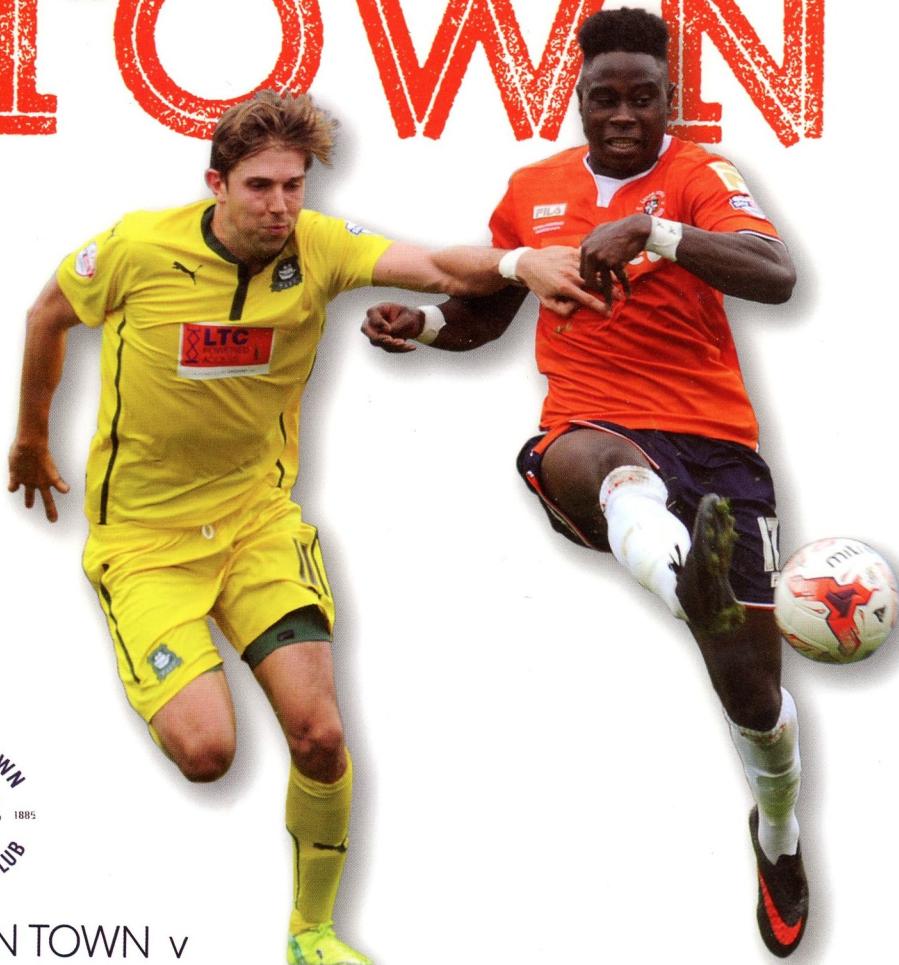


# TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v  
CHELTENHAM TOWN

SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2014

KICK-OFF 3PM

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# welcome TO KENILWORTH ROAD



**“** Welcome back once more to Kenilworth Road for another Football League fixture in League 2 as we welcome all associated with Cheltenham Town to Bedfordshire.

This afternoon we go in search of that elusive first home win back in the League but despite the winless record so far here at Kenilworth Road there can be plenty of positives to take from last Saturday's narrow defeat to Plymouth.

John Still doesn't like to make excuses, although I'm sure he, like you, will be interested to note that the loss was the third successive defeat the Town have had in succession at Kenilworth Road when the game has been chosen for live television coverage. Remember Woking and Braintree last season?

The result aside, it was fantastic for us to welcome the Sky Sports cameras back to Kenilworth Road but we hope that the next time the Hatters are on the box that particular jinx has been lifted.

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

## 4 THE BOSS

John Still looks ahead to today's game



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### LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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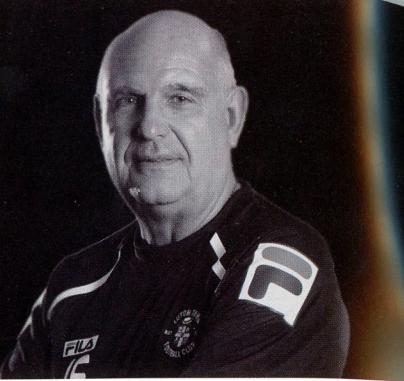
PRINT: Barham Group

DESIGN: Heather Ellis - Relish Design

With thanks to James Brown at Cheltenham Town. Additional artwork by Paine Proffitt.

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

# JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road to you all for what promises to be yet another entertaining Sky Bet League 2 encounter between ourselves and Cheltenham Town.

Today sees us follow on from last Saturday's game against Plymouth Argyle where we found ourselves on the wrong end of a 1-0 defeat. However, I have to say how much I was delighted with the performance and how relatively pleased I've been with the performances so far.

Results have to match performances but at the moment they are not. If you read my notes from this time last year I would probably be saying the same kind of things. One thing I am sure of, though, is the amount of quality football we're playing.

## Better

I feel we're in that groove and I think that resilience is coming back, it has to get better – at both ends of the pitch. It's going to get better with the games, get better with the training and better because of the support we're getting.

As I've already mentioned in my notes this season the support we've received from you has been fantastic – and for that I thank you.

## Winners

We also had a development game this week against Bournemouth where we ran out 5-0 winners. It's good to see that group of players below the first team squad working hard and vying for their chance. It's also great to see the form of those players currently out on loan.

We know we have a talented young group and we think it's important for their development to taste regular first team football.

**“FOOTBALL,  
THOUGH, ISN’T  
PLAYED ON PAPER,  
IT’S PLAYED ON  
THE PITCH AND  
WE’RE LOOKING  
FORWARD TO THIS  
AFTERNOON.”**

They are all doing remarkably well at this present time, so outside of the results of the first team, everything that we're trying to build for the future is going along at the pace we would like.

After today we make a long trip to York on Tuesday night and I'm sure our support on the night will be nothing short of fantastic again.

I think now is a time where I can look back on this first group of games on the whole. I can put them in two corners: I can be quite pleased with some performances and a bit disappointed with one or two others. I think the most noticeable performance of all so far was the first half-an-hour at Accrington.

## STILL QUITE PLEASED

That was probably the only time I can look at the team and say "that wasn't acceptable". We came back strongly to draw but I felt it was a game we should have won and one I think we would have done had we not started so lacklustre.

## Pleased

In general, to be honest, I've been quite pleased. We haven't been getting the results that might reflect the performances but football is football and it happens like that sometimes.

Do I expect us to do better? Yes I do, but I actually expected us to be a bit better last season than we were, but it took a bit of time to happen.

What I have found is that we've upped our work-rate in training without me standing over people, and the tempo has been very good – they are normally the clues you usually look for when aiming for improvement.

I think we had a 20-minute spell in the first half against Plymouth which was as good, or better than, what we played last year. It was great to see and I think on another occasion Jake Howells would have come away scoring one or two goals. It didn't happen that way, so what do we do? We go back to work, we prepare properly, we work properly, we live properly and we play properly and that's what we've got to do this afternoon.

## Enjoy

We know that Cheltenham come here with a good record, they've started the season well. Football, though, isn't played on paper, it's played on the pitch and we're looking forward to this afternoon, we're looking forward to the support we normally get, and we're looking forward to getting three points, so get behind us and enjoy the game.



# BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for our fourth home game of the season –hopefully one where we can begin to start turning things around!

It's hardly ideal to be playing the side that's carrying all before them, second in the table and unbeaten, but congratulations to Cheltenham Town on such a cracking start and welcome to all from Whaddon Road today.

I know we are all bitterly disappointed at the way results have gone since our fine start at Carlisle, but I think we are all agreed that we played well against Plymouth Argyle last weekend and created some really decent chances in the first half. Had we taken just one I am sure it would have done wonders for our confidence and we'd have gone on to win the game.

The Plymouth goal was a good one from their point of view but dreadful from ours and a real sickener. Even so, there were loads of encouraging signs and I am confident the side will start to click very soon – just as we did last season after a similarly slow start.

By the way, what is it about us and home games on television? We've lost the last three and it's extremely annoying. Other people don't know how good we can be, but I suppose it might give other clubs a false sense of security! Excellent coverage from Sky Sports, though, so thanks to them for that.

It was good to see some great Luton heroes from days gone by at the Plymouth game, such as Mick Harford, Brian Stein, Andy King and our club chaplain Alan West. We have another name with us today who will bring back some fond memories for our more 'experienced' fans. We're joined by former striker Don Givens whom I remember mostly for his terrific partnership up front with Malcolm Macdonald.

Don joined us in 1970, during the Alec Stock/ Harry Haslam era, and what a coup it was for Luton Town.

He'd been an aspiring young footballer at Manchester United where he rubbed shoulders on a daily basis with the likes of George Best, Bobby Charlton and Denis Law. His manager was the great Matt Busby.

I think it was a bit of a shock for him when he was allowed to leave Old Trafford after playing only a handful of games following his arrival from the Republic of Ireland, but he soon settled with his wife Lynne in Luton and loved his time here.

I remember Don as a subtle, intelligent player who could really spot a pass and was lethal in the air. His combination with Supermac in October 1970 when we thrashed Sheffield Wednesday 5-1 at Hillsborough is one of my favourite matches of all time. Don scored two, Malcolm nabbed a hat-trick. It was a magical afternoon for Hatters fans.

After Luton, Don had great success at QPR, enjoyed some happy times with Neuchatel Xamax in Switzerland and notched up a total of 56 caps for the Republic.

He scored a hat-trick against the USSR. He has since worked in a coaching or scouting capacity for the Republic for some 14 years and still does.

Another welcome today to the latest man to join our playing ranks, Nathan Doyle. Nathan is a 27-year-old midfielder who has played for Derby County, Hull City and, most recently, Bradford City. He comes with a fine reputation and has been highly rated by John Still for some time. Nathan, we wish you a long and successful career here at Kenilworth Road.

You may have seen the result of our Tuesday game against Bournemouth in the Final Third Development League. A thumping 5-0 which included a hat-trick from Jim Stevenson which will have done wonders for his confidence. Congratulations, Jim, and to the whole team.

It was a great lift for us all that Jonathan Smith played the full 90 minutes – and on full throttle. It is so good to have him available once more. It was also good last weekend to see Alex Lawless fit and fired up again!

There are so many encouraging signs around the place at the moment that I can't believe we won't start picking up points very soon. Shrewsbury, I grant you, was grim, but many aspects of the Plymouth game last weekend: the various individuals picking up form again and the return of injured players all bodes well. I can assure you the spirit in the dressing room is excellent and the desire burns stronger than ever.

Asa Hall may well be playing for Cheltenham today and I will always remember that he scored one of the penalties that took us to the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy back in 2009 and, of course, he played a major part in our win on that glorious day at Wembley.

Now we're in it again, playing Crawley at home early next month. Are we still technically the holders? We are, as far as I am concerned, having never lost it and having never had the chance to defend it!

As always, thanks to all of you wonderful fans for your magnificent support, home and away. Even when things have been going against us you have shouted encouragement – and that took some doing at Shrewsbury. It's greatly appreciated by all the players and, with any luck, it will finally pay dividends today.

Bye for now.



## 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



The Town are back to defend the Johnstone's Paint Trophy when Crawley come to Kenilworth Road on 7th October

# Can't squeeze any more in?

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# MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



Last week's defeat at home to Plymouth was tough to take after dominating the game for such long periods.

Our first half performance, in particular, was extremely encouraging. We played some terrific football, reminiscent of some of the play last season, and created three or four excellent chances.

However, as we have found out in our first six matches this season, you have to be ruthless at this level. That has been one of the big differences we have found now we're up a level and once more last weekend's result is another lesson learned.

Goals change games, and had we taken one of those first-half chances I honestly think we would have gone on to win that game very comfortably.

#### Confident

Despite the recent results, the mood in the camp is good and we're confident that a little bit of luck will come our way as we bid to turn the corner. In this game, though, you have to make your own luck and that will only come through hard work.

We had a similarly poor start to last season but we must not forget that we're playing a better standard of opposition now against players who have been used to playing at this level and above for some time.

Nobody in the dressing room is panicking, and why should we be? I know, and so does the management, that our squad has the ability and experience to do well in this division. We haven't quite found our stride yet but as I've already said, the signs were certainly there last Saturday against Plymouth.

After last season's success, I have to admit it has been a bit of a shock to the system being on the end of disappointing results. I'm not used to it but as captain and a senior professional it is my job to ensure those results improve and help my team-mates.

I take every dropped point personally. I'll go home, turn my phone off and not speak to anyone for days.

But, come Monday and we're back in training, I'm on it again and this week has been another really positive week.

"Nobody in the dressing room is panicking, and why should we be? I know, and so does the management, that our squad has the ability and experience to do well in this division."

I believe this afternoon we are capable of recording a good result which I hope can be the start of a decent run.

Cheltenham have started the season very well and will make it very tough for us today. They are yet to taste defeat and have the best defensive record in the league so far – keeping four clean sheets in the process. They had a disappointing season last year but they arrive here this afternoon in second place. Mark Yates is a good manager and I've always found it difficult playing his teams down the years, especially during his time at Kidderminster.

But enough about the opposition, we are focused on our game. We have worked hard over the last 12 months to ensure Luton Town is a Football League club. It is great to see this club back where it belongs but we remain confident that we can take it further up the divisions. It might not look that way looking at the league table today, but it is early days.

#### Belief

Our home form last year was incredible and it's strange that we've already lost twice this season. Your support helped us through the difficult times last season – remember Lincoln and Halifax at home when we were trailing in those games? I'm not saying this for the sake of saying it, but we got through and won those matches with your backing and belief.

We're all here together for one reason: to make this club successful, so enjoy the game, please stay with us and get behind us this afternoon.



# WELCOME NATHAN!

The Hatters confirmed the signing of former England youth international midfielder Nathan Doyle on Thursday.

The 27-year-old has joined the Town on a one-year contract after spending the previous two seasons playing regularly for Bradford City, including 39 appearances in League 1 last term.

The all-action midfielder player helped the Bantams to promotion in 2012/13 – a unique season for the Yorkshire club saw that Doyle twice play at Wembley. He started in City's famous League Cup final appearance against Swansea before then playing a starring role in Bradford's League 2 Play-Off final win over Northampton – in which he set-up the first goal.



Town boss John Still said: "Nathan is a top quality player and I think we're very fortunate to be able to bring him to Kenilworth Road.

"He's only 27 but played over 250 games – most of them in the Championship, which underlines his ability.

"He barely missed a game for Bradford last season and was a driving force behind their success the season before last. He's got masses of big-game experience and knows what it takes to get out of League 2.

"He's a very good player, capable of playing in a number of positions, but he's a central midfielder who can pass, create and break-up play. We're confident he can be a great success with us."

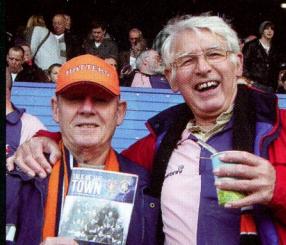
Doyle will wear squad number 26 and you can read more from him on pages 46 and 47.

## REST IN PEACE MIKE WAPLES

It is with sadness that we report the death of long-standing Town supporter Mike Waples.

Mike was a Hatters fan for over 65 years and followed the club home and away and was a season ticket holder in the Main Stand.

Daughter Jenny, herself a season ticket holder who went with her father to matches said: "He would always talk about being passed to the front of the crowd as a small child to sit around the touchline, and he remembered fondly the teams of the 1950s and 60s. We are so glad he was there to see Luton get back into the Football League."



Mike is pictured here together with his good friend Ken. Everyone at Luton Town would like to offer our condolences to all of Mike's family and friends at this sad time.

## New shirts now back in stock

A new batch of this season's replica shirts are now available in the club shop and to buy online.

All pre-orders of shirts were dispatched to supporters on Wednesday. To buy new shirts and merchandise online, check out our new-look webstore at [www.hattersworld.co.uk](http://www.hattersworld.co.uk).

## Home JPT draw

The Hatters have been handed a home tie against League 1 side Crawley Town in the second round of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

The game will take place at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday 7th October, and will be the Town's first match in the competition since lifting the trophy at Wembley in 2009.

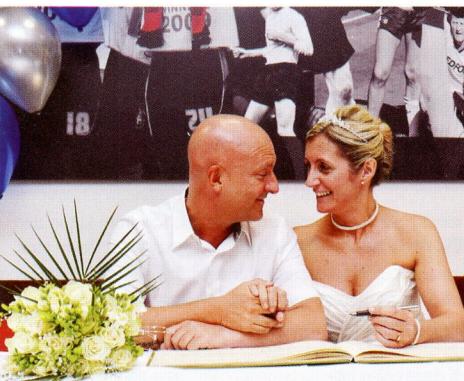
Ticket prices for this match are as follows: £10 adults, £7 young adults and seniors, £5 golden seniors, £3 juniors, £1 youths.

## Tying the knot in Town!

History was made at Kenilworth Road on 2nd August when two Town supporters tied the knot inside the Eric Morecambe lounge prior to the Hatters' pre-season friendly with Peterborough.

Pamela Day and Tony Horne were the first couple to be wed at the club and, as these pictures show, Town boss John Still was on hand to offer his congratulations!

The Eric has held a marriage licence for the past six months and another wedding is due to take place at the club next summer. If you're a Town fan and are interested in doing the same, contact the commercial department on 01582 411622.



Photographs by Richard Hedge [www.rmhphotography.co.uk](http://www.rmhphotography.co.uk)



## Luton-R-Back Travel

A new away travel club aimed at Hatters supporters living in Bedford, Milton Keynes, Rushden and Biggleswade launches for next week's trip to Cambridge United.

Luton-R-Back Travel Club is a non-profit organisation whose profits will serve the club. Luton-R-Back will be running a coach to the game at the Abbey Stadium costing £12 for adults and £9 concessions.

The pick-up points run from the Bedford/Elstow park and ride, Skinnlers Hill in Rushden, the Milton Keynes coach park by John Lewis and Biggleswade bus station.

Town fans living near to these pick-up points who fancy subsidised away travel can contact Luton-R-Back co-ordinator Paul Sampson on 07883 020388.

For more information you can visit their website at [www.lutonrbacktravelclub.com](http://www.lutonrbacktravelclub.com).

## Duo head out on loan

Winger Kyan Isaac and defender Mark Onyemah have joined Oxford City and Thurrock on loan respectively.

Isaac, who scored in the Town development squad's 2-2 draw with Barnet last weekend, joins Oxford City - a former club of his - for three months. Isaac scored two goals on his debut in their 7-2 win at Boston on Tuesday.

Left-back Onyemah, meanwhile, has rejoined Thurrock, the club he signed from for the Hatters this summer, for one month.

The current number of Town players now on-loan at other clubs is 11, with Ricky Miller and Solomon Taiwo (both Dover), Ian Rees and Zane Banton (both Biggleswade), Charlie Smith (Hitchin), Danny Fitzsimons (Bishops Stortford), Brett Longden (Maidenhead), Dave Martin (Bristol Rovers) and Lee Angol (Boreham Wood) also out on-loan.

# let's go



AFTER TWO SUCCESSIVE HOME GAMES AT KENILWORTH ROAD, THE TOWN HIT THE ROAD TWICE IN THE NEXT 10 DAYS WITH TRIPS TO YORK CITY AND CAMBRIDGE UNITED

## YORK CITY



**WHO?** York City, aka the Minstermen, from York, Yorkshire, England. City are managed by Nigel Worthington and last season he guided the club to a seventh place finish in League 2. York would go onto lose to Fleetwood, the eventual Play-Off winners, in the semi-finals.

**WHERE?** Bootham Crescent is 177 miles from the Maple Road car park. Those familiar with Bootham Crescent will know the terracing is open to the elements behind the goal, whilst the away seating section is covered to the side of the pitch with some iffy views of the pitch (especially towards the back).

**BOB IT.** York's a lovely place and definitely worth a day trip, but a Tuesday night is probably not the best time to check out the Jorvik Centre and cathedral. With trains unlikely to get you home (unless you want to leave at half-time), your best bet is to book with the Bobbers Travel Club. They leave Luton train station bus stop LS12 at 2pm with the fare £29 for adults and £26 for concessions.

**THE LAST TIME.** Over 30,000 Town supporters would walk away from Wembley disappointed the last time they saw the Hatters play York. The Minstermen fought back from conceding Andre Gray's early goal in the 2012 Conference Play-Off final to win promotion with Matty Blair contentious winner securing a 2-1 win for Gary Mills' side.

**BOOTHAM GLOOM.** The Hatters' recent record from their trips to York have been miserable to say the very least. The Town haven't even scored in their past five visits to Bootham Crescent – losing the last four. In total the Hatters have won three of their 13 trips to York.

**CLUB CONNECTIONS.** Former York midfielders Alex Lawless and Jonathan Smith will be hoping to be fit for the trip to Bootham Crescent. Lawless made 58 appearances for City, whilst Smith played 57 times for the Minstermen.

## CAMBRIDGE UNITED



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

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

**HOW TO GET THERE.** Like York, Cambridge is also a damn nice city, so why not take time before or after to explore what the streets have to offer. There again, you could just take it easy, put your feet up and let a coach driver take you there. The Bobbers leave at midday (£17/15) whilst newly formed LutonRBack travel are also running a coach – more information can be found on page 11.

**HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?** Oh yes, definitely. There were no less than four meetings last season with the two clubs also meeting in the FA Trophy. Although the Town finished 19 points clear of United, the Hatters didn't win any of those four matches. The last Town win at the Abbey Stadium in League competition came in the epic 4-3 victory in 2009 (Hatters 2-0 down and down to 10 men) but forget that, who'll ever forget Mark Cullen's last-minute equaliser there last March?

**OLD BOYS NETWORK.** Cambridge manager Richard Money and coach Alan Neilson both spent time playing and managing the Town. United also have former Hatter Greg Taylor in their ranks, whilst the Town's Luke Guttridge spent five years at the Abbey Stadium.

# tickets please



## 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 general sale at the ticket office and now online until 2pm on Monday 15th September.

**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](mailto: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, and season ticket holders, at one per person.

Any remaining tickets will be available online from 7pm tonight, 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](mailto: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.



## LUTON TOWN v OXFORD UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE 2



SATURDAY 27TH 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.

# SPEAKING Commercially

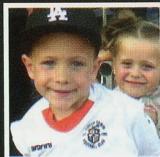
WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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

A number of opportunities are still available for home games for the rest of the season, including matchball sponsorship for a number of games.

We only have three match sponsorship packages left, too. Our Sky Bet League 2 matches with Newport County, on 20th December, and Accrington Stanley, on 28th February are available as is our home Johnstone's Paint Trophy tie with Crawley Town on 7th October. Remember if you're interested in any of these please do get in touch with me at the club.

## TONIGHT'S MASCOT



### CHARLIE DOWLING

It is with great pleasure that we welcome nine-year-old Charlie Dowling from Houghton Regis as our mascot for this afternoon's game.

Charlie attends Chantry Primary Academy and his hobbies evolve solely around playing and watching football. Charlie's two favourite Hatters players are goalkeeper Mark Tyler and midfielder Alex Lawless, and he will get the chance to meet both of them in the dressing room prior to kick-off, before leading the teams out on to the pitch. We hope you have a great day with us, Charlie.

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Stonegate Pub Company is a proud supporter of Luton Town and wishes them success for the 2014/15 season. For more information on your nearest Stonegate Pub visit [www.stonegatepubs.com](http://www.stonegatepubs.com).

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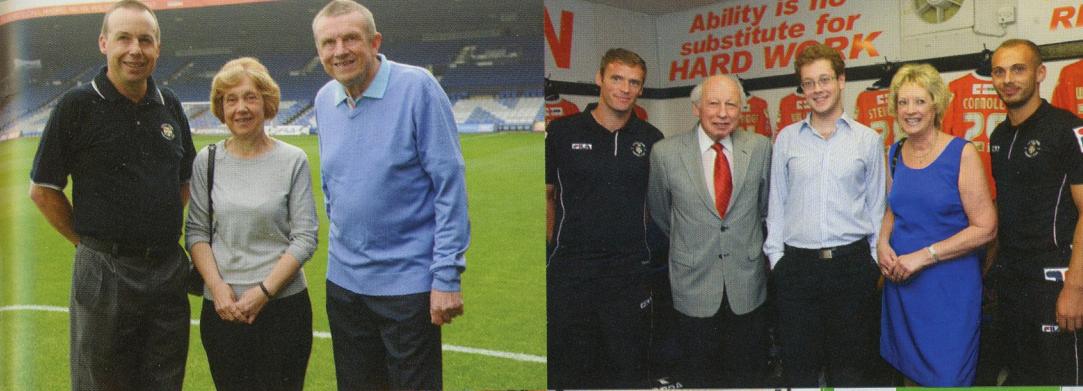
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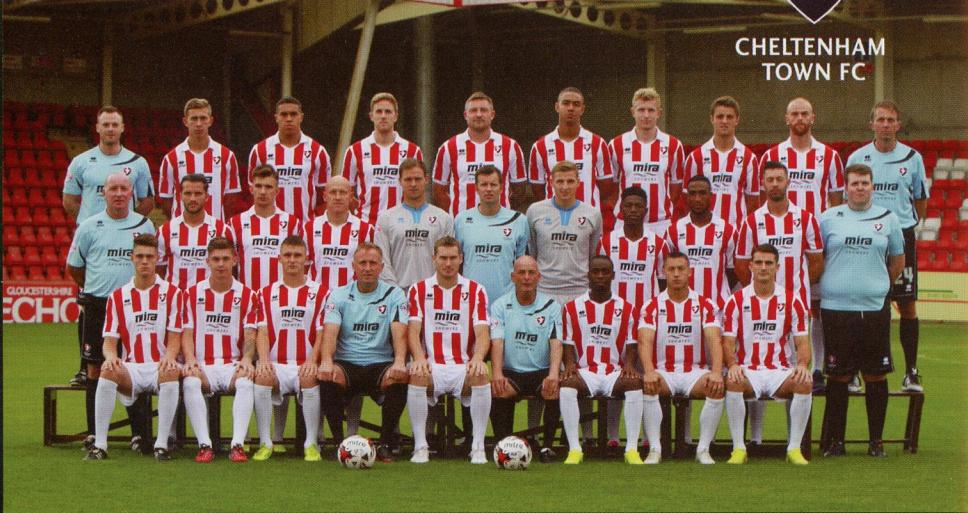
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# welcome

## CHEL滕HAM TOWN



CHEL滕HAM  
TOWN FC



It is with great pleasure that we welcome everybody associated with Cheltenham Town to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

It has been six years since the two sides last met in League 1 in 2007/08 when a Sam Parkin goal gave the Town a point in a 1-1 draw – and a lot has happened since the clubs last crossed swords.

Cheltenham were relegated from League 1 the following campaign as the Town tumbled out of the Football League and into the Conference. The Robins narrowly avoided following the Hatters in 2009/10, finishing two places above the League 2 trapdoor.

After a 17th-place finish the following season the Robins made successive appearances in the Play-Offs. In 2011/12 the Robins made it all the way to the final but lost to Crewe – who finished seventh – at Wembley. The following campaign saw Yates' side fall at the first hurdle, losing to a Luke Guttridge-inspired Northampton.

The Robins' 17th-place finish last term made them one of the pundits' and bookmakers' outsiders for promotion this term. However, Yates' side have started the season well and arrive at Kenilworth Road in second place following an unbeaten start to the campaign.

An opening day victory at Bury was followed by a 2-1 home victory over Accrington and a 0-0 draw at Carlisle

was preceded by an incredible comeback at Tranmere. Trailing 2-0 at the break, the Robins hit back in the second half to score three times and grab all three points.

A late goal a fortnight ago saw Yates' side record a 1-0 win over Hartlepool and last weekend's goalless draw at Morecambe saw Cheltenham briefly top the table – until Burton's victory over Portsmouth 24 hours later.

After the point at Burton, Yates said: "To stand firm like we did and keep another clean sheet - we wouldn't have done that last year. We'd have caved in. They're a little bit disappointed that they haven't won it, but a draw's a fair result. While it was a 0-0, it was still entertainment right until the final whistle."

Yates has pieced together a useful side, combining youth and experience to good effect, as well as good use of the loan market. The Robins' current leading goalscorer is on-loan midfielder Koby Arthur, and the highly-rated youngster has netted three goals from midfield.

With four clean sheets and just three goals conceded in their opening six games, the Robins visit Bedfordshire with the best defensive record in the division.

The Hatters have scored just four goals – only Exeter have scored less – so this afternoon promises to be an intriguing encounter with the Town still looking to record their first home win back in the Football League following promotion last term.

# in opposition

OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM WHADDON ROAD

### ► MANAGER



**MARK YATES.** The boss. Took over at Whaddon Road in 2009 having spent three years in charge at Kidderminster. Served the Robins and Harriers as a player, making over 250 appearances for both clubs as a midfielder.

### ► GOALKEEPERS

**TREVOR CARSON.** Former Sunderland trainee goalkeeper who signed this summer following his departure from Bury. Has enjoyed loan spells at Chesterfield, Lincoln, Brentford and Hull and has also spent time at Portsmouth.

**MATTHEW GOULD.** Young stopper and grandson of former Cheltenham boss Bobby. Played football in Australia and New Zealand prior to his arrival at Whaddon Road.

### ► DEFENDERS

**TROY BROWN.** Former Fulham and Ipswich defender and Wales Under-21 international who signed for the Robins in June 2013 after leaving Aldershot. Has spent time with Rotherham.

**MATT TAYLOR.** Summer arrival from Bradford City who began as a trainee at Everton before various spells in non-league before moving to the League with Exeter. Left for Charlton in 2011 before joining Bradford.

**LEE VAUGHAN.** Tenacious and pacey right-back who was reunited with Mark Yates this summer after joining from Kidderminster. Began his career at Walsall before moving to Telford and then to Kiddy.

**STEVE ELLIOTT.** Powerful centre-half who arrived in 2010 and is currently player/coach. Started his career at Derby before moving to Bristol Rovers who he went onto play over 200 times for.

**JACK DEAMAN.** Young defender who signed for the Robins this summer after a successful trial. London-born, he began his career at Birmingham.

**PAUL BLACK.** Former Oldham, Mansfield and Preston left-back who joined Cheltenham this summer on a one-year deal. Has also enjoyed loan spells at Barrow and Carlisle.

**CRAIG BRAHAM-BARRETT.** Left-back who penned a permanent deal with the Robins last season having impressed in a loan spell from Macclesfield. Started his career at Charlton but first made his name with several clubs in non-league.

### ► MIDFIELDERS

**ASA HALL.** No stranger to Kenilworth Road, Asa spent two seasons with the Hatters and won the JPT in 2009. Left the Hatters to join Oxford in 2010 but joined Cheltenham from Shrewsbury this summer.

**HARRY WILLIAMS.** Tricky winger who arrived at Whaddon Road this summer on a one-year deal after leaving Tamworth. Turned pro with Blackburn before joining Falkirk and then Notts County.

**JASON TAYLOR.** Combative central midfielder who signed in January 2013 from Rotherham. Started out at Oldham before spells with Stockport and on loan at Rochdale.

**MATT RICHARDS.** Former Ipswich and England youth international who also spent three loan spells at Brighton. Joined Walsall in 2009 prior to joining Cheltenham in the summer of 2013.

**OMARI STERLING-JAMES.** Young Birmingham-born winger who signed a six-month deal in the summer. Spent last season with Redditch United, scoring 13 goals.

**JORDAN WYNTER.** Arsenal academy graduate who signed on an initial one month's loan from Bristol City in August. Scored on his Cheltenham debut in a 3-2 win at Tranmere.

**KOBY ARTHUR.** Ghanian midfielder on a six-month loan from Birmingham. Capable of playing anywhere across midfield he was the Blues' academy player of the year in 2013.

### ► STRIKERS

**TERRY GORNELL.** July 2013 arrival having left Rochdale. Started his career with Tranmere before he moved to Shrewsbury.

**JOHN MARQUIS.** Striker who joined the Robins on an initial month's loan from Millwall in August. Came through the Lions' academy and has enjoyed loan spells at Torquay, Portsmouth and Northampton.

**BYRON HARRISON.** Last season's top goalscorer and players' player and supporters' player of the year who signed in January 2013 for an undisclosed fee from AFC Wimbledon.

**BOBBIE DALE.** First year professional who has risen through the academy at Whaddon Road having impressed during his time in the youth team.

# FROM THE OAK ROAD

The Robins are flying high in this fledgling League 2 season and Cheltenham fan **Peter Fielding** is revelling in their rejuvenation.

**TALK OF THE TOWN:** Tell us about the start to the season the Robins have made. How have your summer signings settled in? Are you pleased with your points return so far?

**PETER:** After being tipped by many to be embroiled in a relegation battle this season, Mark Yates and his players have so far proved everyone wrong. After a fantastic opening day win against title favourites Bury, we've gone from strength-to-strength, with the feel-good-factor certainly having returned to the club. Yates has signed hungry players with a point to prove and his summer transfer policy has paid dividends. The spirit and desire within the squad has transformed us into formidable opposition for any side in this division and we may just prove people wrong.

**TOTT:** Who are the stars of this Cheltenham side?

**PETER:** Goalkeeper Trevor Carson has taken Whaddon Road by storm since signing in the summer, with his committed and athletic displays impressing supporters. Veteran defenders Steve Elliott and Matt Taylor have been rocks so far while the passion of right-back Lee Vaughan has been terrific.

Striker Byron Harrison will be looking to add to last season's haul of 15 goals, while Millwall loanee John Marquis looks a threat in and around the penalty area. Also look out for super-sub Koby Arthur, who has scored some vital goals from the bench so far this season.



The Birmingham City loanee has been a real hit with supporters and is attracting plenty of attention from other clubs.

**TOTT:** Cheltenham's 4-2 win over the Hatters at Kenilworth Road in the FA Cup in 2011 was the last meeting between the sides. Luton have certainly progressed since then – but have Cheltenham?

**PETER:** 2011/12 was one of our most memorable seasons in recent years, as we went on to face Tottenham Hotspur in the next round of the cup before reaching the Play-Off final at Wembley.

Since then, a certain stagnation has occurred at the club, with attitudes declining on the pitch and in the stands. This came to a head last season after we finished 17th.

This summer has proved to be a turning point, however, with a rejuvenated Mark Yates, assisted by new coach Shaun North, winning supporters back almost instantly.

**TOTT:** What's the best game involving Cheltenham Town you've ever seen? What happened and why was it special?

**PETER:** We've had plenty of memorable days since our promotion into the Football League back in 1999, including two promotions into League 1, a number of money-spinning cup ties, and of course doing the double against Leeds United. The most special, however, has to be our 6-5 victory against Burton Albion back in 2010. Having been 2-0 down at half-time, 4-2 behind with 20 minutes to go, and then 5-3 down just five minutes



Trevor Carson



Whaddon Road, the Robins' nest

from time, goals from Michael Pook and Justin Richards in 87th and 90th minutes drew the game level. It didn't end there, however, as Pook struck four minutes into stoppage time to complete his hat-trick and one of the most incredible comebacks in Football League history. Many a Robins supporter has a copy of the match on DVD!

**TOTT:** What are the club's ambitions for this campaign?

**PETER:** After a deeply disappointing 2013/14 season, we didn't go into this season with any firm expectations. Initially, our ambition was not to be involved in a relegation battle, however after our immensely positive start, expectation is building, with a Play-Off push by no means unachievable. We have a relatively small budget for the division, while our fan-base is sadly not one of the biggest. That being said, we often enjoy our 'underdog' status and are ready to surprise teams.

**TOTT:** Who will win promotion from League 2 this season? And what's your prediction for today's game?

**PETER:** League 2 will prove difficult to call this season,

however I think the four teams to go up will be Portsmouth, Bury, Shrewsbury and Southend. I wouldn't rule out Luton or Cheltenham to be in and around the top seven, however. From a Robins' point-of-view, this afternoon's game will be a tough one, however, if our defence is on song and we take our chances, I feel we can come away with at least a point, if not three. I'll go with 2-2.

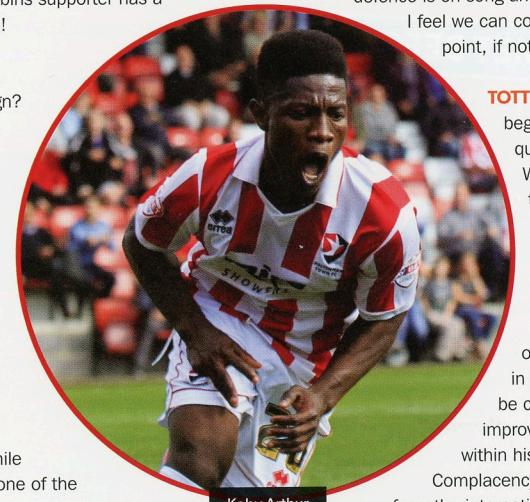
**TOTT:** England have now begun their Euro 2016 qualifying campaign.

What do England need to do between now and the tournament kicking off to improve on their showing in Brazil?

**PETER:** The key for Roy Hodgson is to work out a strongest eleven, in order that there can be consistency, and thus improved tactical cohesion within his side.

Complacency needs to be eradicated from the international set-up, while new captain Wayne Rooney will have to act

as a role-model in order to fill the void left by elder statesmen like Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard. Our youngsters are the key, so in many respects we need to keep the babies, if not the bathwater, and strengthen the patriotism and pride of supporters.



Koby Arthur

# A HATTER...

## AND A ROBIN

Both clubs have a player on their books this afternoon that have previously been with the opposition.

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.

Cheltenham also have an ex-Hatter in their ranks in the shape of Asa Hall, who signed for the Robins this summer.

The midfielder joined the Town in 2008 and went on to make 89 appearances and score 16 goals during his time at Kenilworth Road.

Hall made his Town debut in the 3-1 home defeat to Port Vale at the start of the minus 30 season and was a regular that campaign which also saw the former Shrewsbury man pick up a Johnstone's Paint



Trophy winners' medal. His last appearance in Luton colours was as a substitute in the 1-0 Play-Off semi-final second leg defeat to York before he left Kenilworth Road and joined Oxford.

Lloyd Owusu was another player to represent 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.

## HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

This afternoon will be the eighth meeting between the clubs and the first in the Football League since 2008.

The Town and the Robins first met in 2001/02. The previous season had seen the Hatters relegated from Division Two (now League 1) whilst Cheltenham were about to start their third season in the League after winning the Conference title in 1998/99.

The two clubs met at Kenilworth Road in August 2001 for the second game of the season and a crowd of 6,177 watched the Town ease into a two-goal lead thanks to two goals in the space of eight first-half minutes from Paul Hughes and Carl Griffiths. The Robins, though, hit back in the second half through Neil Howarth. After Kevin Nicholls was sent-off Mike Duff hit the post for Cheltenham but the Town hung on.

Later that season, for the return in early January 2002, 5,026 squeezed into Whaddon Road to see the two clubs fight out a 1-1 draw with Steve Howard cancelling out Tony Naylor's first-half wonder strike for the Robins. The Town would finish the campaign as runners-up whilst Cheltenham joined the Hatters in winning promotion after beating Rushden & Diamonds in the Play-Off final.

The following season, with both clubs now in Division 2 (today's League 1), goals from Chris Coyne and Andrew Fotiadis helped the Hatters to a 2-1 win at Kenilworth Road in October 2002.

In the return at Whaddon Road in April 2003, Cheltenham were on the verge of relegation whilst the Town's chances of the Play-Offs were remote, and the 2-2 draw did nothing for either side's chances. Paul Hughes and Adrian Forbes scored the Hatters' goals.

It wasn't until the 2007/08 season that both clubs would meet again. Cheltenham recorded their first victory over the Hatters in December 2007, a 1-0 win at Whaddon Road.

In the return fixture at Kenilworth Road in March the Town were staring relegation full in the face after suffering a 10-point deduction, and a 1-1 draw with the Robins hardly improved the Hatters' chances of escaping the drop despite Sam Parkin's goal.

The two sides last met in the FA Cup three seasons ago with the Robins winning 4-2 at Kenilworth Road in an entertaining second round tie. Aaron O'Connor scored twice for the Town but goals from Daryl Duffy, Marlon Pack, Luke Summerfield and Russell Penn secured the Robins' passage to the third round which saw them draw a trip to Tottenham Hotspur.

# back to the future

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

### ► 2001/02 PLAY-OFF WINNERS

**STEVE BOOK:** England Semi-Pro international goalkeeper who played 172 League games, joining Swindon in August 2004, then Cirencester and Bristol Rovers. He is now Cheltenham's goalkeeping coach.

**ANTHONY GRIFFIN:** Young right-back who scored once in 96 League games before joining Dorchester Town in June 2004, then Lymington & New Milton on loan, settling back in his native Bournemouth.

**JAMIE VICTORY:** England Semi-Pro international who left in May 2007. He has since worked in radiography at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and is now Cheltenham's head of Academy coaching.

**LEE WILLIAMS:** Former England Youth international who later played for Telford, Bromsgrove, Hednesford, Stourport Swifts, Halesowen, Rushall and Stourbridge, becoming Leamington's assistant-boss.

**RICHARD WALKER:** Central defender who scored once in 70 League outings before injury ended his career in September 2003. He is now business sales manager for a Lexus dealership in Nottingham.

**MICHAEL DUFF:** Defender who netted 12 goals in 201 League games prior to joining Burnley in July 2004. The Northern Ireland international helped them to win promotion to the top-flight in 2008/09.

**JOHN FINNIGAN:** Midfielder who reunited with Mark Yates at Kidderminster Harriers in June 2009. Later with Bishop's Cleeve and Shortwood, he is now Academy manager at Kidderminster College.

**MARTIN DEVANEY:** Midfielder who netted 37 goals in 203 League games for hometown Cheltenham before moving to Watford in July 2005. He has since appeared for Barnsley and Tramtree Rovers.

**JULIAN ALSOP:** Top scorer who later played for Oxford United, Northampton Town, Forest Green Rovers, Tamworth, Newport County, Cirencester, Cheltenham again, Bishop's Cleeve and Carmarthen.

**TONY NAYLOR:** Striker who netted 18 goals in 74 League games before joining Telford United in June 2003. Briefly rejoining Port Vale, he became Ashton United's player-boss, settling in Stoke-on-Trent.

**MARK YATES:** England Semi-Pro international midfielder who rejoined Kidderminster Harriers in February 2004. He became their manager, then returned to Cheltenham as manager in December 2009.

### ► 2005/06 PLAY-OFF WINNERS

**SHANE HIGGS:** Goalkeeper who was twice ever-present and made 237 League appearances before moving to Leeds United in July 2009. He later joined Northampton Town and has since become an artist.

**JERRY GILL:** England Semi-Pro right-back who was later with Forest Green Rovers and Redditch United. He managed Weymouth and has since been an Academy coach at Kidderminster and now Norwich.

**CRAIG ARMSTRONG:** Later with Gillingham, Cheltenham again, Burton Albion, Kidderminster, Mansfield, Forest Green Rovers, Eastwood Town, Boston United and Hucknall, he then managed Quorn.

**GRANT McCANN:** Northern Ireland international midfielder who netted 35 goals in 193 League games before moving to Barnsley in November 2006, then Scunthorpe United and now Peterborough United.

**GAVIN CAINES:** Central defender who scored seven times in 243 League games before joining Kidderminster Harriers in June 2009, then Forest Green Rovers, Eastwood Town and now Rushall Olympic. Spent a short loan spell at Luton but never played.

**SHANE DUFF:** Northern Ireland Under-21 central defender who had a testimonial season in 2009-10. He scored twice in 193 League games, joining Bradford City in July 2010 where injury ended his career.

**ASHLEY VINCENT:** Winger who netted eight goals in 110 League games before joining Colchester United in March 2009, reuniting with John Ward, then Port Vale, returning to Cheltenham in July 2013.

**JOHN FINNIGAN:** Midfielder who reunited with Mark Yates at Kidderminster Harriers in June 2009. Later with Bishop's Cleeve and Shortwood, he is now Academy manager at Kidderminster College.

**STEVE GILLESPIE:** Striker who netted 29 goals in 86 League outings before joining Colchester United in July 2008, then Fleetwood Town. He reunited with John Ward at Bristol Rovers in February 2014.

**STEVE GUINAN:** England Semi-Pro striker who scored the play-off final winner. Later with Hereford United again, Northampton, Forest Green Rovers and Kidderminster where now Academy manager.

**BRIAN WILSON:** Winger who netted 15 goals in 135 League outings before moving to Bristol City in January 2007. He then reunited with John Ward at Colchester United and was ever-present in 2011/12.

# TOWN 0-1 PLYMOUTH

BLIZZARD 68



Substitute Ross Lafayette goes for goal



## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town's wait for a first win in the Football League at Kenilworth Road goes on, as a second half goal from Dominic Blizzard gave Plymouth the points.

Luke Guttridge tested Argyle goalkeeper Luke McCormick as early as the third minute when his free-kick – heading for the top corner – was parried away by the visitors' stopper.

Luke Rooney swept over a first-time shot following Jake Howells' left-wing cross on 10 minutes before Plymouth almost took the lead on 17 minutes when Lewis Alessandra raced clear of the Town defence but could only shoot straight at Mark Tyler.

McCormick then prevented Howells from slotting home after a superb through-ball from Guttridge before the Argyle keeper made an even better save to deny Howells shortly before half-time.

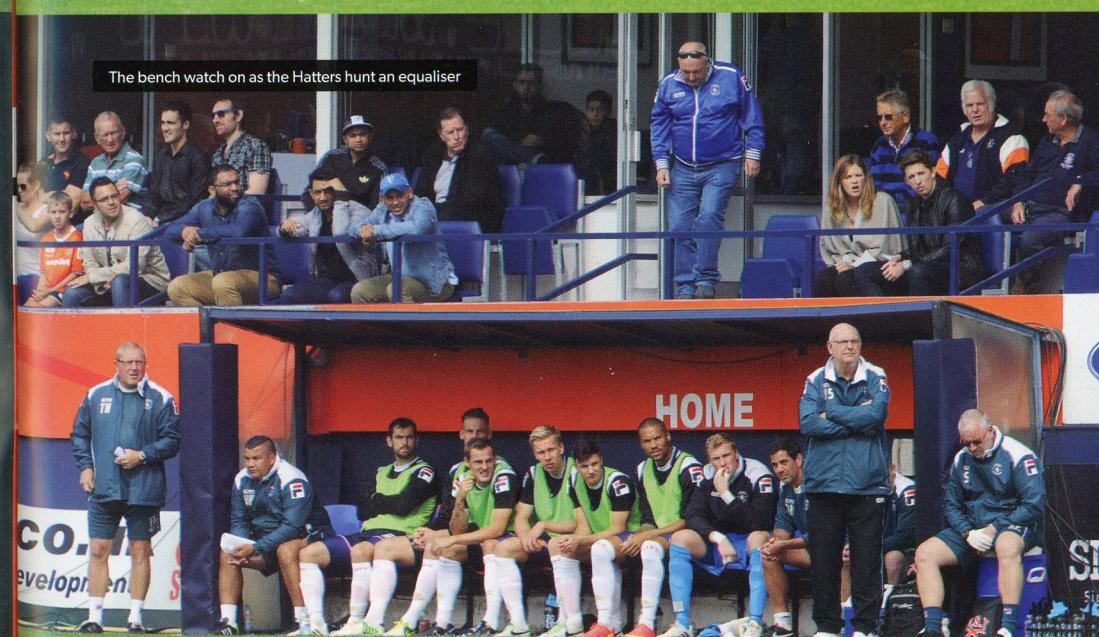
But the Hatters' failure to take their chances came back to haunt them midway through the second half when Argyle took the lead when Blizzard tip-toed through the Town defence to arrow a low shot past Tyler.

John Still introduced Alex Lawless and Ross Lafayette in the final 20 minutes as the Town hunted an equaliser but Argyle kept the Town at bay to bag all three points.

Jake Howells shields the ball



The bench watch on as the Hatters hunt an equaliser



**TOWN:** Tyler; Connolly, Griffiths, McNulty, Lacey; Howells (sub Lawless 69), Drury (sub Stevenson 79), Ruddock Mpanzu, Rooney, Guttridge, Cullen (sub Lafayette 71). **SUBS NOT USED:** Smith, Wall, Wilkinson, Justham.



Mark Cullen keeps his eyes on the ball



The Town attack a late corner



### STILL'S VERDICT:

“I was pleased with how we played in the first half. Some of the football we played was some of the best we've had all season – and last year to some extent. It was a bit more even in the second half, but if you watched our first-half performance we should have done enough to win. Our players were disappointed at half-time. They felt there was a sending off in the first few minutes for handball.”



Alex Lacey battles with Reuben Reid



Scott Griffiths in hair-raising action

### LEAGUE POSITION

19

### ATTENDANCE

7,864

527 Visitors



### HOW IT HAPPENED

3' Ooooooh, Guttridge curls a devilish free-kick towards the top corner, parried away well by McCormick. Corner.

13' Ooooooh, Town threaten again. McNulty and Drury work the play out to Griffiths on the left, Howells' cross met by Rooney shot, just over.

17' Big chance for Argyle, Alessandra bursts clean through on goal but his shot is poor and straight at Tyler. Let off for the Town. 0-0.

29' Another super Town move, Guttridge's sublime pass cuts Argyle open, Howells shot rolls agonisingly wide. Unlucky. Still 0-0.

30' Work for Tyler on the half-hour, Blizzard lets fly with a shot from the edge of the box that keeper does well to hold on to. 0-0 #COYH

33' Back come the Town, Guttridge - at the heart of everything - again finds Cullen but his shot drifts well wide. 0-0.

38' Work for Tyler, Town gift the ball back to Plymouth who work it forward to Reid on the right but his shot from an acute angle is stopped.

44' Ooooooh, top save from McCormick keeps out Howells' shot after a flowing Town move... Was a terrific move and an even better save from the Argyle keeper's foot.

HT Town 0-0 Plymouth. Goalless but the Hatters can count themselves unlucky not to be ahead at the break. 0-0.

68' GOAL Town 0-1 Plymouth (Blizzard).

68' Town behind. Blizzard tip-toes past two challenges on the edge of the box before firing low shot past outstretched Tyler. 0-1. #COYH

75' Into the last 15 minutes to find an equaliser, Lawless gets a toe to the ball and it breaks to Lafayette who lashes a shot wide. 0-1.

90+3' Town huffing and puffing but can't find the right pass or touch, eventually McNulty thunders a shot way, way wide 0-1.

FT Town 0-1 Plymouth. The Hatters' wait for a first home win back in the Football League goes on #COYH

# Pelly

## RUDDOCK MPANZU

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu made his first start of the season last weekend against Plymouth Argyle and the midfielder delivered a typically all-action display.

As the graphics show, the former West Ham United youngster popped up all over the pitch during his 90 minutes against Argyle.

Ruddock had to wait until the fifth minute of the game for his first touch: a header in the centre circle, and the midfielder's heading was a key part of his game in the first half that saw him win every single of the eight headers he won in the opening 45 minutes.

### Contribution

In the first half he made two important contributions, appearing in both halves of the pitch to good effect. In the opening 20 minutes he tracked back to deny Plymouth striker Reuben Reid with a perfectly-timed challenge just outside the Town penalty area, before he laid on a simple pass shortly before half-time that saw Jake Howells have his low shot well-saved by visiting goalkeeper Luke McCormick.

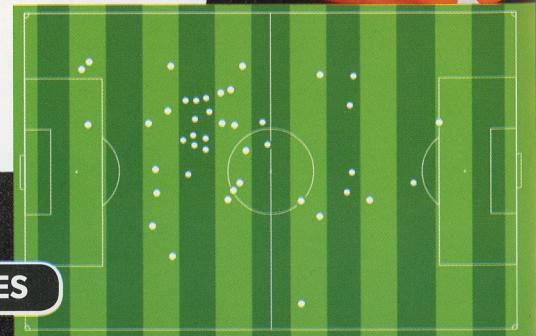
### Combative

In the second half, Ruddock came close to giving the Hatters the lead on 55 minutes when he saw a well-hit goal-bound shot at the back-post deflected behind for a corner as the Town pushed for an early second-half goal.

His combative display saw him break up play with an impressive eight interceptions, whilst his passing game was also at the fore.

It was interesting to note that of his 19 complete passes during the game, nine of those (47%) found Luke Rooney – more than any other team-mate.

### FIRST HALF TOUCHES



### PASSES COMPLETE

19

### PASSES INCOMPLETE

8

### PASS COMPLETION

70%

### PLAYER PASSED TO THE MOST

### TOTAL MINUTES PLAYED

90

### SHOTS ON TARGET

1

### TOTAL HEADERS

9

### TOTAL DRIBBLES

4

### TOTAL TOUCHES

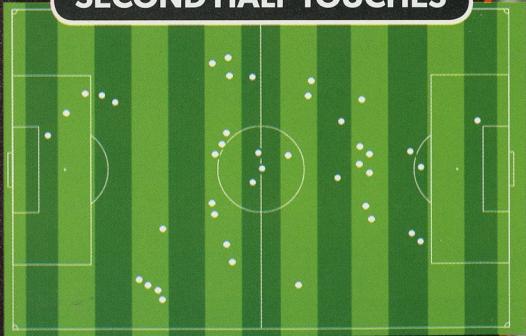
85

### TOTAL INTERCEPTIONS

8

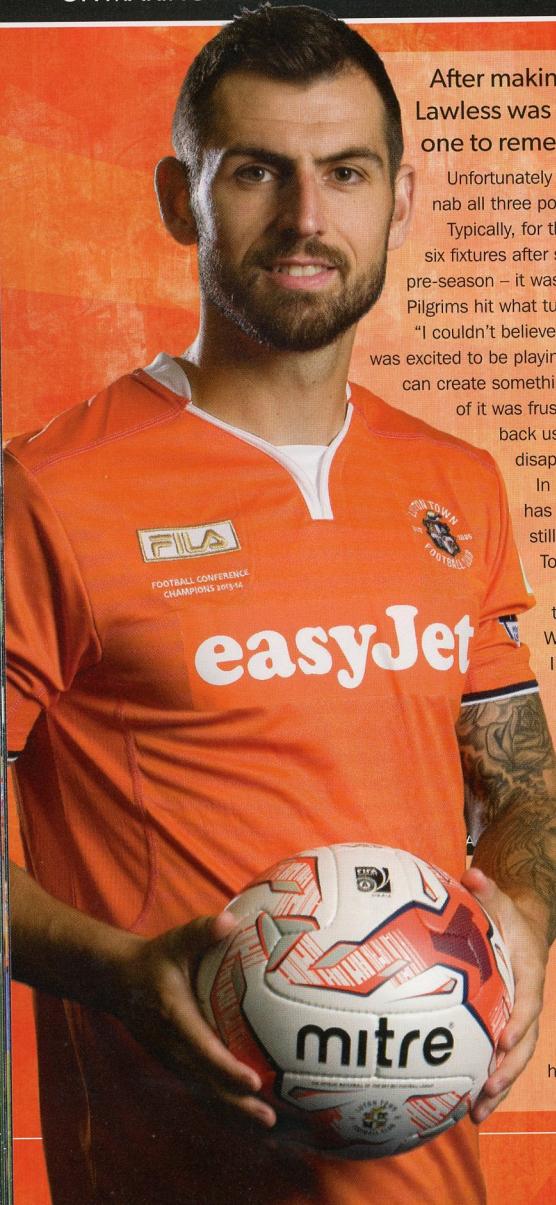
LUKE  
ROONEY

### SECOND HALF TOUCHES



# Alex Lawless

AFTER WAITING FOUR SEASONS TO WIN PROMOTION TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE, A FRUSTRATED **ALEX LAWLESS'** START TO LIFE AS A LEAGUE PLAYER ONLY JUST BEGAN LAST WEEK. TALK OF THE TOWN TALKS TO THE MIDFIELDER ON MAKING HIS BELATED LEAGUE BOW WITH THE TOWN



After making 156 appearances in Luton colours Alex Lawless was hoping his 157th for the Town would be one to remember.

Unfortunately Lawless' return to the Hatters side saw Plymouth Argyle nab all three points in front of the Sky Sports cameras last Saturday.

Typically, for the luckless Lawless – who had missed the Town's opening six fixtures after sustaining a hamstring injury against Peterborough in pre-season – it was while he was about to come on as a substitute that the Pilgrims hit what turned out to be their winning goal.

"I couldn't believe to be honest," the 29-year-old told Talk of the Town. "I was excited to be playing, and hoping to come on. At 0-0 you're thinking you can create something to get yourselves in front. But they scored, the timing of it was frustrating and at that stage it was a different job, to get back us back level. It didn't turn out that way so it was doubly disappointing."

In spite of the result against Argyle last week, Lawless – who has twice lost in Play-Off finals whilst at Kenilworth Road – was still delighted to finally make that elusive appearance for the Town as a Football League player.

"I was like a little kid preparing for the game and being on the bench, I actually enjoyed myself," admitted the former Wales Under-21 international. "I know it was frustrating and I'm disappointed with the result but deep down I'm really glad to be back playing and already looking forward to the next game now."

"When you've lost you just want to get playing and putting the result right and especially myself as just watching the games has made me want to play more than ever. Personally, in the back of my mind, it's just great to be back and to call myself a Football League player is a real comfort, especially to know you're where you've aimed to be for a long time."

"That said, it's been a long time waiting for it and I certainly aim to make the most of it."

"It's not a case of 'yes I'm happy to be in the league'. Yes I am happy but that's not my style to just settle on that."

"I want to do well in the league with Luton which is what I have wanted since I came here."

Lawless missed the start and the end of the Town's championship-winning season in the Conference but after enjoying an injury-free start to pre-season the former York man was hugely frustrated to limp out of the friendly against Peterborough with a hamstring injury.

"I did a lot of work out of season this year to come back well-conditioned. Pre-season was going great, but it just goes to show what can happen in sport," reflected Lawless.

## Ready

"It was one of those things and I accept that, but they always say it's how you react to everything and I feel like I'm just ready to go now, that's the main thing."

"Last year I missed pre-season and it's well-known throughout football that if you miss pre-season sometimes it can make things difficult all season – and that proved right for me."

"I got a really good pre-season this year though despite the injury, so I'm hoping that I won't get a repeat of the niggle this year."

The midfielder believes the Town can still be a force in League 2 despite the slow start to the season which has seen the side take five points from the first six matches.

And Lawless is well aware of how things can change.

"I think getting the first goal is a massive thing. More so for us at the minute as we haven't been. We haven't had a taste of what it feels like to be 1-0 up a lot recently," said Lawless.

"That would have made a big difference and once the opposition score first it's difficult to break down. You see it in the best teams in the world, so it was frustrating against Plymouth."

"Going 1-0 up would make a massive difference and I don't think we're far off. If we score it completely changes the game and I think that's going to be important for us."

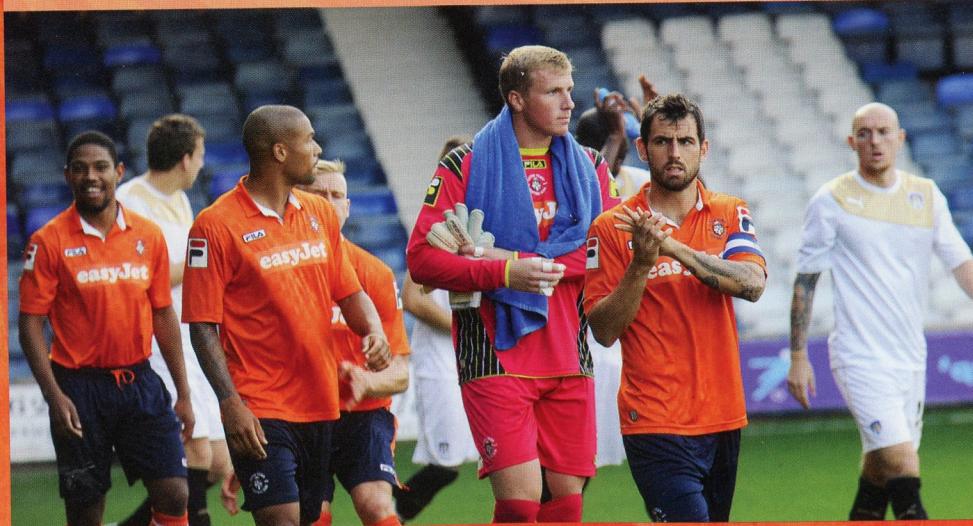
"When that comes, I'm sure we'll see our form improve a lot more results-wise. But we've got a good squad and the winning mentality from last year. I'm confident we can turn it around. The difference in League 2 and the Conference has been noticeable to me."

"I think there are a lot little things in football that make up a good team and good players. From just watching individual performances so far I have seen players have more quality on the ball – and when they have ball it's difficult for the other team have to get. That's something we need to get used to it."

But despite the Hatters' early set-back, Lawless believes the Town can call on their experiences of last season that saw the team go on a 27-match unbeaten run on their way to securing the title and promotion.

"I think we've seen it so many times with teams that once you get on track and get a run you can really motor up the table," said Lawless.

"We went on a helluva run last year. Our form's not great at the minute but things can, and do, change quickly."



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# #ASKALEX

IT IS ALL WELL AND GOOD US ASKING THE QUESTIONS BUT WE CAN'T (AND OFTEN DON'T) THINK OF THEM ALL. SO TALK OF THE TOWN ASKED THE ARMY OF FOLLOWERS ON THE CLUB'S SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS TWITTER AND FACEBOOK TO SUBMIT THEIR QUESTIONS FOR US TO PUT TO MIDFIELDER ALEX LAWLESS.

Sarah McDade @SarahKnowsNowt  
What's your favourite topic to draw? #AskLawless  
**ALEX:** Black and white face portraits.

Nikki @Juju\_Bush  
Don't you think Matt Robinson looks like Ben from Outnumbered? #AskLawless  
**ALEX:** I haven't seen that before, but yes, he does.



Steven Manfredi @sman3d  
Who's your favourite Spice Girl? #AskLawless  
**ALEX:** I can't even remember who they were. I used to fancy Baby Spice, but I should really fancy Scary because my missus is from Yorkshire, and so is she.

Michael Creamer @dicreamio  
#AskLawless Does John Still have a hairdryer?  
**ALEX:** Yes

Mike Hyd @jazzanovaboot  
@LutonTown Alex, now you're back in the league, Do you think you're in for a shout for the Wales Squad? #AskLawless  
**ALEX:** I played for Welsh schoolboys up until the age of 15 and then played for the Under-19s and 21s. I still dream of playing for Wales and earning my first Welsh cap.

Grace Fuller @Grace\_LTFC  
@LutonTown what's the best team you've played against for Luton? #AskLawless  
**ALEX:** Norwich. Which makes it even better than we beat them.

Football Direct @\_FootballDirect  
@LutonTown What is the best moment you had with Luton Town so far? #AskLawless  
**ALEX:** Promotion last season. The lows before made the high even better.

Darren Hickin @AshbyHatter  
@LutonTown did you change anything specific to become Player of Season in 2012/13 after a difficult 2011/12 campaign? #AskLawless  
**ALEX:** I lost the fear of failure because at the time I had nothing to lose, however, in 2012/13 I felt I was given a more attacking role in the team which suited my game better.

Mark Collier @MarkRemarkit  
@LutonTown #AskLawless if you could fulfil your ambitions where will you be in 10 years' time?  
**ALEX:** I'll be 39 by then! In an ideal world I would have played for Manchester United and been capped for Wales. But realistically, helping take Luton as far up the divisions and making the most of my career because unfortunately the career of a professional footballer is a short one.

JP Brett @JPBrett1  
You've been known to ping in a few great goals. Which one is your favourite? Oh, and do you speak Welsh? #AskLawless  
**ALEX:** It's a toss-up between the goal against Wolves in the FA Cup and a goal against Nuneaton in the Conference. However, it has to be the strike against Wolves because it was part of our historic run in the FA Cup.

Peter Galvin @JustPete  
@luton\_town #asklawless Alex what has been your proudest/worst/favourite footballing moments? Yes all three answers please :-)  
**ALEX:** Proudest: Signing for Fulham when I was 18. Worst: Missing a penalty in the Play-Off final. Favourite: Last season's promotion.



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# on and off...

... THE PITCH WITH ALEX LAWLESS

## on the pitch

What is the best goal you saw Luton score last season? ► Macca's goal is the first one that comes to mind, against Southport.

Who is the toughest opponent you've ever faced?

► I once played against David Dunn. I was playing for Torquay and he was at Birmingham. I couldn't get the ball off him.

What do you want to improve about your game?

► Score more goals.

Do you have any superstitions?

► I put my right boot and my right shinpad on first. I don't know why, it was something I started doing and it's just stuck.

What was your first pair of boots?

► A pair of Roberto Baggio's Diadoras.

Have you got a tip for youngsters?

► Never give up, keep trying and train hard – there are a lot of different opinions in football.

What is best ground you've played at?

► Wembley.

Who signed you as a pro?

► I signed professionally at Fulham and although Chris Coleman was the manager I think it was Steve Kean, the assistant manager at the time, who gave me the news.

Who do you support?

► Manchester United.

Who at the club will play at a higher level?

► Mark Cullen.



## off the pitch

What motivates you?

► Success in football.

Who is your best friend in football?

► Liam Fontaine, currently at Hibernian. We were young lads at Fulham together.

What is your best quality?

► I always look for the best in people, even if they do my head in!

What's your favourite TV programme?

► 24

What was your favourite subject at school?

► Art

What's your favourite holiday destination?

► Thailand

Who is the last person you'd want to upset?

► My missus.

What was the last item you bought you've hardly/never used?

► A drill.

If your life story was featured in a film, who would play you?

► My mates call me Ben Stiller but I can't see him playing football!

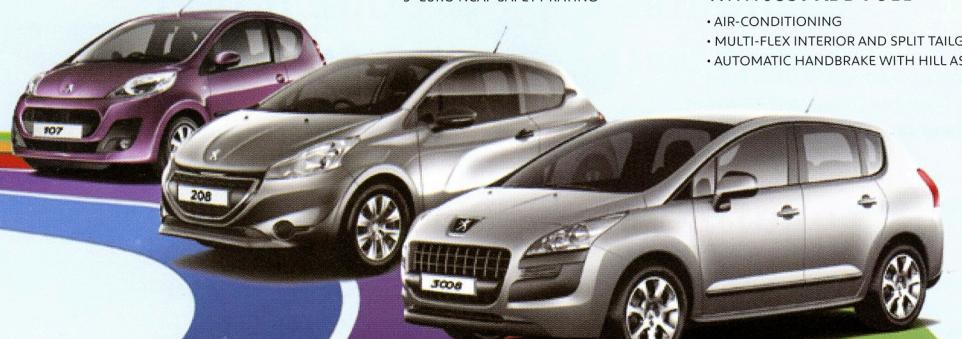
Tell us one thing we don't we know about you?

► I've got an A\* in GSCE history.

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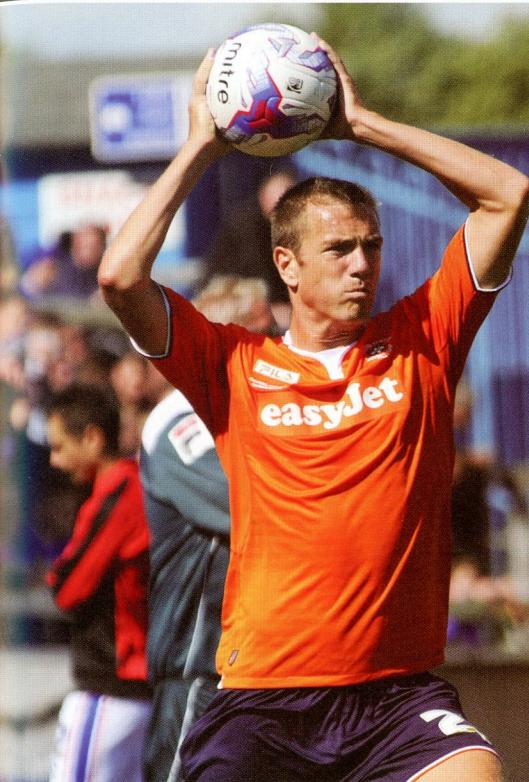
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# reaction

## RIGHT-BACK'S ARGYLE AGONY



Paul Connolly was disappointed in the fashion the Hatters lost out to his former club Plymouth, as the Town played well throughout the game but had nothing to show in the end.

Argyle won the game narrowly, with a goal from Dominic Blizzard sealing the victory for the Pilgrims, and in turn, continuing the Hatters' search for a home win this season.

Coming in goalless at half-time, the Hatters were in control of the game and playing well. However, in the second half the away side capitalised on one of their few chances in the game and walked away with all three points on the day.

And Connolly reflected on how the game took a turn for the worst after the half-time break.

He said: "We are down heartened with how the result went. We came in at half-time feeling like we were strong and comfortable. Mark Tyler's pulled off a good save but apart from that they didn't threaten us and we had two or three very good chances.

"Luke McCormick has made some really good saves that were goal bound, one with his feet and the other with his fingertips. We need to start scoring first in games; if you score first in this league then you generally end up winning."

### Luck

Connolly admitted that the Hatters have been working hard in training and that sometimes a bit of luck can play a part in a run of good results.

"Luke Rooney had a chance in the game where it deflected off their players backside and gone over," the defender said. "We need chances like that to deflect off their player and find the back of the net."

"It's not dropping for us at all, whereas in training we're scoring goals for fun. Believe me when I say we are working so hard but it's not falling for us at the minute."

Defensively the Hatters looked sound at the back for the majority of the game, but a scrappy goal for the visitors put an end to the hard work put in by the Town's defensive players. Connolly believes that his side were guilty of chasing the game in the second half instead of concentrating on holding their shape.

"We may have been guilty of chasing the game when it was 0-0 in the second half," said Connolly. "We needed the win, but maybe we should have kept our shape and tried to keep it at 0-0 for as long as possible in the hope that something fell our way. We chased the game which meant they caught us out and scored a scrappy goal to win it."

The 29-year-old is still positive that the Hatters can pick themselves up this afternoon against high-flying Cheltenham Town and admitted that the players will give it their all in their quest for a first home league win at Kenilworth Road.

"We have another home game coming up and we have no other choice but to pick ourselves up and go for the win," said Connolly. "I'd put this game down as an early must-win game to try and keep us in the hunt."

# centre spot



Luke Rooney battles desperately for the ball during the Hatters' 1-0 home defeat to Plymouth Argyle last Saturday



## PICTURE THE PAST

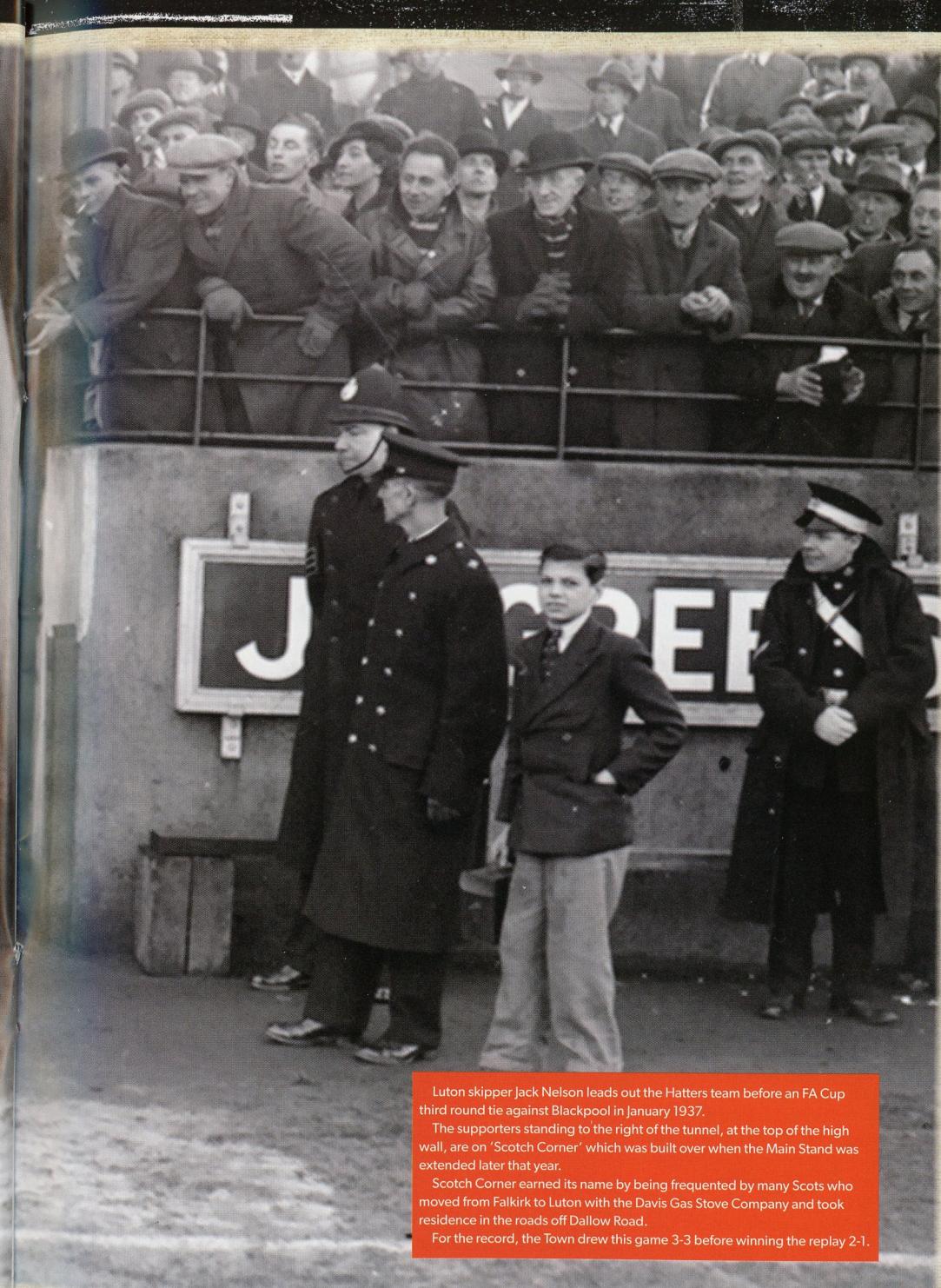
Club historian **ROGER WASH** delves into his photographic archive



A perfect pass from Alan West sends winger John Aston on his way during the 2-2 draw with Hull at Kenilworth Road in October 1973.

# Camera Never Lies

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



Luton skipper Jack Nelson leads out the Hatters team before an FA Cup third round tie against Blackpool in January 1937.

The supporters standing to the right of the tunnel, at the top of the high wall, are on 'Scotch Corner' which was built over when the Main Stand was extended later that year.

Scotch Corner earned its name by being frequented by many Scots who moved from Falkirk to Luton with the Davis Gas Stove Company and took residence in the roads off Dallow Road.

For the record, the Town drew this game 3-3 before winning the replay 2-1.

# YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian ROGER WASH looks back to the time the Town toppled Tottenham Hotspur in the top flight

Luton Town 3-1 Tottenham Hotspur. 28th March 1987

Everyone at Kenilworth Road was satisfied with a top 10 finish in Division One (now the Premier League) at the end of the 1985/86 season and with a settled side of youth and experience we were looking upwards rather than downwards in readiness for the new campaign.

As so often happens when everything looks rosy, something comes along to upset the applecart. The summer shock of 1986 was the approach by Tottenham for Luton manager David Pleat.

Spurs were not having a good time and in an effort to return to their former glories wanted Pleat, who was regarded as one of the brightest young managers in the game. It was a difficult decision for Pleat and as pointed out by Luton chairman David Evans he was a big fish in a small pond at Kenilworth Road whereas moving to White Hart Lane he would become a small fish in a lake.

Pleat, though, decided to make the move and took his assistant Trevor Hartley with him. He also wanted coach John Moore but he decided to throw his hat in the ring for the vacant managers job which, given the Town's habit of promoting from within, was a sensible move and he duly became the Town's 12th manager since the War.

Moore lost no time in recruiting Fulham manager Ray Harford as his assistant and brought in ex-Town winger Jim Ryan as coach. He knew he had inherited a good side and although the early transfer of full-back Mitchell Thomas to Tottenham on a tribunal hurt, the loss of talisman striker Mick Harford for the first half of the season with a knee injury did not upset the rhythm of the team overmuch as the Stein brothers along with Mike Newell were quite capable of causing problems for opposition defences.

Double winners Liverpool were seen off 4-1 at Luton in the League and 3-0 in the FA Cup as the Town cemented a top six spot and made everyone sit up and take notice. The one we were all waiting for, though, was the return to Kenilworth Road of David Pleat and his Tottenham side and a best of season crowd of 13,447 gathered to watch the fifth placed Town take on a side one place below.



John Moore with his new management team of Jim Ryan and Ray Harford

Both John Moore and David Pleat, as expected, played down the clash and the officials of both sides bit their tongues but the supporters were not so forgiving and gave Pleat and Thomas a fairly rough ride.

In the absence of skipper Steve Foster, Ashley Grimes was moved into defence leaving a spot for Darron McDonough who had become an almost forgotten man since his early season move from Oldham.

Spurs were unbeaten in seven games while the Town had won five home matches in a row so something had to give but it was not to be the Hatters as they took a fifth minute lead. Thomas was robbed by Ricky Hill who switched the ball to Harford to hammer a sweet strike into the net. Spurs were stunned and had difficulty in getting out of their half as the Town attacked in waves.

A snow and hailstorm threatened to hold up proceedings but as the storm passed it was still one-way traffic with Hill, Nicholas and McDonough dominating the Spurs midfield five and it was a surprise that it took until the 54th minute for the Town to net number two with Newell taking advantage of a clever Hill pass to fire past Ray Clemence in the Tottenham goal.

Spurs pulled one back through Chris Waddle on 62 minutes but were unable to build on the goal and normal order was resumed when McDonough met a Hill cross first time for another quality goal.

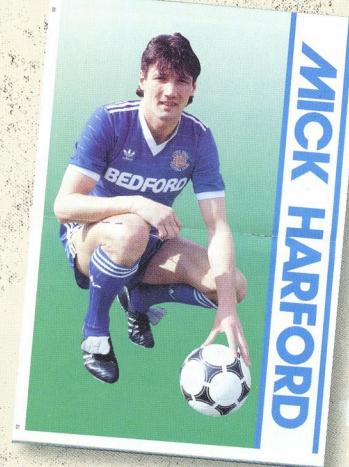
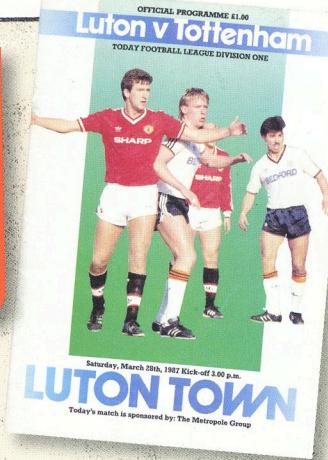
"Just another game," said John Moore afterwards as his team moved up to third!

## THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced a 40-page colourful programme for the visit of Spurs in an A5 format. The pioneering £1 cover price was in its second season and was now being followed by many other clubs.

It was reported that the Hatters had nine players on international duty in various competitions during the previous week which was a credit to the coaching staff at Kenilworth Road.

The club had a limited number of £6 standing tickets for the forthcoming Littlewoods Cup Final available to season ticket holders.



Vauxhall Teamcheck.	
Luton Town	Tottenham Hotspur
1. Ian Sleath	1. Roy Clemence
2. Tim Brookshaw	2. Gary Stevens
3. Rob Jonson	3. Mitchell Thomas
4. Peter Nicholas	4. Steve Archibald
5. Steve North	5. Richard Gough
6. Mal Donnelly	6. Gary McAllister
7. Ricky Hill	7. Clive Allen
8. Brian Rix	8. Steve Archibald
9. Mike Newell	9. Chris Waddle
10. Mick Harford	10. Glenn Hoddle
11. Ashley Grimes	11. Osvaldo Ardiles
Sgt.	Sgt.



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## ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

- The Football League deduct three points from Swansea for calling off their game with Rochdale because of injury and illness.
- Leicester striker Alan Smith moves to Arsenal for £750,000.
- Southampton's Mark Dennis fails to agree terms with Luton.
- Former Welsh international Trevor Hockey dies suddenly at the age of 43.

# The new boy

JUST OVER A YEAR AGO HE WAS PART OF THE BRADFORD TEAM THAT WON PROMOTION FROM LEAGUE 2 AND REACHED THE LEAGUE CUP FINAL. ON THURSDAY NATHAN DOYLE BECAME THE LATEST NEW FACE AT KENILWORTH ROAD.

The lure of continuing the Town's success of last season was an opportunity too good for Nathan Doyle to turn down.

The 27-year-old, without a club following his release from Bradford City at the end of the last campaign, admitted he watched with interest as the Hatters stormed to the Conference Premier title.

Now, as the Town tackle League 2, Doyle is hoping he can help use his experience of the division – and beyond – to good effect after signing a one-year deal at Kenilworth Road.

"I can tell by just listening to the lads that what was achieved last season was phenomenal," says Doyle to a backdrop of his new team-mates laughing and joking in the background at the Town's training ground – a sure-fire way to realise that despite results the spirit in the camp is high. It was sad to see the club fall through the leagues. I knew of Luton in the Championship and saw them slide out of the League.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Doyle has been capped for England at Under-16, 17, 18 and 19 level.
- Nathan's first senior goal came for Hull against Watford in a Championship Play-Off semi-final.
- He has twice won Play-Off finals at Wembley (once with Hull, once with Bradford).
- Doyle has played 256 games in his career and has scored five times.
- The midfielder missed just seven of Bradford's games in League 1 last season.
- He has never played against the Hatters.

"It's sad to see big clubs suffer but this club is massive and I'm now here to carry on from the success from last season and get it back to where it needs to be, higher up the divisions.

"Looking at how comfortably the league was won last year, you think to yourself what a great achievement that is and what it must have been like for the players. All I want is to be a part of what happens next.

"I had a few options to sign elsewhere but the move has always got to be right and this one is: the buzz around the place and the confidence of the lads was a big thing for me."

Doyle has twice tasted promotion – once as a youngster at Hull, and mostly recently, with Bradford the season before last. So the midfielder knows what it takes to be successful.

### Quality

"When I went up with Bradford we had no big time Charlies," says Doyle. "You need to be consistent and have a good dressing room.

"I've only been training here for a few days but the lads have been great and having been involved in training, I know the quality is definitely here.

"I've heard that the results haven't been as people would have liked but the performances have been good.

"That's football sometimes: you can play well for 90 minutes but one lapse in concentration and you can lose the game.

"From what I've seen in training I can't see it taking long for some of those results to turn into wins.

"There are some big clubs in League 2 but all we need to focus on is ourselves and not worry about the other teams. We've got a good set of lads and sooner or later the results will turn because I think we're as good as any team in this division."

After holding down a regular place in the Bradford side that finished 11th in League 1 last term, and having played in the Premier League



Nathan Doyle is hoping to earn a second promotion in three seasons from League 2 after joining the Hatters this week

and the Championship in the past, has Doyle any qualms about dropping down to League 2?

"No, not one," he says. "I've played in League 2 before and we were lucky enough to win promotion and go all the way to Wembley to the League Cup final which was an amazing achievement and experience.

### Fitness

"It wasn't a problem coming to Luton because they're such a big club anyway. At the end of the day, though, I just want to play football."

However, after only signing on the dotted line this week, the midfielder isn't likely to be involved this afternoon.

"It's been difficult this summer, trying to find a new club, I've had to train on my own for a while," explained Doyle. "My fitness hasn't been a worry but I need to get up to speed and get used to playing with my new team-mates.

"I'm playing catch-up a little and I'm doing extra work with the fitness coach and soon I hope to be able to stake a claim for a place in the team once I've got a couple of weeks training under my belt."

## WHO IS NATHAN DOYLE?

Derby-born Nathan Doyle began his career as a youngster at his home-town club, coming through the ranks to make nine appearances for the Rams, making his debut as a 16-year-old in 2003.

After loan spells at Notts County and Bradford he joined Hull in 2007 but in three years on Humberstone, Doyle made just five league appearances – although three of these took place in the Premier League.

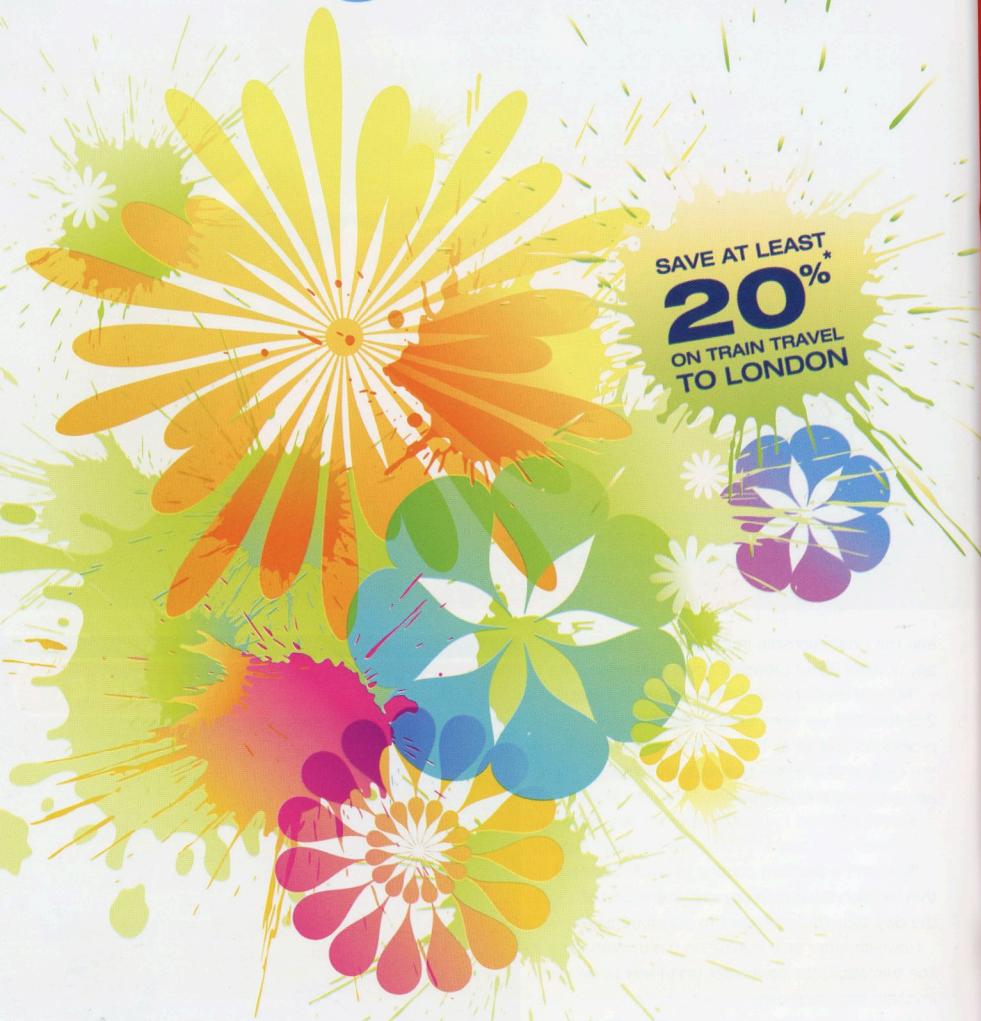
After a brief loan spell at Barnsley in 2009 the midfielder made the move to Oakwell permanent in January 2010 and Doyle went on to make 89 appearances in the Championship for the Tykes.

Following a loan spell at Preston, in 2012 Doyle was on the move once more, this time joining Bradford. His first season at Valley Parade was a huge success as the Bantams won the League 2 Play-Off final at Wembley. That wasn't his only appearance under the Wembley arch, however, as Bradford went all the way to the final of the League Cup, only to lose to Swansea.

He played 42 times in all competitions last season as City finished 11th in League 1 before being released at the end of the campaign.

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H O W E L L S A F L  
Z V Q Y T L U N C M  
M A X U P E D F A D  
M K Z J A M L A M X

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# reaction

**SMUDGER IS BACK!**



Jonathan Smith completed 90 minutes in the Town development squad's 5-0 victory over Bournemouth last Tuesday.

It was Smith's first full 90 minutes since the horrifying injury on Boxing Day last year, which meant that Smith broke his leg and was out of action for the rest of the season.

'Smudger' is now close to returning to full fitness, and completing a full game in the victory over Bournemouth development squad has lifted the 27-year-old's spirits, in his attempt to return to the first team.

Speaking after the game, Smith admitted that he was feeling good fitness-wise and is more than ready to start fighting for a place in the first team again, even though competition is tough.

"It's good to get back out there, it's been a long time coming," said Smith, whose recovery last season saw him come on as a last-minute substitute at Hyde in the

final game of last season. "I'm feeling good, I need to keep working on my fitness and try to push for a place in the first team."

Smith admitted that manager John Still has dealt with his recovery process well and will continue to ease the central midfielder back into action without rushing things.

Smith said: "The gaffer has been really good with me, he's trying to ease me back in. He's not expecting much of me too soon."

"John has really looked after me and I'm really grateful for that. However, now is the time I have to start repaying the faith that everyone around has shown in me."

The former Swindon man is grateful for all the support he has received from players, staff and fans throughout the club, during a tough period in his career. Smith admitted that he will try his hardest to repay everyone who helped him out over the past eight months.

"When I broke my leg, everyone at this club was really supportive of me," said Smith. "The fans, directors, players and the manager have all been brilliant. Now's the time for me to start repaying the faith they have given me."

## Fight

The next step for the central-midfielder will be to fight for a place in John Still's squad and starting XI. Even though competition is tough for places, Smith is determined to fight his way back into Still's plans.

"The plan is to get back in the first team sooner rather than later," said the midfielder. "Everyone's the same, they all want to play. All I can do is train as hard as I can and hope that the gaffer gives me the chance at some point."

Smith, who won a League 2 title winners' medal whilst at Swindon, reflected on the Hatters' tough start to the season and in particular the Town's disappointing home form as they still search for their first home win of the campaign.

"We're working as hard as we can and I thought we played well last Saturday," Smith said. "If we can keep that sort of tempo up throughout the season, there's no reason why we can't push ourselves up the league table. Our home form was good last season and we'll be keen to try and fix that."

# Youth Team &

# Development

## FIXTURES & RESULTS

### YOUTH

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

### DEVELOPMENT

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI		
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>							
Tue 9	1pm	H	AFC Bournemouth	W 5-0	Justham	McNeil •	Brown
Tue 23	2pm	A	Portsmouth				
Tue 30	1pm	H	Gillingham (Cup)				
<b>OCTOBER</b>							
Tue 14	1pm	A	Gillingham				
Tue 28	1pm	H	Peterborough United				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>							
Tue 4	TBA	TBA	Cambridge United (Cup)				
Tue 18	1pm	A	Cambridge United				
Tue 25	1pm	H	Leyton Orient				
<b>DECEMBER</b>							
Tue 2	1pm	H	AFC Wimbledon				
Tue 9	TBA	TBA	AFC Wimbledon (Cup)				
<b>JANUARY</b>							
Tue 6	1pm	A	AFC Bournemouth				
Tue 13	1pm	H	Brighton (Cup)				
Tue 20	1pm	H	Gillingham				
Tue 27	1pm	H	Milton Keynes Dons (Cup)				
<b>FEBRUARY</b>							
Tue 3	1pm	A	Peterborough United				
Tue 24	1pm	A	Leyton Orient				
<b>MARCH</b>							
Tue 10	1pm	H	Cambridge United				
Mon 23	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon				
Tue 31	1pm	H	Portsmouth				

## FIRST LEAGUE DEFEAT FOR UNDER-18S

The Town's Under-18s fell to their first defeat in the Youth Alliance last Saturday following a 4-2 reverse against Barnet.

Paul Driver's youngsters were two goals behind in an opening 20 minutes that also saw goalkeeper Craig King save a Barnet penalty.

However, the Hatters rallied to level the score before half-time. Daril Ngwala halved the deficit on 35 minutes when striking home from just inside the penalty area before defender Harry Tamplin levelled matters in first half stoppage time.

The Town started the second half lively but Barnet restored their lead shortly before the hour mark when the Hatters defence were too slow in reacting to King's initial save allowing Barnet to score from the rebound.

However the Hatters' chances of earning a point were dashed with 20 minutes left when the Bees made the game safe when a shot was poked home in the penalty area.

A disappointed Driver told lutontown.co.uk: "We recovered well from two goals down but we failed to take our chances when we were on top and that cost us."

"Take nothing away from Barnet because they created more chances and used the ball better when in possession.

"We lacked the quality with the ball and that little bit of defensive nous – and that was the difference."

**TOWN:** King, Trotman, Magaraushe (sub Perry 70), Tamplin, Musonda, Justin, Atkinson (sub Amadi 70), Galliford, Ngwala, Tayali, Allman (sub McGhan-George 16). **SUBS NOT USED:** Gooch, Hawkes.

## DEV SQUAD HIT FIVE PAST CHERRIES

Five second half goals, including a hat-trick from Jim Stevenson, helped the Hatters' development squad to a comprehensive victory over AFC Bournemouth.

It was the Town's first fixture in the Final Third Development League and the game also saw midfielder Jonathan Smith complete his first 90 minutes of action since breaking his leg on Boxing Day last year.

After a goalless first half the game sprung into life three minutes into second period when Ross Lafayette rifled home from 10 yards after Alex Wall had kept in Matt Saunders' right-wing cross.

Shortly after the hour mark it was 2-0 when Stevenson was first to Lafayette's flick-on from Charlie Walker's left-wing cross. The Hatters were dominant and with 15 minutes left two became three when youth team centre-half Frankie Musonda glanced home a header into the top corner following Smith's hooked pass back into the danger zone.

Chances continued to fall the Town's way as they outplayed a young Cherries side, and Stevenson grabbed his second on 80 minutes when he did brilliantly to stoop to head home bravely inside the six-yard box.

Three minutes later Stevenson completed his hat-trick in fine style, thundering a low shot in off the post from the edge of the box to round-off an easy victory for Hakan Hayrettin's men, who finished with 10 men on the field following Alex Wall's late red card for dissent.

**TOWN:** Justham; McNeil (sub Trotman 80), Brown, Tamplin (sub Musonda 19), Williams; Smith, Stevenson, Saunders; Walker, Lafayette (sub Ngwala 83) Wall. **SUBS NOT USED:** King, Galliford.



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COMING SOON

## HEAD OF YOUTH OPERATIONS DAN WALDER ON THE TOWN'S GAMES WITH LEYTON ORIENT

Last weekend Luton Town Academy welcomed Leyton Orient to our home facility for games at ages Under 9-15.

The Under Under-15s played first on Saturday and put on an excellent show for the spectators. Both teams played passing football and the game was relatively even. Luton put together some good moves and played patient passing football switching the ball from left to right and back again. Scott at centre forward looked a constant threat to the Orient defence, who struggled to deal with his pace, power and determined approach.

On the Sunday the Under-14s played a good Orient side. Leyton Orient played with a diamond midfield and Luton struggled to get close enough to a couple of midfielders who would drop in and receive the ball deep from the back four.

As the game went on, it became increasingly obvious that the Luton Town boys needed to work on recognising triggers during the game.

Wingers were told to look for pressure being applied to our full-back to come short and receive the ball, or the ball switching between midfield players to begin making runs in field or on the outside shoulder of Orient's full-back.

Brai demonstrated one of these runs excellently cutting in from the right wing to receive the ball between Orient's full-back and centre-back. At the end of the game the boys were talked to again and the points were reiterated. We are looking forward to seeing the boys consolidate this learning this weekend against MK Dons.

The Under-11s played in two squads on two pitches playing a seven-a-side round robin. The boys were taught to play within two different formations. On one pitch they played with a '3-triangle' shape, and on the other pitch a '2-diamond' shape.

The idea was to teach the boys about playing within different shapes to allow angled passing and multiple options for the man on the ball. Within the triangle, the

boys were taught to play the game without a recognised centre forward. This meant that the three players in front of the back three could freely rotate as a midfield three would in an 11 versus 11 game, whilst one, or on occasion two, full-backs would join in as attacking wingers. In contrast to this, when they played on the opposite pitch they played with a 2-diamond formation (2-1-2-1). This meant they could learn at least two more things that were conducive to playing 11-a-side:

1. Midfielders running beyond a centre-forward
2. Playing with a diamond shape in midfield (4-diamond-2)

The boys demonstrated good learning throughout the morning with players recognising opportunities to create space for one another to receive and triggers to interchange or stand still. Dylan showed progression from being a stationary centre midfielder to recognising when he was marked and moving wide to allow Jack to come and receive the ball from the goalkeeper. Harvey then complimented these movements by pulling off the shoulder of the furthest defender to allow Jack the space to receive the ball and turn to play forwards. Again, we are looking forward to seeing this learning consolidate this weekend against MK Dons.

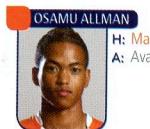
The Under-9s played futsal this weekend which was a great experience for them. Futsal has been played since the 1920s in Portugal, Spain and Brazil and is widely regarded as the game which helped players like Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Xavi hone their skills to world class level.

The game is an indoor five-a-side game which uses different rules to the old five-a-side indoor game used historically in this country. Players get 12 times more touches in six minutes than in 11-a-side football, and therefore this can enhance a players' technical ability, motor control and decision-making.

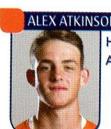
The morning was a great experience for the young players, who demonstrated some excellent play throughout the games.

# Youth Team Sponsors

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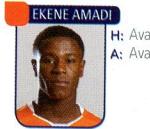
ALEX ATKINSON  
H: Available  
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GEO CRAIG  
H: Available  
A: Available



KYRAN MGHAN-GEORGE  
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EKENE AMADI  
H: Available  
A: Available



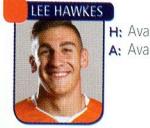
LIAM GOOCH  
H: P.J.R. Bacon Builders  
A: Available



FRANKIE MUSONDA  
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ISAAC GALLIFORD  
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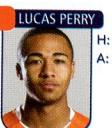
LEE HAWKES  
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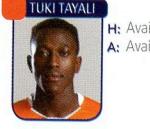
CRAIG KING  
H: Mike Tearle  
A: Available



DARIL NGWALA  
H: Available  
A: Available



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# Luton Ladies

WITH YET MORE CHANGES IN PERSONNEL TOWN LADIES TRAVELED THE SHORT DISTANCE TO BEDFORD MIDWEEK FOR THE CLUBS FIRST EVER LEAGUE MEETING.

Luton started brightly and put the home goal under a great deal of pressure without the home keeper being seriously tested.

Town took a deserved lead after 16 minutes when Lydia Radley shaped a superb ball into the path of Erica Byron and she pulled the ball back across goal for Clare Howe to arrive at the far post to finish first time into the corner of the net.

The game ebbed and flowed with neither side really seriously testing the keepers until Luton extended their lead when Rachel Kosky's corner was headed in by Jess McKay from close range. Rebecca Kane and Byron both had efforts saved as Luton continued to have the lion's share of play.

### Superb

After 87 minutes Bedford pulled a goal back and then pressed heavily for the leveller which might have come were it not for a superb smothering save from Town goalkeeper Hollie Staples.

A visit to Cambridge three days later brought more enforced changes with Angelika Kopec making her debut between the sticks and Town's commanding centre-back Rachel Carter ruled out with concussion.

Town seemed to be in little trouble in a low tempo match but were unable to make inroads at the other end. In first half injury time Luton went behind allowing the dangerous Cambridge winner in behind and her cross was nodded home at the near post.

### Promising

Hatters looked far more promising after the break with McKay asking questions down the right, but Luton were unable to grab that all important goal.

With minutes left a ball over the top presented a chance for the hosts to score a second which they did lifting the ball over Kopec into the net. Kopec made a promising debut for the Town with the pick of her saves coming late in the game diving away to her left to save.

Manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "I seem like a broken record referring to injuries and unavailability, but



we have once again been beset by bad luck and injuries in the first month of the season.

"Overall I have been pleased with the desire and fight shown by the squad who have been asked to dig deep every game so far.

### Deserved

"I felt we thoroughly deserved our win at Bedford but the Cambridge game came too soon and we just could not go to the well again within such a short period of time.

"The girls have a much deserved break now for a week during which time we hope that at least some will have recovered from their knocks and injuries."

The Reserves have gone off at a great canter building on their opening day victory with a visit to Bromley Town. The Town fell behind early on but were soon back on terms late in the half as Henny Horsler was sent through and she finished neatly to equalise and it was level at the break.

The Hatters took the lead in the second half through Jael Muzzi but were pegged back soon after.

As the game looked to be heading for deadlock new signing Nkiru Akpom picked the ball up 40 yards out and drove at the home sides defence.

After beating two players she smashed the ball into the top corner of the net from fully 30 yards for her first goal of the season.



LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

# TIPS

TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME 2014-2015  
PATHWAY TO ACADEMY FOOTBALL

## FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT FOR 6 TO 16 YEAR OLDS

### COACHING PROGRAMME 9 WEEKS PLUS TRIAL MATCH

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Harpenden • Hitchin,  
Kempston • Leighton Buzzard  
Luton • Milton Keynes/Bletchley,  
Shefford • St Albans

### TIPS GRADUATES



Ronan Maher  
Joined Tips at U7  
Academy Player U11

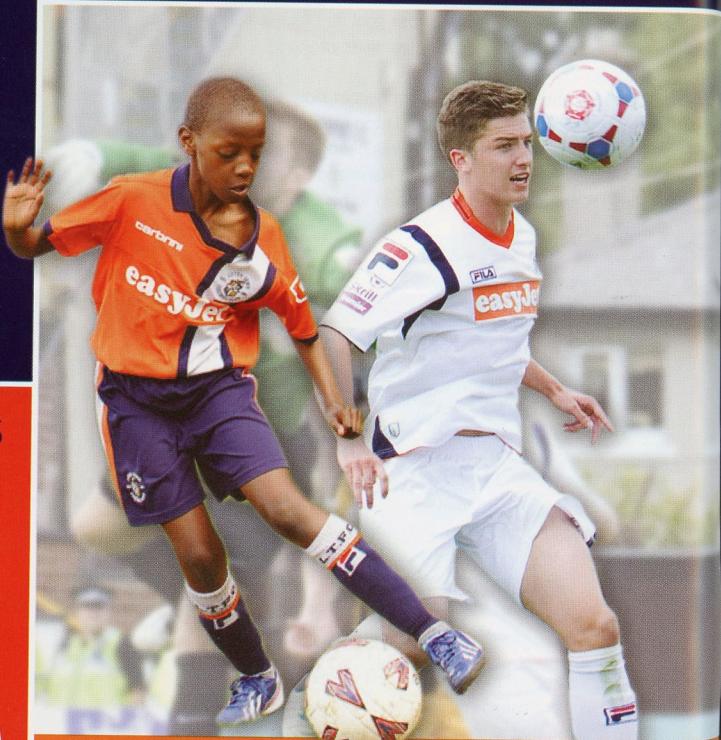


Joel Alderson  
Joined Tips at U8,  
Academy Player U14



Jack Harvey-Bailey  
Joined Tips at U10,  
Academy Player U13

### NEW GIRLS CENTRE IN LUTON



**TERM 1:** 15<sup>th</sup> Sept - 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2014 (9 weeks)  
Trial Match: Saturday 8th November 2014

**TERM 2:** 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014 - 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015 (9 weeks)  
Trial Match: Saturday 7th February 2015

**TERM 3:** 24<sup>th</sup> Feb - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (9 weeks)  
Trial Match: Saturday 25th April 2015

**TERM 4:** 11<sup>th</sup> May - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 (9 weeks)  
Trial Match: Saturday 11th July 2015

# community

## TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME 2014/15

Next week we start our annual search for young talent through our Talent Identification (TIPs) coaching centres.

We have 12 regional football development centres, with two in Luton, which are open to all youngsters aged from school year 2 up to year 11. The TIPs coaching centres offer a nine-week programme, ending with a trial match for everyone. Successful boys then progress onto our centre of excellence and pre-academy development centres with eventual pathways into our youth academy.

The centres are open to all abilities and below we have listed all of our centre details as well as answering frequently asked questions.

#### WHAT IS TIPS ALL ABOUT?

The successful TIPs Development programme is now in its ninth year of operation. The purpose of the TIPs Development Centres are to provide high quality coaching for up and coming footballers. Whether you are an ambitious player wanting to progress towards becoming a professional, or a new-comer, wanting to develop the basics, the TIPs programme has something to offer you.

#### WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE TIPs PROGRAMME?

The Luton Town youth department prides itself on the high calibre of its coaching team. By signing up you will receive the same standard of coaching that has helped produce players such as Curtis Davis, Leon Barnett, Kevin Foley, Matthew Taylor and Jack Wilshire. No other football club in our region can claim the same level of success in terms of youth development - four England youth internationals in the last three years: Dave Moli (now Wolves); Cauley Woodrow (now Fulham); Jay DaSilva and Lewis Baker (now both Chelsea). In addition, over 70 players have been signed by our Academy through our TIPs programme.

#### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost is £45 per term, which includes nine practical sessions and one assessment. In addition to the trial match, players will receive a report on their personal development during the 9 week programme.



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#### TIPS CENTRES - VENUES, DAYS AND TIMES

**BEDFORD** - Bedford Modern School, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7NT. Tuesdays: Years 2-6 18:00-19:00, Years 7-11 19:00-20:00

**BIGGLESWADE** - Biggleswade Town FC, The Carlsberg Stadium, Langford Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 9JT. Tuesdays: 18:00-19:00

**DUNSTABLE** - Creasey Park Stadium, Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB. Fridays: 17:30-18:30

**FLITWICK/AMPHILL** - Redbourne Upper School, Flitwick Road, Beds MK45 2NU. Mondays: 17:00 -18:00

**HARPENDEN** - Sir John Lawes School, Manland Way, Harpenden AL5 4QP. Fridays: 18:00-19:00

(Term 2 and 3 will be held indoors at Sir John Lawes school and Redborne recreation centre)

**HITCHIN** - Hitchin Boys School, Hitchin SG5 1JB. Fridays: 18:00-19:00

**KEMPSTON** - AFC Kempston Rovers FC. Hillgrounds Leisure, Hillgrounds Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 8SZ. Mondays: 17:00-18:00

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD** - Cedars High School, Mentmore Road LU7 2AE. Thursdays: 17:00 -18:00

**LUTON - STOPSLEY** - Playfootball.net Stopsley High LU27UX. Mondays: Years 2-6 17:00-18:00. Years 7-11 18:00-19:00

**LUTON - SUNDON PARK** - Lealands High School, LU3 3AL. Thursdays: Years 2-6 17:00-18:00

**BLETCLEY / MILTON KEYNES** - Powerleague, Fyfield Barrow, Walnut Tree MK7 7WH. Tuesdays: Years 2-6 18:00-19:00

**SHEFFORD** - Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford, SG17 5BU. Wednesdays: 17:00-18:00

**ST ALBANS** - Nicholas Breakspear School, St. Albans, AL4 0TT. Wednesdays: 17:00-18:00

To receive further details you can download our TIPs leaflet from the official website website at [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk) or to book a place from next week you can simply email [tips.ltfc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tips.ltfc@hotmail.co.uk) or call or text us on 07725 172345.



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

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

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

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

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

### TEAMSHEETS

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

### FREE CLOCKWATCH

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

### LIVE COMMENTARY

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

### FULL-TIME REPORT

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

### POST-MATCH REACTION

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

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

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## 2014-15 STAT PACK



### LEAGUE TWO TOP FIVES

#### GOALS

1	TUBBS	6
2	ELLISON	4
3	HYLTON	4
4	RICHARDS	4
5	ROSE	4

#### SHOTS ON TARGET

1	COLLINS	11
2	HYLTON	11
3	TUBBS	10
4	APPiah	8
5	COULSON	8

#### % OF GOALS INVOLVED IN

1	HYLTON	80
2	CURETON	75
3	RICHARDS	67
4	OAKLEY	67
5	TUBBS	64

#### FOULS

1	AKINFENWA	21
2	GRAY	15
3	REID	15
4	DUNNE	13
5	ETUHU	12

### LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT

Adebayo Akinfenwa has committed more fouls without receiving a card than any other player this season (21).

#### ASSISTS

1	CURETON	4
2	BROUGH	3
3	DEVITT	3
4	LOWE	3
5	WOOD	3

#### MINUTES PER GOAL

1	STOCKLEY	8
2	KEE	17
3	AZEEZ	31
4	ARTHUR	46
5	WES FLETCHER	60

#### MINUTES PER CHANCE CREATED

1	BOBBY-JOE TA...	5
2	HARNESS	47
3	KLUKOWSKI	49
4	KAYODE ODEJAYI	68
5	SMITH	90

#### MINUTES PER GOAL CONCEDED

1	LYNCH	27
2	BREZOVAN	30
3	GILLESPIE	39
4	LUMLEY	45
5	BEASANT	49

### LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT

Oxford are winless in their last 10 league games, losing eight and drawing two.

# ON THIS DAY

## ► THE RECORD

The Town's record on 13th September is a mixed one with the Hatters winning nine, drawing 10 and losing eight of the 27 matches played on this day in history. The Town have scored 34 and conceded 31, which works out an average of 2.4 goals per game.

The Hatters' first match on 13th September was a 1-1 draw with New Brompton in the Southern League in 1902. The game, which was played in what was effectively the fifth tier of the English football pyramid at the time, was the Town's 312nd game.

## ► WHO?

Wondered who New Brompton are? Well they are now a familiar face in the English league system, the club were renamed Gillingham in 1912.

On this day in 1905 the Town beat Grays United 6-0 in the United League (level six), and in 1913 Mardy were beaten 1-0 in the Southern League Second Division. Mardy were of Welsh origin, the club played in the village of Maerdy, in Glamorgan.

## ► THE LAST TIME

As you'll read further on below, the Town would swing from the Southern League Second Division all the way up to the top flight, but the last time the Hatters were in action on this date came last season when John Still's side were defeated 2-0 at Wrexham. It wouldn't be until March, and 27 games later, that the Town would taste defeat again.

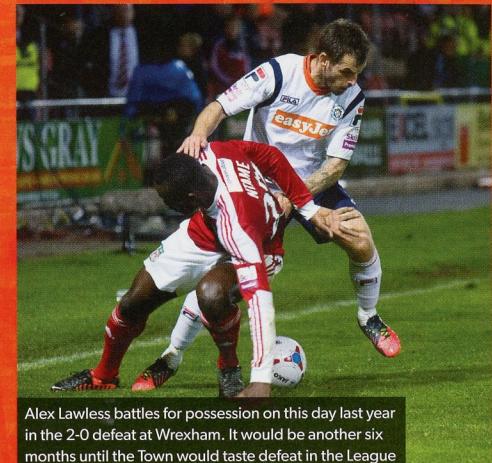
## ► TOP FLIGHT TOWN

The Hatters have twice played on this day in the top flight and both games ended in stalemate in goalless draws at Kenilworth Road.

The first game came in 1958 when 19,699 squeezed into the ground to witness the 0-0 draw with Bolton Wanderers. The second came 28 years later when Arsenal were held by the same score in front of 9,876. That season, 1986/87, the Town finished in their highest ever position of seventh in the First Division.

## ► THE GOOD OLD DAYS, THE BAD NEW DAYS

Between 1902 and 1961, across a run of 12 matches, the Town were unbeaten on 13th September, winning six and drawing six. However, in the 15 games which have



Alex Lawless battles for possession on this day last year in the 2-0 defeat at Wrexham. It would be another six months until the Town would taste defeat in the League

followed, the Hatters have won just three and lost eight. The Town's 1961 League Cup win over Northampton was their last on 13th September until 31 years later when goals from Julian James and Phil Gray earned the Hatters a 2-1 win at Brentford in the First Division (now Championship).

That result was significant to the Town supporters who made the trip to West London as it ended an 18-month wait for a victory away from Kenilworth Road (the Town failed to win on the road throughout the entire 1991/92 campaign).

## ► THE BIG WINS, THE BIG DEFEATS

The 6-0 win over Grays United in 1905 remains the largest victory on this day – and by some way. The Town's next best margin of victory is just two goals, a result which has occurred four times.

A 3-1 1924 win over Brighton & Hove Albion was followed by a 2-0 triumph over Northampton Town two years later. In more recent times, the Hatters saw off Aldershot Town 3-1 at Kenilworth Road in 2008 – the minus 30 season – thanks to goals from Michael Spillane, Asa Hall and Chris Martin.

The Town's last win on this day, however, came in the Conference, when two goals from Amari Morgan-Smith helped the Hatters to a 2-0 win on a Tuesday night trip to AFC Telford United.

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# FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



## THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED

So it was that the cursed TV cameras were to install their latest glass ceiling above 7,000 Saturday dreams last week, sealing-in the fog of perspiring hopeful Lutonian brows beneath. Surely it won't be long until the fresh air begins to flow through Kenilworth Road once again?

We bloody knew it would happen, too. We look less comfortable on screen than a desperate, fame hungry Chris Moyles these days as we once again fidgeted at the attention of the cameras.

It's not that we freeze on TV, more that it subtly puts us off our swagger a bit, like a celebrity guest on Sunday Brunch caught cringing between the two "banter" stools of Lovejoy and Rimmer.

### Magical

The Kenny-rock-blocking metaphor of Saturday's TV guests was beautifully illustrated by the huge broadcast trucks obscuring the magical first view of our Kenilworth Road End for those defiantly un-armchairmen and women who had shunned their TV dinner and ascended Hazelbury Crescent, LU1, for the real thing.

The early kick off, dictated from Sky above, created that slightly surreal feel to proceedings that it always does.

Like a 6am pint in an airport before a holiday the atmosphere in the ground was positive but a little unsure. Is it too early for a pint? Well it's certainly too early for football. But from their sofas, Saturday's soccer consumerverse could gawp-on passively horizontal, and that was the main thing.

Glimpses of sunshine and blue-skies were definitely mustered through the early Bedfordshire afternoon.

There was a nice fizz about the midfield play in the first half and some good openings were created, without that crucial clinical finish being applied. We defended well too for the most part, but we're not quite there yet and it's the autumn anticipation that we enjoy anyway, eh lads? More so than that boring, winning winter and spring bit that is to come.

My old man, the definition of an armchair Liverpool fan himself, has recently decided to start spending his Saturday's with his son at Kenilworth Road learning about proper football and as he's not great with stairs these days we've been watching the last couple of games from a slightly lower vantage point than my usual corner perch towards the rafters of the Main Stand.

### Perspective

From the enclosure, far from the distraction of a decent-ish away following from Devon in the Oak, you get a slightly different perspective on everything.

If you only ever sit in one stand I thoroughly recommend having a game or two among the diverse and distinct micro-cultures that exist in other bits of the ground.

For one thing, those people that annoy you every week by singing the wrong words to songs and generally being wrong about Matty Robinson's lovely hair aren't there. There are new and exciting oddballs (not you mate, you're a LEGEND) to discover at every turn in our great old ground, and cherish each and every one of them like brothers and sisters we must.

On to the next one then, lads. Back at the usual time, and maybe not in your usual spot. If there's one thing about this John Still era at Luton Town that is for certain in these slightly uncertain times: the revolution will not be televised.

# Don't forget...

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# The FOOTBALL Paper

THE ONLY PAPER FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FAN

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By Chris Dunlavy

Coventry's Ricoh Arena homecoming was a massive victory for supporters who have never stopped fighting for the return of their club.

A dispute between owners SISU and stadium landlords ACL had spiralled out of control, eventually resulting in the club being forced to play its games 34 miles away in Northampton. But a year of high-profile protests finally forced both parties to see sense and last Friday 27,000 fans saw the Sky Blues beat Gillingham.

It just goes to show there's no place like home – as these other groundsharers will testify:

#### Charlton Athletic Selhurst Park, Upton Park

The Addicks' problems arguably started with the purchase of former European Footballer of the Year Allan Simonsen in 1982. It was an expensive punt that went horribly wrong and, in 1983, the club avoided bankruptcy by the narrowest of margins. Two years later they were back in bother and, whilst the club was saved, the ground was not.

Their subsequent ground-share with Crystal Palace was the first of its kind in the Football League, and miraculously, the site of an against-all-odds promotion to the top flight in 1986.

Throughout their stay in the First Division, fans fought long and hard to secure a return to the Valley, even setting up a political party – The Valley Party – which won ten per cent of the ballot in the local elections of 1990.

Yet it wasn't until 1992 that they returned, the homecoming funded in large part by Newcastle's purchase of Robert Lee – the man who had scored the last goal at the Valley.

#### Brighton Priestfields

As the Amex glistens in the late summer sun, it's hard to believe Brighton were once the paupers of the Football League.

Having survived relegation to the Conference by the skin of their teeth, catastrophic debts had forced the sale

of the Goldstone Ground in 1997. Without a suitable replacement close by, the club was forced to relocate some 70 miles north to Gillingham. The subsequent two years are remembered as the bleakest in the club's history and it wasn't until 2011 – after a decade at the Withdean – that the club got its own stadium.

#### Maidstone United Training Ground, Central Park, Bourne Park, Homelands

There are wandering minstrels more rooted than the poor Stones. Having sold their own ground to furniture chain MFI in 1988 in favour of a groundshare with Dover, Maidstone were scuppered by an unexpected promotion to the Football League in 1989.

Forced to pay for bringing somebody else's ground up to scratch, financial problems quickly mounted and in August 1992 the club went bankrupt and was expelled from the League.

Reformed as Maidstone Invicta' in the Kent County League, their first games were played on the club's old training ground, a patch of grass sandwiched between a Mormon meeting house and MFI.

In 2001 came a move to Sittingbourne's Central Park, the pair both shifting a year later to Bourne Park. Tempted by a better rent deal, the Stones moved to Ashford Town's Homelands Stadium, only for plummeting attendances to force a return to Bourne Park two years later.

It wasn't until July 2012, 20 years after their rebirth, that Maidstone finally moved into the Gallagher Stadium, their own £2.6m home.

#### Manchester United Maine Road

After Man United's Old Trafford stadium was bombed by the Germans in World War II, their noisy neighbours kindly took them in for four years – although the Reds did pay £5,000 per annum for the privilege. At the time, Maine Road was named the 'Wembley of the North' for its vast capacity and in 1948 the tenants drew an incredible 83,260 fans for a match against Arsenal – a record for a league game. They finally moved out in 1949, but did return a decade later to play three European ties.

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# league look

## LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

The Town recorded back-to-back defeats following last weekend's set of fixtures. The Hatters dropped down to 20th in the standings and are without a home win to their name ahead of today's clash.

The Hatters lost out narrowly to Plymouth last Saturday in the televised fixture, but John Still's side were unfortunate not to have taken anything from the game as the hosts were in control for the majority of the match.

### Top

Burton Albion moved to top of the table and pushed today's visitors Cheltenham to second position. Burton saw off Portsmouth in a 2-0 win at home, with goals from McGurk and Akins continuing the Brewers' unbeaten start to the season.

Cheltenham were held to a 0-0 draw at the Globe Arena, home of the Morecambe. The Robins have already recorded a total of four clean-sheets out of a possible six in the league, so could prove to be tough side for the Town to break down in the meeting today.

### Unbeaten

Only one other side remains unbeaten in League 2, and this is York City – the Town's opponents this coming Tuesday. After drawing five consecutive games in a row, the Minstermen went one better this time and recorded a 3-2 win over Stevenage at the Lamex.

Three sides are still without a win to their name during this early stage of the season. Exeter City (24th), Oxford United (23rd) and Carlisle United (22nd) have yet to taste victory. Exeter lost out to Mansfield, while Oxford United and Carlisle both drew.

Matt Tubbs continued his excellent goal scoring form for AFC Wimbledon in a thrilling 4-4 draw with Carlisle. Carlisle were leading into the late stages of the game, but two late



League 2's leading goalscorer Matt Tubbs

goals, from Tubbs and Azeez, mean that Carlisle will have to wait even longer to record their first win of the season.

Northampton Town recorded back-to-back wins in last weekend's set of fixtures to move up to seventh in the standings.

### Brace

A comfortable 2-0 win away at Dagenham & Redbridge with a brace from Marc Richards secured the points for the Cobblers on the day.

Going into today's games, the Hatters will be desperate to pick up a win or could face dropping inside the relegation zone. With only two relegation spots this season, the Town have room to breathe.

## LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

ACCRINGTON v WIMBLEDON

BURTON v YORK

CARLISLE v BURY

DAG & RED v CAMBRIDGE

EXETER v OXFORD

HARTLEPOOL v TRANMERE

MORECAMBE v PLYMOUTH

NEWPORT v NORTHAMPTON

SOUTHEND v PORTSMOUTH

STEVENAGE v SHREWSBURY

WYCOMBE v MANSFIELD

# THE SEASON

## Fixtures & Results

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

### AUGUST

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

### SEPTEMBER

TV Sat 6	12.15pm	H	Plymouth Argyle	L 0-1	7,864	527	19	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Ruddock	Drury
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Cheltenham Town											
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											
Tue 7	7.45pm	H	Crawley Town (JPT2)											
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	A	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											

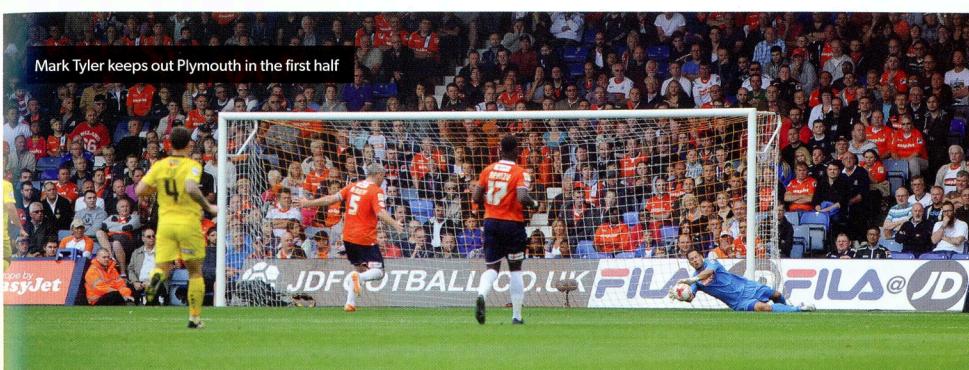
### MAY

Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage											
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John Still starts the post-match debrief

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



### LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

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

	THIS SEASON					CAREER TOTAL		
	LEAGUE APPS	LEAGUE GLS	CUP APPS	CUP GLS	TOTAL APPS	Y	R	APP GLS
Zane Banton	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	4 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	3 (0)	5 (0)

# HOLD THE Back Page

WITH BILL COLE

Have you noticed the similarity in watching England and the Hatters since the end of last season? In a word: frustration! Up until last Monday that is.

Both have the players to succeed and in my view, decent, honourable managers who know the game backwards. Both go out of their way to avoid blaming injury problems as contributing to performance malfunctions and yet there is no doubt that they play heavily in their recent stuttering displays.

Take England. In the run up to the World Cup campaign, having already lost Andros Townsend and Theo Walcott, skilful wingers proven at International level, both with the pace to frighten defences silly (and I include the backlines of Italy and Uruguay) they would also lose Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain as well. The Arsenal man, another winger with pace to burn, was England's best player in the warm-up games only to badly damage a leg in the most innocuous of challenges during the last one before Brazil.

You would have thought that having a number one with two back-ups would have meant plenty of cover. All we needed to do attacking wise was to use their pace to get behind defences and provide crosses for Wayne Rooney, Daniel Sturridge and Danny Welbeck.

"So this is what we do lads. When we get the ball, draw them out with balls across the back, work it down the sides with triangular passes, set our speed merchant away and make sure we have someone in the box to tuck away the cross. Simple!"

"But all three are out injured Gaffer". "Damn and blast (or words to that effect), we'll have to use that plan B we rejected back in the winter – essentially sit tight and hope to get something from set pieces".



Danny Welbeck: England's hero in Switzerland

A new season and another faltering performance in the warm-up game for the Euro qualifiers against Norway. Oxlade-Chamberlain is OK again, but short of match practise; shall we risk him in the game that matters?

## Hold on

But hold on, what's this; another match-fit flyer in tip-top club form unearthed - one Raheem Sterling. And this one is flexible enough to play down the middle at the top of a diamond. Right, scrap the old plan A, bring in Fabian Delph to stiffen the left of the midfield lozenge and Bob's your Uncle.

Switzerland, the highest ranked team in the group, away from home in the very first game. Get any sort of a result there and qualifying will be a cakewalk for even a badly misfiring England against the Estonias, Lithuanias and San Marinos of the footballing world because UEFA want to maximise income, so two or three go through to an outrageously expanded finals tournament in 2016.

So what happens in Basle? A clearance picked up in midfield, a good run and weighted pass to the speedster who produces a beauty of a cross, knocked in at the far post and Fanny's your Aunt. A vastly improved performance and three points from the most difficult match in the group by a country mile. Good old plan A.

Meanwhile, back at the Kenny in the Plymouth match, the Town at last showed signs of emerging from the shadow of the fantastic results of last season. What is needed now is a goal or two conjured up any way you like. Fluke, deflection, in off someone's backside, it doesn't matter as long as it leads to a confidence boosting win.

Perhaps today?

sky BET LEAGUE 2



## AUGUST FAN OF THE MONTH REECE BROWN

Burton Albion fan Reece Brown has been named the Sky Bet League 2 Fan of the Month for August.

Reece, 19, has supported the Brewers for nine years and now taken his support a step further by taking a role as a community coach for the Burton Albion Community Trust (BACT).

Reece said: "As a massive Brewers fan, I volunteered at the BACT for a year, before the Head of the Community Andy Taylor offered me some part-time work.

"To work for the club I love is a fantastic feeling and I want to push on further in this career in the future."

Burton Albion Chairman Ben Robinson said: "Reece has played a pivotal role in increasing the atmosphere home and away. His communication with the fans over the summer through fan engagement has led to the club and fans working closer together.

"Reece has introduced a drum into the terraces and this has encouraged the fans to help make the Pirelli Stadium a fortress come matchday."

If Reece won the £250,000 Sky Bet Transfer Fund, he would buy James Collins for Burton Albion!

Reece's score prediction:  
**BURTON ALBION 2  
YORK CITY 0  
15/2\***

\*odds correct at time of writing.



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# THE SQUADS



## LUTON TOWN

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



CHELTENHAM  
TOWN FC

## CHELTENHAM TOWN

1	Trevor Carson
2	Lee Vaughan
3	Craig Braham-Barrett
4	Matthew Taylor
5	Troy Brown
6	Steve Elliott
8	Matt Richards
9	Byron Harrison
10	Terry Gornell
11	Andy Haworth
14	Asa Hall
15	Jack Dearman
16	Joe Hanks
17	Zack Kotwica
18	Paul Black
19	Omari Sterling-James
20	Koby Arthur
21	Harry Williams
22	Bobbie Dale
23	James Bowen
24	Adam Powell
25	Jason Taylor
30	Harry Reynolds

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Andy D'Urso



Adam Crysell



Craig Hicks



Dave Bushell

## NEXT UP

v OXFORD UNITED • SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2014 • 3pm • SKY BET LEAGUE 2

