked up their second win of the season thanks to a Michael Collins goal just before half-time. Despite having a man dismissed near the hour mark, Oxford were able to hold on and move up to 20th position.

Despite a good start to the season, Cheltenham Town are still looking for their first win in five games. Last Saturday a draw settled the game between the Robins and AFC Wimbledon, and both sides now sit comfortably in mid-table.

LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

CAMBRIDGE v OXFORD (12.15)
NORTHAMPTON v BURTON (2pm)
ACCRINGTON v DAGENHAM
AFC WIMBLEDON v BURY
CARLISLE v STEVENAGE
EXETER v HARTLEPOOL
MORECAMBE v WYCOMBE
NEWPORT v YORK
PORTSMOUTH v MANSFIELD
SHREWSBURY v CHELTENHAM
TRANMERE v PLYMOUTH

THE SEASON

Fixtures & Results

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

AUGUST

Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Carlisle United	W 1-0	6,760	1,088	6	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey	Robinson
Tue 12	7.45pm	H	Swindon Town (C1C1)	L 1-2	4,410	436	-	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Franks	Robinson ▲
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon	L 0-1	9,101	690	14	Tyler	Franks ▲	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Drury ▲
Tue 19	7.45pm	H	Bury	D 1-1	7,890	289	14	Tyler	Franks	Griffiths ▲	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Drury
Sat 23	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley	D 2-2	1,562	586	12	Tyler	Connolly	HOWELLS 1	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey ▲	Robinson
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	L 0-2	5,888	1,037	18	Tyler	Connolly	Howells	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Stevenson

SEPTEMBER

TV Sat 6	12.15pm	H	Plymouth Argyle	L 0-1	7,864	527	19	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Ruddock	Drury ▲
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Cheltenham Town	W 1-0	7,793	221	18	Tyler	Williams ▲	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey ▲	Smith
Tue 16	7.45pm	A	York City	D 0-0	3,649	445	18	Tyler	Williams	Griffiths	Lacey	Wilkinson	Smith ▲	Ruddock
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United	W 1-0	6,533	2,050	13	Tyler	Williams ▲	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey	Ruddock
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Oxford United	W 2-0	9,101	868	10	Tyler	Lacey	Griffiths	McNulty	WILKINSON 1	Smith ▲	Doyle ▲

OCTOBER

Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Stevenage	W 2-1	5,236	1,897	7	Tyler	Lacey	Griffiths	McNulty	WILKINSON 1	Smith ▲	Doyle
Tue 7	7.45pm	H	Crawley Town (JPT2)	L 0-1	2,186	125	-	Justham	Lacey	Griffiths ▲	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith ▲	Doyle
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Southend United											Ruddock
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United											Guttridge
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge											Howells
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town											Wall ▲

NOVEMBER

Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Exeter City											
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Tranmere Rovers											
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Burton Albion											
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town											

DECEMBER

Sat 13	3.00pm	A	Morecambe											
Sat 20	3.00pm	H	Newport County											
Fri 26	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers											
Sun 28	3.00pm	H	Portsmouth											

JANUARY

Sat 3	3.00pm	A	Mansfield Town											
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	Shrewsbury Town											
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle											
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town											
Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United											

FEBRUARY

Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Oxford United											
Tue 10	7.45pm	H	York City											
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Carlisle United											
Sat 21	3.00pm	A	A.F.C. Wimbledon											
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers											

MARCH

Tue 3	7.45pm	A	Bury											
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Morecambe											
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth											
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Newport County											
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers											
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Northampton Town											

APRIL

Fri 3	3.00pm	H	Exeter City											
Mon 6	7.45pm	A	Tranmere Rovers											
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Burton Albion											
Tue 14	7.45pm	A	Dagenham & Redbridge											
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Hartlepool United											
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Southend United											

Sat 2 3.00pm H Stevenage

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Drury	Howells	ROONEY 1	Cullen	CULLEN 1	Benson	Franks	Wall	Rooney	Ruddock	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham	Justham
Drury	Howells	ROONEY 1	Cullen	CULLEN 1	Benson	Franks	Wall	Howells	Ruddock	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham	Justham
Guttridge	Rooney	Cullen	Benson	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Lafayette	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham	Justham
Guttridge	Rooney	Cullen	Benson	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham	Justham
Drury	Howells	ROONEY 1	Cullen	Benson	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham
Drury	Howells	ROONEY 1	Cullen	Benson	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham
Stevenson	Ruddock	Whalley	Cullen	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham	Justham
Ruddock	Whalley	Cullen	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham	Justham	Justham
Drury	Howells	ROONEY 1	Cullen	Benson	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham
Drury	Howells	ROONEY 1	Cullen	Benson	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham
Stevenson	Ruddock	Whalley	Cullen	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham	Justham
Ruddock	Whalley	Cullen	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Guttridge	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham	Justham	Justham

LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	11	7	2	2	18	8	23
2	11	6	4	1	14	7	22
3	11	7	1	3	14	12	22
4	11	6	2	3	12	8	20
5	11	6	1	4	13	9	19
6	11	5	3	3	19	14	18
7	11	5	3	3	10	8	2
8	11	5	1	4	12	8	16
9	11	4	4	3	10	8	2
10	11	4	4	3	9	8	16
11	11	5	1	5	16	20	-4
12	11	4	3	4	12	9	15
13	11	4	3	4	17	17	0
14	11	4	3	4	12	14	-2
15	11	5	0	6	11	15	-4
16	11	4	2	5	18	14	4
17	11	4	2	5	14	15	-1
18	11	3	4	4	12	12	0
19	11	3	2	6	14	19	-5
20	11	2	4	5	10	13	-3
21	11	1	7	3	10	14	-4
22	11	2	3	6	11	15	-4
23							

HOLD THE Back Page

WITH BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO'S SIMON OXLEY

I have many and varied memories of Luton versus Southend down the years, including avoiding relegation on the last day of the season at Roots Hall, despite losing to Barry Fry's Shrimpers who included a young Stan Collymore.

Back in 1994, a win here against Southend started the Hatters' FA Cup run which ended with a Wembley semi-final, but my favourite Southend memory came later that year in a league game here in August.

It was a particularly rewarding afternoon for many Luton fans, and a costly one for one of the country's leading bookmakers.

John Hartson had missed the first four games of the season after being sent-off for elbowing the Bolton defender Alan Stubbs at the end of the previous campaign. But after a mixed start in those four games, David Pleat had the option of calling up the Welsh teenager.

Frustration

John was finding it hard sitting on the sidelines after starring in the FA Cup win over Newcastle. Having started at the club myself that summer, I remember interviewing him in the laundry room for Clubcall when he spoke of the frustration of not being in the team. I and many others reassured him that his time would come again, and on the day before the Southend game he was a key figure in David Pleat's training session.

Purely out of interest, and in the name of research, I popped down Oak Road to the bookies and noted that Hartson was 10/1 to score first the following day.

By 2.45 the following afternoon, that was looking a good bet. In those days we had several betting points



inside Kenilworth Road, and Ladbrokes were busy taking money from many Hatters fans who were convinced that the young Welshman would mark his return with a goal.

The roar when he duly obliged to put Luton 1-0 up was huge, and Ladbrokes had to dispatch one of their staff to get some more money to pay out on the gamble. The game ended 2-2, but Hartson had given us

a glimpse of the form that would see him leave for Arsenal for £2.5 million five months later.

I always thought it was a difficult balancing act for David Pleat when it came to Hartson. He could sometimes let himself down with indiscipline, but to take away that edge lessened his impact. Now John Still is facing a similar situation with Alex Wall.

Impact

And what an impact Wall made last Saturday at Stevenage. Those of you who read my notes at the Lamex Stadium will recall how much I was looking forward to the "new" Herts/Beds derby, and I was not disappointed.

It was cracking entertainment from start to finish, and I think the right end result given Luton's total domination at the start which should have seen the points sewn up inside the first 20 minutes.

Now there's a real chance to build on that result starting today.

I shed no tears over Tuesday's JPT exit. It would have been a useful exercise in giving match time to more players, but the recent league results have put the bigger picture fully into focus.

PS: Whilst researching these notes, I note that my favourite Hartson performance - in the rain-soaked 5-1 win over Bryan Robson's Middlesbrough - came 20 years ago this week in October 1994. 20 years!

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THE SQUADS



LUTON TOWN

1	Mark Tyler
2	Fraser Franks
3	Danny Fitzsimons
4	Jonathan Smith
5	Stephen McNulty
6	Alex Lacey
7	Alex Lawless
8	Andy Drury
9	Paul Benson
10	Alex Wall
11	Jake Howells
12	Scott Griffiths
13	Mark Cullen
14	Andy Parry
15	Luke Rooney
16	Elliot Justham
17	Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu
18	Ross Lafayette
19	Ricky Miller
20	Shaun Whalley
21	Luke Guttridge
22	Matthew Robinson
23	Curtley Williams
24	Nathan Doyle
25	Jim Stevenson
26	Paul Connolly
27	Luke Wilkinson
28	Brett Longden
29	Mark Onyemah
30	Zane Banton
31	Charlie Walker
32	Charlie Smith
33	Kynan Isaac
34	Ian Rees

SOUTHEND UNITED

1	Daniel Bentley
2	John White
3	Ben Coker
4	Mads Ibenfeldt
5	Adam Thompson
6	Luke Prosser
7	David Worrall
8	Michael Timlin
9	Lee Barnard
10	Barry Corr
11	Myles Weston
12	Will Atkinson
13	Ted Smith
14	Kevan Hurst
15	Cian Bolger
16	Conor Clifford
17	Shaquile Coulthirst
18	Ryan Leonard
19	Jack Payne
20	Isaac Layne
21	Paul Smith
22	Gary Deegan
23	Jerome Binnom-Williams
24	Ellis Brown
25	Jack Bridge

TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Christopher Kavanagh



Steven Plane



Christopher Pollard



Tim Robinson

NEXT UP

v DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE • TUESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2014 • 7.45pm
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