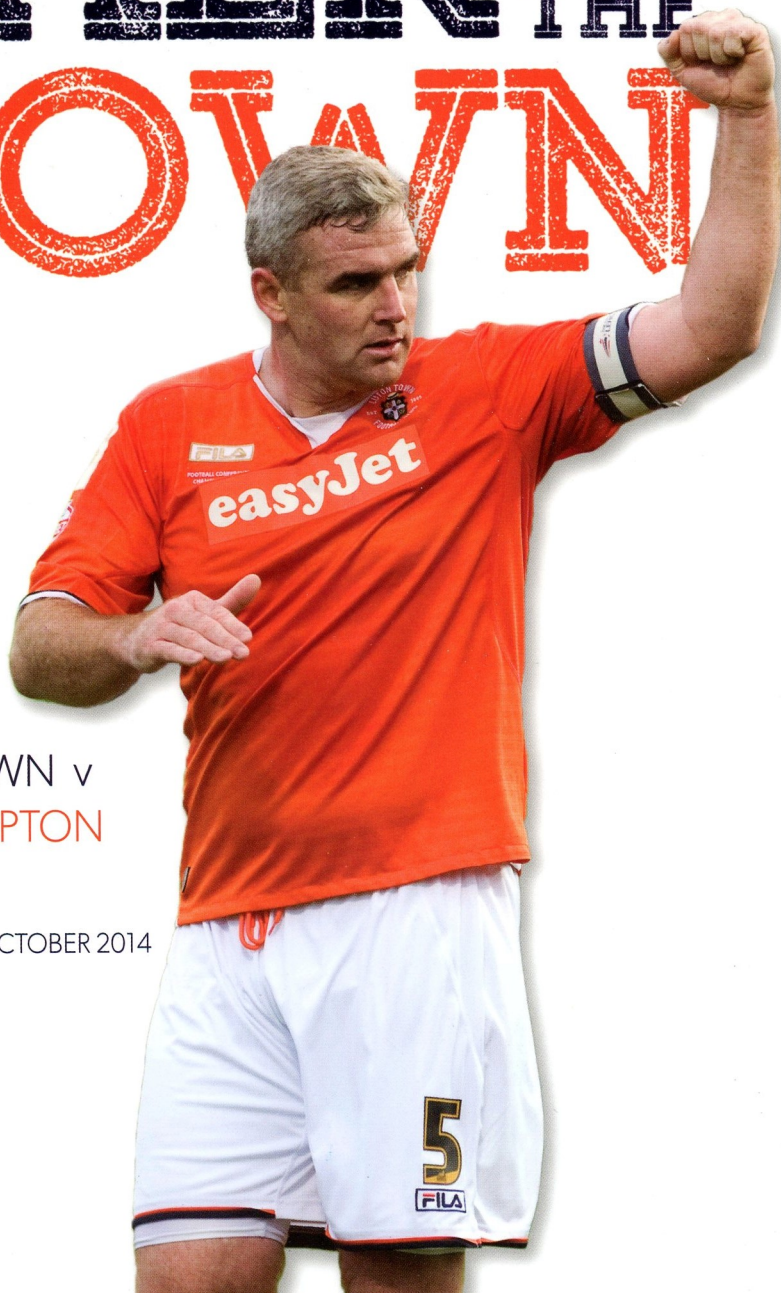


# TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v  
NORTHAMPTON  
TOWN

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2014

KICK-OFF 3PM

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**TO KENILWORTH ROAD**

“ Welcome back once more to Kenilworth Road for the second time this week as we entertain Northampton Town in Sky Bet League 2.

It promises to be a wonderful occasion with the Cobblers selling out their allocation, and we're on course to hold our highest attendance of the season for this regional derby.

Tuesday's victory over Dagenham made it six wins on the spin – a feat not achieved in the Football League since the back end of the 2004/05 campaign that saw the Town win the League 1 title.

That victory is given the full treatment inside today's issue of Talk of the Town, as we have interviews with former Daggers Paul Benson and Scott Griffiths and the hat-trick hero, Mark Cullen.

There's plenty more inside today's 11th edition of Talk of the Town, including your usual favourites from back in the archives and from our youth academy.

Don't forget it's the FA Cup first round draw on Monday, so make sure you tune in to see who we face on 8th November!

Enjoy your reading and the game! #COYH ”

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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 welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the second home game this week as we entertain near neighbours Northampton Town.

In particular I'd like to welcome visiting manager Chris Wilder, who is a good friend of mine. Chris went to Sixfields at the end of last season and did a fantastic job in keeping them up.

They have started the season well and I am sure, friendship aside, that today's game will be a keenly-contested affair.

## Positive

We are well aware of the threats that our opponents will pose for us today so we need to be at our best to get a positive result.

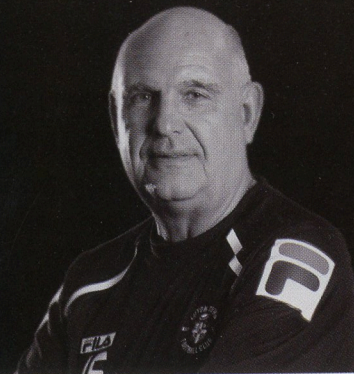
This afternoon's match follows Tuesday's game against my former club Dagenham & Redbridge. I'd like to start by saying that it was great to see so many familiar faces on Tuesday that I knew from my time spent there.

My office was packed after the game with so many acquaintances that I have made and I'll be honest in saying that made a difficult day for me a little more enjoyable.

The Dagenham game was always going to be a funny type of match for myself given my association with them but it was important to be professional in situations like these and I was delighted with the attitude of the players.

It was a good result and at time in the second half I thought we were unlucky not to make it four or five goals. Some of the football we played was a joy to watch.

Ultimately the result was decided by a magnificent hat-trick from Mark Cullen.



## STILL ENCOURAGING

"IT TRULY WAS A FIRST-CLASS TREBLE. IT WAS ABSOLUTE QUALITY FROM A PLAYER WHO HAS BEEN GREAT FOR US SO FAR THIS SEASON. OVER THE LAST FEW GAMES THE GOALS HAVE STARTED TO COME FOR HIM AND THAT IS DOWN TO HARD WORK AND INDUSTRY AND NOT LEAST HIS ABILITY."

It truly was a first-class treble. It was absolute quality from a player who has been great for us so far this season.

Over the last few games the goals have started to come for him and that is down to hard work and industry and not least his ability.

We allowed Dagenham back into the game with a goal in the final few minutes and I must give the Daggers credit for keeping going to pull one back. From our point of view it was very disappointing and I trust the players will learn from that.

## Encouraging

Having won at Hartlepool last Saturday this latest result gives us a really good feeling at the moment and it's obviously important that we try and maintain this encouraging run of form once again this afternoon.

On the injury front it was good to see a number of players who have returned from knocks play in a behind-closed-doors friendly against Hemel Hempstead Town at the training ground on Wednesday. Paul Connolly, Curtley Williams, Fraser Franks, Luke Rooney, Paul Benson, Jake Howells, Matt Robinson, Shaun Whalley, Elliot Justham, Alex Wall, Charlie Walker and Alex Lawless all took some part in the game.

## Opportunity

The match was an important exercise for those players returning from injury and for others it gave them the opportunity to top-up their fitness levels.

It was an excellent exercise for us at an important stage of the season – Christmas isn't too far away and we want as many fit players as we can heading into the next few months.

After today we make the trip to Devon next Saturday to take on Exeter which I know will be another tough game for us.

I have seen Exeter myself this season and they are a very good footballing side. That said, our away support this season has been a huge boost and has helped us through some difficult times.

I am sure you will travel in your numbers once again and we look forward to seeing you there.

But back to today – let's hope for another good performance and favourable result. Please get behind us and remember you are playing your part in what we're trying to achieve here.

Enjoy the game.



# BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our second home game of the week. Welcome also to our neighbours from Northampton who've sold out their allocation of tickets.

We should have a near capacity crowd this afternoon and a cracking atmosphere.

Talk of the Cobblers always makes me fondly remember two of our greatest old boys from different eras, who joined us from Northampton Town, Terry Branston and Steve Howard.

The signing of Terry by Allan Brown back in 1967 was a masterstroke. He was a truly inspirational captain and a colossus at centre half who drove us by his will, commitment, presence and power to the Division Four title in 1968. A glorious season and such a tonic after nearly a decade of decline.

Then there was Steve, a striker who hit more than 100 goals for Luton – again a player of huge influence, power and commitment. He joined us for just £50,000, was a pivotal figure in two promotions and moved onto Derby for a million. You can't say fairer than that! I'm sure he'll be particularly interested in the result today as he would have been last week when we played another of his old clubs, Hartlepool United.

And coming right up to modern times, let's not forget the monumental contribution to our success last season from another former Cobbler, Luke Guttridge.

Well what can I say about our superb form of late? Six Football League wins on the bounce for the first time in

nine years and a run that's taken us into the automatic promotion places in League 2. Who'd have thought that after our stuttering start?

We were all quietly confident that things would settle and our players would eventually get into their stride in the new division, but, I don't know about you, it's certainly exceeded my wildest dreams. Fabulous, isn't it?

I was so pleased for Mark Cullen scoring a hat-trick on Tuesday night against Dagenham and Redbridge. It's a tough old job up front for a sometimes lone striker, but he's worked so hard this season and now it's really beginning to pay off.

## Opportunity

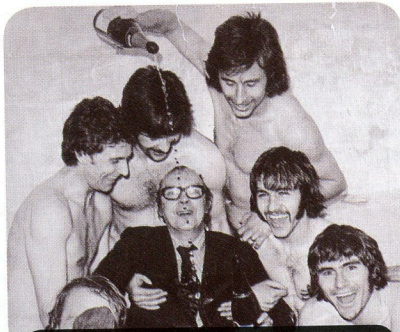
It must have been frustrating early on for him when chances for a shot on goal were limited, but, with the team now combining so well, he's certainly grabbing the opportunity. Eight goals now after only 14 matches, so very well done, Mark!

It was a slightly surreal night for John Still and Terry Harris, playing against a club with which they are so closely associated. As John said afterwards, it was a difficult evening for him in many ways, with all the friends and history he has there – he admitted he didn't enjoy it and, when the final whistle blew, he was glad it was all over. I am not sure how many managers would be honest enough to admit to that sort of emotion – I reckon most would trot out that familiar remark, "It's just another game". It speaks volumes about him and Terry.

## Memories

I am delighted we are staging

a special dinner on Wednesday 17th December to mark 40 years since we won promotion to the top flight under Harry Haslam. I have loads of memories from that season, including the clincher when we drew 1-1 at West Bromwich Albion, with a goal from Barry Butlin, and Eric Morecambe ended up in the dressing room bath.



Nick will be hosting December's dinner which remembers the promotion season of 1973/74

Barry scored 18 goals for us that season and I am so pleased he'll be one of the special guests that night. Other stars of that season who are coming include John Faulkner, Jimmy Ryan, John Ryan, Don Shanks, Keith Barber, Ken Goodeve and Alan Garner. We are still trying to track down a few more, such as Tom Finney. I'll never forget his full debut when he scored twice as we hit six in the first half against Carlisle at Kenilworth Road!

Middlesbrough won the Division Two title that season by 15 clear points, but I recall them as a less than exciting outfit that used to grind out somewhat dull but extremely efficient 1-0 victories, including one here at the Kenny in front of nearly 20,000 frustrated supporters! Dire! Carlisle and Luton went up with a mere 99 points between us (under the old two points for a win system).

The evening should be a terrific one for memories, do come along if you can. I am certainly looking forward to meeting some heroes I have never met before.

Before I go, I'd just like to remind you that we have now opened our smart new club shop in the Mall (formerly the Arndale Centre), which should make things much easier if you are after tickets or merchandise during the week. Do have a look if you're in town.

## Magnificent

Finally, I must come back to our magnificent form of late and say well done to all our players who have all performed so superbly in recent weeks.

After all the setbacks of recent years, it is a wonderful feeling to be back in the Football League and creating such waves at the top end of League 2. We've all been yearning for this for five years or so and now it's happening.

Well done to John, Terry, Hakan and all the backroom staff and let's keep it going today. We are still not quite past the first third of the season, so there's a long way to go, but, with so many young players making their mark, the future is extremely bright – and orange, of course!

Enjoy the game, bye for now.

*Nick Owen*



# HONOURS

**Littlewoods Challenge Cup:**  
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

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

**Johnstone's Paint Trophy:**  
Winners 2009

**Simod Cup:**  
Runners-up 1988

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

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

**Football League Division Three:**  
Runners-up 1969/70

**League One:**  
Champions 2004/05

**Football League Division Four:**  
Champions 1967/68

**Football League Division Three:**  
Runners-up 2001/02

**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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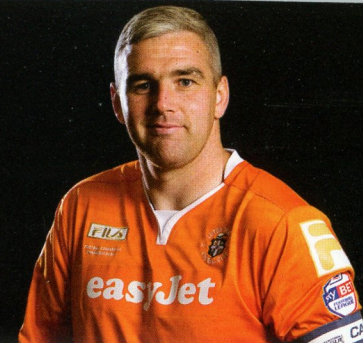
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# MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



We kept up our fine run with a sixth win on the bounce against Dagenham on Tuesday which was another result down to a lot of hard work.

It was also down to the goalscoring exploits of Cully who hit a tremendous hat-trick. We were all absolutely delighted for him, we know how much of a good player he is and it's great to see him earning the plaudits.

It has not been easy for him, he has been under a lot of pressure, but the gaffer and us, his team-mates, have always believed in his ability. Tuesday's performance underlined his importance to us – well done Cully.

## Stronger

Tuesday's game itself was another one in which we were slow out of the blocks, just like we were against Hartlepool last weekend. However, we restricted Dagenham to shots from outside the box and they rarely got into dangerous positions to really hurt us. Eventually, though, we came on strong and, as has been the case, we got stronger as the game went on. Cully was in the right place at the right time to get the ball rolling and we never looked back. We could have even scored a few more, Smudger hit the post and Pelly and Doyley also went close. We knew at half-time that they would need to come out at us and that helped open the game up for us.

The only disappointment was conceding a sloppy goal in the final few minutes. We allowed the same to happen at Hartlepool. We mustn't switch off late in games when we think the job is done. It's not good enough and it is very unlike us. We haven't conceded many goals this season but the last two have been frustrating. We'll use it as another thing to learn from and hard work on the training ground will hopefully rectify that.

Today we go into the game unbeaten in eight games, having won seven of those and it is a testament to the

**"WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO GO INTO THIS GAME WITH THE CONFIDENCE OF EARNING ANOTHER WIN."**

lads and the management staff that we have recovered from a slow start to the season to now sit third in an automatic promotion place.

We are a very level-headed bunch and I know that there will be plenty of ups and downs before the season comes to an end. Today is only the 15th game of the season and there is a long way to go. We'd love to be able to go on a similar long unbeaten run like we did last year but we have to remember we are playing a better standard of opposition this year.

However, we have got ourselves into this position through sheer endeavour and teamwork and we must not allow our standards to slip. The most encouraging thing is that we have a number of players not even on the bench, that are sitting in the stands, that could easily walk into any other team in League 2. As I said in my last notes the gaffer is going to have one big selection headache when everyone is fit and available. What a great position to be in. It means those in the starting XI have to work doubly hard to keep their place in the team.

## Experienced

Northampton are going to be dangerous opponents today. They have lost their last three matches and will be keen to put an end to that run this afternoon. They have a lot of good, experienced Football League players and we will need to prepare properly if we're to take anything from the game.

We can take masses of positives from the run that we're on and while there are no easy games in this league we have the right to go into this game with every confidence of earning another win.

Thank you for your support on Tuesday – please get behind us again today and enjoy the game.



## Diamond award FOR WILKO!



Centre-half Luke Wilkinson has won the Diamond Season Ticket Holder Player of the Month award for September.

The defender's highlight of the month was his first goal for the club in the 2-0 win over Oxford United, but he also helped keep four successive clean sheets. Luke received his award from Diamond Season Ticket holder Nigel Green after Tuesday's 3-1 win over his former club Dagenham & Redbridge. Nigel received two tickets for hospitality for the game, whilst junior winner Cathal Duffy was chosen as the diamond mascot.

For more information on becoming a diamond season ticket holder and the benefits it can offer contact the ticket office on 01582 416976 or email [ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk).

## HEMEL BEATEN IN FRIENDLY

A Town side featuring a number of players returning from injury beat Hemel Hempstead Town 3-0 in a friendly at the training ground on Wednesday afternoon.

Paul Benson, Luke Guttridge and Alex Lawless scored the goals in the match which was played over three 30-minute periods. Curtley Williams, Fraser Franks, Paul Connolly, Luke Rooney and Jake Howells all featured during the game, as well as Matthew Robinson and Elliot Justham.

Town boss John Still said: "It was a terrific exercise for us, especially for those players who have been missing over the last few weeks with injuries."

"It was a good, competitive game and I was pleased with the performances of everybody involved."

## Golden Gamble

Town fan Tony Montague had extra reason for cheer on Tuesday after winning the half-time Golden Gamble draw.

Tony scooped £695 after his ticket, 12039, was plucked out of the barrel during the break at the game with Dagenham.

Tickets will be again on sale around the ground this afternoon for just £1 and we're expecting our biggest cash prize of the season today – which could be upwards of £950.

## WITH THANKS from Hartlepool

The 525 Hatters supporters who made the 450-mile round-trip to Hartlepool last weekend have been applauded by the home club.

The Club this week received an email of thanks from the Victoria Park hierarchy praising the travelling fans' conduct during the game that saw the Hatters triumph 2-1.

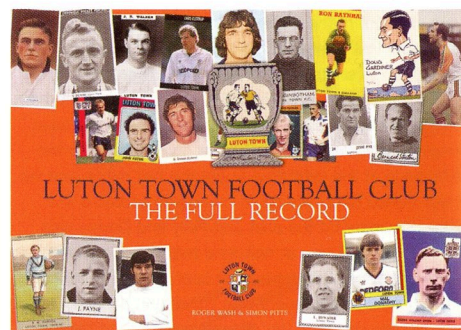
The email read: "Just a quick email from all at HUFCC to let you know that your fans behaved brilliantly on Saturday and remained seated for the whole time (a first ever according to our Safety Officer!)"

"They joined in with our fans to acknowledge a young Pools fan who tragically lost his life in a car accident this week and also commemorate the seventh anniversary of one of our young players who also lost his life in a car crash."

"On a day which was particularly emotional for us all it was nice to see such a gesture from opposition fans."

## A complete record

Club historian Roger Wash and statistician and commentator Simon Pitts have been busy updating and revising their book, first published in 2010, for release next month.



Luton Town Football Club – The Full Record should be available for purchase, including from the two club shops, in November.

With over 40 new pictures, and with the last four seasons' matches and player statistics added, there's something for everyone in over 300 pages of Luton Town related facts, figures and photos.

## New shop now open!

As you may be aware last Saturday saw the opening of the brand new club shop in the Mall shopping centre in Luton town centre.

Hatters duo Jake Howells and Curtley Williams were on hand to sign autographs and pose for photographs on the store's first day of trading last weekend.

The shop, which is located next to the Body Shop, is open daily and offers Town supporters the chance to buy merchandise and tickets from a central location in the town.

With half-term next week, keep your eyes peeled for another signing session at the shop – further details will be announced on the official website and via our social media streams.



## A team of Subs!

Just before kick-off at game against Southend, you may have seen a number of subs on the pitch.

Not our players warming up before taking their seat on the bench, but a group of young men receiving a cheque for almost £600 from two local Subways in a pre-match presentation, pictured right.

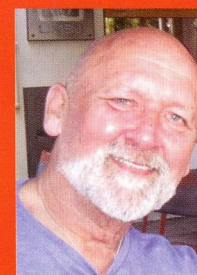
This generous contribution has been raised to fund these 11 youngsters from schools around the city to have access to our coaches and training programmes they would usually find difficult to afford. Thanks to a special bursary created by Subway, they will now spend a term on the Hatters Talent Identification Programme (TIPs) with the chance of one lucky player earning a scholarship for a whole year's participation.

We at Luton Town are delighted that Subway are undertaking this initiative for a third season. During this time, over a hundred boys have been able to improve their footballing skills. It's not only good for the community, but the club too – one player as already been promoted to the academy as a result of this initiative.

TIPs coach James Leach told Talk of the Town: "The boys, the schools and the club benefit when we can partner local businesses in this way. We are very grateful to the local Subway stores for this unique programme."



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

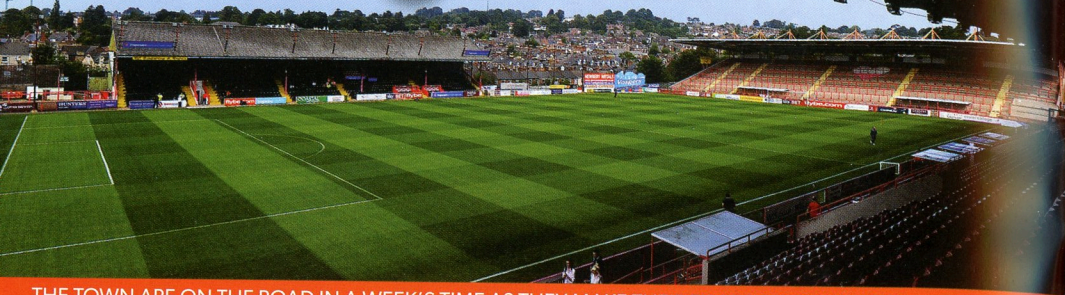


Everyone at Luton Town would like to wish a very happy 65th birthday to ardent Hatters fan Dennis Whittaker.

Dennis will be enjoying a hospitality package in the Eric Morecambe lounge this afternoon and the birthday wishes also come with love from Natalie and Mathew.



# let's go



THE TOWN ARE ON THE ROAD IN A WEEK'S TIME AS THEY MAKE THEIR FIRST TRIP TO EXETER'S ST JAMES PARK SINCE AUGUST 2008 FOR ANOTHER LONG-DISTANCE JOURNEY IN SKY BET LEAGUE 2

## EXETER CITY



**WHO?** The Town take on Exeter City Football Club, aka the Grecians, next Saturday. The club were formed 1904 years ago and are currently in their third season in League 2 following relegation

in 2011/12. Like the Hatters, the Grecians spent five years in the Conference and ended their spell in the fifth tier by beating Cambridge in the Play-Off final at Wembley in 2008.

**WHERE?** The ground that is often confused with Newcastle's St James' Park - Exeter's hasn't got an apostrophe at the end of their James - was built in 1904 and opened in September that year. Its current capacity is 8,541 and its record attendance was 20,984 when Sunderland visited for an FA Cup quarter-final replay in 1931.

**HOW TO GET THERE.** From Luton, take the M1 south, M25 anti-clockwise. Take the M4 and then M5 south, leaving the M5 at Junction 30, following signs for Exeter city centre along Sidmouth Road (A379) and then onto Rydon Lane (A3015). Take the Sidmouth Road turn off (B3183) towards the city centre. Keep going towards the town centre as the road becomes Heavitree Road. On nearing the city centre, take the fourth exit at the large roundabout onto Western Way. At the next roundabout take the second exit onto Old Tiverton Road, then turn left into St James Road for the ground. There is street parking, but quite a way from the ground as there is a local residents' scheme in operation. If you have a satnav, safely type in EX4 6PX in to it to get you there.

**ON THE BOBBERS.** It's a three-and-a-half, 213-mile drive to Exeter but if you'd rather somebody else take

you there why not travel with fellow Town fans on the Bobbers? They depart Luton train station bright and early at 8.30am and the fare is £33 for adults and £30 for concessions. Call 01234 856542 to book your place.

**HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?** The Town hold a decent record against the Grecians overall, winning 31 of the 58 previous meetings, which includes 12 matches (W6, L6) in the Southern League. The Hatters have drawn 12 and lost 15. The Hatters don't have a bad record at St James Park, winning 12, losing 11 and drawing seven of their 30 previous trips to Exeter. The Town have won two and drawn one of their last three games away at Exeter, winning 5-0 in 1967, drawing 2-2 in 2001 and triumphing on their last visit 1-0 thanks to a Sam Parkin goal in 2008.

**THIS TIME ROUND.** The Grecians have recovered from a bad start to the season to rise away from the relegation zone towards the relative comfort of midtable. City failed to win any of their first seven matches of the campaign, losing four. After a 1-1 draw at home to Oxford, Paul Tisdale's side then four won matches on the spin all by a 2-1 scoreline - with three of those coming away from home at Cambridge, Tranmere and Dagenham & Redbridge. On Tuesday night Exeter beat leaders Wycombe Wanderers 2-1.

**EX-FACTOR.** A number of players have served both the Town and the Grecians, but three former Town managers all once played for Exeter City in their careers. David Pleat played 69 Football League games for the Grecians between 1968 and 1970. Ray Harford, who guided the Town to the Littlewoods Cup in 1988, played 55 games for City between 1966 and 1967. Meanwhile Paul Buckle had three spells as a player at St James Park before going on to manage the Hatters.

# tickets please



**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 are now on general sale to all supporters until 3pm on Friday 31st October.

**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.

## SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2014

FA CUP FIRST ROUND

The Hatters will discover their opponents in the First Round of the FA Cup when the draw is made live on BBC Two and Radio 5 live at 7pm on Monday 27th October.



**LUTON TOWN v TRANMERE ROVERS**  
SKY BET LEAGUE 2



**SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER 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.



**BURTON ALBION v LUTON TOWN**  
SKY BET LEAGUE 2



**SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM**

We are still awaiting ticket details from Burton Albion. Once received, information will be released on the official website, social media and in the next matchday programme.



**LUTON TOWN v MANSFIELD TOWN**  
SKY BET LEAGUE 2



**SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER 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.

## BECOME A DIAMOND!

With the season up and running and season ticket sales through the roof, the Luton Town ticket office continue to do good business on diamond season ticket sales.

The diamond package is not your usual season ticket option, with many added benefits including a free

replica shirt, free tickets for guests and hospitality for one match per season in the Eric Morecambe lounge.

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## TODAY'S MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming not one but TWELVE mascots for this afternoon's game with the Cobblers. We hope you all have an afternoon to remember!

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 George Pedder. Favourite player: Jonathan Smith  
 Adam Holmes. Favourite player: Mark Tyler  
 Nathan Foster. Favourite player: Matt Robinson  
 Dredan Foster. Favourite player: Mark Cullen  
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 Jamie MacLaughlin. Favourite player: Stephen McNulty  
 Callum MacLaughlin. Favourite player: Stephen McNulty  
 Jack Bunyan. Favourite player: Mark Cullen



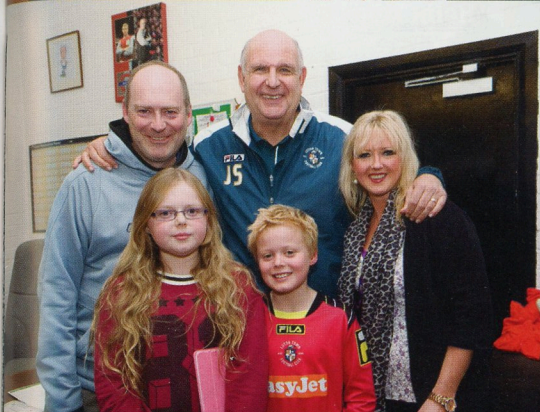
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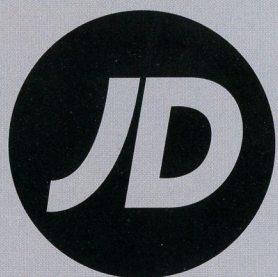
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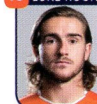
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A: Available

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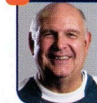
H: Available  
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39 IAN REES



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# welcome

## NORTHAMPTON TOWN



It gives us great pleasure to welcome everyone associated with Northampton Town to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

The Cobblers make the short journey down the M1 for the first time in the Football League since the clubs met in League 1 in October 2007 – a game the Town won 4-1.

A lot has changed since that day and indeed the last time Northampton visited Kenilworth Road the Town caused a small cup shock by knocking them out of the FA Cup while the Town were in the Conference.

Indeed even more has changed since that day in November 2011: the Town have gone through a further two managers, as have the Cobblers, who now have former Oxford United boss Chris Wilder at the helm.

Wilder, who won promotion with the U's from the Conference in 2010, worked his magic immediately at Sixfields at the back end of last season. With the Cobblers struggling for form and facing the possibility of relegation, Wilder stepped in and with four wins from their final six matches another season in League 2 was assured.

The Cobblers' campaign of struggle last term was in contrast to their season before which had seen them reach the Play-Off final where they lost to Bradford. Luke Guttridge played for Northampton in that game, whilst Nathan Doyle played for the successful Bantams side at Wembley.

This season started well for Wilder with the Cobblers but a run of four games without a win, including three successive defeats, means Northampton arrive at Kenilworth Road in 16th place in the table – a far cry from their early season form that saw them in and around the promotion spots.

Their recent form gives their overall record an inconsistent look, with six defeats, five wins and three draws from their opening 14 matches this term. On the road, Wilder's side have won two, drawn two and lost three.

Away from Sixfields, those victories have come at Morecambe – on 27th September – and Dagenham – on 6th September. That win over Morecambe was the last time they picked up three points.

A major reason for the Cobblers' downturn in fortunes has been a freak injury list that has seen half-a-dozen important players sidelined. That includes leading goalscorer Marc Richards. The eight-goal striker scored seven times in a five-match spell in September but hasn't played a League game since a 1-1 draw at Wycombe – and in his absence Northampton have lost three successive games, to Burton, Cheltenham and Oxford.

The Cobblers will be aiming to stop the rot this afternoon and look to improve on a record at Kenilworth Road that has seen them win just five of the 41 past meetings played on Bedfordshire soil – something you can read much more about on the following pages.

# in opposition



## OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM SIXFIELDS

### ► THE MANAGER

**CHRIS WILDER.** Appointed boss in January 2014 after five years in charge at Oxford, who he guided back to the Football League. Has also managed Alfreton and Halifax, and helped keep the Cobblers up last season.

### ► GOALKEEPERS

**JORDAN ARCHER.** Tottenham academy graduate who signed on-loan from the White Hart Lane club in August. Enjoyed a productive loan spell at Wycombe last season, making 27 appearances.

**MATT DUKE.** Experienced stopper who arrived at Sixfields in the summer of 2013. Spent seven years at Hull before switching to Bradford, who he helped win promotion in 2012/13.

### ► DEFENDERS

**DANIEL ALFEI.** Right-back on a season-long loan from Premier League Swansea. Joined the Swans from Wrexham and spent the second half of last season on loan at Portsmouth.

**LEE COLLINS.** Centre-half or left-back who joined the Cobblers in February 2013 following his release from Barnsley. A former Wolves trainee he has also been on the books at Port Vale and Hereford.

**RYAN CRESSWELL.** September arrival from Fleetwood for an undisclosed fee. The centre-half began his career at Sheffield United before spells at Bury, Rotherham and Southend.

**ZANDER DIAMOND.** Influential defender who signed for the Cobblers in February from Burton, where he was captain. Made 200 SPL appearances for Aberdeen before a spell with Oldham.

**GREGOR ROBERTSON.** Former Rotherham and Nottingham Forest defender who signed at Sixfields in February. Capable of playing at left-back, centre-back or in midfield.

**ENDA STEVENS.** Highly-rated defender who joined the Cobblers on-loan from Aston Villa earlier this month. Joined Villa from St Patrick's in Ireland and made his Premier League debut against Manchester United

### ► MIDFIELDERS

**JOEL BYROM.** On-loan Preston midfielder who came through the youth ranks at Blackburn as a youngster. Joined Stevenage in 2010 and helped Boro win promotion before joining Preston.

**DARREN CARTER.** Experienced midfielder who arrived at Sixfields in August 2013. Has made over 250 senior appearances during spells at Birmingham, West Brom, Preston and Cheltenham.

**LAWSON D'ATH.** Former Reading man who penned a contract this summer following a successful trial. Signed an improved deal in September.

**KAID MOHAMED.** Talented winger signed on a season-long loan from Port Vale. Shot to prominence with Bath City before joining AFC Wimbledon and then Cheltenham.

**JOHN-JOE O'TOOLE.** Summer signing from Bristol Rovers after 15 goals for the Pirates last term. Began his career at Watford prior to joining the Gas.

**RICKY RAVENHILL.** Experienced midfielder who penned an 18-month contract in January

after a successful loan spell. Made over 400 senior appearances during time at Bradford, Notts County, Doncaster and Grimsby.

**BEN TOZER.** Former Newcastle midfielder who joined the Cobblers in June 2011. Previously on the books at Swindon, he spent a time on loan at Colchester last season.

**RYAN WATSON.** Up-and-coming young midfielder on loan from Leicester until January. Started his career at Wigan and was on loan at Accrington last term.

### ► STRIKERS

**DAVID MOYO.** Academy graduate who came through the ranks after prolific goalscoring form for the Cobblers' youth team. Penned his first pro deal in August last year.

**ALEX NICHOLLS.** Striker or winger who joined the Cobblers in the summer of 2012. Started his career at Walsall, where he made over 200 appearances. Back from a recent loan spell at Exeter.

**MARC RICHARDS.** The Cobblers' current top goalscorer with eight goals who joined the club from Chesterfield this summer. Also been on the books at Blackburn, Port Vale and Barnsley.

**IVAN TONEY.** Local youngster who came through the ranks at Sixfields. Signed his first pro deal last summer and scored vital goals at the back end of last season to help keep the Cobblers up.





# FROM THE OAK ROAD

After the anti-football of Aidy Boothroyd, Northampton needed a man with a Midas touch – and that man, Chris Wilder, duly arrived in January. Cobblers' fan **Glen Cousner** tells us about the transformation at Sixfields.



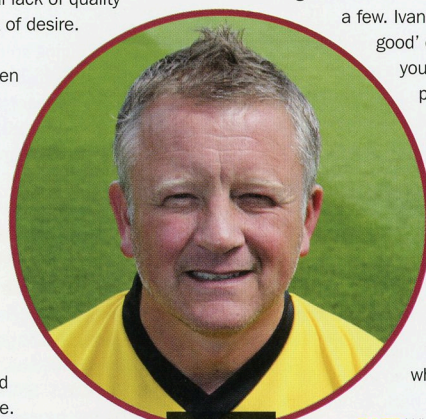
**TALK OF THE TOWN:** Having made the Play-Off final in 2012/13, what went wrong for Northampton last season?

**GLEN:** Our style of play under Aidy Boothroyd cost us dearly, coupled with his refusal to play our dangermen when required. It appeared there were too many personality clashes, a problem with a certain 18-stone ego-mad media beast, a general lack of quality and pace and, ultimately, a lack of desire.

**TOTT:** Was it surprise to you when Chris Wilder left then promotion chasing Oxford to join the Cobblers, who looked in danger of going out of the Football League?

**GLEN:** It was as much a surprise as a coup in my opinion. Plenty of names had been banded around and most of them didn't inspire me. Stealing Chris Wilder from Oxford could prove to be a masterstroke. We've won nothing yet, but we look streets ahead of the team that were hammered 4-1 by Wycombe before he joined. You only need to look at Oxford's position now to realise what an asset we have. Having said that, I hope we are Jekyll and not Hyde when we arrive today at Kenilworth Road.

**TOTT:** Tell us about how Wilder turned things round. What's the secret to your success under him, do you feel?



Chris Wilder

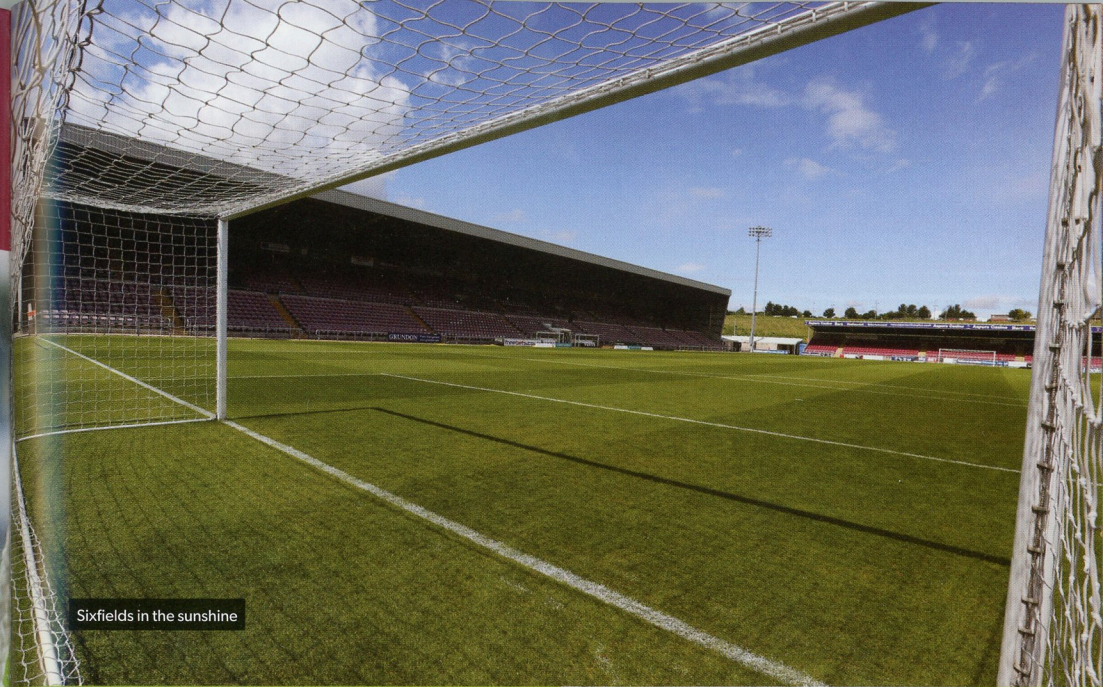
**GLEN:** It's the mentality that appears to have changed, along with the attacking style of play, not to mention the old guard of Bayo (Adebayo Akinfenwa) and Clive Platt being replaced by the likes of Kaid Mohammed and Marc Richards. The chairman has put his money in and Chris Wilder is spending it on players that can attack fast and put the ball away. It's never dull anymore.

**TOTT:** Who is Northampton's star player and why?

**GLEN:** I'd have struggled to answer this 18 months ago as it was so bad. Today, however, I can name a few. Ivan Toney as the 'local boy done good' continues to impress for such a youngster. Kaid Mohammed for his pace and drive, Marc Richards for his class finishes, Chris Hackett for his wing play, Zander Diamond for being a rock at the back – I can't single one player out. I'm glad we've got Alex Nicholls back from his loan spell at Exeter City, after his two-year battle back from a horrendous injury suffered against Port Vale, which is never to be forgiven.

**TOTT:** What was it like having to ground-share with Coventry City until fairly recently? Did you feel guilty that the club was providing a home for the Sky Blues, when the majority of their fans were demonstrating against their move away from the Ricoh? Or were you more concerned about the state of the pitch?

**GLEN:** I never once felt guilty, from my understanding, Coventry City had nowhere else to play – we were



Sixfields in the sunshine

asked to provide them with a home venue due to disagreements about the Ricoh Arena, which were of their doing and not ours, and we obliged. Our groundsmen worked miracles on that pitch in a very wet winter.

I didn't want to get into Coventry's 'Not one penny more' campaign. They took 8,000 fans to MK Dons in the FA Cup, which gave their owners a nice windfall – that's all I'm saying...!

**TOTT:** Looking back, tell us about the games between Luton and Northampton which stick in your mind. Do you enjoy visiting Kenilworth Road?

**GLEN:** The big one for me was the FA Cup defeat last time we played here. We were appalling that day and it was a sign of things to come. I think I've only seen us win here once, so no, it's not a happy hunting ground – maybe today is our day? All I would say is, I look forward to the day when Luton's long awaited new ground becomes a reality. These restricted space seats kill your knees and seeing Mrs Miggins' washing on the

line every time we visit is off putting!

**TOTT:** Who do you rate as the best player in your history to pull on the claret shirt?

**GLEN:** Historians would say Tommy Fowler from our one season in the top flight, I would say Martin Smith, an absolute football genius.

**TOTT:** Where will Northampton finish this season? Which teams do you fancy to win promotion? And what's your prediction for today's game?

**GLEN:** If we can sort out our defensive lapses, we have enough goals in our team to get a top three finish. Having said that, with teams like

Bury, Burton, Pompey – and even Luton – capable of putting a run together, it's going to be very tight again this season. As for today, I'm predicting a 3-0 win for Luton with old favourite Luke Guttridge hitting a five-minute hat-trick in front of our fans. There, that's put the kiss of death on you!



Kaid Mohammed



# A HATTER...

## AND A COBBLER

The Hatters have one former Cobbler in their midst in the shape of midfielder Luke Guttridge, who played 112 matches and scored 14 goals in two spells for today's visitors.

Guttridge joined the Town from Sixfields last summer and another player to have made the direct switch from Northamptonshire to Bedfordshire is centre forward Steve Howard.

The striker began his career in non-league circles with Tow Law Town before moving to Hartlepool United in 1995. After four years with Pools he left to join Northampton where he scored 18 goals in 86 games, including one in a 2-0 win for the Cobblers in 2000 – the last time today's visitors won at Kenilworth Road.

However, Bedfordshire was the striker's next port of call, joining the Town for £50,000 in 2001. Howard was a huge success with the Hatters and scored 103 goals in 228 matches spanning three divisions as he twice won promotion. Howard left Kenilworth Road in 2006, joining Derby for £1m where he helped the Rams win promotion to Premier League.

He then spent three years at Leicester before finishing back at Hartlepool.

Other players to have sported the colours of both clubs include centre-half Terry Branston who also joined the Town from Northampton. After 246 league games for the Cobblers he signed for the Town in 1967.

He was appointed captain, and in his first season he skippered the Hatters to the Fourth Division title. He left Kenilworth Road in 1970 for Lincoln before ending his career at Nuneaton.

Other players who have played for both include Anthony Charles, Greg Taylor and Craig Hinton, who spent a short loan spell at Kenilworth Road in 2010, and is the Cobblers' Under-18 coach.



Steve Howard

## HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

This afternoon pits the Town and Northampton together for the 81st time in history.

The Hatters have the edge in the head-to-head record between the clubs, winning 38 to the Cobblers' 27.

At Kenilworth Road the Hatters have won 29 of the 31 meetings with today's visitors winning just five of these matches. The last time the Cobblers won on Bedfordshire soil was back in 2000 with a 2-0 victory, mentioned above.

In recent times matches between the Hatters and Northampton almost exclusively end with one team claiming victory. Now we know that sounds a bit silly, but in the last 19 matches between the two clubs stretching

back to 1936, only one match has finished a draw (2-2 at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day 1997). The Town have won 11 and the Cobblers have won seven during this period.

The sides were regular adversaries in the Southern League between 1901 and 1920 before both moved into the Football League.

One of the most bizarre matches featuring the two sides came on Boxing Day 1927 when the Hatters scored five times but ended up on the losing side, going down 6-5. It remains the only time the Town have scored five goals in a game and not got something from a match in their whole history. The Hatters have twice drawn 5-5 – against Brentford in 1933 and Leicester in 1949.

# back to the future

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

### ► 1986/87 FOURTH DIVISION CHAMPIONS

**PETER GLEASURE:** Ever-present goalkeeper who moved to Hitchin Town in July 1991, then played for Kettering Town and Nuneaton Borough. Now a driving instructor in his native Luton.

**GRAHAM REED:** Right-back who joined Aylesbury in July 1989, then VS Rugby, Kettering Town, Rushden & Diamonds and Dagenham & Redbridge. He is a foreman at C&F Services in Brixworth.

**PHIL CHARD:** Versatile left-back who moved to Wolves in March 1988, then rejoined Cobblers, becoming their player-manager. Settling in Wootton, he is now a transport manager for ParcelForce.

**WARREN DONALD:** Midfielder who joined Colchester United in July 1990, then Kettering Town, Nuneaton Borough, Raunds and Stamford. He became a driver for Omega based in Northampton.

**RUSS WILCOX:** England Semi-Pro international who joined Hull City in August 1990, then Doncaster, Preston and Scunthorpe. He has assisted Brian Laws at several clubs and coached Bournemouth.

**KEITH MCPHERSON:** Ever-present central defender who netted eight goals in 182 League games, moving to Reading in August 1990, then Brighton and Slough. He has scouted for Phil Parkinson.

**EDDIE MCGOLDRICK:** Young midfielder who joined Crystal Palace in January 1989. The Eire international later played for Arsenal and Manchester City and has since held various media posts.

**IAN BENJAMIN:** Striker who moved to Cambridge United in October 1987, then Chester, Exeter, Southend, Luton, Brentford, Wigan and non-League clubs before managing Soham Town Rangers.

**DAVE GILBERT:** Midfielder who netted 21 goals in 120 League games, moving to Grimsby Town in March 1989, then West Brom, Grantham and Spalding. Now Lincoln United's assistant-boss.

**TREVOR MORLEY:** England Semi-Pro international who moved to Manchester City in January 1988, then West Ham, Brann Bergen and Reading. He has since managed various clubs in Norway.

**RICHARD HILL:** Top scorer who later played for Watford, Kettering, Worcester, Warwick, Nuneaton and Hinckley. He has held coaching posts including at Cobblers and now manages Eastleigh.

### ► 1999/00 PROMOTION WINNERS

**KEITH WELCH:** Experienced goalkeeper who made 117 League appearances before moving to Tranmere Rovers in August 2002. He later had spells with Torquay United and Mansfield Town.

**IAN HENDON:** Later played for Sheffield Wednesday, Peterborough and Barnet, where he became manager. He was Gillingham's assistant-boss and is currently a development coach at West Ham.

**JOHN FRAIN:** Versatile left-back and captain who scored four times in 207 League games before joining Moor Green in July 2003. Later coaching Solihull Moors, he works as a mortgage underwriter.

**IAN SAMPSON:** Central defender who netted 26 goals in 390 League games, then was director of football and managed the Cobblers from October 2009 until March 2011. He then managed Corby.

**RICHARD GREEN:** Experienced central defender who scored twice in 59 League games while at Sixfields Stadium and briefly moved to Rochdale in July 2001 before announcing his retirement.

**SEAN PARRISH:** Welsh midfielder who netted 13 goals in 109 League games, moving to Chesterfield in July 2000, then Kidderminster and Telford United. He rejoined Cobblers as youth team coach.

**DAVE SAVAGE:** Republic of Ireland Under-21 midfielder who netted 18 goals in 113 League outings, then played for Oxford United, Bristol Rovers, Rushden & Diamonds, Brackley Town and Oxford City.

**JAMES HUNT:** Midfielder who scored eight times in 172 League games before reuniting with Ian Atkins at Oxford United in July 2002, then played for Bristol Rovers, Grimsby and Gainsborough.

**STEVE HOWARD:** Striker who netted 18 goals in 86 League games prior to joining the Hatters in March 2001. He has since appeared for Derby County, Leicester City and Hartlepool United.

**CARLO CORAZZIN:** Canadian international striker who scored 30 times in 78 League games before joining Oldham Athletic in July 2000, then Vancouver Whitecaps. He has settled back in Canada.

**DUNCAN SPEDDING:** Versatile midfielder who scored twice in 123 League outings for Cobblers before injury curtailed his career in May 2003. He has since managed a health club in Northampton.



# TOWN 3-1 DAGENHAM

CULLEN 43, 45, 69

DOIDGE 87



Mark Cullen about to make it 2-0

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

Mark Cullen scored the perfect hat-trick as the Hatters made it six League 2 wins on the spin at the expense of John Still's former club Dagenham & Redbridge to leap into third place in the table.

After the visitors had gone close on several occasions through Jamie Cureton, Cullen scored twice in three minutes before half-time to put the Town in charge.

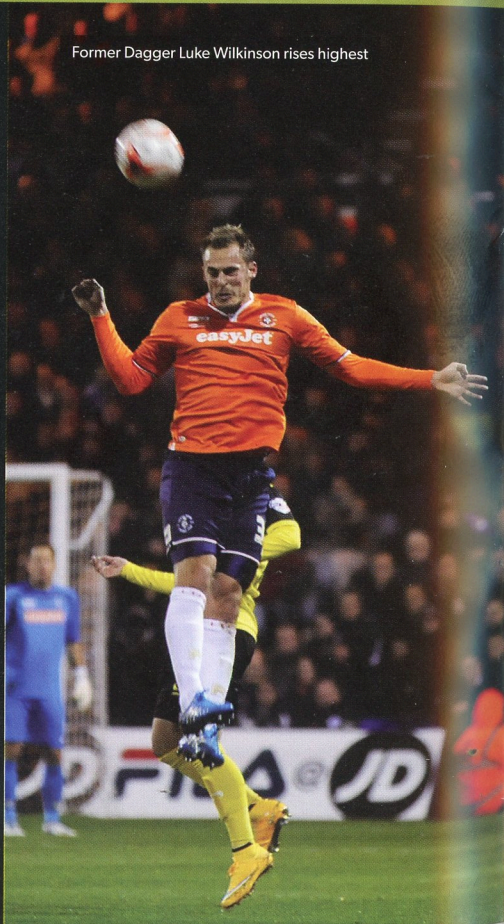
His first goal was a close range header, nodding home in the six-yard box following Andy Drury's hooked cross from the right side of the penalty area.

Before Dagenham could recover Cullen doubled his and the Town's tally on the stroke of half-time when racing onto Jonathan Smith's pass to ghost past visiting goalkeeper Mark Cousins and slot home into an empty net.

After the break Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu missed a glorious chance to make it 3-0 when waltzing through on goal following a fine Hatters counter-attack, but on 69 minutes the midfielder teed up Cullen to complete his hat-trick.

Paul Benson won the ball back just outside the centre circle and Nathan Doyle set Ruddock on his way down the left. His cut-back found Cullen who struck an unerring first-time, left-foot finish beyond Cousins, in off the crossbar.

Smith hit the post and Doyle saw a super low drive saved, and although Dagenham pulled a consolation back three minutes from time, it mattered little as the Hatters extended their unbeaten run to eight games.



Former Dagger Luke Wilkinson rises highest



Andy Drury goes for goal



Paul Benson attempts a shot late on

**TOWN:** Tyler; Harriman, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson; Doyle, Smith, Drury; Ruddock Mpanzu, Miller (sub Benson 55), Cullen (sub Walker 87). **SUBS NOT USED:** Justham, Guttridge, Stevenson, Wall, Lacey.





Mark Cullen celebrates after his first goal



## STILL'S VERDICT:

“I’m just glad it’s over. I didn’t enjoy the game one bit. You’ve got to be professional and got to do your job but I’m just glad it’s all over. “I don’t think we were great. I think we were decent. We scored three very good goals and created four, maybe five good chances. “I think even the players possibly sensed a touch of emotion to the game. There’s nothing you can do about that. We’ve won, it’s a good result, I’m glad it’s over. “You can’t spend the amount of time that I’ve spent at a club, be a supporter of the club as a kid and not feel something, of course you can’t. It’s natural, but you just do your job and I’m pleased that everybody did their job today.”



Luke Wilkinson saw this header saved



Home debutant Ricky Miller runs at the Daggers defence



The players congratulate Cullen on his second goal

LEAGUE POSITION

3

ATTENDANCE

7,746  
166 Visitors

HOW IT HAPPENED



40' Five minutes to the break and we're still yet to have a goal. Can the Town get one before the break? #COYH

42' GOOOOOOOOOOOOAL! Town 1-0 Dagenham (Cullen)

42' In answer to our previous tweet: YES. Drury does the hard work, hooking out a cross from the right and Cullen rises to nod home! 1-0!

45' GOOOOOOOOOOOOAL! Town 2-0 Dagenham (Cullen)

45' Make that 2-0! Cullen races onside to Smith's through ball, ghosts past keeper Cousins and slots home his second! 2-0! #COYH

57' Oh, oh, oh, terrific stuff from the Town as they burst forward, Drury inside to Smith, Pelly charges forward, takes it, but blasts over!

65' Town fans chanting "John Still is a Hatter" You know that's not true! #COYH

69' GOOOOOOOOOOOOAL! Town 3-0 Dagenham (Cullen hat-trick)

69' Terrific all-round play. Benson wins it back brilliantly, Ruddock then gets to byline, cut-back for Cullen, unerring left-foot finish.

70' The perfect hat-trick for Cullen too: left foot, right-foot, header #COYH

77' So close for fourrrrrrr. Cullen's cross from the right, Smith lines up a shot that arrows venomously goalwards and pings off the post.

87' GOAL Town 3-1 Dagenham (Doidge)

FT Town 3-1 Dagenham. A SIXTH successive victory for the Hatters in League 2 secured thanks to Mark Cullen's hat-trick #COYH

FT Hatters move up to third in League 2. Make that eight games unbeaten to boot, (W7, D1) #COYH



A YEAR IN FOOTBALL'S A LONG TIME.

JUST ASK **JIM STEVENSON**. 12 MONTHS AFTER PLAYING FOR HISTON IN CONFERENCE NORTH HE SCORED HIS FIRST GOAL IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE LAST WEEKEND. NOW, AS THE MIDFIELDER EXPLAINS TO TALK OF THE TOWN, HE'S EYEING FURTHER IMPROVEMENT

Jim Stevenson realised one of his life-time ambitions when his first ever goal in the Football League put the Hatters 2-0 up at Hartlepool last Saturday.

It was a landmark moment for the 22-year-old who was two years ago playing for Histon in the Conference North in front of a couple of hundred spectators.

After netting what turned out to be an important goal for the Town in their 2-1 victory on a blustery afternoon in the north east, the midfielder now hopes that special moment is the first of many in his career at Kenilworth Road.

"I know there's more to come, so I'm not satisfied with what I've done yet," says Stevenson, who joined the Town from Histon last summer with Danny Fitzsimons and went onto star for Dartford on-loan in the Conference Premier last season.

"I've had experience in the Conference North, then last year, in the Conference Premier. This year I'm in League 2 playing for Luton, so I'm jumping up the leagues season by season which is what I want to be doing."

Stevenson's attitude on and off the pitch is refreshing. A non-nonsense participant when it comes to the bleep test in pre-season, his desire to improve is heartening. He embodies John Still's "young and hungry" mantra.

Having penned an extended contract in the summer, the former Histon man saw the arrival of experienced midfielders Andy Drury and Nathan Doyle as the perfect fillip to improve his game further.

"To be in with a shout of starting is where I want to be, but I've got to keep improving so that the manager doesn't have a choice but to start me," says Stevenson.

"That's down to me, as if I'm not playing so well that he can't not start me, that's in my control.

"I'm well aware that with Jonathan Smith, Nathan Doyle and Andy Drury there's some experienced players in there.

"I'll try and learn off them on a daily basis and when I go on, try and do as much as I can to show I can do as much as they're doing, if not more. But it's a strong, strong squad, we all know that.

"I finished last season and said to the manager that I wanted to come back and prove I can get into the squad.

"I sat down and thought about what I wanted to improve on and then went and tried to do exactly that.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Stevenson made his first senior appearance as a teenager for Histon in a Conference Premier game against the Hatters at Kenilworth Road in November 2010. The Town won 5-1 that day thanks to goals from Claude Gnaka, Jake Howells, debutant Jason Walker, an Andy Drury penalty and Taiwo Atieno.

## STEVENSON IN NUMBERS

- Stevenson made his Hatters debut as a substitute in the 0-0 draw with Grimsby on 7th September last season and was given his first start in the 3-0 win over Dartford 10 days later.
- His appearance at Hartlepool was his 16th in Luton colours.
- The midfielder has made more substitute appearances than any other Luton player this season, coming off the bench eight times.

"There's ways of doing it, you can go run, run and run, but I decided that wasn't for me this time.

"I did that last year so I worked on power, speed and technique work which I practiced a lot over the summer.

"I was hoping I would come in and make an influence on the squad which I seem to have done. So I've just got to keep on improving to make sure I stay in and around it all season.

"I don't want to have any regrets this season."

Stevenson arrived at Kenilworth Road with the reputation as a goalscoring midfielder after finishing as Histon's top goalscorer in the season before last, but his prowess in front of goal has been evident in development games, including a hat-trick against Bournemouth earlier this season.

After having his first goal for the Town ruled out by one of the latest offside flags in the history of football in the 2-0 win over Oxford last month, the Stevenson was naturally delighted to finally get off the mark at Victoria Park.

"If you noticed I back-pedalled when I was celebrating just to have the linesman in my eye-line, just in case the flag went up!" he jokes. "I knew I wasn't offside this time as I made sure I wasn't.

"I don't think I've had a shot since the disallowed one so it was nice to get one and an important goal as well.

"There's always a position to pick up from a free-kick and I just saw that there seemed to be an open space. They say in training 'follow in, follow in' regains are important.

"Fortunately if you get in there enough times it's going to fall for you and now and again, so it was good to get a goal.

"Goals are a big part of my game, it was at Histon the season before I joined Luton. I stay out for extra practise

## THE BIG INTERVIEW

on finishing because if you look at the top midfielders in the game, they're scoring goals.

"It's another string to your bow, so I've got to keep doing the simply things well and if I can add goals it's something else that's going to push Luton on and push me on."

With that first goal under his belt, Stevenson is now eyeing a regular place in a Town side who have marched into the automatic promotion places after six successive victories in League 2.

"It's good that we're well aware we can still play better," admitted the midfielder. "Even though we're on a good run of form there are still things we can improve on and we've got players coming back from injury who are still not 100 per cent fit.

"We know we can play better and be more ruthless in front of goal, so we've just got to keep working hard to make sure we can carry on the run we're on.

"I'm happy being a part of what we're trying to achieve. I'm still young, I've got plenty to learn still.

"I'm playing a lot more on the front foot than I was, which shows I'm learning, and I'm completely sure of the job that is required, there's no doubt in my mind of a decision to make.

"Perhaps I was feeling a bit unsure at times last season but this year I just feel very assured of myself – and I'm really enjoying it."





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# reaction

## CULLEN'S PERFECT NIGHT



The perfect hat-trick was scored by Mark Cullen on Tuesday night after the striker scored with both feet and his head to help guide the Town to victory over the Daggers.

It was Cullen's first senior hat-trick and his sixth, seventh and eighth goals of the season which made him the joint top scorer in League 2. The striker reflected on his three goals, despite not being able to locate the match ball at the end of the game.

"It's gone missing, someone's robbed it," joked Cullen to Hatters Player. "I'll find the ball and get all the lads to sign it; it's a really special moment for me as it was my first professional hat-trick."

Cullen reflected on the victory over the Daggers and looked back on his first professional treble, the first scored by a Town player this season.

"It doesn't get much better really," Cullen said. "We were a bit sloppy in the first half but to get two goals near the end of the half was really pleasing and gave us a bit of a cushion going into the second period. In the second half we were looking to add to the lead and I was happy to get my first senior hat-trick."

The striker scored the perfect hat-trick, netting with his right foot, left foot and head to score the three goals, Cullen talked us through how the goals were scored.

"Andy Drury has hung it up at the back post," said Cullen on the first. "I fancied myself against the full-back, I had a decent run on him and I managed to nod it in at the back post. For the second goal the keeper has come

running out, I've made sure I took my touch around him and squeezed it into the net."

"The third one was my favourite of the night, Pelly has pulled it back and it was a difficult one to hit on the bounce. I thought I would try and hit the target and it went in the top corner."

### Results

Cullen has now netted five goals in his last three appearances for the Town and the striker believes there is still more to come and that he will continue to keep finding the back of the net when the chances come his way.

"I always go into a game thinking I will score," the striker told Hatters Player. "I always think I'll get a couple of goals. Lately they have been going in for me and the team have been getting results. The main thing is picking up results and if I can get a few goals on the way that's fine by me."

Questions have been asked of Cullen as to whether or not he would be able to fill the boots of Andre Gray after he signed for Championship side Brentford. Cullen believes that he is capable of scoring plenty of goals with the players in the side to create the chances and has ignored the Gray remarks thus far.

"When people ask me if I'm here to replace Andre Gray, no I'm not," said the 22-year-old. "I signed last summer when Andre was at the club. I've bided my time quite well and coming into this season I've shrugged off the Gray remarks."

"I've got faith in my own ability and with the chances the lads around me create I am more than capable of putting them away."





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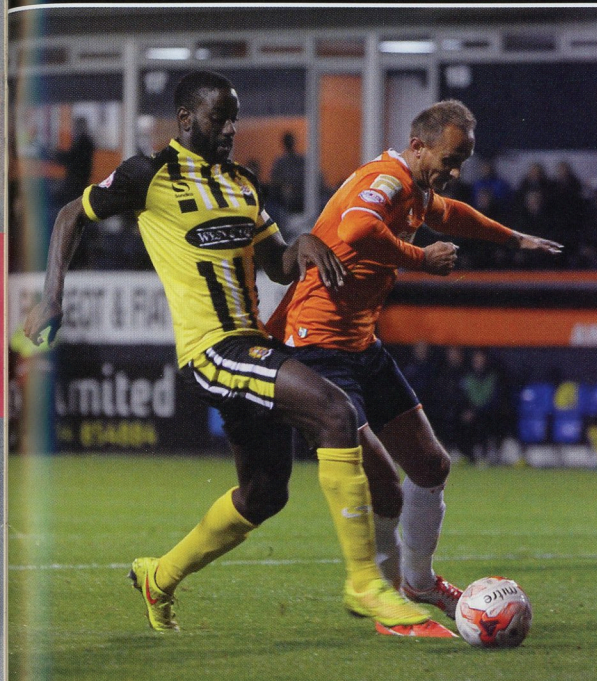
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– National Student Survey 2014



# reaction

## CULLEN TREBLE 'PERFECTION' – BENSON



"He was very unlucky not to play more of a part last season, the gaffer has thrown him in this season and he's responded very well."

Former Dagenham player Benson faced up against his old club in the 3-1 win, but not for the first time in his career. Benson admitted that it is always tough when you come up against your former club at a competitive level.

"I've played against Dagenham a few times," Benson said. "It's never easy coming up against the Daggers because of how fond I am of the side. I don't like to see them doing badly and hopefully they can pick up a few results."

### Pivotal

The striker played a part in the Hatters' third goal against the Daggers to help put the game out of sight. His presence was pivotal in Cullen netting his hat-trick just 10 minutes after coming off the bench.

"It's unusual for me to win the ball back, I usually give away a foul," admitted the former Dagger. "When you come off the bench all you think about is contributing to the team, I put in a tackle and helped us score a goal. It would be nice to come on and score but as long as I am making an impact on the game then I'm happy."

Benson paid tribute to the strength and depth of the Town's squad following the recent form which has seen Luton climb to third in the league table.

"John Still has built a really good squad," Benson told Hatters Player. "He has a tough task in keeping everyone happy but it's a nice task to have because he has so many good players to call upon when he needs them. We need everyone to push for a place in the team to spur the others on."

The forward understands why it was tough for the Town at the beginning of the season, when at one point the Hatters were close to the bottom of the league table. Still's side have now picked themselves up and have recorded six league wins on the bounce.

"You can understand why we were struggling at first," Benson said. "We had a few players who needed to get used to a different level of football. Players like Jonathan Smith and Nathan Doyle have come in and they have made a big difference, you need players like them playing at this level and above."

Paul Benson praised the brilliant form of strike partner Mark Cullen following his hat-trick in the 3-1 win over Dagenham & Redbridge on Tuesday night.

Benson paid tribute to the clinical nature of 22-year-old Cullen as the striker netted all three goals to help the Hatters' win their sixth league game on the bounce and move into a promotion spot for the first time this season.

"He couldn't have done any more than what he did tonight," said Benson. "He had three chances and scored three goals, in my eyes that's perfection. That's the way Cullen has been all season, he had one chance against Southend and took it, he's a great player."

Benson believes Cullen was unfortunate not to have played many games last season, as the striker is now beginning to establish himself as the Town's main goal scoring striker.

"I think he was unlucky last season because of how well Andre was playing," Benson told Hatters Player.



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# reaction

## GRIFFITHS RUES DAGGERS CONSOLATION



Griffiths paid tribute to man of the moment Mark Cullen who netted his first professional hat-trick to help the Town to a convincing win.

"I thank Cully for that win," said Griffiths. "He is a good player and his third goal in particular was brilliant, he took it really well. It was a great move from Pelly to set it up and it put us out of reach."

### Target

The defender is still looking for his first goal in Town colours this season, after scoring once last term, and Griffiths believes it won't be long before he finds the target, despite coming close to scoring against his former club Dagenham.

"I'm getting closer but eventually I will score," said the 28-year-old. "I had a couple of chances, one where a header glanced off my head onto my shoulder and had to be cleared off the line. I'll get there in the end."

### Stretched

Despite winning six league games on the bounce, Griffiths believes that there is still more to come from the Hatters, who have stretched their unbeaten run in the league to eight games.

"The best is still to come without a doubt," said Griffiths. "As time goes on we are only

going to get stronger. The fitness in this squad is second to none, we work hard in games and we wear teams down to get what we want."

It was the second time that the defender has faced up against his former club Dagenham; the first time was when the 28-year-old was on loan at Rotherham United. Griffiths paid tribute to his old club who helped kick-start his career, he said:

"I played against Dagenham once a couple of years ago when on loan at Rotherham," said Griffiths.

"It was at Dagenham's ground and I got a good reception, they are a nice bunch of people with nice fans. It's a lovely club and I started my career off there so I have to thank them for that."

Left-back Scott Griffiths was disappointed that his side did not keep a clean sheet against his old side Dagenham, but was delighted that the Hatters' walked away with all three points on Tuesday night.

The former Dagger believes the Town were unlucky to have conceded a soft headed goal courtesy of Christian Doidge, having defended solidly throughout the majority of the game.

"I'm happy with the result but disappointed with the scoreline," Griffiths told Hatters Player. "I think we could have done a bit more to prevent their goal late on, but at the end of the day three points is three points."





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# Stephen McNulty



Skipper Stephen McNulty was again in top form in defence for the Town in last Saturday's 2-1 win over Hartlepool.

The centre-half was successful with 76 per cent of his 87 'actions' during the game, according to analytical boffins InStat.

That was the same percentage that the 31-year-old was successful with his challenges on Hartlepool players, with 22 of his 29 challenges deemed a success.

Before the game manager John Still highlighted the threat that Pools' on-loan Middlesbrough striker Charlie Wyke posed, and it was interesting to note that McNulty came out on top in 17 of the 21 challenges against the young forward.

Defensively, McNulty was also dominant in the air, winning 83 per cent of his aerial challenges – 15 of the 18 duels in the air were won by the skipper.

Passing is another big part of the captain's game and the former Fleetwood defender was accurate with 65 per cent of his 40 passes. Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu received the most passes from McNulty – with five – followed by Ricky Miller and Andy Drury with four each.

TOTAL MINUTES

90

CHALLENGES WON

76%

SUCCESSFUL ACTIONS

76%

AERIAL CHALLENGES WON

83%

PASSING ACCURACY

65%

RECOVERED BALLS

21

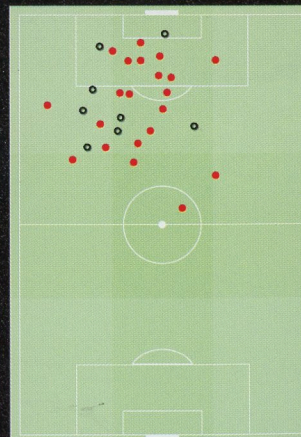
PLAYER MOST PASSED TO

PELLY

TOTAL INTERCEPTIONS

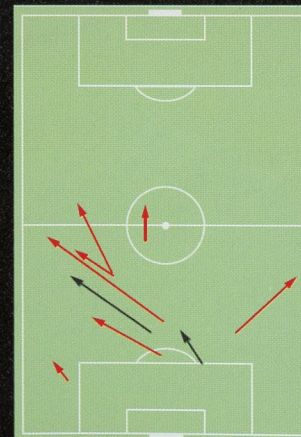
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CHALLENGES



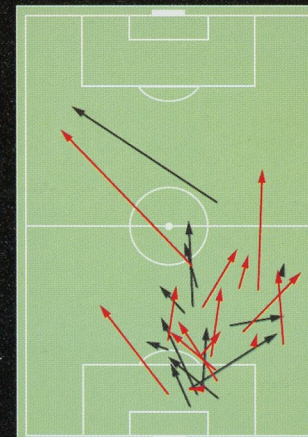
RED DOTS: Successful challenge

PASSES -FIRST HALF



RED ARROWS: Accurate BLACK ARROWS: Inaccurate

PASSES -SECOND HALF





# centre spot



Mark Cullen nods home the first of his three goals against Dagenham & Redbridge on Tuesday night



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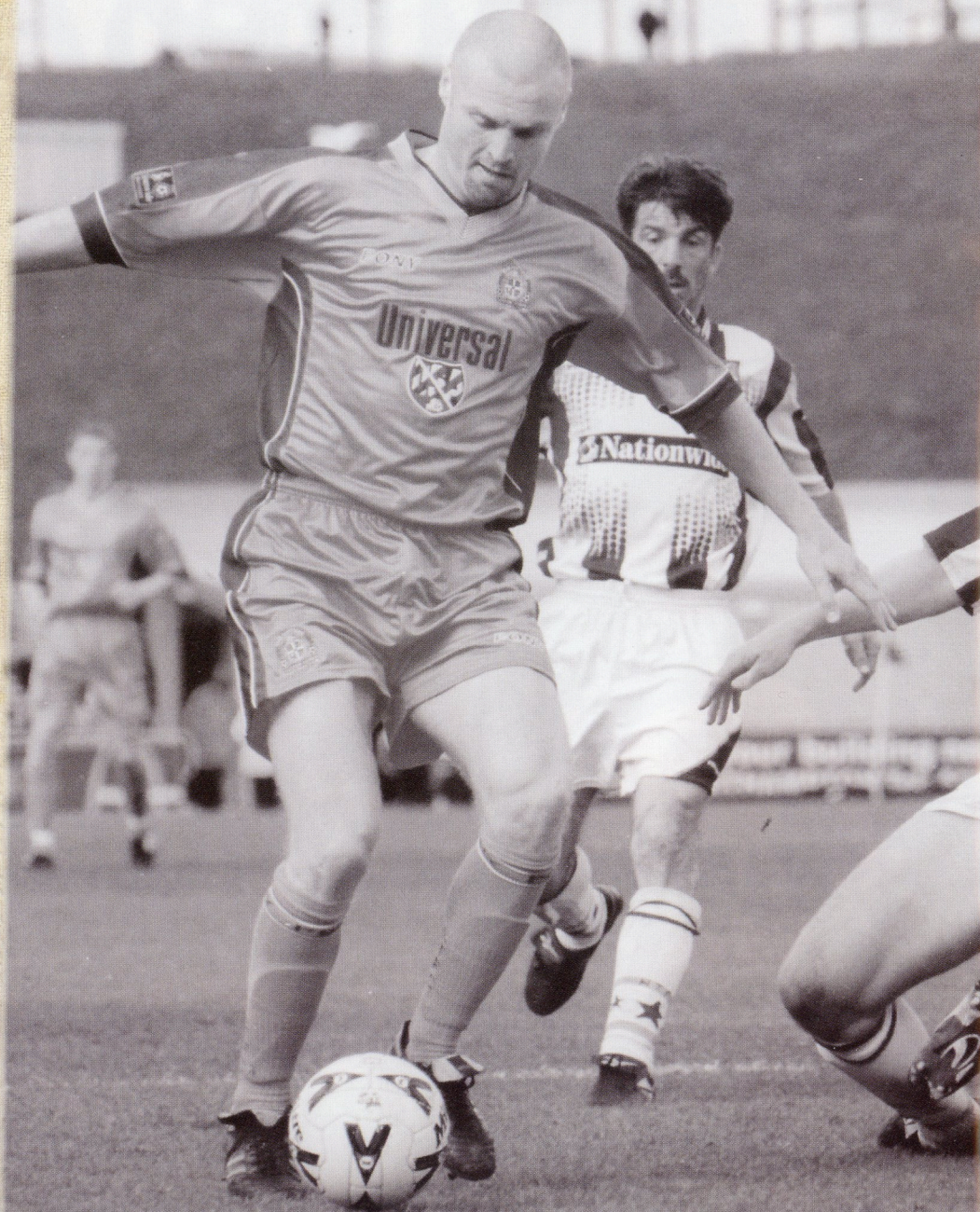
Club historian **ROGER WASH** delves into his photographic archive

Northampton goalkeeper Gordon Morritt gathers the ball during the 2-0 home win over the Cobblers at Kenilworth Road in October 1968.



# Camera Never Lies

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



Future Cobbler Sean Dyche and future Hatter Steve Howard clash at Sixfields in 1999.



# YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian **ROGER WASH** looks back to a classic match between the Hatters and the Cobblers

Luton Town 3-2 Northampton Town. 13th March 1937.

The end of season run-in was about to become interesting. With twelve games left to play the Town were handily placed in third spot in Division Three (South) – equivalent to today's League 1 – with two games in hand on the teams above them.

The Hatters' home record had seen only three points dropped and with eight of the final 12 games to be played at Kenilworth Road supporters were beginning to feel it was going to be our year to clinch the Championship and with it promotion to Division Two.

Aided by the tremendous goalscoring exploits of Joe Payne, who had burst onto the scene a year before, the Hatters had already bagged 67 goals in what was already turning out to be a record breaking campaign and a crowd of 19,579 gathered for the final push with Northampton the visitors.

On a muddy pitch Northampton started as they meant to go on by making their intentions clear that they were going to stop the Town playing at all costs.

The normally calm and reasoned 'Crusader' reporting in the Luton News said, 'The crowd were clamouring for salutary measures against this or that player, the referee was running hither and thither, the whistle was given rarely a moments respite, players were felled to the ground without ceremony, wrangling went on between players and arguments between the players and officials were terrible.'

Despite all this the Town took the lead after seven minutes when Payne headed home Jock Finlayson's cross with Fred Roberts doubling the lead with another header a couple of minutes later.

This was the spark needed to turn the game into an even more brutal affair and it was not long before Luton defender Tom Mackey was left a limping passenger on the wing after being fouled – no substitutes in those days.

It was said later that if the referee had clamped down on, in particular Danny Tolland and Jock Lauderdale

of the Cobblers, then the match would not have degenerated into a kicking contest which the Town were second best at although they did have their moments, according to the reports!

Up against 10 fit men, Northampton fought back and just before the interval Colin Lyman got to the by-line and fired over a fierce cross that was hit home spectacularly into his own net by Luton's Bill Fellowes.

Six minutes after the break a brilliant effort from Tolland levelled the score and for a while it looked like the strong

arm tactics of the Cobblers would win the day but then Luton winger Eddie Parris was manhandled to the ground in the area by Sy Russell and the referee pointed to the spot. The ball was then thumped at Luton's Teddy Hancock with such force by a disgruntled Northampton defender that the little winger was knocked unconscious.

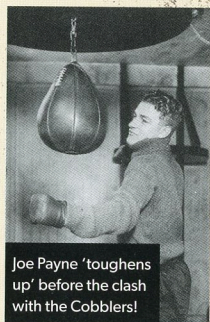
Tolland then stood over the ball while Payne waited to take the penalty and it was some time before the referee 'persuaded him to move'. Payne kept his nerve though and put the Town 3-2 ahead.

Matters then got even worse and after a 'midfield altercation between Luton skipper Jack Nelson and Lauderdale which left the former with a gashed leg and the latter writhing about on the ground in pain the referee called both sides into the centre circle and read the 'Riot Act'.

Lauderdale was then felled by Nelson in the box but Tolland smacked the resultant penalty a yard wide.

The referee had seen enough now and the next foul – by Northampton centre half Billy Thayne on Fred Roberts- was punished with dismissal which was almost unheard of in those days. Crusader had some sympathy with ex-Hatter (and it must be said ex-boxer) Thayne as his misdemeanour was mild compared to what had gone on before. At a subsequent appeal some of Thayne's old team mates spoke up for him and the dismissal was rescinded.

The sending off took the sting out of the game and the Town held out comfortably for two more points on the road to eventual promotion.



**Joe Payne 'toughens up' before the clash with the Cobblers!**

## THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced their normal 16-page programme which was as good as anything else in the country at the time.

In the 'Club Notes' section there was much excitement as Joe Payne had been selected to take part in an international trial match at Burnley on the following Wednesday ready for the forthcoming Scotland v England game. As it subsequently turned out Payne had to wait a few more months for his eventual England debut.


It was also noted that 60 Cobblers supporters had booked a 'meat tea' in the Bobbers Club after the game. Obviously a slow week for the programme editor!

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## ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

- At the Scotland v England clash a world record 149,547 was in attendance at Hampden Park.
- New laws for the forthcoming 1937/38 season were announced: An arc was to be marked at the edge of the penalty box to ensure that players were 10 yards from the ball when a kick was taken. The weight of the ball was to be increased from 13-15 to 14-16 ozs and the players wages for an international match were to be increased to £8.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]



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## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH **THE PROMOTION BOYS FROM 1974**



FORTY YEARS AFTER WINNING PROMOTION TO THE TOP-FLIGHT, MEMBERS OF THE HATTERS' 1973/74 PROMOTION SEASON ARE REUNITED AT OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER THIS DECEMBER.

It was the second time in history that a Town team elevated themselves to the top division, and the heroes of that successful campaign are coming back to relive their memories of a season to remember.

The names in that Town side are still imprinted in Kenilworth Road folklore, and roll easily off the tongue: Alan West, Alan Garner, John Faulkner, Barry Butlin, Jimmy Ryan, Keith Barber – to name half a dozen.

Together with chairman Nick Owen, members of the squad will reminisce about that campaign, which saw the Hatters recover from a 4-0 defeat on the opening day of the season at Nottingham Forest to celebrate winning promotion in the dressing room bath at West Bromwich Albion with Eric Morecambe come April.

The event, proudly sponsored by A-Plan Insurance, promises to be yet another wonderful occasion at Venue 360, so put Wednesday 17th December in your diary and contact the commercial department to book your table. Tickets cost £65, which includes a three-course meal.



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# Luton Legends

BY ROGER WASH

## TERRY BRANSTON. LEADER BY EXAMPLE.

If one player was instrumental in winning the old Division Four championship for the Hatters in 1968 it was captain Terry Branston.

Signed on a free transfer from Northampton, for whom he had given sterling service, by manager Allan Brown, he was brought to Luton for his leadership qualities but he ended up giving a whole lot more.

Terry started off playing local youth football in his home town of Rugby and was recommended to Northampton Town by scout Jack Hastings. However, his career at the County Ground stuttered in its early stages.

"Jack, who used to walk to all games from his home mid-way between Coventry and Rugby, arranged a trial for me in the Northampton 'A' team but nothing seemed to come of it," said Terry. "I agreed to a trial at

Notts County who were managed at the time by Tommy Lawton. When I got back from Meadow Lane, Jack was waiting for me and called me all the names under the sun with the upshot that I signed for the Cobblers in October 1958!"

Joining Northampton at this time was the best thing that could have happened to Terry as the team embarked on a roll that was to take it from the Fourth Division to the First by 1965, the most successful period in the club's history.

Terry made his league debut for the Cobblers in October 1960, as a 22-year-old, in a 3-3 draw at newly-elected Peterborough and by the end of that season had become a regular in the side that won promotion from the old Division Four.

He missed only three games over the next three seasons during which time he played against the Hatters for the only time, a League Cup tie at



Terry proudly holds the Division Four championship trophy won by the Town in 1968

Kenilworth Road, and saw the Cobblers move up to Division Two. Northampton won promotion to the top flight in 1965 with Terry retaining his place in the heart of the defence but unfortunately the stay was brief and by 1967 successive relegations saw the Cobblers back in Division Three.

### Cried

"Dave Bowen, the manager, brought in some good players and we all grew up together as we made our way to the top and although our stay in Division One only lasted a single season because, we were basically not quite good enough, I had a tremendous time at the County Ground. I cried my eyes out when the Board, in its wisdom, decided to give me a free transfer in the summer of 1967."

Help was at hand in the shape of Luton manager Allan Brown who saw Terry as the ideal captain to lead his new look side out of Division Four and back to the top. What could be done once...

"From the moment I set foot in Kenilworth Road I was struck by the homeliness of the place with everyone being so friendly. My job was to get the best out of the players on the pitch and I like to think I was a success in that respect. We walked away with the Fourth Division title in my first season, almost went up again in my second and achieved further promotion in my third."

Making his debut for the Town in an ill-tempered 1-1 draw at Wrexham in August 1967, Terry was ever-present in that record-breaking campaign and apart from

marshalling and bullying his fellow defenders, he found time to weigh in with five vital goals, most of which were unstoppable headers from flag kicks.

"They were a great set of lads and the team spirit was tremendous. Bruce Rioch used to come in for most of the leg pulling as he was the youngest and the golden boy, while the antics of winger Graham French, my room-mate, could be turned into a best-selling book."

### Steady

In 1969 Chris Nicholl was bought from Halifax Town for a massive sum, by Luton standards, of £35,000 to replace Terry and for a time did, but by the end of the season when promotion hopes were slipping away the 'skipper' was recalled to steady the ship and ensure the rise in status. Unfortunately, Terry's Division Two career with the Town was short-lived as we were thrashed 4-2 at Bolton on the opening day of the 1970/71 season, and a month later he was transferred to Lincoln for £5,000 where he was a team-mate of a young Graham Taylor. When the Imps came to choose a new manager, the Board was split and the casting vote went to Taylor in preference to Terry who did not even apply for the job. Who knows what might have been!

After leaving Lincoln, Terry turned out for Nuneaton Borough, Enderby, V.S. Rugby as player / manager before finishing his playing career with A.E.I. Rugby where it had all started.

Terry lived in Rugby where he ran a driving school for many years. He still ventured to Kenilworth Road fairly regularly, the scene of his goal from an overhead kick against Rochdale, the blocking of many a full-blooded free-kick with his nose and the fist shaking as he exerted every ounce of effort from his team-mates. A true leader by example.

### Celebration

St Andrews Parish Church in Rugby was packed to the rafters in January 2011 for the 'Celebration of the Life' of Terry who had passed away just before Christmas 2010 at the age of 72.

As a postscript, Terry was always happy to talk about his battles with the tough centre-forwards of the day, such as Pat Terry of Millwall and Alex Dawson of Preston, when no quarter was asked for or given but one duel mentioned by me during one of our many chats had even him wincing.

During an away game at Barrow in 1968 Terry and the home side's centre-forward George McLean, were each poleaxed twice by each other needing lengthy treatment from the trainer on each occasion. All these incidents took place when play was at the other end of the field leaving the referee to shake his head in bemusement. No video replays in those days!

Terry in match action at Watford in 1968







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## WITH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE LEAD COACH JORDAN McCANN

Coaching and developing players in the youth development phase (11-14-year-olds) is an inherently difficult process, as the boys encounter a variety of changes in their lives both at and away from the football club.

Furthermore, given that the game at the elite level is also changing at its quickest ever rate, with playing positions becoming less rigid, elite players more tactically flexible (think Alex Lacey in centre-midfield) and increasing demands both physically and psycho-socially, the challenges facing a development coach to maximize the players' learning and development can be vast. But what does this mean for the development of our academy players and the staff who work with them on a day-to-day basis?

The environment is key. In order for our young players to maximize their chance of fulfilling their potential coaches constantly strive to create an environment in the academy where creativity, innovation and risk taking are encouraged and celebrated. The boys have unlimited freedom to express themselves, try out new things and unrequited support from the staff when it does go wrong in order to strive towards achieving a higher level of performance.

Practices are stimulating, engaging and challenging. This includes continual modifications around the STEP principle

- space, time, equipment and personnel
- to continually put the players in a safe but hostile learning environment. If practices are easy or mistake-free, coaches are constantly challenged to manipulate sessions to stress the players and enhance their rate of learning. Whilst many people may think of effortless performance as a desirable outcome during a young player's journey it really is a terrible way to learn.

Within the practices each individual player has their own learning programme and it is the skill of the fantastic staff we have at the academy to manipulate training sessions to allow all of our young players to simultaneously work on enhancing their strengths whilst also addressing their weaknesses. This also involves giving a large amount of ownership to the players and they are challenged continually to take control of their own development on a day-to-day basis in order to develop independent, self-thinking football players with an unrivalled attitude towards developing and improvement.

Finally, a massive congratulations to Luke Trotman who signed his first professional contract earlier this week. Luke is currently recovering from a horrific leg break against Peterborough a few weeks ago and everyone at the club is routing for him to make a speedy recovery and begin knocking on the door of the first team.

Get behind the lads today and let's cheer them on to another three points.

#COYH

THE ACADEMY



# Youth Team & Development

## FIXTURES & RESULTS

### YOUTH

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Sat 2	11.00am	H	Milton Keynes Dons	W 3-1	King
Tue 12	12 noon	A	AFC Bournemouth (LC)	W 2-1	King
Sat 16	11.00am	H	Stevenage	D 1-1	King
Wed 20	11.00am	H	Cambridge United	W 2-0	King
Sat 23	10.30am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 5-0	King
Sat 30	11.00am	H	Watford	W 3-0	King
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Tue 2	12 noon	A	Dagenham & Redbridge (LC)	L 1-3	King
Sat 6	10.30am	A	Barnet	L 2-4	King
Sat 20	11.00am	H	Northampton Town	D 1-1	King
Sat 27	10.30am	A	AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	King
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Sat 4	11.00am	H	Southend United	D 1-1	King
Sat 11	10.30am	A	Leyton Orient	W 2-0	Gooch
Sat 18	11.00am	H	Gillingham	W 4-0	King
Sat 25	11.00am	H	Dagenham & Redbridge		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
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		
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Sat 6	11.00am	A	Southend United		
Sat 13	11.00am	H	AFC Wimbledon		
Sat 20	11.00am	A	Gillingham		
<b>JANUARY</b>					
Tue 6	11.00am	H	Leyton Orient		
Sat 10	11.00am	A	Milton Keynes Dons		
Sat 24	11.00am	A	Stevenage		
TBA			Peterborough United		

## UNDER-18s UPDATE

The Town Under-18s made it five games unbeaten in the Youth Alliance last Saturday with a 4-0 win over Gillingham and this morning Paul Driver's take on Dagenham & Redbridge.

This season the Hatters' youngsters have not had to qualify for the FA Youth Cup, and Driver's side will know their first round fate by the time you read this.

Thursday night saw Leatherhead take on Didcot in the final qualifying round, and the winners of that tie will visit Kenilworth Road later this month.

### DEVELOPMENT

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Tue 9	1pm	H	AFC Bournemouth	W 5-0	Justham
Tue 23	2pm	A	Portsmouth	D 2-2	Justin
Tue 30	1pm	H	Gillingham (Cup)	W 5-2	Justham
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Tue 28	1pm	H	Peterborough United		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Tue 4	TBA	TBA	Cambridge United (Cup)		
Tue 18	1pm	A	Cambridge United		
Tue 25	1pm	H	Leyton Orient		
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Tue 2	1pm	H	AFC Wimbledon		
Tue 9	TBA	TBA	AFC Wimbledon (Cup)		
<b>JANUARY</b>					
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)		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Tue 3	1pm	A	Peterborough United		
Tue 24	1pm	A	Leyton Orient		
<b>MARCH</b>					
Tue 10	1pm	H	Cambridge United		
Mon 23	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon		
Tue 31	1pm	A	Portsmouth		
TBA		A	Gillingham		

## DEV SQUAD IN ACTION THIS WEEK

The Hatters development squad return to League action next week when they take on Peterborough United at Kenilworth Road this coming Tuesday.

The Final Third Development league fixture against Posh will kick-off at 1pm and entry can be gained via the press gate in Kenilworth Road.

Admission for season ticket holders is free, while entry for non-season ticket holders is £2 for adults and £1 for concessions.

The Town have gained four points from their opening two matches in the competition this season, beating Bournemouth 5-0 at drawing 2-2 at Portsmouth.

### SUBS

Galliford ●	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Justin ◆	Magaraushe ●	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Atkinson	GALLIFORD 1	Ngwala ◆	Tayali	AMADI 1 ▲	Hawkes ●	Allman ◆	Craig ▲	Kotter	Gooch
Ngwala	Galliford	Tayali ●	Atkinson	ALLMAN 1	Magaraushe	Craig ◆	Amadi	Perry	Gooch
Galliford	Atkinson ▲	Ngwala	AMADI 1 ◆	ALLMAN 1	Perry ●	Bakinson ▲	Tayali ◆	Hawkes	Gooch
Musonda	GALLIFORD 1 ▲	ALLMAN 1	Amadi ●	NGWALA 1	Hawkes ◆	Magaraushe ▲	TAYALI 1 ●	Craig	Gooch
Ngwala	GALLIFORD 1	TAYALI 1	Atkinson ▲	Allman ●	Hawkes ▲	Amadi ◆	McGhan-George ●	Craig	Gooch
McGhan-George	Galliford	Craig ◆	Tayali	NGWALA 1	Justin ●	Craig ◆	Amadi	Bakinson	Gooch
Atkinson ▲	Galliford	NGWALA 1	Tayali	Allman ●	McGhan-George ●	Perry ◆	Amadi ▲	Hawkes	Gooch
Galliford	Justin	Craig ●	Tayali	Amadi ◆	Murray ●	Amu ◆	Hankins	Brown	Gooch
Atkinson	Galliford	Craig	TAYALI 1 ●	Amadi ◆	Snelus ●	Amu ◆	Smith-Bubbins	Brown	Gooch
Galliford	Justin	Atkinson	Craig ◆	Tayali	Hankins ●	Amadi ◆	Brown	McJannett	Gooch
GALLIFORD 1 ◆	Atkinson	NGWALA 1	Amadi	Allan ◆	Fanewo ◆	Brown ◆	Tayali ▲	Craig	Cassels
ATKINSON 1	Bakinson ▲	ALLMAN 1	TAYALI 1	AMADI 1 ●	Fanewo ◆	Brown ▲	Craig ●	Amu	Kerber



# community

WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER JAMES HATCH

It's competition time for all of our footy-mad youngsters and today the Community Trust are launching three fantastic soccer competitions for boys and girls in Luton and Bedfordshire.

Each season the Football League organises two cup competitions for junior footballers from schools across the country, with the finals being played in the build-up to some of the biggest matches of the domestic season.

The Kinder+ Sport Football League Under-11 Kids Cup is one of those competitions, the other being the Kinder+ Sport Football League Girls Cup.

Each of the 72 Football League clubs organise a local Kids Cup competition for teams representing schools at Under-11 level and a Girls Cup for teams representing schools at Under-13 level.

In each of the last three years nearly 2,500 schools and 20,000 children have participated in these competitions giving them an incredible experience as well as encouraging them to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The winning school from each local competition will go on to represent Luton Town at the regional and national finals should they progress.

It's not just about the glory of playing at Wembley, although the Football League and Luton Town understands that the achievement of appearing before a national final is great for everyone involved.

So, at every stage, there are some great prizes for schools to win; such as certificates, pennants, medals and trophies, to allow participants to remember their achievement of taking part in the country's largest national football.

Our first two tournaments are new to us thanks to being back in the Football League - so ladies first, here we go!

## LUTON TOWN FC KINDER+ SPORT UNDER-13 GIRLS SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP - YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY AT WEMBLEY STADIUM AND KENILWORTH ROAD!

The Football League Kinder+ Sport Girls Cup competition comprises of a six-a-side competition for Under-13 girls that culminates in a grand final prior to the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium in March.

Last season, Broadstone Middle School, representing AFC Bournemouth, beat Thomas Telford School, representing Shrewsbury Town, to lift the trophy. In addition to offering girls the chance to play at Wembley

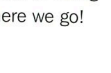
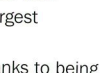
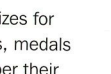
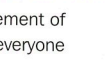
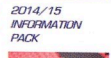
Stadium, we are also offering finalists of our local tournament the chance to play at Luton Town.

The tournament is open to all Luton and Bedfordshire schools to take part in the year 8 girls 6-a-side football tournament and our official Luton Town tournament will take place at Redbourne Upper School on Friday 14th November, with the two winning semi-finalists playing their final the following day Saturday 15th November on the pitch at Kenilworth Road in front of a packed house during the half-time break at the Tranmere game.

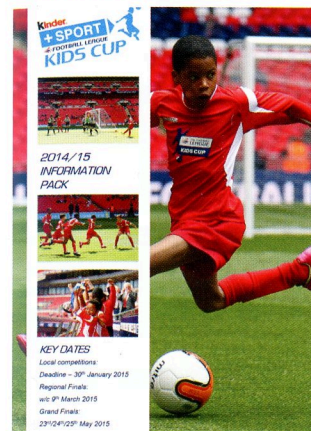
The winners of the final will then proceed to an area final to play the

winning school from Charlton Athletic, Dagenham & Redbridge, Leyton Orient, Millwall, Southend, Gillingham and Watford with the overall winners proceeding to a regional North v South final with the eventual final played at Wembley Stadium on Sunday 22nd March.

We only have a limited number of places available for the tournament so if you would like to enter please either email for an application form to [ffd.lutontown@outlook.com](mailto:ffd.lutontown@outlook.com) or call the community office direct on 01582 737568.



## LUTON TOWN FC KINDER+ SPORT UNDER-11 KIDS SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP - YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY AT WEMBLEY STADIUM AND KENILWORTH ROAD!



The Kids Under-11 Cup comprises of a six-a-side competition for Under-11 school children and culminates in three finals across the Football League Play-Off weekends in May. In the 2013/14 season, the Championship winners were

Bolton Wanderers (Bolton School), League 1 winners were Leyton Orient (Chase Lane Primary School) and in League 2 AFC Wimbledon (Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School) were victorious.

In the Football League Kids Cup competition the 72 clubs are first split into three divisions, in line with our divisional status we will compete in the League Division 2, before being again split into two groups, north and south - so our local winners will progress as Luton Town into the Division 2 South Play-Offs.

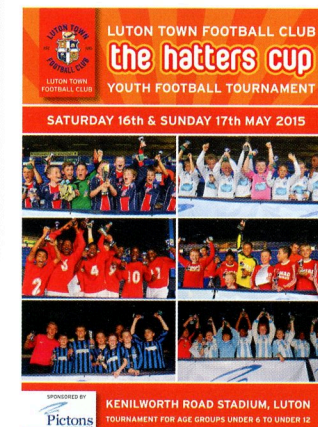
The winners of the Division 2 North and Division 2 South finals will then qualify for the chance to play before the Football League Division 2 Play-Off Final on Saturday 23rd May. The road to the finals starts when the new school term starts.

Each Football League club organises a local competition for all schools wishing to take part.

Similar to the Girls Cup, the Kids Cup is open to all Luton and Bedfordshire schools to take part and our official Luton Town tournament will take place at Redbourne Upper School, on week commencing 19th January, with the two winning semi-finalists playing their final on the pitch at Kenilworth Road in front of a packed house during the half-time break in first team's home game with Cambridge United on Saturday 31st January.

Places will be at a premium for this tournament, so if you would like to enter please either email for an application form to [james.hatch@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:james.hatch@lutontown.co.uk) or call the community office direct on 01582 737568.

## HATTERS CUP YOUTH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT PLAYED AT KENILWORTH ROAD ON SATURDAY 16TH AND SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2015 - AGE GROUP UNDER-6S TO UNDER-12S



We're saving the biggest 'til last!

Once again, the Club are turning Kenilworth Road over to the Community Trust and over three days we will be holding lots of community events.

The major event is our annual six-a-side Hatters Cup

football tournament on the pitch in May. This has now become the biggest tournament of its kind in the South of England and we are calling on all of our local grass roots clubs to get their applications in quickly to avoid disappointment.

Last year over 160 teams took part in the tournament but lots of local clubs missed out on the opportunity to play on the pitch through late applications.

The opportunity to play at Kenilworth Road is very exciting for many young players, and so before we officially launch the Hatters Cup 2015 we are urging local clubs to get their applications in quickly, as once the dates are announced in the press we will be well oversubscribed very quickly.

So if you are a local club please either email for an entry form or phone the community office direct by email on [ltfc.hatterscup@hotmail.com](mailto:ltfc.hatterscup@hotmail.com), or phone the community office direct on 01582 737568.

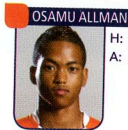
We know next May is a long way off but please don't wait until nearer the time!





# Youth Team Sponsors

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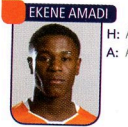
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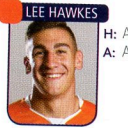
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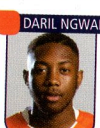
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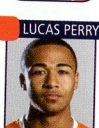
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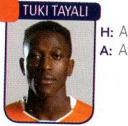
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**DARIL NGWALA**  
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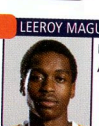
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## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF FOOTBALL

Since 2000 the Football Foundation and its funders have invested in £1 billion worth of grassroots projects. This is providing quality playing surfaces and changing rooms for communities across the country – helping to increase participation and supporting player development.

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# Luton Ladies

Following on from the return to winning ways after experiencing a Kenilworth Road victory four days earlier, the Town Ladies visited Enfield Town which has not proved a happy hunting ground in previous seasons.

The hosts began strongly and dominated the early exchanges without really troubling the Luton goal. The Town gradually established themselves and took command of the midfield and went in front when Rebecca Kane burst down the right outpacing the full-back before laying the ball off to Erica Byron. She slid the ball into the path of Remi Bains who clipped the ball over the diving goalkeeper to register her first goal for the first team.

The second half was more of the same with Luton creating the better chances. Nikki Livingstone then played a superb throughball to Kane who beat the offside trap to control first time and lift the ball over the keeper but narrowly over the crossbar. However, she made no mistake after 75 minutes when she was again found by Byron and made no mistake from the edge of the area as Luton went 2-0 up.

Enfield were still kept at arm's length by resolute Town defending as one scramble saw a shot blocked that dropped onto the top of the crossbar and to safety. With the points seemingly safe and with two minutes to go the hosts netted a consolation following a scramble in the Luton six yard box. This prompted an all-out attack on the Town goal but the defence held firm with Hollie Staples dealing well with an inswinging corner to the back post.

Manager Nikki Baker was delighted with the performance. She told Talk of the Town: "The girls were obviously tired after their efforts during the past week but showed great mental strength to gain six points out of six in four days. This is never an easy game and big credit to the players who responded so well to the changes that we have been forced into in recent weeks."

The reserves kept up their excellent start to the season during their last putting with a 3-0 home win over Comets. Jael Muzzi gave Town a 1-0 half-time lead and the visitors piled on the pressure in the second half but were kept at bay by some excellent defending. The second goal arrived in injury time from Rebecca Kane and a further strike from Henny Horsler put a real gloss on the scoreline as Town remain in contention in the top three.



Town captain Shanice Jimenez v Enfield last Sunday

For more information on the Ladies visit [www.lutontownbelles.com](http://www.lutontownbelles.com)





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COMING SOON

# THE SOCIAL NETWORK

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The Town were in floodlit action against Dagenham & Redbridge on Tuesday and before the game we asked our 50,000-strong Facebook following what their favourite match under the Kenilworth Road floodlights were.

Midweek games are always special – well, barring defeat at home to Hyde, we're guessing – but the best of the memories came spread across several decades. Do the comments below ring any bells? We're sure they do...

**f Alan Gledhill** V Man City in 1959, FA Cup replay winning 3-1 to move into next round.

**f Alan Adair** Favourite ever is a difficult one. Two spring to mind and we lost both! 1970/71 Luton 0 Arsenal 1 League Cup 2 in front of the biggest crowd I've ever been in at KR. 27,023 with over 5,000 locked out too... the other was from the same season in the FA Cup 3rd round replay. Luton 3 Nottm Forest 4 with a magnificent Malcolm Macdonald hat trick for the Hatters.

**f Danny Jennings** First ever game I saw at Kenny 78/79 season Luton 3-2 Bristol Rovers 2-0 down as well got to be mine

**f Neil Fleming** Best midweek game was back in the 80's when we knocked Liverpool out of the FA Cup in the second replay, having played and drawn up at Anfield the previous week.

**f Daniel Smith** Yep, I'd go along with the 3-2 win v West Ham in the Cup 94.

**f Andy Weizen** Luton 4 Chelsea 0 - in the snow late 1970's Div2 (at the time Chelsea were top of league)

**f Glen Maxwell** Newcastle and west ham in 94 cup run have to be up there hard to pick favourite.

**f Jonathan Perry** I saw most of those mentioned above but what about 1967/8? Luton 5 Doncaster 3 we scored 5 times in 28 minutes in the first half, Luton 4 Swansea 0 all 4 goals between the 76th and 82nd minutes and of course Luton 4 Crewe 0 the championship clincher and again 4 goals in 28 first half minutes.

**f Joe Connolly** Not a home game but the 4-4 draw away at Charlton... cried my eyes out when we lost 8-7 on pens I was only 11 at the time.

**f Dean Brown** Jean Louis Valois running riot against Darlington I think, scoring a magical goal on a Friday night!

**f John Pyper** Most certainly am coming. Favourite midweek match (so many) but the one springs to mind is: Luton Town v West Ham Utd. Scotty Oakes Hat Trick (3 steps to heaven were the National Paper headlines the following morning).

**f Karen Jack** Best midweek game beating Crewe 4 - 1 to win 4th division championship. Over 17,000 at KR watch fantastic atmosphere.

**f Nick O'Leary** Liverpool even though we lost 5-3 it was incredible atmosphere

**f Rory Bryant** Pompey in the snow, with the orange ball! One of my earliest memories of the Kenny!! COYH

**f Paul Sparks** Getting 4 v Shrewsbury to confirm promotion from Div 2. Mossy, Brian Stein, Ricky Hill all contributed on the night. On the pitch at the end to celebrate. Happy days!

**f Chris Neville** As a young Hatter the 2 I remember are; Best midweek game at the Kenny for me has to be Oxford in 2010, when Keane scored the last minute winner direct from a corner! Best midweek game away the 2-1 win at Watford in the Worthington cup with Matty Spring's 40 yard screamer!





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# FROM THE Press BOX

WITH MEDIA VU DIRECTOR AND HATTERS SUPPORTER GRAHAM MILLER

Here's a quiz question for you.  
Particularly if you're a Luton fan.

What do Mark Cullen and Geoff Hurst have in common?

Come on – have to hurry you.

The answer? They've both scored the perfect hat-trick. Ok so Sir Geoff's right foot, left foot and header against West Germany won England the World Cup. But 'Cully's' version against the Daggers on Tuesday night won the Hatters three vital points. Silly comparison? Well that's what being a fan is all about isn't it?

### Bagged

Here's another question. What's the difference between Hurst's and Cullen's hat-tricks?

The England legend got to take the ball home. But someone bagged Tuesday's match ball before Mark could get his hands on it.

One of my Back Page 'hats' is covering the Premier League. It means I seldom get to see the Hatters play live. So I did enjoy Tuesday night.

Last weekend for example I was working at St Mary's. Southampton you may have noticed rattled in eight against Sunderland. Match of the Day edited it out, but the Black Cats dominated the first period before they fell apart. But eight goals?

I wasn't lucky enough to witness those terrific high scoring Town wins in recent seasons, so my mind went back to a game 26 years ago where I saw 11 goals in one game – yes 11 – here at Kenilworth Road.

It was a February afternoon in 1988. They called it a rehearsal for the Littlewoods Cup semi-final. In reality it was a standard First Division fixture against Oxford United.

I remember it for two reasons. The 11 goals of course and because it was the first Luton match I took my two young sons to see.

We had seats up at the back of the main stand. And the questions just kept on coming.

"What's that for Dad?" asked my eldest, pointing at the TV gantry strapped under the roof. And, "Which one is Bryan Robson?" Football on the TV was always Manchester United centric.

And even though this was in the middle of the away fan ban, "Why are those people shouting at those people?"

I was hoping for a game to hook them as fans. Despite what anyone says you don't have to see every game to be a happy Hatter.

Fortunately, because the sweets and crisps were running out, the game kicked off. The atmosphere was electric. The pitch was plastic.

I never did like that surface. People said it gave Luton an advantage. The stats show otherwise.

Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish for one absolutely hated our Kenny. He was quoted several times saying the En-Tout-Cas carpet should be ripped up. Especially after we beat them 3-0 in an FA Cup third round replay the season before.

### Funny

There was even a gag about it.

What's the difference between Kenny Dalglish and a jumbo jet? A jumbo jet stops whining over Luton!

Well it was funny at the time.

What a game. Luton stormed into a two-goal lead from Mick Harford and Brian Stein. Oxford hit back with a penalty. Darron McDonough made it 3-1 before Oxford reduced it to 3-2 at half time.

Mark Stein grabbed a second half hat-trick. Oxford also scored again, 6-3.

Incredibly they scored another before Harford cracked in a brave header at the end for an extraordinary 7-4 victory.

A game full of action, incident and thrills.

But there was a lull before the final whistle. Only for number 2 son, at his first game remember, to innocently ask, "Why are there no more goals, Dad?"

I recall I couldn't answer that one.



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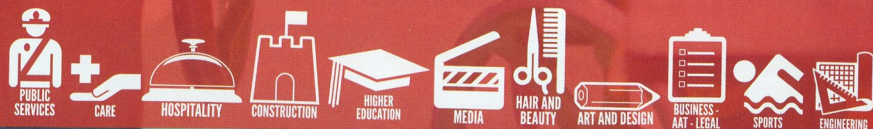
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## WHAT'S IN STORE ONLINE AT THE HATTERS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

**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](http://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](http://www.player.lutontown.co.uk), provides in addition to the official website, [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://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 for you to view on [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk).

### FREE CLOCKWATCH

On the homepage of [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://lutontown.wap.com) on your phone. For full details, please visit the Mobile Services section of [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://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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25th OCTOBER

# ON THIS DAY

## ► THE RECORD

The Town hold a decent record on this day in the history books having won nine of the 21 games on 25th October, drawing seven and losing just five. Sixty-six goals have been scored across these matches, with the Hatters scoring 39 of those compared to the 27 scored by the opposition. Three of the 21 fixtures played have come in cup competitions - of which the Hatters have lost twice and drawn once. That means the Town's record is just three defeats in 18 League matches on this day.

## ► THE LAST TIME

It has been six years since the Town last played on this date when they won 2-1 at Bury in League 2 during the -30 season of 2008/09. Goals from Tom Craddock and Ian Roper had the Hatters two goals to the good at half-time before Andy Bishop pulled a goal back for the Shakers in the second half. Jake Howells played 90 minutes for the Town that afternoon.

## ► UNBEATEN RECORD

The Hatters go into this afternoon's match protecting a 31-year unbeaten record on 25th October. The Town last tasted defeat on this day when losing 2-0 at home to Rotherham in the League Cup in 1983. It has been even further since the Hatters last lost a league game. You have to go back to 1975 for the last time the Town lost a league match when they were beaten 2-0 at Sunderland in the Second Division (now Championship).

## ► MIKE'S MAGIC

Arguably one of the most famous Town wins in the top flight came on this day in 1986 at Kenilworth Road when the Hatters saw off Liverpool 4-1. Reds fan and future Hatters boss Mike Newell was the hero, scoring a hat-trick against the reigning champions. Ricky Hill was also on target as the Town celebrated a fine win in front of 13,140. Come the end of that season the Hatters would finish in an all-time highest place of seventh in what is now the Premier League.

## ► TOP FLIGHT TOWN

The Hatters have an unbeaten record in the three top flight matches they have contested on 25th October. As well as the 4-1 win over Liverpool, the Town drew 2-2



Brian Stein was on target for the Town on this day in 1980

at Portsmouth back in 1958 with Ken Hawkes and Allan Brown on target. Two years after the Liverpool triumph, in 1988, the Hatters fought back to earn a point in a 1-1 draw with Arsenal at Kenilworth Road. Alan Smith fired the Gunners in front before Kingsley Black levelled with a fine 25-yard curling free-kick. "I am quite pleased to come here and get a draw," says a relieved Arsenal boss George Graham afterwards. Arsenal would end that season as champions.

## ► LAST HOME WIN

This afternoon the Town will go in search of their first home win on this day since a 2-0 win over Brentford in 1997. Graham Alexander and Tony Thorpe were on target for the Hatters that afternoon in the Second Division (now League 1). The Town's last game at Kenilworth Road on 25th October was a 1-1 draw against Peterborough - Adrian Forbes scoring the Hatters' goal.

## ► BEST OF THE REST

The Town won 3-1 at Cambridge on this day in 1980 with David Moss, Clive Goodyear and Brian Stein on target. The Hatters' biggest win on 25th October was a 6-0 thrashing of Abertillery in the Southern League Second Division in 1913. In the Fourth Division promotion season of 1967/68 the Hatters beat Doncaster Rovers 5-3 in an eight-goal thriller at Kenilworth Road. Ian Buxton netted twice whilst Alan Slough, Bruce Rioch and Keith Allen were also on target.



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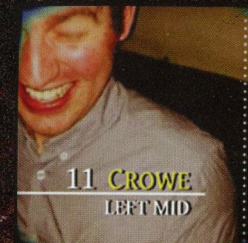


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# FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



## LOVE BENEATH THE LIGHTS

Luton Town's John Still strode out beneath the lights onto the Technicolor Kenilworth Road turf to his usual ovation.

After respectfully acknowledging the Bedfordshire faithful he made his way deliberately towards the corner of the Oak Road where the modest following from Dagenham and/or Redbridge were huddled, and blew them kisses.

It was always going to be a strange one for John Still seeing his Luton juggernaut roll over the team he invested so much of his life and love into, since a teenager on the terraces it transpired, and he made it absolutely clear before and after the game that while he is a consummate professional doing a consummately professional job for us, it's the Daggers that have John's heart.

Understandable I suppose.

### Shackles

I'll admit to feeling a little bit put out by his pre-match claim that the game was luckily "at a time for both clubs where it's not crucial anyway..." and similarly so after the game when he admitted to not really enjoying what to the rest of us felt like a freeing up of the early season shackles and a move towards the lovely goals of last winter and spring - at least for half-an-hour or so.

For John it must have felt like putting down his own dog. A cockney George finishing off his old pal Lennie in Of Mice and Men.

You could almost feel him cringe at the thought of his childhood sweetheart's embarrassment as the third Luton goal flew in from the rip-roaring, free scoring left

boot of Mark Cullen (30 goals. Who gives a ----? We kept Mark Cullen and we're going up).

Just for the record Mr Still, as you well know, three points in October is just as crucial as three in April, especially when everyone else around us is losing or nearly losing. I can only imagine a previous manager or two of ours talking in the same terms about one of their old clubs. We would not be entertained.

### Emotional

Such is the good will towards Our John (and he is ours... OURS) that we'll allow him a dalliance or two with an old flame. Even if his emotional pre-match walk across to those Daggers supporters felt a bit like watching your other half giving their ex a slightly-too-familiar kiss on the cheek having bumped into them at a party. "It's fine, he's coming home with us," we'd mumble.

John gets away with his wandering-eye for several reasons, not all of them as tangible as the three points and the generally messianic nature of his Luton reign so far.

Still's nothing if not honest, and nothing else if not a real football supporter just like you, mate. He's no run-of-the-mill careerist manager either and we understand the bond he feels to the club, we respect it and can perhaps even imagine being in his shoes.

But many more autumn nights like Tuesday, beneath the magic lights of Kenilworth Road, and he might find it harder and harder to resist the unrequited love from his new Luton family, because though it's relatively early days, we're getting on like a house on fire.

So save some kisses for us, eh John. You soppy old sod.



# Don't forget...

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# The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

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BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

**QPR boss Harry Redknapp's withering assessment of Adel Taarabt's fitness drew an equally caustic response from the Moroccan maverick.**

Redknapp responded to questions about Taarabt's absence by saying he "wouldn't train", "couldn't run" and was "about three stone overweight".

Taarabt retaliated by baring his gut to the Daily Mail. "It's not true to say I'm not fit," said the midfielder, who spent last season on loan at AC Milan.

"He tried to give an excuse. The training sessions aren't the same standard as Milan, or what I would expect under another manager. They are not as intense, the players aren't as motivated."

Now, now boys. Come on. I mean, it's not like carrying a bit of timber ever did this lot any harm.

**NEIL RUDDOCK**

Portly when he was a player, the former defender now looks like a less healthy version of Rab C Nesbitt. Mind you, when you consider Swindon had to get a pair of

gigantic shorts custom made (the XXL was too small) in order for Ruddock to make his debut in 2000, that's probably no surprise. Still, it didn't stop the big lad making over 300 Premier League appearances for the likes of Spurs, Liverpool and West Ham. Just imagine if he'd been four stone lighter.

**WILLIAM 'FATTY' FOULKES**

At 6ft 6ins and 24 stone, Foulkes was a goalkeeper so gigantic he didn't even need to dive. Which is a good job, because the result would probably have topped the Richter Scale.

A star for Sheffield United at the turn of the 20th century, Foulkes would arrive early for breakfast and devour the lot, leaving his team-mates to go hungry. He also had a fearsome temper and was once claimed to have picked up an opponent and dangled him by his feet.

He was, though, quick on his feet and a penalty expert who made 355 appearances for United, Bradford and Chelsea – and even won a cap for England.

**JAN MOLBY**

Arguably the greatest fat player of all time. When Molby arrived at Anfield from Denmark in 1984, he was shocked by the lack of preparation, the junk food and pre-match pints. But instead of introducing his fancy continental ways, the midfielder adopted a Scouse accent and joined right in.

By the late eighties he was a beast who never left the centre circle, but did he need to? Hardly. His passing was immaculate, his shot as straight and vicious as a cannonball. He could spot a run, make a tackle. Only when injuries began to bite did Molby decline – and even then Barcelona made a bid.

**RONALDO**

The crown prince of fat footballers, Ronaldo somehow managed to look like an inflated chipmunk yet still move like a greased rat.

Even at his unstoppable, goal-laden peak, the Brazilian strained the scales – reportedly the result of a thyroid condition that was only diagnosed long after his retirement. In 2012 he appeared on a Brazilian celebrity slimming show and shed several stone – but is now looking rather rotund again.



Neil 'Razor' Ruddock pictured in his Swindon days



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# league look



## LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

Tuesday night's sixth successive victory in League 2 propelled the Hatters into the automatic promotion places in the division for the first time this season.

The 3-1 win over Dagenham & Redbridge, coupled with Bury's 5-0 defeat at Shrewsbury, saw the Town leapfrog the Shakers into third place.

The Hatters now lie just one point off top spot after leaders Wycombe were beaten 2-1 at Exeter, which was just the Chairboys' second defeat of the campaign – not bad for a club that survived relegation on the final day of last season.

Burton lie in second place, level on points with Wycombe – but with an inferior goal difference – after they came out on top in a seven-goal thriller at Carlisle.

Bury dropped to fourth place as a result of their collapse at Shrewsbury, who's Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro scored a hat-trick. The Shrews' victory, allied with draws for Plymouth – at Wimbledon – and Morecambe – against York – meant Micky Mellon's side now lie fifth.

Newport won for the third match running with a 1-0 victory at home to Southend, whilst Cheltenham recorded back-to-back wins for the first time in over a month following their win away at Cambridge.

Today's visitors Northampton could not hold onto an early lead given to them by Enda Stevens as they lost 3-1 at home to Oxford at Sixfields. It was the Cobblers' third successive defeat but Chris Wilder's side still remain just five points off the Play-Offs.

At the other end of the table, Tranmere remain at the foot of League 2 but earned their first point under new manager Micky Adams in a goalless draw at home to Mansfield.

Hartlepool dropped into the bottom

two after losing 3-1 at Accrington – a game watched by just 947 fans at the Crown Ground. Stanley continue to improve and are now four points from the top seven.

Elsewhere, Portsmouth saw off Stevenage 3-2 at Fratton Park in a game that saw the lead swing one way and the next before a crowd of 13,281.

In games this afternoon, leaders Wycombe host Dagenham, Burton travel to Stevenage and Bury make the trip to face Southend. Tranmere aim to pull themselves off the foot of the table when they visit AFC Wimbledon.



The Town have won six successive matches in the Football League for the first time since winning League 1 in 2004/05

## LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

AFC Wimbledon v Tranmere  
Cambridge v Hartlepool  
Carlisle v Oxford  
Newport v Accrington  
Plymouth v Cheltenham  
Shrewsbury v Portsmouth  
Southend v Bury  
Stevenage v Burton  
Wycombe v Dagenham  
York v Mansfield  
Morecambe v Exeter (Tomorrow)

## TOP GOALSCORERS

<b>Cullen (Luton)</b>	<b>8</b>
Hylton (Oxford)	8
Richards (Northampton)	8
Tubbs (AFC Wimbledon)	8
Akinfenwa (AFC Wimbledon)	6
Ellison (Morecambe)	6
Hayes (Wycombe)	6
Rose (Bury)	6
Appiah (Cambridge)	5



## Fixtures & Results

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	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	

## SEPTMBER

<b>TV</b>	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	<b>WILKINSON</b>	Smith	Drayton

## OCTOBER

[illegible]

## 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	Accrington Stanley

## 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

## MAY

Sat 2 3.00pm H Stevenage

SUBS											
Drury ♦	Howells ♦	CULLEN 1	Benson	Franks	Wall	Rooney ♦	Ruddock	Guttridge	Stevenson ♦	Justham	
Drury	ROONEY 1	Cullen ♦	Benson ♦	Lacey	Wall	Howells	Ruddock ▲	Guttridge ♦	Lafayette ♦	Justham	
Guttridge ♦	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall ♦	Williams	Ruddock ♦	Stevenson ▲	Lafayette	Justham	
Guttridge ♦	Rooney	Cullen	Benson ▲	Lacey	Wall	Howells ♦	RUDDOCK 1 ♦	Stevenson	Lafayette ▲	Justham	
Drury	ROONEY 1	Cullen ♦	Benson	Franks	Wall ♦	Guttridge ♦	Ruddock	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham	
Guttridge ▲	Rooney ♦	Cullen ♦	Benson	Lacey ♦	Wall	Williams	Ruddock ▲	Miller	Lafayette ♦	Justham	
Guttridge	Howells ♦	Rooney	Cullen ♦	Smith	Lawless ♦	Wall	Lafayette ♦	Stevenson ▲	Wilkinson	Justham	
Ruddock	Guttridge ▲	CULLEN 1	Lafayette	Drury ♦	Wall	Howells ▲	Rooney	Stevenson ♦	Walker	Justham	
Drury	Guttridge	Howells ♦	Cullen ▲	Wall	Rooney ♦	Lafayette ▲	Whalley	Stevenson ♦	Connolly	Justham	
Stevenson	Guttridge ▲	CULLEN 1	Wall ♦	Drury ♦	Lafayette ♦	Whalley	Robinson ▲	Doyle	Walker	Justham	
Ruddock	Whalley ♦	HOWELLS 1	Cullen	Drury ♦	Lafayette ♦	Stevenson ♦	Robinson	Guttridge	Walker	Justham	
Ruddock	Drury	Cullen ▲	Benson ♦	Howells	WALL 1 ▲	Stevenson ♦	Robinson	Guttridge	Walker ♦	Justham	
Guttridge	Howells	Wall ▲	Benson	Robinson ▲	Walker ▲	Stevenson	Lawless ♦	Tyler			
Drury	Ruddock	LAWLESS 1	CULLEN 1	Lacey ♦	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker	Justham	
Drury	Ruddock ♦	Miller ▲	CULLEN 1 ♦	Lacey	Benson ♦	Wall	Guttridge ▲	STEVENSON 1 ♦	Walker	Justham	
Drury	Ruddock	Miller ♦	CULLEN 3 ♦	Lacey	Benson ♦	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker ♦	Justham	

## LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

		P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
1	Wycombe Wanderers	14	8	4	2	20	10	28	10
2	Burton Albion	14	9	1	4	20	18	28	2
3	LUTON TOWN	14	8	3	3	17	10	27	7
4	Bury	14	8	2	4	23	16	26	7
5	Shrewsbury Town	14	7	3	4	21	10	24	11
6	Plymouth Argyle	14	7	2	5	14	8	23	6
7	Morecambe	14	7	2	5	17	13	23	4
8	Newport County AFC	14	6	4	4	17	13	22	4
9	Cheltenham Town	14	6	4	4	15	14	22	1
10	Southend United	14	6	3	5	13	12	21	1
11	Portsmouth	14	5	5	4	14	14	20	0
12	AFC Wimbledon	14	5	4	5	20	21	19	-1
13	Exeter City	14	5	4	5	16	18	19	-2
14	Accrington Stanley	14	6	1	7	21	25	19	-4
15	Cambridge United	14	5	3	6	24	17	18	7
16	Northampton Town	14	5	3	6	23	22	18	1
17	Mansfield Town	14	5	3	6	12	16	18	-4
18	Stevenage	14	5	2	7	18	22	17	-4
19	Oxford United	14	4	4	6	16	19	16	-3
20	Dagenham & Redbridge	14	4	2	8	17	24	14	-7
21	Carlisle United	14	3	3	8	18	26	12	-8
22	York City	14	1	8	5	12	19	11	-7
23	Hartlepool United	14	3	2	9	9	23	11	-14
24	Tranmere Rovers	14	2	4	8	11	18	10	-7

## PLAYER STATS 2014/15

	LEAGUE		THIS SEASON CUP				TOTAL		DISCIP		LFC CAREER TOTAL	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS		
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	0	6	0	
Paul Benson	6	(2)	0	2	(0)	8	(2)	0	2	0	48	18
Paul Connolly	4	(0)	1	(0)	1	5	(0)	0	3	0	5	0
Mark Cullen	14	(8)	1	(0)	0	15	(0)	8	0	0	51	18
Nathan Doyle	5	(0)	1	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	1	0	6	0
Andy Drury	10	(3)	0	1	(0)	11	(3)	0	1	0	40	8
Fraser Franks	2	(0)	0	1	(0)	3	(0)	0	1	0	20	0
Scott Griffiths	12	(0)	0	2	(0)	14	(0)	0	1	0	66	1
Luke Guttridge	7	(2)	0	1	(1)	8	(3)	0	1	0	44	13
Michael Harriman	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	3	(0)	0	0	0	3	0
Joe Howells	7	(2)	1	(0)	8	(2)	2	0	0	0	286	28
Elliot Jusham	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	1	(0)	0	0	0	8	0
Alex Lacey	8	(2)	0	1	(0)	9	(2)	0	0	0	42	1
Ross Lafayette	1	(6)	0	(1)	0	1	(7)	0	1	0	8	0
Alex Lawless	1	(1)	0	(1)	0	1	(2)	0	0	0	159	19
Steve McNulty	13	(0)	0	2	(0)	15	(0)	0	1	0	83	2
Ricky Miller	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Andrew Parry	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	0	26	4
Ian Rees	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	0	4	0
Matt Robinson	5	(1)	0	1	(1)	6	(2)	0	0	1	53	3
Luke Rooney	4	(2)	1	(0)	1	5	(2)	2	1	1	13	2
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	9	(3)	0	1	(1)	9	(4)	1	1	0	37	3
Charlie Smith	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	0	3	0
Jonathan Smith	7	(0)	1	(0)	0	8	(0)	0	2	0	68	3
Jim Stevenson	2	(8)	1	0	(0)	2	(8)	1	1	0	16	1
Mark Tyler	14	(0)	0	1	(0)	15	(0)	0	1	0	245	0
Charlie Walker	0	(2)	0	0	(1)	0	(3)	0	0	0	3	0
Alex Wall	1	(3)	1	1	(0)	2	(3)	1	3	0	32	7
Shaun Whalley	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	0	0	23	2
Luke Wilkinson	13	(0)	2	2	(0)	15	(0)	2	1	0	15	2
Curtley Williams	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	3	(0)	0	0	0	3	0

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# HOLD THE Back Page

WITH DIVERSE FM COMMENTATOR SIMON PITTS

When I was asked to write this article I wasn't too sure where to start, but courtesy of the Town's, and now the League's joint, leading scorer the article has almost written itself.

Mark Cullen made his 50th appearance for Luton, in his native North-East, on Saturday and netted his 15th goal for the Hatters. Fast forward to Tuesday night and he netted the first hat-trick of his career and the first Football League treble for Luton at Kenilworth Road since Enoch Showunmi against Brentford in February 2004.

In his post-match interview, for Diverse FM, manager John Still asked about Cullen's actual goals-per-minute ratio and I'm happy to answer this for him now.

Last season Mark netted eight goals in 1,218 minutes (not including injury time) of Conference football meaning a goal every 152 minutes. For the record leading scorer Andre Gray score every 115 minutes per Conference goal (30 goals in 3,463 minutes), whilst the best figures came from Alex Wall, with his three goals coming across 248 minutes working out at 83 minutes per goal in the Conference.

This season Cullen has netted his eight goals in 1,159 minutes of League action, which is a goal every 145 minutes. It should also be noted that he has now played just 59 minutes less than the whole of the Conference campaign last season.

A statistic that Luton News' Mike Simmonds commented on in his piece in Tuesday's programme was that Luton have won every game that Cullen has scored in, with the exception of Cambridge away last season, although to be



honest that late equaliser was celebrated as though it had been a winner! That incredible run is now 13 wins and a draw, starting with the home match against Lincoln on 21st September 2013.

Whilst I've chosen to focus on Mark Cullen in this piece it is of course a team game, and all the other players that have featured deserve the accolades too for the current winning run that Luton are on. For those wondering the last time the Hatters won six consecutive League matches was towards the end of 2004/05, a campaign that saw Luton crowned Champions of League 1.

Strikers always say they don't mind if they haven't scored as long as the team wins the match, however it seems only fitting to end this piece with Mike's last words from Tuesday's programme, as it certainly seemed to do the trick that night, so here's to another goal from Town's leading marksmen...



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# THE SQUADS



## LUTON TOWN

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Mark Tyler            | 19 Ricky Miller     |
| 2 Fraser Franks         | 20 Shaun Whalley    |
| 3 Danny Fitzsimons      | 21 Luke Guttridge   |
| 4 Jonathan Smith        | 22 Michael Harriman |
| 5 Stephen McNulty       | 23 Matthew Robinson |
| 6 Alex Lacey            | 24 Curtley Williams |
| 7 Alex Lawless          | 26 Nathan Doyle     |
| 8 Andy Drury            | 28 Jim Stevenson    |
| 9 Paul Benson           | 29 Paul Connolly    |
| 10 Alex Wall            | 30 Luke Wilkinson   |
| 11 Jake Howells         | 32 Brett Longden    |
| 12 Scott Griffiths      | 33 Mark Onyemah     |
| 13 Mark Cullen          | 34 Zane Banton      |
| 14 Andy Parry           | 35 Charlie Walker   |
| 15 Luke Rooney          | 36 Charlie Smith    |
| 16 Elliot Justham       | 37 Kynan Isaac      |
| 17 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu | 39 Ian Rees         |
| 18 Ross Lafayette       |                     |



## NORTHAMPTON TOWN

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Matt Duke         | 16 Zander Diamond   |
| 2 Daniel Alfei      | 17 Gregor Robertson |
| 3 Evan Horwood      | 18 Ricky Ravenhill  |
| 4 Darren Carter     | 19 Lawson D'Ath     |
| 5 Kelvin Langmead   | 20 David Moyo       |
| 6 Lee Collins       | 21 Jordan Archer    |
| 7 Emile Sinclair    | 22 Connor Roberts   |
| 8 Ian Morris        | 23 Kaid Mohamed     |
| 9 Marc Richards     | 24 Ivan Toney       |
| 10 John-Joe O'Toole | 25 Joel Byrom       |
| 11 Chris Hackett    | 26 Ryan Watson      |
| 12 Ben Tozer        | 27 Kashif Siddiqi   |
| 13 Dean Snedker     | 30 Enda Stevens     |
| 15 Lewis Hornby     | 36 Ryan Cresswell   |

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Darren Sheldrake



Paul Thompson



Timothy Wood



Robert Hyde

## NEXT UP

v TRANMERE ROVERS • SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2014 • 3pm  
SKY BET LEAGUE 2

