

TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2014

KICK-OFF 12.15PM

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welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ After three successive home games it's almost been three weeks since we were last at Kenilworth Road so welcome back one and all for this League 2 fixture against Plymouth Argyle.

As well as welcoming our visitors from Devon, we also have the pleasure of hosting Sky Sports this afternoon who are broadcasting their first match at Kenilworth Road since the Town knocked out Brighton & Hove Albion on penalties to reach the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy...some five years ago!

It was only seven years ago that the Town and Plymouth were playing each other in the Championship and a lot has happened at both clubs since.

Yet today the teams meet in League 2 – a division that Argyle pipped the Town to winning the Championship race of 2001/02. We've got plenty of memories of those tussles inside today's 76-page issue and much more besides, so enjoy and we look forward to another game here next week when we entertain Cheltenham #COYH ”

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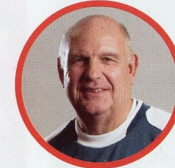
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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW
Switchboard: 01582 411622
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info@lutontown.co.uk | www.lutontown.co.uk

CLUB OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN: Nick Owen
VICE CHAIRMAN: David Wilkinson
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DIRECTORS: Paul Ballantyne, David Blakeman, Bob Curson.
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SAFETY OFFICER: Leon Blackburn

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

EDITOR: Andrew Barringer
PHOTOGRAPHY: Gareth Owen
CONTRIBUTORS: Andrew Barringer, Roger Wash, Mark Wood and Tom Skinner.
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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



STILL KEEPING GOING

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road to you all for this Sky Bet League 2 encounter against Plymouth Argyle.

A big welcome to our visitors, including manager John Sheridan and his staff and team and everybody associated with the Devon club today.

This afternoon's game sees us also welcome the Sky Sports television cameras and here's hoping that we can put on a good show for the watching audience and, of course, our own supporters here inside Kenilworth Road.

Form

I think it's fair to say that our form over the last couple of games has probably not seen the level we were expecting.

Before our game at Shrewsbury last weekend I thought our start was steady enough, however, taking into the consideration the slow start at Accrington and the performance last weekend, our start to the campaign has been below the level we expect.

At Accrington we overcame a sloppy start to fight back strongly to earn a point but the display at Shrewsbury was not acceptable, even if it was against a very good side.

We have come to expect a lot from the team over the past 12 months but last Saturday was no where near what we're after.

Today's game gives us an opportunity to put last week's disappointment to one side and push on and get back to the levels of performance we know we can give.

It's important to me that our team ethic, that stood us in such great stead last season, remains strong.

Over the past 12 months we have steadily built and enforced a hard-working attitude into the squad.

**"I THINK WE'VE
ALL LEARNED
THE IMPORTANCE
LAST YEAR OF
KEEPING GOING,
NEVER GIVING UP
AND HAVING THE
RIGHT ATTITUDE."**

However at the moment I don't believe the effort on the pitch is matching the superb support we are receiving from the stands.

Remarkable

The backing has been absolutely magnificent, the followings at Accrington and Shrewsbury have been remarkable and, as I have said many, many times, your support is one of the major parts of our overall team.

It is therefore disappointing to see that what we are producing on the field isn't matching your support. As we know from past experiences, it is hard work which bares fruit.

On the injury front it is good to see Alex Lawless back in training this week. Fitness-wise Alex wouldn't be far away from a return, all he needs is match-time.

It is the same with Jonathan Smith. He is not far away, but a plus for all recovering players and those on the fringes of the first team is that we have entered a competitive development/reserve league, and we kick that off against Bournemouth here at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday.

Last week also saw the transfer window close. We made enquiries for some players but in the end they were deals that could not be done.

There is a possibility we may revisit those when the loan window opens, plus there are some players who are without clubs which is worth bearing in mind. We will only go for players we really need but we are not banging down any doors.

We did let two players go out on loan, with Solomon Taiwo and Ricky Miller both joining Dover on a month's loan. The move will be good for both, especially Ricky who has just recovered from a little injury. We hope a month's loan will help him along in his development.

Talking of development, our development squad took on Barnet at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday and earned a 2-2 draw which gave those players not currently in the first team much-needed game-time.

Integrity

However, back to the here and now. I think we've all learned the importance last year of keeping going, never giving up and having the right attitude. We know we face tough opposition this afternoon but with your support and the hard work and integrity of the players on the pitch we will be hopeful of earning three important points this afternoon.

Enjoy the game.

John Still



BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR DAVID BLAKEMAN

Welcome to today's televised game against Plymouth Argyle. I would like to welcome everybody associated with our visitors who have made the long trip from Devon to be with us for this early kick-off.



As well as the officials and playing staff of Plymouth, I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Greg Clarke, the Football League chairman, to Kenilworth Road.

It is lovely to be talking about matches against teams that I think most of us would consider to be "proper" teams. Our record in recent years has been pretty even against Plymouth and we won the last game played here - 2-0, 2008 in the League Cup. Plymouth have started the season reasonably well, having won, last Saturday, against Southend.

Conversely, our result last weekend (and, I think, the performance against a very impressive Shrewsbury side) was a bit disappointing - but I am quite sure we can improve upon that today.

We have, of course, been missing several crucial players. At the time of writing, I do not know if the likes of Alex Lawless, Jonathan Smith, Andy Drury and Scott

Griffiths will return, but, if they do, their presence could make a difference.

It has been quite noticeable, to my mind, that a number of teams in this division are playing some excellent football. Certainly, Bury and Shrewsbury (one of the best league 2 sides I can remember seeing) appear (on the evidence, admittedly, of watching only one game) to be playing expansive passing football. On balance, I think that we will be better off (and, paradoxically, find it easier) playing passing sides than it was to play the very physical sides we tended to come up against in the Conference. Time will tell.

This is my first set of programme notes this season. Since my last set of notes we have, of course, had the holiday season. We have not been idle, however, during that period of time and have undertaken a wide variety of community activities.

Perhaps the most exciting was our World Cup Week of Learning, undertaken with local charity, Unleashing Potential. That event involved over 700 local schoolchildren attending Kenilworth Road, over a period of three days.

The children were treated to various educational assemblies - some fronted by an educational rapper - who the kids loved and who was, in my opinion, extremely impressive. He made the kids laugh, but delivered some very important messages about hard work and achievement as well. Each day included a ground tour for the children and a special opportunity to lift the World Cup

(a replica - but a very realistic one!) in front of the other children.

To anyone who has not witnessed the spectacle of 200 schoolchildren yelling simultaneously, all I can say is that, apart from the need for a new set of eardrums following such an event, one must also think about the prospect of those kids cheering on the Hatters!

This was, I like to think, one of those really pleasing occasions where we were helping children (and their teachers) enhance educational potential, whilst at the same time having the opportunity to convert youngsters into Luton Town fans. It is unrealistic to assume that all 700 will become Luton fans, but I am sure that a certain number enjoyed the day so much that they will be coming back - and that gives us the opportunity to turn them into lifelong fans.

We are also hosting, on 9th September, an event run by the Football Association called Asians in Football. This is really an exploratory event, in which questions are asked as to why it is that there are so few Asians in professional football - notwithstanding that the Asian community is massively interested in the sport. From a personal perspective, I take the view that if we could find an Asian player good enough to play in our first team, we could be adding very significant numbers to gates - as I feel that the presence of an Asian player may be the key we need to unlock the potential support in the local Asian community. We do have various other events in the planning stage and in the pipeline. In my next set of notes I hope to be able to give more details.

I like to think that the football club is becoming more and more embedded in the community and capable of delivering more and more useful educational and social programmes. In doing so we always get the opportunity to give the club a plug in the hope that we can attract more supporters. If anyone has ideas for community events please do let me know.

Enjoy the game today - and let us hope for three points! COYH!



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

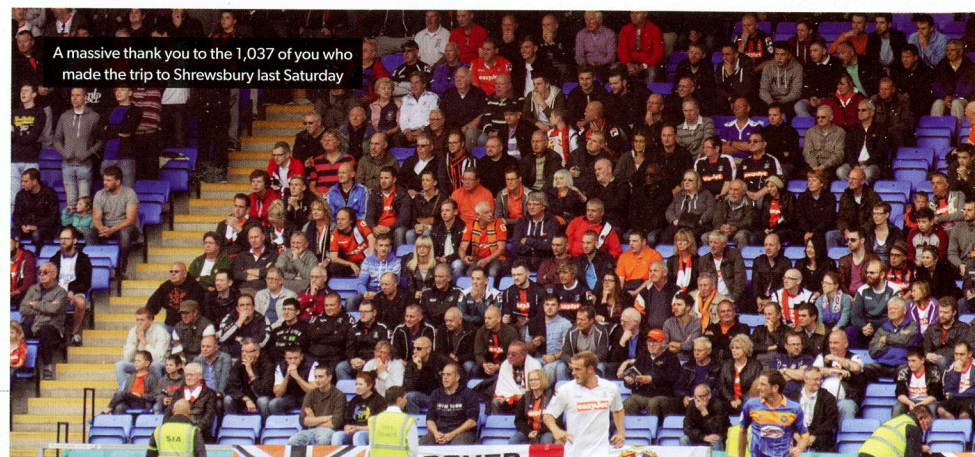
Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

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



A massive thank you to the 1,037 of you who made the trip to Shrewsbury last Saturday

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MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



Despite an indifferent start to the season both in terms of results and performances nobody among the squad and management are panicking.

Why? Well firstly because we know we can only improve. The gaffer has also brought in some new players and at the minute we haven't quite gelled. In patches of games we've looked okay but the number one thing that has let us down so far has been making mistakes.

We can make excuses until we are blue in the face but cutting out these errors needs to be eradicated and done so quickly. Looking back on each of the goals we have conceded this season, pretty much all of them have come as a result of an error, which is simply not good enough.

As a defender, and as captain of Luton Town, I take responsibility for those mistakes.

However hard we work as a team on the pitch in games the most frustrating thing has been those sloppy, schoolboy mistakes.

We can be on top in games and enjoying a good spell but one lapse in concentration can be punished – and that has been the case whenever we have conceded a goal this season.

Difference

We know from last season that once we 'click' we can be an unstoppable force but we need to cut these mistakes out – and quickly.

We're playing a level above though, and that's been a notable difference. In the Conference some of our mistakes may have gone unpunished but it's a different story in League 2.

There are a number of players who are experienced at this level who know the League inside out. They have had the nous about them to get one over us and that is something which really frustrates me personally.

As captain I take every single dropped point personally and I cannot be more disappointed with my own level of performance so far.

However, it is my job to drive this team on and help make it successful.

Myself, together with the other senior professionals in the dressing room, should be stepping up and helping

"We know from last season that once we 'click' we can be an unstoppable force but we need to cut these mistakes out – and quickly."

those younger players in the squad in what has been a steep learning curve. Us older lads need to step up.

But don't let those words make you think we as a team are not confident. We know we have a very talented squad and nobody, as I said, is hitting any panic button yet. We can take heart that no team has really opened us up. It's those mistakes we just need to shirk off.

Expectations

We have come up against some good sides already, two teams who have come down from League 1 and are fancied to make a swift return – that's not an excuse, by the way! – and today we take on another club with big expectations and a massive support in Plymouth Argyle.

Last season's reward for winning promotion is playing in games like this. With another big crowd and the Sky Sports cameras present it promises to be a great occasion.

We have had plenty of experience in dealing with such games and I am confident we can come through another tough test with a positive result.

We're still looking for that elusive first home victory but from what I've seen so far this season I know it won't be long in coming – especially with the backing we have received from you, the supporters.

The support already this season has been nothing short of remarkable and it made it even more disappointing last Saturday that the result and our performance could not match the superb travelling support.

So please stay with us, get behind us once more and enjoy the game.

TRIO LOANED OUT

The Town loaned duo Solomon Taiwo and Ricky Miller to Conference Premier outfit Dover Athletic on transfer deadline day.

Midfielder Taiwo, 29, and striker Miller, 25, will spend one month with the Whites, who won promotion to the Conference via the Conference South Play-Offs last season. Dover have taken four points from six games so far this season and Taiwo and Miller will join up with Chris Kinnear's side ahead of their match away to AFC Telford this afternoon.

John Still told lutontown.co.uk: "This move will do both players the power of good. Both are desperate to play

regular first team football. We had to be sure about which club to send them to – and we were keen on making sure they were playing at a competitive level. Dover are, like us, up a level having gone up last season and Chris will look after them both.

"In Ricky's case he is returning from injury and this will be a good opportunity to earn some competitive match fitness."

And since our last issue of Talk of the Town, defender Danny Fitzsimons has joined Conference South side Bishop's Cleeve on loan for three months. Since Fitzsimons' arrival at Woodside Park, Stortford have won twice and lost once.

Back of shirt sponsors sign up again



The Hatters will be out to make an extra impression in the Football League this year thanks to sponsorship from NICEIC and ELECSA.

The Town's new home kit again features the NICEIC logo on the back – the sixth year in a row that the company has supported the club which is local to its head office in Dunstable. In addition, for the first time ever, the away kit for the 2014/15 season will feature NICEIC's sister brand, ELECSA, on the back.

"We are delighted to continue our long association with Luton Town," said Senior Marketing Manager at NICEIC and ELECSA, Julie Blake, pictured above. "It is particularly pleasing to have the ELECSA brand on the away shirt as this is the first time ever that brand will benefit from such high profile promotion."

"We have enjoyed a great relationship with Luton Town and we wish them all the best for the upcoming season."

New shirt stock in the shop next week

The next instalment of new replica shirts are due in the club shop next week.

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

In fact the shop sold more shirts in the first week of sale this season than it did in the first month of last year's release.

With the next batch winging its way to Kenilworth Road next week, supporters can pre-order online or in the club shop.

Remember to head to www.hattersworld.co.uk to buy all your Town merchandise online.

#LUTONAREBACK!

Pictured here looking pretty in pink supporting a Luton Are Back sash, is Daniel Bottom. He doesn't support the Hatters but will, as of today, be married to one.

Daniel is set to wed Town fan Laura Soper later this afternoon, and sported this attire on his stag do, which took place in Manchester and Liverpool.

And although his only tie to the Hatters is through his soon-to-be-brid, it didn't stop plenty of passers-by congratulating him on the Town's return to the Football League!



REST IN PEACE WALLY

It is with sadness that we received notice that one of Luton Town's oldest, and well-known, fans died over the summer, aged 93.

Wally Allsop, founder of one of Luton's oldest family Builders, W H Allsop & Sons Ltd, followed the Hatters' fortunes for many years, was a sponsor and had a box for many seasons. Former Town manager, David Pleat, led the tributes at his funeral.



During the 1980s and 1990s, when Wally was still involved with the company, the business carried out extensive work at the stadium and were match sponsors, programme and ground advertisers, and were executive box holders, too.

Wally's sons, Stuart, John and Ian are all current season ticket holders, and all at Luton Town Football Club would like to send our thoughts and condolences to them and the rest of Wally's family and friends. Rest in peace, Wally.

Calling exiled Argyle fans

The Plymouth Argyle Supporters Association, London Branch, are keen to recruit new members.

Members benefit from reduced rail travel costs to home and away matches, social events such as meet the manager evenings and organised pub walks, as well as playing football, darts and pool for the London Branch against other supporters' clubs. Members also receive a weekly email newsletter Pasty News for all the news on what's happening with PASALB and at Home Park.

If you're an exiled Argyle fan from this neck of the woods, contact their membership secretary, Rob Preece, by email at argyle2002@yahoo.co.uk.

up next



HATTERS FANS WON'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT TO WATCH JOHN STILL'S SIDE IN ACTION AGAIN. WHY? WELL BECAUSE CHELTENHAM TOWN ARE THE VISITORS TO KENILWORTH ROAD NEXT SATURDAY

CHELTENHAM TOWN



WHO? Cheltenham Town, aka the Robins. The Gloucestershire outfit were formed in 1887 but did not enter the Football League until they won the Conference under Steve Cotterill in 1997/98. Since their time in the League the Robins have been promoted twice to League 1 but find themselves in League 2 this season for the sixth successive campaign. They are currently managed by former Kidderminster boss Mark Yates. **SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE...** Cheltenham were relegated from League 1 in 2008/09, the season the Town were themselves relegated out of the Football League all together. The Robins narrowly avoided a second successive relegation in 2009/10 finishing just two places above the League 2 relegation zone. After a 17th-place finish the following season the Robins then made the Play-Offs in 2011/12 and 2012/13, only to fail to win promotion on both occasions. In 2011/12 they reached the final, only to lose to Crewe before a wonder strike from Luke Guttridge helped Northampton defeat them at the semi-final stage in 2013. Last season the Robins finished in 17th.

THE LAST TIME. The two clubs last met each other in an FA Cup second round tie at Kenilworth Road three seasons ago. The Robins were riding high in League 2 at the time and ran out comfortable 4-2 winners in an entertaining tie. Aaron O'Connor scored both of the Town's goals. Who did Cheltenham draw in round three? Only a trip to Tottenham Hotspur.

HEAD-2-HEAD. Next weekend will see the eighth meeting between the two clubs. Both teams have recorded two wins apiece while three games have ended all square. The two sides first met in the 2001/02 season that saw both clubs win promotion from Division 3 (now

League 2). The Town eked a 2-1 win in the first ever meeting thanks to goals from Paul Hughes and Carl Griffiths. The last Football League meeting between the clubs came in League 1 during 2007/08 with a Sam Parkin goal earning a 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road in March. However, it's been 12 years since the Town last beat the Robins.

THIS TIME ROUND. The Robins have started the campaign well and go into today's trip to Morecambe in second place in the League 2 table having won four and drawn one of their opening five League fixtures. An opening day win at Bury was followed by a 2-1 home win over Accrington. A 0-0 draw at Carlisle followed before a remarkable comeback at Tranmere saw the Robins fight back from 2-0 down to win 3-2. Last Saturday a late goal was enough to beat Hartlepool 1-0 before Yates' team beat Oxford in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy on Tuesday.

CLUB CONNECTIONS. Few players have represented both the Town and Cheltenham down the years but the Hatters do have one man on their books who once spent time with the Whaddon Road outfit. Striker Paul Benson scored four goals in 18 appearances for the Robins in the second half of the 2012/13 season whilst on loan from Swindon. Another striker, Lloyd Owusu, also played for both clubs. The centre-forward, who scored seven goals in 15 Conference games for the Town in 2011, had previously spent one season at Cheltenham. He also netted seven goals during an 18-match spell at Whaddon Road during 2008/09. Cheltenham also have an ex-Hatter in their ranks in the shape of Asa Hall, who joined the Robins this summer. The midfielder joined the Town in 2008 and went onto make 89 appearances and score 16 goals during his time at Kenilworth Road.

tickets please



LUTON TOWN v CHELTENHAM TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2



SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

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



YORK CITY v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2



TUESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

This game is not all-ticket but tickets are available in advance from the Luton Town ticket office.

Hatters supporters have been allocated 300 seats and 1,700 terrace spaces for this match.

The ticket office has received 300 seats and an initial allocation of 300 terrace spaces to sell in advance.

The remaining terrace spaces will be available at cash turnstiles on the day (subject to availability). Tickets are now on sale to diamond and season ticket holders until close of business on Saturday 6th September. Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale from Monday 8th September until 2pm on Monday 15th September. Tickets will only be available to purchase online once they become available on general sale. **Prices:** Terrace: Adults £18, over-65s, under-16s or students with valid NUS card £12, under-5s free.

Seating: Adults £19, over-65s, under-16s or students with valid NUS card £13, under-5s free.

Disabled (middle or higher rate DLA) tickets are priced at adult £18 and any concession £12 with a carer free. Away season tickets holders' tickets will be set aside and sent on Tuesday 2nd September unless the ticket office received notification they are not required. Seating tickets will be sent unless otherwise advised. For queries contact the ticket office on 01582 416976 or email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk.



CAMBRIDGE UNITED v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2



SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match is all-ticket for Luton Town supporters with no tickets available on the day at the Abbey Stadium. Hatters fans have been allocated 2,527 tickets for this fixture; 1,516 seats and 983 terrace places. 14 pairs of wheelchair ticket are also available. **Selling arrangements:** Seats and standing tickets are now on sale to diamond season ticket holders, at two per person, until Saturday 6th September. Tickets will then be available for season ticket holders, at one per person, from Monday 8th September until Saturday 13th September.

Any remaining tickets will be available online from 7pm on Saturday 13th September, and from Monday 15th September, these will be available via telephone or in person at the ticket office until 3pm on Friday 19th September. Away season ticket holders' tickets will be reserved and sent on Friday 5th September to enable you to advise if your allocation is not required. Seats will be sent unless the ticket office are advised differently. Please email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk.

Prices: Seats: Adult £19, over-62s and students with a valid NUS card £13, 16 and under £9. Ambulant disabled Adults £12, ambulant disabled over-62s and students with a valid NUS £11, ambulant disabled 16 and under £7, plus one carer free of charge.

Terracing: Adult £16, over-62s and students with a valid NUS card £11, 16 and under £6. Ambulant disabled Adults £11, ambulant disabled over-62s and students with a valid NUS £9, ambulant disabled 16 and under £6, plus one carer free of charge.

All Wheelchair tickets will be available from Cambridge directly by calling 01223 566500.

SPEAKING Commercially

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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

A number of opportunities are still available for home games for the rest of the season, including matchball sponsorship for a vast majority of games. If you're interested then please do get in touch with me directly at the club.

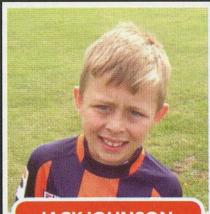
MATCH SPONSOR - W&W PLASTERING

W&W Plastering are a family owned, local company and have been trading for over 13 years in the surrounding areas. Driven by two brothers, Danny and Tony, who have over 50 years combined experience between them, the company is supported by a team of 10 extremely skilled, loyal and polite plasterers.

They cover all aspects of plastering from traditional lath and plaster, to the more modern spray coloured and insulate renders.

They have supported the Hatters since 1976 when their father Dermot would take them to every home game and away games when possible (Man City and Raddy Antic springs to mind!). Their two sons, Tierlen and Callum, are season ticket holders, and Danny and Tony would like to wish a warm welcome to all their guests today and to help roar the mighty Hatters onto a 3-1 win.

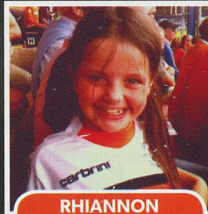
TODAY'S MASCOTS



JACK JOHNSON



TYLER GOODE



RHIANNON McERLANE



CHARLIE WEBB



CHARLIE CAREY

JACK JOHNSON - Age 8
Favourite player: Jake Howells
TYLER GOODE - Age 7
Favourite player: Stephen McNulty
RHIANNON McERLANE - Age 10
Favourite player: Jake Howells
CHARLIE WEBB - Age 8
Favourite player: Luke Guttridge
CHARLIE CAREY - Age 9
Favourite player: Alex Lawless

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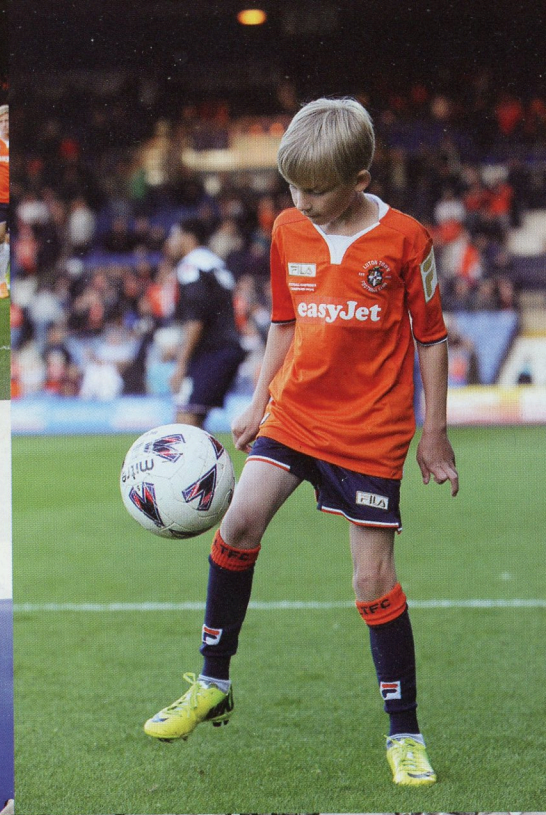
23: Jon Hanifan
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24: Rob Hall
ROB HALL

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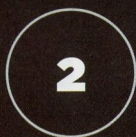
Monthly - Pair of football boots & replica shirt

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



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Predict
your scores



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3 DANNY FITZSIMONS



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19 RICKY MILLER



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33 MARK ONYEMAH



H: Available
A: Available

34 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



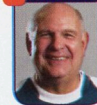
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39 IAN REES



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
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welcome

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE



It is with great pleasure that we welcome everyone associated with Plymouth Argyle to Kenilworth Road for this afternoon's televised Sky Bet League 2 fixture.

It's been six years since Argyle last set foot on Bedfordshire soil – then as a Championship club for a League Cup tie the Hatters won 2-0 – and it's strange to think that both clubs were once adversaries in the second tier as recent as 2007.

Plymouth and the Town finished first and second respectively in Division 3, aka League 2, in 2002 before Argyle won the League 1 title in 2004 whilst the Hatters achieved the same feat in 2004/05.

The Hatters began their plummet from the second tier down to the Conference in 2007 and Argyle weren't far in doing the same, following successive relegations. In 2010 Argyle came down from the Championship and then, after going into administration the Greens were deducted 10 points and found themselves back in the bottom tier at the start of the 2011/12 campaign.

Since their return to League 2, Argyle earned consecutive 21st-place finishes, but hopes are high in Devon that the good times are returning to Home Park after several seasons of struggle – especially after the strong end to last season's campaign that saw Argyle finish in 10th place.

At the helm is former Chesterfield boss John Sheridan, who already has a League 2 championship on his CV after guiding the Spireites to the title in 2010/11 and the former Sheffield Wednesday midfielder has built an exciting squad fit for a crack at a place in the top seven.

With club captain Luke McCormick between the sticks and a strong defence including team captain Curtis Nelson, Argyle have a strong backline which compliments their attacking prowess which is built around striker Reuben Reid.

The 26-year-old scored 17 goals in League 2 for the Greens last season whilst on-loan from Yeovil and in the summer the move was made permanent.

So far this season Sheridan's side have picked up seven points from their first five matches, three of which came last weekend after the Pilgrims recorded a 2-0 home victory over Southend at Home Park – Reid scoring the second, crucial goal.

It was their second win of the season – the first coming in a comprehensive 3-0 win over Devon rivals Exeter.

As you will read on the pages that follow, Plymouth arrive at Kenilworth Road with a good record against the Town but Argyle make the trip still searching for their first away win of the season.

Sheridan's team lost 1-0 at Cambridge on the opening day of the season and lost 2-1 at promotion favourites Bury two weeks ago.

in opposition



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

► MANAGER



JOHN SHERIDAN. The boss. A midfielder as a player with over 700 senior games, most notably at Sheffield Wednesday, he took over at Home Park in January 2013 following the dismissal of Carl Fletcher.

► GOALKEEPERS

JAMES BITTNER. Former Salisbury, Bournemouth, Torquay, Forest Green and Hereford stopper who arrived at Home Park this summer.

LUKE MCCORMICK. Experienced stopper who rejoined Argyle in May 2013. Came through the ranks at Home Park and made 157 appearances between 2001 and 2008. Made 28 appearances last term.

► DEFENDERS

PETER HARTLEY. Centre-back and summer acquisition on a two-year deal after his release from Stevenage. Came through the ranks as a youngster at Sunderland before joining Hartlepool in 2008.

CARL MCHUGH. Republic of Ireland under-21 international centre-half who joined Argyle this summer after leaving Bradford. Was an integral part of the Bantams side that won promotion and reached the League Cup final in 2013.

KELVIN MELLOR. Another summer arrival, the right-back signed a two-year deal following his departure from Crewe. Won promotion, in 2012, and the JPT, in 2013, whilst with the Alex.

CURTIS NELSON. One of the first names on the teamsheet, the talismanic centre-half joined Argyle as a teenager having been released from the Stoke City academy. Became a first team regular at 18 and was called-up to under-18 level for England.

ANTHONY O'CONNOR. Republic of Ireland Under-21 international who signed on loan until January from Blackburn. Spent last season on loan with Burton and the previous campaign at Torquay.

BEN PURRINGTON. Highly-rated young defender who came through the ranks at Home Park. Signed his pro deal on his 17th birthday and made his debut in a 3-2 win at Oxford last term.

► MIDFIELDERS

JASON BANTON. Exciting winger and former Tottenham and Liverpool youngster who signed for Argyle last season having impressed on loan in the previous campaign.

DOMINIC BLIZZARD. A summer 2013 arrival from Yeovil, the strong tackling midfielder has a wealth of experience following spells at MK Dons, Stockport and Bristol Rovers. Helped Yeovil win promotion in 2013.

ALEX BRAY. Teenage winger signed on loan from Swansea on transfer deadline day. Capped at youth level for Wales.

LEE COX. Central midfielder in his second spell at Home Park after a successful 10-game loan from Swindon in 2012/13. Began his career with hometown club Leicester and has also been on the books at Yeovil and Oxford.

TYLER HARVEY. Highly-rated young midfielder who came through the Argyle academy. Made his debut his debut in 2012/13 and has also spent time on loan at Salisbury.

OLLIE NORBURN. Former Leicester trainee who joined Argyle this year following his release from Bristol Rovers, where he had made 65 appearances in two seasons.

NATHAN THOMAS. Winger who signed for Argyle on Christmas Eve last year following a successful trial. A former Sunderland trainee he signed a one-year deal at the end of last season.

PAUL WOTTON. Hugely experienced midfielder and Argyle legend who return to Home Park for a second spell in January 2012. Skipped the Greens to two titles and made his debut as a teenager back in 1995.

► STRIKERS

LEWIS ALESSANDRA. Boss John Sheridan raided former club Oldham to snap up the young wide-man at the start of last season.

MATT LECONTE. Young striker who joined Argyle aged eight to rise through the academy. Received a call-up to England Under-18s in February 2012.

MARVIN MORGAN. Imposing striker who signed for the Greens in July 2013 after three seasons at Shrewsbury. Has also enjoyed a good goalscoring spell at Aldershot.

REUBEN REID. After scoring 17 goals in League 2 for Argyle last term whilst on-loan from Yeovil, the striker made the move permanent in the summer – the fourth time he has moved for Plymouth in his career.

DEANE SMALLEY. Versatile striker who was recruited this summer following his release from Oxford. Previously played under Sheridan whilst at Oldham.

A HATTER...

AND A PILGRIM

A number of notable players have served both the Town and Plymouth down the years.

Striker **Dwight Marshall**, who joined the Hatters from Argyle in 1994, is featured further in this programme. 'Super Dwight' as he was known at Kenilworth Road, scored 38 goals in 155 matches for the Hatters before rejoining Plymouth in 1998.

Keith Allen became a cult hero at Kenilworth Road when signing for the Town in the late 1960s from Stockport County. He became an instant terrace hero at Kenilworth Road with his 100 per cent all-action style of play.

'Spider' was the perfect foil for both Bruce Rioch and Malcolm Macdonald in two of the Town's promotion-winning sides of 1968 and 1970 before he left to join Argyle where he finished his career.

From Super Dwight, to Spider, next up is 'Elastic' **Milija Aleksic**, the Yugoslav goalkeeper who the Hatters signed from Plymouth in December 1976. His bravery and sharp reflexes during his time at Home Park persuaded Harry Haslam to snap up the stopper and he went onto to become a virtual ever-present between the sticks at Kenilworth Road before a move to Tottenham became too good to turn down. Milija sadly died, aged, 61, in October 2012.

Another player to join the Town from Plymouth was winger **Mike Harrison**. One of many products of the Chelsea youth system of the 1950s, Mike made his debut for the Blues as a 16-year-old. After moving to Blackburn, where he scored 40 goals in 160 games, in 1962 he then moved to Home Park. His short spell at Home Park saw him feature just 15 times before he moved to Kenilworth Road in 1968 where he helped the Hatters win the Fourth Division title. He was best known for his tremendous penalties.

Other players to have played for both clubs include former Town academy graduates, striker **Calvin Andrew** and midfielder **Sean Evers**.

Two of the current Hatters squad have been on the books for Argyle. Defender **Paul Connolly**'s story is detailed elsewhere inside this issue but the right-back enjoyed several seasons of success at Home Park and was a teenager when Argyle pipped the Town to the Division Three title in 2001/02. Left-back **Scott Griffiths** spent a short time with Plymouth, playing four times in a one-month loan spell in 2012/13.



Dwight Marshall in the green of Argyle

THE BIG WINS, THE BIG DEFEATS

The Town's biggest margin of victory over Argyle is by three goals with a March 1930 5-2 victory technically the largest.

The Hatters have beaten Plymouth 3-0 on three occasions, in December 1961, April 1963 and, most recently, October 1997 – game in which Matthew Spring made his debut and was later sent-off.

Argyle's biggest win over the Town came in a 6-1 thumping at Home Park in November 1929. The Devon club have also beaten the Hatters 4-0 twice, in April 1911 and in October 1922.

MET BEFORE?

Haven't we...

It has been six years since the Town and Argyle last crossed swords and today will be the 93rd meeting between the two clubs since the first took place in the Southern League back in 1903.

If Hatters fans thought the likes of Braintree and Alfreton were bogey sides over the last few seasons then spare a thought for Town followers during the Southern League days.

The Hatters struggled badly with the Pilgrims in the 22 matches played in the Southern League, winning just three and losing 11.

The first competitive game played here at Kenilworth Road came against Argyle on 4th September 1905 in a game that game finished goalless and was dubbed the "green game".

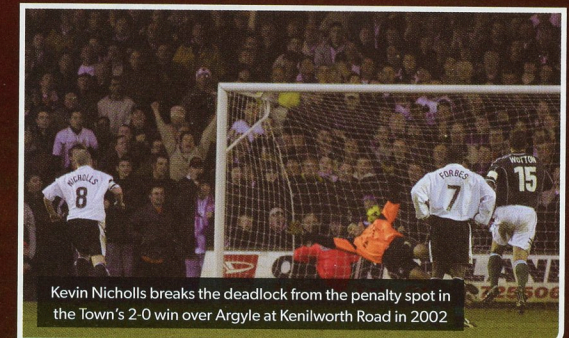
Since those Southern League days the two clubs continued to be regular adversaries.

70 more games have been played in all competitions with Plymouth continuing to hold the upper hand in the head-to-head record, winning 28 to the Town's 21.

Overall the Hatters have won just 24 of the 92 meetings between the clubs, including

the last one: a League Cup tie in 2008 at Kenilworth Road.

The Town and Argyle's relationships began to get particularly spiky in 2001, when former Hatters manager Joe Kinnear sparked a rivalry with some less than complimentary words about Plymouth as the two clubs battled it out for the Division 3 (now League 2) title in 01/02. Although those words didn't entirely backfire – the Town still won promotion with 98 points – it was Argyle who had the last laugh by pulling clear in the final few matches to secure the title with a whopping 102 points.



Kevin Nicholls breaks the deadlock from the penalty spot in the Town's 2-0 win over Argyle at Kenilworth Road in 2002

THE GOALSCORERS

Hugh Billington, the Hatters' centre-forward of the 1940s was a regular scorer against Argyle, netting six times in matches between 1939 and 1948, including a brace in a 4-2 victory at Kenilworth Road. All-time record goalscorer Gordon Turner also got his fair share of goals against the Pilgrims. He also notched six times in games between 1953 and 1961, including two goals in a 3-0 win at Home Park in 1961.

However, Tony Thorpe is the one Town striker that enjoyed playing against Plymouth the most. The forward netted eight times against the Pilgrims between 1996 and 2003. It started with a hat-trick in a rain-soaked 3-3 draw at Home Park in 1996 before he struck two doubles in the next two matches during the 1997/98 campaign. His final goal for the Town against Plymouth was the winning goal in a 1-0 win at Kenilworth Road in 2003.

Luton Town v Plymouth Argyle

MATCHES PLAYED: 92 LUTON WINS: 24 DRAWS: 29 PLYMOUTH WINS: 39

FROM THE OAK ROAD

Travelling to Luton for a lunchtime kick-off – “that’s a long ol’ poke ennit?” Ardent Argyle fan **Steve Riggs** talks Green Army, moving up and down the divisions and Joe Kinnear...

TALK OF THE TOWN: Judging from the opening few games and the players you have brought in over the summer, what do you make of the way things are shaping up at Home Park? What’s the mood among fans on the south coast?

STEVE: I’m quietly confident about this season. We both know how difficult it can be to get out of the lower leagues, but having beat our closest rivals Exeter 3-0 we have made a good start to the season. We sold our club captain in the summer but we have enough young talent at the club to push on and better last season’s 10th place finish.

TOTT: Who is Plymouth’s dangerman and why?

STEVE: Reuben Reid – he scored 21 goals last season and was voted player of the season by the Green Army. He’s got pace, power and is one of the best strikers in League 2.

TOTT: The clubs developed a rivalry in the 2000s as they moved up the divisions together, particularly during the Joe Kinnear and Paul Sturrock days. What are your memories from those encounters? Which title success was better – 2002 or 2004?

STEVE: The two clubs never had any rivalry until Joe “Soap” Kinnear opened his mouth before a league game at Home Park in 2001. Plymouth won that match 2-1 with 10 men and from then on the clubs went head-to-head for the next few seasons with Argyle winning two championships in three seasons. The first title in 2002 was the best title success for me, with the club getting a record 102 points and 27 clean sheets. Right or wrong, Mr Kinnear certainly wound up the players and fans of Plymouth Argyle, not a bad effort for two clubs 250 miles apart from each other.

TOTT: Plymouth consolidated their position in the Championship for a number of years – what went wrong? Can you quite believe that after all the blood,



sweat and tears both teams shed to get up to the Championship, that they’ve ended up exactly where they started?

STEVE: Both teams have been on a roller-coaster ride the last decade or so - record points, promotion, administration, relegation and here we are again back together in League 2.

Five years ago this month we were playing West Bromwich Albion, Newcastle United, Nottingham Forest and Watford. As a club we got so close to the promised land but, with an inexperienced board,

we were forced to sell our best players. The rest is history.

TOTT: Is John Sheridan the right man to take the Pilgrims forward?

STEVE: This is John Sheridan’s second full season in charge and, having brought in seven new players, it’s time to start getting the best out of his team.

We are playing football the way it should be played and with John having taken Chesterfield up from League 2 in his second season as manager, the signs are looking good for a promising season.

TOTT: Do you know any Plymouth fans like those depicted on the ‘Green Army’ Aviva advert?

STEVE: The advert put the club in the national spotlight for a while. I must admit it did get a bit tedious in Newcastle - the “long ol’ poke” - with every man and his dog shouting “Geddon ya Janner!” and “Green Army!” at us every 30 seconds, but we took it in good heart and it did put a smile on people’s faces at a difficult time for the club. Altogether now: “GREEN ARMY!”

TOTT: What are Plymouth’s ambitions for this season and beyond? And what’s your predication for today’s game?

STEVE: This season we need to make progress as a football team. Anything better than last season’s 10th place would be good and promotion would be a bonus. Plymouth Argyle belong in the Championship and that has to be our aim again, both on and off the pitch. I’m going for a 1-0 away win today, with Reuben Reid the scorer.

back to the future

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN **LEIGH EDWARDS** TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO TWO OF **PLYMOUTH ARGYLE**’S GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

► 1974/75 PROMOTION WINNERS

JIM FURNELL: Ever-present goalkeeper who made 183 League appearances, then assisted Bobby Saxton at Exeter, Plymouth and Blackburn. He was FA Academy director for the North West.

JOHN HORE: Long-serving defender who joined Exeter City in March 1976, then managed Argyle’s epic 1983/84 FA Cup run and Bideford. He has run a health and fitness centre in Exeter.

PHIL BURROWS: Left-back who moved to Hereford United in August 1976, then had spells with Witton Albion and Horwich RMI. Still living in Stockport, he is now a chartered surveyor.

BOBBY SAXTON: Defender who joined Exeter in September 1975, then was Plymouth’s boss and later manager/coach at Blackburn Rovers, York City, Newcastle United and Sunderland.

MIKE GREEN: Ever-present captain who became Torquay United’s player-boss in March 1977. He lives in Torquay and ran Sherwell Valley Road Post Office for 20 years until retirement.

JOHN DELVE: Midfielder who moved to Exeter in March 1978, then played for Hereford, Gloucester, Exeter again and Taunton. He was a publican, since managing two shops in Exeter.

COLIN RANDELL: Welsh Under-23 midfielder who joined Exeter in September 1977, then Plymouth again, Blackburn, Newport and Swansea. He became head of PE in the South Wales Police.

BRIAN JOHNSON: Midfielder who netted 40 goals in 197 League games before a head injury ended his career. He lives locally and was a van driver, since working for a financial company.

PAUL MARINER: Striker who moved to Ipswich Town in September 1976, then Arsenal and Portsmouth, gaining 35 England caps. He has since coached in the USA and also managed Argyle.

BILLY RAFFERTY: Leading marksman who moved to Carlisle in May 1976, then Wolves, Newcastle, Portsmouth and Bournemouth. He runs Shapers health and beauty salon in Carlisle.

HUGH MCAULEY: Winger who joined Charlton Athletic in December 1976, then played for Tranmere Rovers again, Carlisle United and Formby. He became Liverpool’s youth team coach.

► 1985/86 PROMOTION WINNERS

GEOFF CRUDGINGTON: Goalkeeper who was ever-present for Plymouth in 1985/86, making 326 League appearances. He became the club’s community officer and goalkeeping coach.

GORDON NISBET: Ex-England Under-23 right-back who moved to Exeter in June 1987, rejoining Plymouth as youth development officer. He then served in the Devon & Cornwall police force.

LEIGH COOPER: Long-serving defender who moved to Aldershot in August 1990, then managed Truro, Saltash, Holsworthy and now Liskeard while working for a local training company.

CLIVE GOODYEAR: Versatile defender who joined Wimbledon in July 1987 and was an FA Cup winner in 1988, then played for Brentford. He was physio at several clubs, including here at Kenilworth Road.

GERRY MCELHINNEY: Northern Ireland international who moved to Peterborough in August 1988. He was Corby’s player-boss and is now a materials co-ordinator at Derby Power Station.

JOHN MATTHEWS: Midfielder who netted four goals in 135 League games prior to joining Torquay in July 1989, then Dorchester. He had an office furniture business, then was a postman.

KEVIN HODGES: Record appearance holder who moved to Torquay in December 1992 and became their head coach, then rejoined Argyle as manager. He became part of their community team.

RUSSELL COUGHLIN: Midfielder who joined Blackpool in December 1987, then Shrewsbury, Swansea, Exeter, Torquay, Dorchester and Gretna. He has since worked for Parcellforce in Carlisle.

STEVE COOPER: Tall striker who moved to Barnsley in August 1988, then played for Tranmere Rovers, York City, Airdrie and Ayr United. He tragically died in Birmingham in February 2004.

JOHN CLAYTON: Striker who scored 22 goals in 77 League games before joining Fortuna Sittard in July 1988, then played for Volendam and Burnley. He became Bristol City’s youth team boss.

GARRY NELSON: Winger who moved to Brighton in July 1997, then played for Charlton Athletic and Torquay United. He worked for the PFA and now Oakwood Promotions in Brentwood.

TOWN 1-1 BURY

RUDDOCK MPANZU 90

ROSE 62



Luke Wilkison and Stephen McNulty attack a late set-piece



Matthew Robinson shows close control

WHAT'S THE STORY?

A last-minute equaliser from Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu earned the Hatters a point against Bury at Kenilworth Road.

Bury bossed the first half but barely tested Mark Tyler in the Town goal but after the break it was a different story. The Hatters began to control things with Luke Rooney the main tormentor-in-chief to the visitors, and he teed up Mark Cullen to fire a shot over the bar 30 seconds after the restart.

It was against the run of play that the visitors took the lead. Nicky Adams' right-wing cross caused confusion in the Town six-yard box and Danny Rose was on hand to nip between Stephen McNulty and Tyler to poke the Shakers in front.

That goal knocked the stuffing out of the Town as time began to tick down, but manager John Still made a double substitution with 15 minutes left, introducing Ruddock Mpanzu and Ross Lafayette, changing formation with three centre-halves and two wing-backs. However, as the Hatters went in search of a late leveller, Tyler had to be alert to turn away a fierce shot from Bury's David Tutte with two minutes to go.

And that save proved vital as the Hatters grabbed an equaliser in the first minute of six additional minutes. Tyler's ball down-field was helped on by Cullen and Ruddock Mpanzu was on hand to fire a deflected shot home.

Scott Griffiths races forward



Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu hits the equaliser

TOWN: Tyler; Franks, Griffiths (sub Howells 76), McNulty, Wilkison, Robinson, Drury, Rooney, Guttridge (sub Ruddock Mpanzu 61), Cullen, Benson (sub Lafayette 77). **SUBS NOT USED:** Lacey, Wall, Stevenson, Justham.

ACCRINGTON 2-2 TOWN

GRAY 9, JOYCE 16

ROONEY 32, HOWELLS 42



Jake Howells fires home the Town's equaliser



Stephen McNulty clears under pressure



Matthew Robinson battles for possession



Paul Connolly keeps tabs on the home side

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Goals from Luke Rooney and Jake Howells helped the Hatters recover from two goals down to earn a point at Accrington Stanley.

The Town trailed 2-0 inside 16 minutes after goals from James Gray and Luke Joyce. Firstly, Gray tucked home from inside the six-yard box after taking Piero Mingoia's left-wing pass.

And the Hatters' start worsened when Stanley – managed by ex-England striker James Beattie – made it 2-0 when Joyce's header from a left-wing corner took several deflections before rebounding off the post.

But, following the introduction of Luke Guttridge, the Hatters looked a different side. Rooney halved the deficit on 32 minutes, cutting inside from the left to fire home.

All of a sudden it was all the Town and Howells completed the comeback when firing a deflected free-kick after Guttridge had been upended on the edge of the box.

After the break both sides had opportunities to win it. Andy Drury twice came close to snatching it for the Town but Mark Tyler preserved a point with a stunning fingertip save from Gray with almost the last kick of the game.

TOWN: Tyler; Connolly, Howells, McNulty, Wilkinson, Lacey (sub Guttridge 22), Robinson, Drury, Rooney, Cullen (sub Wall 79), Benson. **SUBS NOT USED:** Franks, Lafayette, Ruddock Mpanzu, Stevenson, Justham.

SHREWSBURY 2-0 TOWN

CLARK 3, 70



Mark Cullen finds himself surrounded by Shrewsbury men



Paul Benson heads goalwards

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town fell to their second defeat of the season as two goals from Jordan Clark helped Shrewsbury complete a comfortable victory.

The Hatters struggled to create many clear-cut opportunities, with home goalkeeper Jayson Leutwiler saving their best effort from Matt Robinson's arrowed drive from the edge of the box just before half-time.

However, on an afternoon to forget for the Town, Robinson was sent-off with seven minutes to go as the Hatters' wait for their second win of the season continued.

The Shrews took the lead inside three minutes when 1,000 Town supporters and John Still watched on in horror. A pass over the Town defence found Clark in acres of space and he had time to slot past Mark Tyler.

Tyler had kept the Town in the game with a number of fine stops – including one in particular from James Collins' point-blank header – but the Hatters' number one then saw Clark's free-kick slip through his fingers 20 minutes from time to gift the Shrews a second.

Benson takes a ride



Luke Wilkinson keeps his eyes on the ball

TOWN: Tyler; Connolly, Howells, McNulty, Wilkinson, Robinson, Stevenson, Guttridge (sub Ruddock Mpanzu 68), Rooney (sub Lacey 13), Cullen (sub Lafayette 58), Benson. **SUBS NOT USED:** Wall, Miller, Williams, Justham.

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reaction

BEST IS YET TO COME SAYS LUKE GUTTRIDGE



Luke in action at Accrington

Luke Guttridge says the best is yet to come from him after inspiring a Hatters comeback in the 2-2 draw at Accrington Stanley two weeks ago.

The 32-year-old, who suffered a metatarsal injury in the 3-0 victory over Alfreton on 1st March, was introduced by manager John Still as a 22nd-minute substitute with the Town trailing 2-0 at the Crown Ground.

And the influential midfielder's presence on the field sparked the Hatters into life, and goals from Luke Rooney and Jake Howells were enough to secure a point which looked unlikely after 15 minutes.

However, despite his performance, Guttridge believes there's more to come from him as he continues to make strides in his rehabilitation from last season's injury.

"It's the best part of six months since I played consistently and I still don't feel fully up to speed if I'm being completely truthful," admitted Guttridge.

"I always push myself to the maximum and probably train when I shouldn't and play games ahead of fitness levels.

Target

"So to expect myself to come in and hit the ground running is difficult. That's what you ask of yourself, that's the target.

"I still feel like I've got a little way to go, not so much on fitness, more sharpness on the ball, crisper passing.

"There were a few times I've underhit passes which is frustrating for my part but I know the more games I can play, the longer I can get, the better my performances will be."

As for the injury itself, the midfielder – who has won the League 2 title before when with Southend – knows his recuperation won't happen overnight.

"It's still a bit achey, it's not the greatest operation to have, there's a big screw in there and the bone graft so there's always going to be some discomfort in there with the screw head pushing against the bone," he explained.

Heal

"It's something that's probably going to take me six months to heal with playing and stabilising.

"You're going to have a few aches and pains here and there but in general it feels good and I'm getting through it.

"I've probably come back a bit ahead of schedule and I'm absolutely delighted with that."

Paul Connolly

WHY TODAY'S VISITORS PLYMOUTH ARGYLE WILL ALWAYS HOLD A PLACE IN THE HEART OF DEFENDER PAUL CONNOLLY

Fourteen years ago, and by his own admission, a "skinny 17-year-old scouser" made the long train trip from his Liverpool home to Plymouth in an attempt to realise every teenager's dream of becoming a professional footballer.

Three hours after alighting at Plymouth station a young Paul Connolly was thrust into a reserve match and 90 minutes after that he was beaming from ear to ear having done enough to impress then Argyle boss Paul Sturrock to earn a professional contract.

The rest, as they say, is history and after breaking into the Plymouth side in 2003, the defender went onto make 177 appearances in the green and white of Argyle.

It's a club that will always hold a special place in the Town summer recruit's heart.

"It was the first game I looked for when the fixtures came out," admittedly Connolly, who helped Argyle win the old Division 2 (now League 1) title in 2003/04.

"I had the best time of my career down there. It's something I will never, ever forget."

So how did a young boy from Liverpool end up starting his football career 300 miles away from home?

"I was in the doldrums at school and I left with nothing, not knowing what I was going to do next," Connolly explains. "I knew I had the ability and my PE teacher pleaded with me to find something."

"He said it would be a waste of talent if I didn't play. The football season had already started by the time something was organised. I wasn't working yet but I was staring a job in a factory in the face."

"A friend of a guy who knew a guy who knew a guy managed to get me a trial at Plymouth. I couldn't afford the train fare so that was paid for and three hours after coming off the train I was playing in a game and did okay. Afterwards Paul Sturrock asked me if I'd got any other trials lined up. After telling him that Stockport and Oldham were next he said 'forget that, you're signing here', and the same day I signed a three-year deal."

As a fresh-faced 18-year-old Connolly's experience at Home Park prepared him for the rest of his life – on and off the pitch.

It's something that is not lost on a player who went on to enjoy spells with Derby and Leeds after leaving Devon.

Thankful

"It really was unbelievable," says Connolly. "I learned how to live away from home at a young age and just get on with it."

"I had to learn how to iron, how to cook, to grow up and be a man."

"But it was where I learned my trade as a footballer and eventually I'd go on and make over 175 appearances."

"I'm forever thankful for the chance that Plymouth gave me, they hold a massive place in my heart."

"If they hadn't paid the train fare and sent the ticket to my house I would have never gone and I would have



A young Paul in Argyle colours

probably landed up working in a factory. I'm so grateful for Plymouth and what they did for me."

Although on the books having just penned his deal at Home Park, Connolly has fond memories of the time that Argyle battled with the Town at the top of the Third Division in 2001/02.

"That year I wasn't in the team, I was still young, but I remember Joe Kinnear absolutely hammering the club and the city," recalls Connolly.

"There was a natural rivalry any way because it was two big clubs with two big fanbases challenge for the title. It got a bit hostile and Joe's words really did help us kick on. For Plymouth his comments were good – it spurred us on and although I wasn't in the team as a youngster it really was terrific to be a part of."

However, Connolly didn't have to wait long for his chance to earn legendary status as two seasons later Argyle won a second title to earn promotion to the Championship in 2003/04.

"Winning League 1 was a terrific experience, I played in almost every game and we stayed in the Championship for five seasons. It was a great occasion for everyone associated with the club. We were getting gates of 16,000 and beating some of the country's biggest clubs, teams relegated from the Premier League who didn't fancy making the long trip down to Devon."

Connolly quit Home Park in 2008 and signed for Derby but his love for the area will never diminish.

"I've got a lot of good memories from my time with Plymouth – I grew up there and made friends for life both inside and outside of football. It's a great area, a great club and I can't wait for Saturday's game."

And with a hamstring ruling him out of the Hatters' first two home Football League fixtures this season, this afternoon could be a special one for Connolly who aims to make his first home League appearance in Town colours against his former club.

THE BIG INTERVIEW

"If selected it would be the perfect way to mark my home league debut for Luton," says the 30-year-old.

"I've missed the last two home games which have been really frustrating, especially considering all the pre-season preparation but I'm fit again now and can't wait for Saturday."

Learn

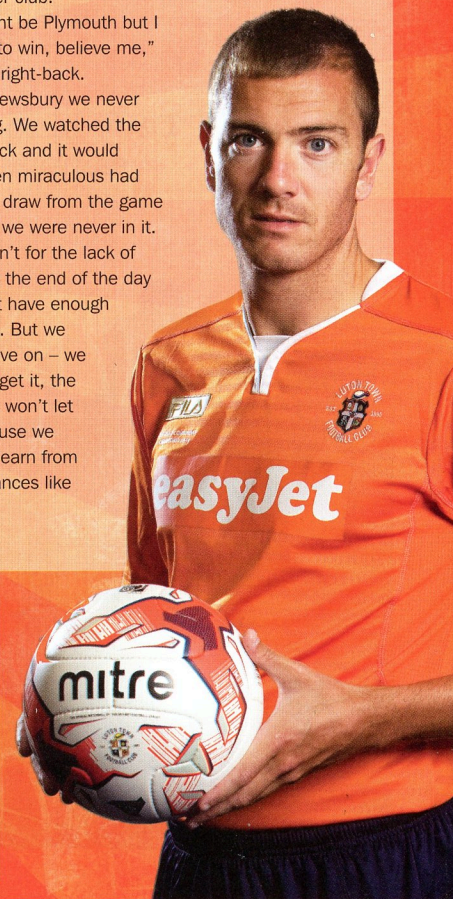
The Town go into today's game looking to end a run of four games without victory following two draws and two defeats that came in the wake of the opening day win at Carlisle.

After last Saturday's 2-0 reverse at Shrewsbury, Connolly is hoping the Hatters can rediscover the winning thread against his former club.

"It might be Plymouth but I want us to win, believe me," says the right-back.

"At Shrewsbury we never got going. We watched the game back and it would have been miraculous had we got a draw from the game because we were never in it."

"It wasn't for the lack of trying. At the end of the day we didn't have enough about us. But we must move on – we won't forget it, the manager won't let us, because we need to learn from performances like that."



ARGYLE ALUMNI

Connolly made his Plymouth debut at the end of the 2000/01 campaign, but it wasn't until the 2003/04 campaign that he became a regular. He scored his only league goal for Argyle against Norwich in the Championship in November 2007.



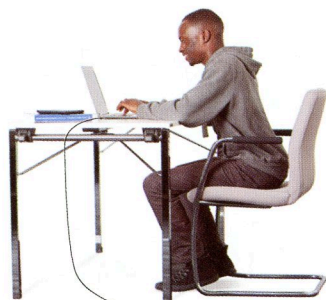
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LACEY LAMENTS SHREWSBURY DEFEAT

It's fair to say it's been a strange last two appearances for Town defender Alex Lacey.

The academy graduate lasted just 20 minutes at Accrington two weeks ago having started the game before John Still replaced him in a tactical change for Luke Guttridge.

And then last week at Shrewsbury, he was introduced from the substitutes' bench as early as the 13th minute in another tactical change, replacing Luke Rooney.

Disappointed

But despite his return, the defender was disappointed with the overall performance of the side, but is happy to be getting more game time in League 2.

"It was a disappointing performance from us all round," Lacey said after the 2-0 defeat. "I'm pleased to be back in the team, but as the result goes it's obviously not good enough. It's pleasing to be on the pitch and playing at centre-back."

Results have not gone the Town's way in recent weeks, and the Hatters are searching for their second win of the season, following the away win at Carlisle on the opening day of the campaign.

"It's important that next Saturday we pick ourselves up and turn it around," said the centre-half. "We'll go back to the training ground and work hard; hopefully the result will come."

Foul

Decisions went against the Hatters in the loss to Shrewsbury; it appeared that Mark Tyler was fouled in the lead up to the second goal for the home side, and Lacey felt that the Town were hard done by not to have gotten the decision their way.

"From what I seen their player has made contact with Tyler as he went to catch the ball," Lacey said. "He's taken his arm away when Tyler went to catch the ball and that lead to their goal. From my point of view it was a foul."

Matthew Robinson was sent off in the game for a challenge seven minutes from time and after an appeal failed the midfielder will miss the next three games, starting this afternoon.

It was another decision Lacey thought was harsh, believing Robinson was making a genuine attempt to win the ball.

"I didn't think it was a red, I was right in front of the tackle," said Lacey. "Matthew's gone for the ball; I don't think he's gone in maliciously. Where I was looking at it from I thought it was just a yellow, maybe the ref has seen it from a different angle."

The centre-back by trade has proved that he is capable of playing in more than one position, having previously filled in as a holding midfielder this season. Lacey admitted that he is happy to play wherever his manager tells him to.

"Firstly being on the pitch is the most important thing for me," he said. "I'm a centre-back and that's where I tend to play most of the time. I'm willing to try new positions and playing in a holding role is very welcome if I get the chance."

"I played well in central midfield in the pre-season friendlies. It worked in the win against Carlisle on the opening day also. It can be quite a defensive formation when I'm playing in that role but it can work well against teams."



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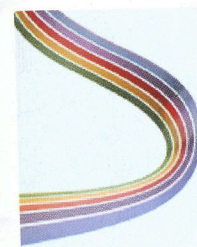
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centre spot



Luke Guttridge and Luke Wilkinson pose for the cameras with these young Town supporters after Monday's open training session at Kenilworth Road

PICTURE THE PAST

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



Jim Ryan is surrounded by Plymouth defenders during the clash at Home Park in October 1976. The Town would lose to Argyle 1-0 with Brian Johnson earning the home side the points after converting a penalty three minutes into the second half.



Camera Never Lies

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



WAGS of 1959! The wives and girlfriends of the Town players get ready for the FA Cup final in 1959 with a trip to a local hairdressing salon!

YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian **ROGER WASH** looks back on a classic encounter between the Hatters and Argyle

Luton Town 1-1 Plymouth Argyle. 20th March 2004

After all the trials and tribulations of the summer of 2003 – when John Gurney arrived on our doorstep before being unceremoniously dumped – the Hatters were left with a club in crisis.

Gone was manager Joe Kinnear to be replaced, in a bizarre telephone vote, by Mike Newell who was naturally viewed with suspicion by the fans. That he slowly won the crowd over was to his credit bearing in mind that there was a transfer embargo placed on the club for the whole of the 2003/04 campaign.

Newell realised that with a threadbare squad, made even smaller following the controversial early season departure of Tony Thorpe to QPR, that this would need to be a year of consolidation.

Allowed to sign on loan, but not buy, Gary McSheffrey from Coventry was an early masterstroke as his goals proved vital in ensuring that it was not to be a season of struggle and, in fact, there were sneaking hopes of a Play-Off place at various points in the campaign.

The home record was pretty good but the Town let themselves down on their travels which meant that the Hatters were always just a step behind the leading pack.

Top of the pack were Plymouth who were storming away in the lead and, despite the shock departure of manager Paul Sturrock to Southampton, were on their way to the title.

The meeting with the Pilgrims at Kenilworth Road on 20th March had added spice, given the rivalry between the two sides following their race for the title of Division Three (now League 2) in 2001/02 which was won by the Home Park side with the Town finishing runners-up.

The Hatters were clinging on to the fourth Play-Off spot while Argyle were seven points clear at the top. A best-of-the-season crowd of 8,499 turned up to see the Town continue their good home form although Plymouth top scorer David Frio headed wastefully wide from a Paul Connolly cross in the early exchanges.

The Town fought back with Enoch Shownmi hitting the woodwork before skipper Chris Coyne headed home a Steve Robinson free-kick just before the interval for his first goal in six months.



Chris Coyne heads the Town into the lead against Argyle

Given the Town's home record Newell's side looked forward to getting one over the leaders, but with the second half only two seconds old, Kevin Nicholls was dismissed after tangling with ex-Watford forward Nathan Lowndes who wanted to take a quick free-kick. Worse was to follow when Coyne limped off three minutes later, a legacy of a clash with Lowndes in the first-half.

Coyne's replacement was youth scholar Curtis Davies who partnered another youngster Emmerson Boyce in the heart of the Luton defence and it was this pair who managed to keep out a Plymouth side that now smelled blood.

It was not all one-way traffic, though, with Robinson winning a deserved man-of-the-match award after covering the work of two players and big Steve Howard up front never giving the Pilgrims' defence a moments peace.

With the game in the third minute of added time Plymouth's Paul Wotton floated over a corner which, after an almighty scramble, was headed in by Steve Adams from close range.

Everyone was stunned at this unfair turn of events and manager Newell summed up the frustrations. "We felt we had done enough in the second half but when that happens in the last seconds it digs in," Newell said. "We had it won and it's no good thinking how well we played. The lads are gutted and we need to pick them up for next week now."

THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced their normal 60-page programme for the visit of Argyle. Manager Mike Newell, in his notes, was bemoaning the poor away form (I am reminded of long midweek trips to Hartlepool and Grimsby!) and also the fact that the transfer embargo meant that he would not be able to add to the squad in the window which was about to shut.

Long-term injuries to Adrian Forbes and Kevin Foley had left the squad severely depleted but this had led to opportunities for Shownmi and 17-year-old Keith Keane which pleased the manager.



ACTION STATIONS: A hectic moment in the Blackpool (Luton) at Kenilworth Road on Saturday, with Steve Howard and Kevin Nicholls in the thick of it on the way to the Town's first double of the season.



Steve Robinson on his debut for the Town at Plymouth in 2001

Blast From The Past

When Plymouth's Mike Newell was a youngster, he was a fan of the Kenilworth Road. He was a fan of the Hatters and he was a fan of the Pilgrims. He was a fan of the Hatters and he was a fan of the Pilgrims. He was a fan of the Hatters and he was a fan of the Pilgrims.

Nicholls Calms The Nerves

off Plymouth's Mike Newell, for a youngster, he was a fan of the Kenilworth Road. He was a fan of the Hatters and he was a fan of the Pilgrims. He was a fan of the Hatters and he was a fan of the Pilgrims. He was a fan of the Hatters and he was a fan of the Pilgrims.

Yesterday's pages

The town of Plymouth at Kenilworth Road in February 2004. The town of Plymouth at Kenilworth Road in February 2004. The town of Plymouth at Kenilworth Road in February 2004. The town of Plymouth at Kenilworth Road in February 2004. The town of Plymouth at Kenilworth Road in February 2004.

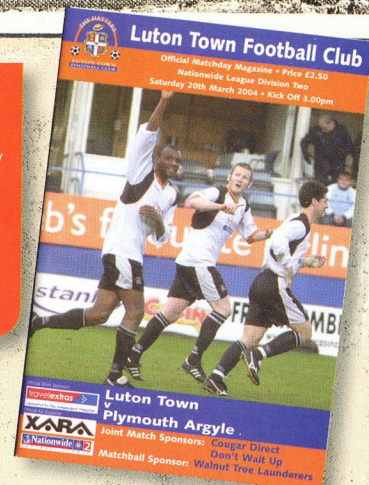
ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

Barnet's Martin Allen takes over the hot-seat at Brentford leading to a High Court writ being served.

A Yorkshire based consortium takes over Leeds United for £22 million.

Celtic's Henrik Larsson breaks the club's post-War scoring record after banging in his 232nd goal.

Bobby Moore's 1970 shirt, which he wore against Brazil, fetches £60,000 at auction.



Today's Squads

Luton Town	Plymouth Argyle
1. Morten HYLDGAARD	1. Kevin SUMMERFIELD
2. Alan NELSON	2. Martin LARREU
3. Matthew SPRING	3. Lee HODGES
4. Russell PERRETT	4. David FRIO
5. Adrian FORBES	5. Graham COUGHLAN
6. Kevin NICHOLLS	6. Steve ADAMS
7. Steve ROBINSON	7. David NORMIS
8. Chris COYNE	8. Jason BENT
9. Enoch SHOWNMI	9. Mick EVANS
10. Emmerson BOYCE	10. Ian STONEBRIDGE
11. Albert BRIDVEIT	11. Martin PHILLIPS
12. Steve HOWARD	12. Tony CAPALDI
13. Paul HUGHES	13. Paul WOTTON
14. David BAYLESS	14. Henry ALJOEFRE
15. Ian MILLER	15. Nathan LOWNDES
16. Sol DAVID	16. Marina KEITH
17. Peter HOLMES	17. Blair STURROCK
18. Curtis DAVIES	18. Luke CONNOLLY
19. Lee MANSELL	19. Luke MCCORMICK
20. Dean BIRLL	20. Peter GILBERT
21. Dean CROWE	21. Michael FOOT
22. Michael LEARY	
23. Steven O'LEARY	
24. Kevin FOLEY	
25. Matthew JUDGE	
26. Perry OJAI	
27. Leon BARNETT	
28. Rob BECKWITH	

The Green Game

Club historian **ROGER WASH** looks back on the time that the Town took on Plymouth in the first ever game at Kenilworth Road

Luton Town 0-0 Plymouth Argyle. Southern League. September 4th 1905

The 109th birthday of the opening of the Kenilworth Road ground took place this week and it is a pleasant coincidence that Plymouth, then as now, should be the visitors.

The new ground was formally opened on Monday 4th September 1905 at 5pm sharp to allow kick-off at 5.15pm – which would then enable our Southern League visitors enough time to catch their train home.

The game quickly became known as the 'Green Game'. The Pilgrims played in green, the referee was a Mr A. Green, the formal opening was conducted by Mr J. Green of local brewery fame, the whole event had been orchestrated by secretary Charles Green and the Kenilworth Road pitch, of course, was green.

This first match at Kenilworth Road was played out on a warm late summer evening and attracted a healthy crowd, of over 6,000, paid £120 for the privilege of taking part in an historic occasion.

Mr J. Green formally opened proceedings by kicking off the contest, but before doing so announced that he

would be donating 25 guineas (£26.25) to the club.

The contest itself was end to end from start to finish with both sides hitting the woodwork.

The Town had a point to prove having finished second bottom of the Southern League the previous season (fortunately they were re-elected with little fuss) and had recruited some heavyweight players to take the place of some lightweights who were 'not able to withstand the rigours of competitive football.' In other words the long ball and muscle were to be the order of the day!

Although the match was end to end the referee had a huge task in preventing the contest from developing into a 'rough and tumble affair' and more than once had to separate brawling players. If the supporters were to learn anything from the display it was that the players were not going to roll over and die that season.

Luton Town: Platt, Blackett, McCurdy, F. Hawkes, White, R. Hawkes, Gallacher, Warner, Brown, Pickering, Barnes.

Plymouth Argyle: Sutcliffe, Saul, A. Clark, Leech, C. Clark, Mortimer, Briercliffe, Buck, Willcox, Buchanan, Corrin.



W. H. Cox, Luton.

A CAPITAL VIEW OF THE NEW IVY ROAD ENCLOSURE, THE HOME OF LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB.

Match, Luton v. Portsmouth, Southern League competition, season 1905-6.

A HOME OF OUR OWN

At last the Town had a ground they could call their own. Part of the agreement on purchase was that the land would only be used for football purposes and everyone connected with the club breathed a sigh of relief knowing that they would not be asked to move again – at least not in the short term.

The old ground at Dunstable Road was partly developed immediately with Hazelbury Crescent and Avondale Road being built and Kenilworth Road itself further developed.

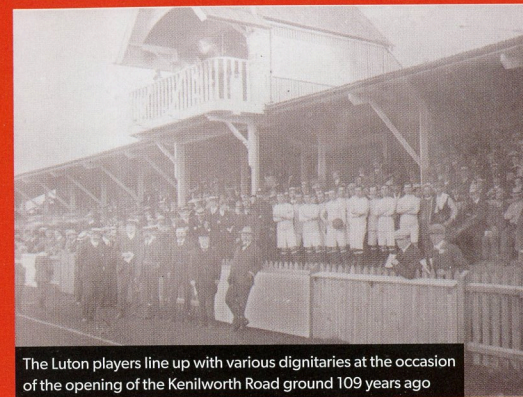
Strangely, the land fronting Dunstable Road, which would presumably be the most valuable, was not built on until the late 1930s when the Odeon cinema was erected and appeared to be used as a car park in the interim with the local football fans taking advantage of it when big matches were staged.

The new enclosure was smaller than the one left behind and was already hemmed in by new houses in Ivy, Beech and Oak Roads as well as the railway line. Behind the Oak Road goal was wooden terracing with a high wooden fence behind while at the Kenilworth Road end clinker banking had been built up to provide a reasonable vantage point.

Beech Hill Path was a natural boundary for the ground and along this side more wooden terracing was placed with a roof extending over the back few steps. On the opposite side stood the wooden main stand which had followed the club through its various moves.

With a standing paddock in front, this side of the ground was reckoned to hold 1,500 out of a total capacity of 10,000.

To finish off, a 'stout wooden fence' enclosed the pitch which was something that had not been present at either of the other two grounds.



The Luton players line up with various dignitaries at the occasion of the opening of the Kenilworth Road ground 109 years ago

LETTER TO THE LUTON NEWS

Sir - I was one of those who witnessed the very fine opening football match upon the new Town ground on Monday last. My pleasure, and that of many others was, however, spoiled by the foul, disgusting language of two men of the baser sort who stood near me.

Their swearing was vile in the extreme. Their mouths needed washing and their hearts needed changing. Two or three remonstrance's only made them worse. It is a great pity and shame too, that one of our national games should be spoiled by men such as these. This gentleman who stood near me remarked "no wonder people do not come to the matches."

I am sure there are scores if not hundreds of good clean living men, who take pleasure in witnessing a good match, who's consciences will condemn them if they are obliged to listen to such language as I have referred to.

I am soliciting the help of the Press, believing it to be the best way to expose this great evil. I sincerely hope the Directors will take immediate steps to deal with such offenders in a very decided manner. Unless this is done the game is bound to suffer, and the 'gates' too.

Yours etc.

Mr A Hill
Chapel Street Luton.

Super Dwight!

ONE MAN WITH SPLIT LOYALTIES THIS AFTERNOON IS **DWIGHT MARSHALL**, THE STRIKER WHO SPENT SUCCESSFUL GOALSCORING SPELLS WITH BOTH THE TOWN AND PLYMOUTH. HE EXCLUSIVELY TELLS **TALK OF THE TOWN** OF HIS GREAT AFFECTION FOR BOTH THE HATTERS AND ARGYLE.

The sound of Dwight Marshall's voice seemed to be one of genuine delight and surprise when he picked up the Human Resources' direct dial number at City and Islington College and was told that Luton Town were on the line.

But then, we expected nothing less. Infectious enthusiasm on the pitch as a player, who served both the Hatters and today's visitors Plymouth Argyle with such distinction, it was obvious that his broad smile was evident right the way through our 80-minute conversation during what should have been his lunch break.

These days Dwight is in the office, a 49-year-old now in the kind of job he envisaged having for the whole of his career whilst in his mid-20s, before his goalscoring ability and searing pace got him a move into the whirlwind adventures of professional football.

Arriving in the UK from Jamaica with his mother and brother as an eight-year-old, Dwight never thought of playing the game he loved for a living. And, for a while, that's exactly how his life seemed to be heading – not that he minded.

"I never had the ambition of becoming a footballer when I left school," Dwight tells Talk of the Town. "I began playing non-league for Hampton Town, before they were known as Hampton & Richmond, before I went to Grays Athletic and developed my skills.

"I was working in administration at the time and saw that as my career, but I had one good season

at Grays and luckily I was invited down to Plymouth for a three-day trial. A day after that trial I was signing a professional contract and the rest is history."

Despite arriving on the pro scene quite late, Dwight was an instant success in Devon. Argyle were in Division 2 (now the Championship) at the beginning of the 1991/92 – the season before the Premier League was introduced – and a goal on his home debut in a 2-1 victory over Barnsley made him an immediate hit with the Green Army.

"I grabbed the opportunity at Plymouth with both hands, although it was a pretty new and alien experience for me," continues Dwight. "Travelling down to Plymouth from London, where I was living, I thought to myself 'what am I letting myself in for? Where the hell am I going?'"

"But I needn't have worried, it wasn't as though I was a teenager living away from home at a young age. When you're 25 or 26 and you're working Monday to Friday 9-5 you think your days of making a living from playing professional football are over, but this was an unbelievable chance that I couldn't turn down."

Brilliant

Whilst his first campaign at Home Park ended in Argyle's relegation, Marshall's own record was holding up.

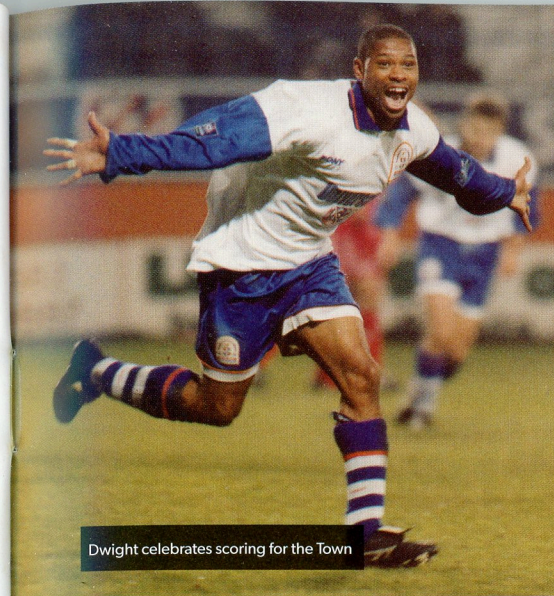
"My first season was brilliant," he admits. "I scored on my home debut and it really was a dream start. Playing in front of big crowds, the noise, the pace of the game, it was all a bit surreal.

"It was a new experience for me, but conversely, while it was a good season for me personally, it wasn't for Plymouth and we were relegated."

However, after making such an impact with Argyle, his second season in the South West wasn't as successful.

"It was a complete contrast to the first," admits the striker. "I picked up an injury and was out of the team but bizarrely I was loaned to Middlesbrough – then in the Premier League and managed by Lennie Lawrence. I only played three times, all as substitute, and remember my debut at Chelsea. I couldn't believe I was playing in the top flight. It was a dream come true, even if it was short-lived."

The following season, of 1993/94, though, was better for the fledgling forward. Argyle, now in the common



Dwight celebrates scoring for the Town

day equivalent of League 1, reached the Play-Offs with Marshall back in form in front of goal.

But after the Greens lost to Burnley in the semi-finals, the striker was told of the Hatters' and David Pleat's interest came the end of the campaign.

After a meeting at South Mimms service station in the summer of 1994 with the Town manager, Marshall – who had netted 36 goals in 124 games for Plymouth – agreed to a move to Kenilworth Road: a switch which had its benefits on and off the field.

"I had always wanted to move back to the London area as my family remained there and didn't move with me down to Devon," explains Dwight. "I was having to commute back to see them a lot so a move to a club nearer to them was ideal.

Reputation

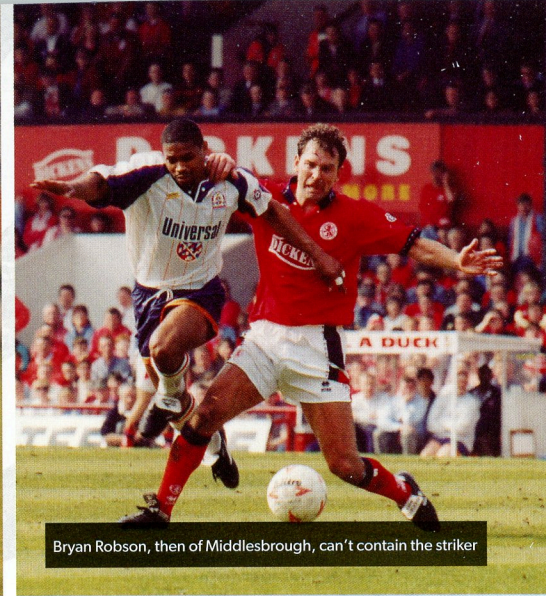
"Luton were a very appealing club. David Pleat was a well-respected manager, a purist who wanted to play football the right way. That was Luton's reputation and at the time they were in what is now the Championship."

In his first season at Kenilworth Road, Marshall missed just one League game, starting 36 and appearing as a substitute nine times – and ended the Hatters' leading goalscorer with 13 goals in all competitions as the Town finished the 1994/95 campaign in 16th place.

"I didn't enjoy the instant success I had at Plymouth," says Dwight. "It took me a while to get going. I remember scoring my first goal in a League Cup tie at Fulham but I missed a penalty in the shootout!

"Regardless of the penalty miss, the goal gave me the confidence and I soon scored my first League goal for Luton – the winner in a 1-0 win at Port Vale."

At the beginning of the 1995/96 season, the Jamaican



Bryan Robson, then of Middlesbrough, can't contain the striker

was now a regular in Town colours, but a difficult season for the club ended in disaster for Dwight when he broke his ankle in a defeat at Sunderland in February – at a crucial stage in the season that had seen Hatters lift themselves out of the relegation zone.

"I remember running down the right-hand channel and trying to turn but my ankle gave way," Dwight recalls, the tone of his voice wavering ever-so slightly.

Injury

"The worst thing about it was the fact it was so innocuous. As any footballer will tell you who suffers a serious injury, it was a horrible experience.

"At the time, though, I didn't know the extent of the injury until I saw the look in physiotherapist Clive Goodyear's eyes when he ran onto the pitch to treat me.

"At the time we were gaining momentum in our league performances and I was scoring goals. It was a huge shame but there was nothing I could do. It was just one of those things and unfortunately we ended the season relegated."

With the Town now in Division 2 (League 1 in today's money) in 1996/97, hopes were high of an instant return to the second tier whilst Marshall continued to make progress in his rehabilitation process.

Almost nine months to the day he fractured his ankle at Roker Park, Dwight started the home fixture with Bristol Rovers and 29 minutes into his comeback the moment he and all the Town supporters arrived when he swept Tony Thorpe's pass home to give the Hatters the lead in a 2-1 win.

"It was a great feeling to be back, the comeback was incredible and the reception the fans gave me was unbelievable," recalls the striker.



DWIGHT - THE RECORDS

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (1991-1994)

124 games, 36 goals

LUTON TOWN (1994-1998)

155 games, 39 goals

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (1998-1999)

31 games, 12 goals



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Dwight celebrates his first Football League goal for the Hatters - the winner in the 1-0 victory at Port Vale

▶▶▶ "That game against Bristol Rovers was one of the best memories I had a Luton. I have a picture on the wall at home of the celebration - although you can only see a very small part of my leg...I'm buried beneath all my team-mates who had bundled on top of me!

"A lot of people helped me during that time, Clive, my team-mates, the fans and my family, but I definitely felt I had lost my pace as a result of the injury. That was a big part of my game, it was built around my speed and I never felt quite the same after the injury.

Comeback

"It was difficult to take on board but I was just thankful that I was able to make a comeback and continue my professional career because some other players aren't so lucky."

With Tony Thorpe firing 30 goals as the Town missed out in the Play-Offs to Crewe, Marshall was in and out of the side. The following campaign, of 1997/98, the Hatters suffered a Play-Off hangover and flirted with relegation until Pleat signed loan star Rory Allen to fire the Town to safety. Marshall still had a role to play - scoring twice in the final eight games in crucial games at Walsall and Brentford.

Dwight began his fifth season at Kenilworth Road in 1998/99 at the age of 32 and all of a sudden he was surrounded by academy graduates Liam George, Sean Evers, Matthew Spring and Stuart Douglas in the Town squad. And with first team opportunities limited, but with his love for the game just as strong, Marshall was thrown a lifeline by the club that first took the punt on him in 1991: Argyle.

"At that point I felt I needed to play regular football again and Plymouth manager Kevin Hodges took me on," Dwight explains. "The chairman at Plymouth knew me from my first spell and he told Kevin that they weren't getting back the 'Dwight of old' after the injury, but, thankfully, Kevin persuaded him. I had a good season in 98/99, it was nice to go back and to do well, I finished top goalscorer but at the end of the season I felt it was the right time for me and my family to quit professionally."

And that's where Dwight thought his story would end. Until...

"I signed for Kingstonian after leaving Plymouth. They were a London club with ambition to get into the Football League and I couldn't believe it when we pulled Luton out of the hat in the FA Cup. It was strange going back, especially using the away dressing room and not the home one. It reminded me of the good times I had at Luton and the reception I received from the fans was superb - it is something I'll never forget."

Although now back in the 9-5 job, his sojourn into the world of professional football is something that will stay with Dwight for the rest of his life.

"I was lucky to have played for two fantastic football clubs," says Dwight, who is hoping for a score-draw this afternoon - even if he's commentating on Diverse FM.

"Luton and Plymouth were good to me, so, so good to me, it's hard to put into words. I appreciate what they both did for me and my family. It honestly meant, and still does mean, the world.

"They gave me the opportunity to do the best two things in football: score goals and get asked for your autograph. I loved every minute."

Youth Team &

Development

FIXTURES & RESULTS

YOUTH

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

DEVELOPMENT

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION
SEPTEMBER			
Tue 9	1pm	H	AFC Bournemouth
Tue 23	2pm	A	Portsmouth
Tue 30	1pm	H	Gillingham (Cup)
OCTOBER			
Tue 14	1pm	A	Gillingham
Tue 28	1pm	H	Peterborough United
NOVEMBER			
Tue 4	TBA	TBA	Cambridge United (Cup)
Tue 18	1pm	A	Cambridge United
Tue 25	1pm	H	Leyton Orient
DECEMBER			
Tue 2	1pm	H	AFC Wimbledon
Tue 9	TBA	TBA	AFC Wimbledon (Cup)
JANUARY			
Tue 6	1pm	A	AFC Bournemouth
Tue 13	1pm	H	Brighton (Cup)
Tue 20	1pm	H	Gillingham
Tue 27	1pm	H	Milton Keynes Dons (Cup)
FEBRUARY			
Tue 3	1pm	A	Peterborough United
Tue 24	1pm	A	Leyton Orient
MARCH			
Tue 10	1pm	H	Cambridge United
Mon 23	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon
Tue 31	1pm	H	Portsmouth

SUBS

Galliford •	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Justin •	Magaraushe •	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Atkinson	GALLIFORD 1	Ngwala •	Tayali	AMADI 1 ▲	Hawkes •	Allman •	Craig ▲	Kotter	Gooch
Ngwala	Galliford	Tayali •	Atkinson	ALLMAN 1	Magaraushe	Perry •	Amadi	Perry	Gooch
Galliford	Atkinson ▲	Ngwala	AMADI 1 •	ALLMAN 1	Perry •	Bakinson ▲	Tayali •	Hawkes	Gooch
Musonda	GALLIFORD 1 ▲	ALLMAN 1	Amadi •	NGWALA 1	Hawkes •	Magaraushe ▲	TAYALI 1 •	Craig	Gooch
Ngwala	GALLIFORD 1	TAYALI 1	Atkinson ▲	Allman •	Hawkes ▲	Amadi •	McGhan-George •	Craig	Gooch
McGhan-George	Galliford	Craig •	Tayali	NGWALA 1	Justin •	Craig •	Amadi	Bakinson	Gooch

Development Squad held to draw

A Hatters development squad squandered a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Barnet in a friendly at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday.

The Town started brightly and took the lead inside 10 minutes when Kynan Isaac guided a header home following Ross Lafayette's flick-on.

The Hatters then doubled their lead when Alex Lacey, who captained the side, headed home unchallenged in the six-yard box.

In front and looking comfortable at half-time, the Town then allowed Barnet back into the game.

Half-time substitute Charlie Walker twice went close to making the game safe, once with a volley that flew narrowly over, but moments later the Bees pulled one goal back.

Acrobatic

As the game entered the final 15 minutes, the visitors levelled in fine style with an acrobatic overhead kick from just inside the penalty area giving goalkeeper Elliot Justham no chance.

Both teams pressed for a winner in the final five minutes. Justham kept the Bees at bay before Walker just failed to connect with Lafayette's lay-off.

An unhappy Town first team coach Hakan Hayrettin said: "We have high standards at this club but the second half performance was not up to the standard that we expect. We were sloppy and that gave Barnet the impetus to go on and get something from the game. We got ourselves in a good position to lead 2-0 so it is very disappointing that we did not win the game."

Town dev: Justham; Williams, Onyemah, Lacey, Franks, Trialist (sub Walker 46), Trialist, Isaac, Ruddock Mpanzu; Wall, Lafayette.



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COMING SOON

THE LATEST FROM THE PRE-ACADEMY AND CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

Last season, despite the club being outside the Football League, our youth academy received recognition from the International Centre for Sports studies.

A large part of our academy's success lies in the fully integrated development structure at the club which starts with players as young as four who simply 'pay and play' each week through to our Talent Identification Coaching Programme (TIPs) for boys up to 16 years of age who train on our 10-week coaching programme.

In total over 20 of these centres run all year around through our development programme run by the club's Community Trust.

All of these players, together with recruited boys, continue their journey for an academy place at our pre-academy centre in Luton which currently has around 120 boys signed from under-9 to under-16.

These squads – which have short-term aims for boys' development – is the top tier in our development structure below the academy.

Tier 2 consists of our centre of excellence centres in Luton, Dunstable and Kempston, with another 250 boys and these are for those player we see longer-term development potential.

These centres are all parent-funded and the aim is to progress players through to the



academy by replicating the coaching syllabus and methods used by our academy coaches.

The pre-academy boys train with the club twice a week and remain with their local club sides while the boys at centre of excellence train once a week while remaining with their local club.

At the same time all of the boys play around 10 games a season mostly during school holidays for the club against other professional teams – the boys have already held fixtures with Colchester this season, as pictured on this page, Crystal Palace, Ipswich Town, Wycombe Wanderers and Northampton Town.

These centres are the lifeblood of the club's academy, and currently around nine out of every 10 boys signed full-time come through this system.

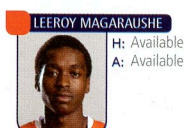
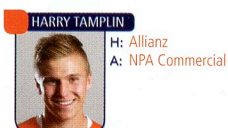
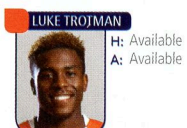
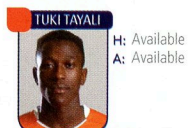
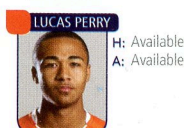
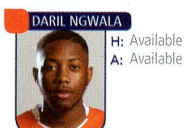
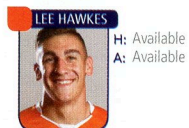
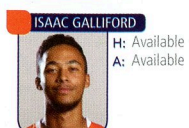
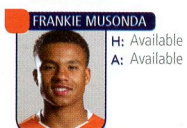
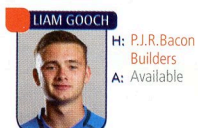
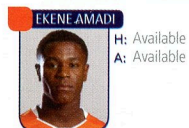
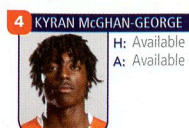
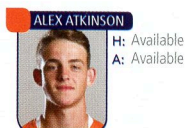
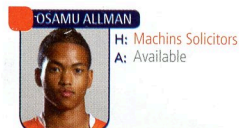
This season already almost 30 boys from our development centres have played for the academy with around 12 having formal trials. It is a huge pool of local talent supporting the academy making sure our youth talent identification programme works effectively for local boys.



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Luton Ladies

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA AS AN FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB PROVIDED TOWN WITH AN AWAY TRIP TO MK DONS AND THEN PAIRED THE TWO CLUBS TOGETHER AGAIN FOR THE SECOND GAME IN THE LEAGUE CUP.

Luton travelled to MK with an injury-hit squad which just two weeks prior saw an entire back four out injured but the squad dug deep and benefits from having a number of players who are able to play all over the pitch.

It was the Town who began stronger pinning the home side back early on with Jess McKay coming closest to breaking the deadlock with a long range shot that struck the crossbar.

After 66 minutes McKay did give Luton the lead when she beat the home keeper to a free kick from Zara Carroll and forced the ball home from close range. Luton pressed for a second goal and can count themselves extremely unlucky not to have got it when McKay's cross shot rebounded from the foot of the post and Erica Byron's follow up shot drew a superb diving save from the keeper. As often happens the home side equalised a short time later bundling a cross in at the far post and in spite of both sides pushing for the winner the spoils were shared.

Pressure

The side that took the field for the cup tie again showed a number of enforced change but a strong start from the Town forced a change in MK's formation as Town opened the scoring through a Lydia Radley cross that was pushed out by the keeper under pressure from Michelle Byrne and Jess McKay followed up to fire through a crowd of players to score. A near post header from Byrne was narrowly wide a Radley strike flew narrowly wide and Zara Carroll's long range free kick struck the crossbar.

The visitors were back on terms early in the second half but can count themselves extremely unlucky as Rachel Kosky's flying header appeared to have prevented the goal but the ball span back into the net to bring the scores level. MK had the majority of possession but a change to all-out attack stemmed the tide and Town fought back to try and win the tie in normal time. There were no further goals and after a period of extra time the tie went to penalties.



The Town's penalty shootout record has not proved successful in the past but keeper Hollie Staples saved the first spot kick. Erica Byron put the Town one up, to which the visitors equalised, before Nicki Livingstone's kick was saved. Staples was again on hand to make another diving save to retain the Town's lead which McKay built on with a thunderous strike high into the net. MK then levelled the scores before Carroll found the bottom corner to make it 3-2 with one kick left each. There was no need for another Town spot kick, however, as Staples threw herself to her left to make her third save.

A delighted boss Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "We have been unlucky with injuries and availability but the players have shown great belief and heart concentrating on who is here rather than who is not.

"It was great to actually win a shootout and the penalties and Hollie's saves were top drawer.

"Hopefully we will be able to strengthen in the coming weeks and start to achieve the consistent level of performance I know we are capable of."

The Reserve squad showed great heart and passion entertaining Hackney in their opening game of the season always being in front throughout. Remi Bains scored twice with Jael Muzzi adding the third in a 3-2 win. A late penalty save from debutant keeper Angelika Kopec made sure of all three points.

The Town Ladies are in the process of forming a new Under-10 squad so if you are interested in joining please contact lutontownlfc@hotmail.co.uk visit the revamped website at www.lutontownladiesfc.co.uk.

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community

HATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Hundreds of young Town fans used one of their last few days left of the summer holidays by watching the first team train at Kenilworth Road last Monday and despite a miserable weather morning the turn out was fantastic for our community open training session.

The stadium was open to all supporters and youngsters from our academy and summer soccer camps to watch John Still and his team put the Hatters squad through

their paces and once the players got into action every shot and goal was greeted with lots of cheers and applause which the players obviously appreciated.

After the session the entire first team and development squad, which included all of the squad's full-time professional players, posed for 'selfies' and more traditional photographs and signed autographs on programmes, autograph books, shirts and even some body parts! It was a terrific effort from the players and management with the signing session lasting almost one hour as they made sure that everyone left the stadium in high spirits. Well done boys!



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WHAT'S IN STORE ONLINE AT THE HATTERS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

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

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

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

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

TEAMSHEETS

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

FREE CLOCKWATCH

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

LIVE COMMENTARY

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

FULL-TIME REPORT

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

POST-MATCH REACTION

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

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

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

MOBILE INTERNET

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

STAY IN TOUCH AND HELP THE HATTERS TOO...

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

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THE SOCIAL NETWORK



INSTAGRAM PIX OF THE WEEK

The Hatters' presence and following on social media continues to grow with the official YouTube account, which complements our Hatters Player service, this week breaking the 1.9m views barrier.

Those figures add up nicely to make the Town's official channel the 21st-most-watched football club channel among the top five divisions. Not seen it yet? Subscribe for free at [youtube.com/lutontown](https://www.youtube.com/lutontown).

Ahead of this afternoon's game we were keen to get the views of our Twitter followers on the Hatters' games against Plymouth in days gone by. Unsurprisingly those tussles at the top of League 2 (or Division Three as it was then) featured heavily.

Richard Hardy @richyhardy @LutonTown the '2-0 massacre' as Kinnear described it. On our way to promotion in 2002 #LUTvPLY

Stevie J Kilgour @steviejkilgour @LutonTown 1997 2-2 draw. I was a little kid on my own every week in Block F. Grobbelaar in goal for Plymouth. Oldfield and Thorpe #LUTvPLY

Rob Hadgraft @RobHadgraft Days after 1997 horror show versus Watford, we made amends by thumping Argyle 3-0, despite Matt Spring red-carded on full debut. #LUTvPLY

Mikey @mikeyhatter @LutonTown Eldest son was Hatters mascot for Coca Cola cup match at Home Park in Oct 92. Unfortunately we lost 3-2, but great night #LUTvPLY

David Foxen @DFoxen @LutonTown Div 3, at Kenilworth Road 2002. I remember a packed house, cracking atmosphere. We were both going for the title! #LUTvPLY #COYH

John Arnold @J4RN01D @LutonTown top of the table clash in 2002, Nicholls and Howard scoring the goals for a 2-0 win! #LUTvPLY

Stuart Burchett @StuBurchett @LutonTown A 3-3 draw on torrential rain at Home Park in 96-97. The wettest I have ever been on an open terrace. #LUTvPLY

Adriano • @ad_the_riano @LutonTown A superb 2-0 win in the League Cup Back in 2008 when we was bottom of league 2 beating the championship team #Coyh #LUTvPLY

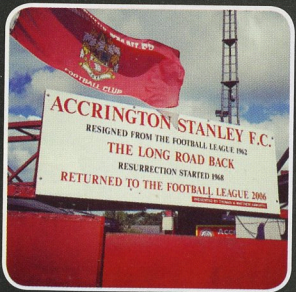
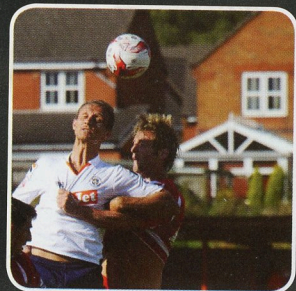
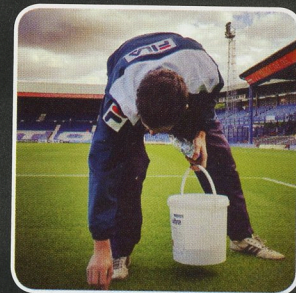
JDM @JakeDavidMorgan @LutonTown Calvin Andrews 95 minutes winner!!

Responsible Ben @PurslowBen @LutonTown they were certainly on the 'big fat joe' era one of the toughest opponents. The competition brought the best out of both teams.

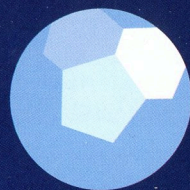
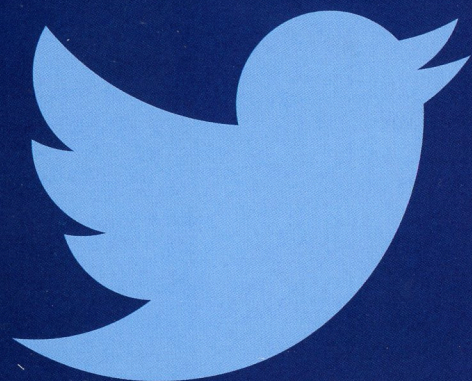
James @jmorgs88 @LutonTown the top of the table clash when a late Kevin Nicholls penalty lifted the roof off the Kenny before Steve Howard finished it off

mutley @mutley/tfc @LutonTown Nicholls' inexplicable round of applause for being sent off, which ultimately cost us a home win (90th min equaliser) in about 2003.

Richard Tilley @tilleyrich @LutonTown the best memory ever from the 3-3 draw away. Constant rain throughout. @elikenyon ended up with a woollen jumper beard!



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Travellers' TALES

AVID TOWN FAN **KEVIN HARPER** LOOKS BACK ON THE TRIP TO ACCRINGTON

THE JOURNEY

The Bobbers was once again my mode of transport with the coach leaving Luton at 9am which meant that I was on it at Ampthill at 8.20am. Once everyone was on board at the train station it was time for our second M1/M6 journey in the space of a fortnight. This journey was much slower than the one to Carlisle. After a stop at Norton Canes services we encountered plenty of traffic on the M6 but we finally made it to the ground at just after 2.30, so it was a quick dash to the ground to get in and find a place to watch from before the players came out.

THE GROUND

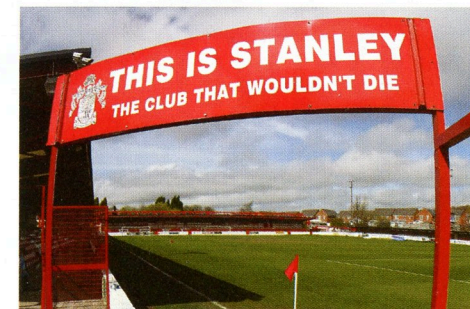
This was my second trip to Accrington and the ground hasn't improved a great deal since the last time I was there. It is very much reminiscent of the grounds we've been subjected to visiting for the last five years. It is small and compact with an open terrace for the away fans behind one goal and a couple of rows of seats in a stand to the side. Town fans had the option of both for this match and having passed some showers on the way up I decided to take the option with the roof and headed for the seats in the Whinney Hill Stand opposite the dugouts.

THE FOOD

Unlike the good food and drink options at Carlisle, we were limited to a burger van behind the away terrace and a small white tent which was serving two different beer options. Those who wanted a pint could get one (before they sold out!) for between £3-3.50 but for those who didn't it was the three ladies in the burger van who were your port of call. Food choices were just the usual hot dogs, burgers and bacon rolls which were reasonably priced but pretty average in the overall scheme of things.

THE PROGRAMME

There weren't many programmes to be had for this game, but those who were lucky enough to get one will have seen a four-page part about the Town. The first two pages were about John Still and the players and club, a club they defined as a 'Hertfordshire club' at one point! The other two pages in the programme was a quick Q&A with a Luton fan about our hopes for the season.



THE GAME

The game itself was very much one of two halves and the first half was one of two halves, too. We were very slow out of the traps and were 2-0 down in no time as a tap in and a deflection put Stanley 2-0 up, but after a quick tactical change which saw Luke Guttridge on for Alex Lacey midway through the first half things picked up straight away. A Luke Rooney thunderbolt and a deflected Jake Howells free kick had us level at 2-2 at the break and all the thoughts were about how we were going to go on and win the game.

We dominated the second half but the home keeper Lynch had a half to remember with some very good saves. We just couldn't find the winning goal and at the end we nearly conceded a winner so I guess overall, especially having been 2-0 down we'd have settled for a point even though we were optimistic of much more at the start of the day.

SUMMARY

Overall the day wasn't as good as we would have hoped having dropped two points but all in all it wasn't the worst day out. The weather was good, the journey home was much easier than the one there and we were back in Luton shortly before 9pm so it was nowhere near as long as on the opening day of the season. By the time the coach had got back to Luton train station we had travelled a shade over 400 miles. Hopefully the point we brought back with us will be a vital one come the end of the season.

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6th SEPTEMBER

ON THIS DAY

► THE RECORD

The Town's record on this particular September day isn't a pretty one. The Hatters have won just six of the 20 matches played on 6th September, losing 11 and drawing three. Town supporters have celebrated 31 times during the 20 games but seen the team concede 39 times. This afternoon is the Hatters' first game on this day for six years. The Town lost 2-1 at Macclesfield in a League 2 fixture in the minus 30 season of 2008/09.

► TOP FLIGHT TOWN

The Hatters are unbeaten in three of their matches that have taken place in the top flight of English football.

The first game in the top tier came back in 1958/59 when 25,715 supporters crammed into Kenilworth Road to witness the Hatters thump West Ham United 4-1 (apologies John Still). The Hammers were humbled in front of the big crowd with record goalscorer Gordon Turner on target twice. The Town's record marksman was joined on the scoresheet by Allan Brown and Dave Pacey.

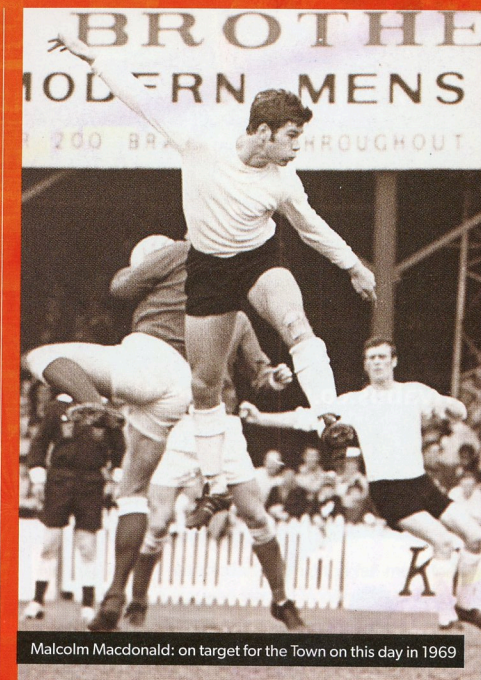
It wouldn't be for another 25 years that the Hatters would play in the top flight on the 6th September. This time the Town fought back to earn a 2-2 draw at home to Norwich City in 1983. 11,095 watched the Canaries race into a 2-0 lead inside 19 minutes but the Hatters bounced back in the second period. Paul Elliott halved the deficit shortly before the hour before Brian Stein's 25-yard rocket a minute from time earned the Town a point.

Three years later – and 28 years ago to the day – the Town triumphed 3-1 at Stamford Bridge against Chelsea in the First Division.

Kerry Dixon, who was initially rejected by the Hatters as a youngster but would eventually turn out for the Town, put Chelsea ahead until Mike Newell levelled for the Hatters on the stroke of half-time. After the break the Town turned on the style with Newell adding a second on 63 minutes and Brian Stein adding a third to secure the win five minutes from time.

► PIRATES PUMMELED

The Town's biggest victory on this day came back in 1969 when Bristol Rovers were seen off 4-0 at Kenilworth Road. The Hatters started the 1969/70 campaign by going 13 games unbeaten with the win over the Pirates the sixth in the sequence. That afternoon 15,198 watched John Collins, Matt Tees, Malcolm Macdonald and Keith Allen find the target for the Town. The Hatters ended the



Malcolm Macdonald: on target for the Town on this day in 1969

campaign winning promotion from Division 3 (now League 1) as runners-up. Bristol Rovers finished third.

► V IS FOR VICTORY

Other notable Town victories on 6th September include a 2-0 win at Portsmouth in the Second Division (now Championship) in 1975 with Adrian Alston and Andy King on target. The Town also beat Blackburn 2-0 at Kenilworth Road in 1948 and Brentford back in 1913. The 3-2 win over the Bees took place in what was the Southern Alliance – effectively the eighth level of football in England at the time.

► BEST OF THE REST

Of the other two draws the Town have registered on this date, the most recent came during a 1-1 draw at Notts County in 2003 with Chris Coyne heading the Hatters' goal. The previous draw came in 1980 when a Frankie Bunn goal secured a 1-1 draw at home to Wrexham in the old Second Division (now Championship).

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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The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

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Going, going, gone!

By Chris Dunlavy

So the transfer window is closed and it must be...oooh, a few days until clubs can go out and start loaning players left, right and centre.

In the Football League, the wheeling and dealing never stops, but that doesn't mean it's been a quiet window. Almost every side in the 72 did a bit of business on deadline day, with most Championship clubs fending off amorous glances from the big boys above.

Here, then, is a selection of the best final day deals:

Defender

JOS HOOIVELD

SOUTHAMPTON - NORWICH (LOAN)

The Premier League always looked a stretch for Hooiveld, yet the big Dutchman more than held his own in 2012/13 before slipping out of contention last year.

Immense as Southampton went up in 2012, the 31-year-old is tremendous with the ball at his feet and a massive threat in the box, as he proved by scoring eight times as the Saints won promotion in 2012. Now with added top-flight experience and a contract expiring next summer, he will be battling to seal a permanent move.

Midfielders

DOMINIC POLEON

LEEDS - OLDHAM (UNDISCLOSED)

Danny Wilson called Poleon "raw, unpredictable and very quick", which about sums it up. The former Chelsea trainee was never trusted to start at Leeds, generally being thrown on as a last, desperate measure.

Now a level below and in a side with less competition for places, the winger should get more time on the pitch – and at 20, has plenty of time to improve.

JACK PRICE

WOLVES - YEOVIL (LOAN)

Strong competition means the 20-year-old hasn't even made Wolves' matchday squad this season.

Yet last year he played 30 matches, losing on just two occasions as Kenny Jackett's men stormed to the League 1 title.

A sitting midfielder with an excellent range of passing, he is combative and used to winning – and desperate to prove a point. If things go well, expect an extension.

Forwards

GLENN MURRAY

CRYSTAL PALACE - READING (LOAN)

All but the most story-hearted Brighton fan must feel sorry for Murray, a guy who started in non-league and inched his way up to the Premier League only for fate to deal a savage hand.

A serious knee injury in the Play-Off semi-final victory over Brighton meant Murray missed the chance to play at Wembley and the vast majority of Palace's first season back in the top-flight.

Now, after one goal and a handful of sub appearances, he is back in the Championship.

Yet if the poacher's instincts – and penalty prowess – that brought 31 goals in 45 matches in 2012-13 are undiminished, the Royals are onto a winner.

LUKE JAMES

HARTLEPOOL - PETERBOROUGH (£800,000)

Pools' youngest ever goalscorer and last year's player of the year with 16 goals in all competitions, 19-year-old James was so desperate to force through a move that he went on strike for several days last month.

And you can see why – Barry Fry and Darren Ferguson don't tend to get it wrong when it comes to strikers.

Just ask Britt Assombalonga, Dwight Gayle or Craig Mackail-Smith. The young speedster should flourish.



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league look

LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

The Hatters are searching for their second win of the season and their first at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Last weekend's disappointing 2-0 defeat at Shrewsbury saw the Town move down to 18th in the league standings with five points to their name during the early stages of the season. They remain four points above the drop zone in which Oxford United and Accrington Stanley currently occupy. At the top of the table, Burton Albion and Cheltenham Town continued their unbeaten starts to the season. Both sides sit on 13 points after picking up wins last weekend. Burton saw off Mansfield Town in a 2-1 win, whilst Cheltenham scraped a 1-0 win at home to Hartlepool United.

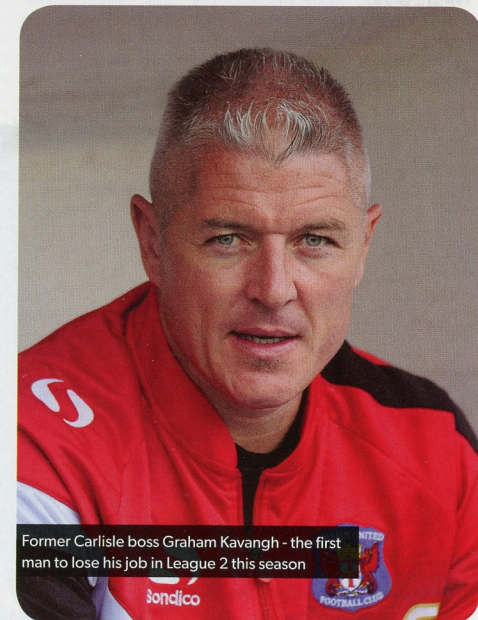
Defeat

Morecambe, who sit in third place, dropped their first points of the season. The Shrimps lost out to a late goal by Cole Stockton against Tranmere after taking the lead in the first half. Rovers moved up to 11th position following the home victory.

Portsmouth also tasted defeat for the first time this season, having lost out narrowly at home to Newport County. It was also County's first win of the season and helped move them out of the relegation zone to sit one point behind the Hatters in 19th.

Sides who trail at the bottom half of the table and who are yet to record a win include Carlisle United, Exeter City, and York City. Carlisle continued their horrible start to the season with a 5-0 thumping to newly-promoted Cambridge United. It resulted in the first managerial casualty in the division with Graham Kavanagh dismissed on Tuesday. Exeter narrowly lost out to Northampton, whilst York remarkably remain unbeaten and have drawn all five of their games this season, scoring five and conceding five along the way.

Sides who are sitting inside the Play-Off places alongside Pompey



Former Carlisle boss Graham Kavanagh - the first man to lose his job in League 2 this season

LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

ACCRINGTON v TRANMERE
CARLISLE v AFC WIMBLEDON
DAGENHAM v NORTHAMPTON
EXETER v MANSFIELD
HARTLEPOOL v SHREWSBURY
MORECAMBE v CHELTENHAM
SOUTHEND v OXFORD
STEVENAGE v YORK
WYCOMBE v BURY
TOMORROW:
BURTON v PORTSMOUTH
MONDAY:
NEWPORT v CAMBRIDGE

include Shrewsbury, who saw off the Hatters to move up to fourth. Wycombe drew 0-0 with York to remain inside the top seven and Bury are now unbeaten in four games after beating Accrington Stanley 2-1 at home. Goals from Danny Mayor and Danny Rose (not the England International) helped push Bury into sixth place.

Winners

AFC Wimbledon lost out to Stevenage at home, despite Matt Tubbs continuing his goal-scoring form to put the home side 1-0 up. Stevenage emerged as 3-2 winners at Kingsmeadow and both sides now sit on seven points in a mid-table position.

THE SEASON

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI							
AUGUST															
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Carlisle United	W 1-0	6,760	1,088	6	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey	Robinson	
Tue 12	7.45pm	H	Swindon Town (C1C 1)	L 1-2	4,410	436	-	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Franks	Robinson	
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon	L 0-1	9,101	690	14	Tyler	Franks	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Drury	
Tue 19	7.45pm	H	Bury	D 1-1	7,890	289	14	Tyler	Franks	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Drury	
Sat 23	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley	D 2-2	1,562	586	12	Tyler	Connolly	HOWELLS 1	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey	Robinson	
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	L 0-2	5,888	1,037	18	Tyler	Connolly	Howells	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Stevenson	

SEPTEMBER

TV	Sat 6	12.15pm	H	Plymouth Argyle
	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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Paul Benson battles for the ball at Accrington

Fixtures & Results

SUBS															
Drury •	Howells •	CULLEN 1	Benson	Franks	Wall	Rooney •	Ruddock	Guttridge	Stevenson •	Justham					
Drury	ROONEY 1	Cullen •	Benson •	Lacey	Wall	Howells	Ruddock •	Guttridge •	Lafayette •	Justham					
Guttridge •	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall •	Williams	Ruddock •	Stevenson •	Lafayette	Justham					
Guttridge •	Rooney	Cullen	Benson •	Lacey	Wall	Howells •	RUDDOCK 1	Stevenson	Lafayette •	Justham					
Drury	ROONEY 1	Cullen •	Benson	Franks	Wall •	Guttridge •	Ruddock	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham					
Guttridge •	Rooney •	Cullen •	Benson	Lacey •	Wall	Williams	Ruddock •	Miller	Lafayette •	Justham					



Mark Tyler holds on to the ball in our last home match here against Bury

LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

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

PLAYER STATS 2014/15

	LEAGUE		THIS SEASON CUP		TOTAL		DISCIP		LIFE	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS
Zane Banton	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	6	0
Paul Benson	5 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	1	0	44	18
Paul Connolly	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	2	0	4	0
Mark Cullen	5 (0)	1	1 (0)	0	6 (0)	1	0	0	42	11
Andy Drury	4 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	0	0	31	8
Fraser Franks	2 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	1	0	20	0
Scott Griffiths	3 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	1	0	56	1
Luke Guttridge	3 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	3 (2)	0	0	0	38	13
Jake Howells	4 (1)	1	0 (0)	0	4 (1)	1	0	0	281	27
Elliott Justham	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	7	0
Alex Lacey	2 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (1)	0	0	0	34	1
Ross Lafayette	0 (2)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (3)	0	0	0	3	0
Alex Lawless	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	156	18
Steve McNulty	5 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	0	0	74	2
Andrew Parry	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	4	0
Matt Robinson	5 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	0	1	51	3
Luke Rooney	3 (1)	1	1 (0)	1	4 (1)	2	1	1	11	2
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	0 (3)	1	0 (1)	0	0 (4)	1	0	0	28	3
Charlie Smith	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	3	0
Jonathan Smith	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	60	3
Jim Stevenson	1 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (2)	0	0	0	9	0
Mark Tyler	5 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	1	0	236	0
Alex Wall	0 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0	0	29	6
Shaun Whalley	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	22	2
Luke Wilkinson	5 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	0	0	6	0

HOLD THE Back Page

WITH DIVERSE FM'S MARK WOOD

Today will be a massive test, not only for the Hatters against old foes Plymouth Argyle who have made a steady start to the season, but also for myself as I will be anchoring the commentary for the first time on Diverse FM and Hatters Player.

I'm lucky enough to have worked as a sports reporter for some eight years, many of them covering the Town, and have a wealth of experience in print, but radio, and especially commentary, is a new challenge for me. I have enthusiasm, a certain degree of knowledge, but I'm lacking the nous that can only come with experience. In that way I feel very similar to this emerging Hatters team.

Ability

Sure a number of Town's players have a huge amount of Football League experience behind them, but several don't. Most helped us to streak emphatically to the Conference title last season. So while they have a mixture of ability and potential, they are still very much finding their feet and acclimatising to League Two.

I anticipate floundering more than once this afternoon, but I'm hoping to cope with the learning curve as best I can, in very similar fashion to our very own Hatters.

Five points from our first five games is hardly the ideal start to the season, but remember last season? Our start then was inauspicious too and look where we ended up. And I'm certain that the experiences Luton's players are gaining now we see them grow this season and beyond.



Mark makes his Diverse debut this afternoon

Our recent fortunes in front of the television cameras have been bleak at best as Sky cover this afternoon's encounter, but it was at about this point last term that our luck and performances began to turn. And surely we are due some success in front of the television cameras?

Titanic

Who better to finally get that monkey off our back than Plymouth? No-one could forget our titanic tussle for the League 2 title back in 2001/02 where Argyle pipped us to the top by five points. Our rivalry that season was further whipped up by then boss Joe Kinnear's inflammatory comments about the seaside city. They helped to stoke the rivalry, with both sides winning their home games, and I'm sure both clubs would dearly love a repeat of that double promotion.

Oh, and by the way, we won at Carlisle on the opening day of that season too!

However, one man with torn loyalties is likely to be former Luton and Plymouth striker Dwight Marshall who I'm hoping will be joining me live on Diverse FM to help cover the game this afternoon.

The pacey striker was a popular figure at both clubs during the 1990s, playing over 120 times for both sides where he was a regular scorer in front of goal. In fact, it was probably only as a result of the broken leg that he sustained that Luton were relegated from the Championship in the 1995/96 season.

Marshall may have split feelings this afternoon, but I'm positive everyone at Kenilworth Road will welcome his return, and I'm sure he'll prove a big hit too with supporters over the airwaves.



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THE SQUADS



LUTON TOWN

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



PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 James Bittner | 15 Paul Wotton |
| 2 Kelvin Mellor | 16 Carl McHugh |
| 3 Ben Purrington | 17 Alex Bray |
| 4 Lee Cox | 18 Matthew Lecointe |
| 5 Curtis Nelson | 19 Nathan Thomas |
| 6 Ollie Norburn | 22 Deane Smalley |
| 7 Lewis Alessandra | 23 Luke McCormick |
| 8 Jason Banton | 24 River Allen |
| 9 Reuben Reid | 25 Aaron Bentley |
| 10 Marvin Morgan | 28 Anthony O'Connor |
| 11 Dominic Blizzard | 29 Peter Hartley |
| 14 Tyler Harvey | |

TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Mick Russell



Declan Ford



Nicholas Kinseley



Carl Berry

NEXT UP

v CHELTENHAM TOWN • SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2014 • 3pm • SKY BET LEAGUE 2

