

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 17 • £3

# TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v  
PORTSMOUTH

SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER 2014

KICK-OFF 3PM

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**Wishing all supporters a Merry Christmas!**



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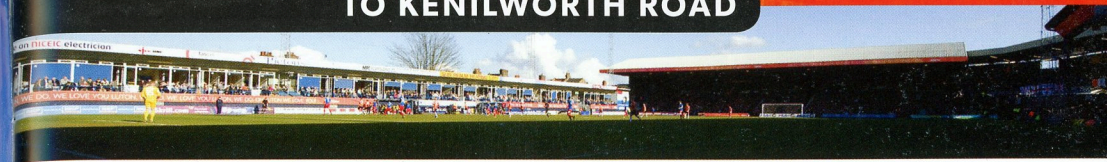
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# welcome

## TO KENILWORTH ROAD



**“** Merry Christmas! Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what is our final match of 2014!

They say time flies when you're having fun, and what a year it has been for us all over the past 12 months. Across this final issue of Talk of the Town of 2014, we take a look-back at the last year and ahead to the next 12 months at Kenilworth Road.

We've also got the best of the action from our home match against Newport County, as well as two exclusive interviews with players with links to both clubs.

As part of our academy alumni we talk to former Town youth team graduate Matthew Taylor on his rise to the Premier League with Portsmouth, and striker Paul Benson who continues his recovery from a broken leg.

There's plenty more to keep you occupied inside the final Talk of the Town of 2014, and remember if you ever want anything to appear – a birthday, a column, or a shout-out – please do get in touch.

All we've left to say is enjoy the rest of your festive time off, enjoy New Year's Eve and here's to a wonderful 2015! **”**

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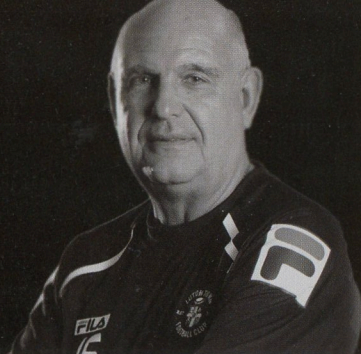
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The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.



# JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this League 2 encounter against Portsmouth – I hope you are all enjoying your Christmas so far.

I'd like to welcome everyone associated with Pompey to Bedfordshire today, in particular manager Andy Awford and his management team and players, plus the directors and supporters of our visitors.

Looking back at our last home game against a strong Newport side, I have to say how delighted I was with our performance.

I thought our game had everything. At times we needed to compete, and we did. I felt at times we needed to dig in, and we did. And then there were times when we needed to move the ball quickly and create opportunities – and we certainly did that, which was a very pleasing aspect.

## Brilliant

To come up with three goals was also brilliant. Well done to everyone involved. I was particularly pleased with the team ethic we showed, as well as a thoroughly strong mental toughness.

Without making too finer point about it, when I look at who was unavailable for that game, it is a huge testament to those who were involved to record such an excellent result.

Talking of the injury front, Alex Lawless is closer to training and Paul Benson is probably a couple of weeks away, as is Luke Guttridge – although we have to review that on a daily basis. Pelly Ruddock is also not that far away and he has resumed training now, but we are not going to rush him back. With those players making strides in their recoveries from injuries we can take a lot of positives going into the New Year.

When I talk about the turn of the year it is always a good opportunity to look back on the last 12 months.

**“AS IT STANDS WE ARE THE THIRD-BEST TEAM IN LEAGUE 2. I REALLY THINK THAT IS A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT AND EVERYONE BOTH ON AND OFF THE PITCH DESERVES A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF CREDIT.”**

I don't think I could have wrote 2014 any better than the way it has turned out. It has been a fantastic year, both for individuals and collectively as a club. As I've said before, anyone can win a cup, but the best teams win leagues and I think we showed everyone last season that we were the best team in the Conference. I am writing these notes before the Wycombe game, so as it stands we are the third-best team in League 2. I really think that is a wonderful achievement and everyone both on and off the pitch deserves a tremendous amount of credit. I bang on about team ethic. Why? Because it is important. The stronger the team, the stronger the team.

## STILL DELIGHTED

Looking back I am proud of the contributions of those involved in getting us from where we were to where we are now. That's players, staff, directors and supporters. Thank you so much to you all for helping this club make the progress that it has.

As I've mentioned I don't know the result of the Wycombe game so I can't comment on that fixture, but looking forward to the second half of the season I know that there are no surprises out there for us.

## Superb

We know, from the games that we have played already, that all the matches will be tough. But we know that we are made of strong stuff. We've had some superb results this season but also had our fair share of disappointments. That will still be the case between now and the end of the season and it's important that we continue to show that togetherness in the face of both triumph and adversity.

Today's game, however, is just as important as any other, and your support is really going to be vital. It's a sell-out for a match between two teams who will be out to do as much as they can in the quest for success this season. The atmosphere is going to be very special so please get behind your team.

As this is the final game of 2014, I'd like to wish you all a very happy New Year. Here's hoping today's result and in the games between now and the end of the season we can turn that into a happy, happy, happy New Year.

*John Still*





# BOARDROOM

WITH VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON



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

Special greetings go out to our visitors this afternoon, the players, officials and supporters from the South Coast. We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas.

In Pompey's history they have won the League twice and the FA Cup twice – the last time being 2008. They were in the UEFA Cup in 2008/09, but then suffered two administrations and three relegations, which culminated in the Pompey Supporters Trust taking ownership in April 2013.

Their problems were created, like ours, from previous owners spending more than they could afford to repay. They are the largest fans-owned club, although, of course, the definition is a bit tricky. We are a fans owned club, but not Trust owned.

Over the years we have played each other 41 times, winning 19, drawing 12 and losing 10. Our last game

was at Fratton Park on 16th December 1996 where we lost 4-0.

It is great to see the Kenny sold-out once again for what should be a fascinating and stirring encounter this afternoon.

As these are the last notes for the last game in 2014, it is perhaps worth reminding ourselves where we have come from over the last 12 months and what a year it has been! We reached the top just before the turn of the year and stayed there for the rest of the campaign. We finished up with a record 101 points, 19 clear of Cambridge in second place. We also kept a club record 23 clean sheets and conceded just 35 goals also a club record.

We had the league's top scorer in Andre Gray with 30 goals, and we are delighted with his success at Brentford, which reflects so well on our club.

None of us who were there will ever forget Smudger's horrible injury at Barnet on Boxing Day a year ago, but isn't it a fantastic example to everyone how he has fought back and is now playing so well? That should also be a major encouragement to Paul Benson, Luke Guttridge and Luke Trotman, who have suffered a similar fate and who we wish a speedy recovery in the new year.

In the past year we have seen a number of players come and go and we wish all those no longer with us all the best with their new clubs and future careers. We have said goodbye to Andre Gray, Kane Ferdinand, Jermade Meade, Joe Davis, Alfie Mawson, Ryan Inniss, Cameron McGeehan, Scott Rendell, JJ O'Donnell, Lathaniel Rowe-Turner, Andy Mangan, Jon Shaw, Anthony Charles, David Viana, Jake Wooley and Jerome Jibidu; and welcomed Andy Drury, Nathan Doyle, Fraser Franks, Pelly Ruddock, Curtley Williams, Paul Benson, Paul Connolly, Luke Wilkinson, Ross Lafayette, Ricky Miller and Charlie Walker. Hope I haven't missed anyone if I have let me know.

We have seen many players leave us over the years, but we hope they know that they are always welcome.

At our annual Christmas Dinner last week we welcomed the promotion winning team of 1974.

The evening was, as always, passionately and professionally hosted by Nick Owen and it was great seeing heroes of mine from those days back at the Club. It's also nice to hear them say such nice things about the time they spent here, and clearly Harry Haslam was a manager they enjoyed working with. There were a lot of highlights, but for me the apology to and applause for Jimmy Ryan, who was so badly treated by the Club back in 1991, was the best. The evening concluded with a successful auction the star lot being Mark Tyler's match-worn poppy shirt with the proceeds going to the Royal British Legion.

As I write this on a Sunday night before Christmas, with a sore hamstring (rushing for a train to Morecambe), and my third cold in six weeks, we are third in the table having played 21 games and earned 40 points, which is not far off where we were last year. Like last season we had a slow start, but were getting a run going before Morecambe happened. Weird, inexplicable – perhaps it was having to share our Eric for the day that put us off our stride.

## Dreaming

Can we do it again this year? There is no reason why not. We had so many disappointments trying to get out of the Conference that I still have to pinch myself to make sure I'm not dreaming.

Having said all that what is my abiding memory of the last year?

The answer is you, all of you. You have turned out in amazing numbers home and away. You have made all our celebrations memorable whether at Welling or Hyde or at our Town Hall. We are proud of you. You are an inspiration to us all and as John says in different words "It's all for one and one for all".

Christmas is the time for family and we are a family. It's a bit like having a giant huddle all around the stadium.

From us all on the Board, have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015. This could be yet another exciting year in many ways – together we can make it happen.

Enjoy the game

Come on you Hatters

*DWI*



## 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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# MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



I'd like to begin these notes by wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The past 12 months has been a wonderful experience for all of us in the dressing room and it only seems right by beginning this column by paying tribute to the fantastic support you have given us home and away throughout 2014.

As the gaffer always says, it's a team game and that's not just from the players' perspective. On the terraces and behind the scenes it has been a terrific effort from everyone. Not just the vocal support but the messages of goodwill we receive from people every day of the week.

A lot of hard work has gone into where we are in the table today and I don't think there's any doubt we could have done that without you over the past 12 months. There have been countless times when you have spurred us on and encouraged the team forward. Thinking about it, there are too many matches to mention individually.

#### Reflect

I'm sitting down writing these notes before the Wycombe game, so I can only reflect on our last home match which was against Newport here on the 20th. That was a fine example of a great team effort.

We scored three goals and kept a clean sheet and that was achieved by everyone doing their jobs and doing them well. Our previous league match before that game was at Morecambe and we were all delighted to have banished that away day nightmare with three points against Newport. They were a tough side, as we had already found out when we played them in the cup, and had been on a long unbeaten run. However, we made it look comfortable in the end and that is a huge plus.

**"THERE HAVE BEEN COUNTLESS TIMES WHEN YOU HAVE SPURRED US ON AND ENCOURAGED THE TEAM FORWARD."**

This afternoon we aim to make it nine successive home wins in League 2. It's a record we're extremely proud of and one we are going to do all we can to maintain. And what a match it is as well. I think every club in this league looks forward to hosting Portsmouth and we are no different. It promises to be a fantastic occasion and a complete sell-out means the atmosphere is going to be very special indeed.

Portsmouth are a big club and have some tremendous players. They are one of the favourites for promotion and although they lie in mid-table they will be gunning to improve that position between now and the end of the season. Like ourselves they will want to end 2014 on a high going into the New Year but we will be ready. We will have prepared meticulously for this game,

like we do ahead of all matches. I can tell you we worked even harder in training in the wake of the Morecambe result and I'm delighted with the reaction that saw us win twice and keep two clean sheets in the process. That has been one of the biggest things for me this past year – our ability to bounce back from disappointments. There haven't been too many of them, but when there have been, we've really done well to quickly forget about them and move on.

Although these notes were written before the Wycombe game I know that our allocation of over 2,500 was sold out, so a big thank you to those who made the short trip. Your support away from home has been nothing short of incredible so, once again, thank you.

2014 was a brilliant year for us. Let's hope we end it on a high, and here's to another successful 12 months. Enjoy the game.



# Hatters help the Luton Foodbank

Research shows that nearly 10 per cent of the population of Luton do not have the ability to feed themselves adequately, with as many as one in four children facing poverty.

In response to this shocking statistic, Luton Foodbank was set up and officially launched in 2013, providing emergency food supplies for people in crisis in the Borough.

Following on from meetings with Salma Khan, Project Coordinator at Luton Foodbank, the Club have pledged to support their work and from December 2014, many staff and players will be making a contribution from their salaries to help this important cause.

"The winter season is a very challenging time for the vulnerable in our community. The support from Luton Town FC is overwhelming, the kind donations from staff will go a long way in making difficult times a little easier to deal with for the most vulnerable.

The club is a community hub for many around the Town, we are delighted to have their support and look forward to working more closely with the club in the coming year," she said.

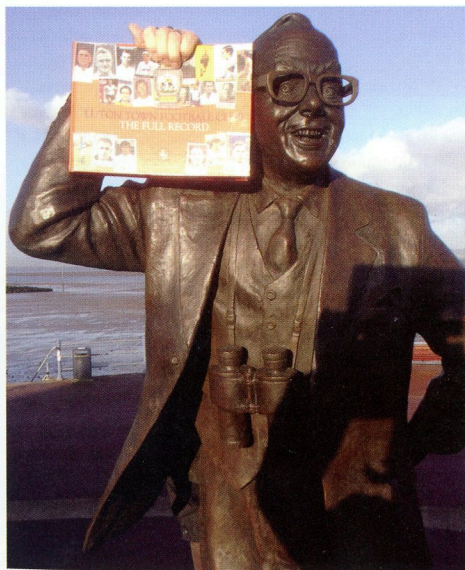
Hatters' Chief Executive Gary Sweet explained: "Luton Town Football Club is one of the most widely recognised organisations in the Town, with big audiences at the ground and online each week. It's just like with our announcement about the Living Wage last week - we understand that we have a responsibility within the local community, so if we can do something to help the vitally important work of Luton Foodbank, then of course we'll do what we can."

The Club have encouraged all staff to make a donation from their wages each month, and the take-up has been excellent.

"We're hoping that by taking this action, we might encourage supporters, and others in the community to support this worthwhile cause as well," he added.

Find out how you can help Luton Foodbank by visiting <http://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/news>

## ERIC HAS HIS WHAT ABOUT YOU?



**LUTON TOWN. THE FULL RECORD IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CLUB SHOPS**

## Ovendale Memorial Trophy raises over £2k

Members of the internet forum Hatters Talk helped raise over £2,000 for charity - half of which benefits SOLYD - after their charity match, for the Mark Ovendale Memorial Trophy earlier this month.



Former Hatters striker Enoch Showumni guest-starred for the Hatters Talk team, and scored the winning goal in their 1-0 win over a Macmillan Cancer Support side.

A number of special items donated from current and former Town players were also auctioned raising further funds. The event was set-up to celebrate the life of former Hatters goalkeeper Mark Ovendale, who died of cancer aged 37 in 2011.

A massive well done to everyone involved at Hatters Talk for raising awareness of the match and for the subsequent total raised for charity.

# Poppy shirt auction raises over £5k

To mark Remembrance Day, the Hatters wore special commemorative shirts featuring the poppy emblem during their 4-2 win at home over Newport County in the FA Cup.

After the game, all of the special one-off shirts were handed in by the team. Skipper Steve McNulty's shirt was then signed by all of the players, and put up as the prize lot for our silent auction. All profits go to the Royal British Legion who provide practical, emotional and financial support to all members of the British Armed Forces past and present, and their families.

We were overwhelmed with the response to the auction, which received more than 100 bids from Hatters fans far and wide, raising just over £5,330 in total. The winner of the team-signed shirt was Jon Hanifan, who was presented with the shirt by the skipper at our game against Mansfield at the end of November. The remainder of the match-worn team shirts were then won as runners up prizes by the next highest bidders.



Michael Lewis Community Fundraiser, Royal British Legion, said: "Being an ex-soldier from 2 Para and injured in Afghanistan, it is amazing to see the amount of money that was raised by Luton Town Football Club's auction of the poppy shirts. The Royal British Legion have helped me through my recovery and getting me where I am today and I can honestly say the money really does help the wounded, injured and sick members of our Armed Forces. I'd like to say a personal thank you to everyone that made a bid on the shirts."

At our last home match, as our picture shows, Michael was presented with the cheque for £5,330. A huge thank you to those supporters who bid.

# MEET THE NEW BOYS

Over the past month we have been thrilled to welcome two new members of staff to Kenilworth Road.

Ed Smith has joined the club as marketing and communications manager, while John Miller has become the Town's first ever supporter liaison officer.

Ed, a proud Lutonian and life-long Hatters fan, will lead the marketing and communications team with a broad remit to help develop the communications strategy. He will be working closely with colleagues across the club to bring a more consistent approach and to widen the scope of the Club's marketing activities. He will also be helping to establish a more professional approach in this area among the Club's partner organisations, such as the Community Trust and Trust in Luton.

Chief Executive Gary Sweet said: "Ed's experience in setting up and managing marketing and communications departments makes him a key addition to the behind-the-scenes team here at Luton. Ed's got a great understanding of Luton Town FC and the local area, so he's well placed to come in and help us develop our Marcomms strategy at this exciting time for the club."

Outside of football, Ed is a keen guitarist and songwriter. His all-time favourite Luton player is Mick Harford.

John's role, meanwhile, forms part of the drive to further develop partnerships between the Club, its supporters and the wider community.

Although John will be working closely with everyone at Luton Town, his role is an entirely independent bridge between the Club and its supporters.

John's experience of following the Town over a period of over 25 years, both home and away, as well as many years running his own business made him an excellent candidate for the role.

Chief Executive Gary Sweet said: "At a time when clubs further up the Football League triangle are putting more and more distance between themselves and their fans, we're committed to building ever closer relationships with our loyal fan base and the community at large. The appointment of John as Supporter Liaison Officer is a further demonstration of our commitment to this process, and we welcome him to the club."

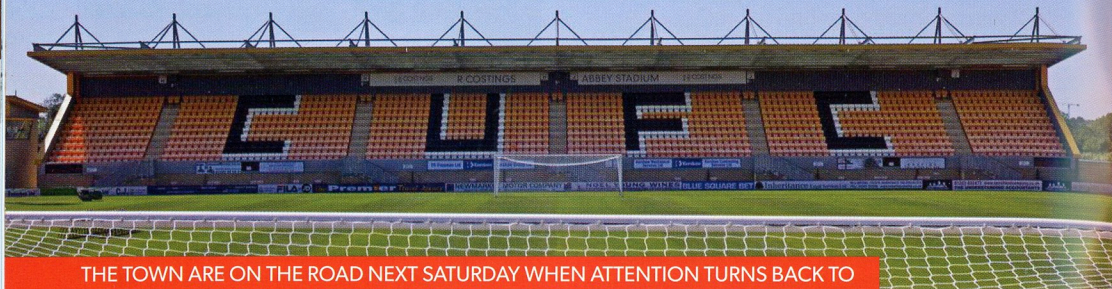
"Ultimately, John's responsibilities will be to ensure that supporters' views are represented from within the organisation and to drive certain initiatives forward that will benefit supporters, in general."

"Now we're back in the league, there's no shortage of valuable insight we can gain from our supporters. Whether it's on the subject of relocation, public transport, Junior Hatters or loyalty schemes, we're serious about showing our fans that their opinions matter, and can make a difference to the future of this fantastic club."

If you have any questions, feedback or idea you can contact him at [john.miller@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:john.miller@lutontown.co.uk) or on 07754 007382.



# let's go



THE TOWN ARE ON THE ROAD NEXT SATURDAY WHEN ATTENTION TURNS BACK TO THE FA CUP - AND THE MATTER OF A SHORT LITTLE TRIP TO CAMBRIDGE UNITED

## CAMBRIDGE UNITED



**WHO?** Cambridge United, aka The U's, from Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England. We know plenty about United having constantly watched their results each week as they battled with the Town for the Conference title. A Play-Off final win over Gateshead at

Wembley saw the U's join the Hatters back in the Football League and, so far this term, Richard Money's men have performed well back in the League, currently residing in mid-table.

**UP FOR THE CUP.** Next Saturday's game will be the Town's first at the third round stage in two years – the season the Hatters went all the way to the fifth round. The Town and Cambridge have only met twice before in the competition, the most recent at the Abbey Stadium in the fourth qualifying round in 2012 when goals from Andre Gray and Jon Shaw secured a 2-1 win. However the club's first ever meeting took place in the same stage of the FA Cup way back in 1910. The Town won that tie 9-1. Next weekend's tie is the only one which guarantees a League 2 side in the fourth round.

**WHERE?** The Abbey Stadium – Cambridge's home since 1932 – is under an hour's journey from Luton and approximately a 40-mile trip along the A505. Town fans have the choice to sit or stand for this all-ticket game.

**HOW TO GET THERE.** Cambridge is a damn nice city, so why not take time before or after to explore what the streets have to offer? Then again, you could just take it easy, put your feet up and let a coach driver take you there. The Bobbers leave at midday from the Luton Town train station and the fares is £17 for adults and £15 for concessions.

**TICKETS PLEASE!** Those familiar with the Abbey Stadium set-up will know that the Hatters faithful will be allocated seats in the South Stand, that offers an obstructed, raised view of the action behind the goal. Remember this tie is all-ticket with no tickets available on the day at Cambridge.

**HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?** Oh yes, definitely. There were no less than four meetings last season with the two clubs also meeting in the FA Trophy. Although the Town finished 19 points clear of United, the Hatters didn't win any of those four matches. The Town were 1-0 victors in the League 2 meeting back in September (their first in league competition since the 4-3 triumph in 2009). And like last season's last-minute equaliser, it was striker Mark Cullen who was the Town hero with the winner.

**OLD BOYS NETWORK.** Plenty of players have appeared for both the Town and Cambridge down the years (almost too many to remember), but two familiar faces occupy the Cambridge dugout. Manager Richard Money and coach Alan Neilson both spent time playing and managing the Town. United also have former Hatter Greg Taylor in their ranks, whilst the Town's Luke Guttridge spent five years at the Abbey Stadium.

**ON THE DAY.** The Town have played 14 previous matches on 3rd January and haven't lost one since a 1-0 home defeat to Birmingham in 1959. Since that loss the Town have won six and drawn one, including three FA Cup third round ties. In 1976 the Hatters beat Blackburn 2-0 at Kenilworth Road while in 1981 two David Moss goals helped the Town to a 3-1 win at Orient. The Hatters' most recent FA Cup tie on 3rd January was a 2-1 win at Bradford City in 2004, where two goals from Adrian Forbes sent the Town through to round four.

# tickets please



## CAMBRIDGE UNITED v LUTON TOWN

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY 3rd JANUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

We have been given a full allocation of 1,433 unreserved seats in the South Stand behind the goal for this all ticket fixture. No terrace tickets will be available for this match. Seat prices: £19 adults, £13 over-62s, students and 17-21-year-olds, £9 16 and under. Sales plan: Tickets are now on sale to all season ticket holders until the close of business on Sunday 28th December at one per season ticket holder.

Any remaining tickets will go on general sale online at 7pm tonight, and in addition via the phone and in person from Monday 29th December – until 3pm on Friday 2nd January.

Away season ticket holders will need to advise the ticket office if they do not wish to attend this game, tickets will be sent out on Tuesday 23rd December.



## LUTON TOWN v SHREWSBURY TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Please note the change in date and time of this match. This game will be screened live on Sky Sports.

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.



## PLYMOUTH ARGYLE v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 17th JANUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

We have been initially allocated 1,116 standard seating tickets and 112 Family tickets for this fixture these are allocated in the Barn Park Stand.

Prices for standard tickets: £20 adults, £15 over-65s and students, £7 under-18s.

Tickets are now on sale to diamond season ticket holders at two per person until close of business today.

Tickets will be available to season ticket holders at two per person from 28th December online at 7pm and in addition via the phone and in person on Monday 29th December at two per person until close of business on Wednesday 7th January.

Tickets will go on general sale from 8th January until 3pm on 16th January.



## CHELTEMHAM TOWN v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 24th JANUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

We are yet to receive ticket information for this match.



## LUTON TOWN v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 2015, 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.





# SPEAKING Commercially

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Good afternoon, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our corporate guests and sponsors who are present for this sell-out fixture against Portsmouth.

This game has been the most eagerly-anticipated of the season with sponsorship, boxes and mascot packages sold well in advance. Remember we have hospitality packages available for many games between now and the end of the season – please do get in touch as soon as you can because the space will soon go!

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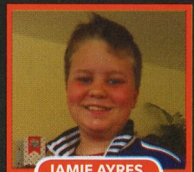
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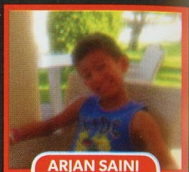
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## TODAY'S MASCOTS



JAMIE AYRES  
AGE 10



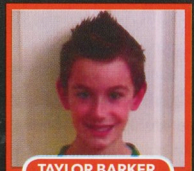
ARJAN SAINI  
AGE 7



JAKE EDMONDSON  
AGE 11 TODAY!



JESSICA SAINI  
AGE 5



TAYLOR BARKER  
AGE 7

**FAVOURITE PLAYERS**  
 Jamie: Scott Griffiths  
 Jake: Luke Guttridge  
 Taylor: Stephen McNulty  
 Arjan: Scott Griffiths  
 Jessica: Alex Lawless  
 Taylor: Stephen McNulty  
 Madison: Fraser Franks



TAYLOR BORINO AGE 10, MADISON BORINO AGE 8



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A: Whosh  
G: Elliot Prentice



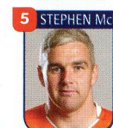
H: Emma Banks  
A: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin



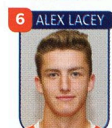
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A: Available



H: Holly Kemp  
A: SoLYD Gold Hatters



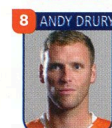
H: Simon Cowland  
A: Whosh



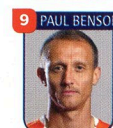
H: Peter & Linda Little  
A: In memory of Billy Lacey



H: David Goodge  
A: Gill, Julie & Yvonne



H: Raj Koyes  
A: Key Holder Lettings



H: Ben & Richard Banks  
A: Mad Hatter



H: Ben & Richard Banks  
A: The Coles Family



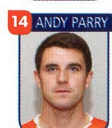
H: Neil Ehrenzweig  
A: Sports262 & Lutontownfans.co.uk



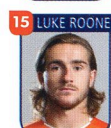
H: CME Heating  
A: Matthew Crossland



H: Peter & Linda Little  
A: Kelly Knight



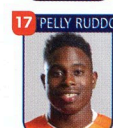
H: R S Robinson Heating  
A: Available



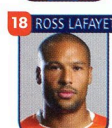
H: SIXT Rent-a-car  
A: Available



H: Les Miller Miller & Company  
A: Available  
G: Mark Francome



H: David Alexander  
A: Ben Gray



H: Jacqui Peacock  
A: Maddie Knight



H: Tom  
A: Tommy Lennon



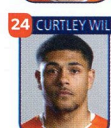
H: G Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd  
A: G Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd



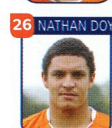
H: Luton Outlaws  
A: Richard & Zak Tilley



H: COYH  
A: Whosh



H: St Neots Cakes  
A: Available



H: Paul Watmuff  
A: Available



H: CME Heating  
A: Liz Herrick Informatic Computing Ltd



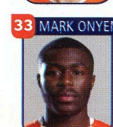
H: Re-Markit  
A: Bobbers Travel Club



H: Tommy Lennon  
A: Dean Kemp



H: Available  
A: Available



H: Available  
A: Available



H: Loyal Luton  
A: Mad Hatter



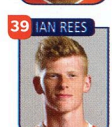
H: Jonathan Perry of JP Life Therapy  
A: Mad Hatter



H: Available  
A: Available



H: Available  
A: Available



H: Available  
A: Mad Hatter



H: Available  
A: Bobbers Travel Club



H: Thompsons Accountants  
A: Country Properties



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A: Colne Consultants Ltd



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A: Available

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# welcome

PORTSMOUTH



It gives us great pleasure to wish a festive welcome to everyone associated with Portsmouth Football Club to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Long-standing Pompey fans have had it tough over the past few seasons, a catalogue of financial issues has cumulated in a dive down the divisions, from the top to the bottom, in a three-year period. It's a story which we all at Kenilworth Road can relate too, and we wish those at Fratton Park the very best of luck in their attempt to rise again.

Despite the frustrations on the pitch, the Pompey faithful have remained loyal in their backing of the side over the past few years of decline. Attendances at Fratton Park continue to hover around the 15,000-mark, way above clubs in League 2 and, bar a few, in League 1.

That support has helped manager Andy Awford's side maintain a good home record this term as Portsmouth aim to win promotion to League 1. However, despite the hordes of Pompey fans that support the side away from home, their form on the road has been distinctly poor.

Our visitors today, who won the FA Cup in 2008 with a Wembley win over Cardiff City, have won six of their 10 matches at Fratton Park but on their travels, Pompey have won just once and scored a paltry five times in 11 matches away from home – the worst goalscoring away record in the entire division. Their sole win away from Fratton Park was a 1-0 win at Oxford on 23rd August.

A legend as a player Awford was the unanimous favourite for the new manager's position following Richie

Barker's dismissal in March last season. Awford helped stave off a potential relegation to the Conference last term before finishing as one of the form teams in mid-table.

That end-of-season surge meant Pompey were one of the favourites for promotion this time round, but going into their Boxing Day clash against AFC Wimbledon Pompey were sitting in 14th place in League 2, seven points off the Play-Offs, having lost two of their last three matches, including a rare home defeat to Accrington.

On the pitch, gone are the days where Portsmouth can pay sums such as the £11m they once forked out for Peter Crouch in 2008. But that's not to say there isn't quality in the Pompey ranks.

In fact, Awford has a hugely talented squad that sides in League 1 would be envious of. Captain Ben Chorley, goalkeeper Paul Jones, defender Nicky Shorey, Austrian Johnny Ertl and striker David Connolly provide bags of experience, while home-grown youngster Jed Wallace is the undoubted star. The 21-year-old is being watched by several higher division clubs and is key to Pompey: he has scored 11 goals this season – eight of those have come in League 2.

As you'll read on the forthcoming pages, today is Portsmouth's first visit to Kenilworth Road for almost 10 years – the Town beat Pompey 3-1 in a Division 1 (now Championship) clash in September 1995. Today's away support, however, will be hoping their side can end a dismal recent record here in Bedfordshire – the Town have won six of the last seven meetings here at Kenilworth Road.

# in opposition



OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM FRATTON PARK

## ► MANAGER

**ANDY AWFORD.** Appointed Pompey boss in May after a successful spell in caretaker charge. Previously held the roles of chief scout and reserve team boss at Fratton Park. Made more than 300 appearances for Pompey during his playing days.

## ► GOALKEEPERS

**PAUL JONES.** Stopper arrived at Pompey last summer after leaving Crawley at the end of last season. He made more than 100 appearances for the Red Devils and has also turned out for Exeter and Peterborough after coming through the ranks at Leyton Orient.

**MICHAEL POKE.** Arrived at Fratton Park last summer after leaving Torquay. The keeper started his career along the south coast at Southampton and had several loan spells with the Gulls before joining them permanently from Bristol Rovers in 2012.

## ► DEFENDERS

**JOE DEVERA.** Defender who penned a two-year deal with the Blues after leaving Swindon in May 2013. A product of Barnet's youth system, he was named their Player of the Year in 2008, making a total of 201 appearances for the Londoners before moving to Swindon in the summer of 2011.



**JACK WHATMOUGH.** Teenage centre-back who is a product of Pompey's youth system. Made his senior debut last season and has been involved in the England Under-19 set-up.

**BEN CHORLEY.** Centre-back who signed for Pompey on

an 18-month deal in January after ending his time with Stevenage. The Arsenal youth product played for Wimbledon, MK Dons, Tranmere and Leyton Orient.

**NICKY SHOREY.** Former England international full-back who arrived at Pompey in January. Started his career at Orient before moving to Reading in 2001. Won promotion to the Premier League with the Royals. Moved to Aston Villa in 2008 and has also turned out for West Brom and Bristol City.

**ALEX WYNTER.** Crystal Palace defender on a season-long loan at Fratton Park. Previously spent time on loan at Eastbourne, Sutton and Colchester.

**PAUL ROBINSON.** Millwall defender is at Fratton Park on loan from the Championship outfit. The centre-back has

made 362 appearances since coming through the ranks at The Den.

## ► MIDFIELDERS

**JOHNNY ERTL.** Versatile Austrian who began his career in his homeland with Sturm Graz and also played for Austria Vienna before moving to England to join Crystal Palace in 2009. He joined Pompey on a free transfer from Sheffield United in August 2012 and was named club captain the following January.

**RICKY HOLMES.** Midfielder who penned a two-year deal with the Blues in the summer of 2013 after leaving Barnet. The winger joined the Bees from non-league Chelmsford in the summer of 2010.



**DANNY HOLLANDS.** Midfielder who enjoyed a successful spell on loan at Fratton Park from Charlton last season. Made the move permanent over the summer. Started his career at Chelsea before joining Bournemouth and the Addicks in 2011.

**JAMES DUNNE.** Summer arrival from Stevenage in June, who progressed through the ranks at Arsenal. Spent three seasons with Exeter before joining Boro in the summer of 2012.

**JED WALLACE.** Highly-rated attacking midfielder, and this season's current top goalscorer, who has come through the ranks at Fratton Park. Represented England at Under-19 level.

## ► STRIKERS

**CRAIG WESTCARR.** Frontman who joined Pompey last summer having left Walsall. The former England Under-21 international started his career at Nottingham Forest and also had spells with Cambridge, Kettering and Notts County.

**MILES STOREY.** Joined Pompey on a season-long loan from Swindon in July. The forward progressed through the ranks at the County Ground, scoring six goals in 35 appearances for the Robins. The former England Under-19 international spent time on loan at Shrewsbury last season.

**RYAN TAYLOR.** Striker who joined Pompey in January after leaving Bristol City. He started his career at Rotherham, where he made 152 appearances, before signing for the Robins in the summer of 2011.



# FROM THE OAK ROAD

Portsmouth have suffered a dramatic fall from grace: a tumble characterised by financial collapse, disarray in past boardrooms and points deductions. Sound familiar anyone? Pompey fan Paul Banks tells us how he hopes his team can escape a spiral of decline...



**TALK OF THE TOWN:** Let's start on a positive – 'the noughties' were a golden era for Portsmouth Football Club. What is your happiest memory of that time and why?

**JOHNNY:** The noughties brought some exciting times for myself and many others. Portsmouth Football Club were involved in pre-season tours to Hong Kong for the Asia Trophy, Nigeria, where we played Kanu Pillars and Manchester United, Portugal, Edmonton in Canada, and visits to Washington and Charleston in the States. One of Pompey's greatest achievements was winning the FA Cup in 2008, beating Cardiff City 1-0 in the final. This meant Pompey were in Europe playing Guimaraes, Braga, Wolfsburg, and had home games against Heerenveen and AC Milan - a huge contrast to the Premier League. In 2010, Pompey went back to Wembley for the FA Cup against Chelsea, sadly on this occasion we could not return home with the cup. The demise of our great club then followed.

**TOTT:** Remind us what went wrong. Luton fans felt utterly helpless as previous boards gambled with the

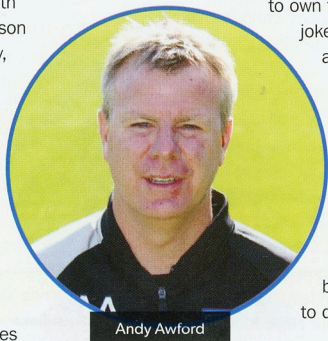
club's future, before the football authorities then took excessively punitive action. Do Pompey supporters feel similarly bitter towards the architects of their downfall? Are you relieved that the club is now in the hands of fans?

**JOHNNY:** After Milan Mandaric sold Pompey to Sacha Gaydamak, Pompey made many signings, including the likes of Niko Kranjcar and Lassana

Diarra. Many players received astronomical wages and signing on fees. As the money started to dry up, Pompey found themselves with crippling debts and this resulted in the club being sold to several buyers who played Russian roulette with our beloved club. The fit and proper persons test required to be undertaken to own football clubs proved to be an absolute

joke. Pompey fans felt very bitter about a flawed system which clearly did not work. These circumstances resulted in the club being put into administration.

I now feel much more confident about our club, which is owned by the fans for the fans. The Pompey Supporters Trust and a few high net worth fans have steered the club back out of debt and all we now need to do is get it right on the pitch.



Andy Awford

**TOTT:** How are Pompey fans taking to being the big fish in the small pond of League 2? Are you amazed that you still continue to attract crowds of over 15,000, week in, week out? Do the fans get frustrated when supposedly smaller teams come to town and go away with all three points?

**JOHNNY:** It is a harsh reality, but we all need to pull together and hopefully the results will start to



come. The supporters continue to show their support, attracting crowds of 15,000 for a home game and we have a great following away.

**TOTT:** Luton spent five years trying to get out of the Conference – do you think it might take Pompey a similar amount of time to turn things round? What needs to change at the club to reverse its fortunes?

**JOHNNY:** The changes have already started. Our club has now become debt free, thanks especially to Mark Catlin, our Chief Executive. On the field we just need to believe a bit more in ourselves, play as a team rather than individuals and the results will come.

**TOTT:** Who is Portsmouth's star man that we should keep a look out for today and why?

**JOHNNY:** The man to watch today has to be Jed Wallace. His pace against the opposition sets him



Jed Wallace

apart on the field and he has proven to be a crucial team player and versatile midfielder, creating some key opportunities and scoring some cracking goals. Hopefully we will get to see a few today.

**TOTT:** What's the slightly irritating bell noise which seems to accompany Pompey fans at games and will no doubt be ringing out from the Oak Road End today?

Are you looking forward to coming to Kenilworth Road and facing Luton for the first time in nearly 20 years? And what's your prediction for today's game?

**JOHNNY:** John Westwood and that bell will be ringing out loud today from the Oak Road End, along with a large number of Pompey fans.

Having been nearly 20 years since we last faced Luton, it has been a highly anticipated fixture this season. I am hoping for a 2-1 away victory for Pompey.



# The Hatters & Pompey

## PLAYED FOR BOTH

A whole host of recognisable names have played for both the Town and Portsmouth down the years.

The Hatters have three senior players who have been on the books at Fratton Park in the past, including Paul Benson and Paul Connolly who have both spent time on loan with the South Coast club. Furthermore, Luke Wilkinson started his professional career with Pompey when they were in the Premier League – although he failed to make a senior appearance. His next stop was Dagenham... Meanwhile today's visitors have former Town striker Tom Craddock in their squad. You can read more about Matthew Taylor's career at both clubs elsewhere in this programme – the midfielder, now with Burnley, was the last player to be transferred between the two clubs when he moved from Kenilworth Road to Fratton Park in the summer of 2002.

As well as Taylor, Allan Brown, Brian Lewis, Chris Kamara, Albert McCann, Roy Lunniss, Keith Allen, Rory Allen, Ray Daniel, Alan Garner, Vince Hilaire, Ceri Hughes, Dean Kiely, Richard Money, Jason Rees, Paul Walsh, Marc Wilson, Sammy Igoe, Ron Davies, Chris Kamara and Russell Perrett all served both clubs.

## HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

The Town and Portsmouth have been regular adversaries down the years having met each other 75 times in all competitions.

However, this afternoon's game is the first meeting between the clubs since 1995.

The Hatters hold a slight advantage in the head-to-head record, winning 33 to Portsmouth's 29. 13 matches have ended in a draw. Remarkably across the 75 matches both teams have scored the same as each other – 118.

At Kenilworth Road the Town hold a particularly strong record against Pompey, winning 27 of the 38 matches. Portsmouth have only won six matches on Bedfordshire soil – the last a 4-1 victory in October 1992. That is Portsmouth's only victory at Kenilworth Road in their last 19 visits. In that period the Town have won an impressive 15 of those, including the last time two sides met at Kenilworth Road on 30th September 1995.

Striker Allen was once hailed the best-ever loan signing made by the Hatters in the modern era. He joined the Hatters late in the 1997/98 season from Premier League Tottenham and inspired the Town to avoid relegation from Division Two (now League 1). He scored six goals in eight matches as the Hatters won five and drew one in that period to stave off demotion to what is now League 2. Allen later joined Portsmouth where a spate of injuries kept him on the sidelines. Then-Pompey boss Harry Redknapp once asked the England Cricket Team's Barmy Army following if they had seen Allen in Australia. It was thought the injured forward had swapped injury rehab for time supporting the national cricket team Down Under.

However, perhaps the most decorated player to play for both club was Steve Foster. Portsmouth-born, the defender began his career with his home-town club and made 109 league appearances for Pompey before he moved to Brighton in 1979. Almost 200 matches later, Foster joined Aston Villa for a brief spell in 1984 before signing for the Town where he would go on to make 212 appearances. His greatest achievement in Town colours came when he lifted the Littlewoods Cup after the win over Arsenal at Wembley.

That afternoon goals from Steve Davis, Dwight Marshall and a Bontcho Guentchev penalty gave the Town a 3-1 win.

Given the Hatters' fine record at home to Pompey and comparing that to the overall statistics, it doesn't take a genius to work out that the Town don't do so well at Fratton Park. Their dismal record is summed up by Hatters' last visit, in December 1995, which saw them thumped 4-0 and that was the end of Terry Westley's managerial reign. The Town have won five of 37 visits to Fratton Park.

The Town's biggest win against Pompey came back in 1908 when winning 5-1 in the Southern League, whilst Portsmouth's largest margin of victory came when beating the Hatters 5-0 in the top flight in 1957.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Town have scored at least one goal in each of their last 19 home fixtures against Pompey – a record stretching back to a 1-0 defeat at Kenilworth Road in 1922.

# back to the future

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

### ► 2002/03 FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

**SHAKA HISLOP:** Trinidad & Tobago international goalkeeper who was ever-present and played 93 League games before rejoining West Ham in July 2005. Later with FC Dallas, he works for ESPN.

**STEVE STONE:** Ex-England international who scored nine times in 73 League outings while at Fratton Park prior to joining Leeds United in July 2005. He has recently coached at Newcastle United.

**MATT TAYLOR:** England Under-21 left-back who netted 23 goals in 179 League games prior to joining Bolton Wanderers in January 2008. He moved to West Ham in July 2011 and helped win promotion. Joined Pompey from the Hatters in 2002.

**HAYDEN FOXE:** Australia international defender who scored twice in 42 League outings before moving to Leeds United in August 2006, since playing for Perth Glory and Sydney in his native country.

**LINVOY PRIMUS:** Central defender who scored five times in 198 League games until injury ended his career. He has worked in Pompey's community scheme and also with the Faith and Football charity.

**GIANLUCA FESTA:** Italian defender who rejoined hometown Cagliari in June 2003. Later playing for other Italian clubs, Nuorese, Tavolara and Sanluri, he has since been assistant-coach at Cagliari.

**TIM SHERWOOD:** Ex-England international midfielder who scored once in 30 League games before joining Coventry City in August 2004. He assisted Harry Redknapp at Spurs, where later manager.

**PAUL MERSON:** Former England international who was captain and netted 12 goals in 45 League games prior to joining Walsall in August 2003. Later their player-manager, he is now a pundit on Sky TV.

**YAKUBU:** Nigeria international striker who netted 35 goals in 81 League games, moving to Middlesbrough in February 2005, then Everton, Leicester City on loan, Blackburn Rovers and now Ghangzhou.

**SVETOSLAV TODOROV:** Bulgaria international striker who was leading scorer and returned from a spell at Wigan Athletic. Later with Charlton Athletic, he has since played for Bulgarian side Litex.

**NIGEL QUASHIE:** Scotland international who followed Harry Redknapp to Southampton in January 2005, then had spells at West Brom, West Ham, Birmingham Wolves, MK Dons and QPR again.

### ► 2008 FA CUP WINNERS

**DAVID JAMES:** England international goalkeeper who captained Pompey in the 2010 FA Cup final, playing 134 Premier League games, moving to Bristol City in July 2010, then AFC Bournemouth.

**GLEN JOHNSON:** England international right-back who was voted Pompey's Player of the Year in 2008/09 and netted four goals in 58 Premier League games prior to joining Liverpool in June 2009.

**HERMAN HREIDARSSON:** Iceland international left-back who scored seven times in 102 League games prior to joining Coventry City in January 2012. He is currently managing Icelandic side IBV.

**LASSANA DIARRA:** French international midfielder who scored once in 24 Premier League games prior to joining Real Madrid for a club record fee in January 2009. Now playing for Fenerbahce.

**SOL CAMPBELL:** England international central defender and captain who scored twice in 95 Premier League games, moving to Notts County in August 2009, then Arsenal again and Newcastle United.

**SYLVAIN DISTIN:** French central defender who missed just two matches for Pompey in 2007/08 and made 77 Premier League appearances while at Fratton Park before moving to Everton in August 2009.

**JOHN UTAKA:** Nigeria international who also appeared for Pompey in the 2010 FA Cup final. He netted 10 goals in 90 League outings while at Fratton Park before joining Montpellier in January 2011.

**PEDRO MENDES:** Portuguese international who scored five times in 58 Premier League games before joining Glasgow Rangers in August 2008, since playing for Sporting Lisbon and Vitoria Guimaraes.

**NIKO KRANJCAR:** Croatia international midfielder who reunited with Harry Redknapp at Tottenham Hotspur in August 2009. He joined Dynamo Kiev and has since linked up with Redknapp at QPR.

**KANU:** Vastly experienced Nigeria international striker who scored the winning goals at Wembley in both the 2008 FA Cup semi-final and final. He was an FA Cup finalist with Pompey again in 2010.

**SULLEY MUNTARI:** Ghana international who netted four goals in 29 Premier League games before moving to Inter Milan in July 2008. He has since had loan spells at both Sunderland and AC Milan.





# Spreading a little FESTIVE CHEER

MEMBERS OF THE TOWN FIRST TEAM SQUAD PAID A TRIP TO THE CHILDREN'S WARD AT THE LUTON & DUNSTABLE HOSPITAL LAST WEEK. CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER GARETH OWEN WAS ON HAND TO CAPTURE THE CHRISTMAS CHEER THAT THE LADS SPREAD AS THEY GAVE OUT HATTERS GOODIES TO THE YOUNGSTERS IN THE WARD.





# TOWN 3-0 NEWPORT

WILKINSON 4, ROONEY 51, HOWELLS 90



Jake Howells pokes home the Town's third goal



Jake celebrates

Andy Drury in a Newport sandwich

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters bounced back to winning ways in League 2 as goals from Luke Wilkinson, Luke Rooney and Jake Howells earned the Town their eighth successive home league win.

The Town got off to the perfect start when Wilkinson nodded home after just four minutes.

Rooney's fine reverse pass found Jonathan Smith and his shot from close range was tipped around the post. From Andy Drury's left-wing corner Wilkinson rose highest to plant home his third goal of the season with a fine header.

The Town weathered some heavy Newport pressure to get to half-time in front before the Rooney fired home early in the second period to double the advantage.

Mark Cullen did well to challenge the goalkeeper, who made a mess of an attempted punch and Rooney was on hand to tuck home his fourth goal of the season and second in a week following his strike against Bury.

Goalkeeper Mark Tyler made two fine saves to thwart any chance of a County comeback, preventing a Chris Zebroski header from creeping underneath the crossbar and then getting down to block Ismail Yakubu's close range effort.

With their two-goal advantage intact the Town bossed the final 15 minutes and came close to adding to their tally with Cullen and Drury both going close.

But the Hatters did add the *coup de grace* in the final minute of stoppage time when substitute Howells, making his 295th appearance for the club, clipped home a near-post effort following Drury's right-wing cross.

Luke Rooney shows close control



Mark Tyler punches clear the danger



**TOWN:** Tyler; Harriman, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson; Doyle, Smith, Drury; Rooney (sub Lafayette 81), Whalley (sub Howells 72), Cullen. **SUBS NOT USED:** Franks, Connolly, Miller, Stevenson, Justham.



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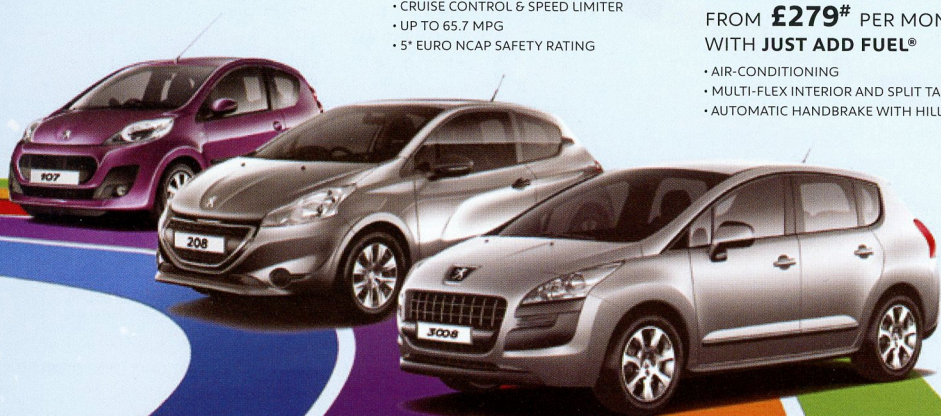
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# reaction

## BEST YET TO COME SAYS DRURY



As goalkeeper Mark Tyler walked through the media office on his way to collect his man-of-the-match trophy and acclaim the adoration of the match sponsors, he uttered “what about Andy Drury?”

He had a point. While Tyler's acrobatics in the Town goal had kept Newport County at bay, it was the display of midfielder Drury who caught the eye as the Hatters eased to their eighth successive home win in League 2 win a comfortable 3-0 victory.

Drury helped the Town on their way, swinging in the left-wing corner that was nodded home by Luke Wilkinson in the fourth minute before whipping in a cross from the opposite flank in injury time that led to Jake Howells toeing home his 30th goal in Luton colours to make it 3-0.

It was a match and a performance that Drury enjoyed. The question was put to him afterwards by Hatters Player: are you getting back to your best form? The answer was, pretty much, a yes.

“I feel that I'm getting fitter now, so yeah,” said the former Ipswich man, who rejoined the Town in the summer from Crawley. “I broke my hand earlier in the season and was feeling the effects of that a little bit.

“I felt like I was playing well earlier in the season but I came out of the team for a month or so and it always takes me a few games to get back into my stride.

“I enjoyed it out there and hopefully I can build on it. I'll keep working hard over the Christmas period and hopefully I can keep that form up. Is the best yet to come? I feel as though I can play better, of course.”

Perhaps the only thing missing from his performance against the Exiles was a goal, despite going close late on with a chip. And while Drury is still waiting to break his duck after 18 games this term, he's quite happy to keep setting his team-mates up.

“I got two assists, which is quite good,” he said: “I'm getting quite a few at the moment, as long as I keep doing that I'm contributing. I'll probably play really badly and one will go in off my backside one day.”

While Drury excelled going forward, the midfielder paid tribute to those behind him, with Jonathan Smith and Nathan Doyle doing the so-called “dirty work”.

“Smudge will run through brick walls and Doyley is a calming influence,” Drury said.

“When Smudge gets the ball he's composed, so together they work well and it does give me a bit of freedom. It works well, they are two unsung heroes really. They break up play, get forward, do a bit of everything. Their work-rate is phenomenal. I think their roles often go unnoticed, but not by us. They've been terrific.”

With the Town at Wycombe on Boxing Day and Portsmouth at Kenilworth Road today, the Hatters face a tough festive run of fixtures, so the victory over in-form Newport has helped massively, according to Drury.

“It's a huge win leading into the Christmas period,” he said. “We won't win the league at Christmas but it doesn't half help.

“It's a great win and hopefully we can carry on over Christmas and New Year.”

## DID YOU KNOW?

Andy Drury's last goal for the Hatters came in a 5-0 victory over York City at Kenilworth Road on 18th January 2011 – it was his penultimate appearance in Luton colours before he made the move to Ipswich Town. In the same game, Jonathan Smith – then playing for the Minstermen – was sent-off.



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# The year that was

IT'S FAIR TO SAY IT'S BEEN A GOOD YEAR IF YOU'RE A TOWN FOLLOWER. AFTER FIVE SEASONS IN THE CONFERENCE THE HATTERS SWEEPED ALL BEFORE THEM TO LIFT THE TITLE AND RETURN TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE. SINCE THEN, AND NOW IN LEAGUE 2, THE TOWN HAVE CONTINUED FROM WHERE THEY LEFT OFF. HERE'S THE STORY OF THE LAST 12 MONTHS...

## JANUARY

Starting top of the Conference table, the New Year couldn't have got off to a more dramatic start when the Town hosted Barnet in front of the BT Sport cameras on 1st January. With heavy rain falling throughout the morning it seemed unlikely that the game would go ahead. But go ahead it did, and the Hatters led 2-0 at the break thanks to goals from Andre Gray and Paul Benson. The game was stopped midway through the second half but after some gentle persuasion from captain Ronnie Henry, the referee allowed the game to continue and the Town aquaplaned their way to a vital three points.

A goalless draw at Lincoln followed as the Town made it 19 games without defeat in the Conference, before the Hatters then exited the FA Trophy after losing 1-0 to title rivals Cambridge in a replay.

January ended with a routine 3-0 win over Nuneaton at Kenilworth Road with Gray helping himself to a hat-trick. The weather continued to play its part, though, with the players dashing for cover amid a violent storm which delay the action for 10 minutes.

## FEBRUARY

It wasn't until 11th February that the Town would play again as the rain made way for ice across the UK. And the Hatters recorded what many believed was their most important victory of last season with a determined 2-1 midweek away win at Macclesfield with Gray on target twice.

Gray hit a stunning treble in the 7-0 thumping of Hereford four days later and in the 10 days that followed that victory the Hatters had won another two matches and scored a further 10 goals as they beat Nuneaton and then Wrexham 5-0.

## MARCH

With the Hatters opening up a lead at the top of the table, a six straight win in league action was recorded when Alfreton were seen off 3-0, although the match was marred by the injury sustained to Luke Guttridge, which would keep him out for the rest of the season.

The games continued to come thick and fast and after a goalless draw at Salisbury the Town needed a last-minute equaliser from Mark Cullen at near title challengers Cambridge to preserve their unbeaten run.

It would be a result which would all but seal the Town's promotion.

That draw made it 27 games unbeaten but that run came to an end in front of the live camera when Woking secured a 1-0 win at Kenilworth Road – the Town's first home league defeat of the campaign.

However the disappointment was short-lived as the Town won their next two, beating Chester 3-0 at Kenilworth Road before securing another fine away win on a Tuesday evening, this time coming from a goal down to beat Grimsby 2-1. March ended with a 2-0 defeat at in-form Halifax.

The Town lift the Conference title



## APRIL

The final campaign of the season began with yet another 2-1 awayday win on a Tuesday night, with late goals from Gray and Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu sealing victory at Dartford before on-loan Norwich midfielder Cameron McGeehan scored his first goal for the Hatters with a crucial winner against Aldershot.

Tamworth were seen off with minimum fuss in the second of three successive home games. That meant a win over Braintree would seal the title but the Hatters suffered from stage fright and went down 3-2 to the Iron – a bogey side if ever there was one for the Town in the Conference.





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# The year that was

...CONTINUED

However yet again the Town's frustration wouldn't last for long as three days later Kidderminster's win over Cambridge – while the Hatters sat at home without a game – was enough to ensure the Town were champions.

The Town's first match as title winners came at Welling United, where goals from Cullen and Gray secured a 2-1 win in a game watched by 2,500 Hatters fans.

Champagne corks and celebrations were the order of the day on Easter Monday when the Town were handed the Conference title and on the pitch the team did not disappoint, running out 4-1 winners over Forest Green in the final home match of the campaign. Gray ended the season in style, grabbing two goals to take his tally to the season to 30.

The curtain came down on a sensational season at Hyde where 3,500 Town supporters turned up to see an Alex Wall goal give the Hatters a winning finale – and with it 101 points.

## MAY

May saw the Town celebrate their season of success with a dinner and an open-top bus parade through Luton town centre, where over 15,000 supporters gathered to appreciate a season to remember.

Leading goalscorer Gray was sold to Championship-bound Brentford but, over the course of the summer the Town would sign 10 new faces.

## JUNE-JULY

Midfielder Andy Drury was one of the new arrivals at Kenilworth Road during the close season and the former Town man, back for a second spell, was joined by Ross Lafayette, Ricky Miller, Curtley Williams, Paul Connolly, Luke Wilkinson, Charlie Walker, Lee Angol, Kynan Isaac and Mark Onyeham.

Pre-season got off to a winning start at Hitchin and the Town went onto record an unbeaten sequence in friendlies, including a 4-0 home win over Royal Antwerp of Belgium and draws against Peterborough and Colchester.

## AUGUST

The Town's first game back as a Football League club saw over 1,000 supporters make the longest journey of the season to Carlisle. And the Hatters hordes were rewarded with a 1-0 victory thanks to Cullen's first-half tap-in.

That would be the only high point of an indifferent first month back in League 2 as the Town were first dumped out of the League Cup after defeat to Swindon. A defeat at home to AFC Wimbledon in the first Football League match back at Kenilworth Road since April 2009 was followed by two successive draws – at home to Bury and away at Accrington – before the Town lost again, this time 2-0 at Shrewsbury.

## SEPTEMBER

September began with a third defeat in five matches when Plymouth recorded a 1-0 win at Kenilworth Road in front of the Sky Sports cameras which left the Town in 19th place in League 2.

However that would herald the start of a fine unbeaten run which would drag the Town up the table. A Cullen header was enough to beat Cheltenham at Kenilworth Road, before the Hatters spurned a number of chances in a goalless draw a York.

However, four days later Cullen scored the rebound after his penalty was saved to give the Hatters a 1-0 win at Cambridge and a week later the Town recorded a 2-0 win over Oxford.



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# The year that was

...CONTINUED

## OCTOBER

Local rivals Stevenage were seen off at Broadhall Way at the beginning of October with substitute Alex Wall hitting the Hatters' winner in the closing stages. That lifted the Town up to seventh in the table.

The Hatters' five-year unbeaten run as joint-holders of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy came to an end at the hands of Crawley but the Town resumed their excellent league form by beating Southend and Hartlepool to make it five wins on the spin.

A perfect hat-trick from Cullen helped secure a sixth straight win as John Still's former club Dagenham & Redbridge were seen off at Kenilworth Road and four days later the Hatters went top of League 2 when Guttridge, back from injury, struck an injury-time winner against his former club Northampton in front of over 10,000 at Kenilworth Road.

## NOVEMBER

Over 1,000 Town supporters made the trip down to Exeter at the start of November where Scott Griffiths turned from hero to villain after opening the scoring but then giving away the penalty which led to Exeter's leveller.

Newport were beaten 4-2 in the FA Cup at Kenilworth Road before another substitute came up trumps for the Town a week later when Ricky Miller's goal was enough for the Town to beat Tranmere.

The 11-match unbeaten run was ended the following weekend, however, when despite a dominating performance the Hatters fell to a set-piece and lost 1-0 at Burton to drop to third place.

Luke Wilkinson celebrates at Stevenage



Like so many times over the past 12 months, the Town bounced back from disappointment and ended November with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Mansfield at Kenilworth Road.

## DECEMBER

A 1-1 draw with Bury in the FA Cup was followed by a dismal showing at Morecambe that saw skipper Stephen McNulty sent-off in a 3-0 defeat.

Three days later the Town then beat Bury in the FA Cup replay to set-up a third round meeting with Cambridge in what will be the first match of 2015.

Our printing deadlines prevent us from knowing what/ did/might have happened at Wycombe on Boxing Day, but the Hatters wrapped up another home league win, their eighth on the bounce in League 2, with a win over Newport County the last time we were at Kenilworth Road to leap into the final automatic promotion place.

## 2014 RECORD

(not including Wycombe away)

PLAYED 41 • WON 29 • DREW 9  
LOST 11 • SCORED 82 • CONCEDED 35



# Travellers' TALES

LUTON ARE BACK IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE AFTER FIVE YEARS AWAY, AND ARDENT TOWN FAN **KEVIN HARPER** WILL SEE IT ALL THIS SEASON. IN BETWEEN SLEEPING ON THE COACH AND MUNCHING ON A PIE AT AWAY GAMES, HE'LL BE WRITING OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN TALK OF THE TOWN... THIS WEEK, KEVIN RECALLS HIS AND THE HATTERS' FIRST TRIP TO THE GLOBE ARENA, MORECAMBE.

## THE JOURNEY

Our second trip to Lancashire in as many Saturday's began in near darkness as I got on the coach in Amptill just after 7.40am. By the time we had made it to the main pick up at Luton Station daylight had broken but it would be pushing it to say everyone was wide awake as we left there and set off on our way up the M1 and M6 just after 8.30am.

Considering it was a 217-mile trip the journey up to Morecambe went quite quickly which was a bit of a surprise given that I spent most of it watching England's dismal effort in the cricket in Sri Lanka on my iPad! A highlight of the journey was stopping off at Norton Caines on the toll road and bumping into one of my best mates who was coming the other way to follow his beloved Blackburn at Brentford. To be at the same services at the same time shows what a small world it is sometimes!

We got to Morecambe shortly after 1pm and it was straight to the coast to go and see the famous Eric Morecambe statue which had recently been restored after vandals had attacked it. After getting photos with Eric donned in Luton scarfs and replica kit it was back on the coach and down to the Globe Arena where we arrived just after 1.30pm.

## THE GROUND

This was the second new ground of the season for me. I had been to Christie Park before but not the Globe Arena. On the outside you could tell a few quid has gone into it and it looked quite nice with plenty of space to build bigger stands should they need it.

Inside the ground everything was modern as you would expect from a new stadium. Everything was well spaced out too and less crowded than at Burton which was similarly new. When we went pitchside the ground was



almost a replica of Christie Park with three nice new big stands and then an open stand which looked quite strange compared to the rest of the ground. Town fans had the terrace behind the goal and a section of seats in the main stand to the left. The view from the seats was good although in hindsight that might not have been a good thing!

## THE FOOD

I had heard about Morecambe and their award-winning pies so I made sure I tried one of them. The options were meat and potato or a chicken, ham and leek combo. I went for the former and while it was nice enough I'm not sure I'd have been giving it any culinary awards! Other food options were hot dogs and the usual confectionary as well as hot and cold drinks which included alcohol. Both food and drink were pretty expensive.

## THE PROGRAMME

Eric Morecambe was very much a theme of the day and he donned the front cover of the 68-page programme. Right throughout the issue there is snippets about Eric. There was an eight-page section about the Town which detailed each player individually, picking out Mark Cullen as the star man and Mark Tyler, Stephen McNulty, ex-Shrimp Jonathan Smith and Ricky Miller as the four to watch. John Still gets a page to himself, while our 1988 Littlewoods Cup winning side are highlighted amongst a section dedicated to the best teams in our history. With our affinity to Eric most of the programme was a good read with some great memories and moments.

## THE GAME

You could say the Eric Morecambe theme continued in the game as, sadly for once, our performance was so bad it bordered on being as laughable as an Ernie and Eric show. It was just one of those days where we didn't get going and we were well beaten.

We had the worst end of the conditions in the first half so we faced a struggle from the start and when our long-time foe Andy D'Urso decided to give captain McNulty two yellow cards in the space of two minutes, that struggle became much more difficult. Morecambe threw plenty of balls into our box in the captain's absence and scored from two set pieces before half-time to set up a tough second half.

We actually started the second half strongly despite being a man light, and if Mark Cullen's piledriver wasn't well saved almost from the restart, who knows what might have happened...but it was saved and while we had plenty of the ball for the rest of the half nothing really happened for us. We were put out of our misery 10 minutes from the end when Morecambe scored their third goal of the day from another set piece.

## MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

It wasn't an easy pick this one as nobody stood out such is how poor we were on the day but it was good to see Alex Lacey back after half-time and he didn't do anything wrong. He made a couple of interceptions and went on a rampaging run at the start of the half as we tried to get back into it so on a poor day all round the youngster was probably as good as anyone.

## SUMMARY

This wasn't a day to live long in the memory. One of the great things about Luton Town at the minute is we very rarely put in days like this so they are slightly easier to take when they do come along. The journey back felt much longer than it did on the way there which is to be expected with the deflated feeling after a game like that. We were back in Luton not long after 9pm after a round-trip of some 434 miles so we were back before closing time to give us all a chance to drown our sorrows! It was nice to tick off another new ground but that is about all I will take from our final away game before Christmas!



# centre spot



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from the players and staff at Luton Town!



# PICTURE THE PAST

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



George Stobbart attempts to rob Portsmouth's Harry Ferrier during the Town's 2-0 FA Cup third round victory at Kenilworth Road in January 1951. Goals from the two Willies, Davie and Havenga, ensured the shock win over the reigning League champions.



# Camera Never Lies

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



Ron Futcher and Peter Anderson appeal for a goal during the Town's visit to Portsmouth in September 1975. Camera evidence reveals that the ball has not crossed the line but the disappointment is short-lived, as goals from Adrian Alston and Andy King secure a 2-0 victory in this Division Two (now Championship) clash.



# YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian **ROGER WASH** looks back to a previous clash with Pompey in 1971.

Luton Town 3-2 Portsmouth. 27th November 1971.

## The 1971/72 season was always going to be seen as one of anti-climax.

After four years of success culminating in three straight defeats over Easter 1971, which ruined our chances of promotion to the top flight, it was realised that we were in for a period of mid-table consolidation.

It would have been an amazing feat to have climbed from Division Four (now League 2) to Division One (now the Premier League) in four years, but it had cost a lot of money to reach as far as we did. With the collapse of Vehicle and General Insurance and with it the club's main benefactor Tony Hunt, some cash needed to be recouped.

Terrace favourite Malcolm Macdonald was the obvious target of the big clubs and from the spring of 1971 it was not a case of whether he would go, but to who and for how much. Newcastle were the eventual winners in this contest, beating Manchester United, and the fee of £180,000 was a record for the division at the time.

It soon became painfully obvious that the sale of Macdonald had created goalscoring problems in the new season and the team struggled through the first few games drawing some and losing the rest before manager Alec Stock attempted to arrest the decline by signing Vic Halom from Fulham.

Halom responded to the task by putting himself about and helping the team through a little 'purple patch' when two home games were won in quick succession over Middlesbrough and Fulham respectively.

After this spell it was back to normal with five defeats and three draws from the next eight games, finishing up with an embarrassing 2-1 defeat at local rivals Watford who were destined to suffer relegation at the end of the season.

After that performance it was surprising that any Luton supporters wanted to travel to Blackpool the following week but a special train was run as normal, which ground to a halt just outside Warrington following a derailment.

The team had travelled on the train as well and a police escort was on hand to ferry the players to Bloomfield Road on our arrival at 2.30 – we were made to walk through a blizzard to eventually arrive just on kick-off!

Despite all the problems and the atrocious weather a

goal from Don Givens secured all the points which made the return journey a little more bearable especially as, by now, the heat and lighting on the train had packed up.

Portsmouth were the visitors to Kenilworth Road for the next game, played on a cold November day, and a crowd of 'only' 9,910 gathered, which was the lowest since our Division Four days.

The fans were not given much to shout about as Pompey took a two-goal lead in with them at the interval which was fully deserved. Firstly Richard Reynolds accepted a mis-placed header from Luton skipper Mike Keen in the second minute and drilled home the gift with ease and the same player then lost his marker, Chris Nicholl, just before the interval to provide a seemingly unassailable 2-0 cushion.

## Spirit

The ineffective Viv Busby was taken off to be replaced by Halom, but the Town were reduced to ten men in the 47th minute when Givens was carried off with a serious knee injury (only one substitute in those days).

It was at this point the players began to show the fighting spirit produced at Blackpool and forced a goal back when Keen surged into the area to prod the ball home after Nicholl had made the opening with a deft header.

Givens returned to the fray for a couple of minutes before retiring again but incredibly the Town drew level on the hour when Gordon Hindson unleashed a spectacular 40-yard shot which flew past Jim Standen in the Portsmouth goal. Hindson, signed from Newcastle the previous month, never produced such a finish again in his relatively short career with the Town, despite encouragement from the terraces.

The brave Givens returned once again despite being clearly troubled by his knee injury, and provided 'nuisance value' on the wing as the crowd roared on the team for the winner which eventually came three minutes from time.

A fierce shot from Givens hit the post and Peter Anderson nudged the rebound goalwards where it was helped over the line by Portsmouth defender David Munks.

## THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced an odd-shaped 16-page programme for the 1971/72 season – an experiment never repeated. Having said that, all the basics were covered with a good mix of articles and photographs.

Eric Pugh (Chiltern of the Luton News) was bemoaning the fact that the Town had played only eight games at home but 10 away, leaving a lot of home games bunched up at the end of the campaign when interest (obviously he had given up on the season) would be lower.

Three players had their own fan clubs (John Ryan, Viv Busby and Vic Halom) and joining details were given for each. Much more innocent days back then!

**We're on the ball**

**Luton Town**  
(White Shorts, Black Shorts)

1 Tony READ  
2 John RYAN  
3 Alan SCUDTH  
4 Mike KEEN  
5 Chris NICHOLL  
6 Chris MOORE  
7 John ANDERSON  
8 Peter BUSBY  
9 Vic HALOM  
10 Don GIVENS  
11 Gordon HINDSON

**PORTSMOUTH**  
(Blue Shorts and Shorts)

1 John MILKINS  
2 Fred SMITH  
3 George LEY  
4 Eoin HAND  
5 Tommy YOUNDEN  
6 David MUNKS  
7 Norman PIPER  
8 Richard REYNOLDS  
9 Mike TREBLOK  
10 Albert MCANULTY  
11 Nick JENNING

**at Shaw and Kilburn**

Don't miss the 16-page programme for the 1971/72 season. It's a must for every fan. It's got all the latest news, photos, and more. It's got all the latest news, photos, and more. It's got all the latest news, photos, and more.

## ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

- Asa Hartford's transfer from West Brom to Leeds is called off as a medical examination reveals a suspected hole in the heart. He went on to make 744 league appearances for a variety of clubs as well as winning 50 caps for Scotland!
- Ted MacDougall sets a new FA Cup scoring record when netting nine of Bournemouth's goals in an 11-0 win over Margate.

**Luton Town**  
Official Match Day Magazine 6p  
with Football League Review

**Football League Division II**  
Saturday, 27th November, 1971  
Kick-off 3 p.m.

**PORTSMOUTH**

**ROUTE OF DIVISION 2**

**STATISTICS**

**FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION II**

**DATE** **DIVISION TWO** **W** **D** **L** **PTS** **GOALS** **PTS** **GOALS**

**Next Dates at Kenilworth Road**  
Saturday, December 11th (3 p.m.)  
Luton Town v CARDIFF CITY  
Saturday, December 18th (3 p.m.)  
Luton Town v ORIENT

**After the Match Why Not Visit**  
**CEASARS**  
To night Next Week  
TOMMY HUNT FRANK FIELD



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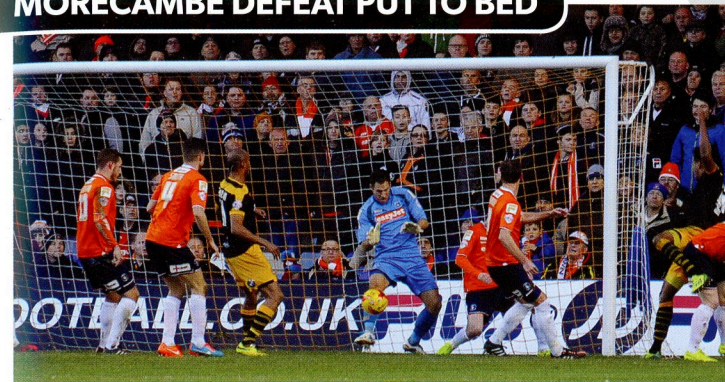
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# reaction

## MORECAMBE DEFEAT PUT TO BED



Luke Wilkinson and Mark Tyler were delighted that the Hatters bounced back to form in League 2 with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Newport County just seven days after losing by the same score in a forgettable display at Morecambe.

"Morecambe was a blip, it was one of those days," said Wilkinson, who opened the scoring against Newport in our last home match here. "I think every team has one of them each year – we don't want to play like that ever again.

"We got a bit of a hiding but we've forgotten it and we've reacted in the best way possible, two wins and two clean sheets in the next two matches."

For goalkeeper and man-of-the-match Tyler the loss at Morecambe reminded him of a similar disappointing result last term.

"It had the hallmarks of the defeat at Wrexham," said Tyler. "We weren't at it from start to finish and the gaffer gave us a kick up the backside and rightly so. We sat down at the start of the week and discussed what an important period it was. We beat Bury and now have got back to winning in the league. We back ourselves to beat anyone at home and even though Newport have been on a good run I thought we dominated and deserved to win. I think we showed the mental side of the game. We needed a few calm heads out there and once we got the ball on the floor and started playing football we caused them problems."

Wilkinson is reunited with Portsmouth this afternoon, having begun his professional career with the Fratton Park outfit.

But the centre-half is looking forward to helping the Hatters continue their fine form at Kenilworth Road which has seen the team win 10 of their last 11 home matches in all competitions on home soil.

"We're hard to beat here, and I think we've shown that in the last week," said the 24-year-old. "I'm loving my time here, the lads, the fans, everyone's been

brilliant. I'm enjoying my football. The last time I played Portsmouth I had a stinker but I hope that's not the case this time!"

Wilkinson netted his third goal of the season in the victory over Newport to put the Town on their way to three points in the fourth minute – the third time the defender has opened the scoring following headers in victories against Oxford and Stevenage.

"I've got a bit of a habit of heading us in front early in games," he said. "It has given us a good start and lets us kick on in the game. At first I thought I'd missed it but I was happy to see it kiss the post and find the back of the net. Yes it's another goal but the most important thing was the win and the three points, especially after Morecambe."

The final word on the Morecambe chapter came from Tyler.

"We needed to win, we owed the fans, the staff and the gaffer for that result and performance. That wasn't us. This was more like it. We deserved the win."

## DID YOU KNOW?

All three of Luke Wilkinson's goals for the Town this season have come in the first 10 minutes – and each time the Hatters have gone on to win. He scored in the second minute in the 2-0 win over Oxford and netted in the 10th minute in the 2-1 victory away to Stevenage.



# Academy Alumni

HE SERVED BOTH THE HATTERS AND PORTSMOUTH WITH GREAT DISTINCTION BUT IT WAS AT KENILWORTH ROAD WHERE THE PATH TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE STARTED FOR **MATTHEW TAYLOR**.

For some people, playing football isn't always the dream. Take Matthew Taylor for instance. He wanted to be like his hero, his dad, who was an architect.

"I'd chosen my A-levels and I was ready to go into education – I knew my career path and it didn't involve football," says the very same person who has since gone onto make 582 appearances as a professional footballer.

That disinterest of the game – from a career perspective – stemmed from the fact a 14-year-old Taylor was rejected by his hometown club Oxford. "I was playing in their centre of excellence and one day they were short of a goalkeeper," Taylor remembers. "I thought I'd done well but they said they wouldn't offer me a scholarship. I was small and I was carrying a bit of weight. And that was it, I started playing with my mates again."

But by chance Taylor, now playing Saturday park football and for the Oxfordshire District team, was being managed by a Luton fan who recommended to then Town Head of Youth Paul Lowe a young left-footed attacker. After completing his GCSEs and following a successful trial, Taylor earned his place in the Hatters' youth ranks.

"I spoke to my dad about moving to Luton," explains Taylor. "In the end I just thought 'why not?' I saw it as an opportunity. Football was never my 'dream' because I never conceived it to be a reality at that age."

"I left home at 16, lived in somebody's else home and spent 10 hours a day playing football with lads of a similar age. Ask any 16-year-old what they'd like to be doing everyday and I'm sure most will say 'play football'."

"I was paid £42.50 per week as a scholar but money never interested me – it has never been an issue whenever I've moved. At that age it was a no brainer, I saw the opportunity and said to myself that I will dedicate two years of my life to football and if, at the end of it I wasn't good enough, then so be it and I could go back and take my A-levels. I had nothing to lose and I knew that regardless I'd still gain some life experience."

Taylor's time in the Hatters' academy didn't last long... because at the age of 17, and with the first team light of players, he was called up into Lennie Lawrence's first team squad in the pre-season of 1999.

"I was fortunate in that aspect because, unfortunately, Luton were in the midst of some financial difficulties and



Matt pictured in 1999

Lennie was told to look to the youth team," says Taylor. "I was only 17 but soon I signed a professional contract. I did well in pre-season and I remember making my debut away to Notts County. We drew 1-1 and the rest, as they say, is history."

The teenager was a revelation in his first full season at Kenilworth Road, scoring five goals and playing all but five matches in today's equivalent of League 1.

The following season saw manager Lawrence leave, but even after Ricky Hill and Lil Fuccillo were axed too, new boss Joe Kinnear couldn't save the Hatters from relegation to League 2.

"Although we were relegated in 2001 that first season still acted as a great grounding," admits Taylor. "I don't think Lennie had much of an option but to play me as many times as he did but I soon realised I was playing against players whose livelihoods depended on football."



Taylor is mobbed after scoring his first Luton goal, against Wrexham

At 17, 18, 19 I was lucky to experience that at Luton and that's made me appreciate what is done for you when you get to clubs like West Ham and Bolton.

"Even when I was in the first team I remember having to clean Tony Thorpe's and Phil Gray's boots – I was still a youth team player."

"I don't think without that type of grounding I would be the person I am now. It's the silly things like coming in and seeing your kit laid out, or the chef cooking your breakfast. Somebody's had to do that for you – and your hard work has got you in that position."

The 2001/02 season was a memorable one for the Town as they romped to an immediate promotion back to League 1, scoring 100 goals and earning 98 points.

Taylor was instrumental: he scored 11 times in the league, missing just two games. It's a campaign he remembers well.

"I can vividly remember that season," he says. "For me they were the best times. They were fantastic. I recall playing with a certain Mr Valois. The relegation the season before had toughened me up, fortunately I've not suffered that feeling again my career. But that season we got promoted I remember the boys at the front banging the goals in."

"I scored 11 goals – a couple were a bit scrappy! – but we had a good team and I think whilst having a dressing room full of ability is one thing, having a closer dressing room is another and the team Joe assembled just got the job done, it had the right mix of characters and it was great to be a part of."

"I also remember scoring in the game at Swansea which saw us win promotion but I missed the celebrations because I was in Swansea hospital after taking a knock! As I say, it was a good time."

With a deadly left-foot helping assist dozens of Town goals on their way to glory, it was no surprise to see the scouts flocking to Kenilworth Road at a time when Taylor's contract was expiring.

And that's when, in the summer of 2002, his move to Portsmouth materialised.

"I was offered a new deal by Luton and Portsmouth offered the same," explains Taylor. "Like I have done throughout my career my move was down to football reasons and never money."

"At the time I felt Portsmouth was the right move for me and I went on to love my time at Fratton Park."

"I had offers from Premier League clubs but I believed it was best to try and nail down a starting place every week and I thought I stood a greater chance of doing that at Portsmouth."

"Again, I was very lucky. Harry Redknapp built a great team. We had the likes of Paul Merson, Steve Stone and Tim Sherwood in the squad and we ran away with the title in my first season there."

"I think history went on to prove that I made the right decision to leave Luton for Portsmouth at that time. Like anyone, I wanted to test myself at the best possible level."

## TAYLOR IN NUMBERS

**LUTON TOWN: 146 APPEARANCES – 17 GOALS**  
**PORTSMOUTH: 203 APPEARANCES – 29 GOALS**  
**BOLTON WANDERERS: 136 APPEARANCES – 23 GOALS**  
**WEST HAM UNITED: 90 APPEARANCES – 3 GOALS**  
**BURNLEY: 3 APPEARANCES**



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Matt celebrates a goal during his Pompey days

▶▶▶ "Too many times I had seen players make the jump to the Premier League and not play. If I was going to leave Luton for a Premier League club I needed to be playing, but Portsmouth gave me the opportunity to play higher and we were a success too.

"I had to pinch myself. 12 months after playing football in League 2 I was playing in the Premier League and what I liked the most was that I was part of something at Portsmouth, it wasn't as though I was on the periphery of things."

After winning the Division 1 (now Championship) title with Pompey, Taylor was Premier League bound – and that's where he's stayed following spells at Bolton Wanderers, West Ham United and now Burnley, who he signed for in the summer on a two-year deal.

But it's the Town and Portsmouth that Taylor enjoys reminiscing about the most.

"Both are such big clubs," he says. "Two big clubs that really deserve to be in the higher reaches of English football – and I'm sure that will be the case very soon for both teams."

With well over a decade's experience at the top level, Taylor is eyeing a career in coaching ("It would be silly not to try it" – he's on the same coaching course as the Town's Stephen McNulty).

During his time with West Ham he helped coach the Hatters' under-15s and under-16s to get some experience under his belt.

"I was doing it for 18 months," explains Taylor. "I would have continued it had I stayed at West Ham but the opportunity arose at Burnley."

"However, it was something I really enjoyed and coaching is still something I'm looking at, it's an avenue I'll look down.

"The coaching I did at Luton was extremely beneficial to me, not for the experience in coaching terms, but as a player too – it changed my outlook of the game and made me a better player."

Whether it's a career in coaching, or following in his father's footsteps in architecture, there's still one thing Taylor wants before he hangs up his boots.

#### Return

"I haven't been back and played against Luton," he says, with a touch of melancholy. "It would be something I would love to do but I'd like to wish everyone at the club good luck. It's great to see them back in the Football League and to see all the fans turning up in their numbers every week.

"The same goes to Portsmouth. All I can say is I'm lucky to have played for both clubs. I feel rather spoiled, really."

#### DID YOU KNOW?

**MATT PLAYED PRECISELY 18 TIMES  
FOR THE HATTERS FIRST TEAM  
BEFORE HIS 18TH BIRTHDAY.**



# 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 <b>TROTMAN 1</b> Hawkes Atkinson • Tamplin Musonda
Tue 12	12 noon	A	AFC Bournemouth (LC)	W 2-1	King Justin Magaraushe
Sat 16	11.00am	H	Stevenage	D 1-1	King Trotman Hawkes
Wed 20	11.00am	H	Cambridge United	W 2-0	King Trotman Magaraushe • Tamplin Musonda
Sat 23	10.30am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 5-0	King Trotman Perry • Atkinson 1 Tamplin Musonda
Sat 30	11.00am	H	Watford	W 3-0	King <b>TROTMAN 1</b> Perry Justin Tamplin • Musonda
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Tue 2	12 noon	A	Dagenham & Redbridge (LC)	L 1-3	King Trotman Perry Hawkes Musonda Magaraushe •
Sat 6	10.30am	A	Barnet	L 2-4	King Trotman Magaraushe • Tamplin 1 Musonda Justin
Sat 20	11.00am	H	Northampton Town	D 1-1	King <b>MAGURAUSHE 1</b> Parry Hawkes McJannett McGhan-George
Sat 27	10.30am	A	AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	King Magaraushe Perry Justin Hawkes
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Sat 4	11.00am	H	Southend United	D 1-1	King Magaraushe • <b>PERRY 1</b> McGhan-George Musonda Hawkes
Sat 11	10.30am	A	Leyton Orient	W 2-0	King Magaraushe Perry Justin Musonda
Sat 18	11.00am	H	Gillingham	W 4-0	King Hankins Perry McJannett • Musonda
Sat 25	11.00am	H	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 4-2	King Gooch Perry Musonda Fanewo McGhan-George
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Sat 1	11.00am	A	Cambridge United	W 4-3	King Magaraushe Perry Musonda Hawkes Justin
Tue 4	7.30pm	H	Didcot Town (FAYC1)	W 4-1	King Perry Hawkes Musonda Justin
Sat 8	11.00am	H	Barnet	L 0-5	Gooch Magaraushe • Perry Hawkes
Sat 15	10.30am	A	Watford	D 3-3	King Justin Hawkes Musonda McGhan-George
Tue 18	7.30pm	A	Oxford City (FAYC2)	L 1-2	King Justin Perry Hawkes McGhan-George
Sat 22	11.00am	A	Northampton Town	D 1-1	Gooch Hawkes • Fanewo Magaraushe
Sat 29	11.00am	H	Peterborough United	D 0-0	Gooch Justin Perry McJannett Hawkes Fanowa
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Sat 6	11.00am	A	Southend United	W 1-0	Gooch Justin Perry Fanowa McJannett Hawkes •
Sat 13	11.00am	H	AFC Wimbledon	W 4-0	Gooch Musonda <b>MCGHAN-GEORGE 1</b> Fanowa Magaraushe •
Tue 16	1.00pm	A	Peterborough United	D 1-1	King Musonda McGhan-George Fanowa Justin •
Sat 20	11.00am	A	Gillingham	W 2-0	King Musonda Fanowa McJannett <b>JUSTIN 2</b> McGhan-George
<b>JANUARY</b>					
Tue 6	11.00am	H	Leyton Orient		
Sat 10	11.00am	A	Milton Keynes Dons		
Sat 24	11.00am	A	Stevenage		

### DEVELOPMENT

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Tue 9	1pm	H	AFC Bournemouth	W 5-0	Justham McNeil • Brown Tamplin • Williams Smith
Tue 23	2pm	A	Portsmouth	D 2-2	Justham Justin Brown • Perry Andoh Doyle •
Tue 30	1pm	H	Gillingham (Cup)	W 5-2	Justham Robinson Lacey Parry Guttridge
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Tue 28	1pm	H	Peterborough United	W 4-0	Justham Williams Howells Lacey Franks Rooney
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Tue 18	1pm	A	Cambridge United	W 4-1	Justham Ruddock <b>WHALLEY 2</b> Lacey Franks Williams
Tue 25	1pm	H	Leyton Orient	W 2-0	Justham Williams • Connolly Lacey Franks Rooney
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Tue 2	1pm	H	AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	Justham Robinson Fitzsimons Lacey Connolly Ruddock •
Tue 9	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon (Cup)	L 0-1	King Longden Fitzsimons Connolly Lacey Ngwala •
<b>JANUARY</b>					
Tue 6	1pm	A	AFC Bournemouth		
Mon 12	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 17	1pm	H	Milton Keynes Dons (Cup)		
Tue 24	1pm	A	Leyton Orient		
<b>MARCH</b>					
Tue 10	1pm	H	Cambridge United		
Mon 23	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon		
Tue 31	1pm	H	Portsmouth		
TBA		A	Gillingham		
TBA		A	Cambridge United (Cup)		

### SUBS

Galliford • Atkinson Ngwala Galliford Musonda Ngwala	<b>TAYALI 1</b> <b>GALLIFORD 1</b> Galliford Atkinson ▲ <b>GALLIFORD 1</b> ▲ <b>GALLIFORD 1</b>	<b>ALLMAN 1</b> ▲ Ngwala • Tayali • Ngwala <b>AMADI 1</b> • <b>ALLMAN 1</b> <b>TAYALI 1</b>	Ngwala Tayali Atkinson <b>AMADI 1</b> • <b>ALLMAN 1</b> Atkinson ▲	McGhan-George <b>AMADI 1</b> ▲ <b>ALLMAN 1</b> <b>ALLMAN 1</b> <b>NGWALA 1</b> Allman •	Justin • Hawkes • Magaraushe Perry • Hawkes • Hawkes ▲	Magaraushe • Allman • Craig • Bakinson ▲ Magaraushe ▲ Amadi •	Amadi Craig ▲ Amadi Tayali • <b>TAYALI 1</b> • <b>McGhan-George</b> •	Craig Kotter Perry Hawkes Craig Craig	Gooch Gooch Gooch Gooch Gooch
McGhan-George Atkinson ▲ Galliford Atkinson	Galliford Galliford Justin Galliford	Craig • <b>NGWALA 1</b> Craig • Craig	Tayali Tayali Tayali <b>TAYALI 1</b> •	<b>NGWALA 1</b> Allman • Amadi • Amadi •	Justin • McGhan-George • Murray • Snelus •	Craig • Perry • Amu • Amu •	Amadi Amadi ▲ Hankins Smith-Bubbins	Bakinson Hawkes Brown Brown	Gooch Gooch Gooch Gooch
Galliford <b>GALLIFORD 1</b> • <b>ATKINSON 1</b> Atkinson ▲	Justin • Atkinson Bakinson ▲ <b>GALLIFORD 2</b>	Atkinson <b>NGWALA 1</b> <b>ALLMAN 1</b> Allman •	Craig • Amadi <b>TAYALI 1</b> <b>AMADI 2</b>	Tayali Allan • <b>AMADI 1</b> • Tayali	Hankins • Fanewo • Fanewo • Magaraushe •	Amadi • Brown • Brown ▲ Snelus ▲	Brown Tayali ▲ Craig • Craig •	McJannett Craig Amu McJannett	Gooch Cassells Harker Harker
<b>GALLIFORD 2</b> <b>ATKINSON 1</b> Bakinson ▲ <b>MAGURAUSHE 2</b> Atkinson ▲ Galliford ▲ Magaraushe	Atkinson <b>GALLIFORD 1</b> • Galliford Bakinson Bakinson • <b>ATKINSON 1</b> Atkinson	<b>AMADI 1</b> • Amadi • Galliford Atkinson Murray • Perry Ngwala •	Craig • <b>TAYALI 1</b> Tayali Murray • Galliford Ngwala • Tayali •	Allman <b>ALLMAN 1</b> ▲ Allman • Amadi • Tayali Amadi • Craig	Tayali • Cotter • Craig • Ngwala • McJannett • Brown ▲ Snelus •	<b>BAKINSON 1</b> • McJannett ▲ McJannett • Tayali • <b>NGWALA 1</b> • Snelus • Hines •	McJannett Craig • Murray ▲ Craig ▲ Amadi ▲ King Harker	Snelus Snelus Amadi Fanewo Craig Tayali Bakinson	Gooch Gooch King Gooch Gooch
Atkinson <b>ATKINSON 1</b> Galliford Magaraushe •	Magaraushe McJannett McJannett Perry	Ngwala • <b>NGWALA</b> • Ngwala Atkinson	Tayali <b>CRAIG 1</b> Tayali Craig • Ngwala	<b>CRAIG 1</b> • Tayali • Craig • Hinds •	Musonda ▲ Snelus ▲ Hines • Murray •	McGhan-George • Murray • Kotter ▲ Craig •	Murray • Amu • Atkinson • Amu	Stanton King Bean Bakinson	Cassell Gooch Gooch

### SUBS

STEVENS 3 Rees Lawless •	Saunders <b>WHALLEY 1</b> Doyle •	Walker McGhan-George <b>SMITH 1</b> •	<b>LAFAYETTE 1</b> • Wall Lafayette <b>WALKER 1</b> <b>BENSON 2</b> <b>WALKER 2</b>	<b>MUSONDA 1</b> • Amadi • Stevenson •	Ngwala • Magaraushe • Hawkes •	Trotman • Galliford • Galliford •	Galliford • King • Amadi •	King • King • King •
Stevenson •	Guttridge	Whalley	Walker • <b>BENSON 2</b>	Perry	Musonda	Robinson •	<b>MILLER 2</b> •	
<b>ROONEY 1</b> Stevenson	Stevenson Ruddock	Drury • Whalley •	Miller • <b>WALKER 1</b> <b>WALKER 2</b> Martelli •	Wall • Miller •	Magaraushe • Magaraushe •	Longden • Longden •	Gooch • Galliford •	King •
<b>STEVENS 1</b> Howells	Rees Robinson	Rooney Isaac •	Fletcher • Miller Lafayette •	Magaraushe • Magaraushe •	Justin • Justin •	Hawkes Tayali •	Ngwala McGhan-George	King • Gooch •

The Town Under-18s ended 2014 on a high by extending their unbeaten league run to seven matches after a 2-0 win at Gillingham.

Two goals in as many second half minutes from James Justin gave the Hatters youngsters their third win in their last four Youth Alliance matches.

A delighted boss Paul Driver told lutontown.co.uk: "It was a game of few chances and while we dominated it was always going to be a case of getting the first goal.

"I felt once we got in front we'd go on and win and that was the case. It was an all-round excellent performance and a great way to end the year. We're in a good position in the league now and I'm happy with the group's progress during this first half of the campaign."



# community

WITH HEAD OF COMMUNITY TRUST KEVIN THOBURN

Looking back at 2014 it turned out to be more than an extraordinarily busy year for the Community Trust.

In fact, our fantastic promotion back into the Football League brought many significant changes that has seen both a rapid growth in community personnel and a big growth in the number of varied projects we are now able to participate in.

We shouldn't, however, forget the superb support we received from the Football Conference Trust during our time as a non-league club. In fact we were still relying on our funding from the Conference Trust as recently as July to help with our work in local schools. As a registered charity we look to represent the Club in the wider community and we rely on raising our own funding through our coaching activities as well as support from the main Club and our sponsor easyJet. Our election back into the Football League saw the Trust undergo a rigorous 'capability' audit before being able to draw on the resources all Football League clubs enjoy including central funding from the Professional Footballers' Association and the Premier League Charitable Trust, and this has enabled us to both expand our existing activities and begin lots of new and exciting projects.

We now provide free PE lessons to over 1,500 local school children every week as part of the Premier League School Sport project along with continued support from our main club sponsor easyJet. Our girls only coaching has really taken off with support from the Football

League Trust as part of the Female Football Development programme to increase the number of women and girls enjoying football and next year will see over six weekly centres running with links to local clubs offering playing opportunities.

Our recent involvement in Men's Disability Football has also been hugely rewarding for both staff and participants and we look forward to lots of games and coaching sessions with our two teams the Hatters and Boaters in 2015 who have also received great support from the first team.

We've also increased our football tournaments for 2015. As well as the Hatters Cup involving 1,200 youngsters playing at Kenilworth Road we are involving hundreds of additional youngsters in the national +Sport girls and kids cup as well as an adult tournament at the stadium to raise funds and awareness of prostate cancer and of course we also have our Integration Cup 2015 for boys from Marsh Farm and Lewsey Farm which was a big success earlier this year and forms an important part of our social projects on these estates.

The new year will see lots of other exciting projects be delivered by our community staff with support from the Club and we look forward to keeping everyone updated and engaged through these pages on these projects as we look to both promote Luton Town Football Club to new supporters and also use the power of football to influence and improve the lives of as many members of our community as we can. Merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone. COYH.



*Merry Christmas  
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Community  
Trust team*

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WINDY

doorstep

act

Prince's Trust

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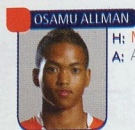
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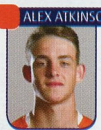


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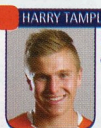
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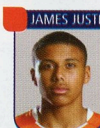
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WITH PHYSIOTHERAPIST JONATHAN CHATFIELD

The development of the elite player performance plan (EPPP) has brought about a significant restructure of the football club's academy. The EPPP requires all clubs to have an academy sports science and medicine department to ensure all players health and wellbeing are well catered for.

Like last season, we have again provided part-time internship opportunities for three graduate sports therapists: Ryan Flarry, Hayleigh Anthony and Lee Jemma. Not only are the therapists available during the day to help with the youth team, but they also look after the academy age groups from under-9 to under-16 at all training sessions and on matchdays. As well as the part-time therapist interns we also continued to maintain a close relationship with University of Bedfordshire and their Sports Therapy department who provide us with 12 matchday undergraduate students, which means at every academy match there is someone pitchside whose clinical knowledge excels just a standard first aider.

The academy also have a voluntary strength and conditioning coach, Lee Glenister, sports psychologist, Callum Sharpin, and performance analyst, Simon Dunn. All three lads have been irreplaceable and an essential part of the academy players physical development.

A big thank you must go to all the personnel mentioned in this article: without you the season wouldn't have run as smoothly or as professionally.

Throughout 2015 the academy sports science and medicine department will further increase the opportunity for internships and the personnel recruited. We are in the process of applications and developing more protocols and structure that will bring us into line with teams above our category rating.

Lastly I wish to congratulate Luke Trotman on earning his first professional contract and compliment his dedication and hard work shown during the rehabilitation from his double leg break in September.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I hope to see you all back at Kenilworth Road in 2015 as the first team continue their push for promotion.



# THE ACADEMY





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# Luton Ladies

## LADIES THROUGH TO SECOND ROUND

The Town Ladies got their name in the second round of the FA Cup after a narrow victory over Cambridge United last week.

Previous encounters between Luton and Cambridge have always been tight affairs and this seasons FA Cup tie proved no different.

The first half was played in horrible conditions with the wind and almost horizontal rain blowing towards the Luton goal. The visitors had the first real chance but ex-Chelsea winger Mills was denied by Town goalkeeper Hollie Staples.

The Town struggled to apply any consistent pressure due to the weather conditions but were unlucky not to take the lead when Jess McKay slid the ball across the six yard box but no Town player could get the vital touch. A rising Nicki Livingstone drive narrowly flew over the crossbar as Luton finished on top of a goal less first half.

The Town came out strongest in the second half with Shanice Jimenez having a shot blocked from a corner and Rebecca Kane was unlucky to see a header go wide.

The goal arrived eventually as a loose ball just inside the area dropped to McKay and she made no mistake and finished well with excellent technique smashing the ball into the bottom corner.

Natalie Richardson then came on to face her former club and was unlucky not to double the lead as she saw her effort saved. At the other end, Staples made an excellent save denying an opportunity in the dying moments.

### Clever

An even later free-kick saw Michelle Byrne take it in the ribs and some deeper defending and clever play in the final minutes saw the Town place themselves into the hat for the second round of the FA Cup, where we will now face goal machines Lowestoft Town on the 11th January.

Manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "I was really pleased with the girls' commitment and the way we played in the conditions.

"To get a second clean sheet two weeks in a row is really pleasing as I thought we defended superbly. Hopefully we can get a nice cup run now."

Jess McKay (10) celebrates the only goal against Cambridge in the FA Cup







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Luton Town

After 12 months of blood, sweat and tears – of joy! – 2014 is almost up. What a year it has been at Kenilworth Road.

The ultimate high spot of the past year was the glorious title-winning season last term. Over 100 goals and points led to the Town lifting the Conference title and with it the return back to the Football League after an absence of five, long years.

They say a week's a long time in football but so is a year. But, as the old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun. Where exactly has the time gone? It doesn't seem like five minutes since that bizarre aquaplaning fun against Barnet on New Year's Day.

Since the Hatters' return the League's 92, the winning has continued and good-time vibe remains. But what's been the best moments of 2014? We asked our burgeoning social media following for their favourite games and goals of 2014 – and for them to sum up the last 12 months in one word. Here's the best!

**Rob Palmer** @abers1

@LutonTown Gutteridge's last minute winner (and celebration) against Northampton, Dartford away and one word? Resurrection.

**Chris Lennon** @christofflennon

@LutonTown Fave goal - Cullen's 90th min equaliser at Cambridge. The moment that us winning the league was put beyond any doubt

**Phil Harper** @PAHarper

@LutonTown Goal - Gutteridge last min winner v Northampton. Game - Forest Green 4-1 win to end season at home. Word = redemption!

**KG** @Gardner\_KL

@LutonTown jonathan coming on at Hyde

**bunydav** @Ironman\_LTFC

@LutonTown Goal - Pelly's rocket at Dartford / Match - Barnet (H), suspect we will never see its like again! / One word - Superior... #LT14

**Rob Hadgraft** @RobHadgraft

@LutonTown Cullen's late equaliser at Cambridge in March; Victory at Stevenage in October; Redemption! #LT14

**Nick Meadows** @bmth\_ltfc

@LutonTown favourite goal is @Markcullen21 v Bury in the cup #screamer fav game FG at home. One word: #champions

**Callum** @callumLtfc

@LutonTown #LT14 Cambridge 0-1 Luton @Markcullen21 scoring a last minute winner then scenes after the FT whistle

**Dave** @Sussexhatter

Fav goal - Pelly v Dartford Away, Fav game - Welling Away, one word - Relief!

**Simon Darwen** @Darwen88

@LutonTown -Cullen!! -Cambridge away! -Champions

**Kevin Harper** @kevshat

@LutonTown Cullen's at Cambridge, Forest Green at home, Fantastic! #champions

**Andrew Collon** @andyc\_128

@LutonTown goal: @AndreGee1's 2nd v FGR, number 100 of the season; game: Welling away; word: back.

**Craig #LTFC** @lutfan84

@LutonTown welling away fav moment. Outpouring of emotion at final whistle was amazing. 1st chance for fans to celebrate.

**Richard Armstrong** @habbyhatter

@LutonTown Game is the home game vs Wrexham. The word... Heroes!

**ToWinJustOnce** @MagicCarpetDays

@LutonTown Goal - Cullen at Cambridge; One word - surreal

**Ashley Hyde** This was our year John Still is our hero he got us back where we belong and when he said at the open bus people asked me why I left to come to Luton and he said this is why I come to Luton then words alone to me will always be in my heart and he will for me go down as the greatest manager we have ever had COYH

**Stacey Sellars** Favourite goal was Gutteridge v's Northampton as it was in the last minute. Favourite game was Mansfield as it was a good team performance. Word: AMAZING year for everyone connected with Luton Town near & far.

**Jake Seabrook** Cambridge away, Mark Cullen, March 2014, champions for sure!



# Benno

## THE BIG INTERVIEW

TEN MINUTES AFTER THE ELATION OF SCORING HIS FIRST LEAGUE GOAL OF THE SEASON, STRIKER **PAUL BENSON** WAS STRETCHERED OFF THE KENILWORTH ROAD TURF WITH A BROKEN LEG DURING THE 3-0 WIN OVER MANSFIELD. LAST WEEK THE FRONTMAN, WHO SPENT A SHORT TIME ON-LOAN WITH TODAY'S VISITORS, UPDATED TALK OF THE TOWN ON THE PROGRESS OF HIS RECOVERY.

The highs and lows of the game were sadly illustrated in the space of 600 seconds for Paul Benson in the Town's win over Mansfield last month.

On 19 minutes the 34-year-old had put the Hatters in front with his first goal in League 2 of the campaign. 10 minutes later he was being helped onto a stretcher and off to Accident & Emergency after an innocuous challenge when landing after an aerial challenge.

The incident, which left Benson nursing a broken left leg, happened four weeks ago yesterday and today Benson is well on the way to recovery. Out of plaster and in a protective boot, there's every chance he'll be back to play a part in the Town's promotion push in the New Year.

"That will be probably be the toughest task – getting back in the team," said Benson to Hatters Player before he went to make his debut for DiverseFM as co-commentator for the match with Newport.

"We've got a few players out at the moment – Luke

Guttridge, Alex Lawless, Pelly, Curtley Williams...but you wouldn't have known that watching the Bury game as we played really well. The gaffer's built a strong squad that's able to cope and that's what we're doing. Long may it continue."

But it might not be long until Benson is back in Town colours again as he continues to make a speedy recovery.

"It's going alright," says Benson. "It's been three weeks since the injury and progress is being made – I'm probably just over half-way through the time before I could be back in training."

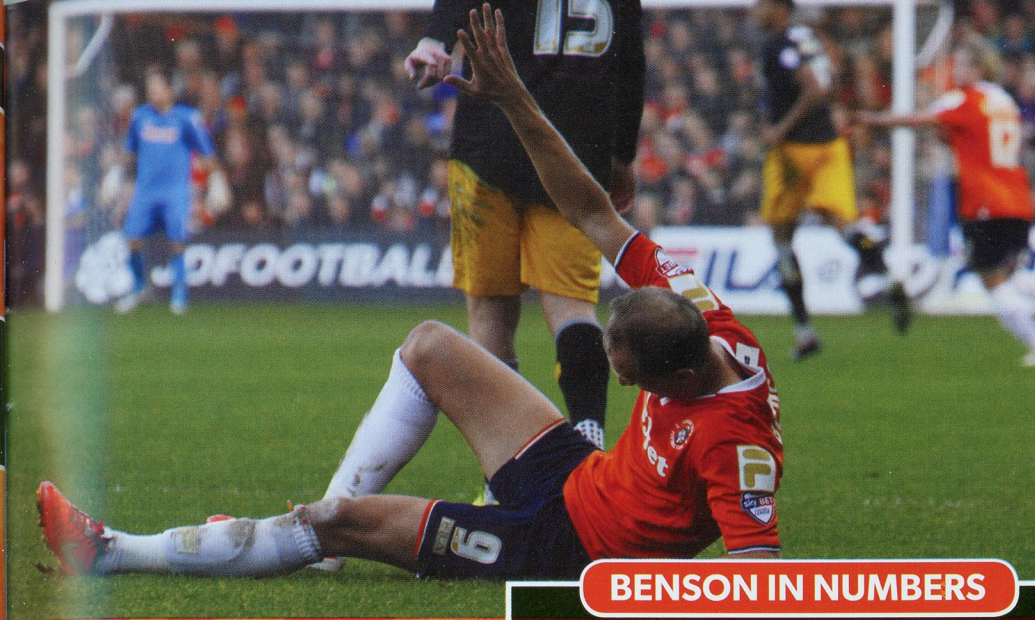
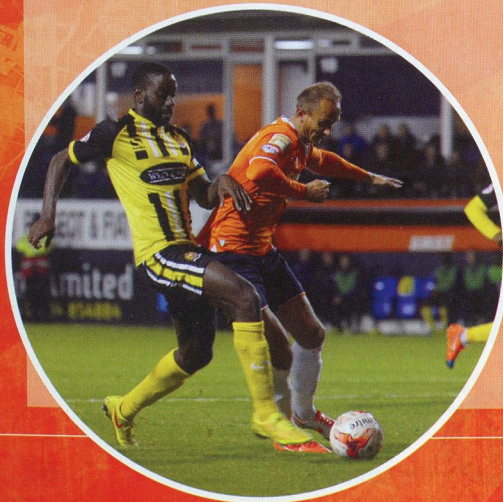
"I was in a cast for about a week and now I'm in a boot. The cast needed to come off – you don't want too much muscle wastage – and now the boot will be on for a few more weeks. I'm not allowed to put weight on it for three weeks so for now and the next three weeks I can try putting some partial weight on it."

"It needs another scan just before New Year to see how it's healing and hopefully once the results are okay the next stage can be full-weight bearing, then walking and then as the weeks go by, jogging and then full training."

Having already missed a part of the season with injury this season, Benson was back to his best before his unfortunate injury against the Stags. But the striker is philosophical about the whole thing.

"It's one of those things, injury is part and parcel of being a footballer," says the former Dagenham & Redbridge man. "It was unfortunate. I was challenging for a ball like I do several times in a match. As I've fallen my leg was planted in the ground at a strange angle and their player has landed on me."

"It was just a random, unfortunate series of events that culminated in the injury, it could have happened in any game at any point and it could have been worse. It wasn't a bad tackle, there was no intent or malice,



## BENSON IN NUMBERS

54 – LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES

20 – LUTON TOWN GOALS

2 – LEAGUE 2 PROMOTIONS IN HIS CAREER

it's just something you have to accept and get on with. When I landed I heard a crack and I thought to myself 'that doesn't sound good'. But there was no immediate pain and in my head I thought the noise I heard could have been shinpad on shinpad. It wasn't until I got up and tried to put weight on

it that I knew something was wrong, I called the physio over and said 'I think I've broken my leg'."

However, Benson's up-and-down day would continue after his trip to the hospital. The first prognosis after the X-Ray was that there was no break. But that all changed a few hours later, leaving Benson with mixed emotions.

"We were told that there was no break and then at about 8.30pm I got a call from the hospital confirming that there was a break," explains the striker. "It turned out the junior consultant, who had told me I had all the clear, was wrong."

### Pain

"After I was told there was no break I was still unsure because I was, by now, feeling a pain, and couldn't put weight on it, so if it wasn't broken, what was wrong with me?"

"But eventually I was told of the mistake and that did put my mind at rest – even though the news was bad."

"However, as breaks go, it's not on the severe level. It was nothing like what Smudger's had to go through last season. It doesn't even compare."

"All I have to do now is wait for it to heal and once that's been done it's a case of getting back into training and getting my fitness up to where it was."

Benson had led the line superbly in the first 30 minutes against Mansfield before the incident and the striker believes he was just getting back to his old self.

"I think in the away game at Exeter I felt really good," says Benson. "Before I had been playing not being quite 100 per cent."

"But at Exeter I felt the best I had been, in great shape and I managed to score against Newport in the FA Cup game here."

"I was pleased to score against Mansfield, I think the most pleasing thing was the way I persevered with it. I think there were a few times where I lost control of the ball but I just stayed with it. I was looking to pass the ball but couldn't find a team-mate to pass to. I just tried to steer it in, it wasn't a great connection but it found its way in."

"I was feeling good, though, and I thought I was playing well so it's frustrating to get an injury like this. However I've had a long enough career in football and I'm at an age now that you can't be disheartened by something like this."

"Injuries like this can always be around the corner, and either you sit there feeling sorry for yourself or you pick yourself and back yourself to bounce back from it and recover."



# ON THIS DAY

## ► THE RECORD

If you read this page in our Newport programme you will have noted how bad the Town's record was on 20th December. But on 28th December it is a completely different story, as the Hatters have a superb record of 21 victories from their 37 matches on this day.

The overall record reads 21 wins, seven draws and nine defeats since the first match back in 1897. That particular day the Town team set the president for good results on 28th December with a 8-1 thumping of Loughborough in the United League.

Given the amount of matches played on this day there have also been, as you might expect, plenty of goals. A total of 126 goals have been scored across the 37 games, with the Town responsible for 82 of those. That works out at an average of 3.4 goals per game.

## ► THE EARLY YEARS

The Town immediately took a liking to playing on 28th December with six wins from their first seven matches on this day between 1897 and 1920. After the victory over Loughborough, the Town beat Kettering 2-1 in 1903 and Reading 3-1 in 1907. After a 3-2 defeat to Norwich in 1908, the Town then beat Brentford 4-2 in 1909, Pontypridd 2-1 in 1912 and Gillingham 5-0 in 1920.

## ► TWO IN TEN

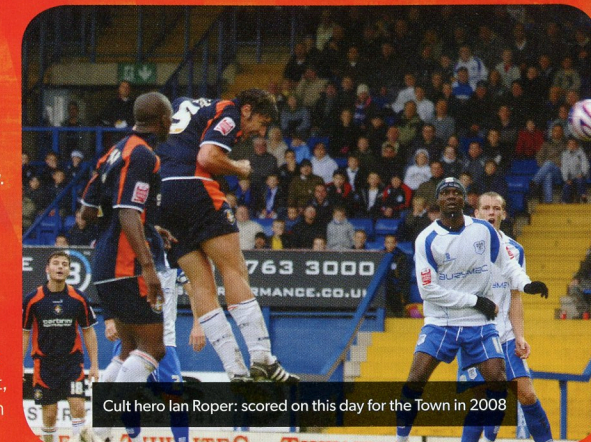
Between 1925 and 1964 the Town won just twice in 10 matches on this day but both victories were impressive enough to give a mention to. In 1935 the Town beat Clapton Orient 5-3 at Kenilworth Road with Bill Boyd scoring all five goals in the Division Three (South) fixture.

By the time the Town next won on 28th December it was 1957 and the Hatters then found themselves in the top flight. On this day 67 years ago the Hatters hammered Arsenal 4-0 before a crowd of 27,493. Allan Brown hit a hat-trick.

## ► THE MODERN ERA

After beating Arsenal in 1957 the Town then lost three successive matches on this day, including one against Watford in 1964.

But since that defeat to the Hornets the Hatters have gone on to win 13 of the next 20 matches on 28th December, losing just twice.



Cult hero Ian Roper: scored on this day for the Town in 2008

Between 1965 and 1981 the Town won all four of their matches on this day, beating Southport 2-0, Northampton 2-0, Wolves (in the top flight) 3-2 and at Norwich in 1981.

Three matches without a win on this day followed before a sole Danny Wilson goal gave the Town a 1-0 win over Charlton in the top flight in 1987. Four years later goals from Richard Harvey and John Dreyer gave the Hatters a 2-0 win over Chelsea.

The Hatters' record in more recent times has been hugely impressive, with six wins from the last seven matches.

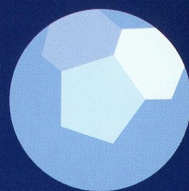
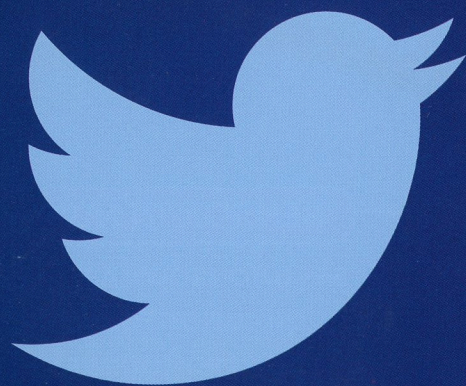
In 2002 the Town's sequence began with a 2-1 win at Wycombe Wanderers thanks to a brace from striker Steve Howard.

A year later goals from Adrian Forbes and Emmerson Boyce gave the Hatters a 2-0 win over Notts County at Kenilworth Road.

After a 2-2 draw with Colchester in 2004 (two goals from Rowan Vine) the Town beat Brighton & Hove Albion 3-0 in the Championship in 2005 with Steve Howard, Warren Feeney and Steve Robinson on target.

Lincoln were beaten 3-2 in League 2 in 2008, thanks to two goals from Chris Martin and one from Ian Roper, and the following season, with the Town now in the Conference, Eastbourne Borough were seen off 4-1.

And who can forget last season? The Town rose to the summit of the Conference with a 6-0 win over Kidderminster in front of 8,488 at Kenilworth Road.



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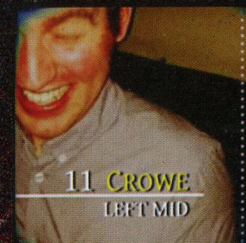


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# FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



## 2014: A BEGINNING, AGAIN

Were you there in 88? Did you celebrate Pleaty's famous jig in 83? Does your old man regale you with tales of Boxing Day mayhem in 69 only for your Granddad to quietly trump him with his boater and rattle from Wembley in 59?

As the year ends, for generations young and old there are two new numbers to add to that evocative list of Luton milestones. Because you and me mate, we were there in 14.

The iconic pairs of numbers above are important. They represent highlights and heroes and songs and TV montages that you may not have been alive to see first-hand, but that each form a little part of our Luton heritage whether your childhood favourite was Frenchy, Fozzie or Fotiadis.

Let us pack up 14 and pop it on the shelf with those that mean the most, because though we never actually had to start again from scratch like Wimbledon or (hopefully) a phoenix from the ashes of Hereford United, the two numbers that represent the last 12 months at Luton should be remembered 'til you're all Grandmas and Granddads as a beginning, again.

From Gray and McNulty's soggy-booted majesty that dragged us through our hangovers on New Year's Day to the silencing of the drummer by Cullen at Cambridge away, last season ended in the way we had prayed it would, with Luton as Champions and a Football League club once again.

Off the pitch, historic safe-guarding of the club's identity with Trust in Luton was followed by another

first for the English professional game, with our announcement that we'd pay a Living Wage before the rest of the 92.

In iconic terms, 14 will never be 88 of course (not least because the curse of the first 20 years of a century is that you can't start shortening the years to two digits until 2020 without it just looking and sounding a bit rubbish) but when we look back it will mark the start of an upturn in footballing fortunes once again for Luton Town FC, the most turbulent table-travellers of all.

2020. That's four numbers that seemed a long way off back when they were printed on A4 pieces of paper and handed out by Loyal Luton in the Leicester Arms before the coach to Anfield in 2008; the coach trip on which we would learn that the consortium of the same name had become the club's new custodians, as they remain today.

2014, the year we are about to leave behind like Ronnie Henry's teeth whitener, marked the half-way point between 2008 and 2020 – the year we aspire to be back in the Championship – and the way things are shaping up this season, who would bet against us reaching that goal? It certainly feels a lot more like we're half way back than still being in Division 4 should, doesn't it...

This was a year that saw the club make changes that matched the success on the pitch with an understanding and compassion off it that suggests we can go on and grow out of this era into whatever the future holds with our soul intact, and that, brothers and sisters, is worth celebrating like champagne-sticky silverware.



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# The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

THE ONLY PAPER FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FAN

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BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

**Thought all football chairman were cold, money-grabbing suits? Not Wolves owner Steve Morgan.**

So incensed was the 62-year-old at his side being reduced to nine men in their 2-1 defeat to Bournemouth that he took to the pitch at full-time to go ballistic at referee Mike Jones.

"I was extremely angry and frustrated at many of his refereeing decisions, and I still am," he said in a statement afterwards, which is not quite how he put things to Jones.

Morgan has been charged by the FA for abusive and/or insulting language or behaviour – joining an ever-growing list of chairmen who over-stepped the mark...

## EDDIE MITCHELL – BOURNEMOUTH

Beaten 3-0 at home by Chesterfield in September 2011, the Goldsands crowd turned their cannons on chairman Eddie Mitchell and a perceived lack of investment.

Never one to play the diplomat, the half-cut property tycoon responded to chants of 'Mitchell out' by grabbing the stadium announcer's microphone, reeling onto the pitch and telling them to "Go and support Southampton".

When that was met by catcalls and a chorus of "Come back when you're sober", he got even more rowdy.

"You there, the lad in the leather jacket whose eyes seem to be popping out of his head – why don't you jump over the fence and come and have a chat with me?" he yelled. "Come on then. One to one."

Mitchell was eventually rescued by a phalanx of stewards.

## SHEIKH FAHAD – KUWAIT

Like Zambia's unconventional defence of a Brazil free-kick, Sheikh Fahad's pitch invasion is a staple of any wacky World Cup moments compilation.

Already losing 3-1 to Michel Platini's mighty France during a 1982 group match, minnows Kuwait reacted furiously to a fourth French goal, claiming they had heard the referee's whistle and subsequently stopped playing.

It was at this point that Fahad – brother to the Emir of Kuwait and president of the Kuwaiti FA – stormed onto the pitch. After remonstrating with the ref, he then ordered his players to down tools and return to the dressing room – at which point the man in black capitulated and astonishingly disallowed the goal.



Wolves chairman Steve Morgan was not a happy man

Unsurprisingly, he did not referee another match in the World Cup and shortly afterwards was banned from officiating altogether.

Fahad, meanwhile, was killed just eight years later defending his country against the invading Iraqi army.

## JIM MCLEAN – DUNDEE UNITED

OK, so it wasn't on the pitch. But where Mitchell gave it plenty of chat, McLean put his money – or in fact his knuckles – where his mouth was.

Having agreed to answer just two questions, the under-pressure Dundee United chairman lost his rag when BBC reporter John Barnes (not that one) persistently asked if he was about to sack manager Alex Smith.

"You think I'm going to answer a stupid question like that?" asked McLean, before turning to the camera and saying "Make sure that's cut".

Then, lunging out of shot, the 64-year-old lamped Barnes right in the kisser, saying 'Don't you ever do that to me again'.

Barnes was left with a bloody nose and a cut lip. McLean walked straight to the boardroom and resigned.



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# league look

sky BET  
 LEAGUE 2

## LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

If only we had a crystal ball to look into the future...our print deadlines mean that you'll know how the Town got on at Wycombe on Boxing Day but we can't tell you when typing this...

What we can tell you is, the Town did have the opportunity go top of the table by beating Wycombe on Boxing Day – but given how League 2 is shaping up, the Hatters could, conceivably, be sitting in fifth place in the table this afternoon.

Last Saturday's 3-0 win over Newport County did, at the time anyway, give the Hatters some breathing space between eighth place – meaning the Town were six points inside the top seven places in the division.

Wycombe, who the Hatters met on Boxing Day, led the table by two points on Christmas Day – their lead at the top was cut by the Town and Shrewsbury, after Wanderers' 1-1 draw at Accrington on 20th December. Shrewsbury stayed in second place above the Town thanks to Andy Mangan's late winner over Morecambe.

Burton were in fourth place going into the Boxing Day games, level on points with the Town and Shrewsbury on 40 points, but having played a game more. They earned a point from a goalless draw against fellow promotion hopefuls Southend United, who they met in the Play-Off semi-finals last term.

Plymouth continue to make headway towards the top three and the Pilgrims enhanced their promotion credentials with a convincing 3-0 win over Dagenham & Redbridge at Home Park.

Argyle's Devon rivals Exeter saw their unbeaten run come to an end with a narrow defeat at Stevenage. The Grecians lie in eighth place, one spot outside the Play-Offs on 34 points – level on points with Newport, the Hatters' victims last time out here at Kenilworth Road.

Today's visitors Portsmouth were 14th in the table prior to their home game with AFC Wimbledon at Fratton Park on Boxing Day.



Former Tranmere boss Ronnie Moore is now in charge at Hartlepool

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

ACCRINGTON v BURTON  
 AFC WIMBLEDON v EXETER  
 BURY v MANSFIELD  
 CARLISLE v YORK  
 CHELTENHAM v NEWPORT  
 HARTLEPOOL v MORECAMBE  
 PLYMOUTH v OXFORD  
 SHREWSBURY v WYCOMBE  
 SOUTHEND v DAG & RED  
 STEVENAGE v CAMBRIDGE  
 TRANMERE v NORTHAMPTON

At the other end of the table, bottom-of-the-table Hartlepool appointed former Tranmere manager Ronnie Moore as their new boss, and Pools earned a 1-1 draw against Oxford in Moore's first match in charge. The Victoria Park outfit were bottom on Christmas Day and seven points from safety.

Moore's old club Tranmere were lying a place above Hartlepool in the table going into the Boxing Day games, one point behind York and two points from catching both Carlisle and Dagenham & Redbridge.

There's no doubting today's game will be a corker, but the game of the day takes place at the New Meadow where Shrewsbury take on Wycombe.



# THE SEASON

# Fixtures & Results

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI	SUBS
<b>AUGUST</b>									
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Carlisle United	W 1-0	6,760	1,088	6	Tyler	Connolly
Tue 12	7.45pm	H	Swindon Town (C1C1)	L 1-2	4,410	436	-	Tyler	Connolly
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon	L 0-1	9,101	690	14	Tyler	Franks
Tue 19	7.45pm	H	Bury	D 1-1	7,890	289	14	Tyler	Franks
Sat 23	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley	D 2-2	1,562	586	12	Tyler	Connolly
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	L 0-2	5,888	1,037	18	Tyler	Connolly
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>									
TV Sat 6	12.15pm	H	Plymouth Argyle	L 0-1	7,864	527	19	Tyler	Connolly
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Cheltenham Town	W 1-0	7,793	221	18	Tyler	Williams
Tue 16	7.45pm	A	York City	D 0-0	3,649	445	18	Tyler	Williams
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United	W 1-0	6,533	2,050	13	Tyler	Williams
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Oxford United	W 2-0	9,101	868	10	Tyler	Lacey
<b>OCTOBER</b>									
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Stevenage	W 2-1	5,236	1,897	7	Tyler	Lacey
Tue 7	7.45pm	H	Southend United (JPT2)	L 0-1	2,186	125	-	Justham	Lacey
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Crawley Town	W 2-0	9,238	1,033	4	Tyler	Harriman
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United	W 2-1	4,225	525	4	Tyler	Harriman
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 3-1	7,746	166	3	Tyler	Harriman
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town	W 1-0	10,040	1,018	1	Tyler	Harriman
<b>NOVEMBER</b>									
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Exeter City	D 1-1	5,400	1,043	2	Tyler	Harriman
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Newport County (FAC1)	W 4-2	3,656	334	-	Tyler	Harriman
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Tranmere Rovers	W 1-0	9,061	378	1	Tyler	Harriman
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Burton Albion	L 0-1	4,772	1,998	3	Tyler	Harriman
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town	W 3-0	8,418	294	2	Tyler	Harriman
<b>DECEMBER</b>									
Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Bury (FAC2)	D 1-1	2,790	434	-	Tyler	Harriman
Sat 13	3.00pm	A	Morecambe	L 0-3	2,263	731	4	Tyler	Harriman
Tue 16	7.45pm	H	Bury (FAC2R)	W 1-0	2,233	182	-	Tyler	Harriman
Sat 20	3.00pm	H	Newport County	W 3-0	8,383	317	3	Tyler	Harriman
Fri 26	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers						
Sun 28	3.00pm	H	Portsmouth						
<b>JANUARY</b>									
Sat 3	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United (FAC3)						
TV Thu 8	7.45pm	H	Shrewsbury Town						
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle						
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town						
Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United						
<b>FEBRUARY</b>									
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	AFC Wimbledon						
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley						
<b>MARCH</b>									
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						
<b>APRIL</b>									
Fri 3	3.00pm	H	Exeter City						
Mon 6	3.00pm	A	Tranmere Rovers						
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Burton Albion						
Tue 14	7.45pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge						
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United						
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Southend United						
<b>MAY</b>									
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage						
TBA		A	Mansfield Town						

## Enjoy the rest of 14/15 as a SEASON TICKET HOLDER

Season tickets are available to purchase to include the Shrewsbury match through to the end of the season. Buy now for just £192.00 for Adults, or from just £29.00 for kids.

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Seniors: £67.50  
Juniors: £22.50

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 1	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Howells	RUDDOCK 1	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham
Drury	Rooney	Cullen	Benson	Franks	Wall	Guttridge	Ruddock	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham
Guttridge	Rooney	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Williams	Ruddock	Stevenson	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	Whalley	Lafayette	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 1	Benson	Walker	Robinson	Stevenson	Lawless	Tyler	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	LAWLESS 1	CULLEN 1	Benson	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	Miller	CULLEN 1	Lacey	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	STEVENS 1	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	Miller	CULLEN 3	Lacey	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	Lawless	Cullen	Lacey	Benson	Wall	GUTTRIDGE 1	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Miller	Rooney	Guttridge	Stevenson	Whalley	Justham
Smith	GUTTRIDGE 1	BENSON 1	Cullen	Franks	Griffiths	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Rooney	Walker	Justham
Smith	Guttridge	Benson	Cullen	Lacey	Drury	Griffiths	Rooney	Ruddock	MILLER 1	Justham
Howells	Whalley	Guttridge	Benson	Franks	Drury	Cullen	Rooney	Ruddock	Miller	Justham
Drury	WHALLEY 2	BENSON 1	Cullen	Lacey	Howells	Rooney	Ruddock	Miller	Walker	Justham
Smith	Drury	Walker	CULLEN 1	Robinson	Howells	Miller	Stevenson	Rooney	Lacey	Justham
Smith	Drury	Whalley	Cullen	Lafayette	Griffiths	Miller	Stevenson	Rooney	Lacey	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Cullen	Lacey	Howells	Lafayette	Miller	Robinson	Stevenson	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Cullen	Franks	HOWELLS 1	Lafayette	Miller	Connolly	Stevenson	Justham

## LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Wycombe Wanderers	21	12	6	3	36	19	17	42
2 Shrewsbury Town	21	12	4	5	31	15	16	40
3 LUTON TOWN	21	12	4	5	26	15	11	40
4 Burton Albion	22	12	4	6	30	23	7	40
5 Plymouth Argyle	21	11	4	6	28	13	15	37
6 Southend United	21	10	5	6	22	19	3	35
7 Newport County	21	9	7	5	30	24	6	34
8 Exeter City	22	9	7	6	30	27	3	34
9 Bury	21	9	4	8	30	27	3	31
10 Morecambe	21	9	3	9	23	22	1	30
11 Accrington Stanley	21	9	3	9	32	35	-3	30
12 Cambridge United	21	8	5	8	32	25	7	29
13 Stevenage	21	8	4	9	28	29	-1	28
14 Portsmouth	21	7	6	8	25	26	-1	27
15 AFC Wimbledon	21	7	6	8	27	30	-3	27
16 Mansfield Town	21	7	5	9	17	25	-8	26
17 Oxford United	21	6	7	8	23	26	-3	25
18 Cheltenham Town	21	6	7	8	20	30	-10	25
19 Northampton Town	21	7	3	11	30	32	-2	24
20 Dagenham & Redbridge	21	6	3	12	25	34	-9	21
21 Carlisle United	21	6	3	12	27	40	-13	21
22 York City	21	3	11	7	22	28	-6	20
23 Tranmere Rovers	21	4	7	10	21	27	-6	19
24 Hartlepool United	21	3	4	14	15	39	-24	13

## PLAYER STATS 2014/15

	LEAGUE		THIS SEASON		TOTAL		DISCIP		LTCF	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS
Zane Banton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Benson	10	3	1	3	11	3	2	4	54	20
Paul Connolly	4	0	1	0	5	0	0	3	5	0
Mark Cullen	20	8	4	0	24	0	9	1	60	19
Nathan Doyle	12	0	0	0	12	0	3	0	16	0
Andy Drury	15	5	0	3	18	5	0	1	49	8
Fraser Franks	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	25	0
Scott Griffiths	17	0	1	4	18	0	1	1	73	2
Luke Guttridge	9	4	1	2	11	5	2	1	49	15
Michael Harriman	10	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	13	0
Jake Howells	11	4	3	2	14	6	4	1	295	30
Elliot Justham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alex Lacey	8	4	0	2	10	4	0	0	45	1
Ross Lafayette	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	0
Alex Lawless	2	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	160	19
Steve McNulty	20	0	0	4	24	0	0	2	92	2
Ricky Miller	2	4	1	0	3	2	0	0	8	2
Andrew Parry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	4
Ian Rees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Matt Robinson	5	1	0	1	6	3	0	0	54	3
Luke Rooney	5	3	2	2	7	3	4	1	16	4
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	10	5	1	0	11	0	1	1	40	3
Charlie Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Jonathan Smith	14	0	0	4	18	0	0	2	78	3
Jim Stevenson	2	9	1	0	3	2	9	1	17	1
Mark Tyler	21	0	0	4	25	0	0	0	255	0
Charlie Walker	0	3	0	1	1	4	0	0	5	0
Alex Wall	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	32	7
Shaun Whalley	5	0	2	1	7	0	2	1	28	4
Luke Wilkinson	19	0	3	5	24	0	3	2	24	3
Curtley Williams	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0



# HOLD THE Back Page

WITH DIVERSEFM'S MARK WOOD

Like two heavyweight boxers in the fading twilight of their careers, today's clash between Luton Town and Portsmouth is sure to rekindle memories and evoke tales from days of yore.

League 2 has rarely seen two bigger names meet, as League Cup winners Luton take on big name Pompey, who won the FA Cup just six years ago at Wembley.

Town, it looks like, have already endured their darkest days having spent five long years in the wilderness of the Conference before earning their return to the Football League last season.

Portsmouth's fall was no less spectacular as they crashed from the Premier League to League 2 in just four years.

The Hatters' resurrection has taken some time, but under John Still the feel-good factor is very much back at Kenilworth Road with many fans dreaming of a second successive promotion.

## Bleakest

Pompey, too, look to have put their bleakest days behind them now, although the biggest fan-owned club in the country is still trying to transfer their recovery on to the pitch.

However, nobody can dispute the importance of today's fixture, nor the draw these two old sluggers still possess. Kenilworth Road will be packed to the rafters this afternoon for a game that sold out weeks in advance and it's impossible to imagine just how many fans this game could have attracted from the two best supported clubs in the division if capacity wasn't an issue.

The fixture would sound much more at home in the top flight where the two teams met five times at Kenilworth Road in successive years in the late 1950s. In fact it has been a hugely happy hunting ground for



the Hatters who won all five of those fixtures, and have won 14 of their 20 League meetings here, losing only twice.

Back in 1951 the third round of the FA Cup drew the biggest ever crowd for this clash as 21,631 supporters packed the stadium to see Town triumph 7-2. Could this clash have attracted that many again? Who knows, but the same result would certainly be welcomed!

The similarities in the recent histories of both clubs are clear for all too see, but there are numerous other links that bind the two clubs together. Portsmouth's FA Cup-winning goalkeeper David James is a self-confessed Hatters fan and helped out with the Luton's training sessions last term.

Striker Tom Craddock is something of a forgotten man at Fratton Park having been bedevilled by injury since signing from Oxford United, but no Town fan could forget the impact he had on the Hatters after signing from Middlesbrough.

The pacey striker netted as he helped Luton clinch Johnstone's Paint Trophy final glory in 2009. In total he scored 38 goals in 86 games for the Town before joining Oxford, and if he does travel from the South Coast today, he is assured of a warm welcome this afternoon.

Yet it is a player who made just a handful of appearances for both clubs, but made a huge impact on both their histories, that will forever be remembered most fondly at Kenilworth Road.

Rory Allen was in scintillating form as he scored six times in just eight appearances for the Hatters to help preserve their status in the third tier in 1998, while he also became Portsmouth's first million pound player when they signed him from Tottenham a year later - only for his stay at Fratton Park to be plagued by injury before his retirement from football at just 25.

So heading into this encounter both these heavyweights know they've been floored, but both have beaten the bell to ensure their survival. So the question is, who will land the knockout blow this afternoon?



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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       |                     |



## PORTSMOUTH

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Paul Jones     | 16 Paul Robinson  |
| 2 Adam Webster   | 17 Nicky Shorey   |
| 3 Jack Whatmough | 18 Marcus Bean    |
| 4 Danny East     | 19 Wes Fogden     |
| 5 Joe Devera     | 20 Craig Westcarr |
| 6 Ben Chorley    | 21 James Dunne    |
| 7 Andy Barcham   | 22 Michael Poke   |
| 8 Jed Wallace    | 24 Nick Awford    |
| 9 Ryan Taylor    | 25 Nigel Atangana |
| 10 Tom Craddock  | 27 Matt Fish      |
| 11 Ricky Holmes  | 28 Lee Holmes     |
| 13 Johnny Ertl   | 29 Danny Hollands |
| 14 Miles Storey  | 33 Ben Close      |
| 15 Alex Wynter   | 34 Dan Butler     |

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Darren Deadman



Adam Crysell



Thomas Ramsay



4 Darren Blunden

## NEXT UP

v SHREWSBURY TOWN • THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2015 • 7.45pm  
SKY BET LEAGUE 2

