

# TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v  
AFC WIMBLEDON

SATURDAY 16th AUGUST 2014  
KICK-OFF 3PM

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# welcome TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ After five long years today's the day that Football League action returns to Kenilworth Road. How good does that sound? And what a first sentence to start this programme with. We hope you can feel the relief and the happiness in these words.

Together we made it. From Braintree to Bath, Dorchester to Darlington it's fair to say we've been through it all. Three Play-Off heartbreaks, one epic trip to Norwich and one wonderful, glorious, record-breaking campaign.

Week in, week out you were there through the good, the bad and the ugly, and your loyalty has been rewarded, at last. This afternoon promises to be a very special, poignant occasion as we welcome AFC Wimbledon to Kenilworth Road for this Sky Bet League 2 fixture – and of course our first home Football League match since 25th April 2009. 1,939 days ago...not...that we've been counting.

Inside this special 100-page edition we've got all you need to know: the new players, your existing favourites, where in League 2 we're heading and much, much, much more. Enjoy it and embrace today's occasion... Luton are back! ”

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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 our first home league game of the season. For a lot of people and for a lot of reasons today will be a special occasion.

Having been out of the Football League for so many years this afternoon's match represents a significant part of the club's history, and for myself, staff and players it gives us an enormous amount of pleasure to be able to be a part of it.

However, the game itself is the most important thing but we have to remember that the difficult times are now behind us and we must focus on the game in a professional manner.

AFC Wimbledon stand between us today, and they are a club who have done brilliantly over the last decade, rising up through the leagues to consolidate their place in the Football League.

They are a progressive football club and I have no doubt that this afternoon's game will be another tough one.

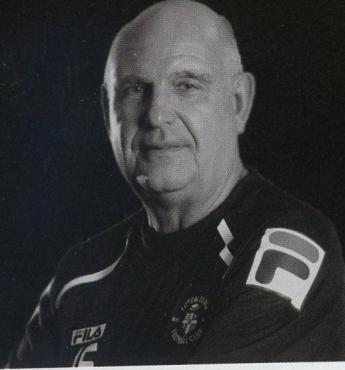
## Delighted

We started the Football League campaign last Saturday away to Carlisle and, as I wrote in my notes on Tuesday, we were delighted with our win. The Swindon tie followed this week, in which we played a new formation.

It was one we have worked on in training and we felt that Tuesday was an opportune time to use it. In the end, despite the result, I was quite happy with the way it worked and I will have no qualms in going back to it again should we feel the need to.

On the night our organisation and discipline was very good.

The only disappointment was the sending off of Luke Rooney.



The DVD quite clearly shows he was fouled for a clear penalty. What made it worse was Luke was sent-off for a second booking for diving. It's crazy that somebody makes a mistake and you can't appeal the decision, and Luke will be suspended for this afternoon's game.

I told you in my Swindon notes that I would touch on the arrivals and departures this summer in this programme, so here we go.

## Contributions

We saw Jon Shaw, JJ O'Donnell, Ronnie Henry and Andre Gray leave us and I thank them for their wonderful contributions to our championship win last season.

Jon was out of contract and JJ felt it was the right time to move on. The Ronnie situation was straightforward: we offered him a contract which he felt didn't meet his expectation and so he accepted a move to Stevenage. Andre's departure was well-documented. Taking into consideration he was in his final year of his contract we were happy that Brentford matched our valuation. All these players were important ingredients to our team last year. Jon's experience, JJ's enthusiasm in training spurred others on, Ron was a great captain and Andre scored 30 goals.

I wish them all the very best of luck.

## Terrific

On the recruitment side of things, we have added to the squad with the signings of Paul Connolly, Andy Drury, Luke Wilkinson and Paul Benson. Paul has a wealth of experience; Andy is familiar to Kenilworth Road; Paul Benson was fantastic for us last season; and Luke is a strong, powerful player and a centre-half who gives us competition in that position. We have also secured Ross Lafayette, Ricky Miller and Charlie Walker's signatures.

## STILL POSITIVE

"HAVING BEEN OUT OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOR SO MANY YEARS THIS AFTERNOON'S MATCH REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE CLUB'S HISTORY, AND FOR MYSELF, THE STAFF AND PLAYERS IT GIVES US AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO BE A PART OF IT."

These strikers have terrific goalscoring records and we hope they can push on for this year. Youngsters Curtley Williams, Mark Onyemah, Lee Angol and Kynan Isaac have also been added to our squad and we have high hopes that these, like all our players, can progress during their time with us.

We were fortunate enough to play a development game against a strong Crystal Palace development squad on Wednesday and the 3-0 win highlighted the strength in depth we now have on the books.

Finally, though, back to today. Your support has been absolutely outstanding so please continue to get behind us. Remember the stronger the team, the stronger the team.

Enjoy the game.

# BOARDROOM

## WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE GARY SWEET



Good afternoon one and all and welcome back; welcome back to Kenilworth Road for a new season, welcome back to the Football League, and welcome back to our amiable challengers and associates, AFC Wimbledon.

Having experienced a prolonged period in the company of the Football Conference, today will mark a new beginning in the future history of our football club as we firmly close the trap door behind us and look forward to a more positive and hopeful future.

It's ironic that, upon our first home game back, we face Wimbledon – a like-minded, progressive club, and one of the competitors that got in the way of an earlier return. Some Luton supporters, if not all, may curse the Dons for delaying our uprising, but I'm sure nobody begrudges their own, well-deserved success given their honourable resurgence. I can think of nobody I'd prefer to meet on our first home game of this season.

Please join me in welcoming the players, officials and supporters from Kingsmeadow, in particular, Erik Samuelson – AFC's chief executive who has been a close ally of mine over recent years – and the returning Stuart Douglas – now Wimbledon's physiotherapist and one player I loved to watch in a Luton shirt for his tenacity and speed.

So, what does today signify for us? Well, although predictions for today's game can't be made with any accuracy whatsoever, I firmly see our renewed membership of the Football League as a much more sound and secure foundation from which we will be able to develop our Club further, safe in the knowledge that we shouldn't be returning to the Conference.

Whilst we wouldn't have said 'no' to an earlier return, I believe the Conference era, even the full term, was good for our Club on the whole. It may have been expensive to fund – with the conscious decision to maintain a fully professional approach in all departments of the business throughout our stay, but the last few years have helped us harness a new culture at the Club in a way that an earlier return may not have delivered.

Having served our rehabilitation, stabilised our finances and prepared for this return, we can now gear up and plan for a stable, continuous rise to meet the original objectives that we, 2020, set out six years ago to reward our supporters and our town. It's crucial that we develop steadily to avoid complacency and reprisal, which will still require patience.

As you'll have seen, much rebuilding of the squad has taken place over the summer, most of which has seen investments made in players who possess strong development value and have a point to prove, which will bode well for the longer term. Indeed, we should take a while to look at the potential starting eleven in three-to-five years from now from our existing squad. This is now John Still's second full season at the helm and we can start to witness the characteristics and ethos of the squad he'll be putting together, which is a very exciting prospect.

Of course, other than the squad restructure, with the new Football League regulations, plenty of work has been going on behind the scenes, only some of which will be visible to all, of which, I'd like to highlight a few examples.

It has been necessary to sign every registered player on new Football League contracts – a massive job efficiently managed by Kevan Platt, our club secretary.

The new rule book demands an increase in substitutes, female officials and anti-doping, all of which mean that, not only must dugouts be bigger, but new changing rooms and facilities have needed to be implemented – thanks, primarily, to our stadium manager, Peter Kemp.

Meanwhile, our youth academy has needed to introduce new structures and policies as we become fully engaged with the EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan) system which has been an incredible feat by every member of the academy staff for their tremendous work ethic, led by Wayne Turner.

We've taken the opportunity, given the increase in central funding we'll receive, to start re-investing in areas that have needed some attention; the renovation of our executive boxes, the rebuilding of our retail delivery with a new web-shop and new merchandise, and new IT systems for catering and retail, to name a few.

Finally, to follow Football League practices and expectations a small number of title changes will occur; David Wilkinson has now become vice chairman and my

title changes to chief executive. Given that David already chairs board meetings and represents the Club at official League functions, very little changes in practice, but it does provide more stability at the top of our structure allowing Nick to continue to do an excellent job of being a wonderful ambassador for Luton Town.

Every member of staff has worked tirelessly over the summer, which makes our eagerness to succeed even greater.

It was great to be able to continue our excellent sponsorship arrangement with easyJet, who have supported us during the time we've most needed it, with our local community partnership continuing to grow strongly.

Touching on sponsorships, I would also like to welcome Doug Knight as a new vice president. Doug and his wife Maddie have been ardent Hatters followers and have supported the club financially with a broad variety of sponsorships of players and matches over the last few seasons. Although vice presidents don't get involved in the operation of the company and have no directorship responsibilities, their ambassadorship at home and away games and in the business community is well regarded and valued by the Club. I know Doug will look upon this function as a real honour.

So, as we embark upon a new leg of our journey and having thanked those who have been a part of the change process, please allow me, on behalf of the board, to thank the most important and valued members of all – you.

The respect we receive from other Clubs for the astounding levels and behaviour of our supporters fills us with pride. During our reign at Kenilworth Road, it's initially unbelievable to believe that our support base has grown, yet I believe that we have become somewhat humbled by our years in the Conference and have learnt to love the game and our Club in a new light.

Your support enables us to have the faith that this loyalty will only continue to grow as we do, for which we thank you. 5,700 season tickets and 1,500 replica shirts sold before the first home game of the season may be a record.

I truly hope we can reward your loyalty with success on the pitch, starting today.

Luton are back!



## 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



This afternoon's game represents a massive milestone for this club with it being the first home league game back at Kenilworth Road and as a group of players we're all very honoured to be involved – not to mention excited and confident.

Obviously you, the supporters, the directors and even some of us – Tyles and Howellsy – have been waiting five years for this day so it promises to be a great occasion. You can rest assured that we will go on the pitch and give it our all to get the right result and mark our return with a victory.

It's important that we don't let the occasion get the better of us and I'm sure that won't be the case against AFC Wimbledon.

#### Talented

Our visitors today have made some impressive signings this summer so we are under no illusions how tough this match will be. They have a talented squad and will be to bounce back from their midweek defeat against MK Dons.

In Matt Tubbs and Adebayo Akinfenwa they have two strikers who are a handful for any defence. Tubbs has a great goalscoring record and Bayo has been a great servant to the game. I've played against him a couple of times and I have always enjoyed the battle.

We'll also be out to show our bouncebackability after suffering defeat to Swindon in the Capital One Cup on Tuesday night.

In a game in which the gaffer played a new formation I thought we contained them for 75 minutes until they won the penalty that got them level. After that they sensed the winner and we were disappointed with their winning goal. However, as the gaffer said afterwards, they are the kind of things we need to learn from. Our ambition is to be playing League 1 football ourselves next season so we must take the positives from coming up against a side from that level. I thought we held our own but in the end the difference told.

We can, though, take heart from our win at Carlisle last Saturday. It was good to get that first win under our belts

– especially after we lost our first game of the season last year. Like the Swindon game we go into every game expecting three points and that will be the case once more this afternoon.

**"I think that team camaraderie is worth an extra 10 to 15 points a season. That's what got us through the difficult games last season when we really had to dig in. Here's hoping for more of the same this year."**

What will stand us in good stead throughout the campaign – as it did last year – is the camaraderie in the squad. The pre-season trip to Portugal is always a good way for the new lads to bond with the rest of the boys – their initiation songs are always good value! It goes to show how much the gaffer does his homework on players because he takes a players' character into consideration when signing them. That makes for a happy dressing room and harmony on and off the pitch is vital to a successful team.

I think that team camaraderie is worth an extra 10 to 15 points a season. That's what got us through the difficult games last season when we really had to dig in. Here's hoping for more of the same this year.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to those fans who went to Carlisle and came out to watch the Swindon tie. It was hugely appreciated. Remember it's not going to be plain sailing like it was last season so please continue to get behind us. We want the same as you – another successful season, but for that to happen we need to stick together.



# THE PERFECT 10

It's been a busy summer at Kenilworth Road with the Hatters completing the signings of 10 new players during a hectic summer of transfer activity at Kenilworth Road.

A run-down of the whole squad can be found further in this programme, but we'd like to welcome Curtley Williams, Paul Connolly, Ricky Miller, Ross Lafayette, Andy Drury, Luke Wilkinson, Lee Angol, Ricky Walker, Mark Onyemah and Kynan Isaac to Kenilworth Road.

There was one notable departure from the playing staff over the close season with last season's top goalscorer Andre Gray signing for Brentford for a significant undisclosed fee. Midfielder JJ O'Donnell also left the Town, signing for Gateshead for a nominal fee.

## Fixture changes

The Sky Bet League 2 fixture list was published in mid-June and the details of who, where and when the Hatters will be playing can be found on pages 96 and 97.

However, supporters should note that there have been two changes to the original list.

The Hatters' home fixture with Plymouth Argyle on Saturday 6th September has been moved to a 12.15pm kick-off having been chosen for live broadcast by Sky Sports. And the Town's home game with Exeter City – originally in the diary for Saturday 4th April – has been brought forward to Friday 3rd April (kick-off 3pm).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 68th birthday today to John Camp, a Hatters supporter for over 60 years. Have a wonderful day. With love and best wishes from Pat, Catherine, Justin, Christian, Denise, the grandchildren and your great niece and nephews.

## UNBELIEVABLE SHIRT SALES!

Such was the fantastic response to the new shirts that the Hatters club shop have sold out of every shirt in certain sizes.

The shop has in fact sold more shirts in the first week of sale this season than it did in the first month of last year's release. If you head to the new-look online shop website at [www.hattersworld.co.uk](http://www.hattersworld.co.uk) you will be able to see which sizes are still available. If your shirt is unavailable you can pre-order it online for when the next batch arrives.



## REST IN PEACE BERNARD

Everyone at Kenilworth Road was saddened to learn of the recent death of Bernard Moore at the grand age of 90.

Born in Brighton, Bernard joined his local side during the early war years and was soon banging in goals for fun. After signing as a professional for Albion in 1945, service in the Far East seemed to cut short his career as by the time of his return two years later he struggled to win a settled place in the team. Even so, it came as a surprise when he was sold to Hastings United for £200 in 1948. As if to prove everyone wrong he hit a phenomenal 138 goals in 121 games at Pilot Field before the Hatters paid a then Southern League record £4,500 to take him to Kenilworth Road in January 1951.

Bernard scored on his Luton debut in a 2-2 home draw with Manchester City before hitting six in his next 12 games to help the Town to narrowly avoid relegation from the old Division Two (now the Championship).

Injury cut back his appearances in 1951/52 but he was back to his best the following season, banging in 13 goals, many of them long range efforts, alongside Gordon Turner and Jesse Pye. By now 30 and seeing his first team appearances dwindling Bernard was pleased to accept a move back to where it all started, with Brighton paying £3,000 for 'the one that got away' in March 1954. In November 1955, and now at the veteran stage, Bernard joined Bedford, just in time to take part in the Eagles epic FA Cup run when they took mighty Arsenal to a replay.

After retirement, Bernard lived in Putney and was a welcome guest at the Kenilworth Road centenary celebrations in 2005.

Our condolences go out to Bernard's family and friends on their sad loss.

## REST IN PEACE JOHN ANLEY



One of the saddest emails the media department received over the summer was one that notified the club of the death of long-standing Hatters supporter John Anley.

John was a Luton Town nut, often barking out encouragement from his seat adjacent to the press box, and his first Town game came in the famous 8-2 win over Sunderland at Kenilworth Road in 1955. His last match here filled John with elation: the Town had just lifted the Conference championship trophy and was on the pitch with thousands of other supporters to join in the celebrations.

Members of John's family are here today, including grandson Matthew who will be sitting his grandpa's seat. Our condolences go out to John's family and friends.

## NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME

Life-long Town fan Jackie Kramer took her son Alex to the last home game of last season to not only celebrate the Conference Championship but also Alex's ninth birthday.

But this was not his first game by far. When Alex was just three days old Jackie took him to another Championship celebration, in League 1 against Brentford. Was he on that occasion the world's youngest football supporter?

The next instalment of shirts is due to arrive on 28th August, so get pre-ordering or plan your trip to the club shop and continue to show your true colours by showing off your new shirts all around the world. Once you've got your new shirt why not tweet us a picture using the #LutonAreBack and show off your new kit to the social media planet. Have you seen our kit videos yet? Check out the behind-the-scenes footage of our pre-launch photoshoot and a closer view of each kit on our official YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/lutontown](http://www.youtube.com/lutontown).

## Back in the Reserve League!

The Hatters are pleased to reveal that the development squad will play competitive fixtures in Final Third Development League this season.

The Town will take part in the League's newly-formed southern division alongside AFC Bournemouth, AFC Wimbledon, Cambridge United, Gillingham, Leyton Orient, Peterborough and Portsmouth.

The Hatters' second string have been without a competitive league since the Combination division ceased in 2012. It is anticipated that many of the home fixtures will be played at Kenilworth Road. The Town's development stars have impressed in recent seasons, mostly notably in the FA Trophy. But a move to a full-time division with regular scheduled fixtures will further aid the Hatters' next generation says Hakan Hayrettin.

The first team coach told [lutontown.co.uk](http://lutontown.co.uk): "Our younger players have acquitted themselves so well in the friendlies we played last season and their performances were rewarded with places in the first team squad."

"This club has a terrific reputation for bringing through young players and I think the league format will increase the competitive edge in matches. This can be of great help when assessing the development of a player."



# up next

BURY



TOWN SUPPORTERS WON'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT TO WATCH JOHN STILL'S SIDE IN ACTION AGAIN. WHY? WELL BECAUSE BURY ARE THE VISITORS TO KENILWORTH ROAD ON TUESDAY NIGHT!



**WHO?** Bury FC, aka the Shakers. You're right to have that puzzled look on your face...after all it's been five years since the Town and Shakers crossed paths in League 2 during 2008/09. But don't worry, nothing's

changed much. Bury still play in white, they're still called the Shakers and they still play at Gigg Lane.

**SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT.** According to their website it's the most asked question that Bury receive. Why are they called the Shakers? Well, the definitive answer is thus: It was the 1892 Lancashire Cup Final on 23rd April that the clubs nickname of 'The Shakers' first came into being. Mr. J T Ingham was Chairman-cum-manager at the time, and it is this gentleman who is alleged to have been questioned about his team's ability to beat the supposedly stronger opponents that day. It has been recorded down the years since that Mr. Ingham retorted as follows: "We shall shake 'em, in fact, we are the Shakers." That soundbite was seized upon by the press of the day and since then, the club have been known as 'The Shakers.' So if ever you get talking football down the pub and conversation runs dry you know what fact you can pull from your head...

**SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE...** The last time the Town and Bury were in the same division, the Hatters were relegated from League 2 in 2008/09. That year saw the Shakers finish fourth but lost in the Play-Offs to Shrewsbury. The following season, with the Hatters now in the Conference, Bury finished ninth – missing out on the Play-Offs by three points.

However, in 2010/11 the Shakers finished second and were promoted to League 1. After a 14th place finish in 2011/12 in the third tier, the following campaign (2012/13) saw them relegated back to the basement division. Last term the Shakers finished in 12th place. And now we're reunited.

**THE LAST TIME.** Bury's last visit to Kenilworth Road was a victorious one. The Shakers won 2-1 in a League 2 fixture in January 2009. Asa Hall netted the Town's goal but a familiar face was between the sticks for the Shakers that cold winter's day. Mark Tyler was on-loan at Gigg Lane and his appearance at Kenilworth Road was one of 11 matches the goalkeeper played whilst temporarily with the Shakers.

**THIS TIME ROUND.** Like today's visitors AFC Wimbledon, Bury are one of the sides in League 2 tipped to do well this term. Manager David Flitcroft took over last season and led the Shakers away to safety, finishing comfortably in mid-table. Their form towards the back end of last season, together with the signing of a number of new players this summer, has risen expectation at Gigg Lane. Veteran striker Ryan Lowe has returned for a substantial sum whilst former Crawley midfielder Nicky Adams is a coup for a club at League 2 level.

**CLUB CONNECTIONS.** As well as Mark Tyler, the Town and Bury have had Efe Sodje, Steve Elliot and Dean Kiely on their books. Goalkeeper Kiely was the most recent to play for the Hatters, as recently as 2006 when he played 11 games on-loan from Portsmouth. He came to the fore whilst at Bury in the late 1990s, playing over 150 times for the Shakers before a £1m move to Charlton.

# tickets please

SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANYTIME PRICES

Adults (22-64) £400, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £280, Golden Seniors (75+) £200, Unaccompanied Youth (10-16) £100, Accompanied Youth (10-16) £60, Accompanied Youth (under 10) £30.



**LUTON TOWN v BURY**



SKY BET LEAGUE 2

**TUESDAY 19th AUGUST 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM**

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



**ACCRINGTON STANLEY v LUTON TOWN**



SKY BET LEAGUE 2

**SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM**

Admission for this match for Hatters fans is pay on the day at Accrington. We have been given an allocation of 350 seats and 1,600 terrace places. Prices for seats and terracing: £20 adults, £15 64+ and students with ID, £10 under-18s, £5 accompanied under-12s.



**SHREWSBURY TOWN v LUTON TOWN**



SKY BET LEAGUE 2

**SATURDAY 30th AUGUST 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM**

We have been given an allocation of 990 seats in the Provision CCTV North Stand for this match. Prices: £20 adults, £15 over-65s, £14 students with NUS ID, £12 juniors 12-16, £5 under-11s. Disabled adults, seniors or students £15 with free carer. Juniors charged dependant on age category (above) with free carer. **Selling arrangements:** Although this match is not all-ticket, we strongly advise supporters to purchase in advance for this game. Tickets are currently on sale now at two per person to Diamond Season Ticket holders until kick-off today. Season Ticket holders will be able to purchase one ticket per person after today's game until close of business on Thursday 21st August. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale from Friday 22nd August until 3pm on Friday 29th August. Away Season Tickets holders' tickets have been put aside and will be sent on Friday 15th August unless the ticket office has not received information advising that you do not require your ticket.

If you require an additional ticket to be sent please advise before this date. If any tickets remain these will be available, cash only, on cash turnstiles on a first come first served basis on the day of the game.



**LUTON TOWN v PLYMOUTH ARGYLE**



SKY BET LEAGUE 2

**SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2014, KICK-OFF 12.15PM**

Please note the kick-off time for this match. This game will be broadcast live by 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.

# SPEAKING Commercially

## MATCH SPONSORS

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Castle Roofing would firstly like to offer huge congratulations to the players, management, directors and most of all the fans on our magnificent season last year. We're proud supporters of Luton Town Football Club, even our uniforms are orange! We are extremely proud to be Luton's match sponsor for the first home game back in the Football League.

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## TODAY'S MASCOTS



**MIA CARUSO**

Four-year-old Mia is from Harpenden and her favourite player is Mark Cullen.



**LOUIS HICKIN**

Louis, 13, is from Stevenage and his favourite Hatters is midfielder Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu.



**LUCA GERACI**

Luke Guttridge is eight-year-old Luca's favourite player.



**ASHLEY SUCHOCKI**

10-year-old Ashley is from Northampton and his favourite player is Alex Lawless.



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7 PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU	H: David Alexander A: Ben Gray	18 ROSS LAFAYETTE	H: Jacqui Peacock A: Maddie Knight	19 RICKY MILLER	H: Tom A: Tommy Lennon	20 SHAUN WHALLEY	H: Available A: Available
21 LUKE GUTTRIDGE	H: Luton Outlaws A: Richard & Zak Tilley	23 MATTHEW ROBINSON	H: COYH A: Whosh	24 CURTLEY WILLIAMS	H: Available A: Available	28 JIM STEVENSON	H: CME Heating A: Available
9 PAUL CONNOLY	H: Re-Markit A: Bobbers Travel Club	30 LUKE WILKINSON	H: Tommy Lennon A: Available	32 BRETT LONGDEN	H: Available A: Available	33 MARK ONYEMAH	H: Available A: Available
4 ZANE BANTON	H: Loyal Luton A: Mad Hatter	35 CHARLIE WALKER	H: Jonathan Perry of JP Life Therapy A: Available	36 CHARLIE SMITH	H: Available A: Available	37 KYNAN ISAAC	H: Available A: Available
9 IAN REES	H: Available A: Mad Hatter	M JOHN STILL	H: Thompsons Accountants A: Country Properties	AM TERRY HARRIS	H: Doug Knight A: Available	C HAKAN HAYRETTIN	H: Luton Town Supporters Club of Scandinavia A: Available

# welcome

## AFC WIMBLEDON



It gives us enormous pleasure to welcome everybody associated with AFC Wimbledon to Kenilworth Road this afternoon for what will be our first meeting as Football League clubs.

Of course, you will hardly need reminding of the last time the two sides met, when three years ago the Dons pipped the Town to promotion by winning the penalty shootout in the Conference Play-Off final at the City of Manchester Stadium.

During that time, the Dons have held their own in League 2, finishing 16th in their debut season in the Football League before ending the next two campaigns in 20th place. However, there are high hopes at Kingsmeadow that this season could be the one that the Wombles move up to the third tier for the very first time.

And there's no reason why Neal Ardley's side can't win promotion. A strike force of Matt Tubbs and Adebayo Akinfenwa would give defences at a higher level nightmares, so the Town backline will need to be on their guard this afternoon to keep those talented twosome at bay.

Should AFC go onto win promotion this term then it will continue the club's meteoric rise since their formation in May 2002.

The Dons' first step on the ladder to the League began with the Combined Counties Premier Division title in 2003/04 and the following season the Ryman Division One title was also in the bag. It wasn't for three seasons that the Wombles were on the up once more when they triumphed in the Ryman Premier Play-Offs in 2007/08.



# in opposition

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

### ► THE BOSS



**NEAL ARDLEY.** Appointed in October 2012, this was his first management role after a distinguished career as a midfielder. Spent 10 years at Wimbledon, before spells at Watford, Cardiff and Millwall.

### ► GOALKEEPERS

**JAMES SHEA.** Talented young keeper signed in July 2014 from Harrow Borough. Began on the books at Arsenal, coming through the ranks to be named as an unused substitute in a Champions League tie in 2012.

**ROSS WORNER.** Former Aldershot stopper who arrived at Kingsmeadow in the summer of 2013. Began his career at Woking before earning a move to Charlton. Played all but two games for the Dons last season.

### ► DEFENDERS

**BARRY FULLER.** Experienced right-back who signed from Barnet last year. The defender enjoyed successful spells at Stevenage and Gillingham under Mark Stimson. Named as the Don's Player of the Year last term.

**JACK SMITH.** Versatile defender who joined the Dons following his release from Millwall this summer. A former Watford youngster he made his name at Swindon, where he made almost 150 appearances.

**ADAM BARRETT.** Experienced centre-half who signed last week on-loan from Gillingham. Made over 250 appearances for Southend but has also served Plymouth, Mansfield, Bristol Rovers and Bournemouth with distinction.

**ALAN BENNETT.** Irish international centre-back who signed for the Dons in February 2013 the day after he left Cheltenham. Last season's captain made his name at Cork City – initially as a midfielder – before spells at Reading and then Wycombe.

**MARK PHILLIPS.** Experienced centre-back who arrived at Kingsmeadow in June this year. Came through the youth ranks at Millwall, playing alongside Neal Ardley. Spent eight seasons with the Lions before moving to Brentford and Southend.

### ► MIDFIELDERS

**SAMMY MOORE.** The Dons' current longest-serving player, the only survivor from the side that beat the Town in the 2011 Play-Off final. Previously on the books as a youngster at Charlton, Chelsea and Ipswich. Was Player of the Year in 2011/12.

**DANNIE BULMAN.** Experienced central midfielder who signed this summer from Crawley. Started at home-town club Wycombe before moves to Crawley and then Oxford – twice winning promotion from the Conference.

**SEAN RIGG.** Neal Ardley's first close-season signing this summer. The winger, who can also play as a striker, spent the last two seasons at Oxford. Began his career at Bristol Rovers before joining Port Vale.

**HARRY PELL.** Young midfielder who joined the Dons in the January 2013 transfer window from Hereford. Originally began his career at Charlton but joined Bristol Rovers in 2010. Scored four times last term.



**GEORGE FRANCOMB.** Right-sided midfielder, who can also play in defence or further forward, who joined the club after his release from Norwich in June 2013. The former Tottenham youngster was named Young Player of the Year last season.

**KEVIN SAINTE-LUCE.** Pacey French winger from Guadeloupe who came through the Cardiff City academy and made his debut in August 2012. Signed for the Dons in January 2013 and was mainly used as an impact substitute last season.

**CHRIS ARTHUR.** Left-side midfielder, who can also play at left-back, that signed in May 2013 from Havant & Waterlooville. Began his career as a youngster at QPR and was also used primarily from the bench last term.

### ► STRIKERS

**ADEBAYO AKINFENWA.** Powerful, experienced frontman who arrived this summer from Gillingham. A consistent scorer in over a decade in the Football League, most notably whilst with Torquay, Northampton and Priestfield.

**MATT TUBBS.** Prolific goalscoring striker who is currently on a season-long loan from Bournemouth. Scored goals for fun at Salisbury and then hit 40 goals for Crawley as they won the Conference in 2011. Signed for the Cherries in January 2012.

**ADEBAYO AZEEZ.** Young striker who signed for the Dons this summer from Charlton, where he had graduated from their youth system. Enjoyed loans spells with Wycombe, Orient, Torquay and Dagenham.

**DID YOU KNOW**  
AFC Wimbledon holds the record for the longest unbeaten run of league matches in English senior football, having played 78 consecutive league games without a defeat between February 2003 and December 2004.

# FROM THE OAK ROAD

**Geoff Hawley** commentates for WDON, the internet radio service by Wimbledon fans for Wimbledon fans. And he was behind the microphone in 2011, on that May afternoon at Eastlands...

**TALK OF THE TOWN:** Tell us about the transfer business conducted by Neal Ardley this summer. What do you make of a new strike force of Matt Tubbs and Adebayo Akinfenwa?

**GEOFF:** Neal has recruited players with greater experience and higher calibre than previously. We've been linked with some of his new signings in the past but now they've come to fruition and most fans have been really pleased to see quality signings. Some of the lesser known recruits have looked good in the lead-up and we now seemed to have assembled a far, far better squad than we've had for many years, that's appeared to have gelled quickly. Tubbs is a recognised finisher at this level and Akinfenwa has a grace and touch that belies his size. If they click, and they get the right service, there should be a decent goal return from them both.

**TOTT:** Town fans looks back ruefully on the Play-Off final in Manchester in 2011 – what are your memories from the day?

**GEOFF:** I was seated behind the Luton fans, covering the game for Radio WDON and it was a prolonged rollercoaster of emotion. Both sides had chances yet seemed fated not to score and it began to have the feeling of a pair of tired boxers, just holding on until the final bell and throwing the occasional shot that never really hurt. The game became a bit of a lottery at penalties. We found players, however tired and weary, that kept enough in reserve to finish the job.

Our penalties were generally well-taken and goalkeeper Seb Brown roused us further with his two stops. Neither team deserved to lose like that, there was little between the sides and we rode our luck.



Danny Kedwell's winning penalty kick delivered a realisation of a dream that never seemed plausible. It only took nine years but we celebrated wildly and showed what you can achieve. Yet sometimes you still look back and think "Did it really happen?" The Play-Off final was more a milestone in a battle to recover what we once had taken from us.

**TOTT:** How have Wimbledon fared since returning to the Football League? What's the most important thing Luton need to learn in making the step up?

**GEOFF:** We've not really had the consistency for a good run of games and we've slipped away into the scrap above the trapdoor too often. Players need to produce the goods more often otherwise you're on the back foot and putting more weight on your shoulders. It's a hard division and last season showed how close it can be, with a very compressed table at the end of the campaign. I think the keys are resilience and self-belief, to continue producing your best, without seeking safety first and sometimes coming up short. You'll always need that little bit of inspiration and quality.



Matt Tubbs

**TOTT:** Which Dons player should the Hatters specially be on the look-out for today?

**GEOFF:** All of them. Be very scared. We've a greater quality spread throughout the squad and players link up far better as partnerships within a complete team unit now. We've now stabilised enough to allow our academy to produce players who can add to the squad. Their quality is already starting to be seen.

**TOTT:** The club have been given the green light to proceed with a planning application for a new stadium at Plough Lane. How much would it mean to Dons fans to return home? Do you feel the club won't be able to progress further until its gets a new ground?



**GEOFF:** We've got fans who've never seen us play in Wimbledon yet understand it's our home. Others were there and have never felt Norbiton to be anything but temporary. It goes further than just a name on a shirt: we are Wimbledon. A new stadium would allow a larger crowd to enjoy a better matchday experience. It would give the club other revenue streams to invest into building sport in the community of Wimbledon into a bigger presence beyond that of a couple of weeks in the summer and reach a wider audience. We're still progressing without having a new stadium, so it isn't impossible.

**TOTT:** What are Wimbledon's ambitions for this season? Where will they finish? And what's your prediction for today's game?

**GEOFF:** The same question bit me badly last season: it's not my fault. This season's target has been defined as promotion by Neal Ardley, and he knows more about football than I do, so I defer to his better judgement. I want to see points picked up more often and those 95th minute draws being converted to wins. If the defence maintains its discipline, we've got more firepower to turn results around so we should be better off. A Play-Off berth could well be possible. As for today, it's early season and away from home, but I'd demand a draw if I was Neal. And Fraser Franks still owes us at WDON some biscuits.

## THE FACTS

### AFC WIMBLEDON

Formed: 2002

Manager: Neal Ardley  
Last season: League 20th

Last season's average attendance: 4,134

2014/15 position: 10th  
Leading goalscorer:  
Matt Tubbs – 2

# A HATTER...

## AND A WOMBLE

For the list of players to represent both the Hatters and the original Wimbledon look no further than the likes of Mick Harford, John Hartson, Ceri Hughes, Alan Kimble and Kelvin Davis, who is featured elsewhere in today's programme.

Very few players, however, have represented both the Town and AFC Wimbledon. There is one former Womble in the Hatters ranks this afternoon in the shape of Fraser Franks. The defender joined the Town

from Welling last season having impressed John Still during his term at Park View Road which saw him help the Wings to win the Conference South in the season before last.

Having started in the Chelsea youth set-up before switching to Brentford, it was following his release from the Bees that Franks signed for AFC Wimbledon in 2010. The defender was part of the Dons group that beat the Town in the Play-Off final in Manchester in 2011, although injury kept him out of the squad on that afternoon.

## HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Today's meeting will be the sixth meeting between the two clubs, the third at Kenilworth Road and, of course, the first in the Football League.

Two clubs first met on the opening day of the 2009/10 season, which was both clubs' first in the Football Conference. It was the Town's first match outside of the Football League following relegation the previous May, whilst the Dons had just been promoted after winning the Conference South. A Tom Craddock penalty gave the Hatters a first-half lead but it was a spot-kick that earned the Dons a draw when Jon Main beat Mark Tyler.

The Hatters were beaten in the return at Kenilworth Road in February later that season, with Craddock again on target, but the Town picked up their first victory over AFC when beating them early in the following season. On a game broadcast live on Premier Sports, the Town triumphed 3-0 thanks to goals from Zdenek Kroca, George Pilkington and Matthew Barnes-Homer.

The Town were held to a goalless draw in the next meeting at Kingsmeadow in January 2011 – a game best remembered for the Hatters profligacy in front

of goal and Andy Drury's excellent run and shot that cannoned off the crossbar.

However, the one fixture that both sets of supporters will remember will be the last one, which took place at the City of Manchester Stadium in the Conference Play-Off final in May 2011.

The Town went into the final after two impressive victories over Wrexham in the semi-finals, but the Dons shared the Hatters' confidence after a facile aggregate victory over Fleetwood.

But goals were in short supply in a cagey, nervy affair come the final. Danny Kedwell saw an early goal ruled out for offside but it wasn't until the final 10 minutes that the Town began to threaten. The big chance came with just two minutes left when Jason Walker's header from a left-wing cross from Jake Howells hit the foot of the post and bounced away to safety, to the astonishment of everyone backing the Town.

That missed chance meant a nervy 30 minutes of extra-time followed, in which the Dons also hit the post, but with no goals to show for their efforts the place in the Football League had to be decided by a penalty shootout. Alex Lawless and Walker missed the Town and, although Mark Tyler stopped one of the Wombles' kicks, it was left to Danny Kedwell to score the winning penalty that sent AFC Wimbledon up.

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN **LEIGH EDWARDS** TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO TWO OF AFC WIMBLEDON'S GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

### 1988 FA CUP WINNERS

**DAVE BEASANT:** England international goalkeeper who joined Newcastle in June 1988, then Chelsea, Southampton, Nottingham Forest, Portsmouth and Brighton. He is now a goalkeeping coach.

**CLIVE GOODYEAR:** Right-back who moved to Brentford in March 1991, then played for Hong Kong side Ernest Borel and St Albans City. He has been a physio at several clubs and now in Bletchley.

**TERRY PHELAN:** Eire international who joined Manchester City in August 1992, then Chelsea, Everton, Fulham and Sheffield United before development officer at Football South in New Zealand.

**VINNIE JONES:** Welsh international hard man who had two spells with the Dons before joining QPR in March 1998. He concentrated on acting after his success in *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*.

**ERIC YOUNG:** Welsh international central defender who reunited with Andy Thorn at Crystal Palace in August 1990, then played for Wolves, Enfield and Egham. He is now an accountant in Slough.

**ANDY THORN:** England Under-21 central defender who joined Newcastle in August 1988, then Crystal Palace, Wimbledon again, Hearts and Tranmere. He has since managed Coventry and Kidderminster.

**TERRY GIBSON:** Striker who joined Peterborough in December 1993, then coached at Barnet and Fulham. He ran a bike company and has since scouted and been a Sky pundit, now based in southern Spain.

**ALAN CORK:** Record goalscorer who reunited with Dave Bassett at Sheffield United in March 1992. Later with Fulham, he assisted Micky Adams at various clubs. His son Jack plays for Southampton.

**JOHN FASHANU:** England international striker who netted 107 goals in 276 League games, moving to Aston Villa in August 1994 where injury ended his career. Now a TV presenter and businessman.

**LAWRIE SANCHEZ:** Northern Ireland international who joined Swindon in March 1994. Later managing the Dons' reserve team, he has since managed Wycombe, Northern Ireland, Fulham and Barnet.

**DENNIS WISE:** England international who joined Chelsea in July 1990, then Leicester, Millwall, Southampton and Coventry. He managed Swindon and Leeds United before his executive role at Newcastle.

### ► 2010/11 CONFERENCE PLAY-OFF WINNERS

**SEB BROWN:** Young goalkeeper who missed just one match in 2010/11. He lost his place after Neal Ardley was appointed manager in October 2012 and had a loan spell at Woking. Now at Bromley.

**SAM HATTON:** Voted Player of the Year in 2010/11, his only goal clinched their 1-1 draw against Swindon in November 2011. He joined Grimsby Town in June 2012 and is now playing for Aldershot.

**GARETH GWILLIM:** Left-back who played in the Dons' first League match. He scored once in 27 League 2 games, moving to Sutton United in June 2012, then Ebbsfleet United in January 2013.

**STEVEN GREGORY:** Helped reach the FA Cup second round in 2010/11 and moved to AFC Bournemouth in July 2011. He was loaned back to AFC Wimbledon and joined Gillingham in January 2013.

**JAMIE STUART:** Former England Under-21 central defender who scored the club's first-ever Football League goal against Bristol Rovers in August 2011. He joined Sutton United in June 2012 and is now Margate.

**BRETT JOHNSON:** Central defender who contested a slot with Callum McNaughton and Mat Mitchell-King during 2011/12, making 18 League 2 appearances before joining Woking in June 2012.

**RASHID YUSSUFF:** Midfielder who helped to reach the FA Cup second round in three successive years, netting seven goals in 63 League Two games. He moved to Margate, then Hayes & Yeading.

**RICKY WELLARD:** Midfielder whose only goal in 22 League games came in the 4-1 win over Cheltenham in September 2011. He joined Cambridge United in June 2012, then Salisbury, now Sutton United.

**DANNY KEDWELL:** Leading marksman who captained the Conference Play-Off final triumph. He moved to hometown Gillingham in July 2011 and starred in their 2012/13 League 2 title triumph.

**KAID MOHAMED:** Striker who starred in the 2010/11 Play-off semi-final win. He joined Cheltenham Town in July 2011, then Port Vale and since loaned to the Dons, Bristol Rovers and Northampton.

**LUKE MOORE:** Striker who scored the first goal in AFC Wimbledon's 2010/11 Play-Off semi-final first-leg victory at Fleetwood and played regularly in the League before joining Margate in July 2014.

# WORLD WAR ONE

## great war stories

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5 August - 4 January

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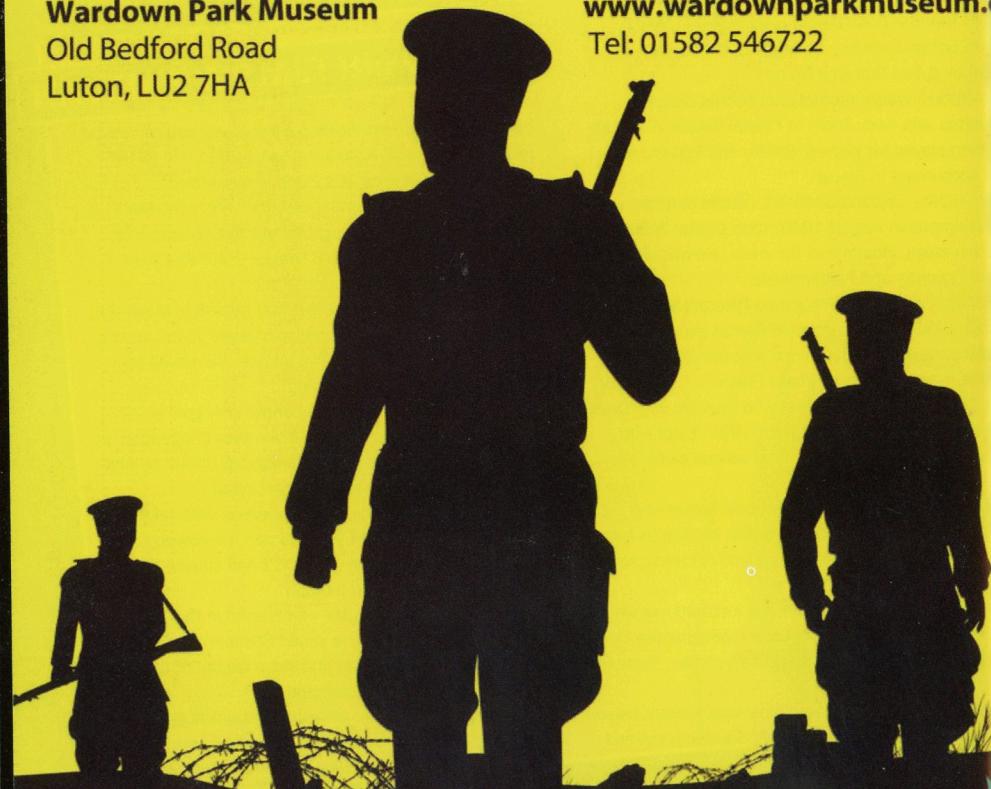
Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, this exhibition looks at how one of the deadliest conflicts in human history affected the town.

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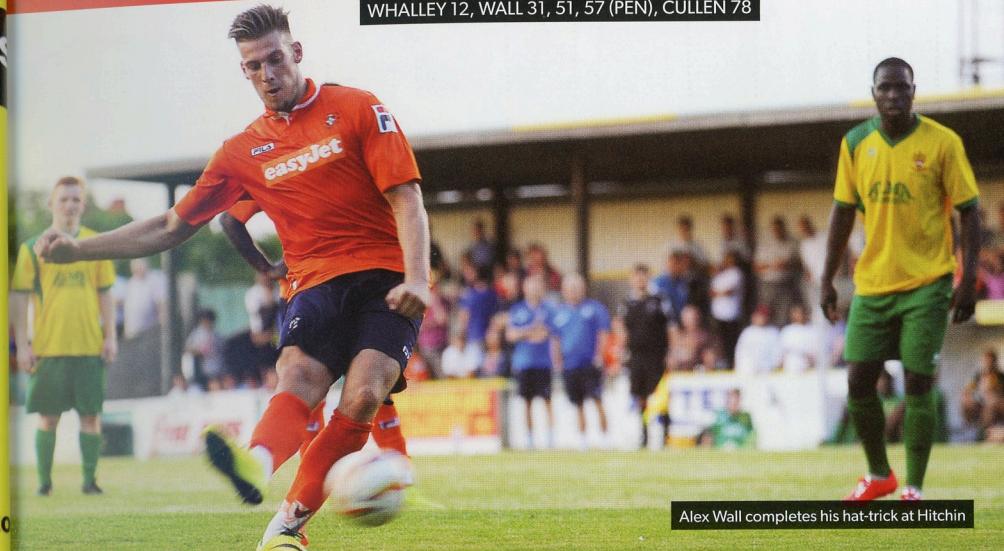


**Wardown Park  
museum**

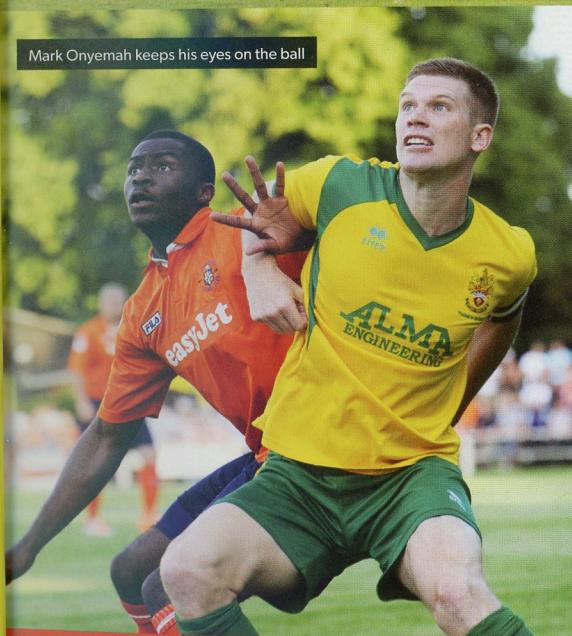
Luton Culture Registered Charity No. 1122964

# HITCHIN 0-5 TOWN

WHALLEY 12, WALL 31, 51, 57 (PEN), CULLEN 78



Alex Wall completes his hat-trick at Hitchin



Mark Onyemah keeps his eyes on the ball

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

A hat-trick from Alex Wall helped the Hatters ease to a comfortable victory in their first pre-season friendly of the summer.

The striker netted his impressive treble in a 26-minute spell either side of half-time and was joined on the scoresheet by Shaun Whalley and Mark Cullen in front of over 1,000 Hatters fans at Top Field.

Whalley notched an impressive opening goal on 12 minutes, cutting inside from the left before firing into the top corner.

Wall then found the target just after the half-hour mark with a header from a Whalley free-kick and the striker added to his tally six minutes into the second half with an excellent controlled volley.

The Hatters went 4-0 up when Wall converted a penalty after he was fouled and Mark Cullen added a deflected fifth goal 12 minutes from time to wrap up victory.

**OWN:** Justham, Franks, McNulty, Wilkinson, Onyemah, Ruddock, Robinson, Whalley, Lafayette, Wall, Howells.

**OWN FROM 63rd MINUTE ONWARDS:** Tyler, Connolly, McNulty (sub Miller 73), Lacey, Griffiths, Stevenson, Rooney, Lawless, Walker, Cullen.

**UBS NOT USED:** Fitzsimons, Trotman.

**Luton  
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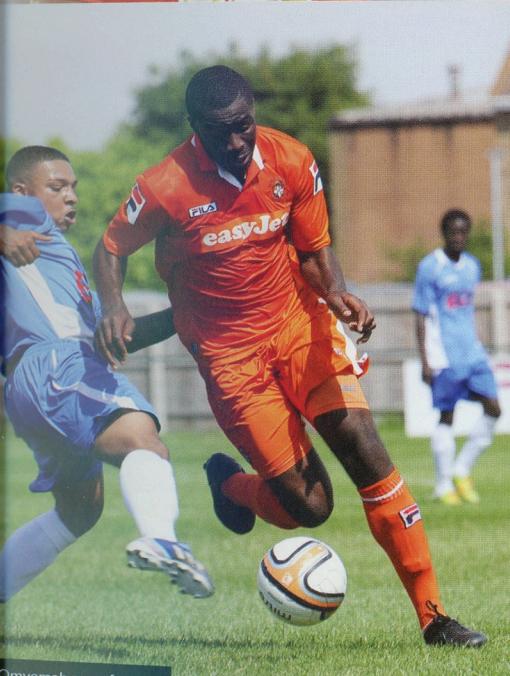
COMING SOON

AFC DUNSTABLE 0-4 TOWN

MILLER 16, WALKER 70, 72, TAIWO 90



Celebrations at Dunstable



Onyemah races forward

Justham, Longden, Onyemah, Fitzsimons, Fry, Taiwo, Martin, Walker, Banton, Miller.

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town lifted the David Preece Memorial Trophy for a third time thanks to a 4-0 victory over AFC Dunstable at Creasey Park.

It was a youthful Hatters side that took to the field with trialists Mark Onyemah and Charlie Walker both given 90 minutes in a bid to win a contract.

And both did their chances no harm with fine performances, including striker Walker who netted a brace.

However, it was another striker – Ricky Miller – that put the Town ahead after 16 minutes when he finished well having flicked the ball past the advancing goalkeeping following Solomon Taiwo's pass.

Both sides came close to scoring once more with Elliot Justham twice saving well, but the Town doubled their lead with 70 minutes on the clock when Walker fizzed in a low drive that gave the hosts' keeper no chance.

Walker then doubled his own tally moments later when nodding home before Taiwo wrapped up the victory with the goal of the game from a free-kick from distance.

# BARNET 0-2 TOWN

CULLEN 45, HOWELLS 80 (PEN)

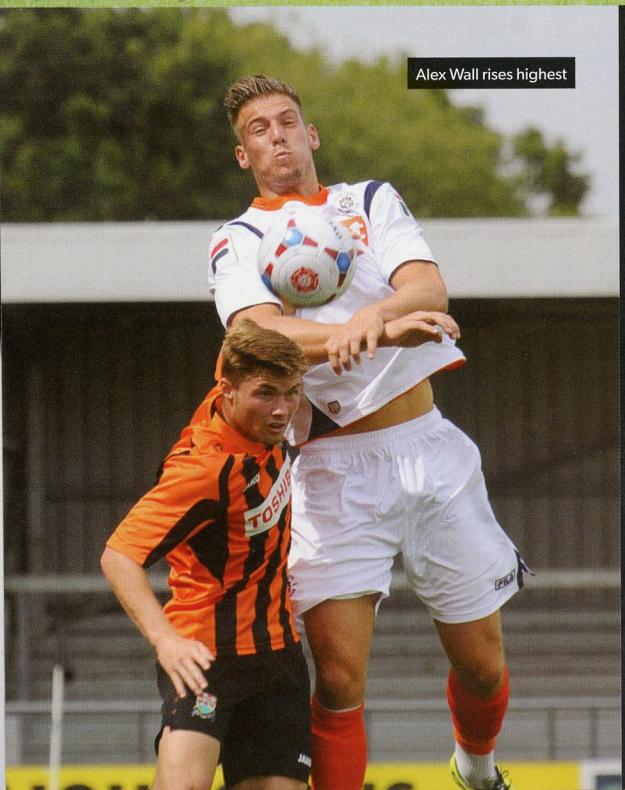
Alex Lawless shows close control



Mark Cullen puts the Town 1-0 up



Alex Wall rises highest



## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town recorded another pre-season victory with a 2-0 victory at Conference side Barnet.

The Hatters led at the break thanks to Mark Cullen's fine finish just moments before the half-time whistle and a series of fine saves from goalkeeper Mark Tyler.

Tyler kept out a point-blank header from Mauro Vilhete on 35 minutes and 10 minutes later Cullen raced onto Pelly Ruddock's throughball to beat Barnet goalkeeper Grant Stack with a confident low finish.

It could have been 2-0 to the Town 15 minutes into the second half only for Alex Wall to strike his penalty against the crossbar after Ruddock's forceful run into the box was halted by home defender Bondz N'Gala.

But the home side weren't so lucky with 12 minutes left when Jake Howells converted from 12 yards for the Town after Shaun Whalley fouled in the 18-yard box.

Mark Cullen loses this aerial duel



Steve McNulty heads clear



**TOWN:** Tyler; Connolly, Griffiths, Lacey (sub Franks 70), McNulty (sub Wilkinson 46); Ruddock (sub Robinson 70), Drury (sub Howells 70), Lawless (sub Lafayette 70), Rooney (sub Whalley 70); Cullen (sub Drury 85), Wall (sub Stevenson 70). **SUBS NOT USED:** Justham.

# Don't forget...

LTFC season ticket holders travel at child rate on match days. Don't worry about parking, connect with the Busway at Luton Station and get dropped right outside the ground.



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# Alex Wall

## STRIKER'S FIRST TEAM AIM

Wall struggled to break into the Town side last term but his talent shone through during a loan spell at Dartford.

Now Wall is aiming to improve his fitness and stake a claim for a regular spot in the Town side this term.

"I knew what to expect when we went to Portugal for training this time," said Wall.

### Hard

"It was really hard for me last year, but I learned a hell of a lot and I can hopefully build on that now. I went to Dartford to get fit, came back and scored a couple of goals and I started pre-season well.

"The basement of the fitness is there and it's where I want to be for the start of the season, starting and playing.

"The only way I can do that is getting my stamina up. I struggled with my fitness before, so the more the minutes I get, the fitter I get."

Wall bagged four goals for the Town last season – including a spectacular winner against FC Halifax – and six times whilst on loan with the Darts.

But the striker's ambition is to keep playing well to earn a place in John Still's side following the arrivals of strikers Charlie Walker, Ross Lafayette and Ricky Miller this summer.

### Opportunity

"I'm just glad to be playing and the opportunities are there. I want to keep the goalscoring going so I can keep myself in the team," said Wall after the Barnet game.

"You see the ability in training every day. I personally don't know the league, but a lot of the lads do, hopefully we can take the winning mentality we had last season into this."

And as for replacing his friend and former team-mate Gray, who moved to Brentford?

"I think all of us want to step into his boots," said Wall. "Andre did a fantastic job last season and got a great move. All of us want to replicate what he did last season."

"Hopefully he can carry on his form from last season into the Championship and carry on again."

"But here, I want to do exactly what he did last season. We're all fighting for that same place, all striving to get better and better, and that can be only good for the team."



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EAST THURROCK 1-1 TOWN



### WHAT'S THE STORY?

Bar The Town were held to a 1-1 draw against 10-man East Thurrock with defender Luke Wilkinson netting the Hatters' goal. The Hatters bossed the first period but the home side were reduced to 10 men in the closing stages

Outdoor di

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**TOWN:** Justham, Trotman, Onyemah, Wilkinson, Fry, Taiwo, C. Smith, Miller, trialist, Walker, Banton.

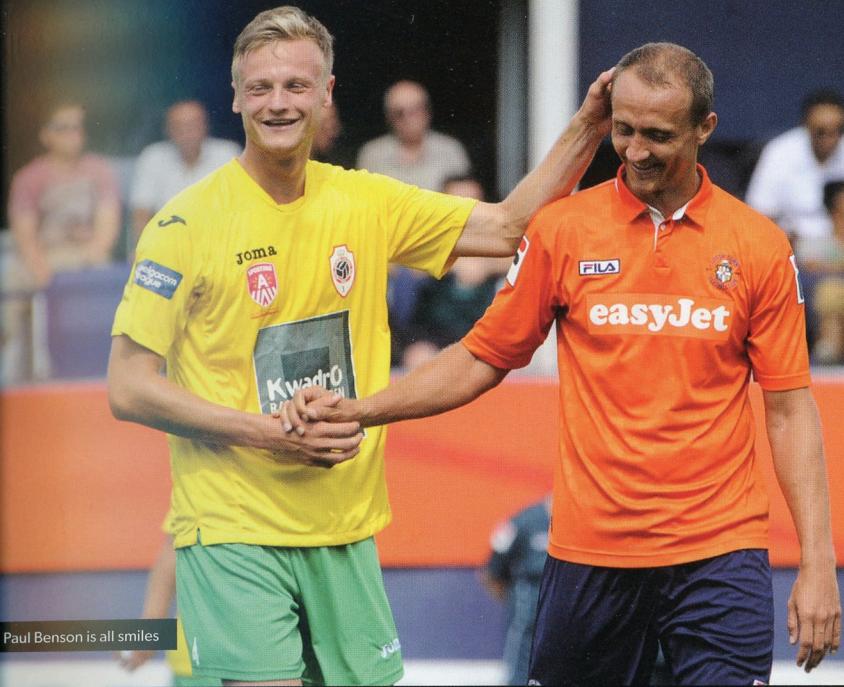
# TOWN 4-0 ANTWERP

LACEY, FRANKS, LAFAYETTE, LAWLESS



Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu  
fends off an Antwerp player.

Paul Benson is all smiles



## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town comprehensively saw off Belgian second division outfit Antwerp in their first home friendly of the summer.

The game was played amid a carnival atmosphere with over 800 fans making themselves heard in the Oak Road end. But the Belgians had barely taken time to look around their surrounding by the time Alex Lacey popped up to head the Hatters in front early in the first half.

Another goal from a corner followed shortly after the start of the second half when Fraser Franks headed home and it was 3-0 when Ross Lafayette surged into the box and finished well.

Antwerp's fans remained in good voice in spite of the scoreline and Town made it 4-0 with the goal of the game in the closing stages when Drury's pass found Alex Lawless and he slammed home a fine effort.



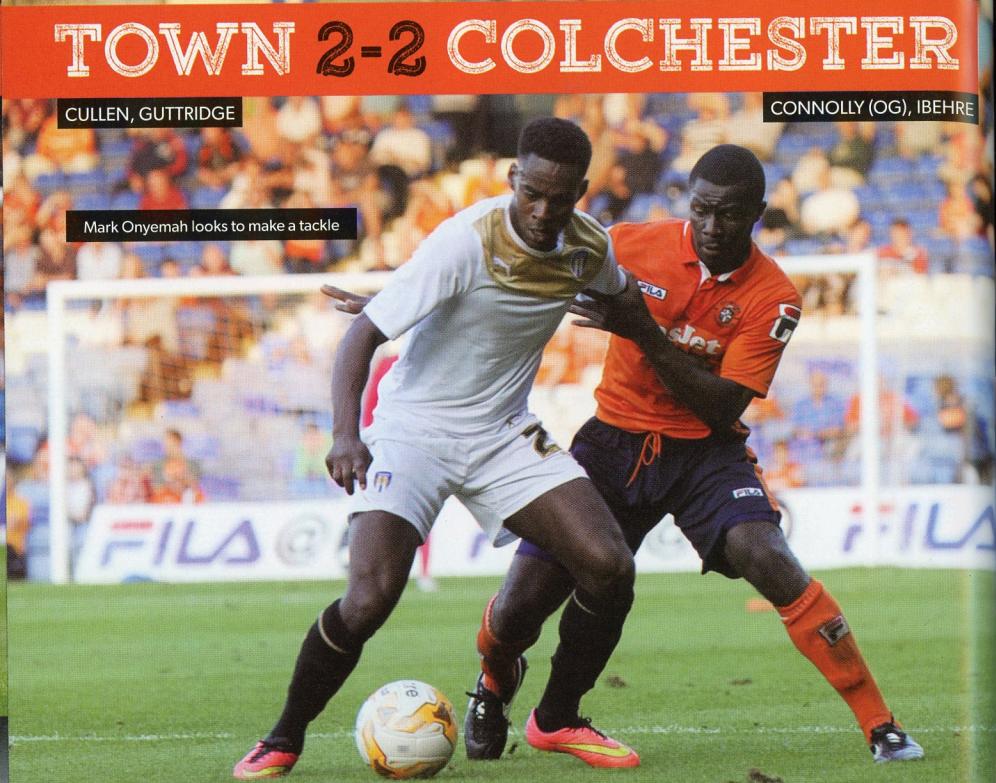
**TOWN:** Justham (sub Tyler 46), Connolly (sub Williams 61), Fry (sub Griffiths 46), Lacey, McNulty (sub Wilkinson 61), Ruddock Mpanzu (sub Franks 46), Rooney (sub Cullen 46), Robinson (sub Drury 46), Benson (sub Lafayette 61), Howells (sub Lawless 46), Whalley (sub Wall 46).

# TOWN 2-2 COLCHESTER

CULLEN, GUTTRIDGE

CONNOLLY (OG), IBEHRE

Mark Onyemah looks to make a tackle



**TOWN:** J ustham, Connolly, Onyemah (sub Smith 66), Franks, Wilkinson, Lawless, Cullen, Lafayette (sub Miller 7), Balanta (sub Guttridge 66), Stevenson, Robinson. **SUBS NOT USED:** King, Rees, Martin, Trotman.

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

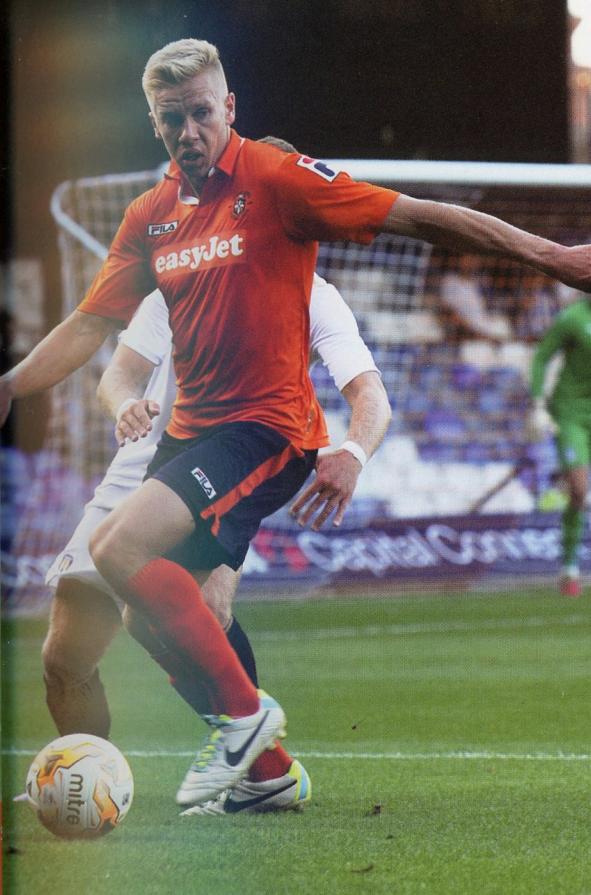
Substitute Luke Guttridge made a goalscoring return to action as he earned the Hatters a draw against League 1 Colchester.

The midfielder popped up with the equaliser from Mark Cullen's cross with 20 minutes to go in an entertaining friendly at Kenilworth Road.

Cullen had given the Hatters the lead earlier in the game midway through the first half when rifling home in the box after Ross Lafayette and Alex Lawless had combined.

Colchester levelled in fortuitous circumstances three minutes later when a wayward shot cannoned off of Paul Connolly's knee and flew past the helpless Elliot Justham.

The visitors upped the ante after the break and took the lead when Jabo Ibehre tucked a shot past Justham following Freddie Sears' disguised pass. However, Guttridge had the final word when he showed composure at the back-post to take Cullen's cross and fire home to make it 2-2.



Wicky Miller battles for possession



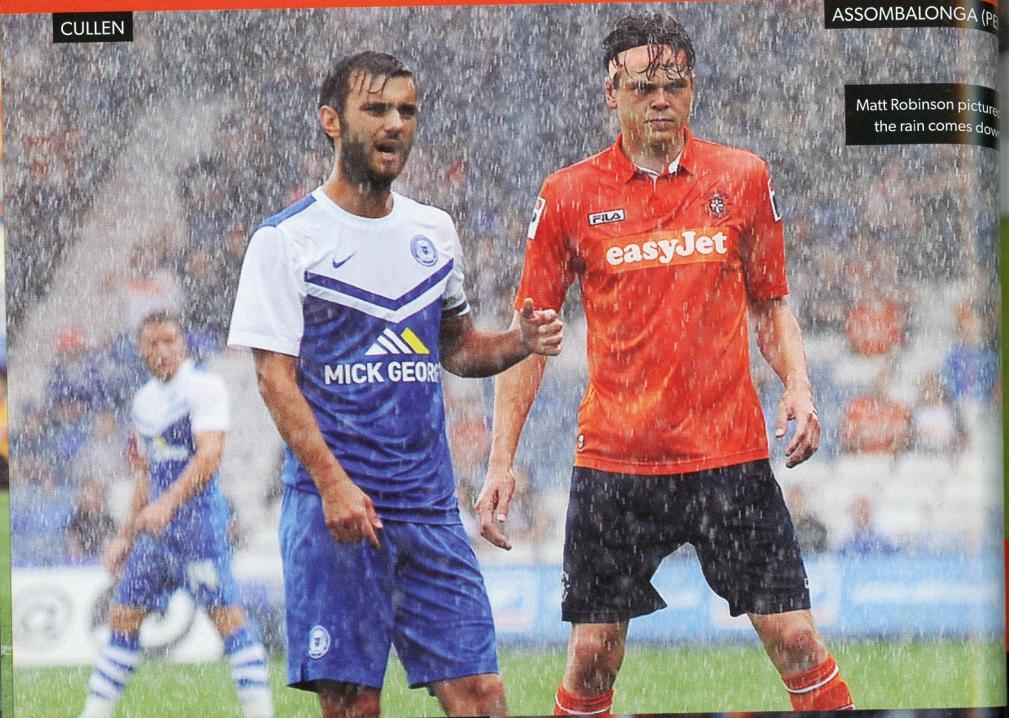
# TOWN 1-1 PETERBOROUGH

CULLEN

ASSOMBALONGA (PE)

Matt Robinson pictures  
the rain comes down

Row, row, row your boat...



**TOWN:** Tyler (sub Justham 46), Wilkinson (sub Franks 46), McNulty, Lacey, Lawless (sub Rooney 33), Drury (sub Howells 46), Benson (sub Wall 46), Griffiths (sub Stevenson 46), Cullen (sub Lafayette 46), Robinson (sub Guttridge 46), Connolly (sub Ruddock Mpanzu 46). **SUBS NOT USED:** Smith.

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters ended their home pre-season campaign with a 1-1 draw against last season's League 1 Play-Off semi-finalists Peterborough.

Striker Mark Cullen was again on target for the Town, putting his side in front moments before the half-time whistle. The frontman latched onto Matt Robinson's perfectly-weighted pass and finished well across the goalkeeper.

Town boss John Still made wholesale change at the half-time break and Peterborough rallied in search of an equaliser.

Goalkeeper Elliot Justham had kept Posh at bay with a number of saves before the visitors levelled from the spot with 15 minutes left. Steve McNulty was adjudged to have fouled Conor Washington in the penalty area and Britt Assombalonga dispatched the resultant penalty.



# CARLISLE 0-1 TOWN

CULLEN

Stephen McNulty clears the danger



Matt Robinson jumps to it at Brunton Park



## WHAT'S THE STORY?

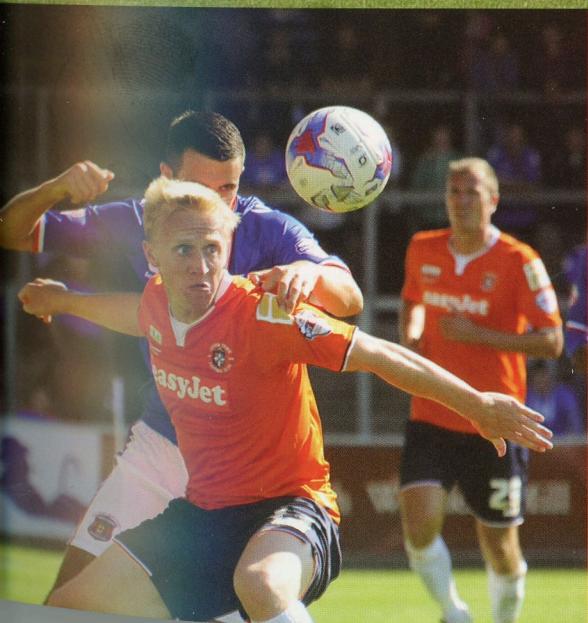
The Town made a winning return to the Football League after a five-year absence with a thoroughly deserved victory at Brunton Park thanks to Mark Cullen's first half strike.

The Hatters' winning goal came on the half-hour with a move of real quality involving Jake Howells, Matt Robinson and Paul Benson – the latter passing across goal for Cullen to tap home unchallenged from a yard out.

Cullen had earlier missed an opportunity having been played in by Benson, whilst at the other end Mark Tyler needed to be alert to keep out a shot from Brad Potts.

Carlisle, relegated from League 1 at the end of last season, woke from their slumber at the beginning of the second half, but despite their dominance, the closest the Cumbrians came to finding a leveller came when striker Billy Paynter hit the post.

After weathering the hosts' storm the Town came close to sealing victory with chances late on. Substitute Luke Rooney flashed a pass across the face of goal, Andy Drury volleyed just wide from 20 yards before Benson tested the home goalkeeper in the closing stages.



## LEAGUE POSITION

6

ATTENDANCE 6,760  
1,088 Luton

### TOWN:

Tyler; Connolly, Griffiths, Wilkinson, McNulty; Lacey, Robinson, Drury (sub Stevenson 78); Howells (sub Rooney 83), Cullen, Benson.

### SUBS NOT USED:

Justham, Franks, Wall, Ruddock Mpanzu, Guttridge.

# Bursting with ideas reaction



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## CULLEN'S GOALSCORING PRIVILEGE

Mark Cullen became the first player to score a Football League goal for the Hatters in five years in the 1-0 opening day victory at Carlisle United.

Cullen was thrilled to net the only goal of the game, which proved to be vital in the Town's first game of the Football League campaign.

And Cullen hopes that this will be the first of many goals, with a long season ahead of the 22-year-old, who already boasts Football League and Premier League experience whilst at Hull.

"It means a lot to me," Cullen said afterwards. "Everyone at the club has worked really hard to get back in the Football League and hopefully that's the first goal of many for me this season."

### Quality

The step up to the Football League from the Conference did not seem to faze the Town striker or any of the Luton players, as was shown in the quality of Cullen's winner.

"The lads played some good football in the build-up and was in the right place at the right time to put it away; I'll take 10 of those this season," said the Town goalscorer.

"Once the game began, I didn't really think about the occasion, it's just another game to me. The lads put in a great shift and we deserved to come out winners."

Last season, Cullen found it hard to cement a place in the starting XI, mainly down to the tremendous form of strike partners Andre Gray and Paul Benson. The Town striker believes that he can fill the void left by Gray this season and is confident of continuing his strong start to the campaign.

### Scoring

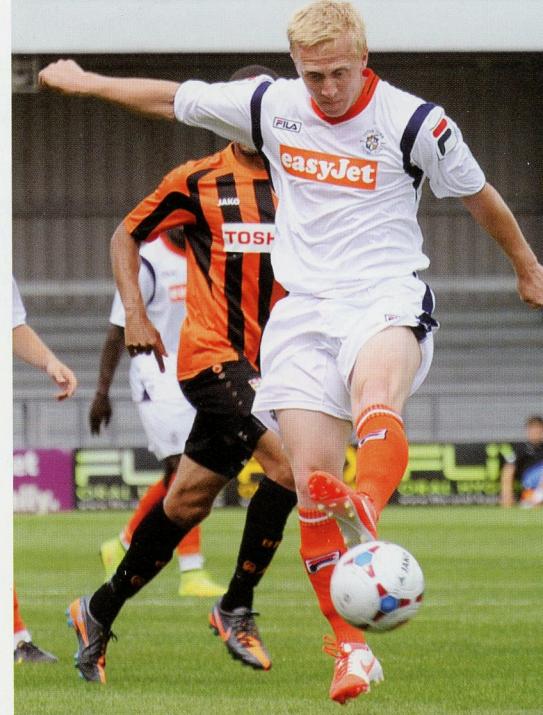
"I'd like to think I can cement a place in the team," the forward said. "Last season it was hard for me to get in the team as Paul and Andre were scoring goals. When I played though I thought I did a good job; I fancy myself to score in every game this season."

The former Hull man proved that he can become a versatile player under John Still, as he featured in a slightly wider role during the win over Carlisle. And Cullen admitted that it was something he had been working on in training and throughout pre-season.

"Playing a bit wider is something I have been working on," Cullen said. "I'm very happy to play there and I enjoyed it. I played in that position during pre-season and got myself a few goals."

More than 1,000 Town fans made the long trip to Carlisle to cheer on their side, with the Hatters faithful continuing to show their tremendous support to the men in orange. Cullen praised the Hatters supporters and was delighted that their side got to celebrate a victory in the Football League.

"The fans paid a lot of money to travel up here and to send them all back with a smile on their faces during the long trip home is really pleasing," said the Town match-winner.



# TOWN 1-2 SWINDON

ROONEY 53 (PEN)

SMITH 76 (PEN), 81



Mark Cullen appeals for a penalty... which Luke Rooney converts

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town bowed out of the Capital One Cup at the first round after losing 2-1 to Swindon Town. It was their first League Cup tie for six years – as Swindon had reached the semi-final in 2005.

After being under pressure from the League One side in the first half, the Hatters had led early in the second half following Luke Rooney's penalty, awarded when Robins skipper Nathan Thompson handled in the 18-yard box.

However, the Robins fought back through a penalty of their own when Andy Drury upended Nathan Byrne with 14 minutes left. Striker Michael Smith stepped up and drilled the resultant penalty low beyond Mark Tyler.

Five minutes later Smith added a second for the Robins when he burst into the box and took a touch before finishing smartly beyond Tyler.

The Town tried in vain to find a late equaliser. Rooney was harshly sent-off against his former side in stoppage time when he went down in the penalty area – only to see the referee show the midfielder a second yellow card for diving.



**TOWN:** Tyler; Connolly, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson, Franks, Robinson (sub Ruddock Mpanzu 78), Drury, Rooney, Benson (sub Lafayette 72), Cullen (sub Guttridge 67). **SUBS NOT USED:** Lacey, Wall, Howells, Justham.

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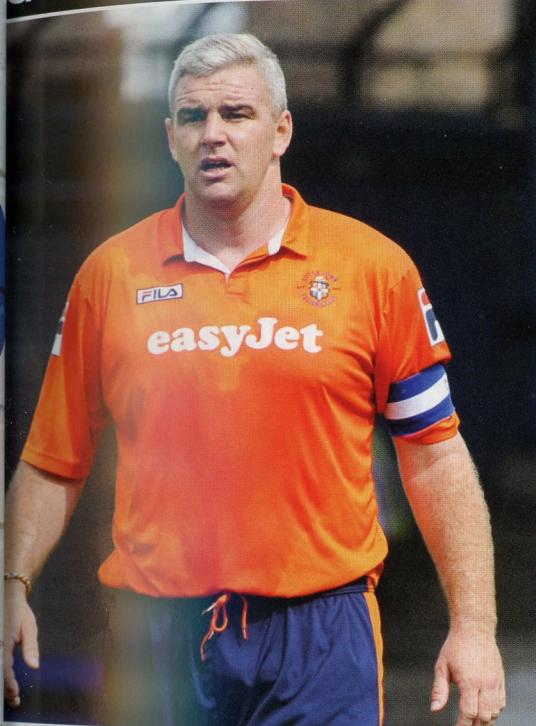
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# reaction

## CAPTAIN REFLECTS ON CUP EXIT



Skipper Stephen McNulty was happy with the Town's effort in the Capital One Cup defeat to Swindon Town, on a night when Hatters boss John Still opted to play a newly-adapted 3-5-2 system.

The Town were comfortable for the majority of the game under the formation, and McNulty was pleased with how the Hatters went about the game, despite being disappointed with the end score-line.

"It was a new system that the gaffer tried," explained the Town captain. "It was heartbreak towards the end; I didn't think they were going to score until they got the penalty."

"We had most of the ball and they weren't really hurting us, Swindon were shooting from long distance and everything was in front of us."

"They got a goal back and that gave them a lift. They went on to get the winner and we are disappointed, all in all we conducted ourselves very well."

The Town captain had previously played in the same type of system during a stint at Liverpool as a youngster and admitted that the new formation had only been worked on briefly in training.

"When I was at Liverpool I might have played that system, but not for very long," the defender said.

"We've only worked on it for two sessions; it will take a while to get everyone used to the new system."

"It's a funny type of formation, you don't know whether or not to stay or go. We are all professional footballers so we should be able to adapt to anything. I thought everyone conducted themselves well and fitted into the new formation."

The skipper believes that in the end the difference between the two sides was the way in which the opposition kept hold of possession, something the Town can look to improve on when coming up against League 2 opposition for the remainder of the season.

"I think they kept the ball a lot better than us," admitted McNulty. "They were comfortable on the ball and I think we could have done that better."

"Swindon didn't rush and try to play a killer ball all the time, we were a bit naive on the ball and we should have slowed the play down more. They're a very good side and I think they'll be up there next season."

### Focus

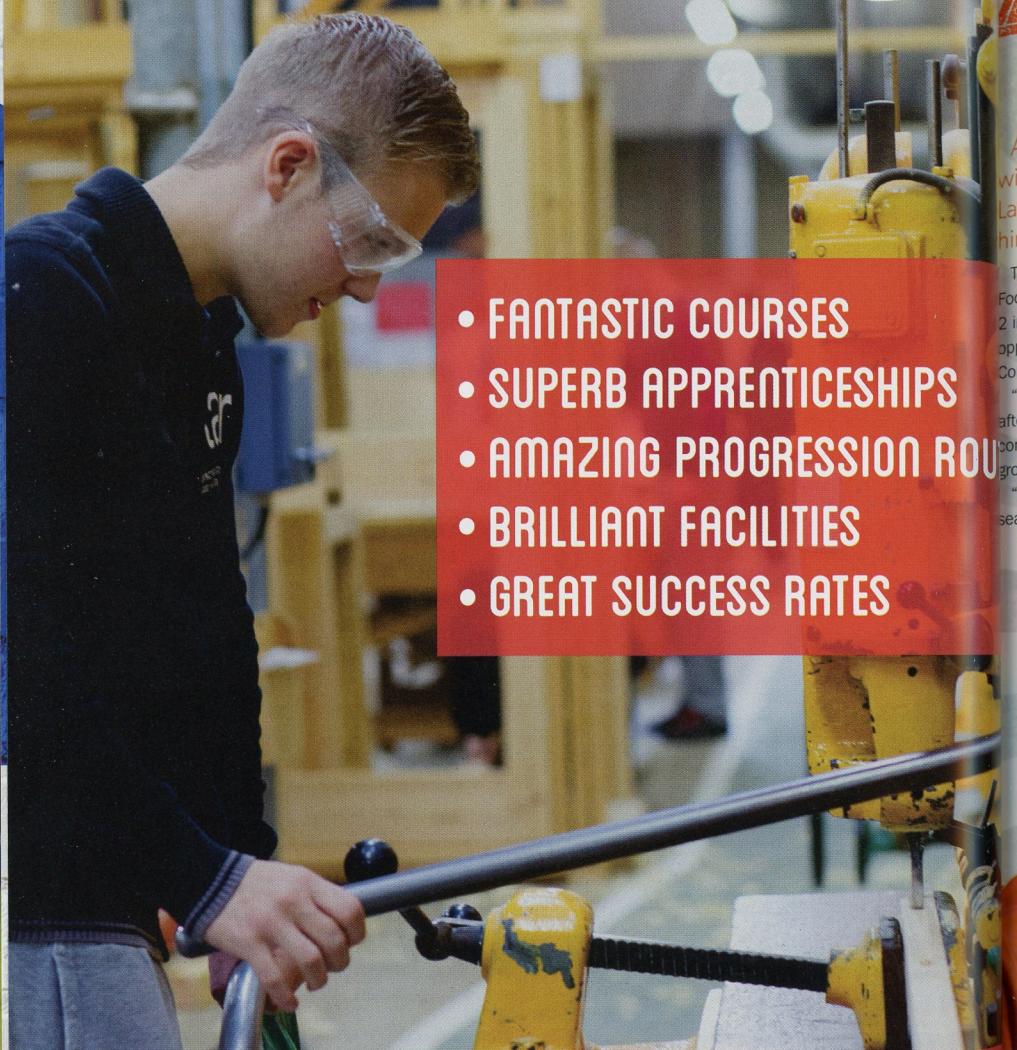
McNulty now wants the Town to forget about the cup exit and focus their intentions on gaining promotion into League 1, with the intention of playing sides such as Swindon Town on a weekly basis.

"That's where we want to be next season, and that's our aim," McNulty said. "Hopefully next season we will be playing against teams like that week in week out. This is what we are working hard for in training every week."

"You can be disappointed but the next game will be a clean slate and we need to get our focus back to the league."

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ENGINEERING

# Alex Lawless

WELSHMAN RELISHING LEAGUE RETURN

After experiencing the highs and lows with the Town in the Conference, Alex Lawless is looking forward to testing himself in the Football League.

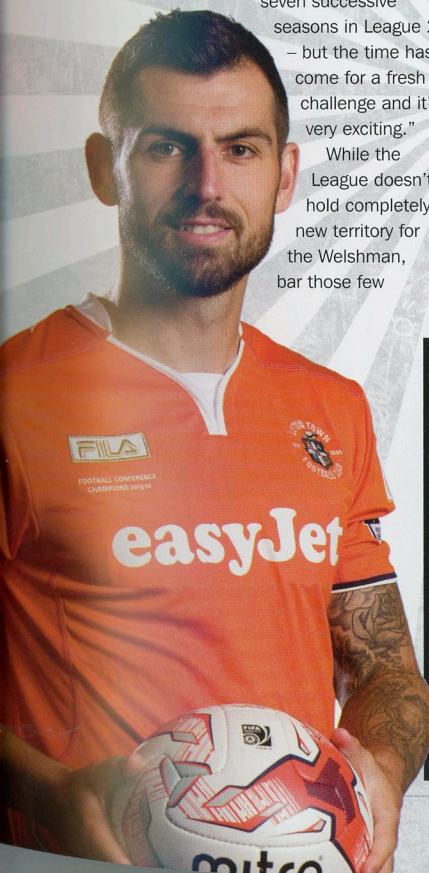
The 29-year-old has appeared just 14 times in the Football League – when playing for Torquay in League 2 in 2005/06 – and the midfielder is now relishing the opportunity of league action after eight seasons in the Conference.

"No disrespect to those clubs in the Conference but after all these years it's going to be a refreshing change, coming up against different clubs and visiting some new grounds," Lawless told Hatters Player over the summer.

"It can get a bit relentless playing the same clubs every season – I'd be saying the same thing if I had played seven successive seasons in League 2

– but the time has come for a fresh challenge and it's very exciting."

While the League doesn't hold completely new territory for the Welshman, bar those few



appearances down in Devon, Lawless is aiming to prove to the people who said to him he could cut it among the elite 92.

He said: "Over the years I've received a lot of nice compliments from team-mates, opponents, friends and family that I would do well if I played in the League.

"Well I will be next season and it's nice that I've earned the opportunity to do so after the success of the last campaign. I'll be grabbing that chance and I aim to prove those people right. Words, though, mean nothing until you've achieved something, so this season will be big for me and a lot of the lads. I think half of the squad have a point to prove."

Having swept all before them to clinch the Conference title last season, Lawless says there's no reason why the Hatters can't enjoy another campaign of success in League 2.

## Mentality

"I am all for aiming high," says the former York and Forest Green man. "I don't think you can achieve anything without that mentality. Of course there has to be some control to it, and deep down some realism. But we've just got promoted and you've seen clubs win back-to-back promotions before so why not us? With our squad and the backing of our fans we'll be aiming high and going for it."

"Last season's achievement really hit home what promotion meant to everything associated with this club. It goes without saying that we all want more of the same."

## KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Alex joined the Town originally on-loan from York in 2010 and is now the third-longest serving member of the Hatters squad behind Mark Tyler and Jake Howells. After making his debut in the defeat at Wrexham in the Conference the midfielder has gone onto make 156 appearances for the Town and scored 18 goals. Howells leads the way in the current squad's appearances in Luton colours with a whopping 278, with Tyler in second place with 232. A distant fourth behind Lawless is skipper Steve McNulty on 70.

# centre spot



**BACK ROW:** Charlie Smith, Ian Rees, Charlie Walker, Matt Robinson, Shaun Whalley, Solomon Taiwo, Brett Longden, Zane Banton, Andy Parry, Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, Danny Fitzsimons, Fraser Franks, Ross Lafayette, Kynan Isaac, Mark Oneyemah.

**MIDDLE ROW:** Dave Richardson (fitness coach), Alasdair Kerr (sports scientist), Lee Angol, Curtley Williams, Paul Connolly, Luke Wilkinson, Dave Martin, Jake Howells, Mark Tyler, Elliot Justham, Mark Cullen, Alex Lacey, Scott Griffiths, Jim Stevenson, Alex Lawless, Jonathan Smith, Simon Parsell (physiotherapist), Darren Cook (kit man/masseur).

**FRONT ROW:** Andy Drury, Luke Guttridge, Luke Rooney, David James (coach), John Still (manager), Stephen McNulty (captain), Terry Harris (assistant manager), Hakan Hayrettin (first team coach), Ricky Miller, Alex Wall, Paul Benson.

# Mark Tyler

**AFTER FIVE LONG YEARS THE TOWN ARE BACK AND NOBODY HAS SEEN MORE UPS AND DOWNS DURING THAT TIME THAN MARK TYLER. THE GOALKEEPER TALKS EXCLUSIVELY TO TALK OF THE TOWN.**

Like us all he felt the gut-wrenching disappointment of losing on penalties to AFC Wimbledon in the 2011 Play-Off final.

He shared the frustration at the offside goal that earned York City promotion at Wembley a year later.

The following season he was as proud as punch when the Hatters made history and knocked out his beloved Norwich out of the FA Cup; his modest face and words adorning the back pages of the national papers.

Through thick and thin, as the last line of defence, from Dorchester in the FA Trophy to Wembley or Carrow Road, Mark Tyler's seen it all from his position between the sticks for the Hatters over the last five years.

And then came last season. 101 points, 102 goals, 23 clean sheets. At last, promotion. And, finally, promotion back to the Football League – the home for his career for 10 years before he signed for the Hatters back in the summer of 2009.

"It's been a long journey getting back," Tyler told Hatters Player, just days after the Town's winning return to the Football League at Carlisle.

"Getting promotion back to the Football League was the reason why I came here in the first place.

"In the first season I wanted us to bounce straight back up because the expectation was massive. Luton in the Conference was a big thing and that was a major reason why I signed. We all knew the club were in a false position, and I was determined to work hard to get the club back where it belonged."

The Hatters' first season in the Conference saw them finish as runners-up to Stevenage but lose out to York at the semi-final stage of the Play-Offs. The following campaign saw the Town finish third but today's visitors AFC Wimbledon triumphed in the Promotion Final on penalties.

"That season was bizarre really," admits Tyler. "We played Wimbledon three times and we kept three clean sheets against them.

"They beat us on penalties and they went up." A year later, under Paul Buckle, the Town then reached the final for the second successive year but lost 2-1 to York in front of almost 30,000 Hatters fans.

"Playing at Wembley was an incredible experience – especially seeing how many fans we took – but the result was obviously disappointing. Their winner was offside. I'm not bitter, I know that's football and you have to deal with it."

After such agonising disappointment at the final hurdle in two consecutive Play-Off finals, the Town number one never considered hanging up his gloves – even when faced with midweek Conference trips to Barrow and Gateshead.

## Love

"I love football and I love this club," smiles the keeper. "Yes I'm coming to the end of my career but I knew this club would eventually return to the big time.

"Regardless of who or where we played, football is what I love. As a professional I'm privileged to play to entertain the crowds. I've had it for 20-odd years now."

Tyler's long awaited first Football League appearance for the Town at Carlisle was also technically his 200th 'league' appearance in Luton colours – if you include fixtures in the Football Conference.

And that's not a bad record for a 37-year-old with history of back problems.

Tyler played every minute of every game last season in the Conference as the Town stormed to the title – his best seasonal record since joining the club.

So what's changed?

"I'm not training as much," revealed the stopper. "Over the years the endless training and pounding my body against the floor really began to take its toll on my back. Touch wood I haven't had a spasm in my back for over a year and that's all down to the hard work and support I get from the people at the club.

Dave Richardson, the fitness coach, Darren Cook, the masseur, Simon Parsell, a great physiotherapist;

I see the chiropractor David Leu – aka 'The Rock' every Thursday. These people have helped me keep going and at the minute I feel strong, I feel fit and I want to be part of this team on the rise as I know I've only got a few years left.

"Personally I think I can play until I'm 40. I look after myself, I have a great family behind me, my fiancée Cindy looks after me and long may it continue."

**"The belief is there – we want to be successful – and you can be rest assured that although it will be tough, we will never give up."**

Tyler's family witnessed him keep a clean sheet on his return to his hometown club Norwich in January 2013 as the Hatters pulled off one of the biggest cup shocks in recent years. But despite that incredible achievement – it was the first time a non-league club had knocked out a Premier League side – it is last season's success that ranks highest for the Town stopper.

## Special

"For me the whole campaign was the most special moment of my time here," says Tyler. "The way we performed was incredible. To be 10 points behind the leaders and then go on and win it by 19 points was amazing."

"We started slowly, but then we went on the 27-match unbeaten run and finished the season with 100 points and 100 goals, and kept a record 23 clean sheets – you just can't top that. Last season will truly stay with me for the rest of my life."

What's remained constant throughout Tyler's time at Kenilworth Road has been, says the keeper, the unwavering, loyal support of the Hatters faithful.

"Taking over 1,000 fans to Carlisle is astonishing – those numbers really speak for themselves," says Tyler. "They have so often been our 12th man and it will be great to see the place packed out this season."

"It has been a long journey back for them after years of disappointment and frustration but I hope the supporters now know that they have a proper team representing their club who will fight for every ball in every game."

"We appreciate their support home and away and that's why we go around to applaud them at the final

## THE BIG INTERVIEW

whistle no matter what the result. I hope they're cheering us all the way again this season."

With the Town back in the Football League after an absence of five years, expectation is of another season of success given the ease of which promotion was achieved last term. And Tyler doesn't see why the Town can't use the momentum from last season and achieve back-to-back promotions.

"We can take heart from what Crawley and Stevenage have done in recent seasons," says Tyler. "Crawley are an established League 1 side now and Stevenage have only just come down. Fleetwood went up last season too, so we can only hope to replicate that."

"The belief is there – we want to be successful – and you can be rest assured that although it will be tough, we will never give up."





University of  
Bedfordshire

# Clearing

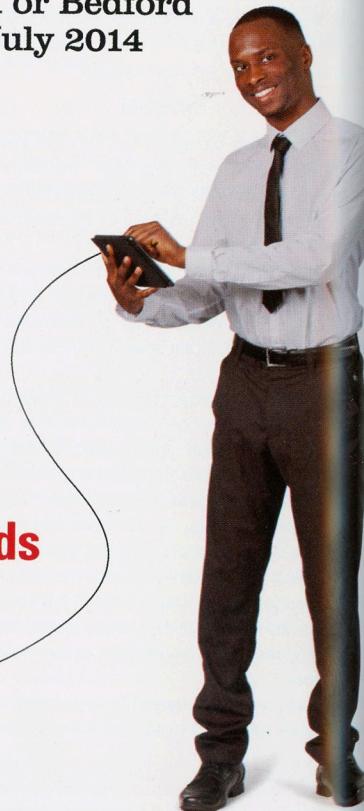
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# The FOOTBALL Paper

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## Top 5 most expensive Championship buys

After his disappointing debut last weekend, Fulham's Ross McCormack probably won't want reminding that he is the Championship's most expensive ever player.

The Scottish international's £11m move from Leeds was the most any second tier club has ever paid for a player – but this lot aren't far behind...

**JORDAN RHODES (£8M)**  
HUDDERSFIELD – BLACKBURN 2012

What is it about Scottish strikers and hefty price tags? Newly-relegated Blackburn shocked everyone when they parted with £8m for adopted Scot Rhodes, a striker who to that point had only ever played in League One.

In fairness, he'd done so at a hell of a rate, with 87 goals in 148 games and an incredible haul of 40 in 45 in the 2011/12 campaign.

Still, it looked a major risk.

Yet for once, owners Venky's played a blinder. Rhodes picked straight up where he left off, netting 27 goals in his first season and another 25 last year.

Though his goals haven't quite made up for Blackburn's deficiencies, the club can certainly expect to make a profit when the 24-year-old moves on.

**BRITT ASSOMBALONGA (£5.5M)**  
PETERBOROUGH – NOTTINGHAM FOREST 2014

Straight in at number three, it's the other shock signing of the summer, £5.5m powerhouse Britt Assombalonga.

When Posh signed him for £1m last season, it seemed a hefty sum for an untried kid unwanted by Watford. Thirty-three goals later, the 21-year-old had fired them into the Play-Offs and turned a handsome 500 per cent profit.

It remains to be seen whether he can throw his weight around quite so effectively against the big boys of the Championship, but he's clearly a talent.

**MATT MILLS (£5M)**  
READING – LEICESTER 2011

Oh dear, oh dear. Mills had a cracking season for Reading in 2010/11, but £5m? For a centre-half? What was Sven Goran Eriksson thinking? Right enough, it turned out to be a disaster for all concerned.

Leicester struggled from day one, their millionaire misfits rarely climbing above mid-table. Eriksson bit the dust in October. Mills was sent off twice, fell out with new boss Nigel Pearson and ended up training with the academy. Reading – the club he had left – were promoted to the Premier League. And after just 25 games he was sold to Bolton for a knockdown £2m.

**MATT PHILLIPS (£5M)**  
BLACKPOOL – QPR 2013

The emergence of Phillips was one of the stories of the 2010/11 season as a raw young kid signed from League Two Wycombe took the Premier League by storm.

Though he couldn't keep Blackpool up, the teenage speedster left his mark and after two impressive Championship campaigns for the Tangerines, newly-relegated QPR stumped up £5m to secure his services.

He looked just the player a rather paceless Rangers side needed, but a succession of injuries mean Hoops fans have yet to see much of the winger.

**JAMES BEATTIE (£4M)**  
EVERTON – SHEFFIELD UNITED 2007

And finally, a blast from the past. A sensation at Southampton, Beattie then made the mistake of signing for David Moyes' Everton, a move that does for strikers what kryptonite does for Superman. Reputation duly ruined – but value somehow intact – he joined Kevin Blackwell's Blades for a then Championship record.

Two years later Beattie was back in the Premier League with Stoke having plundered 34 goals in 62 games and bagged a player of the year award at Bramall Lane.

# who's who

NEW TO LUTON TOWN? NOT KEPT UP TO SPEED WITH WHO'S WHO IN THE HATTERS SQUAD THESE DAYS? FEAR NOT, HERE'S OUR RUN-DOWN OF YOUR SQUAD FOR THE SEASON AHEAD



## 1 MARK TYLER

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who was the Hatters' first signings in their first season in the Conference in the summer of 2009. Prior to his move to Kenilworth Road Mark had made almost 400 appearances whilst with Peterborough United. The 2013/14 season was Tyler's fifth at Kenilworth Road and he crowned it by playing every match in the 46-game title-winning campaign. He kept clean sheets in exactly half of those games and has now made 232 appearances in total for the Hatters.



## 2 FRASER FRANKS

Talented centre-half who signed for an undisclosed fee in January 2014 from Welling United. Began his career as a youngster at Chelsea and then Brentford before moving to AFC Wimbledon, winning promotion in 2011. Left Kingsmeadow for Welling and helped the Wings secure the Conference South title in 2012/13. Made 17 appearances at the heart of the Hatters defence in the title-winning season of 2013/14.



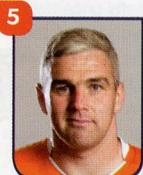
## 3 DANNY FITZSIMONS

Former Millwall and QPR defender who followed team-mate Jim Stevenson to Kenilworth Road from Histon on a two-year contract in the summer of 2013. Swept the board at the Stutes' end-of-season awards in 2013 and has over 100 games experience despite only being 22-years-old. Capable of playing at left-back or in central defence, an injury kept him out of the Town side for the entire 2013/14 campaign but he's back to full fitness and aiming to stake a claim in the Town squad.



## 4 JONATHAN SMITH

Combative central midfielder signed from York in January 2013 for £50,000 following a successful loan spell. Originally with York he moved to Swindon where he helped the Robins win the League 2 title in 2011/12 before switching back to Bootham Crescent. Smith enjoyed a terrific first half of 2013/14 with a number of influential performances but his season looked to have been over following a leg-breaking injury sustained on Boxing Day. However, his progress and rehabilitation was tremendous and, four months to the day after the incident, he made an emotional comeback as a substitute in the final match of the title-winning campaign.



## 5 STEPHEN McNULTY

Experienced centre-half who signed for the Town in February 2013. The Liverpool-born defender led Fleetwood Town to Conference title in 2011/12, lifting the title as the Cadet Army captain. The Liverpudlian has also played for Barrow, Vauxhall Motors and Bursough. McNulty enjoyed a fantastic season at the heart of the Hatters defence and was an ever-present as the Hatters lifted the Conference title. He walked away with a whole host of end-of-season awards, including Player of the Year and goal of the season.



## 6 ALEX LACEY

Highly-rated centre-half who made his first team debut as a 17-year-old in the FA Trophy first round tie against Welling in 2009, earning the man-of-the-match award for an excellent performance.

## ALEX LACEY (CONT)...

Signed a professional contract to remain at Kenilworth Road until the end of the 2011/12 season which was extended to a three-year deal in the summer of 2012. He spent the 2012/13 season on loan at Conference South side Eastleigh but began the 2013/14 season as captain during pre-season and broke into the side in August. Lacey scored his first goal for the club in the 4-0 win at Woking in September 2013 and went onto make 22 appearances as the Town lifted the title.



## 7 ALEX LAWLESS

Influential and creative midfielder penned a new two-year contract in May 2013, turning down contracts at two clubs in League 1. Lawless enjoyed a fine 2012/13 campaign which culminated in him winning both the Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year awards. The 29-year-old has made 156 appearances for the Hatters since signing from York City in November 2010 and has scored 18 goals. Began his career as a youngster at Fulham and has also played for Forest Green. Scored six goals in 32 matches as he helped the Town lift the Conference title in 2013/14. The third-longest serving member of the squad.



## 8 ANDY DRURY

Creative midfield player who returned to Kenilworth Road on a two-year contract in the summer of 2014, signing from Crawley Town. First signed for the Hatters from Stevenage in 2010, his performances from midfield caught the eye of Ipswich Town who signed him in January 2011. He would go on and become a regular at Portman Road in the Championship until a change of manager saw him find first team opportunities limited. Drury signed on-loan for Crawley before making that move permanent in the summer of 2013. He started his career with Sittingbourne before spells at Gravesend and Lewes.

## PAUL BENSON

Experienced striker who signed permanently this summer after a hugely successive season-long loan last term.

## THE PLAYERS



## PAUL BENSON (CONT)...

Benson started out with Essex Intermediate League side White Ensign but shot to prominence with Dagenham & Redbridge under John Still, helping the Daggers to win two promotions, scoring over 75 goals. He signed for Charlton Athletic in

August 2010 but after a season-and-a-half - in which he scored 10 league goals - the striker moved to Swindon Town in January 2012 and helped the Robins win the League 2 title that season. Having fallen down the pecking order at the County Ground, he was loaned to Portsmouth and Cheltenham before he was reunited with Still at Kenilworth Road. In his debut season at Kenilworth Road Benson was at his magnificent best, scoring 18 times as he helped the Town to lift the Conference title.



## 10 ALEX WALL

Powerful striker who signed in the summer of 2013 having impressed whilst on-loan to the Hatters from Maidenhead United at the end of the 2012/13 season. Alex joined Maidenhead from Thatcham Town but burst onto the scene with a dozen goals for the Magpies. He won the Blue Square Bet South player of the month award for February following a purple patch in front of goal and, following his arrival at Kenilworth Road, scored two goals. In 2013/14 he scored a fine winning goal in the 4-3 win over FC Halifax before going out on loan to Dartford where his form in front of goal continued. Credited with the final Luton goal in the Conference following his strike in the 1-0 win over Hyde.



## 11 JAKE HOWELLS

The Town's longest serving player, who can also play at left-back or in central midfield, came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and made his first team debut as a second half substitute in May 2008. He made his final debut in Hatters colours away at Bradford City in October 2008. After making 36 appearances for the Hatters in the 2008/09 the England C international was rewarded for his efforts with a professional contract in May.





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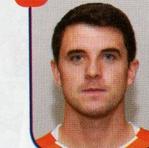
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# who's who

## THE PLAYERS

14



**ANDY PARRY**

Versatile central defender or midfielder signed from Southport on a two-year contract in the summer of 2013. Also able to play at right back, Parry had two seasons' worth of Conference football under his belt. Began his career as a youngster at Blackburn. Appeared 26 times for the Town in his debut season of 2013/14 and scored four goals.

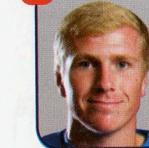
15



**LUKE ROONEY**

Creative midfield player who signed a six-month deal in the summer of 2014 having played in the final two months of the Town's championship-winning season. Started his career as a youngster at Gillingham where a string of fine performances led to him becoming a regular for the Gills. Signed for Swindon in 2010 and helped the Robins win League 2 but after being frozen out of the side he spent time out on loan before joining the Town last term from Maidstone.

16



**ELLIOT JUSTHAM**

Up-and-coming goalkeeper signed from East Thurrock on a two-year deal in May 2013. The 6ft 3in stopper kept 14 clean sheets in 31 matches for the Rocks in the 2012/13 season. He has previously enjoyed trials at West Ham and Reading. He made his Town debut in an FA Cup tie at Woking, keeping a clean sheet in the process, and went onto feature in all of the Hatters' cup ties in 2013/14. Was an ever-present as substitute keeper for Mark Tyler during 2013/14.

### JAKE HOWELLS (CONT)...

In his first season as a pro, Howells made huge strides with impressive performances on the left-side of midfield, ending the 2009/10 campaign with six goals, including his first senior goal in the incredible 4-3 win over Cambridge in September 2009. Capped at Under-21 level by Wales, Howells signed a three-year contract extension in the summer of 2012. During the 2012/13 season he surpassed the 200-appearance mark for the club as a 21-year-old. In 2013/14 Howells then broke the 275-game barrier in Town colours and netted eight goals as the Town romped to the title.

12



**SCOTT GRIFFITHS**

Left-back who signed at the end of the 2012/13 season after impressing following his arrival on an original short-term deal. The former Dagenham & Redbridge man, the experienced defender joined the Hatters in March 2012 following his release from former club Peterborough. He won the Conference under Still in 2007 and lifted the League 2 title with Chesterfield in 2011. Scott was an ever-present for the Town in the title winning campaign of 2013/14.

13



**MARK CULLEN**

Young striker signed on a two-year deal following his release from Hull City in the summer of 2013. A clever, poacher of a forward, Cullen impressed the manager with two fine performances against the Hatters whilst on loan at Stockport. Given his debut for Hull in the Premier League, he scored on his full debut for the Tigers whilst in the top flight. In his first full season with the Town Cullen netted an impressive 10 goals in 36 matches - not bad considering 17 of those appearances came off the bench. He scored a vital, last-minute goal in a 1-1 draw with Cambridge.

# who's who



17

## PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU

Highly-rated midfielder who the Town signed on a permanent deal from West Ham in January 2014 from West Ham United. Only made his debut for the Hammers in August 2013 in the Capital One Cup but was loaned to the Hatters in December – making his debut at centre-half against Staines in the FA Trophy. He scored his first goal for the Town in the 7-0 win over Hereford and picked up a championship winners' medal after string of impressive performances in central midfield.



18

## ROSS LAFAYETTE

Summer signing from Welling United, the strong and pacey frontman scored 39 goals in 90 matches with the Wings, who he helped win the Conference South in 2012/13. A regular scorer further down the pyramid he also has experience of coaching in the United States. Joined the Town on a two-year deal.



19

## RICKY MILLER

The 2013/14 Conference North player of the year and top goalscorer who ended the campaign with a haul of 28 goals for Boston. Previously on the books of Rothwell and Stamford, the striker began his career on the books at Charlton as a youngster. He signed for the Town on a two-year deal this summer and was likened by boss John Still to a cross between Kevin Phillips and Craig Mackail-Smith.



20

## SHAUN WHALLEY

Attack-minded midfielder or winger who followed Andy Parry to Kenilworth Road on a two-year deal from Southport in the summer of 2013. Whalley was in inspired form for the Sandgrounders throughout 2012/13, scoring 10 goals and creating many more and ended the campaign with a string of end-of-season awards.

After beginning last season with the Town, Whalley was loaned to AFC Telford who he helped win the Conference North title.



21

## LUKE GUTTRIDGE

Influential and experienced central midfielder with over 450 senior appearances to his name who signed for the Hatters in August 2013 on a two-year contract. He has twice won promotion whilst with Southend, and also helped Northampton reach the League 2 play-off final. Luke enjoyed a fine debut season with the Hatters, scoring an impressive 13 goals in 33 matches before a foot injury curtailed his season in March. Returned to full fitness this summer, scoring in the friendly draw with Colchester.



23

## MATT ROBINSON

Young central midfielder who impressed the Town enough in pre-season of 2012 to earn himself a contract. He made his Town debut in a 2-0 win at Kidderminster Harriers in August and scored his first goal for the club in the 3-1 win at Southport on the final game of the 2013/14 season. Matt had clearly made a big impression and the midfielder was delighted to pen a new two-year contract in June 2013. Matt made 31 appearances for the Town in the title-winning campaign and scored twice – both vital goals against Chester and Grimsby.



24

## CURTLEY WILLIAMS

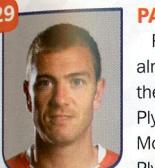
A former Ipswich scholar whose primary position is right-back who joined the Hatters this summer. Curtley spent time in Spain at the Glenn Hoddle Academy before spells in non-league. He helped Lowestoft to the Play-Offs in his first season before enjoying another successful campaign in Suffolk last term, with the club winning promotion through the Play-Offs.



28

## JIM STEVENSON

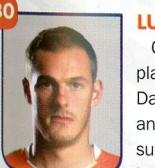
Box-to-box midfielder signed in May 2013 on a two-year deal from Histon. Scored 11 goals for the Stutes in 2012/13 and ended the campaign as the top goalscorer. Jim made his full debut as a 17-year-old at Kenilworth Road for Histon in a game the Hatters won 5-1. He made six appearances for the Hatters in his debut season but impressed out on a loan spell with Dartford.



29

## PAUL CONNOLY

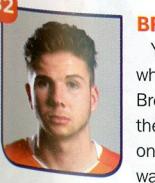
Right-back who has enjoyed almost 10 years experience in the Championship with spells at Plymouth, Leeds, Derby and Millwall. Most recently with Crawley, he helped Plymouth win promotion twice – from Leagues 2 and 1 - before joining Derby where he captained the Rams. Left Millwall last year and signed for Crawley but jumped at the chance to sign for the Hatters in the summer of 2014.



30

## LUKE WILKINSON

Centre-half who has previously played under John Still whilst with Dagenham. The former Bristol City and Portsmouth defender enjoyed a successful spell on-loan at Dartford before nailing down a place with the Daggers and was voted their player of the year two seasons ago. Signed a one-year deal with the Town in July 2014.



32

## BRETT LONGDEN

Young second-year professional whose primary position is right-back. Brett made his debut for the Town in the FA Trophy and spent last season on-loan at Maidenhead – a deal that was struck once again for the first three months of this season.



33

## MARK ONYEMAH

Teenage left-back who arrived at Kenilworth Road this summer having also impressed on trial. Rose through the youth ranks with Thurrock and made his debut as a 16-year-old.



34

## ZANE BANTON

Highly-rated teenage striker in his first full year as a professional. Broke onto the scene last season having impressed for the Under-18s which led to John Still handing him a professional contract. Made his debut as a substitute in the 4-0 win at Woking in the Conference.



35

## CHARLIE WALKER

Prolific striker who joined the Hatters after scoring 43 goals last season for Peacehaven. Joined the Town on trial this summer and scored twice in the friendly against AFC Dunstable before being snapped up on a permanent deal.



36

## CHARLIE SMITH

Teenage midfielder who signed professional forms in the summer of 2013 having risen through the Town's academy. Luton-born, Smith made his debut as a 16-year-old in the FA Trophy and captained the Under-18s during 2013/14 in which he scored nine goals.



37

## KYNAN ISAAC

Young winger who signed for the Hatters in August having spent last season with Banbury. Highly-rated by John Still, the attacker began his career at Reading and has previously helped Oxford City to promotion.



## THE PLAYERS

# Who's Who



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39

**IAN REES**

Teenage central midfielder who penned his first professional contract midway through the 2013/14 season having impressed the coaching staff. Made four appearances, including a full debut in the 2-0 FA Trophy win over Wrexham in which he hit the post with a first half header.



**LEE ANGOL**

Promising young striker who arrived at Kenilworth Road following his release by Wycombe Wanderers in the summer. Was immediately loaned out to Boreham Wood, in the Conference South, for the whole of this coming season. Spent a successful loan spell with Wood last term and began his career as a youngster at Tottenham.

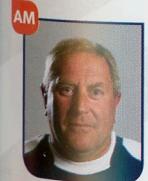
## THE STAFF



M

**JOHN STILL**

Position: Manager  
Bio: The manager, the boss, the gaffer. Still joined the Hatters in March 2013 having enjoyed a hugely successful 10-year spell at Dagenham & Redbridge where he guided the Daggers to the Conference title as well as promotion to League 1. In his first season in the Hatters' hot-seat he guided the club to the Conference title with 101 points. It was the third time he had won the division in his career.



AM

**TERRY HARRIS**

Position: Assistant manager  
Bio: John Still's right-hand man who had been with Dagenham & Redbridge since 1999. As a player he starred for the old Dagenham FC – scoring a winning goal at Wembley – and has also coached at Dartford, Enfield and St Albans.



C

**HAKAN HAYRETTIN**

Position: First team coach  
Bio: During the 2012/13 the coach was manager at Grays Athletic, and led the Blues to the Ryman League Division One South title with 102 points. Held in high regard by John Still, he arrived at Kenilworth Road in early July 2013.



C

**DAVE RICHARDSON**

Position: Fitness coach  
Bio: Fitness coach Dave made the switch from Dagenham & Redbridge in the summer of 2013 to be reunited with John Still and Terry Harris.



P

**SIMON PARSELL**

Position: Physiotherapist



K

**DARREN COOK**

Position: Kit man

## THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

New Town signing Curtley Williams is hoping that his experiences overseas as a youngster will stand him in good stead at Kenilworth Road.

The 24-year-old joined the Hatters from Lowestoft and became John Still's first summer signing following promotion back to the Football League.

Signing a two-year contract with the Town represents a "career high", says Williams, but his road to earning a professional contract has been a long and winding one.

After being released by Ipswich as a teenager, the defender travelled to Spain to be a part of the Glenn Hoddle Academy, and after a spell in South Africa, he was back in the UK learning his trade in the rough and ready reaches of the Ryman League.

Not only has Williams clocked up plenty of airmiles, he arrives in Bedfordshire knowing a thing or two about football – and life itself.

"I joined Ipswich as a 10-year-old and went right through their academy but after my two-year scholarship they never offered me a professional contract," he explained to Hatters Player.

"At that point I was accepted to join the Glenn Hoddle Academy – a place where footballers who

hadn't been offered a pro deal for whatever reason the chance to improve on their weaknesses and develop their strengths.

"The Academy gave players an opportunity to get back into the game, but for me it was a great life experience. It was a camp, in Spain, full of young hungry English players desperate to prove a point. We played in the lower leagues in Spain and some of the things I learned will last with me forever.

"Technically and tactically it was a great experience for me. Glenn was there a lot, as was Graham Rix, Dave Beasant, Nigel Spackman and John Gorman. These guys have so much knowledge. It was unreal learning from these people who have achieved so much in the game."

Once his spell in the Academy was over it was back to England for Williams.

"It was difficult for me after coming back to this country," admits the defender. "It was a case of learning the trade again, especially playing non-league football. It was a real eye-opener, though, and I learned so much back then. These players were playing football to put food on the table for their children. They were committed, honest men, not to mention rough."

Following spells with Chelmsford and Aylesbury and trials in Scotland and in Europe, South Africa was Williams' next stop in search of success.

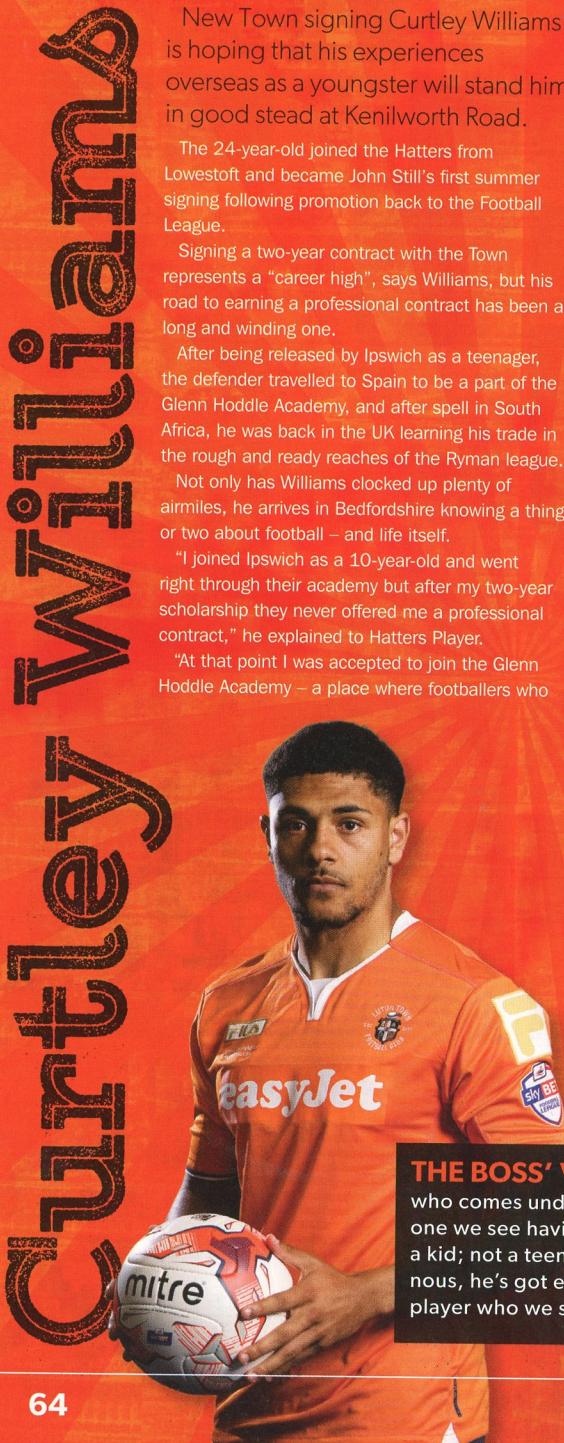
"Bally Smart, a friend of mine who used to play for Norwich was South African," he says. "I took my boots on the off chance and I managed to play a bit out there. It was another good experience for me but I came back in 2012 and I said to my parents that I needed to settle down."

And that's when he signed for Lowestoft.

"They are the biggest non-league team closest to where I live," says Williams. "The size of the club, the coaching staff and the support is the best in the area and for me it was the perfect place to settle."

"Playing for Lowestoft has done me the world of good and I've learned so much and feel I've improved a lot as a player. Now I'm at Luton I'm determined work even harder to get better and help the team to continue its success."

**THE BOSS' VERDICT** "Curtley is an ambitious man who comes under the 'young and hungry' bracket, and one we see having a bright future ahead of him. He's not a kid; not a teenager that perhaps lacks that little bit of nous, he's got experience and, most importantly, he's a player who we see can improve and develop further."



# Ross Lafayette

## STRIKER'S AIM TO SET LEAGUE 2 ALIGHT

New signing Ross Lafayette believes he can continue to flourish in the Football League after signing a two-year deal with the Hatters over the close season.

The 28-year-old makes the step-up to League 2 with the Town having netted 17 goals for Welling last season, including a delightful curling effort in the meeting between the two sides in April.

His arrival at Kenilworth Road comes 12 months after he helped the Wings win promotion from the Conference South and Lafayette is confident that he can keep improving now he's penned his first professional contract.

"Training full-time means my fitness is going to improve which means I'll be sharper in and around the box," the 28-year-old exclusively told Hatters Player.

"It'll be great to train every day, to work on technique and to be introduced to new and different training methods by the coaching staff. I'm looking forward to the extra 20-30 per cent extra that training full-time will give you.

### Confident

"That is going to give me confidence, but I'm confident about my ability anyway. I handled the step-up to the Conference [Premier] last season and I think I can next year, too."

At 28 Lafayette comes into the pro game later than most. But that isn't worrying the Town's summer recruit.

"The fact I'm doing it a bit late only fuels the desire to do well," says Lafayette. "I know I've got to hit the ground running and show people I can play. As I say, I'm confident in my ability, but I'm not aiming to be here for just two years – I want to keep progressing."

"Paul Benson is a fine example of a player arriving into the professional ranks at a later stage, and speaking to John about him gives me plenty of reason to believe that I can flourish further now I'm full-time – after all my legs are still young and they haven't played professionally yet!"

"If I could emulate what Paul's achieved I'd be very happy but for the moment I'm just looking to earning my place in the team."

When the Hatters came calling the decision was an easy one for Lafayette.

"When a club like Luton comes knocking it's difficult not to say no," continued the striker.

"Luton are a big club and are now back where they belong in the Football League. They're on the up. It wasn't a tough decision."

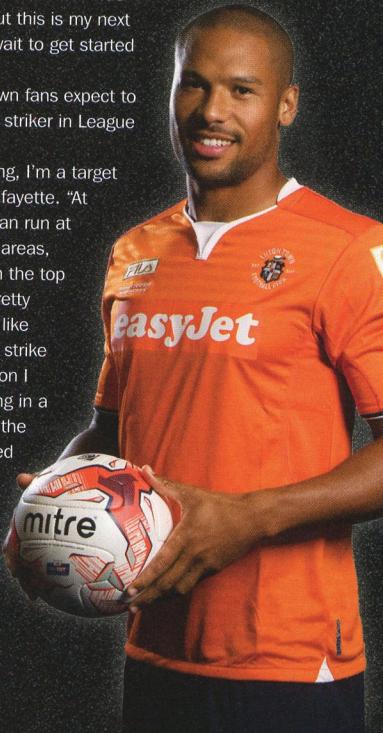
"I had agreed a deal verbally with Jamie Day, the Welling manager, but it was pending a new role at work. That didn't work out, and then Luton got in touch. As I was a free agent the wheels were soon in motion. I spoke to Jamie instantly and explained. I was open and honest about it. It's just one of those things that happen in football."

Lafayette scored 17 goals last term for the Wings, including a beauty against the Town in the match at Park View Road in April, and netted 39 times in two seasons for the Kent club. And the striker will always have fond memories of his time at Park View Road.

"It was a brilliant two years for me," says Lafayette. "The gaffer, the fans, the players, everyone. We were Conference South champions in 2013 and then held our own in the Conference. I was gutted to leave but this is my next step and I can't wait to get started at Luton."

So what can Town fans expect to see from the new striker in League 2 this season?

"I'm quick, strong, I'm a target man," explains Lafayette. "At the same time I can run at people from wide areas, and score goals in the top corner... That's pretty much my game, I like to link-up with my strike partner. Last season I was used to playing in a 4-3-3 with me as the focal point. I scored a lot of goals and got my fair share of assists, and I'll be looking to bring that to the table this season."





# Ricky Miller

## NEW STRIKER AIMING HIGH

**Ricky Miller is aiming to follow in the footsteps of Andre Gray by becoming a success at Kenilworth Road.**

The 25-year-old striker signed a one-year deal with the Hatters last week having plundered 28 goals for Boston United last term.

Miller's form in front of goal for the Pilgrims came in the Conference North – the same division where the Town plucked Gray from Hinckley in 2012.

And the Town's new man is setting his sights on making a name for himself in League 2.

"I'm obviously aiming high," admitted the striker, who was named Conference North player of the season in the summer. "I jumped at the chance of coming to Luton. It's such a big club with massive support.

"Having seen what Andre Gray achieved at this club it gives me great confidence. He came from the same level and if I can emulate half of what he's done I'll be a happy man.

"You have to be ambitious but first of all my goal is to work hard enough to impress the manager to get into the team, but that isn't going to be easy."

John Still described Miller as a cross between Craig Mackail-Smith and Kevin Phillips when the deal was announced, and the forward was flattered by his new boss' words.

"That doesn't sound too bad, does it? But I'll take that!" said Miller. "The manager has developed a number of players from lower the down the leagues and

they've gone on to flourish. I hope I'm the next man."

Miller, who began his career in Charlton's academy, has worked his way up the football pyramid to earn his first professional contract following prolific spells at Rothwell Corinthians, St Albans and Stamford prior to his move to Boston.

### Opportunity

And the striker believes the best is still yet to come.

"All the hard work I've put in over the last two years has paid off," said Miller. "This is an opportunity I will take with both hands but this is just the start.

"After I was released by Charlton as a teenager my football was a bit stop-start. I had some personal issues. My brother died when I was 16, but I'm a father now and having a baby made me realise that I needed to knuckle down and give football my best shot. It really has shown me what can be achieved with hard work and I don't intend to stop now thinking I've made it.

"Last season was good for me personally but it was still only a learning curve. What have I got to learn? Everything. You can always improve every aspect of your game and under John and the coaching staff my aim is to get better, break into the team and then help this club get promoted."



### HIGH PRAISE

Town boss John Still did indeed liken Ricky to Craig Mackail-Smith and Kevin Phillips – a quote not lost on the media – including the presenters on last Saturday's Football League Show.

After his arrival, the manager said: "Ricky reminds me of a Kevin Phillips-type striker in and around the box, sniffing out chances, and a Craig Mackail-Smith-type striker when he hasn't got the ball, with his work-rate and enthusiasm. He's a striker that likes to run in behind, he chases everything and puts defenders under pressure. I watched him last season and what really struck me was his enthusiasm. It really hit me. We kept an eye on him and we didn't actually know at the time that he would be out of contract this summer.

"We've given Ricky a year and hopefully during that time we can see him develop further, just like a number of our other younger players."

### RIGHT-BACK READY TO PUT EXPERIENCE TO GOOD USE

New signing Paul Connolly says he has plenty to prove to himself and his doubters after joining the Hatters this pre-season.

The experienced 30-year-old has an impressive CV following spells at Plymouth, Derby, Leeds, Sheffield United, Portsmouth, Millwall and, most recently Crawley, who he left this summer.

But it's a tough last 12 months that Connolly is determined to banish to the back of his mind after signing an initial one-year deal at Kenilworth Road.

The right-back, who has made over 350 senior appearances, mostly in the Championship, told Hatters Player: "Last season I began in the Millwall first team on a short-term deal but I injured my groin in a game at Reading and I was out injured for five-and-a-half weeks. I'd never torn my groin in my career before.

"I left Millwall and when January came I was in the doldrums and I didn't know what to do. I signed for Crawley, and looking back, I'm not sure it was the right move. It never really worked out. I felt as though I was a bit of a scalded cat and out of the loop.

"Now I feel that I need to prove to myself and to those that have doubted me that I can perform, especially at this level.

### Experience

"At Crawley I was never happy off the pitch. I was only happy on the pitch playing and during training. I was living in a hotel and I never really settled.

"I think I have learned a lot from my experience at Crawley. I won't be living in any hotels and I'll be fully focussed down here with my mind on the job."

Connolly admitted that he turned down an offer from a League 1 club earlier in the close season but believes the Town's ambition and loyal support made the decision an easy one.

"Luton are bigger than most clubs in League 1 so it's not a problem for me playing in League 2. I don't think this club is a League 2 club. It is, obviously, but I don't think it will be for long. To get 7,000 fans in the Conference certainly makes you think what the potential is.

"From the squad I've seen on paper I think we have a good chance of kicking on. Signing Andy Drury is a massive statement of intent and I think the young players we have, together with the more experienced ones, like me, can really help us be a success this season.

I wanted to join a club that is moving in the right direction and this club certainly is on the up."

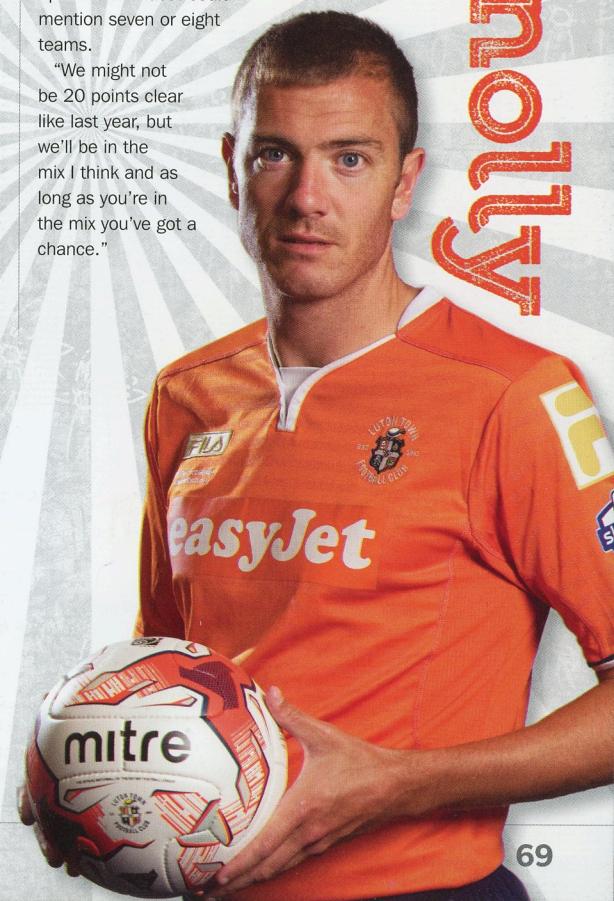
Connolly, who made his debut at Carlisle last Saturday believes the Town can mount a promotion challenge and emulate the likes of Stevenage and Crawley who have won back-to-back promotions after winning the Conference.

### Better

"I don't think there's much difference between League 2 and the Conference," he said. "You take heart from that because we're miles bigger than Stevenage or Crawley, miles bigger, so if they can do it [get back-to-back promotions], we can definitely do it. I feel if we played those two teams now, we'd give them a good game, probably beat both of them anyway, I feel we're better than them.

"But I do think it's a stronger league than it has been in a long time, because I think Oxford will be up there...in fact I could mention seven or eight teams.

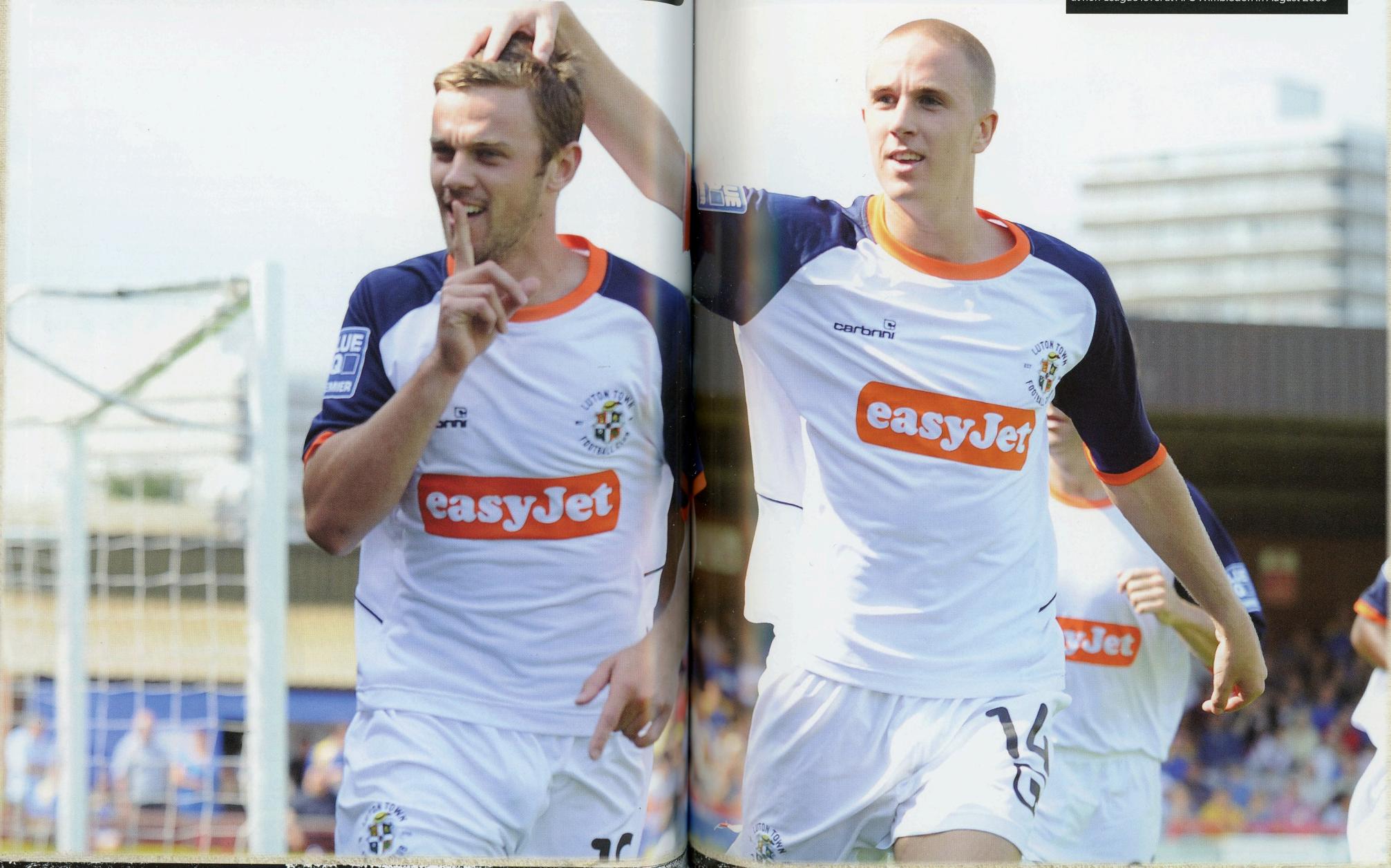
"We might not be 20 points clear like last year, but we'll be in the mix I think and as long as you're in the mix you've got a chance."



# PICTURE THE PAST

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

Tom Craddock is congratulated by Asa Hall after putting the Town into the lead from the spot during our first game at non-League level at AFC Wimbledon in August 2009



# Camera Never Lies

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

The ground sparkles with new paint, the pitch looks pristine and the sun shines. Kenilworth Road 40 years ago.



# YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian ROGER WASH looks back on the Town's debut in the top flight 40 years ago

Luton Town 1-2 Liverpool 17th August 1974

Is it really 40 years ago tomorrow that the Town made their debut back in the top flight for the first time since 1960, becoming the first Football League team to drop from top to bottom and then bounce back again?

The summer of 1974 had seen the usual frantic activity at Kenilworth Road. £50,000 had been spent on the ground with improved drainage on the pitch, new crush barriers on the Kenilworth Road terrace, replacing of the wooden terracing at the Kenilworth Road/Bobbers Stand corner and new police boxes at either end of the stadium.

Off the pitch, teenagers and (almost) identical twins Paul and Ron Fletcher arrived from Chester in exchange for £125,000 while Hatters club secretary Bob Readhead travelled to Australia in the days before fax and the internet to take World Cup star Adrian Alston from under the noses of Hertha Berlin.

Although many observers felt that Luton were only an average side in a poor division the previous year, and perhaps had won promotion a couple of years before they were really ready, they were prepared to make a fist of it.

## The Big Time

The Town really knew that they had returned to the big time when the fixture list was announced and first up was a home game against Liverpool. The Reds had won the FA Cup the previous season as well as finishing runners-up to Leeds in the League and were, following the retirement of Bill Shankly over the summer, boasting a new manager in Bob Paisley. They also had household names such as Kevin Keegan, Emlyn Hughes and Ray Clemence in their ranks.

Many Liverpool supporters travelled overnight to boost the crowd to 21,216 at a sun soaked Kenilworth Road and they laughed as Luton manager Harry Haslam and club director Eric Morecambe fought over a gallon bottle of whisky presented to Haslam as Bells Manager of the Month.



The serious stuff then started with the Town quickest out of the blocks and attacking the Liverpool defence in waves. Shots from Alan West, Peter Anderson, Barry Butlin, Jimmy Husband and Gordon Hindson rained in making it an uncomfortable time for Clemence.

After Anderson hit the post with a header the Town went ahead on 27 minutes with a simple goal – a long throw from Alan Garner was back-headed into the net by Butlin.

Lessons would quickly need to be learned at this level though, as only four minutes later Liverpool equalised when Tomimy Smith hammered home a short free-kick from 20 yards.

Even so, the Town could regard themselves as unlucky to go in on level terms at half-time given the dominance of Butlin in the air against Hughes and Phil Thompson and the clever wing play of John Aston.

Liverpool came more into the game in the second period but it was the Town who still enjoyed most of the play, attacking with passion and energy, but all their good work was undone when the Reds attacked at pace on the break in the 74th minute leading to Ian Callaghan crossing from the right to Peter Cormack whose header back into the goalmouth was volleyed home by Steve Heighway.

It was an exhilarating performance from the Town but they lost due to the experience of their opponents who refused to be ruffled even under the severest pressure.

## THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced a 20-page programme, costing 10p, for the visit of Liverpool with the added bonus of the Football League Review.

Naturally, manager Harry Haslam, in his column, was looking forward to his first attempt at managing in the top flight and calling it the biggest day in his life.

It was now £1.50 to travel on the Town's special trains to away games and next up was a trip to Middlesbrough. Looking at the train times, the departure from Middlesbrough was at 5.25 and, from my memories of the old Ayresome Park, that did not leave a great deal of time to get back to the station following the final whistle!

On sale in the 'Souvenir Shop' were printed scarves with 'Morecambe's Marauders' on them at 50p, flags at 40p and pennants at 15p. I know I have asked this before, but can anyone remember what an Awrista was? They were cheap at 20p whatever they were.

Today's Match is sponsored by VAUXHALL MOTORS in conjunction with SHAW & KILBURN

Volume 2 Number 1

LUTON TOWN  
FOOTBALL CLUB

OFFICIAL  
V  
LIVERPOOL  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE  
SATURDAY, 17th AUGUST, 1974  
KICK-OFF 2.00 pm

INSIDE TOWN TODAY  
HARRY HASLAM

VIEW  
Price 10p

## SOUVENIR SHOP

Printed Scarves 50p and 65p  
Luton Town printed on one side and printed on the other side 'Luton Town v Middlesbrough Division One' - 'Oak Road' - 'Morecambe's Marauders'  
Team News 15p  
PVC Pennants 15p and 25p  
Printed Badges and Patches 15p and 20p  
Aristrians 15p  
Cuff Links 20p  
Bracelets 20p  
Flag 30p  
Badges and Key Fobs 25p  
Crinoline Hats 75p  
Sweatshirts 50p  
Car Stickers: 'Follow the Town' and 'Morecambe's Marauders' 10p and 15p

Available shortly:  
Lighters  
Tie Clips  
Blazer Badges  
Woven Patches  
Etc. Etc  
Our new Admiral Stripe can be purchased from 'Wide of Gordon Street', Luton and 'Winds' of Dunstable.

## TEAMS

LUTON TOWN  
1 GRAHAM HORN  
2 DON SMITH  
3 RON THOMSON  
4 PETER ANDERSON  
5 STEVE LITTE  
6 ALAN GARNER  
7 JIMMY HUSBAND  
8 BARRY HINDSON  
9 IAN CALLAGHAN  
10 BARRY HUSBAND  
11 GORDON HINDSON  
12 JOHN ASTON  
Shots - Change with a White and Navy Striped Jersey - Stockings - Change

## SCORES

LIST ONE  
1 Middlesbrough v Middlesbrough  
2 Bury v Walsall v Walsall  
3 Chester v Chester v Chester  
D Chester v Chester United  
E Chester v Chester  
F Chester v Chester  
G Chester v Chester  
H Chester v Chester  
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Z Chester v Chester

LIST TWO

A Middlesbrough v Middlesbrough  
B Walsall v Walsall v Walsall  
C Chester v Chester v Chester  
D Chester v Chester v Chester  
E Chester v Chester v Chester  
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GOALS CORNER

LUTON TOWN LIVERPOOL

Goalscorers

1 RAY CLEMENCE

2 JONATHAN SMITH

3 PETER ANDERSON

4 PHIL THOMPSON

5 ALEX HUGHES

6 GORDON HINDSON

7 IAN CALLAGHAN

8 PETER CORMACK

9 PHIL CORRIGAN

10 KEVIN KEEGAN

11 STEVE HEIGHWAY

12 JOHN ASTON

13 GORDON HINDSON

14 STEVE LITTE

15 RAY CLEMENCE

16 PETER ANDERSON

17 GORDON HINDSON

18 PETER CORMACK

19 PHIL CORRIGAN

20 KEVIN KEEGAN

21 STEVE HEIGHWAY

22 JOHN ASTON

23 GORDON HINDSON

24 PETER CORMACK

25 PHIL CORRIGAN

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185 GORDON HINDSON

186 PETER CORMACK

187 PHIL CORRIGAN

188 KEVIN KEEGAN

189 STEVE HEIGHWAY

190 JOHN ASTON

191 GORDON

## ON THIS DAY



sky

BET



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18+. Gambleaware.co.uk. Offer is available to new and existing online and mobile customers from 25/07/14 to 08/12/14. Prize draw and full promotional T&Cs apply at [skybet.com/transferfund](http://skybet.com/transferfund).

► **THE RECORD**

Believe it or not the Town have only played seven times on 16th August down the years – and the first, against Bournemouth, wasn't until 1969 (and incidentally the Hatters' 2,898th match). The good news (or bad, if you're of a nervous disposition), is that the Hatters have never lost on this day in history. Five matches have ended in Town wins and two finished in draws – both 1-1. It has, however, been a relatively low-scoring day: the Hatters have scored 10 and conceded just four across the seven matches.

► **SUPERMAC**

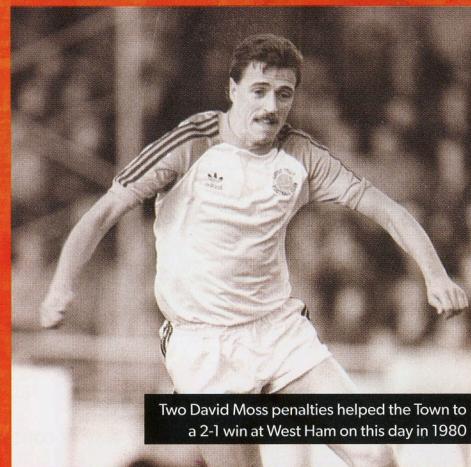
The Hatters' first game on this date, against Bournemouth, on 16th August 1969 is significant for the name of the Town's goalscorer in the 1-0 win at Dean Court: a certain Malcolm Macdonald. The little-known Macdonald had made his debut in the 3-0 win over Barrow at Kenilworth Road the previous weekend but notched the first of 28 goals that season against the Cherries. The Town would end the campaign winning promotion to Division 2 (now the Championship), finishing as runners-up behind Orient.

► **TIGERS TAMED**

In 1975 the Hatters were back in Division 2 (now Championship) again after relegation the previous season from the top flight in 1974/75. The Town began the new campaign in the second tier with a 2-0 win over Hull City before a crowd of 10,389 at Kenilworth Road. In brilliant sunshine, Ron Fletcher put the Town in front in the 21st minute before Andy King doubled the Hatters' lead nine minutes later. The Town, who would go on and beat Hull at Boothferry Park later in the season, ended the campaign in seventh place.

► **HAMMERS HAMMERED**

At the beginning of the 1980/81 season – with the Town in the equivalent of the Championship – first-day-of-the-season opponents West Ham paraded the FA Cup around Upton Park for the first time since Trevor Brooking and co. had lifted it at the end of the previous campaign. The Iron took the lead in the second half in front of a 28,000+ crowd but the Hatters roared back to claim the points thanks to two David Moss penalties in the final 15 minutes. West Ham would go on and win the Second Division title, and lost just once at home all season...



Two David Moss penalties helped the Town to a 2-1 win at West Ham on this day in 1980

► **HATTERS v HATTERS**

In 2003 it was the 'Hatters derby' between the Town and Stockport at Edgeley Park in the Second Division (now known as League 1).

The previous weekend saw the Town open the 2003/04 campaign with a 3-1 home win over Rushden & Diamonds and their 100 per cent start to the season continued with a 2-1 away victory thanks to goals from Alan Neilson and Steve Howard.

► **MINUS 27**

Six years ago the Town began their ill-fated 2008/09 season on minus 30 points and failed to reduce the deficit in their opening game at home to Port Vale, going down 3-1 in a game that saw six players make their debuts.

However, on this day five years ago the Hatters recorded their first points of the season by winning 1-0 away to Gillingham thanks to Sam Parkin's third-minute header from a Chris Martin cross.

► **AND THE REST...**

The Town's two other results on this day both ended 1-1. In 1994 the Hatters drew with Fulham at Kenilworth Road in a League Cup first round first leg tie with Scott Oakes on target. Then, in the Hatters' most recent game on this day, in 2011, a header from Dean Beckwith salvaged a draw against Forest Green Rovers in the Conference.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Tick as applicable:  New Member  Renewal  (If renewal, enter membership number: \_\_\_\_\_)

Please complete in block capitals:

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Other): \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mob Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** This is our primary way of contacting you so please make sure this is accurate and current  
\_\_\_\_\_

(please tick where appropriate):

Adult - Full annual membership	£10	
Over 60 - Full annual membership	£5	
Junior (under 16): annual membership	£5	
Please note - no share issued or voting rights		
Additional donation - amount		

I enclose a cheque to the total value of £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Cheques should be made payable to Trust in Luton and posted with this completed form to:**  
**Trust in Luton, 17 Grove Place, Bedford, MK40 3JJ.**

I understand that the sum of £1 from a full member's first payment will purchase a share for that member in TIL 2003 Limited (Trust in Luton). This will give that person, or their proxy, the right to vote at all "Trust in Luton" meetings and elections.

I agree to abide by, and be bound by, the rules of the Trust's Constitution, which is available on the Trust website [www.trustinluton.info](http://www.trustinluton.info) or on application to the Membership Secretary at the registered office.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TIL 2003 Limited. Registered Office: 17 Grove Place, Bedford, MK40 3JJ. Company number - 29601R.  
For the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998 I confirm this information can be held on computer file for the purposes of (1) group administration (2) informing you of matters, including marketing material, relevant to the Trust and Luton Town FC. No information will be passed to other parties without permission being obtained.

# Trust in Luton

## HAPPY DAYS FOR THE TRUST!



Wow! With over 1,100 members now signed up to Trust in Luton – including Happy Harry of course! – there's been a great response to the football club putting the 'image rights' into the hands of us, the fans.

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

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

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

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



# Youth Team & Development

## FIXTURES & RESULTS

YOUTH

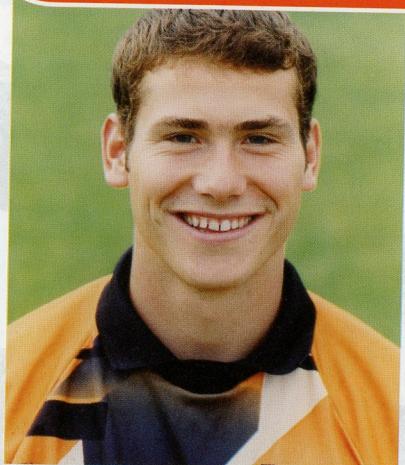
DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI					
<b>AUGUST</b>										
Sat 2	11.00am	H	MILTON KEYNES DONS	W 3-1	King	<b>TROTMAN 1</b>	Hawkes	Atkinson ♦	Tamplin	
Tue 12	12 noon	A	AFC BOURNEMOUTH (LC)	W 2-1	King	Justin	Magaraushe	Tamplin	Musonda	
Sat 16	11.00am	H	STEVENAGE							
Wed 20	11.00am	H	CAMBRIDGE UNITED							
Sat 23	10.30am	A	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE							
Sat 30	11.00am	H	WATFORD							
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>										
Sat 6	10.30am	A	BARNET							
Sat 13	11.00am	A	PETERBOROUGH UNITED							
Sat 20	11.00am	H	NORTHAMPTON TOWN							
Sat 27	10.30am	A	AFC WIMBLEDON							
<b>OCTOBER</b>										
Sat 4	11.00am	H	SOUTHEND UNITED							
Sat 11	10.30am	A	LEYTON ORIENT							
Sat 18	11.00am	H	GILLINGHAM							
Sat 25	11.00am	H	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE							
<b>NOVEMBER</b>										
Sat 1	11.00am	A	CAMBRIDGE UNITED							
Sat 8	11.00am	H	BARNET							
Sat 15	10.30am	A	WATFORD							
Sat 22	11.00am	A	NORTHAMPTON TOWN							
Sat 29	11.00am	H	PETERBOROUGH UNITED							
<b>DECEMBER</b>										
Sat 6	11.00am	A	SOUTHEND UNITED							
Sat 13	11.00am	H	AFC WIMBLEDON							
Sat 20	11.00am	A	GILLINGHAM							
<b>JANUARY</b>										
Tue 6	11.00am	H	LEYTON ORIENT							
Sat 10	11.00am	A	MILTON KEYNES DONS							
Sat 24	11.00am	A	STEVENAGE							

DEVELOPMENT

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Tue 9	1pm	H	AFC BOURNEMOUTH		
Tue 23	2pm	A	Portsmouth		
Tue 30	1pm	H	GILLINGHAM (Cup)		
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Tue 14	1pm	A	Gillingham		
Tue 28	1pm	H	PETERBOROUGH UNITED		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Tue 4	TBA	TBA	Cambridge United (Cup)		
Tue 18	1pm	A	Cambridge United		
Tue 25	1pm	H	LEYTON ORIENT		
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Tue 2	1pm	H	AFC WIMBLEDON		
Tue 9	TBA	TBA	AFC Wimbledon (Cup)		
<b>JANUARY</b>					
Tue 6	1pm	A	AFC Bournemouth		
Tue 13	1pm	H	BRIGHTON (Cup)		
Tue 20	1pm	H	GILLINGHAM		
Tue 27	1pm	H	MK DONS (Cup)		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Tue 3	1pm	A	Peterborough United		
Tue 24	1pm	A	Leiston Orient		
<b>MARCH</b>					
Tue 10	1pm	H	CAMBRIDGE UNITED		
Mon 23	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon		
Tue 31	1pm	H	PORTSMOUTH		

# Academy Alumni

IN THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH GRADUATES OF THE TOWN'S ACADEMY, GOALKEEPER **KELVIN DAVIS** REFLECTS ON HIS CAREER AT KENILWORTH ROAD



There aren't many footballers who make their home debuts as an 18-year-old in the white hot atmosphere of a local derby between Luton and Watford.

And there aren't many that are goalkeepers that also go on and mark the occasion with a penalty save either.

But, in March 1995, that's precisely what happened to Kelvin Davis when he was thrust into the limelight for the Hatters against the Hornets.

"I remember that game as if it were yesterday," Davis tells Talk of the Town, taking time out from a hectic cake-baking session with his young children. "That game really made me thinking that all the hard work was paying off."

Kelvin, who is now 37 and still going strong in the Premier League with Southampton, started his Town career as an Under-15 having been spotted playing for Stony Stratford.

"As a young boy I played for Leighton Corinthians," explains Davis. "From there I went to Stony Stratford and after being scouted by Luton I was invited to train. I played in one game and must have done well as I was asked to come back."

"After that I was never asked not to come and I just landed up staying."

"There were no other clubs I was interesting in signing for. Luton were in what is now the Championship and

they were the local professional club. David Pleat was the manager and he was great because he would watch all levels and was very involved, right from the under-15s up to the under-18s. His interest in you made you feel like a better player and that was a great ethos. He wanted us to play football the right way."

Once he joined the Town academy, life all of a sudden changed for Bedford-born Davis, and before he knew it he was impressing the Hatters first team coaches as a 16-year-old.

"One day I was asked to train with the first team, just as a goalkeeper to stand in. I must have done well because later that day Terry Westley, who ran the youth team at the time, asked me to sign schoolboy forms there and then. From that moment on it was a bit of a whirlwind and I went on to make my debut at 17."

Davis' debut between the sticks for the Town came on the final day of the 1993/94 season in a 2-2 draw at Stoke City's old Victoria Ground.

Like any player on their debut, it's a day that will always stay in his mind.

"I remember the pre-match talk from David Pleat," says Davis. "We were sitting in the dressing room and he asked 'where's Juergen?' Someone answered 'he's on the toilet'. David continued 'good, because you're going to start Kelvin...and if you want the toilet you can go now!'

"The game finished 2-2 and I remember making two or three saves and I was relatively happy with my performance. It was good because the club's policy was, and always has been, to give young players the chance. The Stoke game was perfect because it was at the end of the season and nothing was riding on the result. It was a completely different experience than playing in a reserve or youth match."

But at first it was scoring goals rather than stopping them that interested him the most.

"I never grew up thinking I would be a footballer - certainly not a goalkeeper," explains Davis. "I was like any kid, playing football and not doing my homework. Suddenly though I realised I had ability but when I started playing I would rarely actually play in goal. I'd play up front or at right-back. I remember having a conversation with my dad because when I was 15 I was playing in goal for Luton but up front for my school. I was at the stage where

## KELVIN DAVIS FACTFILE

BORN: 29TH SEPTEMBER 1976

LUTON TOWN DEBUT:

VS STOKE CITY (A) 8TH MAY 1994

LAST LUTON TOWN GAME:

VS MACCLESFIELD TOWN (H) 1ST MAY 1999

LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 107

TOTAL CAREER APPEARANCES: 679

I needed to decide what I wanted to do and in the end I chose being a goalkeeper.

"I enjoyed being a striker. When I was playing in goal for Luton in the youth teams we were quite good so I rarely had a lot to do and it wasn't as enjoyable as scoring lots of goals. I just loved being part of the action as a striker and scoring goals, obviously."

But the Hatters had plenty of knowhow at the club, with Peter Bonetti once a goalkeeper coach and experienced pros in Juergen Sommer and Andy Petterson battling for the number one jersey.

After playing the final nine games of the 94/95 campaign that saw him save another penalty - this time in the last ever match at Ayresome Park against Middlesbrough - he began the following season as the Town's number one following Sommer's move to QPR.

But manager Terry Westley signed another big American keeper in Ian Feuer, restricting Davis to appearances on the bench.

Once Westley had departed and Lennie Lawrence took over, Davis believed his career at Kenilworth Road was doomed - just like the Hatters at the time, who were relegated from what is now the Championship in 1996.

"At the time, given the position, Lennie wasn't keen on giving younger players the chance," says Davis, who went out on-loan to Torquay.

"For two years I wasn't really playing for the first team and I was loaned to Hartlepool in 1997/98 which was a good experience. After three games I was recalled after Ian Feuer dislocated his shoulder and I was back."

"I remember playing in the 4-0 home defeat by Watford. It was a strange situation because while I think it was the lowest point of my career, it proved to be a big turning point for me. Lennie Lawrence told me at half-time I wasn't good enough but I knew I had belief in my own ability."

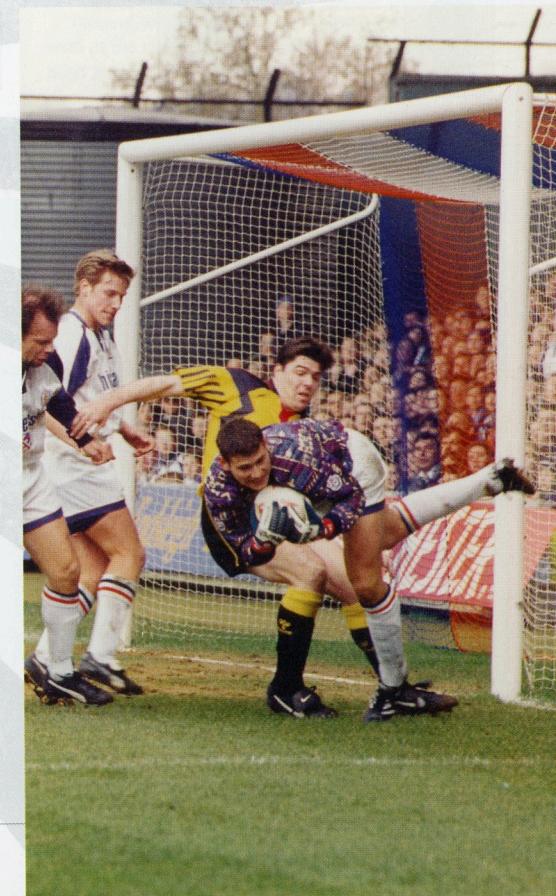
"The following week Lennie told me before our game against Plymouth that he had been trying all week to sign another goalkeeper, but he said he hadn't been able to

so I was playing. It made me laugh but I took it as a sign of encouragement and the determination to kick-on. I thought to myself it would be my final game at the club."

"However, I remember in that game making one of my best ever saves, getting down to my left, changing direction at the very last minute. We won the match 3-0 and afterwards Lennie said to me 'last week you were a boy, now you're a man'."

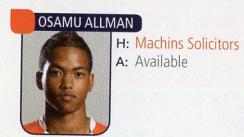
"After Ian returned to injury it wasn't until an Auto Windscreens Shield game at Fulham that I returned. Ian suffered a loss of form and I was back in the team again and I ended the season with a little run in the team. We were down at the bottom and needed the points to stay up and I remember the 2-2 draw at Brentford which made us safe."

Kelvin went onto become a regular for the Hatters the following season, in 1998/99 before administration at Kenilworth Road led to his exit and subsequent sale to Wimbledon - then in the Premier League.

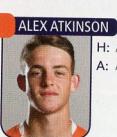


# Youth Team Sponsors

H: HOME | A: AWAY



OSAMU ALLMAN  
H: Machins Solicitors  
A: Available



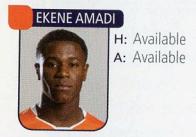
ALEX ATKINSON  
H: Available  
A: Available



GEO CRAIG  
H: Available  
A: Available



4 KYRAN MCGHAN-GEORGE  
H: Available  
A: Available



EKENE AMADI  
H: Available  
A: Available



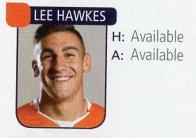
LIAM GOOCH  
H: Available  
A: Available



FRANKIE MUSONDA  
H: Available  
A: Available



ISAAC GALLIFORD  
H: Available  
A: Available



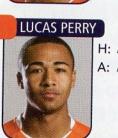
LEE HAWKES  
H: Available  
A: Available



CRAIG KING  
H: Mike Tearle  
A: Available



DARIL NGWALA  
H: Available  
A: Available



LUCAS PERRY  
H: Available  
A: Available



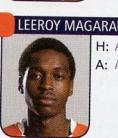
TUKI TAYALI  
H: Available  
A: Available



LUKE TROTMAN  
H: Available  
A: Available



HARRY TAMPLIN  
H: Allianz  
A: NPA Commercial



LEEROY MAGARAUSHE  
H: Available  
A: Available

## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF FOOTBALL

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

@FootballFoundtn  
[Youtube.com/Footballfdn](http://Youtube.com/Footballfdn)  
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[www.footballfoundation.org.uk](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk)

**Football Foundation**



Kelvin saves Gary Porter's penalty  
on his home debut for the Hatters



And here lies Davis' advice to younger players:  
somebody, somewhere is always watching so always give it your best.

"The loan at Torquay jogs a lot of memories," reminisces the keeper – who played with current Town keeper Mark Tyler at England youth level. "It was quite daunting for me as a young lad. David Pleat told me and I left for Devon that night, on my own, in the days of no mobile phones, no satnavs and I arrived in Torquay not knowing anybody.

"But at that point I soon became aware that every save, every decision was important.

"We played Wimbledon in the League Cup and I had a decent game. Sam Hamann and Mick Harford were with Wimbledon then and they had obviously kept an eye on me. Egil Olsen was the manager and 18 months later, with Luton in administration, I signed for Wimbledon, who were then in the Premier League. In my first season they got relegated but Paul Sullivan, their number one, left for Tottenham and I became first choice."

While Davis knows how much football's changed since he was growing up and cleaning boots and baths and toilets, the he looks back on his time in the Town academy with great fondness.

"I remember paint fights and mucking around like you do when you're a youth team player," he laughs. "I remember getting a telling off from Dickie the groundsman for getting paint on the pitch.

"In those days as a youth team player the togetherness was brilliant. We'd be in all day and after training we'd clean boots and scrub the baths clean. But it didn't matter, we knew what we were working towards and the best thing was we were all mates.

"We made friends for life during those days and I'm still good friends with them now.

"Three of the lads from my youth team days at Luton were at the christening of my latest child. It was a special bond growing up.

### Special

"Hard work was instilled into me from an early age. At Luton the staff always wanted to put the extra hours in to help young players.

"My time at Luton was special and I will always look back on it with pleasure. Members of my family are still supporters of the club so we're always looking out for their results.

"I recently showed a young player a copy of the DVD from my debut against Watford – just to show them what is possible when you're 17.

"Once an academy has got a good reputation it's up to the club to keep investing in it because it is the breeding ground for clubs and gives them and their players the right education and platform to go on and make a successful careers for themselves."

### KELVIN'S FAVOURITE YOUTH TEAM MEMORIES

- Terry Westley kicking a skip in frustration after a youth team match and breaking his toe
- When we were told to paint the away dressing room, one of the lads literally painted everything: the mirrors, the sockets, the light switches, everything. We then decided to have a paint fight, which then spread out onto the pitch. We were given a rollocking by the groundsman!
- When we were cleaning the toilets one day John Moore said he wanted the whole place spotless. When we finished he noticed a mark in one of the toilets. We insisted we'd tried everything to get it off. He said "if I can get it off you're doing 10 laps of the pitch". He scraped it off with his fingernail...and we went running...

# community

## HATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Community Trust coaching staff had a busy end of season organising overseas tours for our Development Squads, and our youth competition The Hatters Cup held at Kenilworth Road just before the new pitch was laid.

Our pre-Academy squads visited Holland to take part in the Easter Open and again were successful with the Under-14 squad (pictured) winning the tournament outright with a 1-0 victory against FC Lyseng from Belgium. Our Under-9s and Under-16s reached the finals undefeated, only to lose narrowly.

### Experience

Our Centre of Excellence squads also visited the Netherlands to take part in the JVC Cup and again a number of squads went through the entire tournament undefeated including the Under-11s and Under-14s (pictured) with the highlight coming with the Under-12s losing in the final against KBC Duisberg. Overall 280 boys travelled to gain valuable experience against European competition and, especially as all boys played in the year above their English age group, the overall verdict was very positive. A lot of the boys will be pushing hard for an Academy place in the coming season.

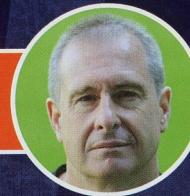
The Hatters Cup, sponsored by Pictons Solicitors, was again a huge success with 120 local teams taking part over a weekend and over 1,000 youngsters enjoying playing on the Kenilworth Road pitch. The weather was fantastic, not only player got injured and the club made lots of new fans with everyone keen to be pictured with the Conference Champions Trophy.

The Under-7s and Under-8s competition was non-competitive and the roll call of winners included Bushmead Rovers, Harpenden Colts, Letchworth Garden City Eagles and St Gregory's School in Bedford (pictured). Watch this space for news of next year's competition!

### SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS

Our coaching staff are in the middle of our summer holiday camp programme and, with three weeks still to go, we have plenty of fun activities in lots of locations in Luton and Bedfordshire planned. You can still book a place or receive more information on our summer camps by phoning 07725 172345 or emailing [ltfc.soccerschools@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ltfc.soccerschools@hotmail.co.uk). Courses are open to boys and girls of all abilities and cost from £15 per day and are run all the way up to Wednesday 3rd September.

## THE LATEST FROM THE UNDER-18S WITH MANAGER PAUL DRIVER



The Youth Team started back in pre-season on 25th June and welcomed in six new first years to join the 10 lads who had moved up to their second year, plus Leeroy Maguraushe who has been extended into a third year following the loss on his entire second year with a major cruciate ligament injury.

Leeroy, along with the medical staff at the club, have worked tirelessly to ensure that he is now fully back into training and playing in competitive matches.

All six new boys, like all of the 10 second years, come from within our own Academy system which speaks volumes for everyone involved in it and gives the added bonus that we know all of the boys well before they come in full-time and they know how Luton Town work at senior and youth level having, in all cases, been involved last season in youth matches.

So, we welcome Liam Gooch, Frankie Musonda, James Justin, Kyran McGhan-George, Alex Atkinson and Geo Craig and wish them every success in their two-year scholarship.

We tested the boys against higher level youth opposition during pre-season in the shape of Chelsea, Brentford and Coventry before playing senior sides at AFC Kempston and Bedford Town. Each game gave us encouraging signs that the group were in good shape physically and were understanding how we want them to play.

At the time of writing we have had two competitive matches and have recorded wins in both of these. Firstly, goals from Tuki Tayali, Luke Trotman and Osamu Allman helped us beat the MK Dons 3-1 in the Youth Alliance; then Ekene Amadi and Isaac Galliford were on target as we progressed through a tricky first round of the League Cup with a 2-1 win at AFC Bournemouth earlier this week.

We are now part of the new EPPP (Elite Player Performance Programme) system which makes the paperwork we all have to do seemingly endless. However, it is exactly what is needed so that young players are properly coached and we are all embracing it full on. I gain massively by getting an assistant to help me and the benefits of Joe Deeney being with us every day are already starting to pay dividends.

Promotion to the Football League also means we don't have to go through the preliminary rounds of the FA Youth Cup which is a positive, and our league is now better in our opinion in that we play everyone twice (in the past we played some once and some twice) and there is the incentive of a place in a merit division along with the top teams from the South West if we finish high enough. Therefore we can introduce more of a competitive element into things as we prepare lads for life in the first team where results are paramount.

Our home games are currently played at Ely Way on Saturdays, starting at 11am and all supporters are welcome to come along and support the boys and see the upcoming crop of youngsters that are looking to make it to the first team like our old boys Jake Howells and Alex Lacey.

I would like to finish by wishing everyone involved at Luton Town every success for the big season coming up – let's hope it's as good as the last one! Come on you Hatters!

# FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

## THERE ONCE WAS A TOWN CALLED MALICE

Well that was ridiculous; we were only popping out for a bit. Instead, for five long years, nothing. No one heard a peep. Apparently they said we disappeared, feared dead. Word finally trickled through that we'd gone away; far away, scouring the depths of deepest blue, dreams squared-away among the skrill before finally, gloriously coming back up for air.

Argh! Wait, what? Where are we? How long have we been asleep? Five years? What have we missed?

Oasis have WHAT? What, for good? Yeah right, mate. I've heard it all before. They'll never really split up. More chance of seeing Cardiff play in red shirts at home.

Hang on, the Jimmy Saville? Why's he got keys to Broadmoor? I bet the News of the World are all over that! I'm telling everyone on MySpace.

Hashtag? Nah you're alright mate. I'm mad enough thanks.

We've awoken in a different world alright, brothers and sisters.

Given the apparent blackout, those outside of Luton must be picturing us as a sort of mysterious Travis Henderson figure from the film *Paris, Texas*. Wandering dehydrated out of the non-league desert, all mute and confused years after disappearing.

You've heard of *Paris, Texas*? The fella with the red baseball cap and the lovely beard? No?

### Long lost chum

Alright, what about Harold Bishop then? We're just like old Harold Bishop reappearing on *Ramsey Street* aren't we? LOL! We're Harold Bishop and Sky Sports is Lou Carpenter. Lou welcomes back old Jelly Belly with an unconvincing smile and he's got loads of brilliant banter for his long lost chum, but Harold (us) just stares back at him blankly, seeing his once dazzling and long-cultivated wit with the cold eyes of a stranger for the first time. All together now: "Harold Bishops Barmy Ar..."

Come on! You know, Harold Bishop? *Neighbours*? Old Jelly Belly... Nothing?

Alright that doesn't work, maybe we're more like a film about a banished renegade or something: expelled from the top table as selfish economic waves crash

around the crumbling foundations of modern football while the mega rich float away in the arks of oligarchs, only for us to raise an army, regroup and rise again victorious. Sort of like Val Kilmer's character in *Willow* or summink? Yeah?

Erm... What else? Maybe we're a bit like... erm... Cheryl Cole being... erm... back on *X Factor* an' that? Nope? I give up.

The media are in the midst of re-writing their own grand narratives around the fall and rise of Luton Town of course, and none of them are really any more faithful to actual events than the pile of Tydesley above.

### Punishment

Phrases like "harshly treated" are being bandied around in the press and TV studios like it has forever been the accepted consensus about our punishment; our supporters are newly hailed as miraculous and loyal. The sanctimonious voices that once branded our club cheats and who implied the fans' stance was mindless and naive Tippexed over forever.

John Still's arrival, in the media's grand narrative, is remembered as being an obvious fit for our sleeping giant forgetting that he was actually seen by many as too old and after one last pay packet: an unlikely Steven Seagal for our club under siege. (Come on, SEAGAL? You bloody know Seagal you philistines.)

The whole town has seemed under siege at times in recent past, bracing while a hail of media hatchet jobs about rats that run in packs and streets divided by religious strife rained down.

It was the pervading siege mentality that probably stood our disparate community of supporters in good stead through the years of decline, looking back. Despite the disappointment of relegations and near misses, we were already a bit of a unit, even before Still arrived and worked his magic.

Unfashionable; Underdog; "Crappiest town in Britain", we're used to it. Certain areas of the ground (the fun ones, let's face it) will always revel in the implied unwelcoming malice that hovers just beneath the fog of champions positivity in the Kenilworth Road air even now. As the song goes, it's not that we don't care that no one likes us, that's just "the way we like it".

The truly beautiful thing is that we're still all here after the bombardments of the past five, six, seven years. The fact that we're arriving back in the Football League with momentum on as well as off the pitch might seem like a bit of a bonus to those that stood in hope outside Soho Square awaiting our fate all those years ago.

So welcome back, you stalwart few. Lovely to see you again. Have you lost weight?

As is the case for many of our players, this is first time these pages have flapped in the warm breeze of the Football League and long may it continue.

### Joy

It's a nice feeling, this. John Still's Never Ending Summer of 2014 they'll call it on the blackboard above the urinals in the Brickies, some might just call it being back in Division Four. Either way there's a few more pages to be written in the real story of Luton Town's revival yet and when the leaves fall from the trees and the warm glow of the media's spotlight dims we'll still be trekking up and down the motorways and the train carriages of England hoping that the day brings more glory than despair, and treating both imposters with similar disdain.

Well, I could go on for hours and I probably will, but I'd sooner put some joy back in this Town Called Malice. (That one's The Jam. But you knew that.) Enjoy the season, everyone.

Up the Town.



# league look

THE TOWN ARE BACK IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SO INSTEAD OF TRIPS TO ALTRINCHAM, EASTLIGH AND DOVER IT'S PORTSMOUTH, OXFORD AND PLYMOUTH. FORGOTTEN WHO THEY ARE? DON'T WORRY HERE'S OUR GUIDE TO WHO'S WHO IN LEAGUE 2

## ► AFC WIMBLEDON

**NICKNAME:** The Dons  
**GROUND:** Kingsmeadow  
**MANAGER:** Neal Ardley

**LAST SEASON:** 20th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** A day best forgotten for Town fans as the Dons secured promotion to the Football League after the penalty shootout in the Conference Play-Off final in May 2011.

## ► ACCRINGTON STANLEY

**NICKNAME:** Stanley  
**GROUND:** The Crown Ground  
**MANAGER:** James Beattie  
**LAST SEASON:** 15th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The Hatters travelled to the Crown Ground on a cold February night in 2009. Only 1,033 witnessed the goalless draw – at the time the lowest league gate to watch the Town.

## ► BURTON ALBION

**NICKNAME:** The Brewers  
**GROUND:** Pirelli Stadium  
**MANAGER:** Gary Rowett  
**LAST SEASON:** Losing League 2 Play-Off finalists  
**LAST MEETING:** This season the clubs will meet for the first time.

## ► BURY

**NICKNAME:** The Shakers  
**GROUND:** Gigg Lane  
**MANAGER:** David Flitcroft  
**LAST SEASON:** 12th League 2  
**LAST MEETING:** Mark Tyler was playing against the Town in the last meeting, at Kenilworth Road in January 2009, that the Shakers won 2-1.

## ► CAMBRIDGE UNITED

**NICKNAME:** The U's  
**GROUND:** Abbey Stadium  
**MANAGER:** Richard Money  
**LAST MEETING:** Conference Play-Off winners  
**LAST MEETING:** Who can forget the 1-1 draw at the Abbey Stadium last March? Mark Cullen's last-gasp equaliser all but guaranteed the Town the title against their nearest challengers.

## ► CARLISLE UNITED

**NICKNAME:** The Cumbrians  
**GROUND:** Brunton Park

**MANAGER:** Graham Kavanagh

**LAST SEASON:** Relegated from League 1

**LAST MEETING:** Taking away last Saturday's 1-0 victory for the Town, the previous time the Town had taken on Carlisle in League was a 2-1 defeat at Brunton Park in March 2008 in League 1.

## ► CHELTENHAM TOWN

**NICKNAME:** The Robins  
**GROUND:** Whaddon Road  
**MANAGER:** Mark Yates

**LAST SEASON:** 17th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The two clubs met in the second round of the FA Cup in December 2011 that saw the Robins triumph 4-2 in a highly-entertaining game at Kenilworth Road.

## ► DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

**NICKNAME:** The Daggers  
**GROUND:** Victoria Road  
**MANAGER:** Wayne Burnett

**LAST SEASON:** 9th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The Town won a friendly last summer at home, but the last competitive game came on Valentine's Day in 2009, a game the Daggers won 2-1 at Victoria Road.

## ► HARTLEPOOL UNITED

**NICKNAME:** Pools  
**GROUND:** Victoria Park  
**MANAGER:** Colin Cooper

**LAST SEASON:** 19th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The Pools thumped the Hatters 4-0 in the last meeting between the sides, back in League in February 2008.

## ► MANSFIELD TOWN

**NICKNAME:** The Stags  
**GROUND:** Field Mill  
**MANAGER:** Paul Cox

**LAST SEASON:** 11th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The Stags recorded a 3-2 win over the Town on their way to winning the Conference title in February 2013. Scott Rendell and Andre Gray scored the Hatters' goals.

## ► MORECAMBE

**NICKNAME:** The Shrimps  
**GROUND:** Globe Arena  
**MANAGER:** Jim Bentley

**LAST SEASON:** 18th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The two sides have only met twice, during the Town's -30 season, with the Hatters triumphing 2-1 in the last meeting at the Shrimps' old Christie Park, thanks to goals from Chris Martin and Kevin Gallen.

## ► NEWPORT COUNTY

**NICKNAME:** The Exiles  
**GROUND:** Rodney Parade  
**MANAGER:** Justin Edinburgh

**LAST SEASON:** 14th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** Andre Gray struck twice in a 2-2 draw in the last meeting between the two clubs in April 2013. Newport went on to win the Play-Offs a month later to return to the Football League.

## ► NORTHAMPTON TOWN

**NICKNAME:** The Cobblers  
**GROUND:** Sixfields  
**MANAGER:** Chris Wilder

**LAST SEASON:** 21st League 2

**LAST MEETING:** A sole Adam Watkins goal gave the Town an FA Cup first round win at Kenilworth Road in November 2011. The two sides met last in League action in League 1 back in 2007/08, with Northampton winning the last meeting at Sixfields.

## ► OXFORD UNITED

**NICKNAME:** The U's  
**GROUND:** Kassam Stadium  
**MANAGER:** Michael Appleton

**LAST SEASON:** 8th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The two sides last met in the Conference in 2009/10 with the Town winning the last meeting in dramatic style at Kenilworth Road in February 2010. Trailing 1-0 in injury time, the Hatters won it thanks to late, late goals from George Pilkington and Keith Keane – the winner direct from a corner.

## ► PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

**NICKNAME:** The Pilgrims  
**GROUND:** Home Park  
**MANAGER:** John Sheridan

**LAST SEASON:** 10th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The last meeting between the Town and Argyle came in a League Cup tie that took place six years ago this week that the Hatters won 2-0. It was back in April 2007 that the clubs last met in the League, with the Town losing 2-1 at home in the Championship.

## ► PORTSMOUTH

**NICKNAME:** Pompey  
**GROUND:** Fratton Park  
**MANAGER:** Andy Awford

**LAST SEASON:** 13th League 2

**LAST MEETING:** You have to go back to the 1995/96 season for the Town's and Pompey's last meeting. A 4-0 defeat at Fratton Park was Terry Westley's last game in charge. The Town won the home fixture in September 3-1, thanks to goals from Steve Davis, Dwight Marshall and Bontcho Guentchev.

## ► SHREWSBURY TOWN

**NICKNAME:** The Shrews  
**GROUND:** New Meadow  
**MANAGER:** Micky Mellon

**LAST SEASON:** Relegated from League 1

**LAST MEETING:** The Hatters tamed the Shrews in their last meeting back in February 2011 in League 2. The Town's 3-1 win came following goals from Tom Craddock, Sam Parkin and Asa Hall.

## ► SOUTHEND UNITED

**NICKNAME:** The Shrimpers  
**GROUND:** Roots Hall  
**MANAGER:** Phil Brown

**LAST SEASON:** Losing Play-Off semi-finalists League 2

**LAST MEETING:** The Town lost 3-1 at Roots Hall in an FA Cup second round tie in November 2008 but the two sides last met in League 1 in 2007/08, with the Hatters going down 2-0 in the last Football League meeting in March 2008.

## ► STEVENAGE

**NICKNAME:** Boro  
**GROUND:** Broadhall Way  
**MANAGER:** Graham Westley

**LAST SEASON:** Relegated from League 1

**LAST MEETING:** The Hatters came close to catching Boro in the 2009/10 Conference campaign, winning 1-0 at Broadhall Way in Easter 2010 with Matthew Barnes-Homer scoring the Town's winner. Boro won the reverse fixture, at Kenilworth Road, by the same scoreline earlier that season.

## ► TRANMERE ROVERS

**NICKNAME:** Rovers  
**GROUND:** Prenton Park  
**MANAGER:** Rob Edwards

**LAST SEASON:** Relegated from League 1

**LAST MEETING:** The two clubs last met during the League 1 season of 2007/08 with the Hatters recording a victory at Kenilworth Road in December 2007 thanks to David Edwards' goal.

## ► WYCOMBE WANDERERS

**NICKNAME:** The Chairboys  
**GROUND:** Adams Park  
**MANAGER:** Gareth Ainsworth

**LAST SEASON:** 22nd League 2

**LAST MEETING:** One of the Town's final home matches in the Football League, it was Wanderers that won 1-0 in April 2009 before the Chairboys went onto win promotion.

## ► YORK CITY

**NICKNAME:** The Minstermen  
**GROUND:** Bootham Crescent  
**MANAGER:** Nigel Worthington

**LAST SEASON:** Losing Play-Off semi-finalists League 2

**LAST MEETING:** Like AFC Wimbledon, the Town's last meeting with the Minstermen was a Play-Off final. In the 2012 final at Wembley, York came back from conceding Andre Gray's second-minute opener to score twice – the second controversially offside – to win promotion.

# Traveller's TALES

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

**CARLISLE UNITED • SATURDAY 9th AUGUST 2014**

## THE JOURNEY

As the 5.30am alarm did its thing, the day we had waited over five years for had finally arrived. #LutonAreBack. Usually such an early alarm call would be the last thing to please me but nothing was going to dampen the excitement and anticipation of this day. A quick shower and much needed cup of coffee later it was off to Ampthill to get on the Bobbers Travel coach for 6.50am ahead of the pick up at Luton which was to leave there at 7.30am.

We got to Luton and soon everyone was on the coach and the buzz was beginning to build with everyone in good spirits and looking forward to our first day back in the Football League. Just after 7.30am we were on the road, off up the M1 and then the M6 and the toll road before a quick stop off at Norton Canes for a short break. Once that had been completed it was all systems go up the M6 towards Carlisle. We hit a brief bit of traffic around the Preston area but having made good headway we decided to stop at the Westmorland services where those on board could grab a bite to eat from the farm shop or the barbecue which was on offer.

All were back on board for 1pm for the last few miles of the journey. I had been asked to do a short interview for BBC Radio 5 Live on our return to the League which I did just after 1.30 just as we came off the M6, and then it was the last couple of miles down to Brunton Park itself. Just after 1.45pm we finally arrived to perfect sunshine, fitting weather for our big day.

## THE GROUND

I had been to Brunton Park before on a couple of occasions, the last time when we suffered that awful 5-1 defeat to Gateshead, so I knew what to expect. Despite being miles away the ground reminded us of what we have to look forward to this season. Gone were the iron sheds and tiny terraces of the Conference and here was a huge stadium which was all seated in the away end.

The Hatters fans, all 1,088 of us, were seated in the corner down one side of the Pioneer Foods Stand which ran along the side of the pitch.

With a high roof we were able to create a good atmosphere to support the lads on the field with.

Despite Brunton Park being an old ground, the away facilities were very good. There were two sets of toilets and a refreshment kiosk and bar under the away end.

## THE FOOD

After a journey like that food and drink was much needed. The refreshment kiosk was doing a meal deal for £3.50. For that you got either a pie or a hot dog and a tea, coffee or a soft drink.

I got a steak pie which was tasty enough and a diet coke. Decent food at decent prices. A perfect combination! Other options for food were burgers, pasties and a wide range of chocolate and sweets, while alcohol was also being served.

You could even order your drinks for half-time before the match started to avoid queues at the interval! How's that for service?

## THE PROGRAMME

A knocked down programme was produced for this game. It cost £2 but still had some good things in it. There were two pages dedicated to Luton as well as a nice welcoming message from the chairman Andrew Jenkins where he claimed 'he was sure Luton would give Carlisle a difficult game'.

How right he was!

The first of the two Luton pages was split into two. The top half was all about John Still with the bottom half being about our 'one to watch' which on this occasion was Luke Guttidge.

The second page was dedicated to our squad and the past clubs of each player. The rest of the 48-page issue was the usual home club dedicated things.



## THE GAME

The game itself was very much a game of two halves. With a pretty strong wind blowing from left to right as we looked at it, it seemed advantageous to be going into the wind. We controlled the first half with Mark Cullen scoring our first goal back in the League in the 30th minute after excellent build up play involving Matt Robinson, Jake Howells and Paul Benson before Cullen had the simplest of tap-ins.

In the second half we had to dig in a lot more as Carlisle used conditions to their advantage. The back four were all solid in the weight of a barrage of crosses and apart from Billy Paynter hitting the post from a yard out Carlisle didn't really look like scoring. As the second half wore on we were able to counter attack a bit more and almost doubled the lead as Benson's shot was well saved late on.

## MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

There were a number of candidates for our man-of-the-match. The entire back four were excellent as was Robinson in front of them; while Benson put an excellent shift in. For me Scott Griffiths was the MOM. He kept a tricky customer in David Symington quiet and made some important blocks and interceptions in what was a very solid performance from our steady Eddie left-back.

## SUMMARY

What a great day it was, albeit a very long one! We capped our return to the Football League in style with a wonderful turnout and an excellent performance and most importantly three points! The coach arrived back in Luton after a 549-mile round trip just after 10.30pm and I got off at Ampthill just after 11pm, just over 16 hours after I had got on it! The long day was well worth it though on what was a momentous day in the Town's history.

ISSUE 01  
Season 2014/15  
£2  
SKY BET  
LEAGUE 2  
SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 2014  
KICK-OFF  
CARLISLE UNITED v LUTON TOWN  
LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB EST. 1885  
MATCH SPONSOR: CARLISLE UNITED BUSINESS CLUB  
ASSOCIATE SPONSOR: CDC  
PROGRAMME SPONSOR: KATHRYN AND BRUCE VANDER-TAYLOR  
in memory of a great friend and

# THE SEASON

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

## AUGUST

Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Carlisle United	W 1-0	6,760	1,088	6	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey	Robinson
Tue 12	7.45pm	H	Swindon Town (C1C 1)	L 1-2	4,410	436	-	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Franks	Robinson
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon											
Tue 19	7.45pm	H	Bury											
Sat 23	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley											
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town											

## SEPTEMBER

TV Sat 6	12.15pm	H	Plymouth Argyle											
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Cheltenham Town											
Tue 16	7.45pm	A	York City											
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United											
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Oxford United											

## OCTOBER

Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Stevenage											
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Southend United											
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United											
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge											
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town											

## NOVEMBER

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

## DECEMBER

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

## JANUARY

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

## FEBRUARY

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

## MARCH

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

## APRIL

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

## MAY

Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage											
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# Fixtures & Results

## SUBS

Drury	Howells	DRURY	Howells	CULLEN	Benson	Franks
Drury	ROONEY	DRURY	Cullen	Benson	Franks	Wall

Rooney	Ruddock	Guttridge	Stevenson	Justham
Howells	Ruddock	Guttridge	Lafayette	Justham

## LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

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

## PLAYER STATS 2014/15

	THIS SEASON						LFC	
	LEAGUE	CUP	APP'S	GLS	APP'S	GLS	DISC'	CAREER TOTAL
Zane Banton	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 6 0
Paul Benson	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (0)	1	0 40 18
Paul Connolly	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (0)	1	0 2 0
Mark Cullen	1 (0)	1	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	1 (0)	0	0 38 11
Andy Drury	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 28 8
Fraser Franks	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0 (0)	1	0 18 0
Scott Griffiths	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 54 1
Luke Guttridge	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0 (0)	0	0 34 13
Jake Howells	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 277 26
Elliot Justham	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 7 0
Alex Lacey	1 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (1)	0 (1)	0	0 0 32 1
Ross Lafayette	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0 (1)	0	0 0 0 0
Alex Lawless	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 156 18
Steve McNulty	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 70 2
Andrew Parry	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 26 4
Ian Rees	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 4 0
Matt Robinson	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0 (0)	0	0 47 3
Luke Rooney	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	1	1 (1)	1 (1)	1	0 1 8 1
P								

# HOLD THE Back Page

WITH DIVERSE FM COMMENTATOR SIMON PITTS

## 'An honour and a privilege'

These are the words I've spoken or written several times over the past few years and today I use them in the context of being asked to write this piece for the opening home game back in the Football League.

It's taken five years, which is longer than we'd all hoped, but when it was achieved it was in absolute style and with the club in its strongest position both on and off the field than perhaps it had been during those years.

## Special

Those five years in the Non-League is also the same period of time that I have had the honour and the privilege of commentating on the Hatters exploits for Diverse FM. It will of course be extra special for everyone involved with both Diverse FM and the Luton Town Show, that their community radio station, run by volunteers, will be covering Football League matches involving our beloved Football Club this season.

It was these same people and many more who were so proud when it was announced that Diverse FM was to be recognised by Her Majesty The Queen and to be honoured with the prestigious Queen's Award for Volunteer Services. To put this award into perspective, it is the same level of acknowledgement from Her Majesty as you or me being awarded an MBE.

This season will see Diverse FM continue to broadcast the Luton Town Show, although due to League rules this cannot be broadcast online other than via the club's official service Hatters Player.



Simon Pitts

We are delighted to have Mark Wood on board with us again for this campaign after securing his services on a free transfer following a successful trial last season! Mark brings a wealth of experience to the show and most importantly continues the tradition and trademark of the show "For the fans by the fans".

## Thanks

We will always keep this ethos because the show is not broadcast for the benefit of those in the studio or for me or Mark travelling to games; it is for you fellow fans of Luton Town, for whom we extend our sincere thanks for your continued support and messages of appreciation.

With your support and the financial input from Pictons Solicitors, that enables us to broadcast the show, I am sure that Diverse FM and the Luton Town Show will continue to perform well over every

90 minutes and will go from strength to strength behind the scenes to ultimately achieve further success – very much like our hopes for the Football Club that we're all following!

Last weekend's victory at Carlisle was an amazing experience and a fantastic start to the season. Being able to commentate on Luton as a Football League Club was another absolute honour and a privilege.

The @LutonTownShow can be heard on Diverse 102.8FM in the Luton area or on-line via the official Hatters Player service every week with uninterrupted live commentary.



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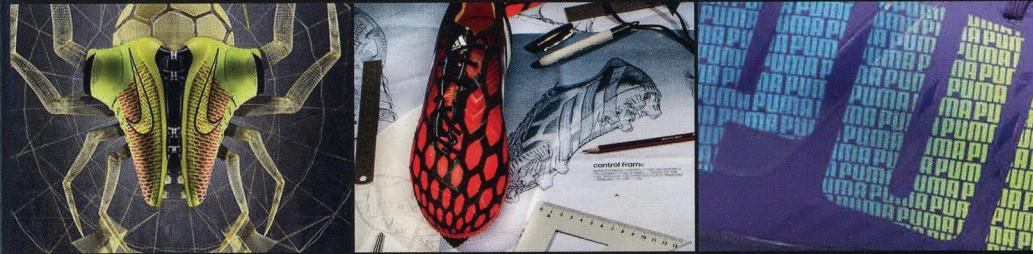
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## SCORE PREDICTOR

Weekly - £50 JD gift card

Monthly - Pair of football boots & replica shirt

Overall - Champions League final for 2 in Berlin (inc.flights/hotel)

Bonus prize - Win trainers for a year! Predict a full round of correct scores



Register  
for free



Predict  
your scores



Score points  
& win prizes

# THE SQUADS



## LUTON TOWN

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



## AFC WIMBLEDON

- 1 Ross Worner
- 2 Barry Fuller
- 3 Jack Smith
- 4 Dannie Bulman
- 5 Andy Frampton
- 6 Alan Bennett
- 7 George Francomb
- 8 Sammy Moore
- 9 Matt Tubbs
- 10 Adebayo Akinfenwa
- 11 Sean Rigg
- 12 Harry Pell
- 14 Adebayo Azeez
- 15 Mark Phillips
- 16 Kevin Sainte-Luce
- 17 Adam Barrett
- 18 Jake Nicholson
- 19 Chris Arthur
- 20 James Shea
- 21 Tom Beere
- 22 Will Nightingale
- 24 Ashley Bayes
- 25 Chace Jacquot
- 26 Joe McDonnell
- 27 Callum Kennedy

## TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS



Oliver Langford



Ryan Atkin



Stephen Finch



4 Akil Howson

## NEXT UP

v BURY • TUESDAY 19th AUGUST 2014 • 7.45pm • SKY BET LEAGUE 2

