

TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v
NEWPORT
COUNTY AFC

SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER 2014

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Welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD



“ Well can you believe that this afternoon is our final game before Christmas? It doesn't seem five minutes since we were here for pre-season in July!

Inside today's programme we have plenty of pre-Christmas gifts, including an exclusive interview with former Hatters academy graduate John Hartson, who follows in the footsteps of Kelvin Davis and Kevin Foley who have previously given us the lowdown on what it was like to come through the youth ranks at Kenilworth Road.

Also inside Talk of the Town this afternoon we look-back on three previous fixtures, going back to our last home League 2 fixture against Mansfield. That, together with our defeat at Morecambe last Saturday and Tuesday's FA Cup replay are also included.

The Town's next match after today takes place on Boxing Day at Wycombe Wanderers before we come back here a week tomorrow when we entertain Portsmouth here at a sell-out Kenilworth Road.

That promises to be a great afternoon here but there's plenty of football to be played before then, starting this afternoon.

However, as this is our last home programme before Christmas, it just leaves us to say: have a fantastic Christmas whatever you're up to and here's to three points as an early present this afternoon! Enjoy! #COYH ”

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John Still looks ahead to today's game



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JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the final time before Christmas as we entertain Newport County in League 2 action.

I'd like to wish a very warm welcome to their manager Justin Edinburgh and his assistant Jimmy Dack, plus their players, directors and supporters who have made the trip from South Wales to be here.

I've known Justin and Jimmy for many years and it's good to see them both doing so well. From what we've seen already of Newport this season following the FA Cup tie we had here at Kenilworth Road last month, we know we're going to be in for a tough match this afternoon. They are on a good run of form but so are we, especially here on our own patch.

Quality

Today's game follows on from Tuesday night's FA Cup replay victory over Bury which I thought was a really good, disciplined performance. Everyone worked extremely hard and it was good to see so much quality on display, especially in the wake of the defeat at Morecambe last weekend.

I felt we got over that hiccup last Saturday, where it's fair to say it was not a performance you would associate with Luton Town. It didn't help with Steve's sending off, which made an already difficult game even tougher in what were tricky conditions. However, Tuesday enabled us to bounce back from that result quickly and I am sure the Morecambe result is now out of our system.

This afternoon also sees the start of the festive period which has some very, very exciting games to look forward to. We face league leaders Wycombe on Boxing Day and then welcome Portsmouth to Kenilworth Road two days later.

Then we have the small matter of the FA Cup third round tie against Cambridge on 3rd January.

"THE SUCCESS WE HAVE ENJOYED HAS BEEN DOWN TO THE FANTASTIC SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM YOU, THE SUPPORTERS, THE TERRIFIC HARD-WORK OF THE PLAYERS, AND THE BRILLIANT WORK DONE BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE CLUB. LET'S MAKE THIS CLUB EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER."

That's a particular match we will be looking forward to because it will give a League 2 side the chance to progress to the fourth round. During my time here we have experienced some good games against Cambridge and I am sure this tie will be no exception.

STILL ENCOURAGED

On the injury front it was good to see Luke Rooney's return to fitness culminate in a goal on Tuesday against Bury. However, Charlie Walker took a knock against Bury two weeks back and we've had to look after him a bit.

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu has started extra training; Alex Lawless, Paul Benson and Luke Guttridge are on their way back too. Benno could start training in the next couple of weeks, Gatts has begun a series of injections, whilst we hope to see Alex training in the next fortnight or so.

All round I think things are coming together well, and it has also been heartening to see Ross Lafayette return following a hernia operation.

Progress

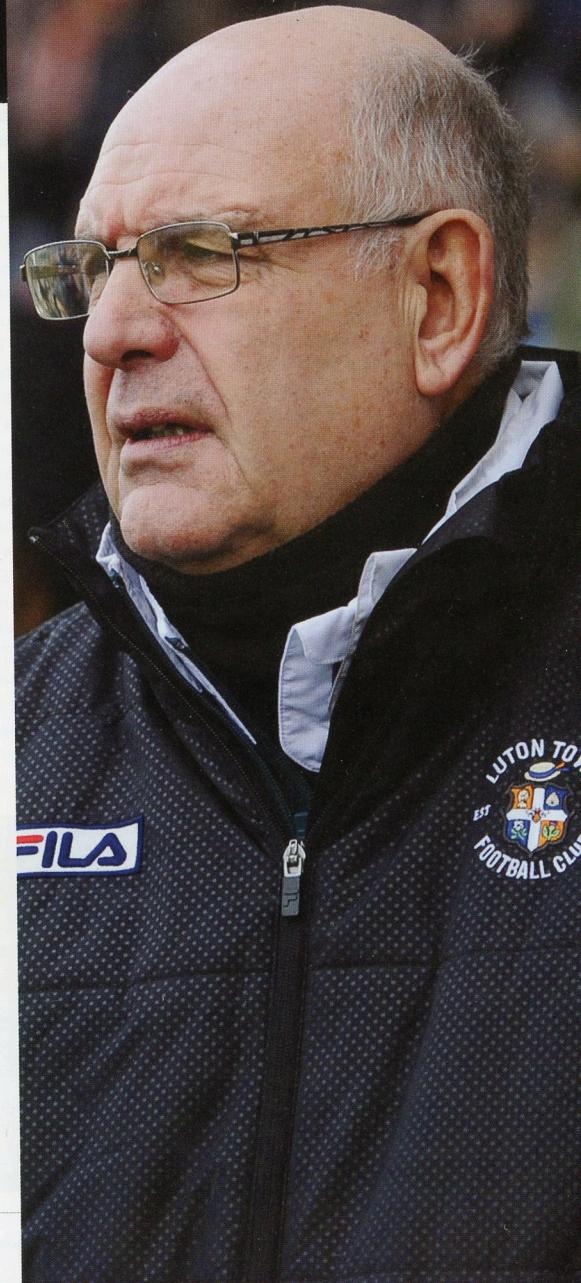
As this is the last home game before Christmas, I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. I've been at Kenilworth Road for over 18 months now and it's at times like these that it's good to look back on the progress that's been made on and off the pitch during that time.

The success we have enjoyed has been down to the fantastic support we receive from you, the supporters, the terrific hard-work of the players, and the brilliant work done behind the scenes at the club.

Let's make this club even bigger and better. You can rest assured the players will be giving it everything.

But back to today – please get behind your team and show your encouragement to the players on the pitch. Here's to a favourable result.

Enjoy the game.



BOARDROOM

WITH FINANCE DIRECTOR ROGER BANNISTER



Good afternoon and welcome to Kenilworth Road for the final fixture in Sky Bet League 2 before the festive season commences.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our visitors today, Newport County, their directors, management, players and supporters. A repeat of the thrilling game in November in the FA Cup first round - with a similar result - would be an ideal Christmas present for our tremendous band of supporters.

Well what a tumultuous year 2014 has been! Promotion from the Football Conference has been followed by a great start to the current campaign in League 2. The Club continues to grow in stature, both on and off the pitch, and we the directors are extremely confident about the future. This confidence is backed, not only by the tremendous support of fans, but by the continuing investment made by the directors and investors in the Club. To help fulfil this immense potential the back room administrative team at the Club has been considerably strengthened in recent times with the appointment of June Walsh, as Retail Sales and Operations Manager, Ed Smith in the role of Marketing and Communications Manager and John Miller as the Supporters' Liaison Officer.



The poppy shirt auction raised over £5,000 for the Royal British Legion

June's first task has been to set up and establish the new retail outlet in the Mall and this facility has been an instant success attracting not only existing fans but appealing to a whole new range of customers. Her key tasks in the future will be structuring and implementing the Club's retail strategy across all customer facing points of sale.

Ed's primary function will be to professionally manage the Club's brand image, PR, marketing and digital communications and to be responsible for improving and creating new media revenue streams within the wider business structure.

The importance of the Club's fans has never been underestimated, and the appointment of John to help pioneer a new relationship between the Club, its supporters and the wider community reflects this. John will liaise with existing supporter groups, any new groups, such as the newly formed Luton Town Disabled Supporters' Association, as well as individual supporters. The aim will be to create pride, engagement and advocacy for the Club leading to growth in the future.

Each of them has settled in to their new roles very quickly and will contribute tremendously as the Club moves forward to the next level.

The Club has always seen itself as an important part of the local community. We are the first club in the Football League to pay our full-time staff at least the Living Wage, an hourly rate of pay considerably higher than the minimum wage, set independently and updated annually

and calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK. We have also made a commitment to review the wage structure and rates paid to match-day staff by the end of February 2015. Recently the shirts worn by players in the Newport County game in the FA Cup with embroidered Remembrance poppies were auctioned online and raised the incredible amount of £5,338. This money is to be presented to Michael Lewis, the Royal British Legion's community fundraiser for Bedfordshire, at today's home game - appropriately against Newport. We had in excess of 100 bids for the shirts and a huge vote of thanks goes to the successful bidders.

I very rarely write the programme notes as for some reason, which I just cannot fathom, people regard finance as boring! Nothing could however be further from the truth. Perhaps not quite as exciting as the playing side at the Club, but running it extremely closely! (Tongue currently very firmly in cheek). The Club, in figures, is however fascinating. For instance, the strong performance of the Club, with retail sales, gate receipts and sponsorships all performing strongly against budget, and with a firm control of overhead costs indicates that there will be a little money available in the January transfer window for John Still to spend in his inimitable style.

Tuesday night saw the team make deserved progress in the FA Cup with a 1-0 win against Bury in a close fought second round replay. The team selected by John reflected the importance he and the Club attach to the competition. The financial contribution it makes is also important, with Tuesday night's prize money contributing £27,000 to the Club's coffers. Prize money increases round by round, as well as the opportunity to cross swords with one of the game's current big names. However, before that happens, we have the not insignificant task of facing a local derby against Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium on 3rd January.

As this is the last boardroom notes before Christmas I'd like to, on behalf of all the board of directors and investors, like to wish all supporters a very merry Christmas. And, finally, on a personal note, I would like to welcome Jenny Blair to today's game to see her first professional football match!

Roger



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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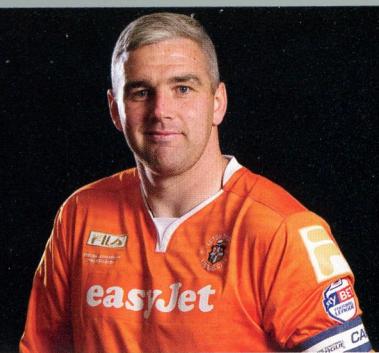
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THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



It was great to see the boys bounce back after last Saturday's defeat at Morecambe by beating Bury in the Cup on Tuesday.

As I said in my notes in the week the game last weekend really was one to forget in which I had to shoulder some of the blame for following two bookings.

Tuesday night was difficult for me watching as I served my punishment for that. I'm not the best spectator, but the most important thing was that we won and credit goes to all of those involved, including Luke Rooney who came up with the winning cross...

Bury had already proven twice before that they are a decent side and on Tuesday they once again showed that they're a dangerous opponent. All three matches against them have been tight affairs and I'm sure they will be up challenging near the top come the business end of the season. They have some real quality in their ranks – and that makes the victory even more satisfying.

The win puts us in the third round which is the place all clubs want to be at and we face yet another game with our old foes from Cambridge. It's a tie that both ourselves and Cambridge will think is winnable and it will be a case, like any cup tie, of who turns up on the day and is better. A place in the fourth round is at stake so it promises to be a great spectacle and obviously it helps that it's a kind of local derby too. I'm sure you will make the short journey in plenty of numbers again.

Tuesday's triumph sets us up nicely for this afternoon's return to League 2 action against a Newport side we've already faced and beaten at Kenilworth Road this season.

“AS ANYONE WILL TELL YOU, SUCCESS IN FOOTBALL IS BUILT ON WINNING YOUR HOME GAMES AND PICKING UP POINTS ON YOUR TRAVELS.”

The last meeting in the FA Cup last month was a good game for the neutral, but probably not one either defence would be proud of. Despite that win Newport have maintained a hugely impressive run of form in their League matches, having lost just once in 17 matches. That is championship-winning form so don't let the last meeting fool you – today is going to be one of the toughest we have faced this season.

Newport have a fine manager and a good squad and we know that they will not want their good run of form to end. Similarly, however, we have been in really fine fettle on our own patch. Tuesday's win over Bury was our ninth in 10 at Kenilworth Road in all competitions. As anyone will tell you, success in football is built on winning your home games and picking up points on your travels.

We've done that to some extent, but as a group we will still be hoping to erase the bad memories of last Saturday and get back to winning ways in the bread and butter of the league.

These are my last notes before Christmas so I'll leave you with a message on behalf of all the lads: Thank you all so much for the backing you have given us over the past few months. The support here at Kenilworth Road has been sensational, while away from home the numbers of you travelling here, there and everywhere has been simply mind-blowing. After the disappointment of last Saturday I hope the Bury victory put a smile back on your faces. Three important points this afternoon I am sure will be an ideal early Christmas present. Sing up for us again this afternoon, get behind us and enjoy the game.

Hatters adopt Living Wage

We were proud to announce last week that we have adopted the Living Wage for all contracted members of staff, and have begun the process of gaining accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation.

As defined by the government, the current standard minimum wage sits at £6.50 per hour for employees over the age of 21. But since 1st December 2014 we have been paying a minimum of £7.85 per hour – an amount recommended by The Living Wage Foundation, who campaign for a higher minimum rate of pay.

Praised

The Club was both delighted and surprised at the media attention the announcement received and we would like to thank all of those who have publicised and praised our efforts. This has come from Luton supporters, fans of other clubs, local community members, councillors, politicians, journalists and other walks of life.

Gavin Shuker, Labour MP for Luton South, said: "This shows the Hatters are ahead of the competition, both on and off the pitch. Everyone deserves a wage they can genuinely live on, so Luton Town should be commended for doing the right thing."

"In Westminster I'm pushing for an £8 minimum wage, and incentives for employers to pay the living wage. I hope the Club's move will cause many more local employers to follow their example."

The Living Wage affords people the opportunity to provide for themselves and their families. So for a club that prides itself on looking after its staff, it wasn't a difficult decision to make.

The decision also makes great business sense.

"Besides the obvious benefits which an increase in wages will provide staff, our decision to pay the living wage will make the recruitment and retention of staff much easier," said June Walsh, Retail Sales and Operations Manager at Kenilworth Road.

June, who joined the Club in September to spearhead its new merchandise sales expansion, added: "Recruiting and retaining staff in retail is notoriously challenging but this initiative will help us get the right people to fit our culture as we grow and it should make them more inclined to stay and feel at home here knowing they're being well looked after."

David Lammy, Labour MP for Tottenham, has set up fairnessinfofootball.org.uk, a campaign for the Living Wage to be paid at London's Premier League clubs. He said: "I'm very pleased to see Luton Town taking steps towards becoming a Living Wage employer."

"Luton have a budget that is a fraction of those of top Premier League clubs, but rightly recognise the importance of fair pay."

"Luton's players earn much less in a week than Mesut Ozil or Cesc Fabregas earn in an hour, yet it is the clubs lower down the football pyramid that seem to be more committed to paying a Living Wage. When League 2 clubs with much smaller budgets are showing that it's possible to pay staff a Living Wage, I hope the Premier League will look again before saying that this isn't something its clubs are able to commit to."

Proud

Hatters Chief Executive Gary Sweet added: "We're pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest in our decision to introduce the Living Wage."

"Naturally, we're proud to be the first professional club in England to initiate on this front and lead by example, but to us it just felt like the right thing to do and, given the fact that the increase has cost us less than 2% of our total player budget, it seems peculiar that we're the first to action it."

"We're hoping that in taking this step, we might help persuade other clubs, particularly those higher up the pyramid, and more local businesses to follow our lead."

To find out more about the Living Wage, visit

www.livingwage.org.uk. Further information about David Lammy MP's Fairness in Football Campaign can be found at www.fairnessinfofootball.org.uk.

Happy Birthday

Everyone at Luton Town would like to pass on birthday wishes to two ardent Town supporters.

Many happy returns to John Gaskell who turns 80 on Christmas Day, love and best wishes from Neil, Sally and Jack.

Also a special happy 21st birthday to Alexandra Kempson, with love and best wishes from her dad and brother Charlie and all her friends in Block F of the Kenilworth Lower.

We hope you both have a great afternoon celebrating with us at Kenilworth Road.

A WONDERFUL TOWN - UPDATE



You may remember at the back end of last season members of the Town squad performed the backing vocals on UK Decay's cover of Hatters Hatters, on the band's Wonderful Town EP.

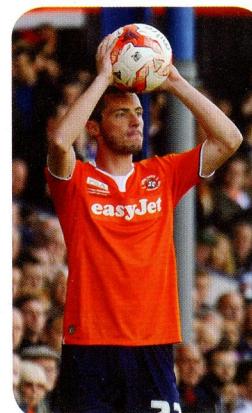
Just under £4,000 of the £5,000 target has been raised from sales of the EP so far, with the proceeds

shared between Solyd and the Luton Food Bank.

Hatters supporters and UK Decay followers have purchased or downloaded the EP, with sales in UK and Ireland as well as in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the USA.

Copies of the EP are still available - check out the club shop for very limited editions of hand-pressed orange vinyl EPs and t-shirts, as well as the remaining black vinyl stock, all with a free CD and badge set.

ANOTHER MONTH FOR MICHAEL



The Town confirmed last week that Michael Harriman's loan from Queens Park Rangers has been extended for a third month.

The 22-year-old will remain at Kenilworth Road up to and including 10th of January, by which time

the defender will have completed the maximum allotted days for short-term loan deals.

Republic of Ireland Under-21 international Harriman has played 11 times for the Hatters since joining in October.

Town boss John Still told Talk of the Town: "Michael has been exceptional since joining us. He has slotted in like he has been with us for years."

"We'd love to keep Michael for longer and we'll revisit that stage when this month is up."

LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS!

After today there are just four shopping days left until Christmas and we're pleased to inform supporters that the promised new stock of kit has arrived in time for the big day.

That means all pre-orders will be fulfilled in time as well as giving the supporters the opportunity to purchase all sizes of shirts from both the club shop at Kenilworth Road and the retail outlet in the Mall.

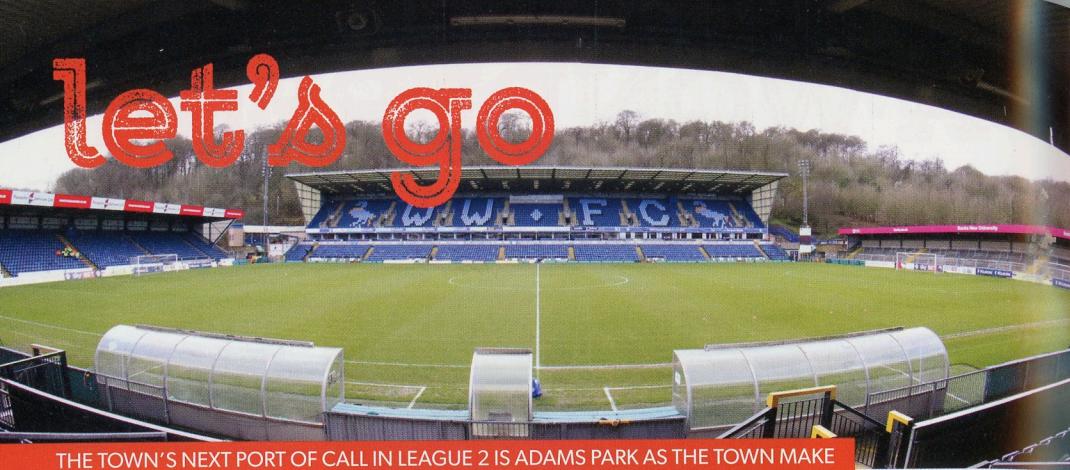
The ticket office and club shop opening hours this Christmas are as follows:

Ticket office and Kenilworth Road shop: Christmas Eve: 10am-1pm. Christmas Day, Boxing Day and 27th December: closed. 28th 9am-post-match. 29th, 30th, 31st: 10am-5pm. New Year's Day: Closed. 2nd January: 10am-5pm. Saturday 3rd 9am-12noon. 4th: closed. 5th: 10am-5pm.

Mall club shop: Christmas Eve: 8am-5pm. Christmas Day: Closed. Boxing Day: 9am-6pm. 27th December: 9am-7pm. 28th: 11am-5pm. 29th, 30th, 31st: 9am-6pm. New Year's Day: 10am-5pm. 2nd, 3rd January: 9am-6pm. 4th January: 11am-5pm

Remember to buy online visit www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown for tickets and check out www.hattersworld.co.uk for merchandise.

let's go



THE TOWN'S NEXT PORT OF CALL IN LEAGUE 2 IS ADAMS PARK AS THE TOWN MAKE THE SHORT BOXING DAY TRIP TO FACE PROMOTION RIVALS WYCOMBE WANDERERS

WYCOMBE WANDERERS



WHO? Wycombe Wanderers, also known as the Chairboys. Wycombe were promoted to the Football League in 1993, having won the Conference, and have remained among the 92 clubs ever since. The Chairboys escaped relegation back to non-league football on the final day of last season with a win at Torquay. They survived on goal difference and Bristol Rovers were relegated. This season Wycombe are challenging for promotion. How's that for a turnaround?

WHERE? The trip to Wycombe is the Hatters' second shortest journey of the season – a mere 41 miles. The Chairboys' Adams Park ground is located on the outskirts of Wycombe on the Sands Industrial Estate. Take the M1 south and M25 anticlockwise and take the M40. Leave the M40 at junction four and take the A4010 towards Aylesbury. Turn left at the fourth roundabout into Lane End Road and then continue straight down this road. Cross another roundabout and into Hillbottom Road. The ground is down at the very bottom of this road. There is a fair sized car park located at the ground which costs £5 per car.

TICKETS. All 2,656 tickets have been snapped up by Town supporters and none will be available on the day for this all-ticket affair. Stand-wise Hatters fans have been given half of the stadium, the 1,800 seats behind the goal and another 800 beside the pitch. And the best bit? There won't be a pillar in sight! Enjoy the view.

SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE. The season in which the Town were relegated from the Football League in 2009 saw Wycombe win promotion to League 1 following a third-placed finish. The Chairboys only lasted one season in the third tier and were relegated in 2009/10 but in the following season Wycombe finished third again and

were promoted back to League 1. But guess what? In 2011/12 they were relegated immediately back to League 2 where they've stayed ever since.

HAVE WE BEEN BEFORE? Oh yes. And what's more the Town go to Wycombe on Boxing Day aiming to maintain an unbeaten record at Adams Park. The Hatters have won five and drawn four of their nine visits to Wycombe. The Hatters won their first match at Adams Park thanks to a solitary David Oldfield goal in September 1996. The most recent game against the Chairboys on Buckinghamshire soil took place in the minus-30 season where the Town had to settle for a point in a goalless draw. In the nine matches at Adams Park the Hatters have only conceded four times.

PLAYED FOR BOTH. Wanderers have two former Hatters in their midst in the shape of Kenilworth Road academy graduate Gary Doherty, who is now 34, and Alfie Mawson – another centre-back who played 45 minutes of football for the Town last term while on loan from Brentford. Hatters striker Lee Angol, currently on loan at Boreham Wood, was on Wycombe's books up until last season. Matthew Spring, Will Antwi, Dean Morgan, Scott Rendell, Viv Busby and Darren Currie have all pulled on shirts of both clubs in the past, whilst first team coach Hakan Hayrettin was part of the Chairboys squad that won promotion to the Football League in 1992/93.

THE SEASON SO FAR. The Chairboys' form during this campaign has been in total contrast to last season's of struggle. At the helm is former QPR and Wimbledon winger Gareth Ainsworth, who has led Wycombe to the top of the league. It has been their form on the road which has been most impressive with seven wins and just one defeat. No team has scored more goals away from home and this afternoon Ainsworth's side aim to add to their 20 goals on their travels at Accrington.

tickets please



WYCOMBE WANDERERS v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 26th DECEMBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match is all-ticket for all supporters. All 2,656 tickets made available to Luton Town supporters have been sold. Please do not travel to this fixture without a ticket.

Wycombe will be ejecting any away supporters found in home sections.



LUTON TOWN v PORTSMOUTH

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

ALL TICKETS FOR THIS GAME HAVE SOLD OUT

Are you a season ticket holder who cannot attend the Town's sell-out home game against Portsmouth on 28th December? If this is the case, you can return voucher 12 from your season ticket back to the Hatters' ticket office in exchange for a £10 shop voucher – and give a Town supporter without a ticket the chance to watch one of the most eagerly-anticipated home games of the season at Kenilworth Road.

Once the voucher is handed back the seat will be released for general sale. Please note: If for any reason the game fails to take place on this date the seat will remain unavailable to the season ticket holder unless subsequently cancelled by the new purchaser.

Season ticket holders who wish to do this can hand in or post in their voucher at the ticket office. For further information or assistance, contact the ticket office on 01582 416976 between 10am and 5pm.



CAMBRIDGE UNITED v LUTON TOWN

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY 3rd JANUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

We are yet to receive ticket information from Cambridge for this cup tie. Details will be released in due course once received. This information will appear online and in the local press.



LUTON TOWN v SHREWSBURY TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Please note the change in date and time of this match. This game will be screened live on Sky Sports. Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

£20 adults, £15 seniors and young adults, £12 golden seniors, £8 youths, £5 juniors.



PLYMOUTH ARGYLE v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 17th JANUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

We have yet to receive ticket information from Plymouth for this match. These will be published in future programmes and on the official website once received.



SPEAKING Commercially

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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Large investment and expansion over the last 12 months has seen us double our warehousing capacity now with over 12,000 square foot of ready to ship stock. With new clients came new challenges, creating brands and developing specific products to meet demands. For more information visit www.sixonetwo.co.uk or call 08444 721 612.

MATCHBALL SPONSOR



The match ball sponsor today is Peter Hird, who has recently celebrated his 60th birthday.

Peter has been a season ticket holder at Kenilworth Road for over 40 years and watched his first game with the father of an old girlfriend. The girlfriend is long forgotten but Peter still remembers that game, standing in the enclosure watching Luton playing Liverpool in the top flight.

Peter feels very positive about the current team especially his favourite player, Alex Lawless.

Peter is joined today by his lovely wife Michelle and three of his children Lisa, Harry and David.

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TODAY'S MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming three mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon who will get the chance to meet all their favourite players before leading the teams out onto the pitch prior to kick-off.



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CADE EWINGTON

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Favourite player Mark Tyler

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Favourite player Luke Rooney



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28 JIM STEVENSON	29 PAUL CONNOLLY	30 LUKE WILKINSON	32 BRETT LONGDEN
H: CME Heating A: Liz Herrick Informatic Computing Ltd	H: Re-Markit A: Bobbers Travel Club	H: Tommy Lennon A: Dean Kemp	H: Available A: Available
33 MARK ONYEMAH	34 ZANE BANTON	35 CHARLIE WALKER	36 CHARLIE SMITH
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welcome

NEWPORT COUNTY AFC



It gives us great pleasure to welcome everybody associated with Newport County AFC back to Kenilworth Road for the second time this season this afternoon.

County, of course, were last with us last month when the Hatters ran out 4-2 winners in the FA Cup first round tie thanks to goals from Luke Guttridge, Paul Benson, Ricky Miller and Jake Howells.

Today is County's first league visit to Kenilworth Road since the back end of the 2012/13 campaign that saw our visitors complete their season with a Play-Off final victory over Wrexham to be promoted to the Football League.

Their promotion back to the Football League under the club's new guise of Newport County AFC – which reformed in 1989 – completed a remarkable return from spells in the Hellenic League and Southern Leagues through the 1990s and 2000s.

The Exiles – known because of the time they spent playing outside of Newport when the club reformed – were playing in the Southern Premier League as recently as 2004, and only won promotion to the Conference in 2010.

Last season was Newport's first season back in the Football League since they were relegated after finishing bottom of Division Four in 1988. Boss Justin Edinburgh has been instrumental in the Exiles' fortunes, arriving at the club with the side languishing in the Conference.

In his first full season in charge they won the Play-Offs and last term Newport finished in 14th place in League 2.

Whisper it quietly but Newport will be aiming for their first ever victory at Kenilworth Road with the Hatters defending an unbeaten record across the matches played on Bedfordshire soil between the two teams.

However, Edinburgh's side will be confident of a victory this afternoon given their fine run of form in recent months. County arrive at Kenilworth Road in sixth place in League 2.

The Exiles are unbeaten in their last nine matches in the league (winning six of those), but impressively they have lost just once in their last 17 League 2 matches – a 1-0 defeat at Oxford on 4th October. County lost their first four matches of the campaign, in all competitions – against Wycombe, Reading, Morecambe and Mansfield.

On the road, Newport are unbeaten in their last four matches away from Rodney Parade in League 2. After losing to Oxford, County won 1-0 at Dagenham and then drew 2-2 at Hartlepool having led 2-0. Most recently, impressive victories have come at Bury (won 3-1) and Carlisle (won 3-2).

Last Saturday the Exiles maintained their excellent recent record with a 2-0 win at Stevenage with former Hatter Aaron O'Connor on target once more. The striker netted against the Town in the FA Cup meeting last month and has eight goals this season and six goals in his last six matches. However, he is suspended today.

in opposition

OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM RODNEY PARADE

► MANAGER



JUSTIN EDINBURGH. Former Tottenham defender who took over as boss in 2011 and within 18 months of his appointment won promotion to the Football League. Previously in charge at Rushden & Diamonds, Grays and Fisher.

► GOALKEEPERS

JAMIE STEPHENS. Highly-rated stopper who joined the Exiles following his release from Liverpool. A regular for the Reds' Under-18s and 21s, he once won the Academy Save of the Season Award in 2011.

LENNY PIDGELEY. Former England youth international goalkeeper who signed for Newport in 2012. Started his career at Chelsea, playing twice in the Premier League. Also played for Millwall, Carlisle, Bradford and Exeter.

► DEFENDERS

KEVIN FEELY. Young Republic of Ireland Under-21 defender who arrived this close season following a successful loan spell last season from Charlton. Began his career in Ireland with Bohemians.

DARREN JONES. Experienced centre-half who joined County in May this year after leaving AFC Wimbledon. Played over 120 times for Forest Green, and enjoyed spells at Hereford, Aldershot and Shrewsbury.



ISMAIL YAKUBU. Former Barnet and AFC Wimbledon centre-half who is now in his fourth year with the Exiles. Played over 250 times for the Bees before joining the Wombles in 2011.

SCOTT TANCOCK. Wales Under-21 centre-half currently on loan from Premier League side Swansea. Made his debut against AFC Wimbledon.

ANDREW HUGHES. Former Cardiff youngster who joined Newport as a scholar and has since gone on to make over 100 appearances for the Exiles.

CURTIS OBENG. Another Swansea loanee, the full-back shot to prominence with Wrexham before he left for the Liberty Stadium in 2012. Spent last season on loan at Stevenage.

► MIDFIELDERS

MAX PORTER. Former Tottenham scholar who began his pro career with Cambridge. After spells with Bishop's Stortford and Barnet he joined Rushden, playing under Edinburgh. Joined County from Wimbledon in 2012.

ADAM CHAPMAN. Former Northern Ireland Under-21 international in his second season with County. Began his career at Sheffield United before joining Oxford for two spells. Arrived in South Wales after a successful loan spell.

LEE MINSHULL. Midfielder with over 100 games' experience for County having joined in 2012. Another to have signed from AFC Wimbledon, he has also played for Ramsgate and Tonbridge.

ANDY SANDELL. Experienced left-footed player capable of playing anywhere down the left flank. Signed for Newport in 2012 and has since scored 14 goals in 87 games.

YAN KLUKOWSKI. Midfielder with a real eye for goal who joined County this summer for Forest Green. Scored over 50 goals for Rovers in four years and has played in Canada and the United States.

MARK BYRNE. Former Barnet and Rushden & Diamonds midfielder who arrived at Rodney Parade this summer after three years with the Bees. Another to play under Edinburgh with Rushden.

► STRIKERS

AARON O'CONNOR. No stranger to Kenilworth Road, after one season for the Town in 2011/12. The striker joined County in 2012 but played under Edinburgh during a prolific spell in front of goal while at Rushden.

CHRIS ZEBROSKI. Experienced forward who has played for nine different clubs. Enjoyed two goalscoring spells at Torquay, but joined County in 2013 and has since scored 17 goals in 50 league games.

DANNY CROW. Another former Town man in the County ranks, the striker joined the club after leaving Kenilworth Road in 2012. Began his career at Norwich, before moves to Peterborough and Cambridge.

SHAUN JEFFERS. Highly-rated young, Bedford-born striker who joined from Peterborough in January. Began his career at Coventry and enjoyed loan spells at Cheltenham, Cambridge and Tamworth.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

It's the first Football League meeting between the two sides for nearly 47 years this afternoon. After Town ended County's FA Cup dreams last month, Newport fan Chris Silverthorne promises that they'll be no room for sentiment today...

TALK OF THE TOWN: What is your assessment of County's season so far? What have been the high and low points?

CHRIS: I think we are having a good season so far. We are playing good football. Our league form is great right now and especially on the road of late. The lower points have been crashing out of the cup so early - no thanks to you guys - and losing our three opening games. We have only lost once in the league since so that's fantastic.

TOTT: After achieving promotion via the Play-Offs in 2013, do County fans believe the team can repeat the trick this year? What similarities are there between today's team, and that of two years ago?

CHRIS: I think we're more than capable of achieving a Play-Off place. We're looking as good in comparison to the standard of this league as we did in the Conference in 2013. We fear nobody.



Aaron O'Connor



Yan Klukowski

TOTT: Justin Edinburgh has led the Exiles out of the wilderness during his time in charge – are you surprised a club higher up the league haven't come knocking for his services?

CHRIS: I believe Justin has had some offers which he has refused as he feels he has a job to do here. I hope we keep him for as long as possible because some clubs are going to be too good to turn down.

TOTT: Aaron O'Connor never really made it at Luton – but his goalscoring record for County is exceptional. Why do you think he's done so well in Wales? The other former Town players, Robbie Willmott and Danny Crow, are out of the side at the moment – have they done enough to impress you so far?

CHRIS: Aaron has flourished here and it's down to his ability and Justin's ability to bring the best out of players. I think Justin's preferred style compliments Aaron's style of attacking play. Robbie has been injured but is one of our best players when fit.

Danny has a lot of ability, often plays well but hasn't had the scoring form to merit a regular place in the team.



TOTT: What are the cub's ambitions for the next five to 10 years? Are the club staying at Rodney Parade for the foreseeable future, following their move from Spyptt Park?

CHRIS: In five to 10 years we will be a structured, self-sustainable, recognisable Football League team. Everyone wants to be a Premier League team but patience and hard work over time is key to rising the leagues. Swansea are a fine example of this. Rodney Parade is a perfect place to build from as we can continue to develop and build our fan base. Spyptt Park would've seen us go in the opposite direction.

TOTT: What do you most enjoy about being a Newport County supporter? What is unique about the club which makes it special for you?

CHRIS: Newport County is a community family like club. We have special supporters and club staff. We have lots of unique characters who together make a fantastic group. It's a pleasure to roar our beloved Newport County side by side with them.

TOTT: What are your memories from past games between the two sides? And what is your prediction for today's game?

CHRIS: I have been to Kenilworth Road only once and you beat us. I'm hoping for a better result today but, fair play, Luton are doing fantastically well and it's nice to see a big club back where they belong. It's a similar sense with ourselves, as we are historically a recognised Football League club. I wish Luton the best for the future but today we will take no prisoners and avenge our cup exit with a 2-1 win, to continue our impressive away form.

A HATTER...

AND AN EXILE

Today's visitors have three former Hatters in their squad in the shape of Aaron O'Connor, Danny Crow and Robbie Willmott.

O'Connor, who joined the Hatters from Rushden & Diamonds in the summer of 2011, scored nine goals in 39 matches for the Town before making the switch to South Wales.

Fellow striker Crow notched 17 goals in 70 appearances after joining the Hatters from Cambridge United. Winger Willmott also signed for the Town from Cambridge and netted 15 goals in 67 matches.

Other players to have played for the Town and Newport include Ian Hillier, Charlie Henry and current Hatter Fraser Franks, who made one appearance for County during a loan spell at the end of the 2011/12 campaign.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

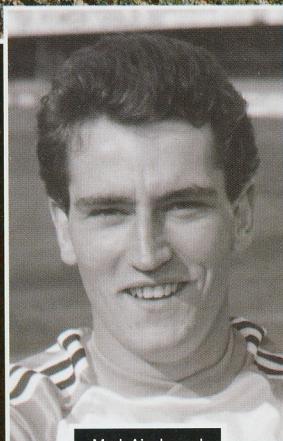
This afternoon the Hatters will be aiming to maintain a decent record against Newport, in their different guises, over the years.

The two sides meet for the second time in as many months at Kenilworth Road following the Town's FA Cup first round win over County on 8th November.

Overall the Hatters and Newport have met in total 55 times down the years, with the Town coming out on the top an impressive 28 times. 13 games have gone Newport's way whilst 14 have ended all square.

If the record books are anything to go by then we'll be in for an exciting game. In the 55 matches a total of 201 goals have been scored, which works out at a staggering average of 3.65 goals per game. The Town have netted 123 of those, with Newport responsible for 80.

Newport County AFC won promotion to the Football League after winning the Conference Play-Offs in 2012/13 – a season in which 11 goals were scored in



Mark Aizlewood

However one player in particular will be familiar to both sets of supporters: Mark Aizlewood. Born a stone's throw from County's old ground Somerton Park, he joined his local club from school and made his league debut at 16 in March 1976.

David Pleat paid £50,000 for his services to bring him to Kenilworth Road in 1978 and he made 98 league appearances for the Town in a variety of defensive and midfield roles before losing his place to Richard Money in 1982.

Mark moved to Charlton that summer before making transfers to Leeds and Bradford and then Bristol City and Cardiff. In total he racked up over 500 appearances in a magnificent career.

the two meetings. County came out well on top in 5-2 win at Rodney Parade in December 2012 before a 2-2 draw at Kenilworth Road in April.

Some of the high-scoring matches accountable for that high average goals-per-game ratio include the first season the two clubs met in the Southern League Second Division in 1912/13. Newport won the first meeting 5-1 in January but three months later the Town triumphed 5-0!

The Town have also beaten Newport 4-0 (1920, 1921), 5-2 (1929), 4-1 (1935), 7-0 (1935), 5-0 (1937) and 6-3 (1947). Meanwhile Newport have recorded a 7-2 win over the Hatters in the Division 3 (South) in March 1928.

At Kenilworth Road the Hatters have enjoyed an extraordinary run of results against Newport, who arrived in Bedfordshire looking for their first win at Kenilworth Road. The Town have won 19 and drawn eight of the 27 meetings, scoring 81 and conceding 27. However, three of the last four matches at Kenilworth Road have ended in draws.

back to the future

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

► 1972/73 PROMOTION NEAR-MISS

JOHN MACEY: Goalkeeper who joined Minehead in July 1976, then Bridgend and Barry Town. He ran sports shops, then was groundsman for Hamworthy Engineering and now coaches Hamworthy United.

PETER PASSEY: Former England Youth right-back who scored twice in 136 League games before moving to Bridgend in July 1976. He ran a car valeting business in Bridgend and now lives in Bassaleg.

MARTYN SPRAGUE: Local-born left-back who scored once in 156 League games, joining Merthyr Tydfil in July 1974. Later employed as a motor mechanic, he now lives in Wigston, Leicestershire.

WILLIE SCREEN: Former Welsh Under-23 midfielder who netted seven goals in 142 League games before joining Ammanford in August 1976. He worked at Cwmfelin Steelworks, then at Swansea Guildhall.

STEVE AIZLEWOOD: Central defender who moved to Swindon Town in March 1976. Later with Portsmouth and Waterlooville, he was a valuation surveyor with Gwent Council and died in August 2013.

BRIAN HARRIS: Central defender who became Newport's player-manager in January 1974. He later coached Cardiff City and Ipswich Town, then ran his promotions company and died in February 2007.

BOB SUMMERHAYES: Midfielder who joined his brother Dave at Sully in July 1975. He later worked for IPC Engineering, then Rover and was a security officer at the Inland Revenue, settling in Cardiff.

WILLIE BROWN: Leading marksman who moved to Brentford in November 1974, then Torquay United and was Minehead's player-boss. He was a club steward in Torquay, then newsagent in Minehead.

RODDY JONES: Striker who scored 67 times in 287 League games prior to joining Barry Town in November 1978. Later with Forest Green Rovers, he became a maintenance fitter for Alcan, settling locally.

LEN HILL: Glamorgan cricketer who netted 64 goals in 366 League games in two spells before joining Barry Town in July 1974. He became a local building contractor and died in Newport in April 2007.

ANDY WHITE: Winger who scored 26 times in 254 League games for his hometown club prior to joining Yeovil Town in July 1977, then Minehead and Caerleon. He has since been a local electrician.

► 1979/80 PROMOTION WINNERS

GARY PLUMLEY: Goalkeeper who joined Happy Valley in August 1981, then Hereford, Cardiff and Newport again. He ran a wine bar, then an estate agency and now a stud farm near Chepstow with his wife.

RICHARD WALDEN: Right-back who scored twice in 151 League games, joining Farnborough Town in July 1982, then Basingstoke. Later a sales manager with a sportswear firm, he died in November 2009.

JOHN RELISH: Long-serving left-back who managed Newport County and Newport AFC, then Weston-Super-Mare, Merthyr Tydfil and Bath City. Now a regional manager with the Football League Trust.

DAVE BRUTON: Central defender who netted ten goals in 88 League games before moving to Gloucester City in July 1981. Now living in Thornbury, he is an area manager for Provident Finance Company.

KEITH OAKES: Central defender who moved to Gillingham in August 1984, then Fulham and Peterborough United again. Later physio at Posh, then Lincoln City, he is now a warehouseman in Newark.

NEIL BAILEY: Midfielder who joined Wigan Athletic in October 1983, then Stockport County and Blackpool. He held coaching posts and is now a coach educator with the PFA for the North West region.

NIGEL VAUGHAN: Welsh international who reunited with Len Ashurst at Cardiff, then played for Wolves, Hereford and Newport AFC. He has been a youth coach at Wolves, Shrewsbury and in Texas.

STEVE LOWNDES: Welsh international who moved to Millwall in August 1983, then Barnsley, Hereford United and Newport AFC. He is now Academy director of coaching at Cirencester College.

DAVE GWYTHOR: Former Welsh U-23 striker who joined Gloucester City in July 1983, then Port Talbot, Newport again and Briton Ferry. He has since worked as a painter and decorator in Swansea.

JOHN ALDRIDGE: Leading marksman who joined Oxford United in January 1984. The Republic of Ireland international then starred for Liverpool, Real Sociedad and was Tranmere Rovers' player-boss.

KEVIN MOORE: Winger who netted 13 goals in 148 League games before drifting out of football. He now has several business interests in Blackpool and Florida, including a nursing home in his native town.

TOWN 3-0 MANSFIELD

BENSON 19, WHALLEY 59, 63



Celebrations after Paul Benson's opening goal



Shaun Whalley makes it 3-0

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters bounced back from defeat at Burton to record their seventh straight league win at Kenilworth Road.

Winger Shaun Whalley was the Hatters' hero with a fine brace but the Town's victory was overshadowed by the injury suffered to striker Paul Benson, who opened the scoring in the 19th minute.

The striker's goal came when Andy Drury sent Mark Cullen down the left flank with a fine ball. His cross was met by Benson whose first effort was blocked, but seizing on the loose ball, Benson held off several Mansfield defenders and rolled the ball into near corner.

However the Town were dealt a blow on 27 minutes when the goalscorer was stretchered off the field following an innocuous collision with a Mansfield player and it was later revealed that Benson had broken his leg.

But after the break the Hatters soaked up the early Mansfield pressure and, after Cullen saw a header hit the crossbar, Whalley's two-goal salvo inside four minutes wrapped up another three points on home soil.

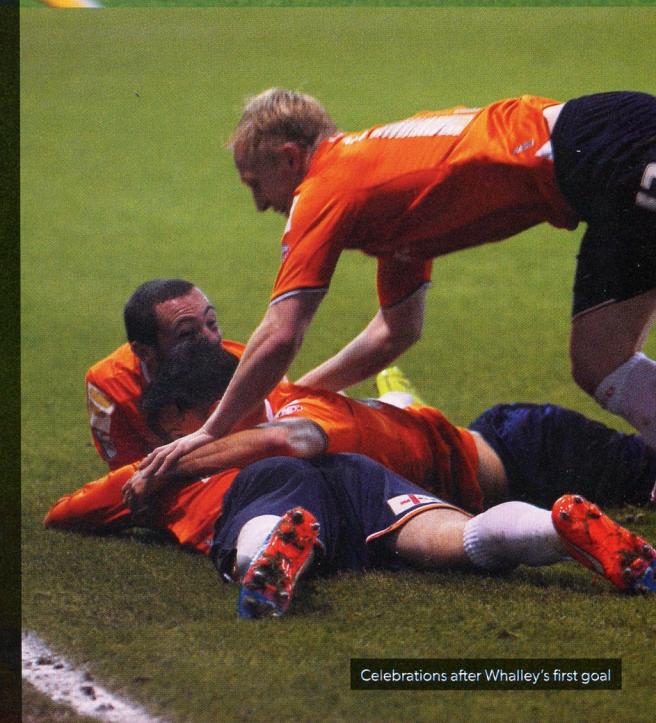
Whalley's first, on 59 minutes, moments before he was due to be substituted for Luke Rooney, was a cross-cum-shot from the right which found the top corner.

But there was no doubt about his second four minutes later when he raced upfield, cut inside and sent a low, accurate left-foot finish in the bottom corner of the net.

With the Town well in command there was no way back for the Stags and Jonathan Smith almost added a late fourth only to see his deflected effort strike the foot of the post.



Jonathan Smith gets stuck in



Celebrations after Whalley's first goal

TOWN: Tyler; Harriman, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks; Doyle, Smith, Whalley (sub Rooney 86), Drury; Benson (sub Howells 27), Cullen (sub Walker 82). **SUBS NOT USED:** Lacey, Miller, Ruddock, Justham.

MORECAMBE 3-0 TOWN

ELLISON 17, HUGHES 45, AMOND 81



Mark Cullen flicks the ball forward

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town had skipper Stephen McNulty sent-off as John Still's side slumped to their heaviest defeat of the season at Morecambe.

The Hatters were already trailing to Kevin Ellison's 17th-minute strike when McNulty was shown a second yellow card in the space of two minutes shortly before the half-hour mark. Down to 10 men the Town were further punished moments before half-time when Morecambe captain Mark Hughes nodded past Mark Tyler following a cross from the right flank.

After the break the Hatters did their best to reduce the deficit with Mark Cullen having their best chance 60 seconds after the restart. The Town continued to battle against the odds with Jake Howells and Shaun Whalley also going close.

But the game was up for the Hatters with nine minutes left when home substitute Padraig Amond tucked home from close range to score Morecambe's third goal from another set-piece, this time from a right-wing corner.

The Town tried to muster a consolation in the closing stages with substitute Ricky Miller firing over but come the final whistle it was the home side that celebrated. As well as picking up three points the Shrimps also lifted the Eric Morecambe Trophy.



Shaun Whalley battles for possession

Hatters fans visit the Eric Morecambe statue before kick-off



Nathan Doyle finds a pass under pressure



TOWN: Tyler; McNulty, Franks, Wilkinson; Howells, Harriman (Sub Miller 73); Doyle, Smith, Drury (sub Lacey 46); Whalley, Cullen (sub Lafayette 68). **SUBS NOT USED:** Justham, Griffiths, Rooney, Stevenson.

TOWN 1-0 BURY

ROONEY 48



Mark Cullen watches as Luke Rooney's pass finds the back of the net



Luke Wilkinson heads at goal

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Luke Rooney's early second half goal was enough to book the Hatters' third round FA Cup tie away to Cambridge United.

The midfielder, making his first start since early September, saw his cross from the left elude everyone in the box and nestle in the corner of the net.

In a game of few clear-cut chances the visitors came close to taking the tie to extra-time when Nathan Cameron headed straight at Mark Tyler deep into stoppage time when left unmarked in the Town six-yard box.

The Hatters came closest in an even first half that saw Fraser Franks go close with a back-post header that deflected onto the foot of the post.

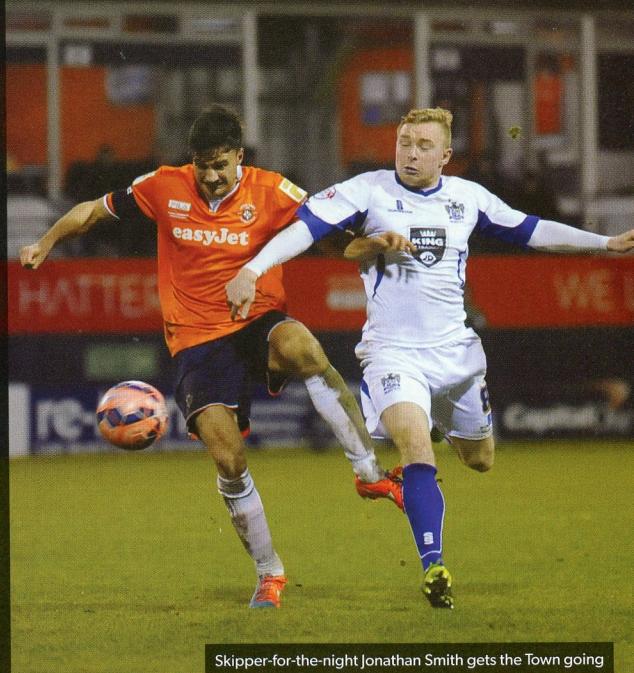
But the Town led just three minutes into the second half when Rooney's curling pass from the left flank, intended for Mark Cullen, rolled across goal and beyond Bury goalkeeper Shwan Jalal.

The Hatters sensed that the Shakers were there for the taking and Shaun Whalley almost put the tie to bed when he clipped a shot inches wide of the target after he had been played in by Andy Drury's accurate slide-rule pass.

As time ticked down, Bury threw caution to the wind in a bid to level the score but a combination of excellent defending from the Hatters and handling from Mark Tyler kept the Shakers at bay.

Bury came mighty close to levelling up right at the death when Cameron had the freedom of the Hatters' penalty box to meet a left-wing cross but the defender could only nod at Tyler and the majority inside Kenilworth Road could breathe a sigh of relief.

Scott Griffiths in hair-raising action



Skipper-for-the-night Jonathan Smith gets the Town going

TOWN: Tyler; Harriman, Griffiths, Franks, Wilkinson; Doyle, Smith, Drury (sub Howells 78); Whalley (sub Robinson 84), Rooney, Cullen (sub Lafayette 79). **SUBS NOT USED:** Lacey, Justham, Miller, Stevenson.

DON'T WAIT TO STOP THE HATE

“Don’t tolerate Hate Crime”

Hate crime includes incidents relating to Disability, Race, Religion, Gender identity, Sexual orientation



Report it to Bedfordshire Police so they can support you

Call them on 101 or 999 if you are in danger.

Or you can text them on: **07786 200011**.

Send them an email: enquiries@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Or find out more about the help available by going to:
www.bedfordshire.police.uk

Or call Crimestoppers anonymously

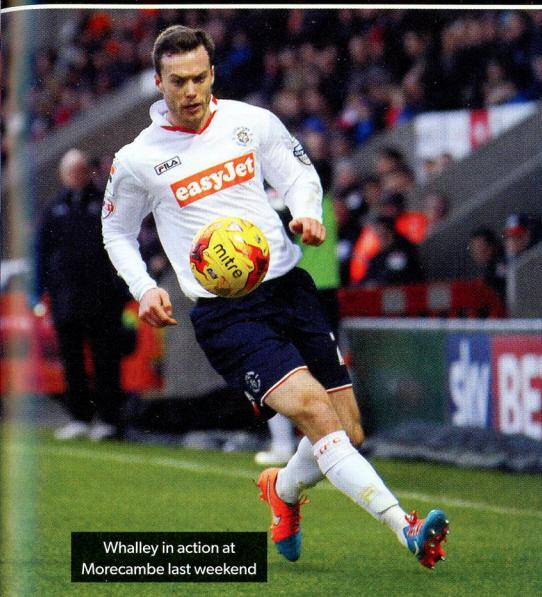


**BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



reaction

WHALLEY'S DOUBLE DELIGHT



Whalley in action at Morecambe last weekend

The Town's two-goal hero against Mansfield Shaun Whalley is desperate to impress the Hatters faithful further after his brace helped down the Stags in our last home league fixture at Kenilworth Road.

The winger, who joined the Town last summer from Southport, has seen his opportunities limited at Kenilworth Road, but now he hopes his recent performances can help him stake a regular claim in the team.

"My Luton career hasn't really started yet," Whalley admitted after his man-of-the-match display. "I'm hungry and I just want to show everyone that I can stay here and do really well for Luton."

"This is the club for me. I don't want to be anywhere else. This club is going places and I want to be there with them."

The winger struck twice in a four-minute spell in the second half against the Stags to seal a comfortable 3-0 win for the Town – their seventh successive League 2 victory at Kenilworth Road – the first a cross-cum-shot

that nestled in the top corner before a superb second from the edge of the box.

"For the first I just tried to smash it across goal," explained the 24-year-old. "If the keeper parries it hopefully someone gets the rebound. As soon as it left my boot I knew it was flying in the top left stanchion, so I was made up.

"The second goal was pleasing too, the confidence of scoring the first gave me the confidence."

Whalley spent the back end of last season on loan at AFC Telford where he helped the Bucks win the Conference North title.

And the winger thought that after the Hatters' promotion to the Football League he might be on his way out to Kenilworth Road.

"The manager's shown a lot of faith in me because he probably could have gotten rid of me in the summer, in all honesty, but he's stuck with me," admitted Whalley.

"He knows I can do it and I know I can do it, so I just want to prove him right and obviously he wants to be proved right. Hopefully I've done that.

"The gaffer has shown incredible faith in me and I'll never forget that.

"To put me in when we were unbeaten in 11 and won nine of those games is a massive confidence boost.

"Hopefully I can keep repaying his faith."

His performance against Mansfield also drew praise from captain and fellow scouser Stephen McNulty.

"I'm delighted for Shaun, he's taken a lot of criticism in the past but he's shown to everybody just what he is capable of," said the skipper.

"He's a nightmare to play against in the training so I know how the Mansfield defenders must be feeling.

"His two goals were fantastic, especially the second one. I'm over the moon for him because he's a great lad.

"He came to this club with the ability to do well and it's great to see that he's fit and confident to go and help us win football matches with that kind of performance."

Shaun's goals against Mansfield were his second and third in Luton colours, and his first since he scored a penalty in the 3-3 draw at Aldershot on 8th October last year.



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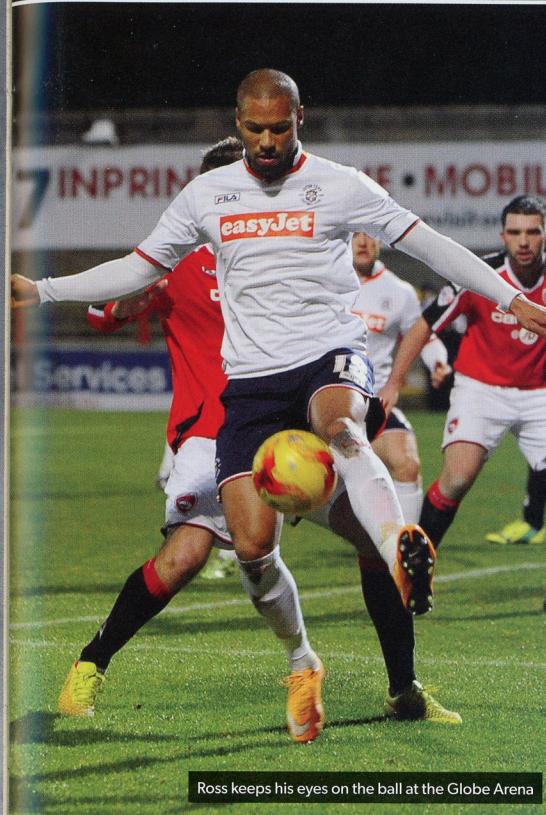
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reaction

MIXED EMOTIONS FOR STRIKER ON RETURN



Ross keeps his eyes on the ball at the Globe Arena

If there was one positive the Town could take after a 3-0 defeat away last weekend, it was the return to action of Ross Lafayette.

The former Welling striker made his first appearance for the Hatters since the 2-0 win over Oxford on 27th September after undergoing a hernia operation.

Lafayette played an hour for the development squad's match with AFC Wimbledon and following injuries to Paul Benson and Charlie Walker, the 27-year-old was on the bench against Morecambe and came on for the final 22 minutes last Saturday.

"From a personal point of view, it's good to be back after having a few months out with a niggling injury," said Lafayette afterwards.

"It's ultimately down to the gaffer. If I can get another half an hour that would be great. If I get a starting position, even better.

"Hopefully I can get some game sharpness under my belt and try to push on for a starting place.

"I feel great. Now it's just about getting minutes. Prior to my injury I was just starting to get there and to really knock on the door for a starting place.

"Getting some goals is my next objective but I'm not really fussed as long as the team is winning, that's the main thing."

Regular

Lafayette is now aiming to find the form and fitness that saw him named as a regular in the Hatters' 18-man squad earlier in the season.

And with Benson unavailable to John Still until the New Year, Lafayette is hoping he can stake a claim for a starting place.

"I had my hernia op and then I had a groin issue – that was what inflamed my hernia. That niggled back up but we've managed to get that settled down now. I had to have a jab in my groin, which was not fun, but I'm back now and I'm ready to go.

"The boys were on a great winning streak so hopefully we can get back to that sort of form and kick on.

"But it's frustrating we've lost Benno. He's been a big player for us this year and you never want to see one of your fellow pros out but now it's for the rest of us to step up, not just myself. But I'll be aiming to take his place if possible, try to kick on and get some goals for us and be that target man.

"It's crying out to be taken and it's up to one of us to try to take that and hopefully it's me."

This time last year, Lafayette was playing in front of crowds of 600 for Welling in the Conference, and had already impressed twice in matches against the Hatters.

And the striker is thriving off the full-time training and believes he can improve as a result.

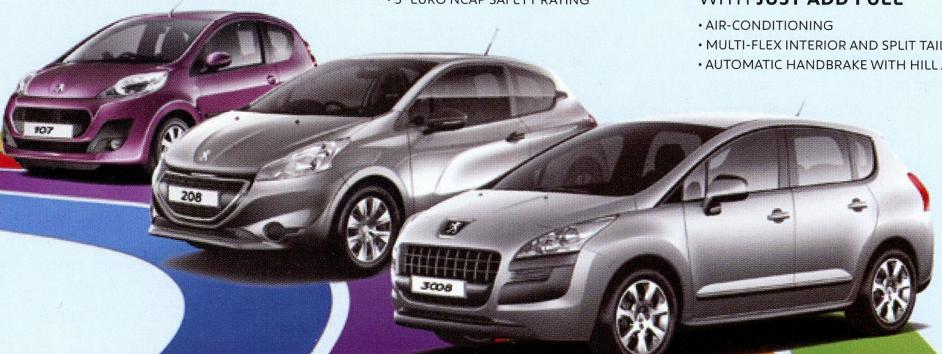
"I'm loving it," he said. "The fans have been great. When you're stepping out and there are 8,000 fans plus for every home game and even at Morecambe, there was 700 plus at least and that's fantastic.

"Just to train everyday with the players around you and to work on your game, I feel that I've been doing that and getting better. It's just down to me now to show that on the pitch."

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reaction

ROONEY'S HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Luke Rooney is hoping that his match-winning performance against Bury is not the last after he helped the Hatters through to an FA Cup third round date against Cambridge next month.

The midfielder's cross-cum-shot bobbed through the Shakers' six-yard box and into the bottom corner early in the second half and the Town held on to secure a 1-0 victory.

For Rooney, who aims to tie up a contract extension at Kenilworth Road in the next few weeks, it was 90 minutes on the pitch that satisfied him the most during Tuesday's cup tie – after all it was his first full appearance for the Hatters since the home defeat to Plymouth in early September.

"I'm delighted to get the full game under my belt," Rooney told Hatters Player afterwards. "To score the goal to send us through will do wonders for my confidence but to last the whole 90 minutes is the most important.

"I was suffering from cramp in the final few minutes, playing for the first team is a lot different from playing in the development squad – even though the standard in those games are pretty good."

Rooney's previous appearance for the Town was as a substitute in the goalless draw at York on 16th September after which the former Swindon man sustained a knee injury which kept him sidelined for over a month.

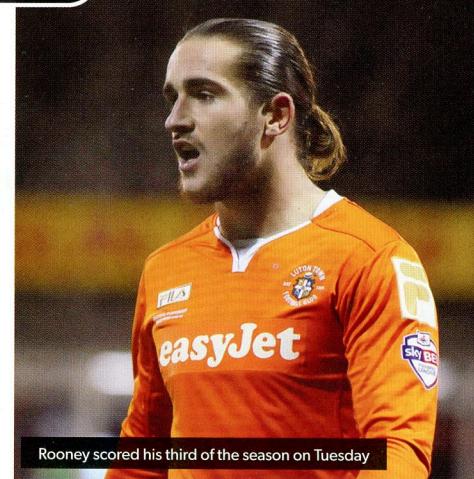
"That injury came at a rubbish time for me," admitted Rooney. "I came on at York and felt like I did okay and it was at a time when I felt I was at the peak of my fitness and in a good place mentally.

"It was a frustrating time and when I came back I couldn't do much more because the team were winning every week and it wasn't easy to get back into the side.

"I've had to be patient. I have been frustrated, but I've grafted in training and in the reserve games and it was obviously good to get back out there on the pitch and show the manager what I am capable of."

And there's no better way to impress the manager than scoring the winning goal, which was accredited to the midfield and not striker Mark Cullen.

"Definitely my goal," laughed Rooney. "Jonathan Smith was running into the box behind Cully and he's declared it's mine – although anyone who asks me what the goal was like I'm saying it was a 25-yarder!"



Rooney scored his third of the season on Tuesday

"But fingers crossed I've not done myself any harm in staking a claim for a regular place. I think I'll get better with every game and although I'm satisfied with my performance because I've been out for so long, I know there is much more to come from me."

Rooney penned a six-month contract in the summer and the midfielder is hoping that his performance against the Shakers will lead to an extended deal.

"It's always a worry when you've been out of the team for so long through injury that it might affect my future but I've done all I can to impress the manager," he said.

"I've kept my head down and worked hard, I've got my chance and I hope to take it."

"The manager has assured me that something will be sorted out. If that's the case I'll want to keep repaying the faith he's put in me and I hope that this display has helped some way towards that."

Meanwhile captain for the night Jonathan Smith was delighted to lead the Town out against Bury in the absence of Stephen McNulty.

"It was a very proud moment for me, and an honour to captain this great football club," Smith said afterwards.

"The manager said just go out there and lead by example and that's what I tried to do."

"It was important we bounced back after the Morecambe result but that's gone. We move on and the first thing we do now is focus on winning the next game, which is against Newport."

Travellers' TALES

LUTON ARE BACK IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE AFTER FIVE YEARS AWAY, AND ARDENT TOWN FAN KEVIN HARPER WILL SEE IT ALL THIS SEASON. IN BETWEEN SLEEPING ON THE COACH AND MUNCHING ON A PIE AT AWAY GAMES, HE'LL BE WRITING OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN TALK OF THE TOWN... THIS WEEK, KEVIN RECALLS THE TOWN'S FA CUP SECOND ROUND TRIP TO BURY

THE JOURNEY

It was an early start for another sojourn up the M6 for our FA Cup second round match with Bury but the lure of winning and joining the big boys in the next round was more than enough incentive for over 400 Town fans to make the trip.

The coach left Luton station shortly after 9.30am and it was off up the M1 and M6 to Lancashire via the toll road and after the usual stop along the way and a brief jaunt on the A56 we finally made it to Gigg Lane shortly after 1.30pm on what was a fairly sunny, if a little chilly, day.

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BURY FOOTBALL CLUB 2014/15 SEASON | ISSUE No. 15 PRICE: £3.00

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BURY vs LUTON TOWN | Sat 6 December 2014 - 3:00pm | The FA Cup Second Round



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THE GROUND

When we got to the ground a few supporters disappeared off into one of the social bars around the place to stay out of the cold weather. After hanging around for a little bit I eventually made my way down to the ground. The first thing you notice was the club shop, full of Bury stuff and other JD Sports clobber and then after walking through the giant car park towards the away end you see a hut with 'Bury Supporters Society' scrawled across the sign above it. I assume that is just a posh name for their supporters' club! Another sign broadly welcomed us to the JD Stadium – the new posh name

for Gigg Lane. Sadly it is JD the sports shop rather than the whisky, a drop of which would have gone down nicely on such a cold day!

Inside the ground the away end is all seated with a fairly low roof so you can make a right racket in there, which I'm sure we will when we return for the league game later in the season. The end is quite big with toilets on the left as you go in combined with the refreshment kiosk just to the side. With three big stands in place as grounds go it isn't a bad one.

THE FOOD

The food kiosk wasn't particularly easy to find without a good look so I'm not sure how much trade it did and at the extortionate prices I would be surprised if it did much at all. As food options went hot dogs and pies were available as were the usual confectionary and the normal refreshment kiosk drinks were also on offer but overall none of it was worth writing home about!



THE PROGRAMME

When I first saw the programme I thought it was a JD Sports catalogue such was the size of it!

A 116-page catalogue type layout which cost £3 was the order of the day although the penny counters won't have been impressed that four of the pages were duplicates! The front cover had a picture of Bury's 1902/03 cup winning side on it as part of Bury's 130 years celebration.

Inside the programme there was a piece about football remembering 1914, which was a theme of the day, as well as the manager page where David Flitcroft couldn't sound any more arrogant if he had tried!

There were five pages on the Town, one whole page on John Still and three on the players with Stephen McNulty, Luke Guttridge and Mark Cullen highlighted as the three to watch.

The rest of the book was the usual stuff you find in a programme but it wasn't a bad read for such a big programme and I'm sure there was something of interest for most.

THE GAME

It is probably fair to say this wasn't the greatest match we've been involved in this season. It certainly wasn't the easiest game to follow with that horrendous mango football they use in the cup being particularly difficult to follow from a distance.

Maybe that was John Pyper's excuse when he tried to return the ball 10 yards to Mark Tyler only to hoof it straight into the seat in front of him, much to the enjoyment from the Town fans who began chanting less-than flattering songs about what they had just witnessed!

On the pitch we looked pretty comfortable. Bury gave our midfield acres of space which we took advantage of and nearly led when Charlie Walker's chip fell just wide. Bury had plenty of shots from distance over the 90 minutes which never troubled the target – not unless the target was 30 rows back or in the corners of the stands anyway!

We led shortly after half-time with a really scrappy goal. Even now I'm not totally sure how Scott Griffiths' cross found its way to Mark Cullen but the striker doesn't miss from a yard. Ricky Miller came on and hit the post and then we fell for the sucker punch late on. With the keeper up as the game went into injury time a corner came in and after a melee the ball was prodded home to give Bury a replay they scarcely deserved.

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

This was an easy one. Stephen McNulty was a colossus in this game. Bury threw plenty of balls into our box, not always of the greatest quality it has to be said, but nearly every one was dealt with either by the head or the boot of McNulty who really led by example. Sadly we couldn't keep the clean sheet his strong performance deserved.

SUMMARY

In the end it felt like a disappointing day given how late we conceded but with our home record and what we saw of Bury on the day we should be big favourites to make it through the replay and into the third round where the cup really comes alive. The journey back wasn't as enjoyable as if we had won, but we got back to Luton shortly after 9pm after a 366-mile round-trip. I was home just after 9.30 by which time the X-Factor had finished so the day did at least have one bright spot!

centre spot



The Hatters players paid their annual trip to the children's ward at Luton & Dunstable Hospital on Thursday

PICTURE THE PAST

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



Joe Payne rises to head home one of his hat-trick goals during the 5-0 home victory over Newport in April 1937. This win, with one game to go, virtually ensured promotion to Division Two (now the Championship).

Camera Never Lies

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

Hugh Billington fires home the only goal of the game against Newport at Kenilworth Road in May 1946.

In this, the last of the war-time seasons, money was very tight with cut-backs needing to be made as shown by the daisies growing on the pitch.



YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian ROGER WASH looks back to a thumping of league leaders Chelsea at a snowy Kenilworth Road in 1976.

Luton Town 4-0 Chelsea. 29th December 1976.

It had been a strange season. The Division Two (now Championship) campaign had opened with a fine 2-0 home win over newly relegated Sheffield United with new signing, ex-Scotland international Dixie Deans, netting both goals but since then performances had been inconsistent to say the least.

Wins at Burnley, highly fancied Wolves and Notts County were followed by unexplained poor home performances, most notably a 4-1 home thrashing at the hands of Southampton.

As Christmas approached the Town were hovering around mid-table but a couple of dismal away displays left supporters looking over their shoulders at the relegation places. Firstly, in a clash at promotion chasers Bolton the Town took the lead through Lil Fuccillo before 5ft 5in Deans got into a scrap with big Sam Allardice for which he was booked. Seconds later Deans was dismissed for scything down Roy Greaves and with it went the match as the Trotters netted twice to win the points. Deans never played for Luton again.

In the next game, on 27th December, the Hatters went down 1-0 to a Laurie Cunningham inspired Orient at Brisbane Road in a game that should have been won.

Next up were league leaders Chelsea and we were all thinking that if we couldn't beat an Orient team who had been in the bottom two all season what chance did we have against a side who had just beaten Fulham 2-0 in front of a Stamford Bridge crowd of 55,003 to cement their place at the top.

By the time of the Chelsea clash heavy snow had fallen and it was touch and go whether the game would go ahead. After the lines had been cleared the referee gave the go ahead much to the disappointment of Chelsea manager Eddie McCreadie who thought the pitch was dangerous.



Brian Chambers nets the second goal

Whether his misgivings were transmitted to his players went unreported but it soon became clear that the Town were up for the game from the start while the Blues were not.

The crowd of 17,107 had hardly settled down when Fuccillo opened the scoring after 71 seconds getting on the end of a clever passing move that split the Chelsea defence to slot the ball past Chelsea reserve goalkeeper John Phillips.

As Chelsea slithered around on the pitch and with a goalkeeper not inspiring confidence the Hatters took control with intricate passing that threatened a goal with every attack.

It came as a surprise that we had to wait until the 13th minute before doubling the advantage when Brian Chambers volleyed home and but for Ron Futcher being caught offside several times the game could have been over before half-time.

As it was, Jimmy Husband hit home a glorious third just before the hour mark and it was left to full-back Steve Buckley to cement the win just before the end when he belted the ball home from the spot after the unfortunate Phillips had upended Paul Price.

Eddie McCreadie admitted that the Town had been better in all departments and refused to blame the pitch which was 'the same for both sides but Luton adapted better and went out with the right mental approach.

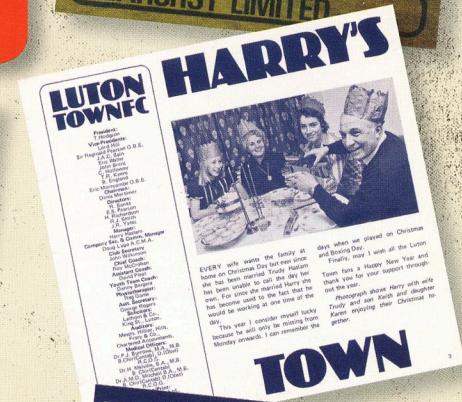
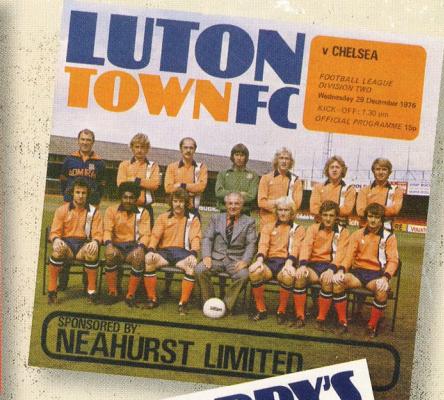
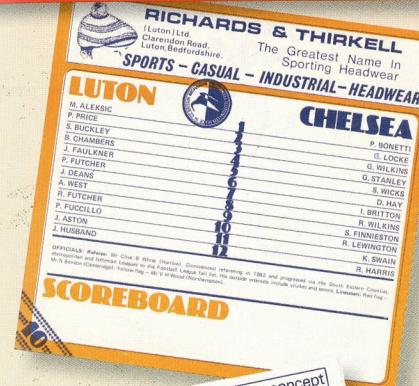
Luton boss Harry Haslam said that before the game, "I told the lads that I know it's Christmas but I don't want fairies!"

THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced a 16-page programme for the visit of Chelsea featuring a colour cover, a first for the club that season.

A colour cover was as far as it went though as the rest of the programme had little to offer with the managers notes section featuring a photo of Harry Haslam sitting down to Christmas dinner with his family rather than penning interesting comments on the Town's recent form. Perhaps Christmas printing deadlines got in the way.

Tony Knight, who had made his debut in goal earlier that season, was the subject of 'Player Profile' where he admitted that his favourite food was sausage and chips, favourite recording star David Essex and favourite holiday resort Spain. At least I have heard of all those!



ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

- Ex-Town star Billy Bingham is sacked as manager of Everton.
- Another ex-Hatter, Derek Hales, is in the news when his transfer from Charlton to Derby for £280,000 sets a record for a player leaving Division Two.
- Former Town manager Alec Stock quits the hot seat at Fulham.

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Academy Alumni

HE CAME THROUGH THE TOWN RANKS A FRESH-FACED UNKNOWN WELSHMAN AND WENT ON TO BECOME ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS CENTRE-FORWARDS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE. FORMER HATTERS ACADEMY GRADUATE JOHN HARTSON GUIDES TALK OF THE TOWN THROUGH HIS FAVOURITE MEMORIES OF HIS TIME AT KENILWORTH ROAD.

When a former Hatter says Luton Town has a special place in their heart you know they genuinely mean it.

More often than not that is especially the case when the said player has come through the ranks at Kenilworth Road.

John Hartson is one of a long line of former Hatters players who have traipsed through the mud at the Town's training ground, taken cold showers in the dressing room at the stadium and jumped through hoops to impress legendary crack-the-whip coach John Moore.

In this series of academy alumni so far this season, the players we have spoken to have been local lads. For Hartson, his story is a different one.

In the late 1980s and through the 1990s, the Town employed Cyril Beech as a scout to scour Wales for the best football talent. Mark Penbridge and Ceri Hughes were two of the first gems – and 16-year-old Hartson was the next young Welshmen to be sent packing to Luton to be developed by the Hatters production line.

"It was tough to move because I was very close to my family," admits Hartson, as he opens up about making the decision to up sticks and move 200 miles from his home in Swansea to Luton in the pursuit of every teenager's dream of becoming a professional footballer.

"I went to school in Swansea and that was a big step for a kid to move away from home at 16 because that's what you are at 16, a kid."

"But I quickly settled in and I got chances in the reserve team and first team with coaches like Jimmy Ryan, John Faulkner, John Moore, David Pleat, Terry Westley, who were all Luton coaches at the time."

"They recognised I had a talent and supported me all the way and without their guidance and help I wouldn't be where I am today."

It didn't take long for the Town, then in what is now the Championship, to realise Hartson's potential. And after a prolific spell in the youth team, the striker was soon blooded in the first team – he was given his debut at the age of 18 and scored in the 2-1 home defeat to Nottingham Forest in August 1993.

"I was always hoping that I'd get into the first team," says Hartson. "That was the aim. That is the target, to push yourself into the reserves and play well and in the youth team to score goals and then ultimately to be recognised by the first team manager, who at that point was David Pleat.

"I think even in my youth days I was recognised by the first team manager and then I was quickly making an impression on the world of football. At 16 or 17, David Pleat knew if he's got someone quite decent in the youth team and I was quickly pushed into the first team.

Close

"I remember my strike partners were Dwight Marshall, Kerry Dixon, Tony Thorpe and Scott Oakes, so I had several strike partners whilst I was here and playing with the likes of Trevor Peake and John Dreyer, and in particular David Preece. Preecy and I were very, very close, and he was a great, great player for a centre forward to play with because he used to hang the ball up. I'd previously played with Mick and Kerry so they knew my game. It was a terrible loss to everyone when little Preecy passed away. Playing with those experienced players really stood me in good stead for the rest of my life."

Hartson would go on and enjoy a long and successful career in the game. After leaving Kenilworth Road for Arsenal for £2.5m – the highest fee paid by an English club for a teenager at the time – the striker would go on and experience a successful career in the game.

But it was Kenilworth Road where that all started – and that upbringing is something not lost on Hartson.

"I learnt to grow up at Luton," he says. "When you leave your parents and another family it's difficult. It's hard work, it really is difficult because if I'd have stayed at Swansea I would have probably just hung about the street with my friends so you're going into a totally new environment."

"You have to train everyday, which can be difficult physically because you're not used to that – all you're used to is training in the school holidays with the school, so physically it can be hard. It tests you, the pre-season training used to kill me. I remember me and Kerry Dixon used to do pre-season together but he was my age now when I was 18, 19 and he was still beating me."

"It was a great time and I learnt a lot from my days at Luton playing with those experienced players. It was just a wonderful time, anyone who has come through the system at Luton and shared those same experiences as me as an apprentice - where your cleaning people's boots and cleaning the stands and the dressing rooms and your idolising them first team players at 16 and 17 - will they always say nice things about the club and it's something that is really close to



my heart is Luton, and not just as a football club but as a place. When I came back I spent an hour and a half just driving around. Luton has changed in 20 years. I've gone back to all the other clubs I've played for but never to Luton, which has been a great place for me."

Hartson would go on and enjoy a fine first season as a professional. He scored seven times in Luton colours.

And one goal in particular, against Newcastle in a FA Cup fourth round replay, propelled the young forward into the limelight. ▶▶▶

HARTSON IN NUMBERS

LUTON TOWN – 63 GAMES 13 GOALS

ARSENAL – 73 GAMES 18 GOALS

WEST HAM – 63 GAMES 33 GOALS

WIMBLEDON – 57 GAMES 21 GOALS

COVENTRY – 12 GAMES 6 GOALS

CELTIC – 201 GAMES 110 GOALS

WEST BROM – 23 GAMES 6 GOALS

NORWICH – 4 GAMES

WALES – 51 CAPS 14 GOALS



John is presented with his Sky Bet League 2 Fan of the Month trophy by Newport County Chief Executive Dave Boddy (Right)



John's score predictions:

LUTON TOWN	1
NEWPORT COUNTY	0
WITH CULLEN TO SCORE FIRST	
NEWPORT COUNTY	0
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	0
CHEL滕HAM TOWN	1
NEWPORT COUNTY	2
WITH ZEBROSKI TO SCORE FIRST	



NOVEMBER FAN OF THE MONTH JOHN HUGHES

Newport County fan John Hughes has been named the Sky Bet League 2 Fan of the Month for November.

John started watching the team nine years ago, and has only missed one home game in the last seven years, when he had to go to Scotland with his band.

John also volunteers in the hospitality area on a matchday, entertaining VIP guests at Rodney Parade.

John said: "I was gobsmacked to win the award. It feels fantastic to be recognised by the club and by Sky Bet. "It's been a privilege to help out at the club over the last seven years and I've met some amazing people in that time."

Newport County Chief Executive Dave Boddy said: "We are delighted that another of our loyal fans has been awarded the Sky Bet League 2 Fan of the Month, the second successive month that one of our supporters has received the award.

"John has been a loyal supporter for many years and is also an exceptional volunteer for the Club, helping our matchday hospitality team and involved in many fundraising and charity activities, including several sponsored walks from his Bristol home to Newport. "He is a much deserved recipient of the award."

To Nominate a Mate for December's Sky Bet Fan of the Month visit - www.SkyBet.com/Fan

If John won the £250,000
Sky Bet Transfer Fund,
he would buy Joe Day!

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►►► "It was brilliant," remembers Hartson. "It was quite surreal actually because every time we won in the Cup we went up to Henlow Grange, the Champney's health farm. They'd spoil us. David Pleat would take us up there a couple of days before a big game, and there was several. There was Newcastle home and away, West Ham, Cardiff and eventually we lost in the semi-final to Chelsea.

"David Pleat still regrets playing Kerry Dixon in the semi-final because of his affinity with Chelsea. It was one of David's biggest regrets that he didn't start a young John Hartson that day. Who knows, maybe the result wouldn't have been different, but I was certainly on fire that year but he went with Kerry and I came on for 25 minutes which remains my only appearance at Wembley stadium in my life."

Change

Despite that minor disappointment, the following season Hartson's life would change dramatically, and after six months leading the line for the Hatters, a £2.5m cheque was waved in the Town's faces for the striker by Premier League Arsenal.

"David Pleat said to me one day 'John, go home put a suit on, have a shave, we're going to meet George Graham,'" explains Hartson, and his mind wanders back to January 1995. "I previously read in the papers that Liverpool were looking at me and I went up to Arsenal with David and we sat in his car with his phone going non-stop from the press trying to get hold of George.

"We walked into the office, I didn't have an agent at the time, and Graham actually said to me, 'Alan Smith has got injured this morning, Kevin Campbell has turned an ankle - if you sign today you'll be playing out there on Saturday with the England centre forward Ian Wright'.

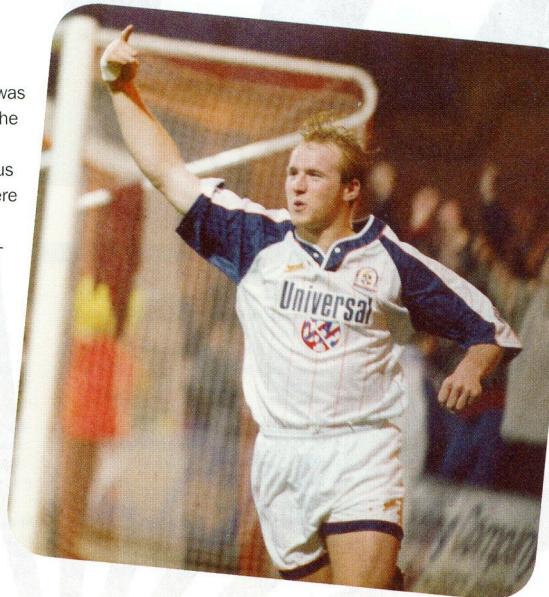
"For a young man coming from Luton aged just 19 it was all over the papers, and I made my debut on the Saturday having quickly signed. We drew 1-1 at Highbury. Duncan Ferguson got sent off for Everton and Wrighty got our goal and all of a sudden I was an Arsenal player.

Heroes

"From having pictures of the likes of Paul Merson and Wright all over my walls growing up, all heroes of mine, I was taking to the field with them. It was quite surreal and it happened quite quickly and I had two very happy years at Highbury."

The deal made Hartson the most expensive teenager in the history of English football but two years later the striker was on the move again as he moved to West Ham for £3.3m.

He continued to score goals in the top flight with the Hammers before Wimbledon parted with a cool £7.5m to



take him to Selhurst Park. And moves to Coventry, Celtic, West Brom and Norwich all followed before his career came to an end in November 2007.

And after a career spanning almost 15 years as a professional, the fact it all began at Kenilworth Road is something that will always remain in Hartson's heart.

Treasure

"The one moment from my time at Luton I will always treasure has to be my full debut against Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest," says the now 39-year-old who overcame testicular cancer in 2009. "I scored the goal, Kingsley Black scored their winning goal in injury-time.

"Obviously my goal against Newcastle which spiralled me into the spotlight.

"I also remember working with David Pleat who gave me my break at 17, plus all the families that looked after me whilst I was coming back and forth at 17 years of age coming up in the school holidays.

"John Moore is a great football man and a brilliant coach and Luton through and through.

"There's too many moments to say just one and it would probably be outside of football if I had to say just one - but it was just the welcome I was given.

"My parents were always comfortable to see me go up on the train with some of the guys like Hughes, Pembridge and Jason Rees. It was comforting. My dad used to take me down to Swansea train station and I used to meet the guys at Cardiff and go on to Luton. Luton has been a special place and, who knows, I may be back one day."

Youth Team & Development

FIXTURES & RESULTS

YOUTH

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI	TROTMAN 1	Hawkes	Atkinson ♦	TAMPLIN	Musonda	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Justin ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
AUGUST																				
Sat 2	11.00am	H	Milton Keynes Dons	W 3-1	King	TROTMAN 1	Hawkes	Atkinson ♦	TAMPLIN	Musonda	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Justin ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Tue 12	11.00am	A	AFC Bournemouth (LC)	W 2-1	King	Justin	Magaraushe	TAMPLIN	Musonda	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch	
Sat 16	11.00am	H	Stevenage	D 1-1	King	Trotman	Hawkes	Justin	TAMPLIN	Musonda	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Wed 20	11.00am	H	Cambridge United	W 2-0	King	Trotman	Magaraushe ♦	Justin	TAMPLIN	Musonda	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Sat 23	10.30am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 5-0	King	Trotman	Perry ♦	Justin	TAMPLIN	Musonda	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Sat 30	11.00am	H	Watford	W 3-0	King	TROTMAN 1	Perry	Justin	TAMPLIN ♦	Musonda	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
SEPTEMBER																				
Tue 2	12 noon	A	Dagenham & Redbridge (LC)	L 1-3	King	Trotman	Perry	Hawkes	Musonda	Magaraushe ♦	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Sat 6	10.30am	A	Barnet	L 2-4	King	Trotman	Magaraushe ♦	TAMPLIN 1	Musonda	McJannett	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Sat 20	11.00am	H	Northampton Town	D 1-1	King	MAGARAUSHE 1	Parry	Hawkes	McJannett	McGhan-George	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Sat 27	10.30am	A	AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	King	Magaraushe	Perry	Justin	Hawkes	McJannett	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
OCTOBER																				
Sat 4	11.00am	H	Southend United	D 1-1	King	Magaraushe ♦	PERRY 1	McGhan-George	Musonda	Hawkes	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Sat 11	10.30am	A	Leyton Orient	W 2-0	Gooch	Magaraushe	Perry	Justin	Musonda	Hawkes	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Sat 18	11.00am	H	Gillingham	W 4-0	King	Hankins	Perry	McJannett ♦	Musonda	Justin	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
Sat 25	11.00am	H	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 4-2	Gooch	Justin	Perry	Fanewo	McGhan-George	Atkinson ♦	GALLIFORD 2	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Craig	Gooch
NOVEMBER																				
Sat 1	11.00am	A	Cambridge United	W 4-3	King	Magaraushe	Perry	Musonda	Hawkes	Justin	GALLIFORD 2	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Hankins	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Brown	Cassells
Tue 4	7.30pm	H	Didcot Town (FAYC1)	W 4-1	King	Perry	Hawkes	Musonda	Justin	Bakinson	ATKINSON 1 ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Tayali	Craig
Sat 8	11.00am	H	Barnet	L 0-5	Gooch	Magaraushe ♦	Perry	Musonda	Hawkes	Justin	ATKINSON 1 ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Bakinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Fanewo	Craig
Sat 15	10.30am	A	Watford	D 3-3	King	Justin	Perry	Hawkes	Musonda	McGhan-George	MAGARAUSHE 2	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Brown	Harker
Tue 18	7.30pm	A	Oxford City (FAYC2)	L 1-2	King	Justin	Perry	Musonda	Hawkes	McGhan-George	ATKINSON 1 ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Bakinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Tayali	Craig
Sat 22	11.00am	A	Northampton Town	D 1-1	Gooch	Hawkes ♦	Fanewo	McJannett	Justin	Hawkes	GALLIFORD 2	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Fanewo	Gooch
Sat 29	11.00am	H	Peterborough United	D 0-0	Gooch	Justin	Perry	McJannett	Hawkes	Fanewo	Atkinson ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Bakinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Tayali	Craig
DECEMBER																				
Sat 9	11.00am	A	Southend United	W 1-0	Gooch	Justin	Perry	Fanewo	McJannett	Hawkes ♦	Atkinson ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Murray	Cassells
Sat 13	11.00am	H	AFC Wimbledon	W 4-0	Gooch	Musonda	MUSONDA 1	Fanewo	McJannett	Hawkes ♦	ATKINSON 1 ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Murray	King
Tue 16	1.00pm	A	Peterborough United	D 1-1	King	MUSONDA 1	McGhan-George	Fanewo	Justin ♦	Hawkes ♦	Galliford ♦	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1 ▲	Ngwala	Tayali	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ▲	Atkinson	Bean
Sat 20	11.00am	A	Gillingham																	
JANUARY																				
Tue 6	11.00am	H	Leyton Orient																	
Sat 10	11.00am	A	Milton Keynes Dons																	
Sat 24	11.00am	A	Stevenage																	

DEVELOPMENT

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI	STEVENSON 3	Saunders	Walker	LAFAYETTE 1	WALKER 1	MUSONDA 1	SUBS
SEPTEMBER												
Tue 9	1pm	H	AFC Bournemouth	W 5-0	Justham	McNeil ♦	Brown	TAMPLIN	Williams	Smith	STEVENSON 3	Saunders
Tue 23	2pm	A	Portsmouth	D 2-2	Justham	Justin	Perry	Andoh	Doyle ♦	Lawless ♦	WALKER 1	WALKER 2
Tue 30	1pm	H	Gillingham (Cup)	W 5-2	Justham	Robinson	Brown	Lacey	Parry	Guttridge	BENSON 2	BENSON 1
OCTOBER												
Tue 28	1pm	H	Peterborough United	W 4-0	Justham	Williams	Howells	Lacey	Franks	Rooney	STEVENSON 1 ♦	GUTTRIDGE
Tue 18	1pm	A	Cambridge United	W 4-1	Justham	Ruddock	WHALLEY 2	Lacey	Franks	Williams	STEVENSON 1 ♦	WHALLEY 1
Tue 25	1pm	H	Leyton Orient	W 2-0	Justham	Williams ♦	Connolly	Lacey	Franks	Rooney	WALKER 1	WALKER 2
NOVEMBER												
Tue 2	1pm	H	AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	Justham	Robinson	Fitzsimons	Lacey	Connolly	Ruddock ♦	ROONEY 1	STEVENSON 1 ♦
Tue 9	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon (Cup)	L 0-1	King	Longden	Fitzsimons	Connolly	Lacey	Ngwala ♦	WALKER 1	WALKER 2
DECEMBER												
Tue 6	1pm	A	AFC Bournemouth								STEVENSON 1 ♦	WALKER 1
Mon 12	1pm	H	Brighton (Cup)								ROONEY 1	WALKER 2
Tue 20	1pm	H	Gillingham								STEVENSON 1 ♦	WALKER 1
Tue 27	1pm	H	Milton Keynes Dons (Cup)								WALKER 1	WALKER 2
JANUARY												
Tue 3	1pm	A	Peterborough United								STEVENSON 1 ♦	WALKER 1
Tue 17	1pm	H	Milton Keynes Dons (Cup)								ROONEY 1	WALKER 2
Tue 24	1pm	A	Leyton Orient								STEVENSON 1 ♦	WALKER 1
MARCH												
Tue 10	1pm	H	Cambridge United								STEVENSON 1 ♦	WALKER 1
Mon 23	7pm	A	AFC Wimbledon								ROONEY 1	WALKER 2
Tue 31	1pm	H	Portsmouth								STEVENSON 1 ♦	WALKER 1
TBA		A	Gillingham								STEVENSON 1 ♦	WALKER 1
TBA		A	Cambridge United (Cup)								STEVENSON 1 ♦	WALKER 1

The Hatters Under-18s made it six games unbeaten in the Youth Alliance after fighting back to earn a 1-1 draw at Peterborough United on Tuesday.

Paul Driver's youngsters went into the match buoyed by Saturday's 4-0 win over AFC Wimbledon, but against a strong Posh side the Town fell behind mid-way through the second half.

But the Town kept going and they were rewarded for their persistence six minutes from time when Frankie Musonda poked the ball between the Posh goalkeeper's legs to earn the Hatters a point.

A happy Driver told Iutontown.co.uk: "It was a scrappy, bitty game but the boys dug in, kept going and their hard work paid off in the end which is one of the big positives."

The Town were unfortunate not to be awarded a penalty in an even first half when James Justin was fouled five yards inside the box – only for the officials to award a free-kick.

But Craig King kept Posh out with a fine save, while United also hit the post, but the game finished all square in the match which was rearranged after the original match was

abandoned in September following an injury to Luke Trotman. Driver added: "That point has made it six games unbeaten off to our game today – and that grit and determination helped us earn a deserved point."

The Town Under-18s play their last game of 2014 today when they travel to Gillingham.

community

WITH HEAD OF COMMUNITY TRUST KEVIN THOBURN

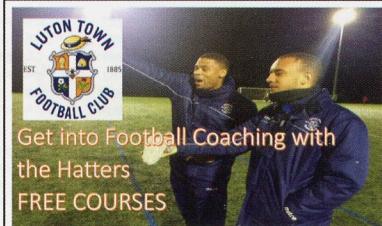
COMMUNITY INTEGRATION THROUGH SPORT (KITS FUNDED BY DGCL)

It was disappointing to read in the local press last week the continuing troubles between young men from Marsh Farm and Lewsey Farm. As a club we are already involved in both estates (with more projects coming on stream next year) to try and engage with the local communities.

Currently, the Club's Community Trust, along with Active Luton, continue to deliver football coaching using the sport and our badge to engage, empower and improve the lives of disadvantaged young men in the Marsh Farm, Lewsey Farm and Farley Hill areas of town. Last May alone over 180 boys visited the stadium for the KITS football tournament from the three areas of the town and played each other on the pitch in a fantastic tournament, which Lewsey won.

The boys also attended various workshops in the Eric Morecombe suite from the council, police and Princes' Trust as well as meeting former ex-offenders, who spoke about their experiences with the boys.

Next month we have organised an indoor tournament at the Inspire Sports Centre in Stopsley for all of the boys



If you are aged 19 years and over and live in Farley Hill, Lewsey Farm or Marsh Farm and would like to get into Football Coaching - then here is your opportunity!!

Luton Town FC Community Trust are looking for interested adults who would like to train as football coaches and put their skills to work in Luton. The course starts in January 2015 and we will be holding open evenings in December. The course will include:

- Training from qualified professionals
- Gaining the FA Level 1 Award in Coaching Football & Sports Leaders award
- Obtain the FA Safeguarding Children in Football & Emergency First Aid Award
- The chance to develop existing and new skills, confidence, and motivation
- Opportunities to work with young people from all backgrounds
- Ongoing support from Luton Town FC during the programme
- Help to become a Luton community coach
- Opportunities to work with local schools and youth clubs
- We particularly encourage applications from the BME community and females as they are under-represented in this area

To register your interest or for more information call or text 'football coach' to Kevin on 07931 771153 or email kevin.thoburn@lutontown.co.uk

LUTON

Luton

Skills
Partnership
Agency

currently looking for adults who want to train as coaches and work on their estates.

Next year we are running a fully funded FA Level 1 coaching course for anyone over 19 years of age. If you would like further information, or know someone who would be interested, please call the community office on 01582 737568 or email kevin.thoburn@lutontown.co.uk.

and the plan is to also hold a further tournament in May at the Stadium to build on last year's successful event. The integration projects runs every Thursday at Lea Manor 8pm and in Lewsey and Farley Hill at BSA and BWA on Friday 6.30pm. Boys aged 14-19 can simply turn up and join in.

The sessions are lively and the banter is even livelier, but so far no sign of trouble, so don't believe everything you read or hear about certain parts of town - there are far more good young people around than people would imagine. With more projects coming on stream next year we are

CHRISTMAS INDOOR SOCCER CAMPS

On Monday and Tuesday we are running a couple of indoor soccer camps at Goldington Academy in Bedford and Cardinal Newman School in Luton.

I'm sure you all know the format and how to book, and you probably have all of the details already, however, if you've not tried a soccer camp they are great fun, are open to all abilities from 10am to 3pm each day and offer great value at £15 each day you attend. Of course everyone receives a free Luton Tow medal!



If you are still at work or need to do last-minute shopping and need somewhere safe to drop your football-mad kids then call the community office on 07725 172345 over the week-end for further information or to book a place.

The days are well structured and we have lots of youngsters who keep coming back every holiday to train and play with their favourite coaches and to learn lots of new skills so why not give it a go?

EASYJET FREE SCHOOLS VISIT PROJECT AND PREMIER LEAGUE SCHOOL SPORT PROGRAMME

Thanks to continued support from easyJet, our main club sponsor, and the Premier League Charitable Trust, 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.

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During December, on average, we visited just over 30 local schools each week delivering over 50 free PE lessons to almost 1,600 school children.

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 during curriculum and our aim is to provide higher quality, positive experiences for the pupils, enabling positive teaching and learning, alongside increased participation opportunities and playing pathways.

Our full programme of 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 and also 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 said: "Over the last three seasons we have 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 and work alongside schools to provide quality PE lessons."

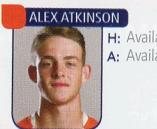
For any schools looking to be involved in the project in 2015 you can contact James or Kyle Durcan at the Club on 01582 737568 or via email on freeschoolsvisitproject@hotmail.co.uk.

Youth Team Sponsors

H: HOME | A: AWAY



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A: Available



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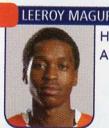
DARIL NGWALA
H: Available
A: Available



TUKI TAYALI
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HARRY TAMPLIN
H: Allianz
A: NPA Commercial



LEEROY MAGURAUSHE
H: Available
A: Available

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF FOOTBALL

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



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www.footballfoundation.org.uk



WITH FOUNDATION PHASE LEAD COACH ROSS O'KANE



Hulpert Under-10 Tournament in Dortmund

Our Under-10s travelled out to Germany for the third time this year looking to play some of the best youth teams in Europe.

On day one we had to play Dortmund which was a great for our boys to be involved in and the game had everything from last minute goal line clearances to Sam Bentley the Luton Town academy goalkeeper making an exceptional save at 0-0.

The game was decided by some magic from Kenneth Aboh who picked up in his own half before beating three players sitting the goalkeeper down and scoring for Luton to top the group after the first day.

Day two saw us drawn in a group of Dusseldorf, Nurenburg, Werder Bremen, Borussia Monchengladbach and eventual winners Schalke 04.

We finished the group in fourth position above Werder Bremen and Mochengladbach and were one point away from earning a place in the quarter-finals.

The day ended with placing games and a rematch against Dortmund. The game finished 3-1 against Dortmund and we finished in 10th place out of 36 which was a brilliant achievement by call involved.

Squad – Sam Bentley, Rio Bedingfield, Jack Bateson, Jake Burger, Kenneth Aboh, Darcy Moffat, Charlie Mallet and Kai Neill.

Coaches – Ross O'Kane and Jordan McCann.





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Luton Ladies

HATTERS LADIES PICK OFF EAGLES

The Town Ladies produced their best performance of the season so far to beat free-scoring Crystal Palace last week.

Both teams played some excellent free flowing football with Luton always looking the more likely to open the scoring. Jael Muzzi, making her full debut, had the best opportunity: getting on the end of a Shanice Jiminez cross and forcing the Palace goalkeeper into a diving save.

Deserved

Michelle Byrne and Rebecca Kane also had chances, but it was a Kane corner that gave the Town a deserved lead. The ball was floated to the far post area where Zara Carroll rose to head the ball.

However, a Palace defender collided with both her and her own keeper and Carroll forced the ball over the line to keep up her run of scoring in every game she has played against the Eagles.

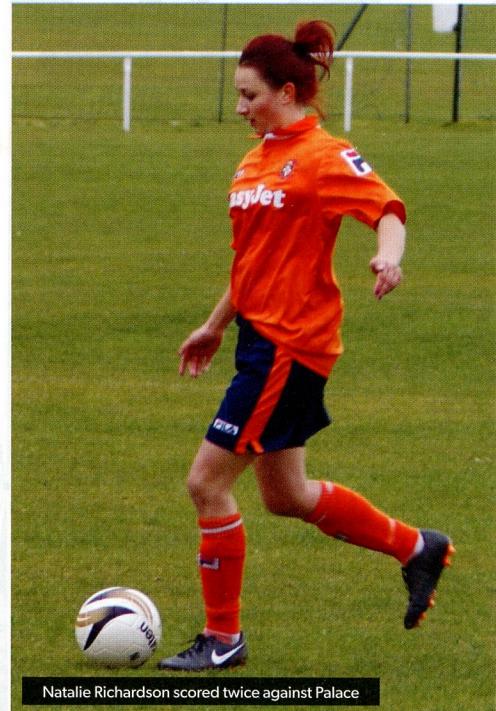
The visitors almost drew level with their only real chance of the half when the dangerous striker turned and fired her shot against the outside of the post.

The Hatters started the second period strongly, playing some excellent football and winning most of the ball all over the field. Carroll and Nicki Livingstone dominated the centre of midfield, winning the ball and playing some clever balls forward.

Smashing

A substitution saw Natalie Richardson return to the side for the first time since May after her trip to America, replacing Kane after 65 minutes. A Palace corner was headed clear by Hilary Ferroni and that launched an incisive counter attack with a superb cross-field ball from Byrne towards Richardson and she waited for her moment before smashing the ball home with her first touch to double the Town's lead.

A forced substitution through injury, saw Hatters goalkeeper Hollie Staples leave the pitch and reserve team stopper Angelika Kopec came on between the sticks. Luton continued moving the ball well and it wasn't long before Richardson found herself through on goal with one defender and the Palace keeper to beat. Some clever footwork saw her take the ball around both of them and fire the ball into the empty net for her second and the town's third.



Natalie Richardson scored twice against Palace

Kopec had a save to make in the dying moments as Palace struck the bar and the ball bounced on the line, and she dived at the striker's feet to smother the danger to maintain the Hatters clean sheet.

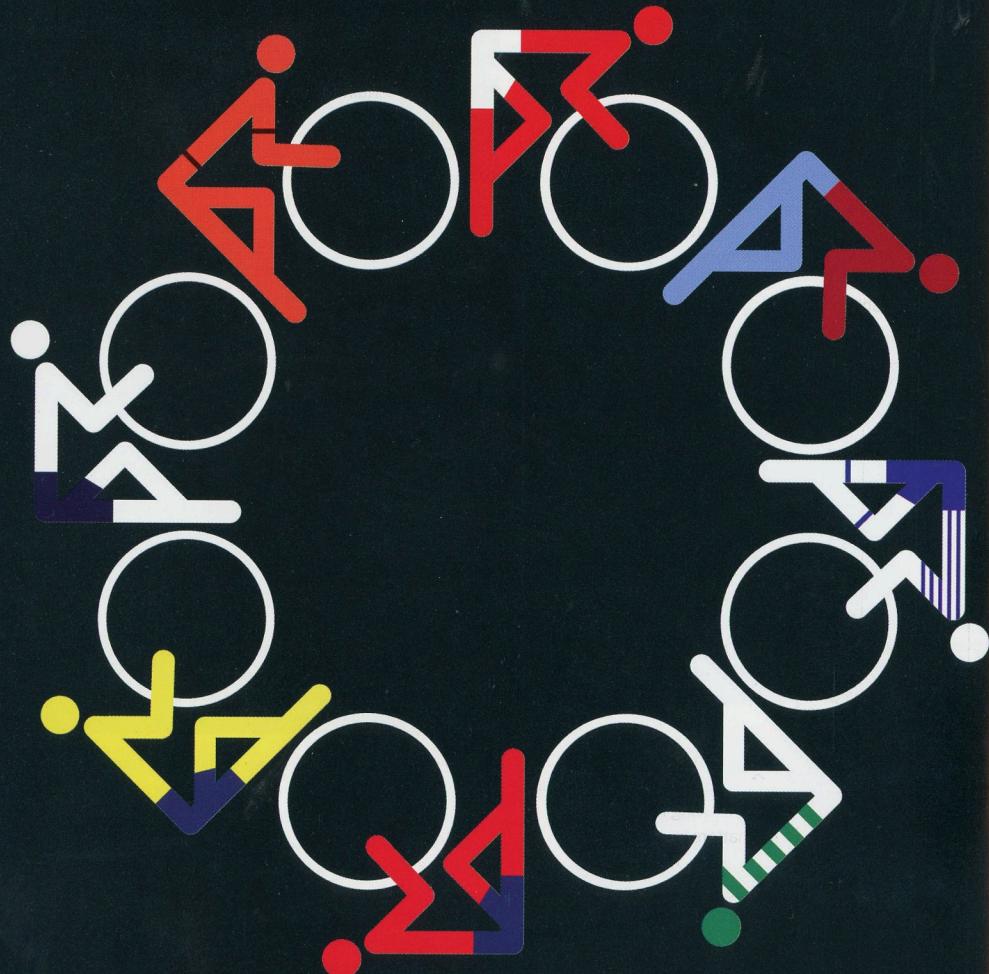
Delighted

First team manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "I was delighted with the result but even more so with the performance. I would go as far to say it was probably the best performance from our first team in over two years.

"The back four were excellent and we didn't really look like conceding, the midfield dominated, we created several chances going forward and we scored three good goals.

"Palace were top of the league for a while and sat second for a long time and this just shows how far we can go. I hope we can push on now from this."

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THE SOCIAL NETWORK



LutonTown



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Luton Town

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Can you believe that Christmas is almost upon us? No, neither can we. It doesn't seem five minutes since that opening day of the season win at Carlisle.

The Hatters have always enjoyed a decent festive record over the years, with fine records on matches played on Boxing Day and the 28th December.

That's probably been the kiss of death ahead of next week's fixtures, but last week we asked our followers on Facebook and Twitter to tell us their favourite festive fixtures involving the Town over the years. Here are the best!

Richard Armstrong @habbyhatter
@LutonTown Boxing Day 2007. 1-1 at Bristol Rovers with 8 men. A certain Rickie Lambert scoring for them.

bmillsitfc @harryhatterz
@Ironman_LTFC @kevlennon1 @LutonTown And Xmas 74: 3-2 win v Wolves -Ron Futter hatrick. Finally starting to play but left it too 2 late

Chris Lennon @christofflennon
@LutonTown Last year. 6-0 v Kidderminster to go top of the Conference. And as we all well know, we never looked back...

Paul Barnes @WriterPaulB
@LutonTown My first away game.1977 3-3 at Crystal Palace. Price scored a fantastic goal - well my 7 year old brain thought so at the time.

James Bunting @JGOBunting
@LutonTown versus Bristol Rovers in 2007. Down to eight men but managed to salvage a draw. Showed such fight!

Brian Hodgson @BrianHodgson3
@LutonTown Ipswich away boxing day 1974 Ron Futter scoring in a 1-0 win.

Dave O'Flanagan @LTFC_Dave
@LutonTown The 6-0 demolition of Kidderminster last year which sent us top of the league for the first time (and we stayed there!)

Steve Woodward It has to be Boxing Day 1979 against that lot down the motorway from Hertfordshire, winning 1 nil in the last minute with Basher Stephens scoring at the far post

Tom Skinner Luton 2-0 Cardiff, Boxing Day 2002: Steve Howard volleyed into the top corner late on and celebrated with his trademark passion in front of an ecstatic Kenny End!

Tim Parsfield Watford 0- Luton 1. (1979) Kirk Stephens scoring from Bob Hatton's cross in final minute. Also, a 3-3 draw with Chelsea, i think on New Years day, about 1980/81

Matthew Sykes Watford away Boxing Day 79, and five days later we had Chelsea at home on ice and snow on New Year's Day 3-3, some festive fixture list. Dave Watson Boxing Day 1958 Luton 6 Arsenal 3, or the game with Chelsea Boxing Day 1981...Luton 2 Chelsea 0.

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WHAT'S IN STORE ONLINE AT THE HATTERS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

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

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

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

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

TEAMSHEETS

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

FREE CLOCKWATCH

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

LIVE COMMENTARY

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

FULL-TIME REPORT

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

POST-MATCH REACTION

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

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

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

MOBILE INTERNET

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

STAY IN TOUCH AND HELP THE HATTERS TOO...

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

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ON THIS DAY

► THE RECORD

Not a lot to get excited about on this day in history for the Hatters with the five wins from 13 matches played down the years. The Town have lost seven and drawn just once but enjoy a level goal difference, having scored 18 and conceded 18 during these matches.

► THE LAST TIME

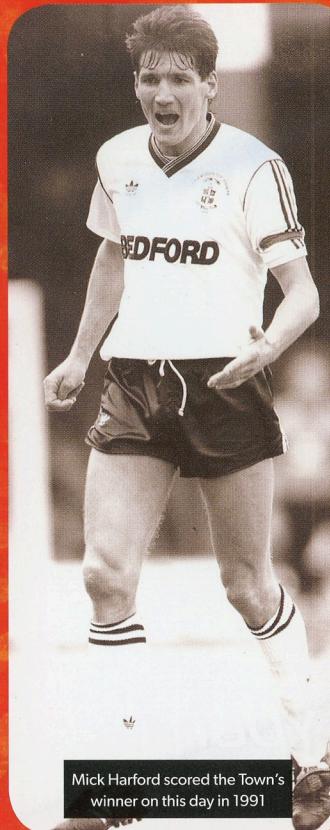
That sole draw came in the Town's last match on 20th December – a 1-1 draw at Morecambe. It was the first meeting between the two clubs following the Shrimps' promotion to the Football League. That day the Hatters took a 51st-minute lead through on-loan Norwich defender Michael Spillane but the visitors equalised six minutes later through Danny Carlton. Jake Howells played 90 minutes for the Town that afternoon, as did current Morecambe boss Jim Bentley.

► THE LAST VICTORY

Wins are pretty thin on the ground for the Town on 20th December and you have to go back to 1991 – 23 years – for the last time the Hatters won three points on this day. On the day in question the Town ran out 1-0 winners against Coventry City in the top-flight. Only 7,533 turned up at Kenilworth Road to witness the victory which was secured thanks to a solitary goal from Mick Harford. The Town would go on and beat Arsenal and Chelsea over the Christmas period but would end that campaign relegated from the top division.

► FIVE IN A ROW

This afternoon's game is the fifth successive fixture on 20th December that has taken place at Kenilworth Road. The Town began the sequence by beating Coventry and their most recent was the draw with Morecambe. In between the Town lost 4-2 at home to Bristol Rovers in Division Two (now League 1) in 1997.



Mick Harford scored the Town's winner on this day in 1991

Struggling for form, the Pirates taught the Hatters a football lesson and despite Chris Allen and David Oldfield scoring for the Town, efforts from Jamie Cureton, Peter Beadle and two from Barry Hayles were enough to secure the win for the visitors.

In 2003, meanwhile, the Town were on the receiving end of another home defeat, this time to Barnsley in Division Two (now League 1) before a crowd of 6,162 at Kenilworth Road. Both sides started the game in the Play-Off positions and a last-minute goal from Anthony Kay gave the Tykes all three points.

► WINNING WAYS

The Town's win over Coventry in 1991 was their first on 20th December since a 2-1 win over Hull City at Boothferry Park in 1975 in the Old Division Two (now Championship). Goals from Jim Husband and Andy King gave Harry Haslam's men victory.

That game was the Hatters' first match on this very day for 23 years. In 1952 the Town beat Plymouth Argyle 1-0 in front of 13,055 at Kenilworth Road in the Old Division Two (now Championship).

Roy Davies scored the Town's solitary goal.

The two other victories the Town have tasted on 20th December came in 1913 – a thumping 7-0 win over Aberdare in the Southern League Second Division, and a 1-0 FA Cup sixth qualifying round tie away to Brighton & Hove Albion in 1919.

► BEST OF THE REST

Well there's isn't to be honest. All the wins have been covered above! The Town took part in a further match in the top flight on this day, but lost 3-0 at Arsenal in 1986. Three late goals – from Niall Quinn, Tony Adams and Martin Hayes – gave the Gunners the win.

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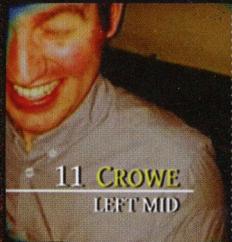
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FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



LUTOPIA AND THE LIVING WAGE

Division Four's Luton Town (from the 1980s) recently became the first professional league football club in England to pay its staff at least a Living Wage.

I'm not saying we're creating through some kind of Lower League Lutopia or anything, that's for other people to say...

*Football clubs are more than a business
Football clubs are more than a business
Football clu...*

Now I can't detain the Glazer family or John Gurney and force them, like chubby Bart Simpsons, to scrawl these lines on the blackboard of a windowless room while Home Alone 3 and Home Alone 4 (#AgainstBadFranchiseChristmasFilms) loop one after the other at deafening volume for all eternity, much as I would like to.

Tragedy

None of us can, that's the tragedy. But announcements by FC United and now Luton that clubs like ours are the first to pay a Living Wage chips gently, naggingly away at their shallow version of our game.

To our Nation's shame, for these men and owners throughout English football, our clubs are often treated as little more than an opportunity to borrow, sell and exploit. Not necessarily even for financial gain it seems, as very few turn a profit; perhaps for vanity, maybe just because they can.

While briefly in control at Luton Town in 2003, a BBC documentary team asked John Gurney whether the club were aware of some of his questionable business dealings.

His answer, along with the look on his face, always stuck in my mind. The playing and non-playing staff hadn't been paid in weeks and were ready to walk, fans were withholding season ticket money and the stadium and the land it stood on was the Council's. Gurney's grinning reply: "Who is the club?"

For Gurney there was no "club" just transient assets (human or otherwise) and a soft target. The staff, the goal posts, the Club Shop(ortakabin); everything was tradable, squeezable and expendable.

There was no community, no history and no family here and the supporters were just a trivial annoyance (who would definitely not chase him out of the car park one day, booting his driver's-side door). It's taken a while to reinstate some sense of soul.

When the done-thing for businesses in this country is to pay some staff the minimum wage, a minimum wage that is putting less and less food on the table each year once rent is paid, a little old Football Club like ours taking the lead and committing to pay something even a little bit more dignified, while the oily TV rich of the Premier League refuse, is something to be proud of.

There is no doubt in some ways we're having to become more commercial in order to survive, but little things like a Living Wage can go a long way towards defining this new Lutopia of ours as something more like a club than a business.

The stronger the team, as he says.

Don't forget...

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



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The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

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BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Hull boss Steve Bruce said his side's defeat to Chelsea was more like a performance of Swan Lake after a bizarre outbreak of theatrics.

Seemingly intent on winning as controversially as possible, Blues stars – and in particular Gary Cahill – leapt to the floor at the mere hint of a challenge.

And they weren't the only ones, with recent balletics from Ross Barkley and Adam Johnson going to prove that the old stereotype of foreign cheats and their dirty tricks no longer holds water.

Once again, the issue of retrospective punishment is being discussed. Once again, nothing is likely to happen.

"If people cheat and do wrong, they have to suffer the consequences," said Derby manager McClaren this week. "They do it in other things, so why not for diving or simulation?

"All we can do is beat the drum. It keeps getting mentioned for years now and still nothing's been done. It's up to the authorities to do something about it and deal with it. It's in our game and it needs to be stamped out."

The question is, how? Yes you could hand out suspensions and fines but that's old hat. If we really want to stop diving, let's be a bit more inventive...

OFFENDER GOES IN GOAL

What is the single most entertaining spectacle on a football pitch? It's not Messi in full flow, David Dunn's 'tekkers' or even a manager hitting the deck.

It's the sight of some hapless nugget forced to man the nets. These days it's rarer than a Mario Balotelli goal, but in the pre-Premier League yonder when teams were only allowed one sub, it was pretty common to see a red-carded keeper hand his XL shirt and gigantic gloves to a 5ft 10ins centre-forward.

Niall Quinn famously scored a penalty and then saved one for Man City and was so impressive that Ireland didn't even bother taking a third keeper to Italia 90. Phil Jagielka and Lucas Radebe were also pretty handy. Usually, though, it's just some baggy shambles leaping around like a toddler.

So come on, let's give today's generation a taste of glorious slapstick. Instead of booking someone for diving, make them swap with the goalie for 20 minutes.



Chelsea 'like watching Swan Lake' said Hull boss Steve Bruce

PLAY IN FLIPPERS

Well, if you like diving so much, let's see you bang one in the top corner with a set of £20 Argos fins on your feet.

OFFENDER CAN'T LEAVE HIS OWN BOX

This is a brilliant punishment because a) you're a man down in attack and b) you'll play pretty much every opposition player onside every time they come forward.

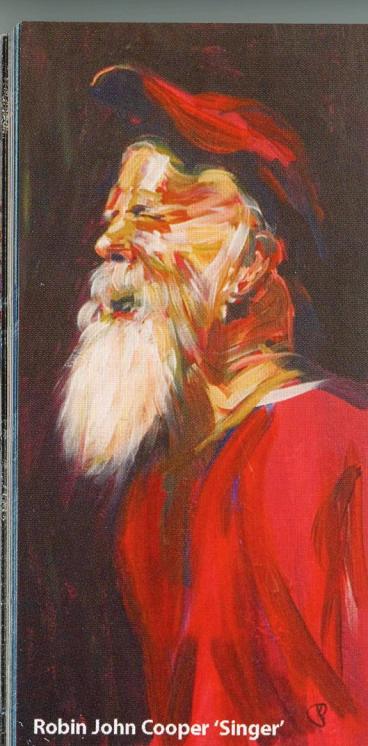
Even for, say, ten minutes, it would cause a spectacular amount of mayhem, like the desperate last knockings of a cup final with balls raining in from all angles.

Which supporter – home or away – wouldn't prefer that to the stodge usually served up after a red card?

BAN THE MANAGER

How often do we hear managers say they "don't stand for diving" and will deal with offenders "behind closed doors"?

What this really means is they went into training on Monday and said "Look son, well played but next time don't get caught or I'll have to rag you out on camera".



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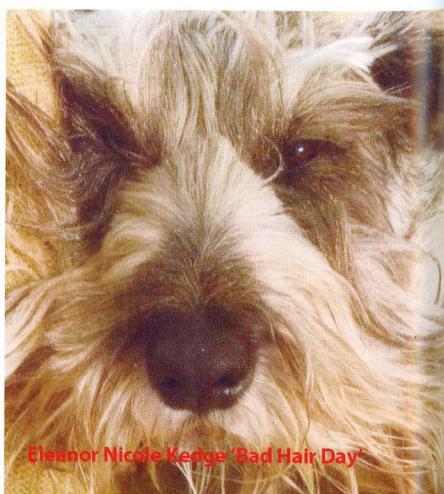
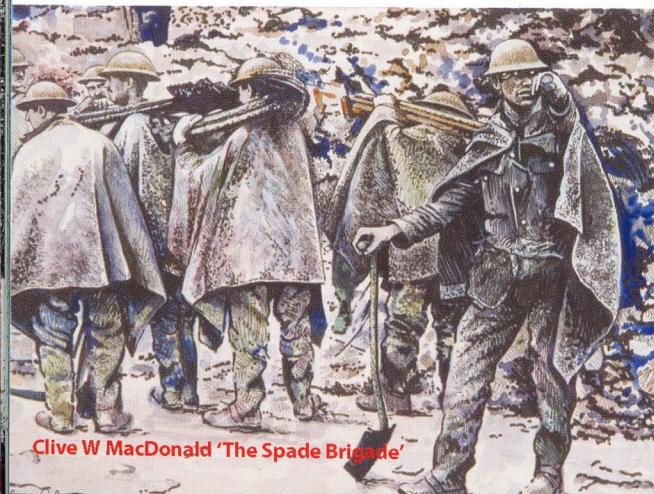
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Clive W MacDonald 'The Spade Brigade'

Eleanor Nicole Kerige 'Bad Hair Day'

league look

sky BET
LEAGUE 2

LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

The Town dropped out of the automatic promotion places on goal difference in League 2 following last Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Morecambe.

Burton and Shrewsbury both leapfrogged the Hatters in the table as the reverse at the Globe Arena saw the Town slip to fourth from second in the table.

But despite that set-back the Town remain just four points off the top and two points behind second place in the wake of the 3-0 defeat. The victory for Morecambe lifted Jim Bentley's side up to 10th in the table and four points off the final Play-Off place.

Advantage

Leaders Wycombe Wanderers opened up a two point advantage by beating fellow promotion chasers Southend 4-1 at Adams Park. The Shrimpers had a man sent-off with the Chairboys 2-1 to the good and the result allied with Exeter's 2-0 win over Carlisle saw the Grecians rise above Southend and into seventh spot in League 2.

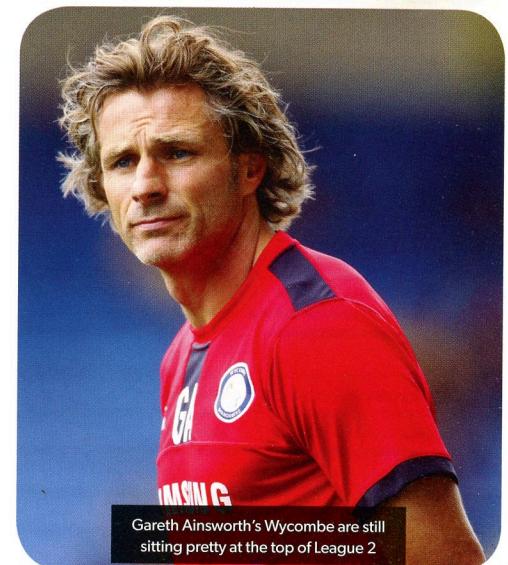
Burton climbed to second place after a comprehensive 4-0 hammering of bottom-of-the-table and managerless Hartlepool at the Pirelli Stadium. The defeat for Pools leaves the Victoria Park club six points adrift having taken just 12 points from 20 games this season.

Draw

Meanwhile, Shrewsbury moved into third place despite being held to a goalless draw against Cambridge at the Abbey Stadium.

Today's visitors Newport maintained their remarkable run of form to leap into sixth place in League 2 after a routine 2-0 home win over Stevenage. As you may have read elsewhere, County have lost just once in their last 17 matches in the League.

Plymouth moved back into fifth place with a 3-2 win away at Northampton. Argyle had led 3-0. That was one of three 3-2 victories for away clubs last weekend with perhaps the most impressive being Accrington's at



Gareth Ainsworth's Wycombe are still sitting pretty at the top of League 2

Portsmouth. Pompey, the visitors to Kenilworth Road a week tomorrow, had been in fine form at Fratton Park but Stanley pulled off the result of the weekend to rise into 11th place – five points off the Play-Offs. AFC Wimbledon won 3-2 at York – the Minsters have yet to win any of their 10 home matches this season.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

ACCRINGTON v WYCOMBE

AFC WIMBLEDON v MANSFIELD

BURY v YORK

CARLISLE v NORTHAMPTON

CHEL滕HAM v PORTSMOUTH

HARTLEPOOL v OXFORD

PLYMOUTH v DAGENHAM

SHREWSBURY v MORECAMBE

STEVENAGE v EXETER

THE SEASON

Fixtures & Results

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

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

SEPTEMBER

TV Sat 6	12.15pm	H	Plymouth Argyle	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	Lacey ▲	Smith	Drury
Tue 16	7.45pm	A	York City	D 0-0	3,649	445	18	Tyler	Williams	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Ruddock	Guttridge ▲
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United	W 1-0	6,533	2,050	13	Tyler	Williams ▲	Griffiths	McNulty	Lacey	Ruddock	Stevenson
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Oxford United	W 2-0	9,101	868	10	Tyler	Lacey	Griffiths	McNulty	WILKINSON 1	Smith ▲	Doyle ▲

OCTOBER

Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Stevenage	W 2-1	5,236	1,897	7	Tyler	Lacey	Griffiths	McNulty	WILKINSON 1	Smith ▲	Doyle
Tue 7	7.45pm	H	Crawley Town (JPT2)	L 0-1	2,186	125	-	Justham	Lacey	Griffiths ▲	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith	Ruddock
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Southend United	W 2-0	9,238	1,033	4	Tyler	Harriman ▲	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith	Guttridge
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United	W 2-1	4,225	525	4	Tyler	Harriman	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith	Drury
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 3-1	7,746	166	3	Tyler	Harriman	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith	Ruddock
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town	W 1-0	10,040	1,018	1	Tyler	Harriman	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith	Guttridge

NOVEMBER

Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Exeter City	D 1-1	5,400	1,043	2	Tyler	Harriman	GRIFFITHS 1 ▲	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith	Doyle
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Newport County (FAC1)	W 4-2	3,656	334	-	Tyler	Harriman	HOWELLS 1	McNulty	Wilkinson	Lacey	Doyle
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Tranmere Rovers	W 1-0	9,061	378	1	Tyler	Harriman	Howells	McNulty	Wilkinson	Franks	Doyle
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Burton Albion	L 0-1	4,772	1,998	3	Tyler	Harriman	Griffiths	McNulty	Wilkinson	Smith	Doyle ▲
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town	W 3-0	8,418	294	2	Tyler	Harriman	Griffiths	McNulty	Franks	Smith	Doyle

DECEMBER

Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Bury (FAC2)	D 1-1	2,790	434	-	Tyler	Harriman	Griffiths ▲	McNulty	Wilkinson	Franks	Doyle
Sat 13	3.00pm	A	Morecambe	L 0-3	2,263	731	4	Tyler	Harriman ▲	Howells	McNulty	Wilkinson	Franks	Doyle
Tue 16	7.45pm	H	Bury (FAC2R)	W 1-0	2,923	182	-	Tyler	Harriman	Griffiths	Franks	Wilkinson	Smith	Doyle
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	Cambridge United (FAC3)	TV	Thu 8	7.45pm	H	Shrewsbury Town			
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle	Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town	Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth	Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley	Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town
Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers	Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Southend United	Sun 28	3.00pm	H	Portsmouth

FEBRUARY

Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Oxford United	Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Carlsbad United
Tue 10	7.45pm	H	York City	Tue 10	7.45pm	H	Carlisle United
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Carlisle United	Sat 14	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon
Sat 21	3.00pm	A	Southend United	Sat 21	3.00pm	A	Tranmere Rovers
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley	Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers

MARCH

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

APRIL

Fri 3	3.00pm	H	Exeter City	Fri 3	3.00pm	A	Tranmere Rovers
Mon 6	3.00pm	A	Tranmere Rovers	Mon 6	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Burton Albion	Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley
Tue 14	7.45pm	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	Tue 14	7.45pm	A	Bury
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Hartlepool United	Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Portsmouth
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Southend United	Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers

MAY

Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage
TBA	A	Mansfield Town	

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

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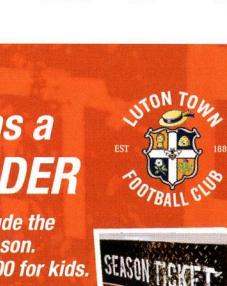
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LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	20	12	5	3	35	18	17	41
2	21	12	3	6	30	23	7	39
3	20	11	4	5	30	15	15	37
4	20	11	4	5	23	15	8	37
5	20	10	4	6	25	13	12	34
6	20	9	7	4	30	21	9	34
7	20	9	7	5	30	26	4	34
8	20	10	4	6	22	19	3	34
9	20	9	3	8	28	25	3	30
10	20	9	3	8	23	21	2	30
11	20	9	2	9	31	24	-3	29
12	20	8	4	8	31	24	7	28
13	20	7	6	7	27	29	-2	27
14	20	7	5	8	24	25	-1	26
15	20	7	4	9	27	29	-2	25
16	20	7	3	10	29	30	-1	24
17	20	6	6	8	22	25	-3	24
18	20	6	6	8	19	29	-10	24
19	20	6	5	9	16	25	-9	23
20	20	6	3	11	25	31	-6	21
21	20	3	10	7	20	26	-6	19
22	20	4	6	10	20	26	-6	18
23	20	5	3	12	25	39	-14	18
24	20	3	3	14	14	38	-24	12

PLAYER STATS 2014/15

HOLD THE Back Page

WITH DIVERSE FM'S STEVE MOORE



Bradford showed that a run in the League Cup helped them perform well in the Play-Offs

So we are into the third round of the FA Cup against Cambridge United for another meeting with Richard Money, Greg Taylor and company, which is at least preferable to adding an extra trip to Mansfield into the equation (although, maybe we could have asked to take the league points from the cup tie?)

On a serious note, though, whatever side of the debate you come down on as to the merits of the Hatters extending their run in the FA Cup, I believe victory against Bury is vitally important heading into today's clash with Newport County.

Obviously, the performance and defeat last weekend to Morecambe was a disappointment, but we head into today with that being the exception rather than the rule. Were we to have failed to get through on Tuesday night, we would then have to place it as us having won just once in the last five games.

Add this to dropping out of the automatic promotion places and suddenly there would be a lot of pressure on this game, which is against one of the form sides in the division. The Welsh side being unbeaten since their cup visit here last month, winning all but one of those, while only having lost once in the league since the 19th August. As a result, the confidence boost of beating Bury should hugely outweigh the possible

issues one extra game and one extra Tuesday night away trip might cause our promotion race.

Personally, certainly in this league, I believe a cup run can be hugely beneficial to making a late season promotion run. Bradford proved it a couple of years ago in getting all the way to a Wembley Cup Final, albeit the League rather than the FA variety. Despite getting a severe pummelling by Swansea City in the final, they used the momentum gained throughout the competition to fire themselves into the Play-Offs.

Once they got there, that cup-style experience can only have been helpful mentally in both preparing and executing in winning the Play-Offs that year. I have not spoken to him about it but I am sure Nathan Doyle would agree. He would know, he was part of that very Bradford squad.

Maybe last year, with only one automatic spot, any possible distraction that could have seen our third round opponents beat us to the title needed to be avoided. However, even then, winning the FA Trophy showed exactly the same positives spotlighted above, winning the Play-Offs after being the ones to miss out on automatic promotion.

Remember Diverse FM is the official radio broadcast partner of Luton Town and you can tune Hatters games on Diverse each and every week.

On behalf of all at Diverse FM, a very Happy Christmas – and don't forget to tune in on Boxing Day for the match at Wycombe Wanderers!

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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
22	Michael Harriman
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



NEWPORT COUNTY AFC

1	Lenny Pidgeley
2	Ryan Jackson
3	Kevin Feely
4	Max Porter
5	Darren Jones
6	Ismail Yakubu
7	Adam Chapman
8	Lee Minshull
9	Rene Howe
10	Aaron O'Connor
11	Chris Zebroski
12	Robbie Willmott
13	Andy Sandell
14	Shaun Jeffers
16	Andrew Hughes
17	Mike Flynn
18	Yan Klukowski
19	Kyle Patten
22	Tom Owen-Evans
23	Christian Jolley
24	Joe Parker
25	Jamie Stephens
26	Regan Poole
28	Danny Crow
33	Mark Byrne
39	Aaron Collins

TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Darren Drysdale



Brian Durie



Barry Holderness



4 Dave Bushell

NEXT UP

v PORTSMOUTH • SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER 2014 • 3pm
SKY BET LEAGUE 2

