

TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v
OXFORD UNITED

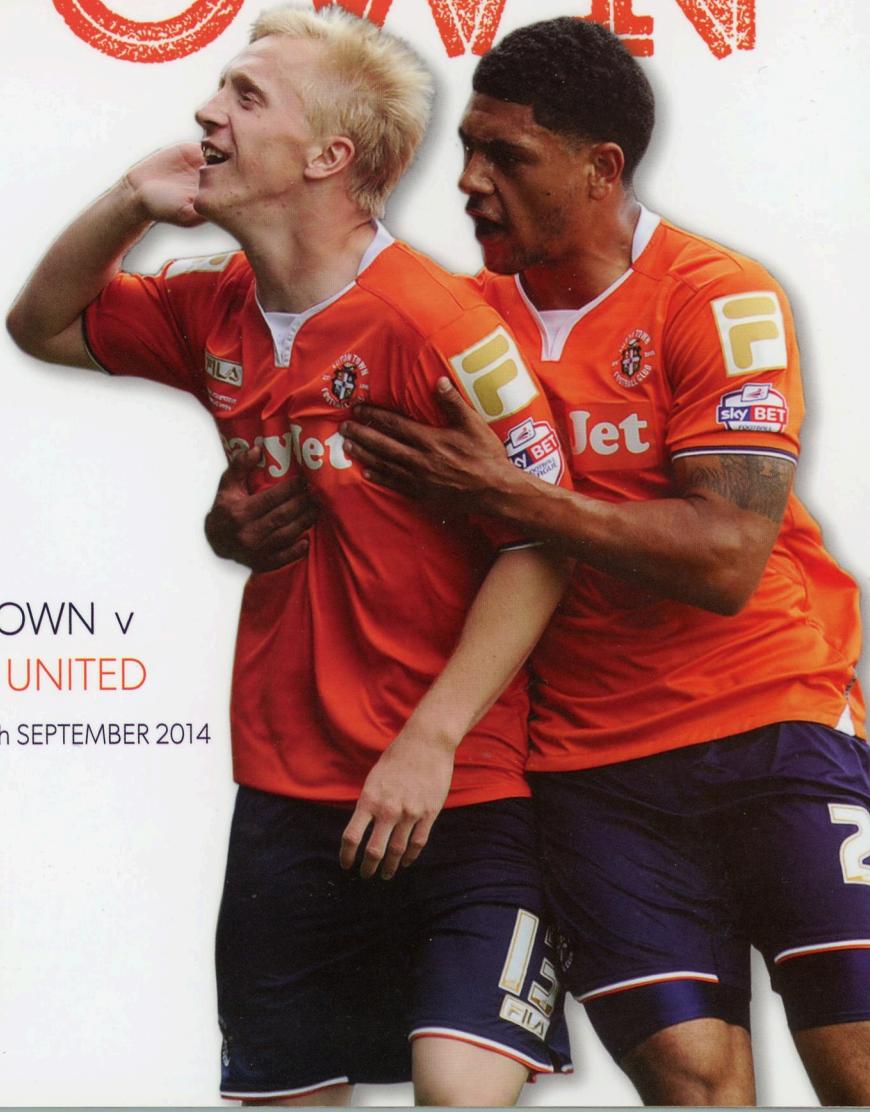
SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2014

KICK-OFF 3PM

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welcome TO KENILWORTH ROAD



“ After a fortnight away, a big welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this hugely-anticipated Football League fixture against Oxford United.

If today's game is anything like the last meeting between the two clubs then we're certainly in for a treat.

United followers will probably want to forget the Hatters' last-gasp 2-1 victory that February night four years ago, but Oxford, of course, had what would be the last laugh when they won the Play-Offs that season, defeating York at Wembley to win their place back in the Football League.

Following the Town's title success last term the two clubs meet again, with United arriving in Bedfordshire this afternoon aiming to continue a five-match unbeaten run after beginning the season with four straight defeats.

With the Hatters picking up form too, which you can read about further inside this programme, today's game promises to be just as fiercely-contested as their previous meetings.

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

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John Still looks ahead to today's game



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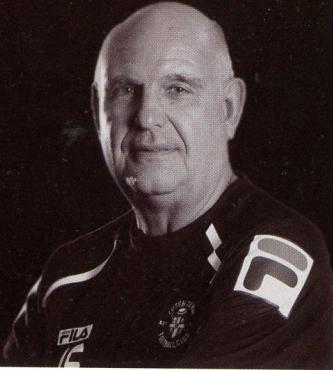
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JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this Sky Bet League 2 fixture with Oxford United.

I'd like to welcome Michael Appleton and his staff plus everybody associated with today's visitors. This game used to be a regular fixture in the Football League in the past and, with both clubs having spent time out of the League, today promises to be a great occasion. Like ourselves, Oxford will be anxious to push on to a higher level and with two big supporter bases there is no reason why that shouldn't be the case.

As I've mentioned many times before, the support we have received during my time here has been nothing short of unbelievable.

That is why I'll start these notes by thanking all that have backed the team in our first 10 league and cup fixtures this season. The support of the team has continued in the same vein of last season; it is incredible to see the thousands of you that travel to away games, while the numbers of supporters we see at Kenilworth Road has been remarkable. So a big thank you to you all already this season. Please keep it going.

Attributes

Our last home game saw us take on a Cheltenham side who were at the time riding high in the table and we collected all three points courtesy of Mark Cullen's terrific header.

It was a game in which we showed all the attributes necessary to win: great pass and move football and a resilience when needed. Your support also helped, with your noise, when we were defending near the end, acting as a 12th man on the pitch. That is the kind of strength you genuinely give us, so thank you again.

From there we made the midweek trip to York and came home with a point from a goalless draw.

**"IT WAS A GAME
IN WHICH WE
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NEEDED."**

I think both sides agreed afterwards that we should have taken all three points. It was a first class performance against a side who don't lose too many matches and having spoken to their manager, Nigel Worthington, after the game, he agreed that we more than deserved to win.

Was I happy with a point? I guess if you look at it, away to York on a Tuesday night, maybe – but personally I am never happy with a point.

STILL HAPPY

I truly believe you should do everything to convert one point into three. As a display from my players, however, I was absolutely delighted.

At Cambridge last weekend there was another bumper crowd.

Although not a derby, the game had a little bit of spice having battled with them for the title last season, and that rivalry reared its head at times.

It was an energetic performance from both sides with Cambridge edging the first half.

We started the second half brightly and got a strong foothold into the game for the first 10 minutes when they were reduced to 10 men. It was a decision that went in our favour but playing against 10 men is never, ever, easy.

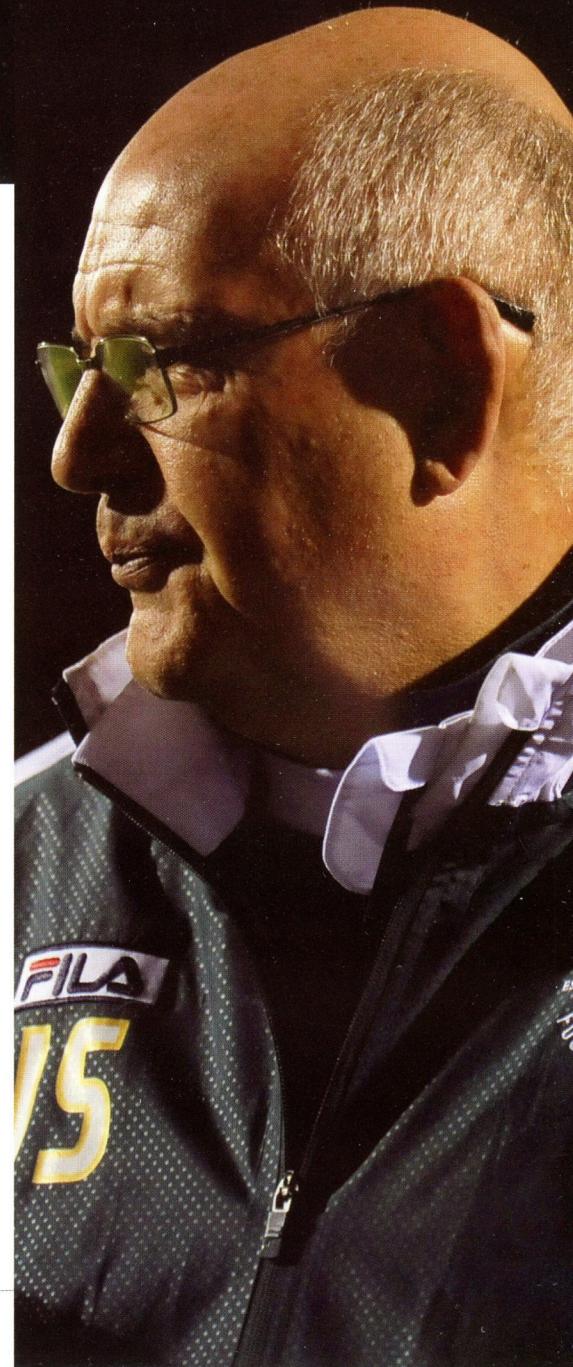
However, we gradually took control of the game and a foul on Pelly in the penalty area gave us the opportunity for us to win it, and Mark was able to convert from the rebound after his penalty was saved. You take goals however they come: penalties are not always scored and fortunately Mark was on his toes to score his third goal of the season.

Positive

Another positive this week saw our development squad earn a 2-2 draw at Portsmouth, which gave players who have been out injured some valuable game-time. I think those who came through that particular fixture may make our squad look a little healthier for this afternoon's game.

However, back to today. Please support your team. Remember when you support us you are supporting yourself because everyone is part of this team.

Enjoy the game.



BOARDROOM

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE GARY SWEET



Well, what a fantastic last fortnight we've enjoyed since we were last at Kenilworth Road!

After seven points and not a single goal conceded from the past three matches, it gives me great pleasure in welcoming you all back here to our spiritual home for this eagerly-anticipated League 2 clash against Oxford United.

It gives me particular satisfaction to welcome the directors, staff, supporters, players and management of our visitors from the Kassam Stadium today. We are two clubs which share a similar history; who have endured the agony of Football League exile, but the exhalation of lifting a major trophy in the League Cup final.

During our time in the Conference we were often reminded of Oxford's struggles to recapture their League status, and their return – the season we first suffered that gut-wrenching experience of losing in the Play-Offs – only served us to continue to strive for that similar feeling, which we gratefully and delightfully experienced last term.

Similarly, on the pitch this season, both ourselves and our visitors have overcome difficult starts to the campaign and will be defending small but gratifying unbeaten sequences here this afternoon.

Ambitions

Having achieved that one promotion that, without question, provides more security to the Club than any other – getting back into the Football League – many supporters are asking what our plans and ambitions are now.

On the pitch our plans, long and short term, are prospering. From the first team to the development squad, the youth team and not forgetting those out on loan, we are in the best possible, and in certainly the most envious hands of other clubs, with John Still and his staff at the helm.

Off the field, meanwhile, we remain committed to improving all aspects of the business and on that note, I'm delighted to announce one example of the delivery of these plans by welcoming a new member of staff to Kenilworth Road in June Walsh, who joined us two weeks ago to head up our retail and merchandising operations. June has a wealth of experience in sports retail and marketing with over a decade of knowledge from working with Premier League football and rugby clubs.

June's arrival coincides with a rather exciting development that we will be opening a brand new club shop in the Mall in Luton town centre next month. The outlet, which will be adjacent to the Body Shop, and just around the corner from Marks & Spencers, is due to open its doors on 11th October.

Having successfully trialled the use of retail stalls in the shopping centre before (at Christmas, and in the lead-up to Play-Off finals, and such like) we have always believed that a permanent presence in the centre of Luton was of huge importance and a necessity, especially to supporters who cannot always make the trip up to Kenilworth Road during their short, midweek lunch breaks!

Not only will you be able to pick-up merchandise from this new store but also tickets too, and we'll be communicating further details of the new shop's open date online, so please do keep your eyes peeled.

Stadium

Of course the mammoth item on the big 'to-do' list, one which is on everyone's lips, is the new stadium.

I've mentioned previously that a large share of my time, along with other directors and consultants, has been shifted onto this project as it dominates our focus of attention.

When we're approached by supporters we are greatly encouraged by the passion of your appeals to renovate or relocate. It's a move which we understand would attract more support and push the Club on to the next level.

I happily welcome that enthusiasm and pressure as we share your eagerness – a new stadium for Luton Town would certainly heighten the ceiling of our ambitions. Quite simply, we would prefer not to remain a Club probably requiring an operating loss (covered by benevolent investors) merely to survive in the lower leagues with little hope of competing at the highest level.

Having said that – and while reassuring you that we are and will continue to be doing everything in our powers to achieve our common aims – I would ask you to please understand that we are unable to discuss the project in any detail at this stage. As I'm sure you all realise, everyone involved in the project is fully obliged to adhere to strict commercial confidentiality in order to make progress. Any disclosure of commercially confidential information would be unprofessional, and could well be damaging to our ambitions.

Supporters groups are being consulted with some aspects of our progress, just to ensure that we're in tune with our fans want (and don't forget we, too, are all supporters!)

We know that any such scheme won't please everybody – no development does, there are always objections – but supporter group consultation should ensure that your voice is heard and that you'll be happy with the potential end result. Should we progress further down the line, we'll of course be happy to consult more widely in connection with the personalisation and other aspects of the project.

Our relationships with the councils are in good health and blossoming, though we acknowledge that there's still work to be done on both sides to understand the massive benefits a thriving Luton Town in a new stadium can bring to the broader community.

It is important to understand that the challenge ahead is no less than gargantuan. If relocation was easy to deliver, it would have been delivered on one of the numerous occasions it had been attempted since first being mentioned in 1957. We share your frustrations! Without doubt, it is far more difficult to achieve today than it ever has been with the global economy still in recession, less land being available within the desired boundaries and less grant assistance being made available to us.

To accomplish a modest relocation could cost well in excess of £50 million with a good proportion of this cost needing to be laid out before we know for certain the project can be delivered. I'm sure you'll forgive us if we admit to not being able to fund £50 million as investors of the Club, so the objective would be to ensure that the delivery of the stadium is met with facilitating development works – which makes the task even more complex.

While we've been working tirelessly to reach some of the key initial milestones, the scheme will need to be planned, which will take some time alone. The stadium and surrounding areas need to be designed – at which point everyone; from town planner to young supporter, will be able to see what the end result will look like. Relevant permissions will need to be granted (hopefully) and then building commenced. 2020 is still very much in focus but this is inevitably subject to decisions, influences and obstacles outside of our control.

Determined

Meanwhile, we would please ask for your patience and for you to have faith in us to get the job done. We are keen to grasp the opportunity that we're working so hard for. But this is a project which cannot be rushed in any way – especially when too many examples of other clubs' poor relocations are obvious for all to see. We are determined to do it, and do it right.

There's never been a more exciting time to be involved with this club of ours. Remember, your passion from our loveable, aging stands is shared in the boardroom, by the manager and his staff, by those in the offices and by the players on the pitch.

Enjoy your day!
#COYH



HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

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

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup:
Runners-up 1988

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

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

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One:
Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Skrill Premier Champions:
2013/14

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:
Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

United League:
Champions 1897/98
Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

Southern Alliance:
Runners-up 1913/14

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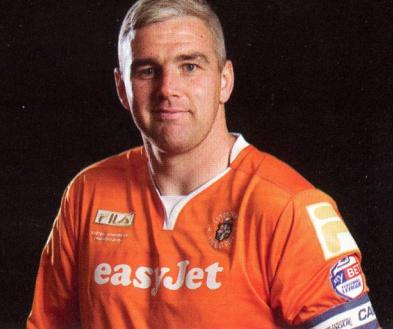
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MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



A lot has changed since my last programmes against Cheltenham two weeks ago, as three good results have propelled us up the table.

I always thought it would be a matter of time before we turned the corner and two solid 1-0 victories and a goalless draw at York have given us massive confidence to kick-on and keep this little run going.

A lot has been said about our start to the season and its similarities to last year. I'm not sure I can explain why. This time round you could argue that we have taken time to acclimatise to the step-up to League 2 and playing against better quality players. What I do know is that the last three results have shown that we have now got to grips with the division and long may that continue.

Important

The Cheltenham game was an important victory for us. They came here unbeaten and joint-top of the league and flying with confidence. We went into that match off the back of two straight defeats but you wouldn't have known that from the way we started. Cully scored a terrific header from Scotty's cross and we had the all-important first goal in the game. We kept our discipline and composure to see the victory out and we could all cherish this club's first home win back in the Football League. I honestly feel that this particular victory will prove to be of huge importance to us. To get that first home win of the season was a big relief, because last season our success was built on an excellent home record.

I missed the game at York to be beside my girlfriend, who would give birth to a little girl the following day. I must thank the gaffer for being so understanding to allow me to have the time off, and for the lads and staff at the club for their support. It was a tough decision to not play at York as I genuinely hate missing games, but I was thrilled that we were able to keep another clean sheet. I heard of the disappointment that we didn't take our chances but to come away from a midweek trip against a team who reached the Play-Offs last season is not at all bad.

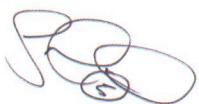
"We kept our discipline and composure to see the victory out and we could all cherish this club's first home win back in the Football League."

We followed up that point by then gaining all three at Cambridge last weekend in another hard-fought match against opponents we know very well from last season. I must admit that my first half performance was a little concerning, so much so the gaffer had a word with me at half-time to keep things simple – it was the first time since I've been here at he's done that. Having sat in a hospital for 72 hours and only trained once in the lead-up to the game I don't think I had truly settled. Thankfully, however, a true team performance helped me through it and we came away with another 1-0 thanks to another goal from Cully. Defensively I thought we were excellent and a special mention must go to Alex and Wilko, my fellow centre-halves, for their excellent displays.

Last week's win was even more heartening given the number of players we have missing through injury. We have almost a whole starting XI on the sidelines. While that is frustrating it gives the gaffer plenty to think about when they all return to fitness. It also means competition for places is fierce and that is a brilliant thing to have because those with the shirts do not want to be dropped and those coming back from injury need to work doubly hard to get back in the team.

Today we entertain an Oxford team who have overcome a slow start to come here unbeaten in five. We're on a good run ourselves, though, so we'll be aiming to continue that with another three points this afternoon.

Thank you for your support so far this season. Please keep it up and get behind us again today. Enjoy the game.

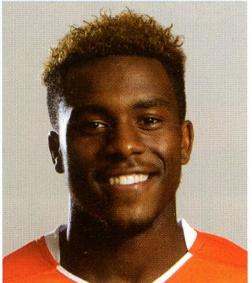


GET WELL SOON, LUKE!

Youth team defender Luke Trotman is now on the road to recovery after breaking his leg into places in the Town Under-18s' Youth Alliance fixture with Peterborough two weeks ago.

The match was abandoned as a result of the incident, but the popular right-back, who made his first team debut in an FA Trophy third round tie last season, has since had a successful operation at Peterborough General Hospital.

Such was the fantastic help that Luke received on the day, the Hatters placed on record their sincere thanks to Peterborough United and the staff at the hospital for their supportive actions both on and off the pitch in the wake of Luke's injury.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JIM!



A very happy birthday to Hatters supporter Jim Baldwin who is celebrating his 79th birthday today.

Jim has followed the fortunes of the Town for over 65 years and had been a regular season ticket holder during that time.

This afternoon Jim and his family – including his son and three grandchildren, who are all season ticket holders at Kenilworth Road – will be watching the game from an executive box to celebrate Jim's birthday in style.

We hope you have a fantastic day with us today, Jim. Happy birthday to you, from all Luton Town.

Cheltenham Golden Gamble

Main stand regular Mr Reid went home even happier after our victory over Cheltenham having won £830 on the Golden Gamble.

Mr Reid, from Houghton Regis, saw his ticket number 06304 plucked out of the barrel at half-time.

Remember tickets only cost £1 so look out for our sellers in and around the ground this afternoon.

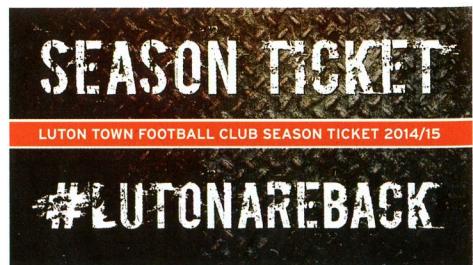
COME ON YOU DIAMONDS!

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

The diamond package is not your usual season ticket option, with many added benefits including a free replica shirt, free tickets for guests and hospitality for one match per season in the Eric Morecambe lounge.

Instalment options are now available for diamond package.

To find out more just give the ticket office a call on 01582 416976 or email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk for more information.



Loan Watch

Our Monday morning 'loan watch' on the official website has proven particularly popular, so much so we've been asked to include the feature inside future editions of this programme.

So, without further ado...

Last weekend, eight of the Town squad were involved in action last weekend for their respective loan clubs.

Danny Fitzsimons played 90 minutes for Bishop's Stortford in their impressive 3-1 home win over Whitehawk in Conference South.

Striker Ricky Miller completed 90 minutes for Dover in their 2-0 defeat at Torquay in the Conference Premier,

going close to equalising before the Gulls secured the victory late on.

Young defender Mark Onyemah, scored Thurrock's final goal in a 6-2 away win at AFC Sudbury in Ryman Division One (North).

Striker Zane Banton played 90 minutes for Biggleswade in their Southern Premier defeat at Hereford, and won a last minute penalty which was converted in a 2-1 defeat.

Midfielder Charlie Smith played 90 minutes in Hitchin's 4-0 Southern Premier victory over Redditch at Top Field.

Winger Kynan Isaac played 90 minutes in Oxford City's 4-0 defeat at Guiseley in Conference North.

Dave Martin completed 90 minutes for Bristol Rovers in their 2-0 win over Woking in the Conference Premier, setting up the Pirates' first goal.

And, finally, young striker Lee Angol played 90 minutes in a 2-1 defeat for Boreham Wood at Basingstoke and came close to scoring on several occasions.

Go corporate for JPT

The Town meet Crawley Town at Kenilworth Road in their second round Johnstone's Paint Trophy tie a week on Tuesday.

Ticket prices for this game have been agreed and can be found on page 13, but for those supporters who wish to enjoy matchday hospitality for this tie, the commercial department has a variety of packages available.

Match sponsorship at £450; matchball sponsorship at £399; mascot packages at £199; executive boxes £399; and Eric Morecambe hospitality £50. For further details on these packages email commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

Disabled Supporters' Association Forum

The newly-formed Luton Town Disabled Supporters' Association will be holding an open forum at the club on Wednesday 8th October.

All supporters are welcome to attend the forum to discuss all matters relating to disability issues at Kenilworth Road. The evening will also see the elections of officers for the association itself. The event starts at 7pm in the John Moore Lounge.

If any supporter has any queries or questions in the lead-up to the forum, please email the Disabled Supporters' Association direct on LTDSA@lutontown.co.uk.

Have you registered with Sky Bet yet?

Hundreds of Hatters fans have already registered with Sky Bet to give the club a chance a netting a £250,000 prize in the January transfer window.

Sky Bet, title sponsor of the Football League, launched the Sky Bet Transfer Fund in the summer, which gives one fan the chance to win £250,000 for their Football League club to spend on new players in the January transfer window – and collect an individual cash prize of £5,000.

Hatters fans who bet with Sky Bet will earn a token for every pound they spend, putting them in with a chance of winning the £250,000 Transfer Fund for their club in a draw in December 2014.

New and existing Sky Bet customers are eligible to win the Sky Bet Transfer Fund by simply linking their account to www.skybet.com/luton.

To sign up for the Sky Bet Transfer Fund and start collecting tokens now, visit www.skybet.com/transferfund.



Charlie Smith

let's go

THE TOWN MAKE THEIR SHORTEST TRIP OF THE SEASON NEXT SATURDAY
WHEN THEY TAKE ON STEVENAGE AT THE LAMEX STADIUM

STEVENAGE FC



WHO? Stevenage FC, aka Boro, although the club dropped the 'Borough' from their name following their promotion to the Football League at the end of the 2009/10 season. Under Graham Westley – who is now in charge for a second spell – the club were promoted in their first season in the League, beating Torquay in the League 2 Play-Offs. Boro then reached the League 1 Play-Offs in their first season at that level, only to lose to Sheffield United. Westley left Stevenage in 2012 for Preston but returned in March 2013. However the club were relegated last season after finishing bottom of League 1.

WHERE? Boro play their home fixtures at Broadhall Way, aka The Lamex Stadium and have done since it was opened in 1980. The ground failed to meet Football League capacity requirements when the club won the Conference title in 1996 and were subsequently denied promotion. These days the stadium holds 6,722 – half of which is seated. Town supporters have been allocated just under 2,000 seats for this match, the majority of which are behind the goal in the South Stand which offers an unobstructed view of the action.

HOW TO GET THERE. Town followers' shortest trip of the season consists of half-an-hour journey – some 16.4 miles from Kenilworth Road to the Lamex Stadium car park. For the sat-nav savvy the postcode is SG2 8RH. There is a large car park at the ground, whilst the adjacent Roaring Meg retail park only offers parking for 90 minutes, otherwise you could face a £100 fine. For those catching the train, the ground is a mile walk from the station. You can also go by coach, with the Bobbers, who depart Luton train station at 1pm. Fares are £12 for adults and £10 concessions. Call 01234 856542 to book your place.

TICKETS PLEASE! Hatters fans must remember that this match is all-ticket for all supporters with none available on the day. All the important selling arrangements and prices can be found on the page opposite.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? The Town travel to Broadhall Way aiming to preserve a 100 per cent winning record at the Hertfordshire venue having won on all three of their previous visits. A Matthew Barnes-Homer goal gave the Hatters all three points in the two clubs' last meeting in April 2010. The Town also won twice in the LDV Vans Trophy in successive seasons in 2002 and 2003. Ahmet Brkovic netted a five-minute hat-trick in the 4-3 win in 2002.

OLD BOYS NETWORK. Both clubs have one player who has represented both sides. Andy Drury, now in his second spell at Kenilworth Road, originally joined the Town from Stevenage at the beginning of the 2010/11 campaign. Boro, meanwhile, have Ronnie Henry in their ranks, the right-back who lifted the Conference title for the Town last year. The right-back is in his second spell at Broadhall Way having left Boro for Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2012.

THIS TIME ROUND. Stevenage's relegation from League 1 last term made Westley's side one of the favourites for promotion this season. However, Boro have endured an inconsistent start to the campaign having won three, drawn two and lost four of their nine games. They began the season with a 1-0 win over Hartlepool. Three games without a win followed before an impressive 3-2 win at AFC Wimbledon. Boro then lost 3-2 at home to York, then beat Shrewsbury, lost at Bury and, last week, drew 0-0 at Oxford. Today they entertain Mansfield.

tickets please



STEVENAGE v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match is all-ticket for all supporters.

We have an allocation 1,897 tickets for this match, made up of 1,382 in the South Stand behind the goal and 515 in the West Stand (Family Area) alongside the pitch.

Selling arrangements: Tickets are on sale to diamond and season ticket holders until 10am on Friday 3rd October.

Away Season ticket holders will be allocated seats in the West Stand (Family Area) alongside the pitch unless they contact the ticket office to advise they are not required and seats in the South Stand (behind the goal) are preferred.

Any remaining tickets will go on general sale online only from 6pm tonight before being available in person or over the phone from the ticket office on Monday 28th September until 3pm on Friday 3rd October.

Prices: Adults £15, £24, concessions (over 60s, students, UB40 holders, ambulant disabled, members of the Armed Forces/emergency services (proof is needed) £21, young adults under-22 £16, under 16s £12, under-12s £10.

Any wheelchair disabled supporters will need to contact Stevenage directly on 01438 223223 for wheelchair spaces.



LUTON TOWN v CRAWLEY TOWN

JOHNSON'S PAINT TROPHY SECOND ROUND

TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Please note the Oak Road stand will only be open to visiting supporters for this match. Furthermore, the David Preece stand as well as blocks A and G and the 'upper upper' section of the Kenilworth Road end will be closed for this match.

Unreserved seating is in place for this cup tie.

Cup authorisation forms will not be in use for season ticket holders.

Prices: £10 adults, £7 young adults and seniors, £5 golden seniors, £3 youths, £1 under-10s.



LUTON TOWN v SOUTHEND UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

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WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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We are proud sponsors of today's game and wish the Hatters every success for this game and the rest of the season.

TODAY'S MASCOTS



WILL STUBBS



CHLOE ROYLE



AIDAN SMITH

We have the pleasure of welcoming three mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Our first mascot is Will Stubbs, who celebrated his eighth birthday yesterday. Will is from Milton Keynes and his favourite player is Alex Lacey.

Next up is eight-year-old Chloe Royle. Chloe, who also likes cheerleading and gymnastics, comes to matches with her dad and her favourite player is Stephen McNulty.

Last, but by no means least, our third mascot is Aidan Smith. Aidan is 11 and comes from Brighton to watch the Hatters and his favourite player is also the skipper.

We hope you all have a fantastic day with us this afternoon.

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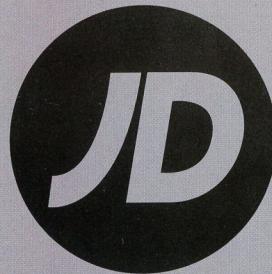
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welcome

OXFORD UNITED



It is with great pleasure that we welcome everybody associated with Oxford United to Kenilworth Road for this League 2 fixture.

The U's make their first visit to Bedfordshire since the Town's 2-1 victory in February 2010 – a game which is well documented on several pages throughout this programme.

At the end of that season United, under the guidance of Chris Wilder, won promotion back to the Football League with a Play-Off victory at Wembley over York City to bring to an end a four-season stay in non-league football.

Since their return to the League, Oxford have come close to reaching the Play-Offs in each of the last four seasons. Their first season saw them finish 12th in League 2, but the next three campaigns have seen two ninth-placed finishes before last term's eighth-placed finish, which was one place and nine points behind the final Play-Off place.

At the helm this season is head coach Michael Appleton, who took over the reins from Gary Waddock over the course of the summer. Former Hatters player Waddock had only taken over in late-March before being axed.

Appleton's side have started the season slowly, losing their first four matches, but have since picked up form and arrive at Kenilworth Road today unbeaten in their last five games.

All four of United's defeats have been by the odd goal. An opening day 1-0 defeat to Burton was followed by a 2-1 defeat at Mansfield, and then two 1-0 defeats to Morecambe and Portsmouth meant the Yellows sat joint bottom of the table.

However, the corner was turned with three successive draws – against Dagenham (3-3), Southend (1-1) and Exeter (1-1) – before that elusive victory was achieved 10 days ago with a 3-1 home win over Accrington at the Kassam Stadium. Last weekend Appleton's side kept the unbeaten run going with a goalless draw at home to Stevenage.

United will be aiming for their first away victory of the season this afternoon and their first at Kenilworth Road since a League Cup first round first leg tie in 1998. You have to go back to a 1987 game in the top flight for the last time Oxford won a League fixture on Bedfordshire soil.

Appleton's class of 2014 still have high hopes of success this term and certainly have the squad capable of mounting a challenge.

Striker Danny Hylton already has five goals this term and the recent loan signing of Peterborough's Tyrone Barnett certainly give United firepower going forward. Ryan Clarke is dependable between the sticks, whilst midfielder Brian Howard, another recent acquisition, has bags of experience at a much higher level than League 2.

in opposition

OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM THE KASSAM STADIUM



► HEAD COACH

MICHAEL APPLETON. The boss. Former Portsmouth, Blackpool and Blackburn manager who arrived at the Kassam Stadium in July this summer. A midfielder as a player he began his career at Manchester United before spells at West Brom and Preston.

► GOALKEEPERS

MAX CROCOMBE. Young New Zealand-born goalkeeper who was once on the Town's books as a youngster. Signed for United from Buckingham and was awarded his first pro deal last season.

GEORGE LONG. Highly-rated keeper who joined United on a six-month loan from Sheffield United in July. An England Under-20 international he has already made 73 appearances for the Blades.

► DEFENDERS



DAVID HUNT. Dependable right-back who signed for United at the start of last season from Crawley and went onto become an ever-present in his first season at the Kassam Stadium.

JAKE WRIGHT. Club captain and a pacey centre-half who joined the Yellows from Brighton after a successful loan spell in 2010. Has also enjoyed success at Bradford and Crawley.

MICHAEL RAYNES. Towering centre-back who arrived at the Kassam in July 2012 after being released by Rotherham. Started his career at Stockport before joining Scunthorpe and then Rotherham.

TOM NEWHEY. Left-back who joined United in July 2013 from Scunthorpe. The Iron's Player of the Year in his final season at Glanford Park, he has spent time at Leeds, Grimsby, Bury and Rotherham.

JOHNNY MULLINS. Former Rotherham and Reading defender who joined United last summer on a three-year deal.

JOE RILEY. Young defender who arrived at the Kassam Stadium in July on-loan from Championship club Bolton Wanderers.

ANDREW WHING. Versatile former Brighton, Chesterfield and Orient man who signed in May 2011. Capable of playing at right-back or in midfield, he was the supporters' Player of the Year in 2012.

► MIDFIELDERS

MICHAEL COLLINS. Michael Appleton's first Oxford signing and former Huddersfield and Scunthorpe midfielder who has been capped at youth level for the Republic of Ireland.

CALUM O'DOWDA. Highly-rated winger who was awarded with a professional contract at the end of last season following a successful scholarship.

JOSH RUFFELS. Oxford-born young midfielder who signed for United from Coventry. A regular last season he penned a new deal in the summer.

JUNIOR BROWN. Lightning-quick winger or left-back who signed this summer after leaving Fleetwood. Also previously on the books at Crewe and, last season, Tranmere.

BRIAN HOWARD. Experienced former Barnsley, Portsmouth and Birmingham midfielder who penned a six-month deal at the Kassam last week. Named in the Championship team of the year in 2008/09.

ALFIE POTTER. Pint-sized winger who signed for United in 2010 after a successful loan spell which saw the Yellows win promotion. Shot to prominence with Havant & Waterlooville, scoring against Liverpool.

► STRIKERS



DANNY HYLTON. Strong and pacey frontman who arrived at the Kassam in June this year. Spent six years at Aldershot before joining Rotherham. Spent last season out on loan at Bury and Wimbledon.

WILL HOSKINS. Summer arrival following his release from Brighton. Spent five years at Rotherham before joining Watford and then enjoyed spells at Bristol Rovers in between various loan deals.

TYRONE BARNETT. Imposing striker who joined the Yellows on a 93-day emergency loan from Peterborough in early September. Prolific spells in non-league saw him snapped by Crawley before Posh paid £1.1m for his services in February 2012.

ALEX JAKUBIAK. Westminster-born forward who signed on a six-month loan from Watford a day after his first under-19 cap for Scotland. Made his debut for the Hornets on the final day of last season.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

Yellows fan **Ash Mason** endured an uncomfortable trudge back to Luton train station the last time he visited – so today, it's the U's he wants to see grab that 97th minute winner from a corner...

TALK OF THE TOWN:

Tell us about the start to your season. What are supporters' expectations for this campaign?

ASH: Being an Oxford fan means always expecting more than is often reasonable. For as long as we are in League 2, pre-season expectation is always going to be reaching the Play-Offs, if not automatic spots, regardless of what we or other teams have done in the off-season. Having got off to such a poor start though, most have probably re-assessed expectations slightly. I would still expect us to finish strong and be top 10 at the end of the season, at least.

TOTT: Was the sacking of Gary Waddock a surprise? What do U's fans make of the summer appointment of Michael Appleton? Do you sense another change in the hotseat may be on the horizon?

ASH: It was a massive surprise and probably could have been handled a lot better by the new owners. That said, I don't think anyone was particularly excited by the prospect of a full campaign under Waddock – he wasn't particularly inspiring. Despite some mediocre results since Appleton came in, performances have been positive and I think most Oxford fans feel he has said and done the right things and is a good appointment. He will still be in the hotseat in May, no doubt about that.



Ash Mason

TOTT: Which of your players makes Oxford tick? Do you think new loan signing Tyrone Barnett be amongst the goals at the Kassam?

ASH: It's still early days, but we've gone from looking without ideas upfront to having a wealth of striker options with various loan and semi-permanent signings in the past four weeks. Barnett scored on his home debut, so he has started well enough. I think Danny Hylton looks good too – he has a touch of class about him on the ball. Probably our best players are our two first choice centre-backs, skipper Jake Wright and the extraordinary Johnny Mullins – who is also my tip for the winner today, a lashed low shot from a corner. I also like the look of new signing Joe Riley, from what I've seen so far.

TOTT: The teams last met in the 2009/10 season. What are your memories from those games? Do you still have a sense of relief at having got out of the Conference?

ASH: Yes! I'm sure Luton fans will agree that at times it was a lot of fun being a 'big fish in a small pond' – but I hope Oxford will never have to be on a par with teams like Droylsden, Farsley Celtic and Forest Green Rovers ever again!

The games against Luton were always fiery, entertaining encounters. I'll never forget the highs and lows of those two games that season. The stunning victory at home, scoring just after we missed a penalty, as the Luton fans were still laughing at that. Then throwing away three points to two injury time goals from corners at Kenilworth Road and having to trudge back to Luton train station afterwards.



Michael Appleton



The Kassam Stadium

TOTT: Are you disappointed Oxford have not been able to push on since their promotion? What lessons can Luton learn from you as we look to make another step up?

ASH: I'm not giving anything away - I don't want you overtaking us! There's massive disappointment that we haven't pushed on to be honest. There was a real buzz about the club in 2010 and we were confident we'd be able to go up another step quickly. We have started every season well, only to fall apart in the middle every year since promotion. I'm hoping this year's poor start means we finish with a run into the top three for a change.

TOTT: What's the best and most memorable Oxford game you've ever witnessed?

ASH: It's a tie between seeing us promoted at Wembley in 2010 and beating Paolo Di Canio's much more talented Swindon side at the County Ground the following season. They absolutely bottled it.

TOTT: How will today's game go? What's your prediction?

ASH: I have to fancy us to give it a go and come away with something. Otherwise what's the point in going? 2-1 to Oxford – we'll score the winner from a corner in the 97th minute.



Johnny Mullins

DID YOU KNOW?
OXFORD HAVEN'T TASTED VICTORY AT KENILWORTH ROAD SINCE A 3-2 LEAGUE CUP VICTORY IN 1998. UNITED'S PREVIOUS WIN HERE WAS ALSO 3-2, AND THAT CAME IN THE TOP FLIGHT BACK IN 1987.

A HATTER...

AND A U

A number of players have donned the colours of both the Town and Oxford over the course of history with perhaps the most decorated being Steve Foster.

An inspirational skipper and leader, 'Fozzie' was the Town's captain during arguably the club's finest hour, lifting the Littlewoods Cup in 1988.

The Portsmouth-born centre-half started with his home-town club as a forward but reverted to defence before being sold to then First Division Brighton in 1979.

Steve won England caps whilst at the Goldstone and was virtually ever-present during the Seagulls' four-year stay at the top. However, a change in manager saw him move to Aston Villa in March 1984 but after an unhappy stay in the West Midland he moved to Kenilworth Road in November of that year.

With the Hatters he formed a tremendous partnership

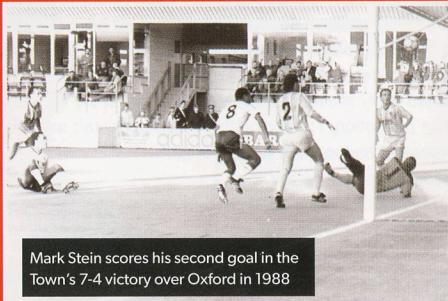
with Mal Donaghy and with it came the most successive period in the Town's history.

After 212 appearances for the Hatters, Steve moved to Oxford in 1989 and scored nine goals in 95 league games between 1982 and 1992. He then rejoining Brighton where he finished his playing career.

Other players to have played for both clubs in recent times include strikers Tom Craddock and Steve Basham.

Craddock, now at fellow League 2 club Portsmouth, joined the Hatters originally on-loan from Middlesbrough and went on to score 38 goals in 86 for the Town after making the move permanent. Craddock then signed for Oxford in August 2011 and scored 28 goals in 88 matches whilst at the Kassam Stadium.

Basham was a popular figure at Oxford with his record of 43 goals in 168 Football League matches between 2002 and 2007. He scored twice in Luton colours in a short spell in 2009/10.



5-2 at the Manor Ground and 7-4 at Kenilworth Road. It remains the only 7-4 scoreline involving the Town in their history.

In more recent times the Town have only lost three times in the last 14 matches between the two clubs. Who can forget the last time the two sides met in the Conference in February 2010? Trailing to a Matt Green goal the Hatters were 1-0 behind three minutes into stoppage time, but late, late goals from George Pilkington and, amazingly, direct from a corner, by Keith Keane won it for the Town.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Absolutely – the two clubs have met a total of 34 times down the years, not bad considering the first meeting took place as recently as 1970.

The Hatters hold the advantage in the head-to-head record, winning 15 times to Oxford's 12. Seven of the matches have ended in draws. A total of 113 goals have been scored, the Town notched 62 of those.

The Town won the first meeting 4-0 at Kenilworth Road with Matt Tees and Malcolm Macdonald both scoring twice, but Oxford won five of the next seven games between the clubs between 1971 and 1975. United first win at Kenilworth Road came in February 1972 whilst the Town's recorded their maiden win at the Manor Ground with a 3-1 win on 1976.

In the 1987/88 season saw the clubs meet four times, twice in the semi-finals of the Littlewoods Cup that saw the Town progress 3-1 on aggregate to reach the final against Arsenal. The two league fixtures that season saw an incredible 18 goals scored, with the Hatters winning

back to the future

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

► 1986 LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

ALAN JUDGE: Goalkeeper who joined Hereford United in July 1991, then Brackley, Banbury United, briefly Oxford United again, Oxford City and Woodford. He has become a driving instructor in Bicester.

DAVE LANGAN: Republic of Ireland international who later played for Bournemouth, Peterborough United, Ramsey, Holbeach and Rothwell. Later a car park attendant and porter, he is registered disabled.

JOHN TREWICK: Ex-England Youth international who moved to Birmingham City in September 1987, then Bromsgrove and Hartlepool, coaching at West Brom, Derby, Wolves, Hereford and Shrewsbury.

LES PHILLIPS: Moved to Northampton Town in July 1993, then Marlow, Oxford City and Banbury United. Later an Oxford United scout and now matchday host, he works at Magnolia Park golf course.

GARY BRIGGS: Long-serving central defender who netted 18 goals in 420 League games before moving to Blackpool in June 1989, then played for Chorley. He has since been a civil servant in Blackpool.

MALCOLM SHOTTON: Moved to Portsmouth in August 1987, then several other clubs, returning to Oxford United as manager. He later coached and now works for a Mercedes dealership in Huddersfield.

RAY HOUGHTON: Republic of Ireland international midfielder who joined Liverpool in October 1987, then played for Aston Villa, Crystal Palace, Reading and Stevenage. He became a pundit on Sky TV.

JOHN ALDRIDGE: Republic of Ireland international striker who moved to Liverpool in January 1987, then Real Sociedad and Tranmere Rovers where he was player-manager before working in the media.

JEREMY CHARLES: Welsh international who retired due to injury. He assisted Malcolm Elias with youth development at Oxford United, Swansea and Southampton before coaching at Oxford schools.

TREVOR HEBBERD: Midfielder who joined Derby County in August 1988, then Portsmouth, Chesterfield, Lincoln City and Grantham. He now makes pallets for a steel distribution company in Leicester.

KEVIN BROCK: England Under-21 midfielder who followed Jim Smith to QPR in August 1987, then Newcastle United. Later playing for non-League clubs, he has managed Banbury United and Ardley United.

► 1995/96 PROMOTION WINNERS

PHIL WHITEHEAD: Goalkeeper who followed Denis Smith to West Brom in December 1998. Later playing for Reading and Tamworth, he became a goalkeeping coach and is now a driver in Oxford.

LES ROBINSON: Versatile right-back who rejoined Mansfield Town in July 2000, then played for Hednesford Town and Banbury United. He is currently a teacher at Swalcliffe Park School, near Banbury.

MIKE FORD: Left-back who netted 18 goals in 289 League games before rejoining Cardiff City in July 1998. He then returned to Oxford United as youth team boss and is currently managing Oxford City.

DAVE SMITH: Midfielder who scored twice in 198 League games, moving to Stockport County in February 1999, then Drogheda United and Macclesfield Town. He runs a chauffeur business in Liverpool.

MATT ELLIOTT: Central defender who joined Leicester City in January 1997. Gaining 18 Scotland caps, he coached Hednesford, Oadby and Stafford, becoming manager, since running a fashion business.

PHIL GILCHRIST: Central defender who joined Leicester City in August 1999, then West Brom, Rotherham and Oxford United again. He managed Woking and has since run a soccer school in Leicester.

DAVID RUSH: Striker who moved to York City in January 1997, then played for Morpeth Town, Hartlepool United, Seaham Red Star and managed Hebburn. He now runs a soccer school in Sunderland.

MARTIN GRAY: Midfielder who joined Darlington in June 1999, then Whitby Town, before coaching back at Darlington. Later assisting Dave Penney at Oldham Athletic, he runs his own football academy.

PAUL MOODY: Top scorer who joined Fulham in July 1997, then played for Millwall, Oxford United again, Aldershot and Gosport. He has since run his own tanning, fitness and holistic studio in Havant.

STUART MASSEY: Midfielder who netted eight goals in 103 League games until sidelined by injury. Later playing for and managing several teams in Surrey, he is a golf instructor at Lingfield Marriott.

JOEY BEAUCHAMP: Winger who scored 63 times in 362 League games overall during two spells with his hometown club, moving to Abingdon in August 2002. Later with Didcot, he still lives locally.

TOWN 1-0 CHELTENHAM

CULLEN 8



Mark Cullen celebrates his winning goal

Mark Tyler keeps Cheltenham at bay



WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town recorded their first home win back in the Football League thanks to Mark Cullen's first-half header against Cheltenham.

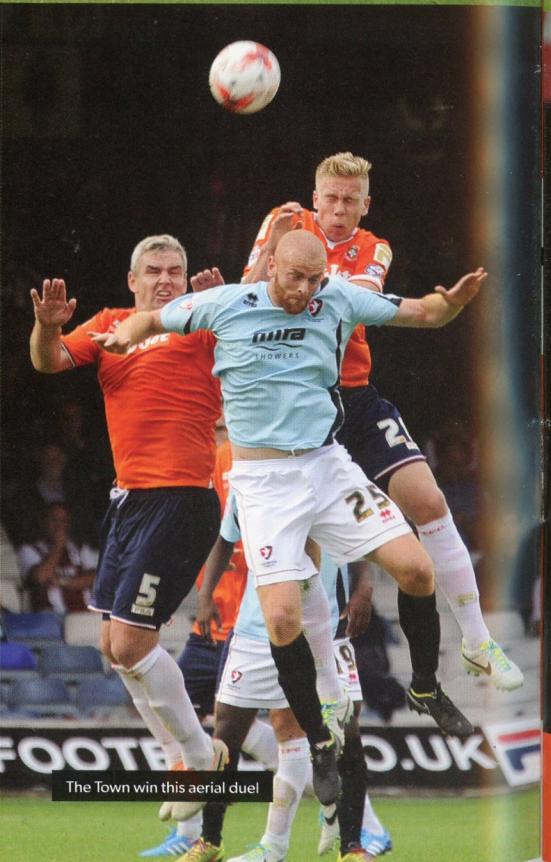
The striker found space in the Robins' penalty area to nod Scott Griffiths' teasing left-wing cross in the eighth minute to send the Hatters on their way.

The Town came close to adding to their tally but the visitors, who arrived at Kenilworth Road unbeaten at the start of the day, were kept at bay in the second period with Mark Tyler producing a string of fine saves in a man-of-the-match performance to ensure the Hatters picked up their first victory since the opening day at Carlisle.

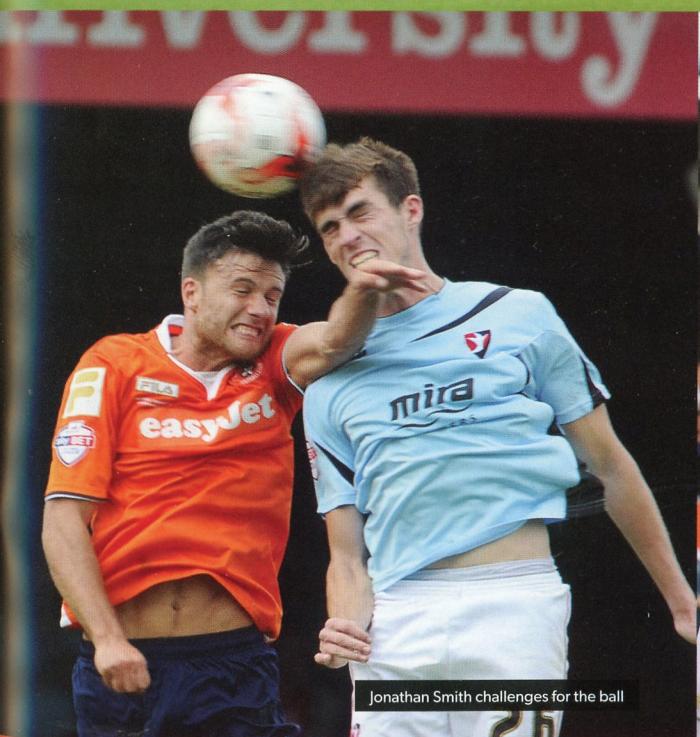
Luke Guttridge and Ross Lafayette were unlucky not to find the target for the Town in the second half before Tyler thwarted the visitors with a series of excellent stops.

The Town thought they had doubled their lead shortly before the 60-minute mark when substitute Jim Stevenson finished from close range, only to see his effort ruled out after an extremely late offside flag.

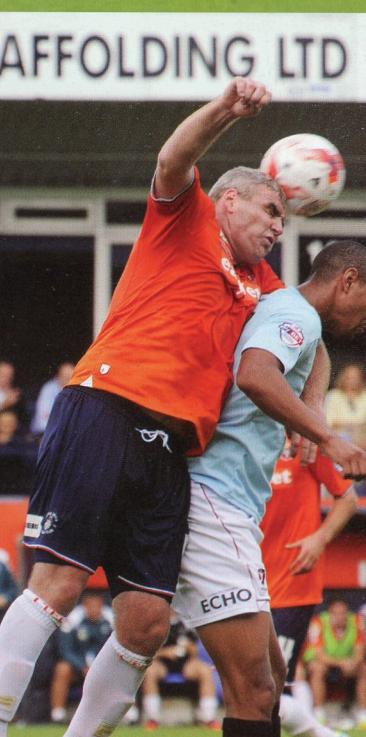
Cheltenham rallied in the closing stages but Tyler prevented John Marquis' late free-kick to ensure the Town celebrated a first Football League win at Kenilworth Road since March 2009.



The Town win this aerial duel

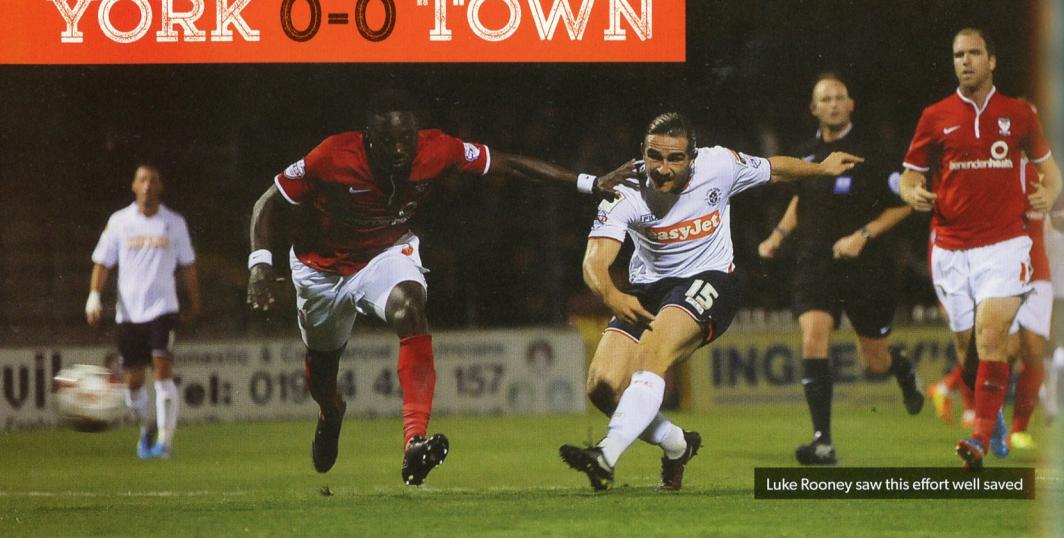


Jonathan Smith challenges for the ball



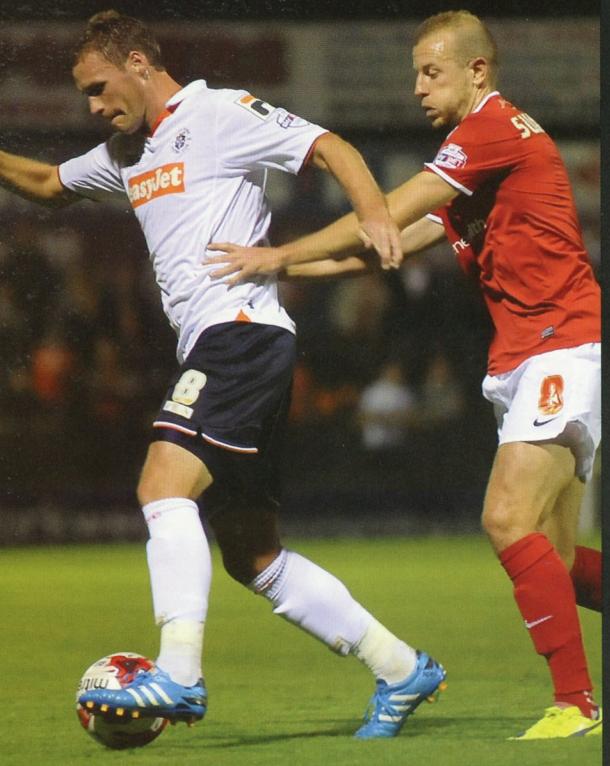
TOWN: Tyler; Lacey (sub Stevenson 55), McNulty, Wilkinson; Griffiths (sub Drury 78), Williams; Smith, Ruddock Mpanzu, Guttridge (sub Howells 71); Cullen, Lafayette. **SUBS NOT USED:** Wall, Rooney, Walker, Justham.

YORK 0-0 TOWN



Luke Rooney saw this effort well saved

Andy Drury shields the ball



WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters were held to a goalless draw at Bootham Crescent in a game that saw both goalkeepers make fine saves in an entertaining game.

The Town came close when Alex Lacey headed wide at the back-post and on 25 minutes Mark Cullen raced clear down the left side but saw his shot somehow saved by the fingertips of home stopper Michael Ingham.

Mark Tyler saved a stinging shot from Lindon Meikle and then stopped another York effort from Tom Platt shortly before the break.

After half-time the Minstermen started the brighter and Luke Summerfield drilled a low shot wide three minutes after the restart before Fletcher whacked a shot from the edge of the box way over the crossbar.

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu came close on 58 minutes when his shot was saved by the legs of Ingham. A minute later Rooney then fired a shot into the arms of the York goalkeeper from the edge of the penalty.

Tyler again came to the rescue when it seemed all the world that Penn would tuck home Michael Coulson's pass when free 10 yards out before the Town came closer themselves on 73 minutes when Rooney was denied by a breathtaking save by Ingham.



Jake Howells finds himself outnumbered by the York defence



Mark Cullen goes for goal in the second half

TOWN: Tyler; Williams, Griffiths, Lacey, Wilkinson; Howells (sub Rooney 52), Ruddock Mpanzu, Drury, Smith (sub Stevenson 62); Guttridge, Cullen (sub Lafayette 82). **SUBS NOT USED:** Wall, Whalley, Connolly, Justham.

CAMBRIDGE 0-1 TOWN

CULLEN 80



Alex Wall gets a toe to the ball



WHAT'S THE STORY?

Mark Cullen's goal 10 minutes from time helped the Hatters to their third win of the season and first at Cambridge in five years.

The striker notched his third goal of the season when following up his penalty which was saved by home goalkeeper Chris Dunn.

The Hatters took advantage of their numerical advantage in the second period after home midfielder Tom Naylor, making his debut, was sent-off for a late challenge on Jim Stevenson.

Cambridge dominated the first half and came close when Ryan Donaldson shot wide and striker Tom Elliott clipped a shot against the outside of the post.

However, 10 minutes after the restart Naylor was given his marching orders for a nasty tackle on Stevenson and that was the catalyst for the Town to pursue a winner.

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu came close to breaking the deadlock when he crashed a shot from the edge of the box off the crossbar but the midfielder's pace and trickery did lead to the Town going ahead. The former West Ham man was upended in the box and although Cullen saw his spot-kick saved as Dunn guessed the right way, the striker was alive to the rebound to tuck home his second important late goal in successive seasons at the Abbey Stadium.



The moment the penalty was won



Mark Tyler punches clear

TOWN: Tyler; Williams (sub Drury 28), Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson, Lacey; Ruddock Mpanzu, Stevenson, Guttridge (sub Robinson 82); Wall (sub Lafayette 60), Cullen. **SUBS NOT USED:** Whalley, Doyle, Walker, Justham.

Macca

A YEAR IS A LONG TIME IN FOOTBALL – JUST ASK TOWN SKIPPER STEPHEN McNULTY. AND AFTER MISSING HIS FIRST GAME IN 12 MONTHS – HE'S GLAD TO BE BACK, AS HE TOLD TALK OF THE TOWN

A lot of good things have happened to Stephen McNulty in the last 12 months.

Last season the centre-half scooped the Player of the Year and Goal of the Year gongs at the end of a title-winning campaign that saw the Hatters romp to what would be his second Conference triumph.

This summer the Liverpudlian was handed the honour of captaining the Town by manager John Still and then, last week, his girlfriend gave birth to his second daughter, Lilia.

The last year has been good to the defender – and a world away from a time when he considered giving up the game – as he did when things were not quite working out as he planned under former boss Paul Buckle.

"When I first signed there were hopes that we'd be successful but that wasn't to be and not what I expected. I thought we would be pushing for promotion.

"I had doubts at the back of my mind whether the move down south was good for me. John Still came in and we had a discussion. He said he wanted me here and that made me want to stay. I've worked hard, I feel great and I've fallen in love with the game again.

"I came here, like we all did, for one reason and one reason only: to get Luton back where they belong, in the Football League. Thankfully I've played a little part in it."

Those were the words that McNulty softly put to Hatters Player at the end of last season with a grin on his face and a medal round his neck.

After enjoying such a positive campaign last term, that saw McNulty – who celebrated his 31st birthday yesterday – play every game at the heart of the Town defence, it was somewhat of a surprise when it was announced before kick-off that he wasn't involved in the midweek game at York City.

But then again, he had good reason, as 24 hours later he was a father for the second time.

"It was tough because there was a bit of messing around in the hospital," McNulty tells Talk of the Town. "It was a slow labour and I was sitting there listening to the boys on the radio which was strange.

Work

"I don't like missing games, because games are work for me, but sometimes you just can't help it.

"I was itching to be involved at York and I even half thought about playing the game because we were getting messed about and the labour was taking so long. It was a tough couple of days, but I wouldn't change it for the world.

"It's what's had to be done, the gaffer understood and said to me 'you put your family first', which is great."

After glowing performances from Alex Lacey and Luke Wilkinson in the goalless draw at Bootham Crescent, McNulty would have forgiven the manager for keeping him out of last Saturday's game at Cambridge.

But the boss made space for his skipper and McNulty helped the Hatters record a 1-0 win and a third successive clean sheet.

"The gaffer could have quite easily kept the same back four as the lads did well on Tuesday against York," says McNulty.

"I'd been in hospital for 72 hours with no sleep, and I've got to thank the gaffer for showing his faith in me.

"I only came into training on Friday and did an hour with the boys. After the positive result at York I spoke to the gaffer and his first words were 'we don't need you anymore!'

DID YOU KNOW?
Before missing the York game, the last time McNulty did not take part in a league fixture for the Hatters was on the final day of the 2012/13 season at Southport. He was sent-off on the opening day of last season at Southport but saw the dismissal over-turned on appeal.

"But it was great being back with the lads because it was really tough even missing a few days training."

The centre-half, though, admitted his first half performance was way below his own high standards with his mind drifting towards his girlfriend and new-born.

"I was a bit ropey in the first half as my head was all over the place," admitted McNulty. "You switch off from football at a time like that.

"In the second half I came back into it and I was all right. Funnily enough, at half-time, the manager said to me 'don't over complicate things' and 'keep it simple'. It was the first time since I've been here that he's ever had a one-on-one word with me at half-time and it certainly helped me focus."

His return to action coincided with a game at last season's title rivals Cambridge – the perfect game for the defender to reacquaint himself with the game.

Strength

And McNulty paid tribute to his fellow centre-halves at Kenilworth Road for keeping him on his toes.

"I've said it all along, we've got three of the best young centre-backs around and are going from strength to strength," he says. "Alex Lacey, Luke Wilkinson and Fraser Franks will hopefully be the backbone of the club for the next 10 years unless they move on.

"I think the three of them can go and play at a higher level, so the three young lads keep me on my toes!

"It's good that they're going on and getting experience. They'll learn from these tough games and come out of them stronger."

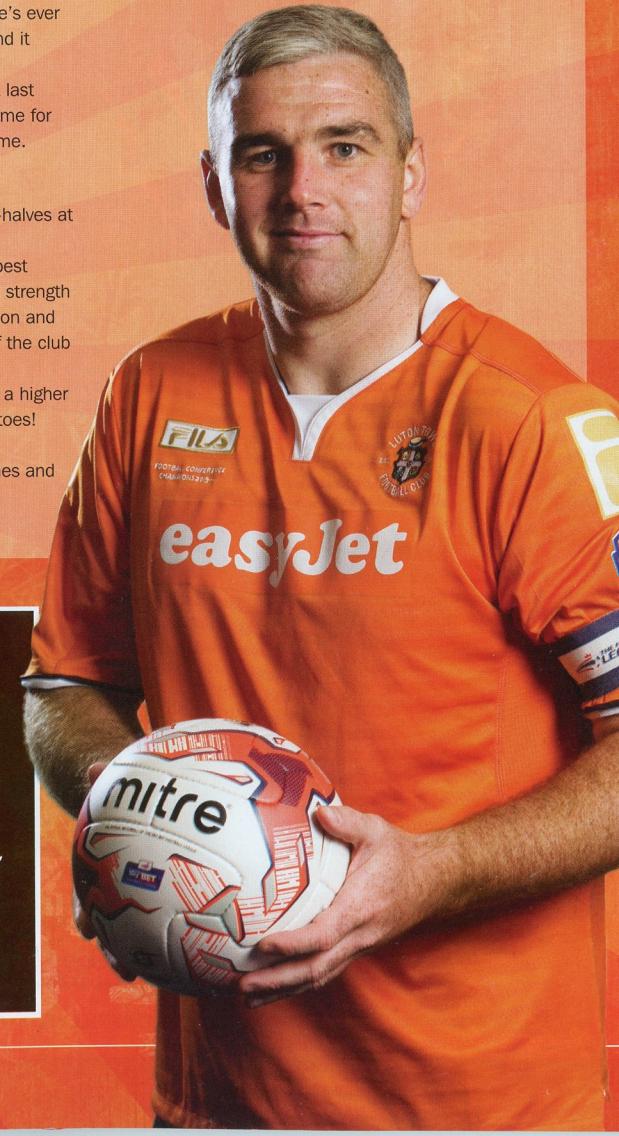
The Town ran out 1-0 winners at the Abbey

Stadium with Mark Cullen again the hero with another late goal.

But McNulty relished being back on the field after missing one lot of 90 minutes at York.

"I love the battle. It's tough as the balls are going up in the air – but you know you're not going to win every header.

"I'd sooner play against someone who hoofs balls right down your throat and having a battle. That's when you've got to come and earn your money and that's what we did against Cambridge."



IN NUMBERS

77 GAMES PLAYED

2 GOALS SCORED

46 LEAGUE APPEARANCES LAST SEASON

2 CONFERENCE WINNERS' MEDALS WON

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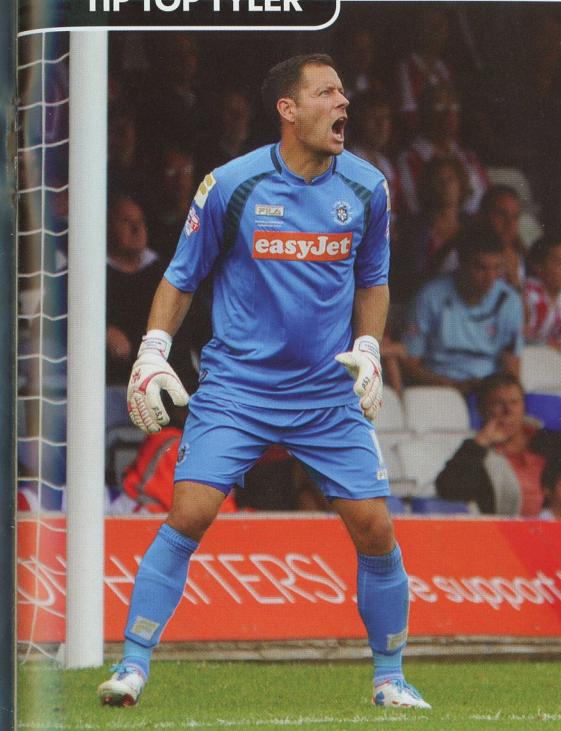
Calendars

Invitations

Tickets

...

TIP TOP TYLER



Man-of-the-match Mark Tyler was on hand to help guide the Hatters to their first home win of the season following a brilliant performance by the Town goalkeeper.

Tyler was delighted with how the back four performed in front of him, as they limited Cheltenham to only a few chances throughout the game and helped keep a valuable clean-sheet on home soil.

"In the second half I was busier than I thought I would be," said Tyler. "They changed formation and brought a big lad on up front which was dangerous, but I thought our defence were superb. I'm delighted we ended up with a clean-sheet."

The Hatters stopper was relieved that the Town finally won their first game at Kenilworth Road this season. The thought will no longer creep into the minds of John Still's men and they can now focus on picking up more wins at home.

"It is a relief to get the home win out of the way, we wanted it to happen earlier," said the Town stopper. "We know we're playing well, it's just that final ball, and the gaffer has been saying that to us in the last two or three weeks. We've been working hard in training all week and it's paid off."

The 37-year-old believes that this season is similar to last year in the Conference, when the Town started off slowly and began to build up momentum towards lifting the league title.

"I'd be worried if we weren't playing well and not creating chances," continued Tyler. "It's exactly the same as last year, we started off fairly slowly and we built it up on the basis of working hard and that played its part today."

Adjust

Tyler admitted that the Hatters are only beginning to adjust to life in League 2, which will take time as the level of opposition is higher than what the Town are used to coming up against.

"We will have to adjust to playing against better players," said Tyler. "There is definitely a step up; strength and power will turn over most teams in this league and I think that we showed that."

"Last year you could get away with making errors, but in this league there are strikers who only need one chance to put the ball in the back of the net. We're getting there slowly and we need to build on this."

It is the first time that many of the Town squad have played at League 2 level. It is a learning curve for the younger players and one that may take time to adjust to and Tyler believes that with more playing time, the Hatters will only get better.

"It is a step up and the tempo is much quicker," said the man-of-the-match. "You have to have the pass in your head before the ball comes to you, the players will get better with every game and the gaffer wouldn't be playing them if he didn't think the same."

DID YOU KNOW?

SHOULD MARK PLAY FOR THE TOWN THIS AFTERNOON HE WILL MAKE HIS 241st APPEARANCE IN LUTON COLOURS – AND HIS THIRD AGAINST OXFORD. IN THE 2009 MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO CLUBS, TYLER SAVED A JAMES CONSTABLE PENALTY AT THE KASSAM STADIUM.



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WILKINSON REFLECTS ON YORK DRAW



The Town recorded their second consecutive clean-sheet in the stalemate with York City a fortnight ago.

The Hatters came up against a City side that are familiar with drawing games this season, having drawn six times out of a possible nine.

And Town defender Luke Wilkinson was disappointed that his side did not emerge with all three points, but was happy that he managed to help keep a clean-sheet.

"We felt we should have had all three points," Wilkinson said. "We should have had two or three goals, but to come away from home and get a clean-sheet is important for us as a team. We are starting a bit of an unbeaten run now."

Wilkinson believes that the Hatters are finally beginning to gel as a team and are now looking to extend on their unbeaten run this season following a tough start to life in League 2.

"The team is coming together now and we're starting to build on what we've done in pre-season. Fingers crossed we can keep going and extend the unbeaten run," said the 23-year-old.

Fantastic

The defender also paid tribute to goalkeeper Mark Tyler as a major factor in helping the Town keep another clean-sheet. The stopper pulled off some fantastic saves to keep the home side at bay in the 0-0 draw.

"Tyler's a seasoned pro, he's been there and done it," the defender said. "At the moment he's pulling off some unbelievable saves when he's called upon. You can always hear him behind you and it's good to have someone like that because you're confident in what he does."

In the absence of Steve McNulty, Wilkinson and Alex Lacey lined up at the back for the Hatters. And Wilkinson believed that the pair worked well together, and this was shown as the duo were part of a side who kept a clean-sheet in the draw at Bootham Crescent.

Perform

"Me and Lacey performed well together and kept another clean-sheet," the centre-back said. "It's not all about one pairing of defenders, there's going to be times when the gaffer changes it up. This means you have to be ready to perform when called upon."

Wilkinson was unfortunate to miss part of pre-season due to injury. However, the defender admitted he is now back to full fitness and feeling sharp.

"I missed part of pre-season with a back problem, but now I'm feeling fit," explained the former Dagenham centre-half. "Last year was frustrating with Dagenham as I was out quite a lot through injury."

"Now I feel as though I'm getting back to full fitness and hopefully I can push on and help the team win as many games as possible."

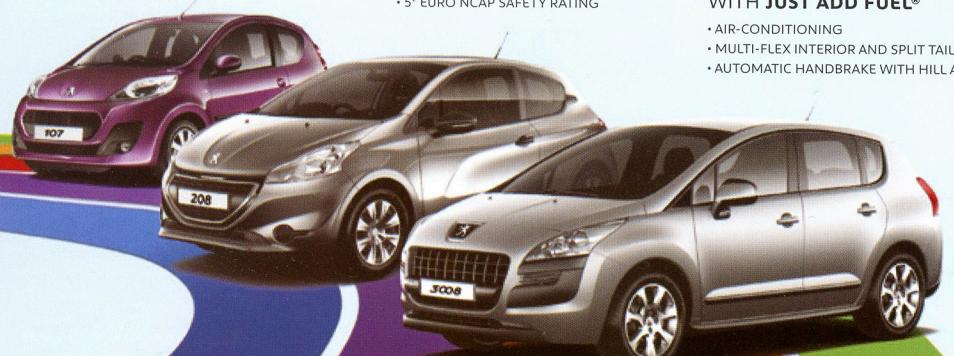
With a long season still ahead, there is plenty of time for the Hatters to be challenging at the top and Wilkinson believes that the Town are good enough to push for the top end of the table.

"We're confident in our own ability that we should be at the right end of the table," said Wilkinson. "All we need to do is keep performing every week and after a slow start hopefully we can kick on and push towards the top end of the table."

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CULLEN'S ABBEY HABIT



Mark Cullen took a trip down memory lane as his late winner at the Abbey Stadium meant that the Hatters walked away with maximum points and remain unbeaten in three games.

Cullen is used to scoring late goals at the Abbey Stadium, as last season the striker scored the equalising goal late on in the Conference clash, earning the Hatters a point on the night on their way to the title.

The striker reflected on the win against last season's title challengers, he said: "Last time out I got quite an important goal here and I've managed to get one today to take all the there points, it's really pleasing."

It was a heart in mouth moment for the 22-year-old as his penalty was kept out at the first attempt by home stopper Chris Dunn, but the forward was alive to the rebound and stabbed home to make amends for the missed spot-kick.

"It was quite a poor penalty," admitted Cullen. "However, I got a bit of luck and it bounced straight back to me and I couldn't really miss."

Chances

The visitors spent the majority of the game on the back foot, but Cullen believes that when playing away from home chances will become limited and you have to make the most of any opportunity that falls your sides' way.

"When you come away from home you have to ride the storm," said the striker. "We dealt with what they threw at us quite well and in the second half we came out and took the game to Cambridge. We took the game by the scruff of the neck and it's paid off."

Cullen is now the focal point of the Town's attack. Last season, the forward's chances were limited due to injury and missing out through the tremendous form of Gray and Benson. The former Hull frontman is now enjoying valuable playing time under John Still.

"When I did get my chance last season I tried to show what I can do," said the attacker. "I scored a few goals along the way and at the start of this year I've been playing a few games plus scoring goals; long may that continue."

The hosts went down to 10 men after a red card was shown to Tom Naylor for a late challenge on Stevenson just nine minutes into the second half. Cullen believes the Town capitalised on the gap left by the dismissal to gain the win.

"I feel that we raised the tempo when Cambridge went down to 10 men," said Cullen. "It is hard when a team loses a player because sometimes they can just sit behind the ball to try and frustrate teams. For us to be able to take the game to the home said was very pleasing to see."

FOX IN THE BOX

CULLEN'S WINNER AT CAMBRIDGE EARNED THE TOWN THEIR THIRD 1-0 VICTORY OF THE SEASON WITH ALL THREE WINNING GOALS NETTED BY THE STRIKER

centre spot



Man-of-the-match Mark Tyler keeps out one last Cheltenham effort to ensure the Hatters secured their first home Football League win since March 2009

PICTURE THE PAST

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



Ashley Grimes bends a free-kick into the net against Oxford in 1988 to make the score in this semi-final second leg Littlewoods Cup clash 3-1 on aggregate and safe. The Town were going to Wembley!

Camera Never Lies

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



The date: 9th February 2010. The venue: Kenilworth Road under the floodlights with 8,860 present. The opponents: Oxford United in a tense promotion clash.

The Hatters had just levelled the score at 1-1 when a corner was awarded in the dying seconds. Keith Keane floats over the flag-kick which goes over the heads of everyone with the ball ending up in the net. Cue delirium, led unforgettable by Simon Pitts of Diverse FM who burst some more of his few remaining blood vessels.

Academy Alumni

HE'S SCORED NOT ONE, BUT THREE GOAL OF SEASON AWARDS AND SITS 24TH IN THE TOWN'S LIST OF ALL-TIME APPEARANCE HOLDERS. **KEITH KEANE** TALKS ABOUT HIS CAREER AT KENILWORTH AND ABOUT THAT CORNER AGAINST OXFORD...

Ask any Town supporter which of Keith Keane's eight goals in Luton colours sticks out and it's safe to say that 99 times out of 100 one goal in particular will stand out.



A young Keane in 2005

DIADORA

It came four years ago, against today's opponents Oxford United, on a dark, chilly February night. Having already scored an equalising goal in the second minute of added time through George Pilkington, few inside Kenilworth Road – who hadn't left at 0-1 – would have predicted what happened next.

With the adrenaline of that late leveller already pumping through the players and the capacity crowd, Keane nonchalantly bent in a left-wing corner over the heads of the Town attackers and Oxford defenders, and saw the ball nestle perfectly – unbelievably – into the net. The Hatters had won 2-1.

A fluke? A moment of genius? Keane is honest enough. "Nobody means to score directly from a corner," admits

Keane – who received an almost unavoidable second yellow card in the ensuing mayhem for supposed over-celebrating.

While in the grand scheme of things that particular season, the goal, sadly, meant nothing. By the end of the campaign the Town would be licking their wounds after failing in what would be the first of three attempts to win promotion via the Play-Offs.

Shaken

At the time, however, it was a goal that shook Kenilworth Road like no goal had shaken the old girl since the good old days; perhaps not since Ahmet Brkovic's last minute winner against Hull in 2005, or a little further back, when Scott Oakes completed his hat-trick against West Ham in '94 in the FA Cup.

"The Oxford game is one I will never forget," continues Keane, now clearly in reminiscent mode. "It's up there with my debut, the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final, winning League 1 and the games against Liverpool.

"To get back to 1-1 through Pilks' header I think we would have settled for a draw. Luckily enough we won another corner almost straight away and the corner ended up in the net.

Unreal

"To win it in that fashion was unreal. I remember Oxford had started that season like a train and led the table for a long time. Our victory gave us a boost, and it had the opposite effect on them."

Oxford supporters reading this will no doubt share contrasting memories of that night. But they would go on to have the last laugh that season, as their side overcame a blip in form to get past Rushden & Diamonds and then York City in the Play-Offs to end their Football League exile at Wembley.

For Keane, and the Town, it meant another season in the Conference – a division the now 27-year-old never believed he would be plying his trade in after successful seasons spent in the Championship and League 1 whilst on the books at Kenilworth Road.

The ups of making his debut and winning promotion to the Championship were tempered by the disappointment



A fresh-faced, 16-year-old Keane made his Town debut as a second half substitute in a 2-1 win in the LDV Vans Trophy at Rushden & Diamonds in November 2003, before making his Football League bow in a less than romantic goalless draw at Wycombe on Valentine's Day later that season.

And having been snapped up by the Hatters academy as a nine-year-old after eye-catching displays in Sunday League football, Keane was thrust into the professional game at a young age and dealt with it in his own way.

Debut

"My debut at Rushden I can remember because I was so young I didn't feel any nerves," continues Keane. "I treated it just like any other game and didn't think too much of it.

"The Wycombe game, though, was different entirely. I realised playing with some senior pros was a big, big deal.

"We had the likes of Kevin Nicholls, Emmerson Boyce, Steve Howard and Chris Coyne in the team. At that point you thought to yourself 'oh wow, this is a different kind of pressure'.

"It didn't matter who you were or how old you were: if you weren't pulling your weight you'd be reminded about it.

"Nobody would let you off the hook. If you wanted to be in the team then you had to step up. That was the most helpful thing about making my debut so young."

Keane, though, needn't have worried about being bloodied into the cut-throat nature of a Town side pushing for promotion to the Championship so young. Because he was in good company.

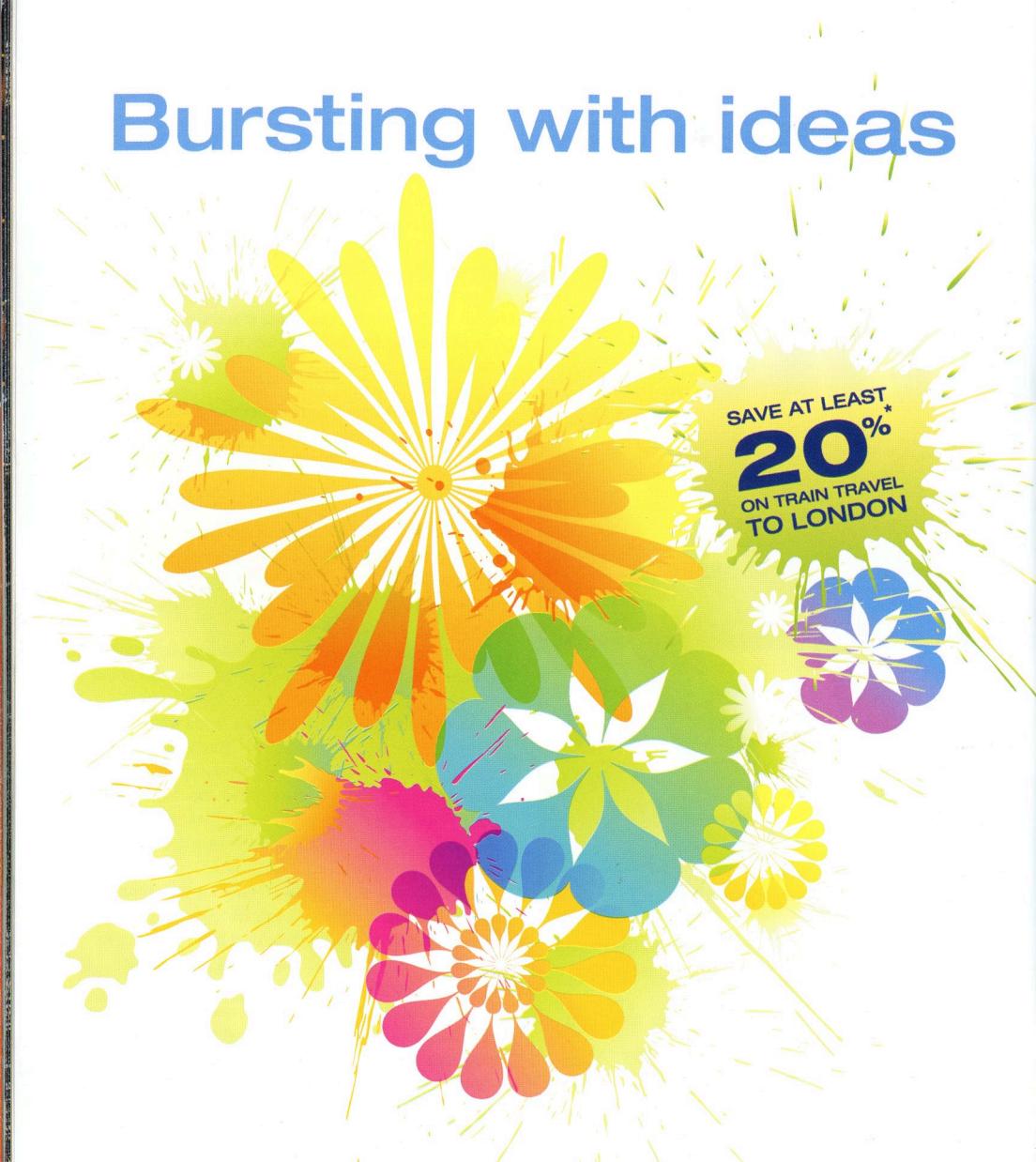
"I'd look around and see Kevin Foley, Curtis Davies, Leon Barnett and Stephen O'Leary becoming more involved. That helped me a great deal and I think Luton has always been able to do that, that's why the youth system has been so successful.

"I knew I wasn't on my own, there were young, talented players around me; we'd come through the same youth scholarship and had together learned discipline instilled in us by people like John Moore. That set us all up to become successful." ►►►

KEANO IN NUMBERS

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3	GOAL OF THE SEASON AWARDS

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A young Keane, far left, celebrates at Wrexham after the Town won the League 1 title at Wrexham in 2005

The honeymoon period of winning League 1, in 2004/05, and the subsequent top-half finish a year later, would soon come to an abrupt end, however.

Off the field the Town were struggling and with it went the likes of Nicholls, Howard, Rowan Vine, Carlos Edwards and young team-mates Foley, Davies and Barnett. All sold as the previous regime sold the prize assets.

"The nucleus of a strong Championship team was sold and they were never replaced properly," says Keane. "For me that's when the rot set in."

Predicament

After two relegations the Town found themselves starting the 2008/09 in League 2. With Keane desperate to help the Hatters return to League 1, the club's predicament then became national news.

"To start the season on minus 30 points was quite surreal," says Keane.

"It wasn't until a few weeks later that it really sunk in. Mick [Harford] said to us at the time 'look, we can sit here and sulk about it or we can give it a really good go' – and I think we did.

"If anything we tried too hard in games, gunning for a win when probably a point would have been good enough, but we were in a unique situation, a desperate one where we always needed three points."

After three failed promotion attempts from the Conference, Keane took the tough decision to move

back into Football League with Preston at the end of the 2011/12 campaign.

However, a week on Tuesday it is likely the defender/midfielder/goalkeeper/striker ("I've pretty much played everywhere for Luton," he jokes), will be back at Kenilworth Road with loan club Crawley, who he joined earlier this month.

The Hatters take on the Red Devils in the second round of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy – a competition very much close to Keane's heart.

"The JPT win was a great day," he recalls. "For a League 2 club, on the verge of relegation to the Conference, to take 40,000 to Wembley was remarkable. It showed the country how much the club meant to the town."

"It was gutting for everybody that the club fell out of the League but, even if it was for that one day, I hope we gave the Luton fans something to cheer that day."

"But I still have regrets about leaving Luton because I wanted to help them back to the League. I got an offer from Preston and felt the new challenge would be best for both parties."

"I guess all in all it worked out well for both of us and I was delighted to see the club return to the League last year."

"It will be a strange occasion for me returning with Crawley, especially as I don't think I've ever even been in the away dressing room, but, like always in life, there's a first time for everything."



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WITH YOUTH TEAM MANAGER PAUL DRIVER

We are now nicely into our season with the Youth Team and the early signs are encouraging as we sit third behind Barnet and Peterborough and are therefore in a good position to make a challenge for a slot in the top merit league come January 2015.

As I mentioned in my last piece back in August, the top four from our league join the top four from the South West to play for the overall Southern title and a place in this group is very much our realistic aim for the season.

A very good win away at AFC Bournemouth, who currently sit second in that South West group, gave us a good start in the League (knock-out) Cup, but defeat at Dagenham saw us exit the competition in what was probably the only sub-standard showing of the season so far.

The new and competitive Under-21s league has now started and it has been encouraging to see the performances of the lads that have taken part in the two matches so far.

Frankie Musonda was excellent at the back against AFC Bournemouth and even managed to score as well and Leeroy Magaraushe, Lucas Perry and James Justin showed great battling qualities in the draw at Portsmouth on Tuesday despite all not playing in their preferred positions.

It was a particular pleasure to see Leeroy in action at this level following his return from long-term injury that saw him miss the entire second year of his scholarship.

With Frankie and James still being only 16, the early signs are good that we can push players towards the senior squads

and know that they will bring something positive to Hakan Hayrettin's team.

As well as the league and the Under-21s competition, we will soon enter the FA Youth Cup and try to emulate the run last year where we got to the third round before the extra-time defeat to Huddersfield Town, who went on to knock out West Bromwich Albion and Manchester United.

One of the added advantages to being a Football League club is that we now avoid the four qualifying rounds and come in at the first round proper in the first week of November.

Blow

While there have been many positives in the short time so far this season, the biggest blow for all of us involved with the Youth Team came at Peterborough where Luke Trotman sustained a double leg break and will now miss a number of months including, of course, the FA Youth Cup which is a massive disappointment to any young player, as the tournament is always seen by the lads as the most important thing (behind getting a professional contract, of course) during their scholarship.

Luke had started the season brilliantly – playing and performing to a high standard for us to supplement his positive appearances in a number of the senior pre-season games, so we all wish him a speedy recovery and return to the team.

Support

Finally, a reminder that our home league games are all played on a Saturday morning at Ely Way, kicking off at 11am and all supporters are very welcome to come along and watch the lads (free of charge with very competitively priced tea and coffee on offer too!).

Good luck to everyone throughout the club for the rest of the season.

COYH!

Youth Team &

Development

FIXTURES & RESULTS

YOUTH

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

YOUNGSTERS EARN POINT

Injury-hit Town Under-18s earned a creditable 1-1 draw with Northampton in the Youth Alliance last weekend

With defender Luke Trotman watching on following his injury, Paul Driver's young squad were missing five regulars through injury and the entire back four were left-footers.

The Town started well, Tuki Tayali's early header was kept out – and it was against the run of play that Northampton took the lead when a header flew past Craig King.

SUBS					
Galliford	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Justin ♦
Atkinson	GALLIFORD 1	Ngwala ♦	Tayali	AMADI 1 ▲	Hawkes ♦
Ngwala	Galliford	Tayali ♦	Atkinson	ALLMAN 1	Magaraushe
Galliford	Atkinson ▲	Ngwala	AMADI 1 ♦	Perry ♦	Craig ♦
Musonda	GALLIFORD 1 ▲	ALLMAN 1	Amadi ♦	Bakinson	Bakinson
Ngwala	GALLIFORD 1	TAYALI 1	Atkinson ▲	Magaraushe ♦	Gooch
McGhan-George	Galliford	Craig ♦	Allman ♦	Tayali ♦	Tayali ♦
Atkinson ▲	Justin	Tayali	NGWALA 1	McGhan-George ♦	Craig
Galliford	Craig ♦	Tayali	Amadi ♦	Murray ♦	Amadi
		Tayali	Amadi ♦	Amu ♦	Bakinson
			Amadi	Hawkes	Gooch
				Brown	Brown

However, as half-time approached the Hatters upped the ante and levelled matters from the penalty spot courtesy of Leeroy Magaraushe.

After the break the Town kept the ball well and almost won all three points when Geo Craig's effort, which seemed destined for the top corner, was clawed out by the Cobbers keeper and the points were shared.

A pleased Driver told lutontown.co.uk: "Given the week we had before, with Luke's injury and the others that have followed, I am delighted with the lads' performance.

"We had several under-16s in the squad and one of those started so it was great for them to be involved at such an early stage of the season.

"It's not been an easy week but the performance was hugely encouraging and, if I'm being honest I'm really chuffed with the result."

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.

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

DEV SQUAD HOLD POMPEY

The Town dev squad side containing three Youth Team players held an experienced Portsmouth side to a 2-2 draw in their second Final Third Development League fixture of the campaign on Tuesday.

Hatters new signing Nathan Doyle also came through 71 minutes of action whilst winger Shaun Whalley completed 90 minutes and found the target as the Town twice came from behind to earn a point.

Pompey, fielding experienced trio Andy Barcham, Nigel Atangana and Nicky Shorey, took the lead in the sixth minute when Barcham found space in the penalty area to beat Elliot Justham.

SUBS					
STEVENSON 3	Saunders WHALLEY 1	Walker McGhan-George	LAFAYETTE 1 ▲ Wall Lafayette	MUSONDA 1 ♦	Ngwala ▲ Magaraushe ♦
Rees			Lafayette	Amadi ♦	Trotman ♦ Galliford King

Whalley called home stopper Michael Poke into action before Justham kept out a stinging drive from Atangana.

The chances kept coming with Charlie Walker denied by Poke before Walker levelled for the Town on 27 minutes when the striker's low shot found the target.

Walker then spurned a chance to put the Town ahead moments later when heading over the crossbar.

That missed proved crucial as Pompey regained the lead moments before the break when Atangana converted Miles Storey's left-wing cross.

After the interval, Justham did well to prevent Storey's effort but the Town levelled matters once more when

Whalley was upended in the box and the winger brushed himself down to rifle home the subsequent spot-kick.

Both sides came close in the final stages, with Whalley having the Hatters' best effort before Justham had the final say by stopping defender Adam Webster's last-gasp drive.

TOWN: Justham, Justin, Brown (sub Magaraushe 5), Doyle (sub Amadi 71), Perry, Whalley, Rees, Andoh, McGhan-George, Walker, Lafayette. **SUBS NOT USED:** King, Galliford.



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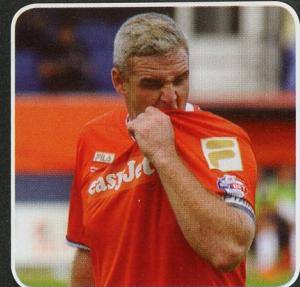
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INSTAGRAM PIX OF THE WEEK



Richard Holliman @science_engage
@LutonTown Andre Gray's hat-trick of hat-tricks, 2013-14 #Lutonareback

SHARPPY @Jaysharpe96
@LutonTown got too be Steve Howard against the mk dons in a great 4-1 win @rowanvine with a worldie aswell!!!

colman @col2910
@LutonTown @9howie Brian Stein 3 Newcastle 2 after being 2 -0 down, 1982 promotion season. Best ever #GreatestHatTricks

Wayne Andrews @HigherWayne
@LutonTown Supermac at Sheff Wed in 1971 - left foot, right foot, header - all from distance

Adam Moroney @adammoroney
@LutonTown Thorpey getting one against Crewe in a 6-0 win, must have been mid 90's - great game

Guy Mutton @guymutton
@LutonTown Paul Walsh hat trick at Upton Park in 1983. Stood on the South Bank with the West Ham fans. Kept quiet when the third was scored!

JowFinger @jowfinger
@LutonTown #GreatestHatTricks Stein v Newcastle... My first time in the Oak Road as I went with friends as Dad had snapped Achilles

Henry Wisson @HenryWisson
@LutonTown Eeeeeenocho Showumni v Brentford, about 10 yrs ago, was mesmerising. #Greathatrics #COYH

Neil Rose @LF_Neil
@LutonTown Carl Griffiths' headed hat-trick v Torquay (2001) came in the game that introduced us to the wonder of Jean-Louis Valois

George @Lobbsy27
@LutonTown Haven't seen too many Luton hat-tricks, but my favourite has to be Enoch's in the 4-1 win vs Brentford, just 'cos it's Enoch.

Steven Cole @stevencole01
@LutonTown David Oldfield - 5-1 win vs Preston at home in 1997. Perfect h/t, right foot, left foot + header...

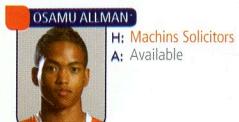
Mark Caudle @welwyn57
@LutonTown Paul Walsh v Notts County

im so lucky @imsolucky1968
@LutonTown Carl Griffiths v torquay a hatrick and an own goal 2001

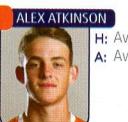
Chris Swann @TheChrisSwann
@LutonTown watching the #EnochEngine revving up against Brentford, a glorious second half performance

Youth Team Sponsors

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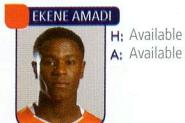
ALEX ATKINSON
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A: Available



GEO CRAIG
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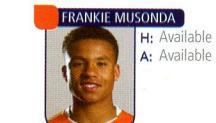
KYRAN MGHAN-GEORGE
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A: Available



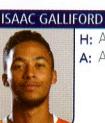
EKENE AMADI



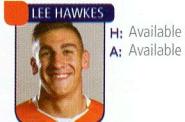
LIAM GOOCH



FRANKIE MUSONDA



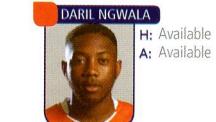
ISAAC GALLIFORD
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A: Available



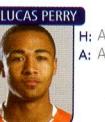
LEE HAWKES



CRAIG KING



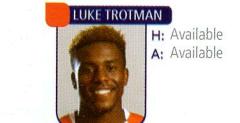
DARIEL NGWALA



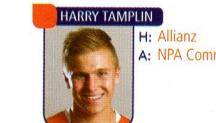
LUCAS PERRY
H: Available
A: Available



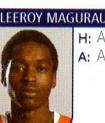
TUKI TAYALI



LUKE TROTMAN



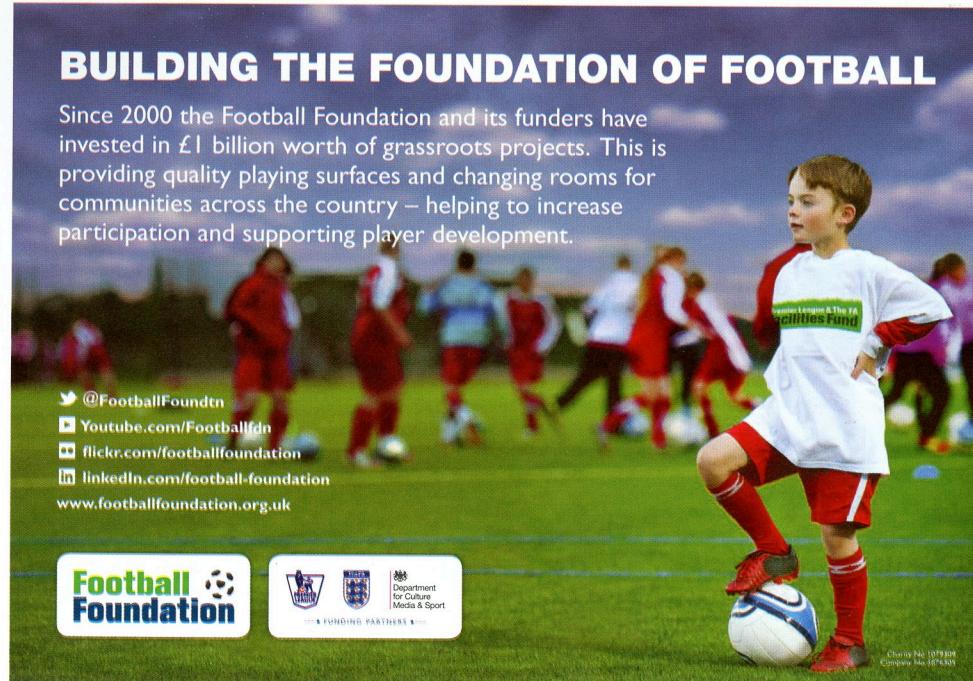
HARRY TAMPLIN



LERROY MAGURUAISHE
H: Available
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Luton Ladies

THE LATEST FROM THE LUTON LADIES

The Hatters Ladies reserve squad have made an outstanding start to the season currently sitting joint top of the Greater London Division One with a 100 per cent record – but trail their AFC Wimbledon counterparts on goal difference.

With both squads down to the bare bones the journey to Enfield Town was always going to be a tough assignment, but the team met the challenge with relish and soaked up the early pressure before taking the lead on the counter attack.

Strike

Jael Muzzi was the provider sending in a telling cross that was converted by Kally Wilson who lifted her strike over the goalkeeper to give Luton the lead. The game continued in a similar vein until a minute before the interval when Nkiru Akpom split the home defence with her pass and Wilson drove the ball home for her second goal of the half.

A confident Luton side held their hard earned lead with an accomplished second half display restricting Enfield to just two strikes on goal which Angelika Kopec tipped over the crossbar and around the post to keep a clean sheet and complete a fine 2-0 away win.

Manager Dave Segust was delighted with another win. "The players deserve maximum credit for adapting and for the team spirit they showed especially in the second period," he said.

Stretched

The first team trip to Norwich was a bizarre affair with the squad also stretched to breaking point due to injury.

Norwich took a first-minute lead through a clearly offside goal with a player standing right in front of the Luton goalkeeper and deflecting the ball into the net, and was deemed not to be interfering with play.

The Town were on terms within 10 minutes, however, when Rebecca Kane seized on a Rachel Kosky through ball to lift the ball over the goalkeeper into the net.

Just five minutes later an almost identical situation resulted in a heavy collision with the same two players and a 12-minute delay ensued before the keeper was able to resume, whilst Kane was replaced by Remi Bains.

Tremendous

Luton came close to taking the lead on several occasions and never more so when Michelle Byrne's shot rebounded off the post to safety. Further near misses by Byrne, Shanic Jiminez and Bains followed before sloppy defending gifted City a second goal – a tremendous volleyed strike into the top corner.

Back came the Town, and a Kosky free-kick was flapped away by the Norwich goalkeeper to be volleyed into the net by Bains, but in spite of the ball being pushed out by the keeper and there being no initial offside, the goal was ruled out.

However, in the 55th minute of the first half a Norwich player collapsed unconscious on the pitch. The player received treatment on the pitch for 30 minutes from both a doctor and Town physiotherapist Nikki Baker before being taken away in an ambulance. Following consultation the game was then abandoned.

Luton director of football Dave Baker told Talk of the Town: "This was a tough weekend for the club and we were able to compile a complete eleven with first team experience who were not available for selection.

"We dug deep and the result at Enfield proves that we are going in the right direction.

"I was present at Norwich and have never before been involved in a game where the first half lasted 85 minutes.

"It was a frightening situation when the Norwich player dropped to the floor nowhere near the ball. Fortunately, all seems well now with her, and we all at Luton Town wish her well in her recovery."



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community

EASYJET FREE SCHOOLS VISIT PROJECT
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Thanks to continued support from our main club sponsor easyJet our Free Schools Visit Project, which provides free curriculum-time football coaching and PE lessons to all schools within Luton and Bedfordshire goes from strength to strength.

In addition, as a result of our promotion back into the Football League, we have been able to access supporting funding from the Premier League Charitable Fund. Due to this continued and additional funding this season the Luton Town FC Community Trust will be visiting 40 schools and coaching over 1,500 local school children every week during term time.

Our Free School Visit Project and School Sport Programme is designed to provide primary schools with support in improving the provision of PE and sport and physical activities, both during curriculum and extra-curriculum time. The aim is to provide higher quality, positive experiences for the pupils, enabling positive teaching and learning, alongside increased participation opportunities and playing pathways. This support to schools includes PE curriculum lessons, Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) activities, enrichment sessions, through to breakfast clubs, lunch-time activities and after-school clubs, as well as a range of competitive opportunities for children, helping inter-school and District schools football programmes.

Football development officer, James Hatch, who runs the project on behalf of the Club's Community Trust commented told Talk of the Town: "Over the last three seasons we had a great response from local schools who have asked us to come in and help with all kinds of requests from running lunch time clubs to coaching the schools' football teams.

"This season, with the continued funding from easyJet and the new money from the Premier League, we will be able to go into far more schools each week to promote the Club to the next generation of supporters.

"The funding is great because we can now get all of our local schools involved with the Club at no cost to

them. We hope this project will not only help schools with providing quality PE lessons but also by getting the children involved with Luton Town it provides future supporters of the Club."

For any schools looking to be involved in the project you can contact James or Kyle Durcan at the Club on 01582 737568 or via email on ltfc.freeschoolsvisitproject@hotmail.co.uk.



Travellers' TALES

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

YORK CITY TUESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2014

THE JOURNEY

Our first midweek trip of the season was a pretty simple one going up the M1 and A1 to York. The Bobbers coach left Luton train station shortly after 2pm and after a 45 minute stop at Tibshelf along the way the 30 or so passengers arrived in York just after 6.30pm.

THE GROUND

Bootham Crescent isn't the greatest in the away end. The facilities are awful with the gents' toilet basically consisting of a brick wall which was beginning to crumble and a greenhouse-type roof. The sink tap looked like it was about to fall off in an unfortunate fan's hands, too. The terrace isn't a lot better either. It is open to the elements which isn't ideal. Thankfully there were seats under a roof but the view wasn't the best although with the dim floodlights seeing anything on the pitch was a bit of a mission. Thank heavens York are getting a new ground soon if we have to go there again!

THE FOOD

If there was anything good about Bootham Crescent at least there were plenty of food options. The usual things like burgers and hot dogs were accompanied by a range of pies and pasties along with the usual array of hot drinks and soft drinks.

They also did a meal deal of a pie and a drink for £4.70 or £5 if you went with a burger or a hot dog rather than a pie.

THE PROGRAMME

The programme was a 52-page issue which cost £3. It had two pages in it dedicated to Luton's players and in those two pages it declared Stephen McNulty as our player to watch. Unfortunately for the editor he didn't play! There were also congratulations from their manager and boardroom on our promotion last season. The rest of the programme was the usual York dedicated stuff but all in all it wasn't a bad read.

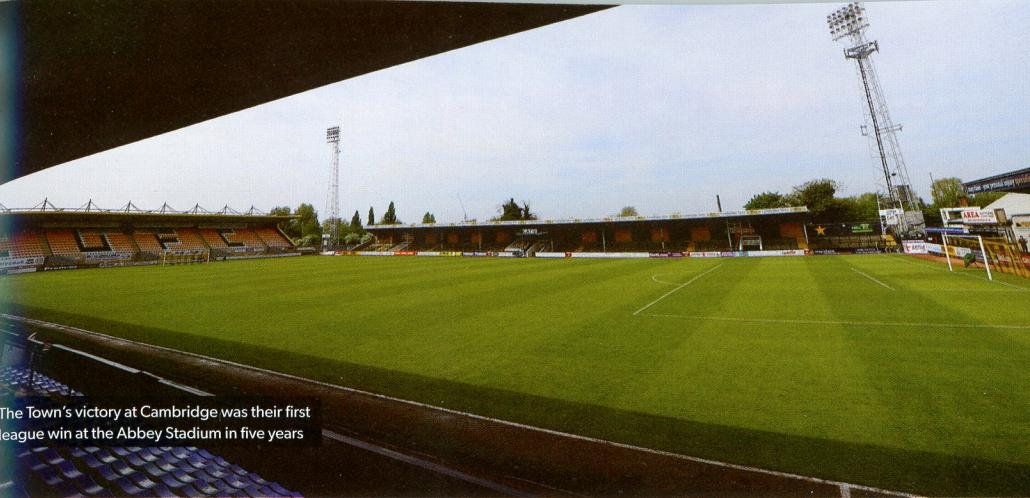
THE GAME

For a 0-0 draw the match was actually pretty good. It was a game the Town dominated but we just couldn't find the back of the net (not scoring at Bootham Crescent – how familiar!). Alex Lacey hit the post in the first half and their keeper made a number of good saves in the second half from Luke Rooney, twice, and Pelly Ruddock, but ultimately we couldn't find a winner and had to make do with a goalless draw.

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

Alex Lacey had a great game here. With Stephen McNulty absent the youngster stepped up with a brilliant defensive performance and so nearly his first goal of the season only to see his header come back off a post. Despite that he was a big part of us keeping a clean sheet.

The Hatters have now failed to score in each of their last six visits to Bootham Crescent



The Town's victory at Cambridge was their first league win at the Abbey Stadium in five years

SUMMARY

As far as trips to York go this was one of the more satisfying ones in recent times. We deserved to win but couldn't beat a goalkeeper who had a great night. The coach eventually got us all back to Luton at 1.15am after a 355-mile round-trip.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2014

THE JOURNEY

After our first midweek trip of the season came our shortest one so far as it was up the A505 to Cambridge. There were two Bobbers coaches for this match which left Luton station at 12pm and arrived in Cambridge just after 1.30. After a walk through the field to the ground we were in just after 2pm.

THE GROUND

The Abbey Stadium is pretty familiar as we've been going there for the last five years. Town fans had the seats behind the goal and the terrace down the side. Both stands have roofs on so the 2,050 Hatters in attendance could generate a good atmosphere to drive the players on with. The facilities were 10 times better than York's with toilets and terraces the quality you would expect in a ground at this level.

THE FOOD

There were two tea bars behind the seats which sold burgers, hot dogs, pies and bacon rolls along with hot and cold drinks. The food was reasonably priced and was decent enough value so there were no complaints there.

THE PROGRAMME

A large 68-page programme was produced for this match which cost £3. There was a page from our former manager Richard Money where he welcomed us as

'familiar adversaries' but never by our name which was strange.

Later in the programme there were six pages dedicated to our squad and recent history.

Mark Tyler and Luke Guttridge were designated players to watch for this game. There was also a page referring to past meetings between the two sides.

THE GAME

The match was pretty scrappy and niggly in the first half and it had a nasty undertone to it which came out in the second half when Cambridge midfielder Tom Naylor was sent off for a horror tackle on Jim Stevenson.

We grew in stature after that and, after Pelly Ruddock had almost split the crossbar in half with a 20-yard shot, his 50-yard run was ended when he was fouled in the box resulting in a penalty.

Mark Cullen was so confident stepping up he even played a one-two with the keeper from the spot before sending the Town fans behind that goal mental for the second time in six months, and that proved to be the winner.

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

Luke Wilkinson was a rock in this game but Pelly Ruddock was immense, especially in the second half and every time he got the ball he made something happen.

He was so unlucky not to score with his piledriver but his run earned the penalty which we won the game from so this was an all-round great performance from the midfielder.

SUMMARY

This was another great day out with a great win over a side who have become something of our rivals over the last year. We were back in Luton before 7pm after a round journey of just 76.6 miles with everyone going home perfectly happy from a very good result and performance.



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WHAT'S IN STORE ONLINE AT THE HATTERS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

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

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

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

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

TEAMSHEETS

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

FREE CLOCKWATCH

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

LIVE COMMENTARY

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

FULL-TIME REPORT

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

POST-MATCH REACTION

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

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

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

MOBILE INTERNET

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

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

Visit www.hattersplayer.co.uk for more information.

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27th SEPTEMBER

ON THIS DAY

► THE RECORD

The Town's record on 27th September is a positive one, with 11 victories and five draws from the 23 matches played on this date in history. The Hatters have lost seven times, but scored 42 and conceded 31. The Hatters' first game on this day came back in 1897 with a 2-0 victory over Wellingborough in the United League. It was the Town's 87th match. More recently, the Town's last game played on 27th September was 1-0 home defeat to Cambridge in the Conference in 2011.

► LAST VICTORY

It has been nine years since the Town tasted victory on 27th September. Preston North End were beaten 3-0 in the Championship in the Hatters' first season back in the second tier during 2005/06. A Kenilworth Road crowd of 7,815 witnessed goals from Warren Feeney, Ahmet Brkovic and Steve Howard give the Town all three points.

► FIVE IN A ROW

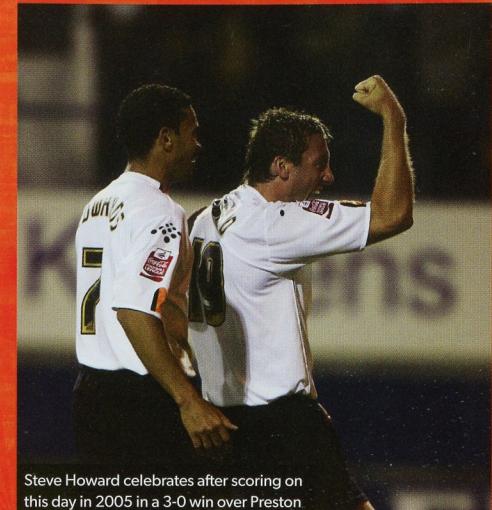
Between 1952 and 1969 the Hatters won all five of their matches played on 27th September. This 17-year period spanned all four divisions as the Town worked their way up and then all the way down the English leagues.

In 1952 the Town thumped Notts County 5-1 at Kenilworth Road in the Second Division (now Championship). Two goals apiece from Bernard Moore and Jessie Pye and one from Bert Mitchell saw the Town ease past the Magpies in front of 13,557.

Six years later the Town were now in the top flight and on this day in 1958 the Hatters beat Preston 4-1 in front of 23,056 at Kenilworth Road. Two goals from Jimmy Adam set the Town on their way before further goals from Billy Bingham and George Cummins added to the scoreline.

Following relegation from the top flight in 1960, by the time Middlesbrough came to Kenilworth Road on 27th September 1961, the Town were back in the Second Division. Alec Ashworth, Gordon Turner and Tommy McKechnie scored the Hatters goals in a 3-2 victory.

Six years after playing in the second tier, by the time Town played on this date again they were now in the Fourth Division after suffering two relegations. On this day 1967 the Hatters beat Southend United 3-1 at Kenilworth Road in a campaign that would see the team crowned champions. Terry Branston, John Moore and Graham French got the Town goals in front of 13,332.



Steve Howard celebrates after scoring on this day in 2005 in a 3-0 win over Preston

Two years later the Town would be celebrating promotion once more when finishing runners-up in Division Three (now League 1). On their way to success the Hatters won 3-1 at Plymouth Argyle courtesy of two goals from Matt Tees and one from Graham French at Home Park.

The run of victories on this date was ended with a 1-1 draw at home to Blackburn Rovers in 1975 in the Second Division. Jimmy Husbands scored the Hatters goal that day.

► TOP-FLIGHT TOWN

The Town have won both of their games in the top flight on this day in history. As well as the victory over Preston mentioned above, the Hatters beat Manchester City in the First Division in 1986 under boss John Moore. City keeper Perry Suckling kept the Town at bay with a string of fine saves but Brian Stein broke the deadlock with nine minutes to go. The Hatters would finish the campaign in a highest-ever position of seventh, whilst Man City were relegated.

► BIGGEST WIN, HEAVIEST DEFEATS

The Hatters' largest margin of victory on this day came back in the Southern League Division 2 in 1913 when Trebbahs were beaten 6-0 at Kenilworth Road. The Town's heaviest defeat was a 5-1 loss at Bristol Rovers in Division 3 (South) in 1930.

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FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



SAW YOU COMING: THE PRICE OF FAME

These sofa-cinema-table-service ticket prices for Stevenage away aren't much fun are they? But then you can see us coming a mile off, can't you.

On minibuses and trains, in cars and on coaches with unsuitable toilet facilities across England and Wales you can spot us from a mile away. Relentlessly regularly on nights of the week when Syd Owen wouldn't have dreamt of putting on his football boots we're there: Tuesday, Friday, Saturday it makes no odds. Carlisle to Plymouth, on telly or not, you'll spot a Bedfordshire twang in your local pub asking how far the ground is and why, today, your beer comes in plastic glasses?

We'll find a reason to take a thousand anywhere no matter your league or county, or how tired your high street. A single Luton fan could convince five more to go to the steaming slopes of Mordor to watch The Town with little more than the promise of a mythical boozier with the happiest hour and some lively locals with peculiar patter.

Pride

There are some clubs, like us, where when the league position goes down, the numbers don't. They might even go up. It's a source of great pride of course when, like on Saturday at the seething Abbey of Richard Money, Town's following is up there with the best in the country and we can gloat when clubs in Buckinghamshire retail outlets barely muster a non league crowd for their post Man United cup run frenzy.

But the small print beneath these bragging rights contains uncomfortable clauses for men and women like me and you.

Like an audience held captive by its own well known penchant for large followings at provincial football matches, our loyal hordes can seemingly be charged San Siro shilling for Stevenage, El Classico corn for Kettering and (one more) Cup Final clams for QPR with no recourse.

In addition to the lightness of our wallets, the additional weight in the away end usually comes with a few extra gendarmes too, and unlike the beer in this backwater these exotic overtimers don't come cheap, so the price on the turnstile is notched up again. It's a self-fulfilling vicious chicken and egg prophecy circle, lads. No question about it.

There's a campaign by the Football Supporter's Federation that you might have heard of called 20's Plenty that seeks to stand against pricing supporters with average sized pockets and addictive personalities like ours out of football matches. The campaign is understandably aimed at Premier League giants charging the price of my first car for a seat, but if 20's Plenty for them up there, then down here in League 2, £24 is taking the Micky Harford.

So what can we do next time, when they see us coming?

Well maybe next time we'll all tell that mate that we're still up for the train and the happy hour in Mordor's mythical boozier with the lively locals and the provincial police, and maybe we'll count heads in the march up to the ground to tell those #AwayDays accounts on twitter just how many made the trip for appearance's sake. But when we get to the gate and they ask for our money... maybe, one of these weeks, we'll stop.

Or maybe we won't.

Don't forget...

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The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

THE ONLY PAPER FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FAN

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By Joshua Peck

It probably won't cross your mind for another month or so yet, but the FA Cup is already well under way.

This weekend sees the teams from the Conference North and South join the party in the second qualifying round, with some teams having played their first match of the world's greatest domestic cup competition back in mid-August.

We've seen the Cup provide some real shocks over the years but in more recent history, Football League clubs – who have a couple of more rounds to wait before they enter in round one on Saturday 8th November – have progressed further than ever.

In 2012/13 we saw Wigan – who competed in the fourth qualifying round as recently as the 1977-78 season, their last as a Non-League club – beat Manchester City to lift the trophy just days before being relegated from the Premier League.

Showdown

Last year, their first back in the Football League, they reached Wembley again but this time as semi-finalists, losing to Arsenal while League One Sheffield United lost to Hull City in the other last four showdown under the arch.

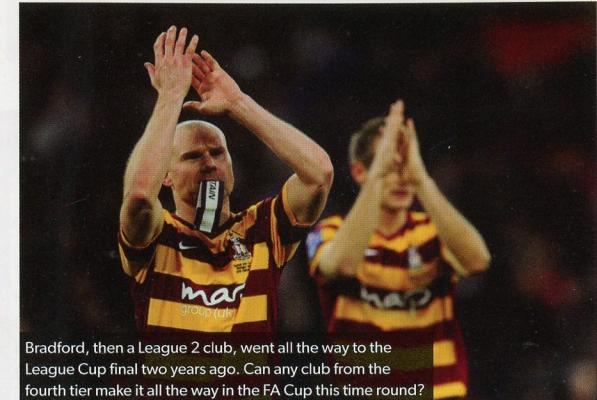
With Premier League clubs taking the league as more of a priority each year, these cup competitions are providing a massive opportunity for clubs to play at the national stadium.

Bradford City upset the odds a couple of years back to earn a day in north London in the final of the League Cup, where they were beaten by Premier League Swansea, but in truth just getting to the final was a huge achievement.

They didn't have an easy run through to the final either, beating Wigan, Arsenal and Aston Villa along the way as they won the hearts of the nation.

The Bantams were a League Two side at the time and were the first fourth-tier side to reach the League Cup final since Rochdale in 1962.

It's not just the result that matters to a lot of clubs with prize money proving crucial to a lot of teams.



Bradford, then a League 2 club, went all the way to the League Cup final two years ago. Can any club from the fourth tier make it all the way in the FA Cup this time round?

The winners of this year's FA Cup will receive £1.8million – that's enough for a couple of decent transfers at the lower end of the Football League.

The League Cup used to be seen as a 'reserve' match for a lot of Premier League sides but a lot of clubs now seem to be taking the competition much more seriously.

Lifting the Capital One Cup earns you a place in Europe while winning the FA Cup gets you straight into the Europa League group stages.

Of course, it is often the case where the Cup winners have already qualified for Europe via league position, meaning the runners-up from Wembley take their place, although they have to qualify.

Dreaming

This is all set to change though from the 2015/16 season with UEFA not allowing the runners-up to qualify for the Europa League through the competition.

European competition can ruin a club's league season so progress in the domestic cups is not all about earning trips to Azerbaijan, Belarus and the likes.

Instead, let it be for the fans because nothing beats waiting for the FA Cup draw to be made, and dreaming of that four-hour trip to a Premier League ground.

Let's see clubs take a leaf out of Sheffield United's and Wigan's books and take the FA Cup seriously, and maybe one year soon we will see an all Football League final!

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league look

LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF



There was a change at the top of League 2 last weekend when Bury overtook early pacesetters Burton Albion following a 3-1 win at Gigg Lane.

The Shakers ended the Brewers' unbeaten run and are now unbeaten themselves in eight matches, recovering from an opening-day-of-the-season defeat at home to Cheltenham.

After last season's great escape, Wycombe Wanderers continue to defy the bookmakers' prediction of a campaign of struggle. Gareth Ainsworth's side sit in third place, two points behind leaders Bury following their 1-1 draw at Portsmouth.

Southend won their third match on the spin by beating York 3-2. Both sides lost in the Play-Off semi-finals last term but find themselves at opposite ends of the table. The Shrimpers are up to fourth, three points off the top, whilst York – with just one win all season – are in 19th.

Morecambe lost at AFC Wimbledon 1-0 but remain in the Play-Off places as do Shrewsbury and Cheltenham who both drew – going to show how tight and competitive the division has been. Shrewsbury were held to a goalless draw with Newport, whilst Cheltenham came from behind to earn a point at home to Dagenham & Redbridge.

A whole host of sides lie within striking distance of a place in the top seven, including the Town who, after picking up two wins and a draw from their last three games, sit three points behind the Play-Offs, but all the way down in 13th place.

The most surprising result last weekend was arguably Accrington's 5-4 victory over Northampton at Sixfields. Stanley reappointed John Coleman – the man who guided the club back to the Football League – following the departure of James Beattie and he masterminded an incredible win in his first match back in charge.

That win hoisted Accrington clear of the relegation places which are now occupied by winless Carlisle.

and Hartlepool. The Cumbrians appointed their new boss, Keith Curle, last week, but he was unable to prevent Carlisle from going down to another defeat, with Mansfield winning 3-2 at Field Mill.

Today's visitors Oxford may be on a five-match unbeaten run but Michael Appleton's side only sit outside the bottom two on goal difference.

In the pick of the fixtures this afternoon, high-flying Southend take on Shrewsbury at Roots Hall, whilst Carlisle aim to break their duck this season with a home fixture against Tranmere. Leaders Bury make the long trip to Exeter.

LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

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

TOP GOALSCORERS

Richards (Northampton)	8
Tubbs (AFC Wimbledon)	7
Ellison (Morecambe)	5
Hylton (Oxford)	5
Rose (Bury)	5
Gray (Accrington)	4
Hayes (Wycombe)	4
Murphy (Wycombe)	4
Cullen (Luton)	3

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	Swindon Town (C1C 1)	L 1-2	4,410	436	-	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Franks	Robinson▲
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon	L 0-1	9,101	690	14	Tyler	Franks▲	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Drury▲
Tue 19	7.45pm	H	Bury	D 1-1	7,890	289	14	Tyler	Franks	Griffiths▲	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Drury
Sat 23	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley	D 2-2	1,562	586	12	Tyler	Connolly	HOWELLS 1	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey●	Robinson
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	L 0-2	5,888	1,037	18	Tyler	Connolly	Howells	McNulty	Wilkinson	Robinson	Stevenson

SEPTEMBER

TUE 6	12.15pm	H	Plymouth Argyle	L 0-1	7,864	527	19	Tyler	Connolly	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Ruddock	Drury▲
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Cheltenham Town	W 1-0	7,793	221	18	Tyler	Williams●	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey●	Smith
Tue 16	7.45pm	A	York City	D 0-0	3,649	445	18	Tyler	Williams	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith●	Ruddock
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United	W 1-0	6,533	2,050	13	Tyler	Williams●	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey	Ruddock
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Oxford United											

OCTOBER

Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Stevenage
Tue 7	7.45pm	H	Crawley Town (PT2)
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Southend United
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

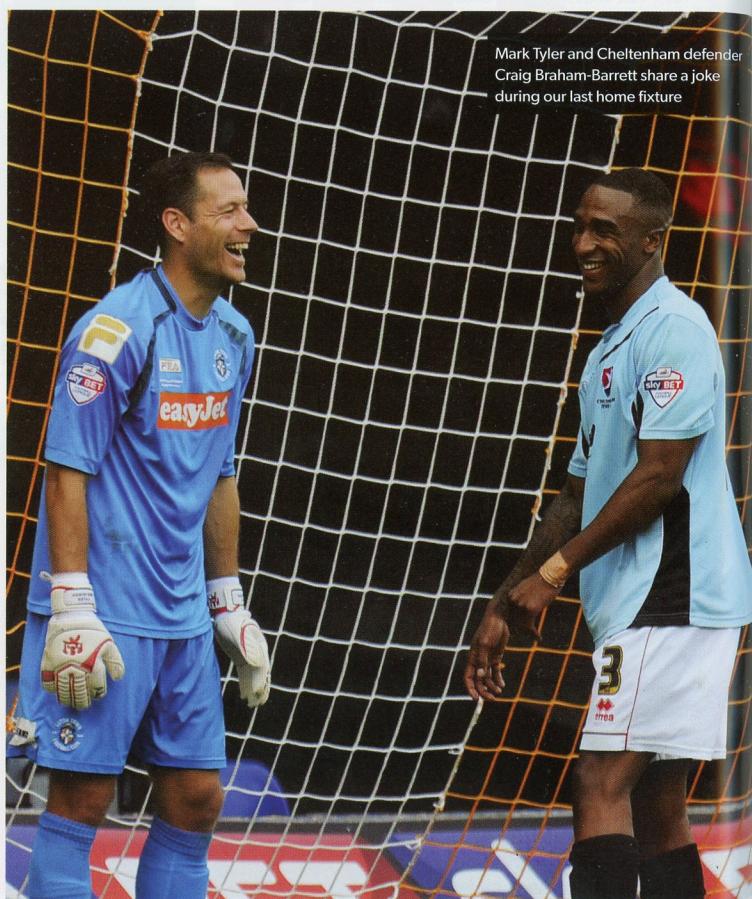
Tue 3	7.45pm	A	Bury
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Morecambe
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Newport County
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Northampton Town

APRIL

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

MAY

Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage
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Mark Tyler and Cheltenham defender Craig Braham-Barrett share a joke during our last home fixture

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

SUBS														
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Guttridge														

HOLD THE Back Page

WITH LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR MIKE SIMMONDS

Town manager John Still has stated often that he doesn't pay attention to league tables until around at least the 10-game mark.

Well, with nine matches already played, then solid if not spectacular is probably a fair assessment of the Hatters' return to League 2, as they find themselves half way up the division.

With three wins, three draws and three defeats, there's something of a symmetry about Town's early efforts, while it's fair to say there's only been one really poor performance so far, that coming at Shrewsbury.

Resilience

The first half at Cambridge and opening 20 minutes against Accrington were nothing to write home about either, but Town showed their powers of resilience to ensure they came away from those matches with four points to their name.

Goalscoring has been the one major issue with the opposition net rippling just six times to date, but it was always going to take time to get over the departure of last season's leading marksman Andre Gray.

It was the same for Town last year, and although there is no Gray to come in and scorch his way to 30 goals, pleasingly, the number of chances being created by Town is improving game upon game.

You only had to be at the midweek game at York recently to see that Town are more than capable of slicing through an opposition at will, and there is the feeling that a big win is just around the corner.

Defensively, after shipping some disappointing goals in recent weeks, Luton now look to have shored that

department up too. Saturday's clean sheet was their successive shut out, as they look to be getting back to their miserly ways of last term.

One factor that makes Town's start even more impressive is that Still is yet to be able to pick from a fully fit squad in any of the fixtures.

The likes of Alex Lawless, Paul Benson, Jonathan Smith, all big players, have been out for varying lengths of times, while summer signings Andy Drury and Paul Connolly have both had their start to Town careers stunted by niggling injuries.

Town's right hand side has been obliterated and once all the players return, Still will have plenty of options in which to pick from.

Shine

The injury list has given some of Town's youngsters a chance to shine though, with Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu in particular grasping his chance. It looks like he will be a huge influence at Kenilworth Road this season.

Jim Stevenson is also stepping up too, as had Curtley Williams, before his nagging ankle injury got the better of him last weekend.

Tougher

Looking at League 2, it was never going to be as easy as some had expected/anticipated this year, with the division a far tougher proposition than in recent seasons. Plenty of clubs have pushed the boat out to reinforce their squads with some real quality to give themselves every chance of that top three spot.

There is still no reason why, with a bit of good fortune in the treatment room and if Town's strikers can hit the goal trail once more, that Hatters can't be one of those sides too.



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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
26	Nathan Doyle
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



OXFORD UNITED

1	Ryan Clarke
2	Jon Meades
3	Tom Newey
4	Michael Raynes
5	Johnny Mullins
6	Jake Wright
7	Danny Rose
8	Junior Brown
9	Carlton Morris
10	Danny Hylton
11	Alfie Potter
13	David Reed
14	Josh Ruffels
15	Callum O'Dowda
16	Andrew Whing
17	Matt Bevans
18	George Long
19	Michael Collins
20	Tyrone Marsh
21	Max Crocombe
22	Sam Long
23	Josh Shama
24	Josh Ashby
25	Joe Riley
27	Tyrone Barnett
28	Alex Jakubiak
29	Brian Howard
30	Sam Humpreys
31	James Roberts
32	Aidan Hawtin
44	Will Hoskins

TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Mark Haywood



Dumitru-Ravel Cheosiaua



Ian Fissenden



Neil Davies

NEXT UP

v CRAWLEY TOWN • TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2014 • 7.45pm
JOHNSTONE'S PAINT TROPHY SECOND ROUND

