

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 19 • £3

# TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v  
CAMBRIDGE  
UNITED

SATURDAY 31st  
JANUARY 2015

KICK-OFF 3PM



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# welcome

## TO KENILWORTH ROAD



“ Well it's certainly been a while since we were last here on home soil so whether this is your first time here or your 400th, a big welcome to Kenilworth Road for this eagerly-anticipated Sky Bet League 2 clash with our old foes Cambridge United.

The two sides are probably sick of the sight of each other. After all today is the 10th time the two clubs have met since September 2012, and the third time this season!

Of course we can't start this programme without congratulating our visitors on their magnificent 0-0 draw with Manchester United in the FA Cup a week ago yesterday. All the best in your replay!

We welcome some familiar faces back to Kenilworth Road this afternoon – and you can read more about our visitors from pages 18 and 23 – but back to all things Hatters, you can read the latest from the manager and the boardroom inside today's issue of Talk of the Town.

Not only that we catch-up exclusively with Jake Howells as he looks back on his career so far at Kenilworth Road in the wake of making his 300th appearance for the Hatters two weeks ago at Plymouth. There's plenty more to read besides so enjoy the issue – and the game! #COYH ”

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#### LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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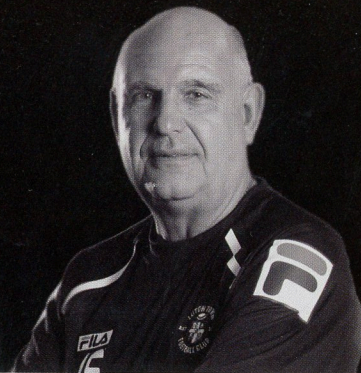
#### OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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



# JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this hugely-anticipated Sky Bet League 2 encounter between ourselves and Cambridge United.

I'd like to welcome Richard Money and Alan Neilson back to this part of Bedfordshire, as well as the United players, directors and supporters. Their feat a week ago against Manchester United was absolutely fantastic. I hope their result showed the watching millions that there is plenty of quality – as well as heart and determination – at our level of football. Our fingers will all be crossed in their replay at Old Trafford on Tuesday night.

## Wonderful

Talking of which, I truly hope our visitors come to Kenilworth Road today without any inhibitions – that their players give it a really good go because this afternoon has all the makings of an absolutely wonderful 90 minutes.

Their players will be caught in between attempting to save themselves for their Tuesday replay without injuring themselves or by getting suspended. But, by the same token, they will need to perform today to stand a chance of keeping their place in the side for another meeting against Manchester United.

However, turning the focus away from Cambridge, this afternoon we aim to continue the good level of form we have shown in our League performances over the past month or so. Since we were beaten so dismally at Morecambe we are unbeaten in six matches, albeit four of those have ended in draws.

You only have to take a look at the opposition to be encouraged by that, though. Over Christmas and New Year we faced Newport, Wycombe, Portsmouth, Shrewsbury and Plymouth – and four of those five clubs are pushing for promotion.

**“THERE IS A LOT TO BE ENCOURAGED ABOUT BY THE RETURN OF SUCH SENIOR PLAYERS AND THAT IS SURE TO BE OF HUGE BENEFIT TO US AS THE SEASON REACHES ITS CLIMAX OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS”**

Since my last set of notes we were held by Shrewsbury in a game we would have won if it wasn't for an inspired goalkeeping performance, but we came back from the long trip from Plymouth with a very important and well-deserved three points.

## Frustration

There was frustration last week at Cheltenham but given the circumstances of an appalling pitch and going behind in the game itself I thought it was a decent enough point. We will, however, be expecting more on home soil this afternoon, especially given our strong record here at Kenilworth Road.

## STILL POSITIVE

At Cheltenham we saw Alex Lawless make an appearance as a substitute which was great for not only him but for everybody. Likewise Luke Guttridge, who is familiar to our opponents' supporters, after he came through a positive 90 minutes in the Beds Senior Cup tie at Stotfold. Pelly Ruddock is also back in training and the three of them could be involved in some part this afternoon, although none of them are right just yet to start.

It is also likely that Paul Benson will return to full training on Monday, so there is a lot to be encouraged about by the return of such senior players and that is sure to be of huge benefit to us as the season reaches its climax over the next few months.

## Targets

The transfer window closes on Monday and as I've said before we have been talking to a number of players who we have identified as targets. We look at players all the year round and won't be making any signings just for the sake of it.

Turning attention back to today, however, what a game it promises to be. Two in-form sides and a full house expected. Your support this season has been unbelievable and the numbers of you who travelled to Plymouth and Cheltenham was quite staggering.

Your backing here at Kenilworth Road, though, has made this place a real fortress over the past two seasons, so please turn up the volume, sing your hearts out and, most of all, enjoy the game.

*John Still*





# BOARDROOM

WITH VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON



Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for what we hope will be another exciting game.

Today we welcome officials, players and supporters from Cambridge United and, in

particular, Richard Money, Alan Neilson, Greg Taylor and Cameron McGeehan, who have all spent time at Kenilworth Road playing, managing or both. We have seen a lot of them in the past few years and look forward to another memorable encounter.

We don't need to add much to the column inches Cambridge have earned for their hard-fought draw against Manchester United, but we congratulate them all the same and wish them well in Tuesday's replay at Old Trafford.

Personally I can't wait for the next opportunity to visit the Abbey and sample the Man U Loos!

It is wonderful to see so many clubs from the lower leagues and outside performing so well. The cups are the only way we get to compare the quality of football at the various levels and based on recent performances the teams who have appeared from lower leagues should be proud of themselves.

A lot has been said and written about the various recent cup exploits, which can only be good for the game as a whole, but I must say I hate the condescending and dismissive way lower league clubs are treated by large sections of the media. It's as if they believe the only real football is played in the top two divisions. A view backed up by the fact that the Football League Show doesn't appear if the Championship aren't playing for any reason and it starts at around midnight.

If we have learned anything from our years out of the League apart from humility, it is that there is talent in abundance at lower levels. The chance to progress is, of course, limited by the

vast numbers of foreign players in the Premier League, and by the way big clubs stockpile their youngsters.

I often think if I were young and talented (we can all fantasise), would I rather play in Leagues 1 or 2 or sit on the bench for Arsenal's fourth team? For me it would be the first option every time. This is relevant for us throughout our academy too. A lot of time is spent trying to persuade our players to stay with us and play football rather than disappear into a vacuum at a Premier League club, but obviously the bright lights and prospect of big money are a serious temptation.

Last week at Cheltenham we saw the home side field three lads on loan from Liverpool and one from Crystal Palace.

## Quality

Will they ever see the light of day at their home clubs, or will they be continually loaned out until forgotten about and moved on?

It seems to me that this is rather a two-edged sword in that it improves the quality of players in the lower leagues, but makes it difficult for supporters to identify with their squad and causes frustration and disappointment when the loan period is up.

One of the great things for me about 'smaller clubs' is that young players get more chances to progress. I am probably old-fashioned, but I love to see young players developed by our system make it to the first team.



Hakan Hayrettin, David Wilkinson, Bob Curson, John Still, Terry Harris and Gary Sweet pictured at Luton Borough Council on the night the manager was given the freedom of the borough

I am proud that we discovered and developed Andre Gray and delighted to see how well he is performing in the Championship. Hopefully as we move up the leagues we will be able to hold on to our best talent, but there will always be occasions where the player's ambition is greater than the club and we proudly tune in to watch him play for Real Madrid in the Champions League.

Apart from Andre, who continues to show how comfortable he is playing in the Championship, I see that Lee Tomlin, who we played against at Rushden in the Conference, is earning plaudits at high-flying Middlesbrough, and Jamie Vardy is scoring goals in the Premier League with Leicester. There are many more who are followed and supported by the fans of the clubs they came from. Good luck to them all and let's hope for a little more appreciation of the grass roots from whence they came.

Here we are coming to the end of another one of my pet hates, the Transfer Window. An over-dramatized, over-hyped piece of nonsense. Does it really merit a countdown? Do people outside the top few big spenders really care? Most of the big deals are made between the big clubs so the money filtering down the pyramid is relatively small. The current loan system is used outside the Window to enable the movement of players, which, as mentioned before, is not ideal, but it does give poorer clubs a chance to bridge the gap somewhat and for players to get competitive football.

It might seem like these are my 'grumpy old man' notes, but I assure you I can be a lot more cantankerous if I try, but that's only because I care.

## Award

In closing I must congratulate John Still on receiving the Freedom of the Borough from the Mayor in the Town Hall the other week. Several members gave moving speeches about their love for the Football Club and admiration for the way John has got us back into the League and has united our Club. John replied dedicating his award to everyone associated with the Club – especially you the loyal fans. Thank you John.

Enjoy the game and come on you Hatters.

*David Wilkinson*



## HONOURS

**Littlewoods Challenge Cup:**  
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

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

**Johnstone's Paint Trophy:**  
Winners 2009

**Simod Cup:**  
Runners-up 1988

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

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

**Football League Division Three:**  
Runners-up 1969/70

**League One:**  
Champions 2004/05

**Football League Division Four:**  
Champions 1967/68

**Football League Division Three:**  
Runners-up 2001/02

**Skrill Premier Champions:**  
2013/14

**Blue Square Premier:**  
Runners-up 2009/10

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

**Southern League Division Two:**  
Runners-up 1913/14

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

**Southern Alliance:**  
Runners-up 1913/14





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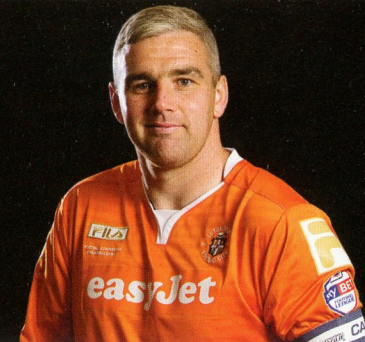
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# MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



It's good to be back here at Kenilworth Road – it seems ages since we were last playing on home soil when we were held to a frustrating goalless draw with Shrewsbury.

I think it says a lot for us to be disappointed with only a point against a side like Shrewsbury. This time last year we were in the Conference and sometimes you need to remember how far we've come in such a short space of time. Shrewsbury are a decent team but we knew we should have won that game and were unlucky to not be awarded a penalty. There's certainly no sour grapes, though – we are an honest enough group to admit when we haven't performed well, but against Shrewsbury I thought we deserved to win.

#### Achievement

Two weeks ago we made the long trip to Plymouth and returned home with three points following an excellent all-round performance. Jukes got his first goal of the season. It was about time he found the scoresheet – but joking aside, regardless of his goal tally he has been in exceptional form for us and all we hope now is that goal is the first of many between now and the end of the season. That game also saw Howellsy make his 300th appearance for this club. What an absolutely unbelievable achievement. It is testament to his ability, hard work, character and loyalty to play that many matches for one club under several different managers. However, he must be the oldest-looking 23-year-old in the world. We're still waiting for him to bring his passport to training because none of us believe he can be that young.

Last Saturday we were frustrated once more after coming back from the game at Cheltenham with only a point to show for our efforts. The pitch was a poor one but we did well to bounce back from going a goal down with a well-taken rebound from Shaun.

**This time last year we were in the Conference and sometimes you need to remember how far we've come in such a short space of time.**

We dominated for long spells after that and never looked in danger of conceding again, but it was just difficult to find a winner.

That point gave us four points from two tricky away matches. I think that kind of return from two successive matches on the road is decent in anybody's book. Today, though, is important because it gives us an opportunity to make those two performances really count. We are looking for nothing less than victory against a Cambridge side we have become accustomed to playing over

the last two years. Matches against them are always tough, close encounters and I'm expecting nothing less than another this afternoon.

I must go on record and congratulate Cambridge on their performance and result against Manchester United and wish them well in their replay on Tuesday. I am sure they are not thinking about it. It's an old cliché which I'm sure they've used ahead of today's match, but they'll be taking every game as it comes. Players will be playing for their places in the starting XI for a replay at Old Trafford, so they have plenty of incentive to do well today.

#### Tirelessly

Last week at Cheltenham we saw Alex Lawless return to action and at Stotfold on Tuesday Guttus came through 90 minutes. We also have Pelly back in full training. The three have worked tirelessly to get back to fitness and I'm sure they will be important players in our squad between now and the end of the season. We've been doing well over what has been a tricky last month fixture-wise so they won't be expecting to walk straight back in the team.

Finally I'd like to say a huge thank you to those supporters who made the long journeys to Plymouth and Cheltenham. The level of support is phenomenal. It's going to be a full house today so get the place rocking and get behind us.





## GUTTRIDGE BACK IN SENIOR CUP VICTORY

Midfielder Luke Guttridge scored and came through 90 minutes as the Town booked their place in the semi-final of the Beds Senior Cup with a 5-0 win at Stotfold on Tuesday night.

The experienced former Northampton, Southend and Cambridge man was last involved for the Hatters in the 1-0 defeat at Burton in League 2 in November following a recurrence to the foot injury sustained last season.

And the 32-year-old oozed class against South Midlands League Stotfold as the Hatters cruised to victory at a cold Roker Park.

Boss John Still watched on as the Hatters led 4-0 at the break. Alex Wall fired the Town in front from the penalty spot after 21 minutes and 12 minutes later the striker crossed for Charlie Walker to double the lead.

Walker was then brave to lob home on 44 minutes to make it 3-0 before Mark Onyemah scored from close range moments later to make it 4-0 and put the Town well in command at half-time.

In the second half Guttridge and Walker were denied by the Stotfold goalkeeper but Guttridge got the goal his performance deserved when curling home a lovely finish to make it 5-0.

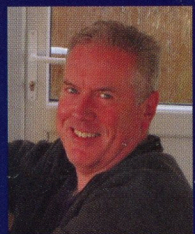
Stotfold barely threatened the Town all night and Guttridge came mighty close to scoring a second late on, only to see his effort from long range come back off the post.

**TOWN DEV:** Justham, Lacey (sub Trotman), Gardener, Franks, Onyemah, Ngwala (sub Allman), Robinson, Guttridge, Isaac (sub Maguraushe), Wall, Walker.

**SUBS NOT USED:** Gooch, Musonda.

## REST IN PEACE

**The Club are saddened to report the deaths of two long-standing Hatters fans.**



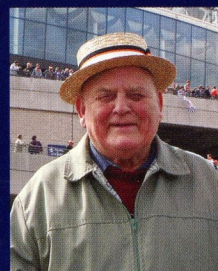
Michael 'Mick' Cawley passed away on Boxing Day aged 60. Mick was a life-long Town supporter. He attended his first game in 1966, and became a regular from the following season, seeing us win promotion in his first full season on the terraces.

Mick had a wide circle of family and friends, and there are many people at every game, home or away, who have so many wonderful memories of Mick at the football. As a life-long supporter Mick was desperate to see Luton achieve promotion back to the Football League and he was, naturally, thrilled to see the Town triumph last season.

Mick's brother Martin told Talk of the Town: "The last goal he saw scored was Luke Guttridge's last minute winner against Northampton. Mick was sat in the Kenilworth Road End that day, but was obviously in a great deal of pain from his illness. But all the pain was forgotten when Gutts scored – the look on Mick's face as he celebrated the winner was of a man so alive in the joy of celebrating the goal, and I am so grateful for the wonderful gift that Gutts and the rest of the team were able to give him that day."

Mick is survived by six brothers and sisters. Our condolences to all his family and friends.

Our thoughts are also with family and friends of Town supporter Reg Tapping who passed away aged 86 on 12th January.



Reg started visiting Kenilworth Road in the early 1930s and was a season ticket holder for many years. He took his son, Paul, to his first match in November 1967 to see Luton beat Swansea Town (as they were then) 4-0 with Bruce Rioch scoring a hat-trick.

In more recent years he attended matches together with his grandson James.

Over the years he had the pleasure of seeing many great players but his all-time favourite was the great Syd Owen.

In more recent years, Reg's limited mobility restricted the number of games he was able to get to but he was able to see what he hoped would be the Town clinching promotion in the game against Braintree Town last season; unfortunately, we had to wait another week!

Reg will be sadly missed by his family and friends but will always be remembered, particularly when we're cheering on the Town at Kenilworth Road.

## Freedom of town for the boss!

Town manager John Still was given honorary freedom of Luton by the Borough Council two weeks ago.

The Hatters boss, who was bestowed the same accolade when with Dagenham, was present to receive his honour together with assistant manager Terry Harris and first team coach Hakan Hayrettin.

"Although I'm getting it, I'm receiving it on behalf of the people I work with: the staff, the players, the supporters and everyone involved," said Still. "Everyone has played their part in a fantastic year for this football club. To go on a great run and get promoted last season and now be up challenging again is fantastic."

"I'm very, very proud to receive it, but I'm mindful of the fact I'm receiving on behalf of lots of people."



## OAK ROAD TICKET OFFER FOR FEBRUARY

The Luton Town ticket office is offering an up-to-half price offer on tickets in the Oak Road stand for three League 2 matches at Kenilworth Road in February.

Last season, for the first time in over 20 years, the stand was opened to home supporters on a regular basis, and for the games against York City (10th February), Carlisle United (14th February) and Accrington Stanley (28th February) fans can take advantage of a special bundle ticket offer.

Supporters can purchase tickets to all three matches for just £30, which doesn't take a mathematician to work

out that's just £10 per game – a 50 per cent saving on adult prices.

The offer is open to all age groups, subject to availability. However, supporters wishing to take up this promotion must buy their three tickets before the York match in person at the ticket office or by calling the ticket office on 01582 416976.

A separate offer is open to Oak Road season ticket holders, too.

For all three matches you can bring one guest to each match for £10 in the Oak Road end.

If you would like to find out more about this offer you call the ticket office email [ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk).

## Happy Birthday



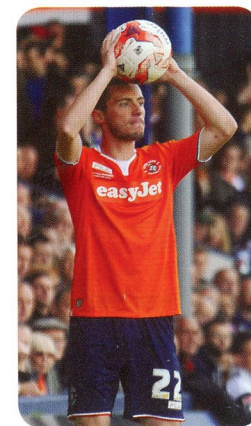
We'd like to wish a happy birthday to Charlie Bacon who turns 17 on 6th February.

Charlie loves his 80s music – especially Level 42! – and plays right-back for Letchworth Eagles Under-17s. His favourite Town player is Luke Guttridge. Love and best wishes come from Paul, Clare, Grandad Roy, Nan and all of the Block B Gang.

A big happy birthday to Bert Burgering who turned 80 on 26th January. Bert started watching Charlton as a boy

growing up in the East End, but started following the Hatters after moving to Stotfold. Love and birthday wishes from Sue, Mandy, Dickie, Maddison and Imogen.

## INS AND OUTS



Since we were last at Kenilworth Road, Queens Park Rangers defender Michael Harriman penned an extended loan contract which keeps him at the club until the end of the season.

In other news, Andy Parry joined Southport on-loan, striker Ross Lafayette has moved on-loan to Woking, and Jim Stevenson signed on-loan for Aldershot. Meanwhile midfielder Solomon Taiwo left the club after the mutual termination of his contract and he has since joined Dover Athletic.



# let's go



THE TOWN HIT THE ROAD ONCE MORE NEXT SATURDAY WHEN THEY MAKE THE SHORT TRIP TO THE KASSAM STADIUM FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2009

## OXFORD UNITED



**WHO?** Oxford United, aka the U's, aka the Yellows. At the helm is Michael Appleton who took over at the Kassam Stadium over the summer from former Hatters midfielder Gary Waddock. The U's won promotion from the Conference via the Play-Offs in 2010 and have

come close to reaching the League 2 Play-Offs in each of the last four seasons. Last season saw United finish in eighth place, one place and nine points off the Play-Offs.

**WHERE?** The Kassam Stadium has been United's home since 2001 when they left the Manor Ground. The all-seated 11,000 arena offers an excellent view of the field from wherever you seat and Town supporters will have just over 2,500 of those to choose from. Tickets are selling quick and details of how to get hold of one can be found on the opposite page.

**HOW TO GET THERE?** The quickest means of getting to Oxford time-wise would be to take the M1, M25 and M40 which, while longer in terms of mileage, can be seen as less time-consuming than going cross-country via Aylesbury and Thame. The stadium is quite well signposted from the main routes into Oxford, with brown football signs pointing the way. The stadium can be found in between the Oxford Science Park and Blackbird Leys Estate. From the A423 Ring Road, take the A4074 towards Reading. After the roundabout with Sainsbury's on one corner, take the left turning sign posted Cowley/Wallington/Oxford Science Park and you eventually come to the ground on your left. The postcode for those supporters with satellite navigation systems is

OX4 4XP. If you want to go with the Bobbers, their coach departs Luton at noon. The fare is £17 for adults and £15 concessions. If you are driving – try and arrive early, parking is at a premium and the 1,600 spaces at the ground go pretty quickly on a matchday.

**HOW THEY DOING?** It's been a bit of a stop-start season for Oxford so far this term with Appleton's side currently sitting in 16th position in the League 2 table having taken 30 points from 27 matches. The U's have won just two of their last 10 matches in the league and taken just two points from their last four matches. On home turf, United have won just four from their 14 games at the Kassam Stadium, although they have only scored one goal less at home than ourselves.

**HEAD-TO-HEAD.** The Town have met Oxford a total of 35 times over the years, with the Hatters coming out on top in the last meeting back in September. That was the Town's 16th win against the U's, who have won 12 of the 35 matches. Seven have ended in draws. In games at Oxford the Town also have the upper hand, winning seven of the 18, losing six times and drawing five times. The Hatters have played twice at the Kassam Stadium, winning 2-1 on Boxing Day 2001 thanks to goals from Dean Crowe and Matt Spring. The U's won 2-0 the last time the sides met at the Kassam Stadium, back in the Conference in 2009.

**CLUB CONNECTIONS.** Neither side have any current links to the other but many-a hero has played for both clubs down the years. Steve Foster is perhaps the most decorated having joined the U's a year after lifting the Littlewoods Cup with the Hatters. In more recent years Asa Hall, Simon Heslop, Tom Craddock and Steve Basham have played for both clubs.

# tickets please



## OXFORD UNITED v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

We have received an allocation of 2,463 seats for this fixture, plus 13 wheelchair spaces, in the North Stand for this fixture. This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters.

Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holders at one per person until close of business today. Any remaining tickets will be available online from 6pm today and from the Ticket Office on Monday 2nd February.

Tickets will be available until Friday 6th February at 3pm (subject to availability).

**Prices:** £19 adults, £12 students and over-65s, £12 under-18s, free for under-sevens. Wheelchair spaces £19 with a carer free of charge. Ambulant disabled pay the relevant ticket price based on age category.



## LUTON TOWN v YORK CITY

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

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

**OAK ROAD OFFER:** Buy tickets for the Oak Road stand for this game together with tickets for the matches with Carlisle and Accrington for just £30 (£10/per match). Tickets must be bought before this game.



## LUTON TOWN v CARLISLE UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

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



## MANSFIELD TOWN v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

We have received an allocation of 1,763 seated tickets in the North Stand for this fixture.

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters.

Tickets are now available to season ticket holders two per person until close of business on Saturday 31st January. Any remaining tickets will be available online from 6pm Saturday 31st and from the Ticket Office on Monday 2nd February.

Tickets will be available until Tuesday 17th February at 1pm (subject to availability).

**Prices:** £20 adults, £15 students, over-60s and disabled without a carer, £10 juniors 7-16, free for under-sixes. Admission price for disabled supporters (with a carer) is based on the relevant age category with a carer free of charge. Proof of higher rate of disability allowance is required to allow a carer.



## AFC WIMBLEDON v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

We are yet to receive ticket information from Wimbledon for this fixture. Details will be announced in due course.





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## TODAY'S MASCOTS

We'd like to welcome seven mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon who will lead the team out on the pitch before kick-off.

The lucky seven will also get to meet all their favourite players in the dressing room before the match and congratulate the man-of-the-match afterwards.

Remember if you want to be mascot for a game here between now and the end of the season please do get in touch!

**Kian Milligan** – aged 9 – favourite player Stephen McNulty

**Ruby-Clementine Rennie** – aged 10 – favourite players Luke Guttridge and Jonathan Smith

**Adam Jones** – 9 today! – favourite player Mark Tyler

**Ieuan Poulton** – aged 8 – favourite player Mark Tyler

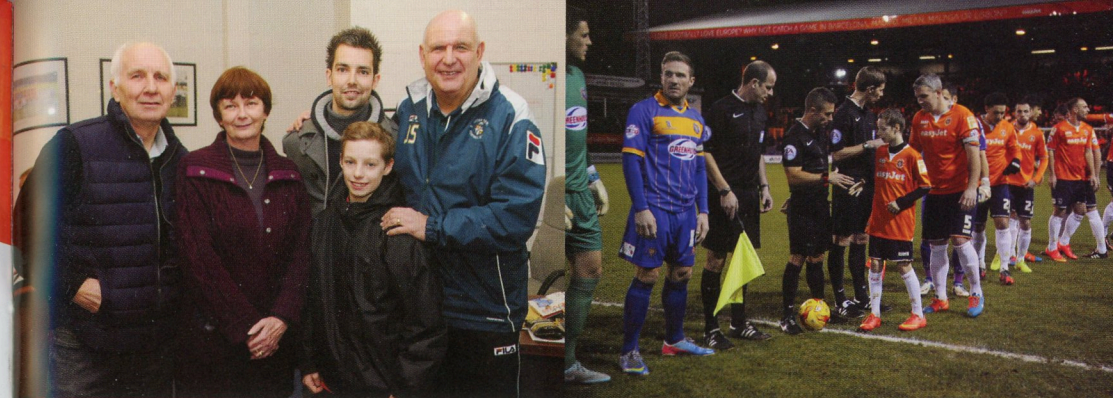
**Gabriel Maguire** – aged 8 – favourite player Stephen McNulty

**Finley Brooks** – aged 11 – favourite player Luke Wilkinson

**Joseph Watson** – aged 11 – favourite player Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu



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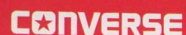
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H: Tim Fordham  
A: Whosh  
G: Elliot Prentice



H: Emma Banks  
A: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin



H: Available  
A: Available



H: Holly Kemp  
A: SoLYD Gold Hatters



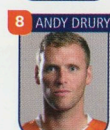
H: Simon Coward  
A: Whosh



H: Peter & Linda Little  
A: In memory of Billy Lacey



H: David Goodge  
A: Gill, Julie & Yvonne



H: Raj Koyes  
A: Key Holder Lettings



H: Ben & Richard Banks  
A: Mad Hatter



H: Ben & Richard Banks  
A: The Coles Family



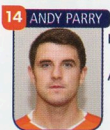
H: Neil Ehrenzweig  
A: Sports262 & Lutontownfans.co.uk



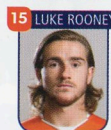
H: CME Heating  
A: Matthew Crossland



H: Peter & Linda Little  
A: Kelly Knight



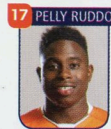
H: R S Robinson  
A: Heating Available



H: SIXT Rent-a-car  
A: Available



H: Les Miller  
A: Miller & Company  
G: Mark Francome



H: David Alexander  
A: Ben Gray



H: Jacqui Peacock  
A: Maddie Knight



H: Tom  
A: Tommy Lennon



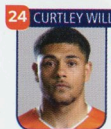
H: G Owen  
A: Ceramic Tiling Ltd  
G: Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd



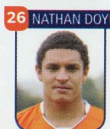
H: Luton Outlaws  
A: Richard & Zak Tilley



H: COYH  
A: Whosh



H: St Neots Cakes  
A: Available



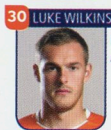
H: Paul Watmuff  
A: Available



H: CME Heating  
A: Liz Herrick Informatic Computing Ltd



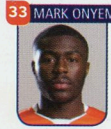
H: Re-Markit  
A: Bobbers Travel Club



H: Tommy Lennon  
A: Dean Kemp



H: Available  
A: Available



H: Available  
A: Available



H: Loyal Luton  
A: Mad Hatter



H: Jonathan Perry of JP Life Therapy  
A: Mad Hatter



H: Available  
A: Available



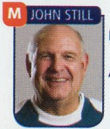
H: Available  
A: Available



H: Available  
A: Mad Hatter



H: Available  
A: Bobbers Travel Club



H: Thompsons Accountants  
A: Country Properties



H: Doug Knight  
A: Colne Consultants Ltd



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A: Available

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# welcome

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GEORGE

CAMBRIDGE UNITED F.C.



It gives us great pleasure to welcome everyone associated with Cambridge United to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

United arrive in Bedfordshire four weeks after knocking the Hatters out of the FA Cup at the Abbey Stadium and since that game Richard Money's side have gone on to really reap the rewards of that victory.

Our visitors were paired at home to Manchester United in the fourth round draw, and a week ago yesterday Money's men held a Red Devils side containing £60m signing Angel Di Maria, Radamel Falcao and Robin van Persie to a famous goalless draw. The United players and supporters therefore have a rather exciting trip to Old Trafford to look forward to in three days' time – and we all wish them well in their pursuit of glory in the replay on Tuesday night.

But back to League 2 matters, and United will be hoping their cup exploits can be the springboard for a second-half-of-the-season push for the top seven. Cambridge currently sit exactly half-way in the table, in 12th place having taken 36 points from 26 matches this term. Those points are made up of 10 wins and six draws while 10 have also been lost. Money's side are also the joint-top goalscorers in League 2 this season (along with Wycombe and Northampton), having netted 40 times – 23 at the Abbey Stadium and 17 on the road.

United's form has been patchy in recent weeks, however, the side come to Kenilworth Road today unbeaten in their last three matches in League 2. A 1-0 win at struggling Carlisle was followed by a thumping 4-0 home win over promotion-chasing Newport before they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Dagenham & Redbridge on Tuesday night. As far as form goes United's record in the last 10 games reads won four, drawn three, lost three.

As usual both clubs contain a number of familiar faces in the ranks, none more so than Cameron McGeehan who has scored three goals in as many games for United since arriving on-loan from Norwich. The midfielder forms part of a talented group at the Abbey Stadium. Goalkeeper Chris Dunn, who excelled against Manchester United, is the last line of defence; skipper Tom Champion leads by example in the middle of the park and McGeehan is assisted in midfield by the talents of winger Ryan Donaldson – the match-winner against the Town that cup meeting earlier this month.

Today will be the 10th meeting in three seasons between the two clubs so there can't be too many surprises hidden among the starting XIs today. However, the visitors' on-loan Crystal Palace winger Sullay Kaikai may not be the most familiar name and his pace and trickery could be something the Town will need to be wary of this afternoon.

# in opposition



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

## ► MANAGER

**RICHARD MONEY.** No stranger to Kenilworth Road, Richard managed the Town between October 2010 and March 2012. Previously in charge at Walsall, he took over as the U's' head coach in October 2012.

## ► GOALKEEPERS

**CHRIS DUNN.** Commanding goalkeeper who joined the U's this summer from Coventry. Began his career as a youngster at Northampton, making over 100 appearances. The current number one keeper.

**WILL NORRIS.** Young goalkeeper plucked from Royston Town in July 2012. Spent the season before last on loan with Royston.

## ► DEFENDERS

**JOSH COULSON.** Centre-back and the U's longest-serving player. A local lad, Josh is a product of United's academy after being signed from renowned Cherry Hinton Lions.

**RICHARD TAIT.** Former Nottingham Forest trainee who signed in the summer of 2013 from Tamworth. The right-back made 160 appearances for the Lambs and was their captain.

**IAN MILLER.** Club captain and commanding centre-half who signed a two-year deal at the Abbey Stadium last summer after leaving Grimsby. Has twice lifted the FA Trophy in his career.

**MICHAEL NELSON.** Hugely experienced centre-half who arrived in August last year having left Hibernian. The defender made his name with Hartlepool where he played over 300 games.

**GREG TAYLOR.** Another man who is no stranger to Kenilworth Road, Bedford-born Taylor joined the U's in the summer of 2013 following his release from the Town.

**JOHNNY HUNT.** Left-sided summer arrival from Wrexham who penned a two-year after making over 100 appearances for the Welsh club.

**MATTEO LANZONI.** Former Italian Under-21 international right-back who penned a deal in late August this term. Spent time on the books at Sampdoria before moving to England with Oldham in 2013.

## ► MIDFIELDERS

**HARRISON DUNK.** Left-winger and fans' favourite who signed for the U's from Bromley at the start of the season before last. The speedy wideman made his 100th appearance for the club in October.

**TOM CHAMPION.** Influential midfielder who arrived at the Abbey at the start of last season. Won the Conference with Barnet in 2005 before helping the Darts to Conference South Play-Off glory in 2012.

**RYAN DONALDSON.** Former Newcastle trainee who signed last summer from Gateshead. Capable on either flank or in a central position in attack, he enjoyed a fine first season at the Abbey, scoring seven times.

**LIAM HUGHES.** Another product of United's academy, the 6ft 4in attacking midfielder has now made over 150 appearances.

**LUKE CHADWICK.** Hugely experienced, Cambridge-born midfielder who has played at the highest level with Manchester United. Also enjoyed spells with Burnley, Reading, West Ham, Stoke and Norwich.

**SULLAY KAIKAI.** Exciting young winger on-loan from Crystal Palace. Joined Palace as a 15-year-old from Fisher Athletic. Scored on his Eagles debut against Newcastle in the Capital One Cup earlier in the season.

**CAMERON MCGEEHAN.** Midfielder who needs no introduction to Town fans after helping the Hatters to the Conference title last year. Scored three goals in 18 appearances whilst on-loan from Norwich.

## ► STRIKERS

**TOM ELLIOTT.** Towering centre-forward signed from Stockport in the summer of 2012. A former England under-18 international, the pacey striker came through the ranks at Leeds United.

**ROBBIE SIMPSON.** Striker in his second spell at the Abbey Stadium. Has previously been on the books at Coventry, Huddersfield, Oldham, Brentford and Leyton Orient. Re-joined United this summer.

**RYAN BIRD.** Skilful forward who penned a permanent deal at the Abbey this summer after an impressive loan spell last season in which he netted nine times in 13 matches.

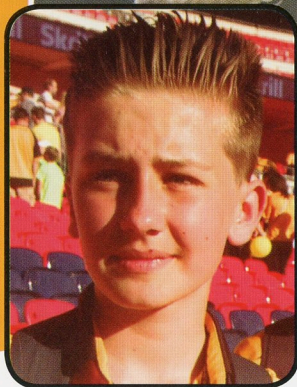
**JORDAN CHIEDOZIE.** November recruit from Conference South Concord Rangers. Also able to play as a wide midfielder he initially came through the youth ranks at Bournemouth.

**RORY GAFFNEY.** Another November arrival, the striker was snapped up from Ireland Premier League side Limerick. Scored 14 times last term and notched 11 before moving to the Abbey this season.



# FROM THE OAK ROAD

Witnessing Cambridge hold Manchester United's superstars to a draw is the latest in a line of recent special U's moments for teenager **Sam Goode**. Sam reflects on last year's promotion and cup double, the talent that is Ryan Donaldson and the ambitions of the Yellow and Black Army...



**TALK OF THE TOWN:** What was it like to welcome Manchester United to the Abbey? Tell us about the match and the atmosphere.

**SAM:** To have the chance to welcome a club of such stature was a wonderful achievement for the club. I think everyone believes that the game was just reward for all the hard work the club has put in, on and off the pitch, over recent seasons.

On the night we really stood up to the challenge, fighting for every loose ball to try and prevent Manchester United's superstars from taking over and running the show. We made it extremely difficult for the Reds, narrowing down any space available. The fans were, as always, magnificent, with the Newmarket Road End bouncing for pretty much the entire second half. To be in the thick of it, as I was, is an experience you never forget.

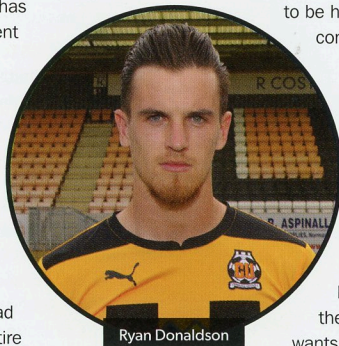
**TOTT:** Last season will live long in the memory for both sets of supporters. Were you beginning to worry you would miss out again after leading the division for the first half of the season? What is your defining memory from the campaign?

definitely the free-kick in the Play-Off final by Ryan Donaldson. To witness Wembley stadium just erupt with amber was amazing.

**TOTT:** What do U's fans make of how the season has panned out so far? Have you enjoyed being back in the Football League? Are you a little disappointed not to be higher in the table – or are you happily consolidating?

**SAM:** I think many U's fans will be relatively satisfied with how the season has proceeded so far. The FA Cup run has obviously been the stand out highlight for United fans. We are all ecstatic to find ourselves back in the Football League and to be able to really hold our own and not struggle with the higher standard. Everyone obviously wants to see better from their team and there is always room for improvement. However, I think we all just need to come back down to earth before we start to ask even more from our players.

**TOTT:** Ryan Donaldson impressed in the U's cup victory over Luton – tell us what he brings to your team. Which other Cambridge players should the Hatters' faithful be on the look out for today?



Ryan Donaldson



Cambridge and Manchester United await a corner during their cup tie eight days ago

**SAM:** Ryan Donaldson is a fantastic player and is a very important part of our squad. He brings attacking flair to our team alongside relentless pace, thriving on running at defenders. The two Luton full-backs will have to be very wary of Donaldson's threat going forward. Added to that, on a more defensive note, is Tom Champion, United's defensive midfielder. Pulling the strings and breaking up the play in fabulous fashion, Champion excels as the leader in this Cambridge team.

**TOTT:** The two sides have been regular adversaries since 2009 – which of the games particularly stick in your memory? Are U's fans yearning for a rekindling of their main rivalry with Peterborough United after a gap of several years?

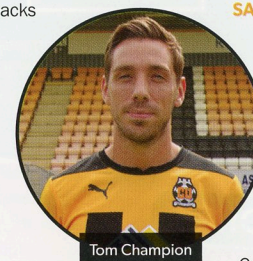
**SAM:** I think the 2-2 draw at The Abbey in the FA Trophy stood out the most for me. For Cambridge to come from two goals down with two goals in two minutes was a great highlight from last season. Especially as it turned out to be crucial in the process of the U's lifting the trophy. The Amber Army are certainly relishing the fact that we could meet Posh again in the coming years. Over the past few weeks, you get the sense that the United fans are finding Posh's recent struggle rather amusing!

**TOTT:** Who is the best player in your opinion to have pulled on the amber and black for Cambridge?

**SAM:** Having only been a U's fan since I was six, I am limited to only eight years to choose from. Therefore, I would have to go with Kwesi Appiah, because of his electric pace and a deadeye in front of goal. Kwesi really aided our promotion last season, banging in the goals for the first half of season.

**TOTT:** Is a Play-Off push still possible for Cambridge? What are the club's ambitions for the next five years? And what's your prediction for today's game?

**SAM:** I think a push towards the top six is possible. There is still a long way to go and I believe we have the strength in depth to rise up the table. The club's ambitions would certainly include sorting a stadium out. There were talks of building a community stadium, however, the club is now looking to redevelop The Abbey, which would be a fantastic achievement. The future is certainly bright. As for this afternoon's game, it will be a fiercely fought battle. Both sides will be looking desperately to come out on top, with Luton wanting to get revenge on Cambridge for knocking them out of the cup. My prediction is a 1-1 draw.



Tom Champion



Josh Coulson



# A HATTER...

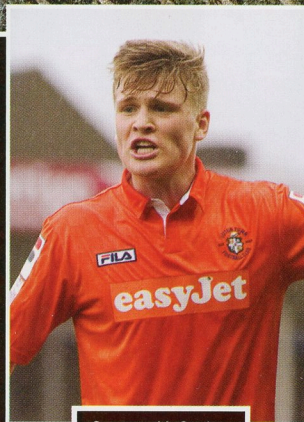
## AND A 'U'

Cameron McGeehan's arrival on-loan at the Abbey Stadium this month adds yet another name to an ever-growing list of players who played for both the Town and the U's over the years.

McGeehan was an integral part of the Town's title success last season where he scored three goals in 18 appearances during his spell on-loan from Norwich City.

The midfielder netted twice on his U's debut in a fine 4-0 win over Newport two weeks ago and has already impressed the Abbey Stadium faithful.

In Conference football alone, Robbie Willmott, Danny Crow, Paul Carden, Dan Gleeson, Scott Rendell and Fred Murray are some of the names supporters may recognise, while fans



Cameron McGeehan

with a longer memory will recall the likes of John Dreyer, Lil Fuccillo, David Preece, Chris Turner, Steve Claridge, John Ryan and Tom Finney.

But the U's also arrive today with two former Town men in their management team with manager Richard Money and assistant Alan Neilson in the dugout.

Money, who also managed the Hatters between 2010 and 2011 played 49 times for the Town in the top flight, scoring once. Neilson, who had taken over in temporary caretaker charge of the

Hatters no less than three times in recent years, played 63 times for the Town, also scoring once. He also has a League 1 championship winners medal to his name.

## HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Today is the 33rd meeting between the two clubs since the first came back in Division 2 (now Championship) in 1978.

Over the years the Town have the better head-to-head record, winning 10 to Cambridge's seven. In league competition the Hatters have won nine to United's three, whilst 13 have ended all square.

The U's have only ever won once in the league at Kenilworth Road and that came back in September 2011 thanks to Rory McAuley's second half goal, but United have tasted victory in the LDV Vans Trophy (Luke Guttridge with a golden goal winner) and in the FA Trophy replay last term.

This afternoon's meeting, however, will be the 10th meeting between the two clubs in the last three seasons. The Hatters met United three times in 2012/13 – once in the FA Cup and twice in the Conference – four times

last season – twice in the league and twice in the Trophy – while today will be the third meeting of this campaign. United knocked the Hatters out of the FA Cup four weeks ago.

More often than not goals are heavily involved. In November 1992 the two sides shared six goals in a 3-3 draw at the Abbey Stadium in Division 1 (now Championship), but one game that lives in the recent memory is the Hatters' 4-3 triumph at the Abbey Stadium in 2009.

The Town were trailing 2-0 at half-time and had Liam Hatch sent-off for a second bookable offence two minutes before the break. However, in an amazing turnaround, the Hatters led 3-1 thanks to goals from Kevin Gallen, Rossi Jarvis and a first senior goal from Jake Howells.

Chris Holroyd netted his second of the game to level the score at 3-3 but it was Gallen that had the last word when he grabbed his second from the penalty spot 15 minutes from time to ensure the Hatters celebrated an unlikely victory come the final whistle.

# back to the future

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

### ► 1990/91 THIRD DIVISION CHAMPIONS

**JOHN VAUGHAN:** Goalkeeper who moved to Charlton in August 1993, then played under John Beck again at Preston and Lincoln City. He has since coached at York, Grimsby, Huddersfield and Birmingham.

**ANDY FENSOME:** Right-back who followed John Beck to Preston in October 1993. Later with Rochdale, he coached at Preston and Hereford United and is currently director of a soccer school in Lancashire.

**ALAN KIMBLE:** Left-back who netted 24 goals in 299 League games before joining Wimbledon in July 1993. He later played for Luton Town, Dagenham & Redbridge and became Ebbsfleet's assistant-boss.

**COLIN BAILIE:** Midfielder who scored three times in 119 League outings while at Abbey Stadium before walking out on the club. Briefly playing for Eynesbury Rovers, he then joined the Cumbrian Police.

**PHIL CHAPPLE:** Central defender who netted 19 goals in 187 League games, moving to Charlton Athletic in August 1993. Later with Peterborough United, he became their chief scout, then first-team coach.

**DANNY O'SHEA:** Central defender who joined Northampton Town in March 1995, then played for Rushden & Diamonds, Aylesbury and Canvey Island before assisting Vic Akers with Arsenal women's team.

**MIKE CHEETHAM:** Winger who netted 22 goals in 132 League games, moving to Chesterfield in July 1994, then Colchester United, Sudbury, Cambridge City and Sudbury again, becoming a driving instructor.

**RICHARD WILKINS:** Midfielder who netted seven goals in 81 League outings before moving to Hereford United in July 1994. He later rejoined Colchester United and became Bury Town's manager.

**DION DUBLIN:** Striker who joined Manchester United in August 1992. The England international later played for Coventry City, Aston Villa and Leicester City, since becoming a football pundit on Sky Sports.

**JOHN TAYLOR:** Striker who scored a club record 86 goals in 335 League games and was player-boss before joining Northampton Town in March 2004. He has held various coaching and managerial posts. Also played for the Hatters.

**LEE PHILPOTT:** Winger who netted 17 goals in 134 League games before joining Leicester City in November 1992, then Blackpool, Lincoln City, Hull City, Weymouth, Harrogate and Hinckley United.

### ► 1998/99 PROMOTION WINNERS

**ARJAN VAN HEUSDEN:** Dutch goalkeeper who made 42 League appearances before joining Exeter City in July 2000, then Mansfield Town, Torquay United and Dutch sides FC Lisse and SV ARC.

**BEN CHENERY:** Former Hatters trainee who moved to Kettering Town in July 2000, then appeared for Canvey Island, Chelmsford City, Braintree and Needham Market. He became Bury Town's assistant-boss.

**NEIL MUSTOE:** Versatile left-back who netted four goals in 99 League outings before moving to Gloucester City in August 2002, then Stevenage, Yeovil and Gloucester again, becoming player-coach.

**ANDY DUNCAN:** Ex-England Schoolboy defender who was Player of the Year in 2004/05, netting six goals in 242 League outings while at Abbey Stadium before joining Chelmsford City in June 2007.

**MARC JOSEPH:** Central defender who played 153 League games prior to joining Peterborough United in July 2001, then Hull City, Blackpool, Rotherham United, Altrincham, Kendal and Witton Albion.

**JAMIE CAMPBELL:** Midfielder who netted six goals in 103 League games before moving to Brighton in July 1999, then Exeter City, Stevenage, Woking and Havant & Waterlooville, settling back in Luton.

**PAUL WANLESS:** Midfielder who scored 44 times in 284 League outings before rejoining Oxford United in August 2003, then Forest Green Rovers. He has been player-coach at Llanelli and Oxford City.

**JOHN TAYLOR:** Striker who scored a club record 86 goals in 335 League games and was player-boss before joining Northampton Town in March 2004. He has held various coaching and managerial posts.

**MARTIN BUTLER:** Striker who moved to Reading in February 2000, then Rotherham United, Walsall again, Grimsby Town, Burton Albion and Worcester City. He has a heating and plumbing business.

**TREVOR BENJAMIN:** England under-21 striker who moved to Leicester City in July 2000, then had spells with Northampton Town, Coventry City, Hereford United and a succession of non-League clubs.

**ALEX RUSSELL:** Midfielder who joined Torquay United in August 2001, then appeared for Bristol City, Cheltenham Town, Exeter City, Bath City, Yeovil Town, Bath again and Clevedon Town.



# TOWN 0-0 SHREWSBURY



Jake Howells saw this shot come back off the post



Debutant Jayden Stockley bravely pokes a pass to a team-mate

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town were left frustrated as a series of fine saves from Shrewsbury goalkeeper Jayson Leutwiler kept the Hatters at bay in a goalless draw in front of the live Sky Sports cameras.

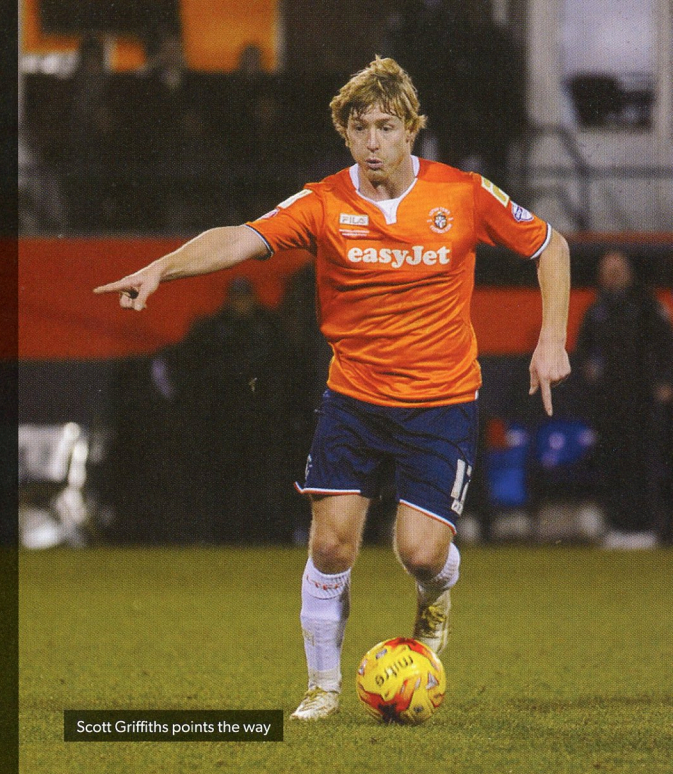
The Hatters hit the post in the first half through Jake Howells before Scott Griffiths and Andy Drury were denied by saves from Leutwiler.

In the second half the Town continued to press, and after the visitors were reduced to 10 men when Nathaniel Knight-Percival was sent-off for a second bookable offence, the Shrews had Leutwiler to thank for keeping out goal-bound efforts from his own defenders and, in the final minute, Shaun Whalley.

The Town huffed and puffed but could not break the deadlock against a Shrewsbury side who rarely troubled Mark Tyler over the course of the 90 minutes.

The game also saw the Town give a debut to on-loan striker Jayden Stockley and the Hatters' new man impressed on his first competitive start since August. It was his header that led to Howells striking the post after just three minutes.

The Town also thought they should have had a penalty in the second half when Cameron Gayle stuck out a hand but nothing was given to leave the majority inside a cold Kenilworth Road contemplating on what might have been.



Scott Griffiths points the way



Luke Wilkinson attacks a first-half set-piece

**TOWN:** Tyler; Harriman, Griffiths (sub Miller 79), McNulty, Wilkinson; Doyle, Smith, Drury, Rooney (sub Whalley 64), Howells, Stockley. **SUBS NOT USED:** Franks, Cullen, Justham, Robinson, Walker.



# PLYMOUTH 0-1 TOWN

DRURY 22



Luke Wilkinson goes for goal



Jonathan Smith in typical combative action

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

Andy Drury's first goal of the season gave the Hatters an excellent away win against promotion rivals Plymouth Argyle.

The midfielder's accurate curling shot mid-way through the first half gave the Town a well-deserved win on the road – their first away from Kenilworth Road since a 2-1 win at Hartlepool in October.

It was no more than a well-organised Hatters side deserved against an Argyle side who failed to seriously test Mark Tyler throughout the 90 minutes.

The game marked the 300th appearance for Jake Howells in Town colours and the midfielder came close with a shot in the first half that home goalkeeper Luke McCormick did well to keep out with his feet.

Shortly before Drury's strike the home side thought they should have led when Reuben Reid's header was ruled out for a push in the penalty area.

However, after Drury's goal, the Town excelled in keeping the ball away from the home side. Plymouth failed to trouble Tyler in the second 45 minutes, and in truth the home side only rallied in the closing stages – but the Town defence held firm and a fifth win on the road was chalked up to send the Hatters into fourth in League 2.



Jake Howells in action on his 300th appearance



Huddle time come the final whistle



Jayden Stockley battles in the air

**TOWN:** Tyler; Harriman, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson; Smith, Doyle, Drury; Whalley, Howells, Stockley.  
**SUBS NOT USED:** Justham, Lacey, Wall, Robinson, Cullen, Walker, Connolly.



# CHELTENHAM 1-1 TOWN

KOTWICA 20

WHALLEY 21



Shaun Whalley draws the Town level at Whaddon Road



Jayden Stockley flicks the ball goalwards

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters came from behind to earn a point at Cheltenham and make it six games unbeaten in League 2.

Jake Howells came close to fashioning a chance in the third minute before Mark Tyler needed to be on his toes a minute later to keep out a swerving long-range effort from the hosts' Jack Dunn.

However, the Robins did have the lead on 20 minutes. Jake Gray weaved down the right to plant a cross to the back stick and the ball was eventually bundled home by Zack Kotwica in the six-yard box.

But the Town wasted little time in hitting back on level terms when a minute later it was 1-1. Andy Drury's shot from 20 yards was parried by goalkeeper Trevor Carson and Shaun Whalley was first to the loose ball to side-foot a first-time finish beyond the reach of the keeper.

Buoyed by the leveller, the Town went in search of the lead. Drury then tested Carson on 26 minutes when his shot from close range was palmed away but Jayden Stockley was unable to reach the loose ball.

Two minutes later, on 28 minutes, Jonathan Smith came close to doubling the Hatters' tally when Gray cleared his top-corner-bound header off the line following Drury's dangerous inswinging left-wing corner.

After the break Tyler denied Dunn with a sprawling save on 52 minutes but the Town struggled to create chances on a pitch the boss would later describe as "atrocious".

Despite three substitutions, including an appearance for Alex Lawless – his first since the end of October – the Town couldn't find a winner. Mark Cullen came closest with two efforts in the final 10 minutes but the hosts held on.



Andy Drury shows close control



Scott Griffiths moves down the line



Mark Cullen strikes at goal late on

**TOWN:** Tyler; Harriman, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson; Doyle, Smith, Drury (sub Lawless 63); Howells (sub Cullen 63), Whalley (sub Miller 68), Stockley. **SUBS NOT USED:** Justham, Lacey, Wall, Robinson.



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# reaction

## STOCKLEY THANKFUL FOR FULL DEBUT



"You can play as many development games as you like but you miss the buzz of the crowd," Stockley told Hatters Player.

"The crowd here is better than I've ever experienced and to get 90 minutes under my belt is important. I feel once I find my feet and get used to the way we play I can turn in great performances for this club."

### Impact

His debut, however, might not have lasted as long as it did after coming off worse for wear in a challenge in the opening 15 minutes that left Stockley grimacing in pain.

"I thought I was off, I thought 'game over'," he said. "I knew I had to get a touch on the ball to get it to my team-mate. I knew it was going to hurt and was bracing myself for the impact."

"It caught my knee and it killed for a bit but thankfully I was okay to continue."

"The crowd definitely helped, too. Towards the end I was shattered but they lifted me."

On the game itself, Stockley believed the Town did enough to win against their promotion rivals, especially after seeing Jake Howells hit the post with a shot just five minutes in.

"I was behind him and thought it was in," said the striker. "It would have been a great start for us, but the lads kept going and worked really hard."

### Chances

"We deserved to win and it would have been great to score that goal for the crowd as they were lifting us the whole game."

"The lads had worked extremely hard and not to make the breakthrough was tough."

"Sometimes when a team goes down to 10 men, they can sit back and defend what they've got."

"Shrewsbury were only looking for a draw, but I thought we'd done more than enough to get the win."

"We were creating enough chances and, I know it's a cliché, but it was one of them days."

"I was desperate for us to score because I wanted to hear the fans erupt."

"It's still early days and I think we can take heart from that performance against one of the better sides in the division."

Frustration might have reigned over Kenilworth Road following the goalless draw with promotion rivals Shrewsbury the last time we were at Kenilworth Road, but for Jayden Stockley the 90 minutes came as a welcome relief.

The striker, who joined on-loan from Bournemouth earlier this month, impressed on his debut, going close in both halves in the stalemate with the Shrews.

It was the 21-year-old's first competitive 90 minutes since last March, a spell which included a short time on loan with today's visitors Cambridge.

And the striker, who has already played several times for the Bournemouth first team, welcomed the chance to play the full ninety against Micky Mellon's side.





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# Alex Lawless

## IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK SAYS MIDFIELDER

Alex Lawless is aiming to win a place back in the Town side and help the club win a second successive promotion after returning to the side at Cheltenham last Saturday.

The midfielder played his first 45 minutes of football in two months in the development squad's goalless draw with Brighton before coming on as a second half substitute at Whaddon Road last weekend.

The 29-year-old midfielder has been restricted to just two starts in League 2 this term, having firstly been unavailable with a hamstring problem before then fracturing a bone in his foot in the 1-0 win over Northampton at the end of October.

And while he's absolutely desperate to make an immediate return to the Town first team, the Welshman admits he knows he has to be patient this time round.

"There's no doubt about it – this season has been highly frustrating," Lawless told Hatters Player. "I was happy to have completed 45 minutes and I enjoyed being back playing again."

"The key now is not to get too carried away. In the past that may have been the case. My personality is inclined to make it difficult for me to hold myself back. I've got to be sensible, look at the bigger picture and get things right."

Despite missing the midfielder and his team-mates Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, Paul Benson, Luke Guttridge for long periods this season, the Town remain firmly in the race for promotion in League 2.

But while Lawless acknowledges he must wait for his chance, it is the potential success of promotion which is driving the midfielder on in his recovery.

"As I've said it's been a frustration season – but I've had disappointments before and I need to try and use them as best I can to turn it into a positive," said Lawless. "I will use it as motivation to get into the team and start playing and help us win promotion again."

Unlike previous seasons in the Conference, three automatic promotion places are up for grabs in League 2, and Lawless believes this Town squad have a great opportunity to become the first in the club's history to record back-to-back promotions.

"In the past there was massive pressure on us," admits Lawless. "It was win the league or else and the only other way to win promotion was by going up through the Play-Offs."



"With three places available in this division it's exciting to think we have a great chance of promotion. We've proven already in the first half of the season we're capable of doing well and now it's time for us to push on."

"There's a core group of players who were here last season, but we all want to stay right up there and give ourselves the best possible chance of promotion again."

The Town are now unbeaten in six League 2 matches after the 1-1 draw at Whaddon Road but despite the disappointment of not earning all three points, Lawless was delighted to play some part in the game.

"I wasn't sure whether I'd get a chance to be involved but to get on the bench and then get an opportunity to come on was great," said Lawless, who was taken aback by a wonderful reception from the 1,200 travelling fans.

"It would have been nice to have scored or contributed to a goal but it wasn't to be. We want to win games and although the pitch wasn't the best I've not got a lot to compare it to as I haven't been playing recently!"

"My aim is to be pushing for a start now, but there are quite a few others trying to do the same."

"It was good to be back and it's good to see other players coming back from injury too. We have a big squad and that is going to be of massive importance to us if we're to gain promotion – as last year showed."

"I'm looking forward to the Cambridge game and hopefully I can be involved. There were some feisty games last year and perhaps we can catch them while they have their FA Cup exploits going on."



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# Travellers' TALES

HATTERS FAN **KEVIN HARPER** TELLS HIS STORY  
OF THE TOWN'S GAME AT **PLYMOUTH ARGYLE**

## THE JOURNEY

After some short journeys it was back on the long haul for the game at Plymouth. The coach left Luton at 8am with daylight barely breaking through and there were a lot of sleepy looking bodies on board as we set off to Devon.

The journey wasn't too bad apart from hitting some snow around the Swindon area but once we got through that we made good time and were down at Home Park just before 1.30pm with plenty of time to regain feeling in the legs after such a long journey!

## THE GROUND

Home Park actually looks quite nice these days, completely different to the one we played at under Joe Kinnear back in the day. Three sides of the ground have been done up but the side that hasn't been stands out quite a bit!

As you would expect from a modern stand everything underneath was clean and spacious and the view was very good. Posters were put up in the concourse thanking Town fans for making the trip which was nice. Unfortunately the stewarding didn't live up to the same standards but apart from that everything was good.

## THE FOOD

Not surprisingly Cornish Pasties were high up on the menu and did a good trade. Pies, sausage rolls and burgers were also on offer and there was a bar in the same kiosk serving lager, bitter and cider so everyone was catered for which was good after such a journey! There was also a beer tent outside which welcomed Town fans.

## THE PROGRAMME

A standard 68-page programme was produced for this one. The Town had five pages which included an interesting set of caricatures of the management staff! There was also a piece about 10 favourite players of the past with some great names remembered.

## THE MATCH

For me this was our best away performance for a long while and a fitting way to mark Jake Howells' 300th appearance for the club. We controlled the game from start to finish and totally deserved the win which was given to us with Andy Drury's first goal since returning when he finished expertly midway through the first half. The second half we sat back a bit and waited for Plymouth to give us the ball back before counter attacking but we were always comfortable which bodes well.

## MAN OF THE MATCH

I thought Nathan Doyle was excellent in this match. His positioning was superb and he broke up numerous attacks before playing the right pass to launch our own attacks. It was his shot which was deflected for the corner which we scored from too. Doyle has been a brilliant signing for us and this game definitely epitomised that.

## SUMMARY

The journey back raced by with everyone buoyed by the win. We got back just before 11pm in plenty of time to see the goal on the Football League Show! The 508-mile round-trip was well worth it and sets us up nicely for the rest of the season.



802 Hatters fans made the 500-mile round-trip to Home Park





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# Travellers' TALES

HATTERS FAN **KEVIN HARPER** TELLS HIS STORY  
OF THE TOWN'S GAME AT **CHELTENHAM**

## THE JOURNEY

Buoyed by the win at Plymouth, and the much later departure time for the trip to Cheltenham, a double decker full of Town fans left Luton station at 11am for another trip to the south west. Even though there was a race meeting on at Cheltenham, the journey down was fine and we arrived at Whaddon Road shortly before 1.30pm on what was a sunny but chilly afternoon.

## THE GROUND

It had been a while since I'd been to Cheltenham for football and since I last went the away end has turned into an all-seated stand. The view was good from where we were towards the back behind the goal but might not have been nearer the front. The stand itself is fairly basic with the bare minimum in terms of amenities but I didn't expect much more.

## THE FOOD

As we arrived early a group of us sought out the fish and chip shop up the road with cod and chips very much the order of the day. I spent 10 minutes watching what Keith Brooksbank reliably informed me was a Cheltenham League Division 1 match while devouring said food and then it was into the ground. Inside the ground there was a hut serving refreshments but rarely was there a short enough queue to tempt me in!

## THE PROGRAMME

A small 64-page programme was put together where Paul Buckle wished us well and mentioned how he enjoyed his time here.

Four pages were dedicated to the Town with Stephen McNulty singled out as the star man. There was also a page on players who've played for both clubs including Paul Benson.

## THE MATCH

I knew as soon as I walked in and saw the state of the pitch that I wouldn't see much football. The pitch looked like the horses for the race meeting had galloped all over it before we arrived! As it was the first half was fairly entertaining and we deserved to go into half-time in front despite falling behind. Shaun Whalley tapped in a rebound from Andy Drury's shot around 90 seconds after they scored. We had one chance cleared off the line and a couple not quite fall for us too. The second half was a non-event on a pitch which amazingly managed to get worse as the game went on.

## MAN OF THE MATCH

On what must have been a zapping surface Jayden Stockley never stopped running and some of his touches and layoffs opened up the defence but we couldn't quite find the finishing touch to the moves. In his short spell here he has shown a good first touch and I sense his first goal won't be far away on this evidence.

## SUMMARY

I guess we'd have liked all three points before the day began but given the conditions it wasn't a bad point. We were back in Luton just after 7.30pm so it wasn't a long day which was a bonus after the long trek the previous week.



Almost 1,300 Town supporters were at Whaddon Road for the 1-1 draw



# centre spot



Luke Wilkinson is first to congratulate Andy Drury on his goal – his first of the season – at Plymouth Argyle two weeks ago



# PICTURE THE PAST

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



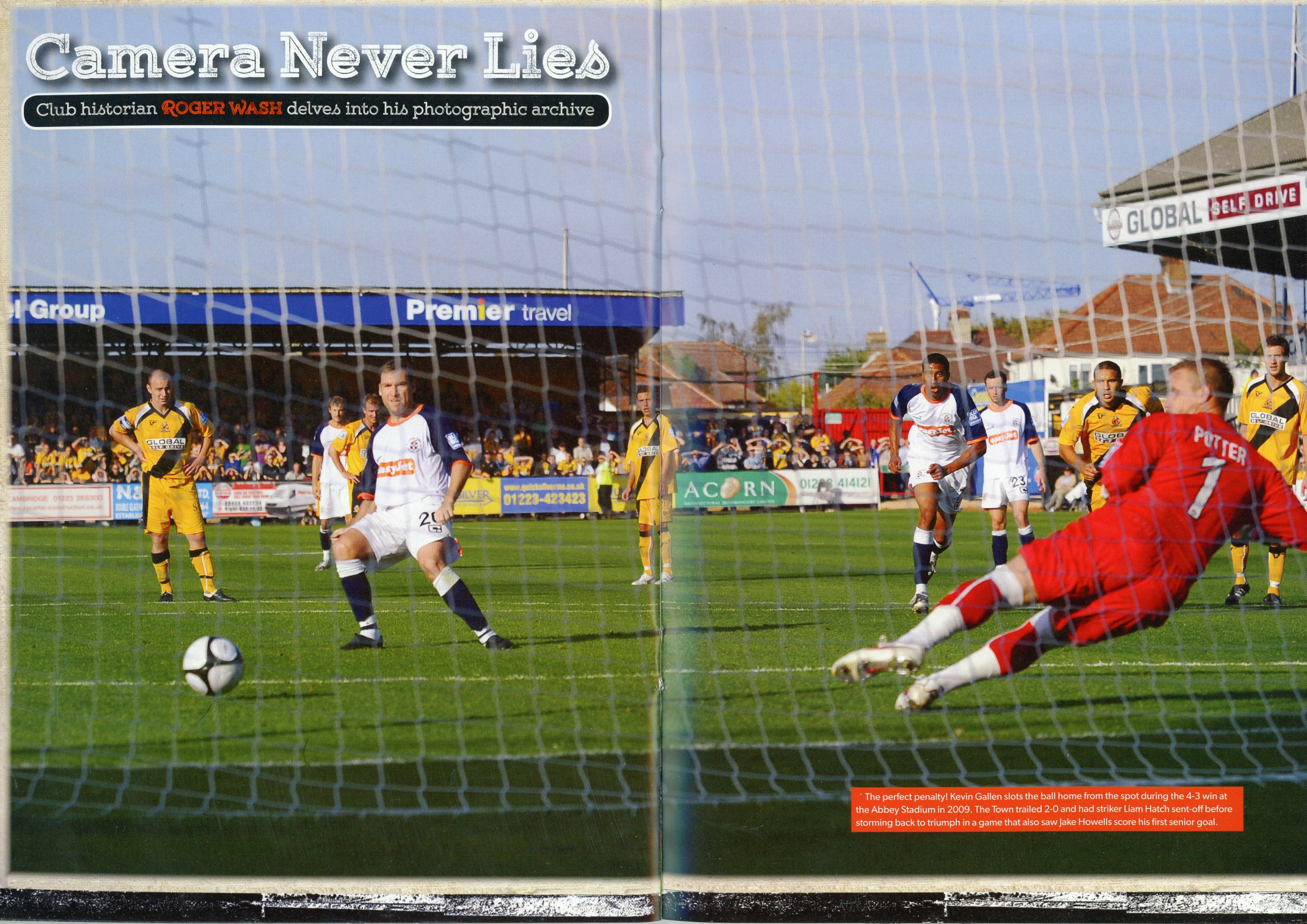
No apologies for featuring this shot! Mark Cullen fires home a late equaliser at the Abbey Stadium last season to virtually guarantee promotion. The U's had led through Tom Elliott's close range header, but with the Town seemingly on their way to their first defeat in 26 matches, up popped substitute Cullen to send 2,500 Luton fans into ecstasy.





# Camera Never Lies

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



The perfect penalty! Kevin Gallen slots the ball home from the spot during the 4-3 win at the Abbey Stadium in 2009. The Town trailed 2-0 and had striker Liam Hatch sent-off before storming back to triumph in a game that also saw Jake Howells score his first senior goal.



# YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian **ROGER WASH** looks back to a previous clash with United in 1982.

Luton Town 1-0 Cambridge United. 2nd March 1982.

In February 1982, due to a number of postponements, the Town's lead at the head of Division Two (now the Championship) was in danger of being whittled away to nothing by teams who had played up to five games more.

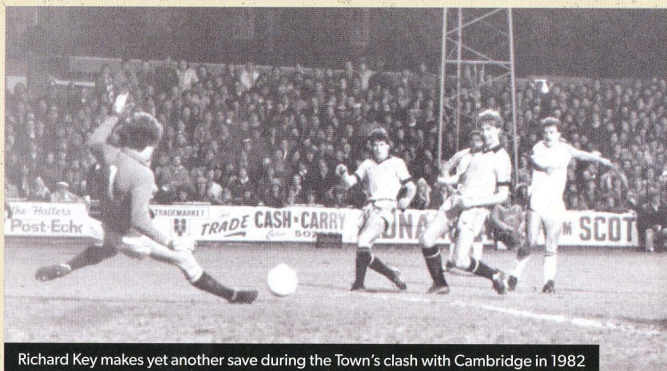
The Hatters had drawn their previous two games and were now looking to a pair of home matches, in quick succession, to put some daylight between themselves and the chasing pack.

Promotion rivals Oldham were first up and they were seen off rather easily 2-0 with goals from the in-form David Moss, one from the penalty spot and the other direct from a corner. The Latics' cause was not helped when future Hatter Darron McDonough was dismissed for a late tackle on Lil Fuccillo.

After the free-flowing game against Oldham came Cambridge United. They made their intentions clear from the start when they lined up with three centre halves and immediately pulled eight men back behind the ball. United manager John Docherty admitted that it was his priority to stop the Town scoring and then hope to pinch a goal at the other end. "It is not our job to come here and let Luton turn us over. We are coming to prevent that happening."

During the first 45 minutes Cambridge managed to stifle the Town and were booed from the pitch at half-time. The fans had rather more to cheer in the second period, however, as the Hatters managed to open the game up and started creating meaningful chances.

Richard Key in the Cambridge goal then earned star billing with a series of saves using all parts of his anatomy. He saved from Moss with his legs and stopped a rocket shot from full-back Kirk Stephens with his chest and was then fortunate to see strikes from Stephens and Ricky Hill hit the woodwork.



Richard Key makes yet another save during the Town's clash with Cambridge in 1982

The loss of the injured Fuccillo on the hour did not upset the Town's rhythm and it was a pass from substitute Raddy Antic that allowed Hill to net, only for the effort to be disallowed for a foul on the goalkeeper.

With the minutes ticking away we were all resigned to a frustrating goalless draw and moaning about the fact that football was certainly not going to be the victor that evening, when skipper Brian Horton picked up the ball 30 yards from goal, side-stepped two defenders and let fly with a shot that was too good even for the admirable Key.

As they had only broken out of defence twice up to that point it was not likely that United would snatch an equaliser, and so it proved. The Town had gained another vital victory and managed to force a gap between themselves and the other promotion contenders.

In the post-match conference Docherty admitted "The goal was worth the points. It was tremendous and I can't have any complaints about the result." He was then slated for his approach to the game but when it was pointed out that his team had only managed an average of half-a-goal a match in their previous 10 fixtures, perhaps the tactics were understandable.

**Town:** Findlay, Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Aizlewood, Hill, Horton, Fuccillo (sub Antic), Stein, White, Moss.

**Cambridge:** Key, Donaldson, Smith, Fallon, Turner, Murray, O'Neill (sub Cartwright), Spriggs, Gibbins, Reilly, Mayo.

## THE PROGRAMME

The original clash with United, scheduled for Boxing Day, was postponed and the Town decided to re-issue the programme for the new date with an eight page wraparound. The club justified this as they needed to scrap programmes for games against Chelsea and QPR so felt that supporters would understand.

The main programme was the normal 32-page issue for that season at 50p. The league table showed that the Hatters were eight points clear of fourth spot (three up automatically and no Play-Offs in those days) but

had not played for three weeks due to the weather. Episode 11 of cartoon 'Head for the Heights' featuring Leatown's international striker Bobbin Dino was left on a cliff-hanger which was about to get out of synch with postponements, scrapped programmes and re-issues!

The eight-page wraparound provided all the up to date information and confirmed that the Town had only played six League games in three months. It is interesting to note that Norwich, destined to take the final promotion spot, were in 12th position.



## ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

- The bad weather had hit many clubs as far as cashflow was concerned. Hull call in the receiver, Halifax put all their playing staff up for sale and Bristol City are very close to going under completely.
- The National Dairy Board announces a sponsorship deal with the Football League. For the next four years the League Cup will be known as the Milk Cup.
- Jasper Carrott (remember him?) resigns as director of Birmingham City.



# Academy Alumni



LIKE US ALL, **JAKE HOWELLS** HAS SAT TIGHT ON THE LUTON TOWN ROLLERCOASTER AND EXPERIENCED MORE UPS AND DOWNS AND TWISTS AND TURNS THAN REGULAR PUNDITS AT BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH. AFTER MAKING HIS 300TH APPEARANCE FOR THE CLUB AT PLYMOUTH – HE SAT DOWN AND SPOKE TO TALK OF THE TOWN...

"I've seen the lowest of the lows," says Jake Howells as we sit in John Moore Lounge at Kenilworth Road – a room crammed with giant, glittering trophies garnered by the Town's fabled youth department – and begin to discuss his career.

But don't let those opening words fool you, because Howells is far from downhearted these days – although at 23 he's had his fair share already.

Gone from the memory bank are midweek defeats at Barrow and Forest Green, which haunted the Hatters' darkest Conference days. Instead, Howells, like the whole club following last season's title triumph, is on an upward trajectory as part of a squad aiming to be the first Town team in history to earn back-to-back promotions.

Several thousand column inches had been reserved for the what-might-have-been – the Nearly Men – when it came to the Hatters' fortunes, or lack of, in the years before last campaign's champagne moment. But through it all Howells has been there, and two weeks ago, as the Hatters beat Plymouth Argyle to move up to fourth in the League 2 table, Howells made his 300th appearance for the Hatters. "A proud and an emotional feeling," he says.

The John Moore was an apt setting, as a content Howells glanced up at framed shirts on the wall, signed by Keith Keane, Kevin Foley and Jack Wilshere, famous graduates of the Hatters' academy, who have since long, long moved on.

Just like those three – who now play their football in League 1, the Danish Superliga and the Premier League



respectively – Howells joined the Hatters' academy with high hopes of making the big time. He'd watched the likes of Keane, and Curtis Davies and Leon Barnett, rise through the ranks and make their name higher up the football pyramid.

"I came to Luton because they had a good reputation of bringing youngsters through," says Howells, who reveals he was on Watford's books for four years. "I didn't like it there; the set-up, the training routine. I didn't enjoy it, it wasn't for me. The people around me giving me advice said 'if you're not enjoying it there's no point'. In the end I just left."

The Hornets' loss was the Town's gain when a year later, aged 15, Howells joined the academy at Kenilworth Road.

## Invited

"After I'd left Watford I was happy playing with my mates with Hemel Hempstead, but while I was playing for county and district, Luton invited me in and that was it. With Curtis, Leon and Kev Foley making it and moving on, and Keane in the team it seemed the right club."

Howells' path to a scholarship, fortunately for him, coincided with the Town's off-the-field problems. Within a year of Howells' arrival at Kenilworth Road the Hatters were relegated to League 1 from the Championship and, as the Town continued to struggle in the third tier, all of a sudden Howells' performances for the youth team caught the eye of then-boss Mick Harford.

"It all happened so quickly," he says, describing his hasty elevation to the Town first team ranks. "It helped that I was left-footed; I could do a job in a few positions and with the team struggling I was given a chance. From that point onwards I never looked back."

Howells was eased into the first team set-up gradually by Harford. "I'd spent a few months travelling to away games," recalls Howells. "Nottingham Forest away is a game that sticks in my mind. It was an amazing experience for a first-year scholar, to visit a ground where 20,000 were watching. I think Mick did it to warm me up for what lay ahead, to give me the feel of playing in front of big crowds."

With the Town on their way down once more, this time from League 1 to League 2, on the final day of that 2007/08 season, Howells, just three weeks after he had turned 17, was given his debut as a 75th-minute substitute against Huddersfield Town.

"I was sent on at left-back. Mick just said 'Howellsy, just play your game'. I was playing alongside Don Hutchison, who was at centre-half, and it was an amazing experience and it zoomed by. It's hard to think where the time has gone."

For the final 15 minutes on that particular May afternoon Howells replaced Sol Davis, a left-back with legendary cult status at Kenilworth Road – and soon the teenager would be keeping his experienced, tough-tackling team-mate out of the side on a regular basis.

## Rise

"My second year scholarship with the youth team saw me moved straight to the first team," explains Howells. But despite his rise to the senior ranks, the 17-year-old trainee still needed to learn the rules of the Hatters' changing room hierarchy.

"I was playing in pre-season and before I knew it I was making another appearance in the League but I was still a youth team player and was still learning. I was still cleaning players' boots every day.

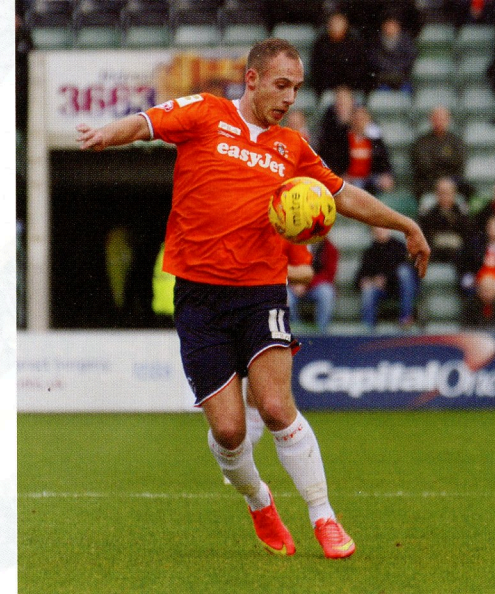
"Ironically I was responsible for cleaning Sol Davis', which was weird because I was ahead of him in the team.

"But being part of the first team was a great experience. You certainly knew your place because to the first team players you were still a youth team player. But a lot of them helped me enormously. Sol did especially because we played in the same position, and so did Kevin Nicholls."

For so many the 2008/09 season was bitter-sweet. Undoubtedly overshadowed by the ghastly 30-point deduction and subsequent relegation to the Conference, the campaign would be remembered also for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy success where 42,000 defiant Hatters voices celebrated a famous 3-2 win.

It was bitter-sweet for Howells, too. The 17-year-old had featured 33 times that season before the day of the Wembley final – including five appearances in the previous rounds of the competition. A few days before the game he was told by Harford he wouldn't even be on the bench.

"Mick put my arm around me and told me that I



wasn't going to be in the squad – I was almost in tears," remembers Howells. "I uttered 'bloody hell, I want to play at Wembley'. Mick told me not to worry, that I'd play at Wembley one day. He said the one reason I wasn't involved was because there were some senior pros at the end of their careers who would never get the opportunity to play at Wembley again. I accepted it, I knew at that age there would be highs and lows in football, but when the game itself came – what a day. I still felt part of it. I'd played every game in the competition apart from the final, and for us to win with so many supporters at Wembley was just unbelievable."

Come the end of the season Howells' hard work had paid off. A professional deal, so long on the horizon, was finally on the table. "To be able to call myself a professional footballer was a wonderful feeling," says Howells, beaming with pride.

## Expectation

But the next stop for Howells and the Hatters was the relative unknown of the Conference.

"I thought we'd do alright in that first season," he says. "I think there was an expectation of us to steam-roller teams but the standard of football was definitely tougher than we all expected."

"For me though I was enjoying playing. Usually first year pros are sent out on-loan and are rarely in the first team at 18 or 19, but I was a regular."

"The expectation, though, was so difficult to deal with, and if we didn't win we knew the supporters wouldn't be happy."

"I think many of the fans began to realise how tough it was and when they got behind us it made a massive difference."





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The Town, though, could not find the formula to get themselves out of the Conference, losing in the Play-Off semi-final to York in 2010, before defeats in successive finals in 2011, against Wimbledon, and 2012 against York once more. The latter came at Wembley. Mick was right, Jake would play there – but it's quite rightly not a day he wants to remember.

"That was the worst," says Howells, almost lost for words. "Playing at Wembley and not winning. It is the hardest thing I've ever experienced in the game. I was close to tears again because it meant a lot to me. To come through the ranks, to be told by Mick I'd play at Wembley after missing out in the JPT...I couldn't believe it.

"After Andre [Gray] had put us ahead in the first minute I genuinely thought we'd go on and win. In the end scoring so early killed us. They nicked one back and scored a debatable second. We had chances to equalise but there was no way back. I was gutted. Absolutely gutted."

A fourth season in the Conference beckoned for the Town. But it ended in more failure, though, a seventh-place finish in non-league. The sole high spot came when the Hatters beat Norwich in the FA Cup to become the first non-league side to beat a Premier League club. "I would have taken promotion over that every day," says Howells who ended that season on 235 appearances for the Town.

## Style

But forget Play-Off finals, Norwich and the JPT. Promotion had been always been the goal for Howells. And last season, under John Still's stewardship, he was, at last, able to help the Hatters clinch that objective in some style.

But what had changed? Why were the Town now able to win at Braintree, Alfreton, Grimsby and Macclesfield when they'd struggled in previous years?

"It was the togetherness," says Howells. "We all knew we had the ability in the squad. We just knuckled down. The gaffer got us playing how we wanted us to and everyone knew their jobs. If they didn't, they didn't play.

"In the end our form was remarkable and everyone played their part. Winning on Tuesday nights at Braintree and Grimsby and Macclesfield were probably the most important."

Howells' haul of eight goals last term was his best-ever for a season and this campaign has seen him net three times already, including a first Football League goal in the 2-2 draw at Accrington back in August.

But two weeks ago the time finally came – his 300th appearance in Town colours at Plymouth. As John Still named the team, Howells was given a hearty round of applause by his team-mates in the dressing room.

"It was a weird feeling, quite emotional to be honest," he says. "When I made my debut I never thought I'd play



Jake scores his first senior goal against Cambridge in 2009

this many games at the age of 23. It's unbelievable. I'm just proud of myself, the fans, the players, everyone that's backed me and all the managers who have played me.

"At Luton I've learned my trade; how to play football. Playing with your mates is one thing, playing in front of 10,000 at Kenilworth Road is another.

"I've grown up to realise that football is no joke, that the game is important to everybody for so many different reasons.

"A footballer's career isn't a long one – you've got make the most of it."

And make the most of it, he has. Congratulations, Jake. Here's to the next 300!



Howells in action on his full debut against Brentford in 2008





## DECEMBER FAN OF THE MONTH

### RUSSELL ELMES

Dagenham & Redbridge fan Russell Elmes has been named the Sky Bet League 2 Fan of the Month for December.

Russell has been a volunteer at the Sky Bet League 2 club since 1997. He started as the away-day transport organiser for the club's dedicated followers and has progressed to become Chairman of the Supporters' Club.

Russell said: "I was shocked when I received the call about becoming Fan of the Month. But the overriding emotions now are delight and appreciation."

Dagenham & Redbridge manager Wayne Burnett said: "It was a great honour to present Russell with the Sky Bet League 2 Fan of the Month Award."

"His support and dedication epitomises the fans at this club who are the salt of the earth."

To Nominate a Mate you think deserves to be January's Sky Bet Fan of the Month visit - [www.skybet.com/fan](http://www.skybet.com/fan)

**Russell's scorecast prediction:**

**DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE.....1**  
**CHELTENHAM TOWN.....1**  
**WITH RHYS MURPHY**  
**TO SCORE FIRST - 28/1\***

\*subject to change



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# THE SOCIAL NETWORK

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Luton Town

Jake Howells' achievement of playing 300 games for the Hatters was not lost on the Town faithful and players and the 23-year-old's former team-mates on social media.

Many took to Twitter to pass on their congratulations to Jake on reaching the milestone in the 1-0 victory at Plymouth Argyle. Below are a selection of the many messages.

**Luton Town FC** @LutonTown

Many congratulations on your 300th appearance today @jakehowells #Jake300 #veteran #threepoints #winning #COYH

**jake howells** @jakehowells

300th Appearance for the club and youngest to do it at 23 years old! Proud moment

**Luton Town R Back** @lutontownrback

Congratulations Jake Howells on playing his 300th game for the Hatters today against Plymouth #COYH

**Glenn McGowan** @meglennmcgowan

300 games for @LutonTown at the age of 23. Congratulations @jakehowells stuck with us in good and bad times. We salute you. #jake300

**We\_Are\_The\_Giles** @We\_Are\_Giles

300 apps at 23 years old, well done Jake Howells, LTFC legend. #Jake300

**Simon Pitts** @SimonStattoP

Confirmed that @jakehowells makes his 300th appearance and in doing so becomes the youngest @LutonTown player to reach the landmark #Jake300

**Dean Brill** @BrillDean

Congrats to the boy @jakehowells on his big 300 today for the mighty @LutonTown !! Great achievement and a top player!! #LTFC #300

**Steve Feekins** @SteveFeekins

Superb @jakehowells making 300th @LutonTown appearance aged 23. Youth team grad, stuck with club through NL days - great servant to #LTFC

**Paul Carroll** @PaulCarroll77

Congratulations @jakehowells on his 300 appearance for Luton today. Big achievement for someone only 23 #Jake300 #LTFC #COYH

**Katie McAteer** @katemcateer\_

Round of applause for Luton's Jake Howells today on his 300th appearance for the town! always a legend! #Jake300

**Alex Wall** @awall19

Big congrats to the boy @jakehowells reaching 300 games for @LutonTown big achievement bro.

**Jade Kirby** @JadeK093

Mr Howells you legend starting your 300th appearance for @LutonTown today at only 23 years old Congrats!! @jakehowells #Jake300

**Tim West** @timmynd

#Jake300 Yet more proof that Luton youth system is one of the best in Europe.

**Luton Haiku** @lutonhaiku

@DiverseFm Jake Howells; superb stuff Three hundred games and counting Luton Town legend #Jake300

**Keith Keane** @keithkeane

@jakehowells congrats mate on your 300th appearance he bleeds orange this kid

**mark lomax** @lomagokay

Most loyal player and still making an impact @jakehowells #jake300

**Mark Cullen** @Markcullen21

Congrats to @jakehowells on the 300 appearances today... Quite an achievement #oldest23yearoldever

**Cameron Parker** @CameronParker25

Congrats to @jakehowells for his 300th app. Fantastic achievement, let alone at 23 and incredible commitment through everything #Jake300

**Benet** @benet22

Today has shown how loyal Jake Howells has been to @LutonTown. Hope we can reward such loyalty with another promotion! #Jake300 #COYH!

**Staffs Hatter** @StokeHatter

Great result for the Hatters. We never ever win at Home Park! Also congrats to @jakehowells on reaching 300. #loyal #1clubman #Jake300 #LTFC

**liam wilmot** @LiamWilnotShh

#jake300 Jake howells legened! Possible luton all-time appearance holder?

**David Wilkinson** @DavidDwils21

@jakehowells brilliant well done jake

**Richard Gray** @rugfoot

@jakehowells hey man, congrats on 300! You've been a great servant to @LutonTown and one of our best players! Here's to another 300.



# YOU

## DEVELOPMENT

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

## SUBS

SUBS



# community trust

WITH HEAD OF COMMUNITY TRUST KEVIN THOBURN


## COMMUNITY COACHING

Our new squad of community coaches began their training last week as our scheme to provide free training to local adults in Luton got under way.

The Community Trust have teamed up with Luton Adult Learning and the Skills Funding Agency to provide 18 free spaces to local adults to learn coaching skills who through successful completion of our learning programme will then be able to deliver sports activities to members of their local community and make a real contribution at local level to the sports provision in Luton.

All of the applicants have been chosen from the Marsh Farm, Lewsey Farm and Farley Hill areas of town, and met up for the first time last week to begin the course that will include gaining their FA Level 1 coaching certificate and Sports Leaders Award as well as first aid and child safety qualifications.

The course's aim is to provide training to new coaches to enable them to deliver football and multi-sport activities which will improve their health and activity levels as well as offering them genuine future work opportunities with the Trust through formal sport qualifications gained on the project. To achieve this aim, the overall project is looking to increase awareness of the benefits of sporting activity together with the benefits of increased physical fitness and healthy lifestyle choices and also deliver this message over a period of time through local coaches






**Get into Football Coaching with the Hatters FREE COURSES**

**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 make new friends
- ongoing support from Luton Town FC during the programme
- help to become a Luton community champion
- opportunities to volunteer and employment projects with the Hatters Community Trust
- 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](mailto:kevin.thoburn@lutontown.co.uk)

from within their own community through becoming role models to their local communities. The new trainee coaches will soon be putting their new skills to work through a variety of activities including organising and running weekly sports clubs as well as designing posters and literature highlighting the benefits of regular exercise and anti-drug and smoking messages to aid healthy lifestyles.

This is the first time the Trust have teamed up with Luton Adult Learning and for our first project three specifically targeted estates have been chosen which have large pockets of social deprivation with hard to reach young individuals and particularly, have significant issues around crime

and anti-social behaviour.

These estates already benefit from our weekly late night coaching sessions as part of our KITS community integration project run in conjunction with Active Luton and the community learning project will look to feed coaches into this project to increase the Club's presence on the estates as we look to increase the sports provision and activity at a very local level.

If the project proves a success then future plans involving other parts of the town are already in place and if you are reading this and want to know more about our community coaching opportunities and would like to get involved then why not give the community office a ring on 01582 737568 or email [community@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:community@lutontown.co.uk).

## LUTON TOWN FC KINDER+SPORT U11 KIDS SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Today at half-time is the big schools final between the winners of our Bedford & Mid Beds tournament and our Luton tournament.

Over 30 schools have taken part in the two tournaments held at Redborne Upper School in Amphill and Venue 360 in Luton in the last fortnight. Last week Arnold Academy qualified from the Amphill tournament and today will meet the Luton schools winner from yesterday's tournament.

The Kinder+Sport Kids Cup is a six-a-side competition for under-11 school children and culminates in a final at the Football League Play-Off weekend in May. In the competition the 72 clubs are first split into three divisions, in line with our divisional status, before being again split into two groups, north and south - so our local Luton and Bedfordshire winners will progress as Luton Town into the Division 2 South Play-Offs and will play against teams representing AFC Wimbledon, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Dagenham & Redbridge, Exeter, Newport, Northampton, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southend, Stevenage and Wycombe.

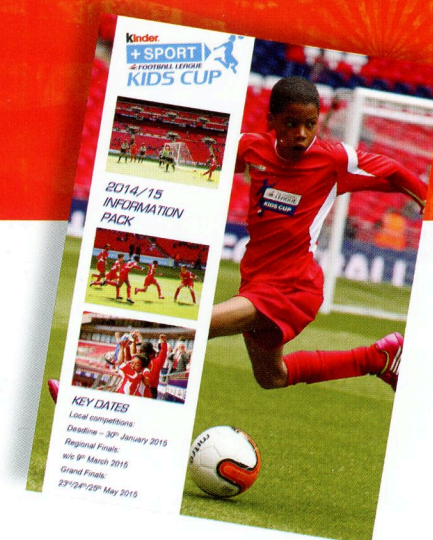
The winners of the Division 2 North and Division 2 South finals will then qualify for the chance to play before the League 2 Play-Off Final on Saturday 23rd May. So good luck to both teams today - remember you will be representing the Hatters in the next round!

## DISABILITY FOOTBALL

Last week the Trust were delighted to receive a cheque for £376 from Cllr Sheila Roden, last year's Mayor of Luton Borough Council, which was raised from the sale of the Champions banner that hung from the bus as the first team celebrated promotion in the town centre last May. Cllr Roden has donated the money to assist with our work in Disability Football.

At the beginning of the season we launched two local Luton Town men's disability football teams as part of a campaign to raise awareness of disability sport and the opportunities available for those who take part.

The Trust has been working in partnership with the Council's New Horizons project to form the teams, which is a Luton Borough Council-led scheme which supports adults with learning disabilities to meet their full potential



and develop independence skills through work, training and leisure opportunities.

The scheme aims to ensure that adults with learning disabilities are able to live fulfilling lives and make a positive contribution to their communities. The two football teams have been formed with people on the scheme and are known as the 'Hatters' and the 'Boaters'.

The members of the teams compete in the Beds FA Disability League which begins in again in March. In the meantime, the players are doing pre-season training every Friday morning with our community staff at Dunstable Leisure Centre from 10.30am to midday in the main sports hall.

We are always looking for new members to join the teams so if you know of anyone who would be interested please give us a call at the community office on 01582 737568 or simply pop over to the training session on Fridays and join in.

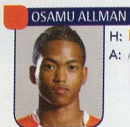
We welcome all abilities and offer friendly but competitive training sessions for all of the boys who train.





# Youth Team Sponsors

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H: Available  
A: Available



LIAM GOOCH

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



FRANKIE MUSONDA

H: Available  
A: Available



ISAAC GALLIFORD

H: Available  
A: Available



LEE HAWKES

H: Available  
A: Available



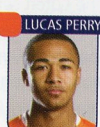
CRAIG KING

H: Mike Tearle  
A: Available



DARIL NGWALA

H: Available  
A: Available



LUCAS PERRY

H: Available  
A: Available



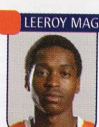
TUKI TAYALI

H: Available  
A: Available



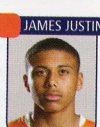
HARRY TAMPLIN

H: Allianz  
A: NPA Commercial



LEEROY MAGURAUSHE

H: Available  
A: Available



JAMES JUSTIN

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](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk)

**Football Foundation**



## WITH HEAD OF YOUTH WAYNE TURNER

Manchester United away or Luton Town away?! That is awaiting our visitors today.

Which one will have the best atmosphere? Believe it or not I think it will be here at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

These are great games, and I can remember when I played in them how loud and electric they were; just like the home game Cambridge played against Manchester United. Brilliant!

Richard Money and Alan Neilson, two friends of mine, won't worry about a lack of atmosphere at Old Trafford. It will be a wonderful day out for everyone and a ticket counting exercise on the way home on the bus!

There will be no pressure unlike today when there is three vital points to play for. Talking of pressure, ourselves and Cambridge have had our fair share recently as we both have had to complete our Premier League Audit for EPPP category 3. All other clubs before us have had up to 18 months – we had 5!

### Positive

We came through it with real positive feedback, and on Tuesday we were recommended for category 3 status at a meeting at the Premier League offices. Dan Walder and I went up and met our two examiners, and their support was brilliant. They were so impressed with our set-up and especially with the quality of our coaching. Well done to all the staff!

We now have until August to finish off a few loose ends before our three-year license is granted. A tremendous effort by all involved.

While we have all been under pressure so have our under-16 players. It's that horrible time of the year when we the staff, have to pick and sign our new intake of scholars. There have been countless conversations about all different scenarios and the decision hasn't been taken lightly.

### Hardest

It has, and will be, the hardest year yet as the boys have done so well. As I explained to them "If you don't get signed it's because we can't take you all, and we have to take the ones who have a genuine chance of getting a professional deal in two years' time". Also will they be near the first team by then, and what league will the first team be in?

For the ones who are not lucky enough to get the yes decision, we have fantastic college schemes that they can go into so we can continue to monitor them. Again though lads well done to you all. You have been a credit to yourself, your family and to Luton Town.

Now, though, as the manager says "The bar rises all the time when you are successful". You want to be better and better and those under-16 lads along with all our young players who want to live and play the dream have to be ready for the fight.

If you are better than the next man you will enjoy the dream: Playing in a local derby or even a nice easy game at Old Trafford!

Good luck to the Gaffer and the boys this afternoon, you are doing a brilliant job for this football club, we're alive and buzzing!

Enjoy the game  
COYH

# THE ACADEMY





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# Luton Ladies

**LADIES HIT LEIGHTON BY THE DOZEN**

The Town Ladies were again paired with Leighton United in the Beds County Cup following their earlier meeting in the FA Cup.

Luton got off to the perfect start when Natalie Richardson picked up the ball in the centre circle and played a perfect pass out wide left into Erica Byron's path. Her first touch and acceleration took her clear and she finished well into the bottom corner to give the Hatters the lead in the first minute.

## Powerful

Skipper Shanice Jimenez doubled the lead in the 20th minute. Rebecca Kane played a ball into the right hand channel where Jimenez drove towards the goal striking a powerful deflected shot into the bottom corner.

Soon after Richardson got on the scoresheet herself after being involved in the opening two goals. She picked up the ball in the centre circle and picked her way through three players before dropping her shoulder and smashing the ball from 30 yards with no back lift into the roof of the net.

Byron then scored her second of the game after 33 minutes with Richardson again the creator was involved yet again with a drilled cross. Byron's first touch took the ball past her marker and she slotted the ball into the bottom corner.

Substitute Remi Bains wasted no time scoring twice in quick succession just before half-time. The first on 42 minutes a tap in after Jimenez played her in, and the second was a first-time left foot strike from 20 yards into the top corner. That made it 6-0.

## Hat-trick

The second half was equally one way traffic when Bains completed a 12-minute hat-trick seizing on a loose ball after 54 minutes.

Rachel Kosky then added an eighth two minutes later from a corner after Zara Carroll had her header cleared off the line before Kosky volleyed home.

After another two minutes Carroll then scored herself after a great ball from Richardson put her through one on one and the keeper made a save but couldn't get enough on it and it rolled into the back of the net.



Remi Bains on the ball during the win over Leighton in which she netted a hat-trick

Kane then took the score into double figures to make it 10-0 in the 68th minute after Carroll played a perfect pass for her to beat the offside trap before she lifted the ball over the keeper with an excellent finish.

Byron became the second player to complete her hat-trick after Carroll had her shot saved and she pounced on the rebound. Jimenez completed the scoring with her second with two minutes remaining after Rachel Carter played a long ball forward. She was first to the ball skipped round the keeper and finished into an empty net for Town's biggest win in three years.

## Delighted

Town manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "I am delighted with the result but mostly with the performance and the way we played.

"It was a professional display and we showed our class. We now have an opportunity of reaching another cup final with Offley in the semi-final and I hope we can take this form in front of goal into the league now."



# 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](mailto:enquiries@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)**

Or find out more about the help available by going to:  
**[www.bedfordshire.police.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk)**

**Or call Crimestoppers anonymously**



# #jake300

Jake Howells' 300th appearance for the Hatters at Plymouth two weeks ago moved the 23-year-old up to position 22 in the all-time Luton Town appearance table.

Stats-king, and co-author of the newly-updated book *Luton Town – The Full Record* – Simon Pitts was a busy boy working out a variety of Jake-based statistics for his DiverseFM commentary of the game at Plymouth.

MATCHES PLAYED .....	300
TOTAL STARTS .....	239
SUBSTITUTE APPEARANCES .....	61
LEAGUE 1 .....	1
LEAGUE 2 .....	47
FOOTBALL CONFERENCE .....	191
PLAY-OFFS .....	8
FA CUP .....	29
JOHNSTONE'S PAINT TROPHY .....	6
FA TROPHY .....	18

## DID YOU KNOW?

Jake been the first used sub 29 times, the second 20 times and the third 12 times.

At 23 years and 274 days, Jake is the youngest player to reach 300 appearances in the Hatters' history, with Ricky Hill the previous at 24 years and 273 days.

His 300th appearance came 2,450 days after his debut. Mal Donaghy reached 300 games in Town colours in 2,327 days, John Moore 2,364, John Ryan 2,436, and then Jake.

Jake sits in 22nd place in the all-time appearance table. But seven more appearances will take him up two places and above John Moore into 20th. (21st is Fred White on 304).

Howells also lies sixth in the all-time appearance table of players who played in non-league football with 191. Fred Hawkes sits top of that particular list with 504, Mark Tyler is fifth having played 199.

The last person to reach the 300-appearance milestone was Matthew Spring on 14th April 2007 – achieved over the course of two spells. Prior to Spring, Mitchell Thomas made his 300th appearance in March 1998. Going further back, Marvin Johnson (25th October 1997) and Julian James (April 1997).

## MATCH RECORD

WON .....	141
DREW .....	95
LOST .....	64



## MILESTONES:

**Debut:** 03/05/2008 As the second substitute v Huddersfield (h) League 1 Lost 1-0

**3rd:** 07/10/2008 First start v Brentford (h) JPT 2nd Round Drew 2-2 won 4-3 on penalties

**4th:** 11/10/2008 First League start v Darlington (h) League 2 Lost 2-1

**First goal in 42nd match:** 26/09/2009 v Cambridge (a) Conference Won 4-3

**100th:** 12/12/2010 v Welling United (h) FA Trophy 1st Round Drew 0-0

**131st:** 21/05/2011 v AFC Wimbledon (n) Conference Play-Off Final at Man City Drew 0-0 lost 4-3 on pens

**183rd:** 20/05/2012 v York City (n) Conference Play-Off Final at Wembley Lost 1-2

**200th:** 03/11/2012 v Nuneaton Town (h) FA Cup 1st Round Drew 1-1

**275th:** 21/04/2014 Lifted the Conference title vs Forest Green Rovers (h) Conference Won 4-1

**300th:** 17/01/2015 vs Plymouth Argyle (a) League 2 Won 1-0

**Can Jake break into the top 10 all-time Hatters appearances makers? Here's the men Howells will be aiming to overhaul:**

FRED HAWKES 625	GORDON TURNER 450
BOB MORTON 562	MARVIN JOHNSON 439
RICKY HILL 508	RON BAYNHAM 434
BRIAN STEIN 496	SYD OWEN 423
MAL DONAGHY 488	BOB HAWKES 410



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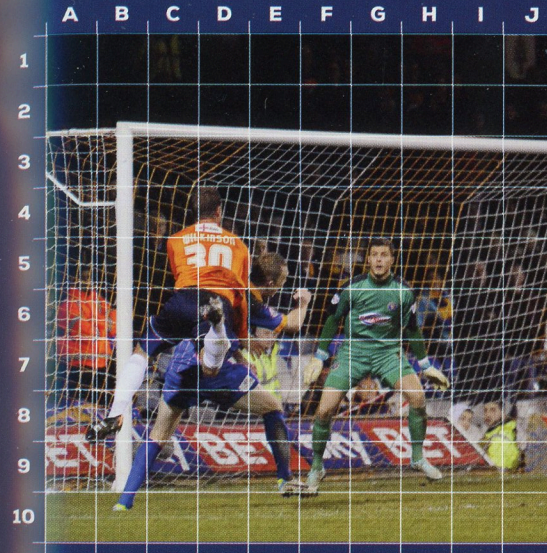
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## WORD SEARCH

CAN YOU FIND ALL 13 WORDS HIDDEN BELOW?

H	A	T	T	E	R	S	H	X	H
V	M	Y	A	S	P	G	H	P	O
E	C	L	E	T	F	G	N	E	W
D	N	E	R	O	C	S	O	N	E
I	U	R	D	C	S	H	M	A	L
S	L	H	H	K	H	O	P	L	L
F	T	E	N	L	D	O	A	T	S
F	Y	H	V	E	U	T	S	X	H
O	K	S	S	Y	H	H	S	T	L
B	H	V	O	L	L	E	Y	H	O

HATTERS  
STOCKLEY  
SCORE  
GOAL  
PASS  
MCNULTY  
HOWELLS  
SHOOT  
VOLLEY  
NET  
PENALTY  
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31st JANUARY

# ON THIS DAY

## ► THE RECORD

The Hatters' record on 31st January is not a good one. Looking back in the history books on this day, the Town have only won three times from the 15 matches played. Seven of the 15 have ended in defeat while five have been drawn. The Town have scored just 18 times during these games and conceded 25. The Hatters' first-ever match on 31st January was a 3-1 defeat away to Queens Park Rangers in the Southern League. That particular fixture was the Town's 333rd match.

## ► THE LAST TIME

The Town have played four of their last five matches on this date at home, winning twice, but the last time the Hatters played on 31st January they let a 1-0 lead slip to lose against Bury at Kenilworth Road in 2009. Asa Hall put the Town ahead but the Shakers stormed back in the second half to go on and record victory. A certain Mark Tyler played in goal for the visitors that afternoon.

## ► THE LAST VICTORY

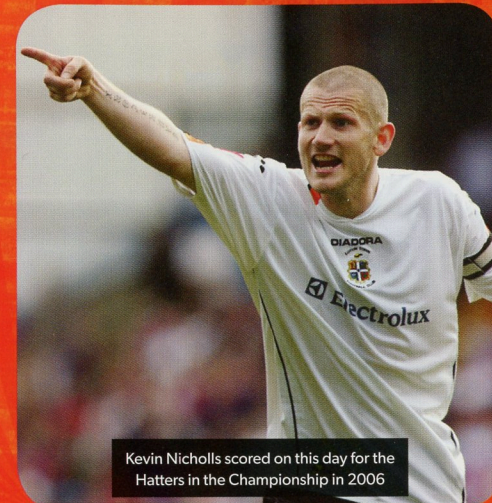
It's been nine years since the Hatters last tasted success on this day when Sheffield Wednesday were beaten at Hillsborough in 2006. The Town were then in Championship and left the famous old ground 2-0 winners thanks to goals from Kevin Nicholls – from the penalty spot – and Rowan Vine.

## ► LAST HOME WIN

You have to go all the way to January 1996 for the Town's last win on home soil on this day. The Hatters were also in the Championship at the time. Manager Lennie Lawrence had only been in the job a month but the Town were showing signs of beating the drop. On this particular afternoon the Town beat Sheffield United 1-0 thanks to a Bontcho Guentchev free-kick. The Hatters, however, could not build on this win and were eventually relegated.

## ► SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF HURT

That win over the Blades ended a 65-year wait for a Town win on 31st January. The Hatters' first of just three wins on this day came back in 1931 when Bristol Rovers were beaten 1-0 at Kenilworth Road in Division 3 (South).



Kevin Nicholls scored on this day for the Hatters in the Championship in 2006

## ► AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

The Hatters failed to win five of their league fixtures on this day between 1948 and 1981, drawing three and losing twice. That sequence of results began with a 1-0 defeat to West Bromwich Albion in 1948 before a 4-2 defeat at Bolton Wanderers came in 1959 in what is the only time the Hatters have played in the top flight on this day. Three successive draws followed: 1-1 at Stockport in 1970, 1-1 at home to Nottingham Forest in 1976 and 2-2 at Derby in 1981.

## ► UP FOR THE CUP?

Of the four FA Cup ties that have taken place on this day involving the Town the Hatters have failed to win. A 2-0 home to defeat to Liverpool in the second round in 1919 came first before a 1-1 draw at Manchester City at the fourth round stage followed in 1953. The Town were then hammered 4-0 at Millwall at the same stage in 1978. A Mick Harford goal earned the Town a 1-1 draw at home to Queens Park Rangers in 1987.

In the replays, the Town beat Manchester City 5-1 at Kenilworth Road (Gordon Turner scoring a hat-trick), whilst an own goal from Warren Neil gave the Town a 1-0 win over QPR on their way to reaching the semi-final.



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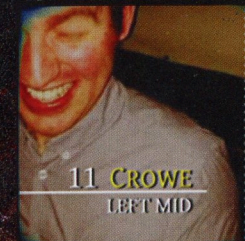
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Capital One

# FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



11 CROWE  
LEFT MID

## FLEETING RIVALRIES: LUTON TOWN v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Blink and you'll miss 'em, ladies and gentlemen. When you're as up and down the football Pyramid as The Town, so-called rivalries come and go like Watford managers with an irritable bowel. Next up at Kenilworth Road is an absolute One o' Them.

Won't you join me in extending a warm welcome to Cambridge United off-of-the-telly, as they return to little old us down the road, still fresh from their 15 minutes in the whipping Friday night BBC rain.

The U's, as no one refers to them, are the latest in a lovely long line of fleeting rivalries that appear when you tend to spend your seasons at the top or bottom of leagues more often than in the middle.

Such is our recent lot in league life that ours have tended to be a slightly Tesco Value version of semi-locally reared beef with the likes of Stevenage and Oxford, rather than the QPRs and Millwalls of years gone by. It's a bit annoying, but the Cambridge one is slightly less rubbish than some of the others, relatively speaking.

### Fun

This fixture comes with a couple of little bits of extra fun, you see. As the Amber Army drum their prepubescent way into the warm embrace of Kenilworth Road, appearing from the tunnel to take their applause will be the wonderful Richard Money (who once wore the shirt let's not forget, so don't be too much of an idiot, eh?). Always great value and recently able to say our name again, Money's unique approach to public

relations can usually guarantee to make even the nillest of nil-nils newsworthy.

This month Money has in his pocket the Clare Baldingly coiffured object of young Lutonian affections Cameron #CamoonGetMePlea McGeehan.

McGeehan is famous round these parts, not only for getting Conference-winning goals that looked like they hurt, but also for beheading Happy Harry on Trophy day and generally, really throwing himself into this thing of ours.

### Fan

"We want you so stay" went the song towards the end of his time with us, and if my between-the-lines-oscope is on the ball, his comments this week suggest he might be well be wearing a different colour shirt next time he graces Bedfordshire turf.

"I don't know what's going to happen in the future, but I'll always be a Luton fan. I'd definitely love to come back and put the orange strip on again, that would be great..." gushed McGeehan.

I imagine that if a Luton loanee ever uttered such words about one of his potential suitors it may earn that player a less favourable dedication in the Luton Song Book, as the seat-slamming and hoarding-booting rumbled down from the stands.

A throbbing Kenilworth Road it is then, lads; should be nice and cosy in the stands as we pointsaholics cram in to dream of three more towards that League One fund.

So stand up, shout in the right direction and try not to miss kick-off, eh. It's Cambridge. That used to mean something didn't it?

Blink and you'll miss 'em.



# 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

**Nobody likes to talk about a game of two halves but when Watford and Blackpool turn out wacky capers like last weekend, it's impossible not to.**

Two up at half-time, the struggling Seasiders somehow contrived to ship five goals in the space of 20 minutes, eventually capitulating to a 7-2 defeat.

I'd like to say there's a precedent but, to be honest, few teams have collapsed that drastically in the history of the game. Still, here's a few that came close...

## QPR 5-5 NEWCASTLE (DIVISION ONE, 1984)

Smashed 5-0 by Spurs the week before, Rangers made it nine goals in two hours by going 4-0 down to Newcastle on Loftus Road's plastic pitch. A Malcolm Macdonald header and a hat-trick from the inspirational Chris Waddle saw the newly-promoted Magpies cruise into the half-time break. Yet while the Toon re-emerged on autopilot, the Hoops had been galvanised by a verbal howitzer from gaffer Alan Mullery – and it showed.

Gary Bannister pulled one back, John Gregory made it two. Newcastle defender Paul Haddock then got into the spirit, smashing a clearance so hard into the face of team-mate Kenny Wharton that it seared straight back into the top corner.

When Wharton subsequently made it 5-3 with six minutes remaining, the game appeared to be up. But no – from the restart, Steve Wicks headed home and, with the clock stopped on 90 minutes, Gary Mickelwhite burst through to rescue an unbelievable point.

Mullery called it a miracle. Newcastle boss Jack Charlton was less effusive. "It was a total embarrassment, absolutely diabolical," he said. "I don't know where these players got their education from but they'll get one from me after that."



Jon Macken's late winner completed a dramatic comeback for Manchester City in 2004

## TOTTENHAM 3-4 MAN CITY (FA CUP, 2004)

First halves don't come much worse than this. Behind after two minutes (to a 25-yarder from Ledley King!) City shipped another two, lost top-scorer Nicolas Anelka to injury and then had Joey Barton sent off for arguing with the referee after the half-time whistle.

"Where's the nearest job centre?" Kevin Keegan asked his assistant before heading for the dressing room and telling his players to "play for pride – and hope for a miracle".

Incredibly, that's exactly what they got. With Spurs in classic self-destruct mode, ten-man City made it 3-1 through Sylvan Distain, 3-2 Through Paul Bosvelt and equalised on 80 minutes courtesy of Shaun Wright-Phillips.

Then, right at the death, Jon Macken – the man brought on to replace Anelka – looped a header over Casey Keller to spark

pandemonium in the away end. It was just City's second win in 19 games.

## WERDER BREMEN 5-3 ANDERLECHT (CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 1993/94)

Behind to a brace from Danny Boffin and a spectacular chip (he was clearly practicing) from Philippe Albert, most of Bremen's fans had seen enough. With an hour gone and the score still 3-0, more than half of the 29,000 fans had abandoned the Weser Arena and headed through the rain-lashed street for home.

It would prove to be a monumental mistake. New Zealand striker Winston Rufer pulled one back on 66 minutes and, as Anderlecht collapsed, was followed onto the scoresheet by by Rune Bratseth (72), Bernd Hobsch (80) and Marco Bode (83). Rufer himself then put the stoppage-time gloss on one of European's greatest comebacks.



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# league look

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LEAGUE 2

## LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

Wycombe Wanderers remain top of League 2 after Gareth Ainsworth's side battled to a goalless draw at Mansfield last weekend.

The Chairboys – who have only lost once away from home this season – sit a point above Shrewsbury Town, who moved into second place with a late winner in their 3-2 home victory over in-form Stevenage. Micky Mellon's side are unbeaten on home soil, winning 10 of their 12 matches.

Burton Albion dropped to third on goal difference despite coming from behind to earn a point at York which means the Hatters sit four points behind the final automatic promotion spot – with a game in hand – after the 1-1 draw at Cheltenham.

Southend United, unbeaten in seven matches, won 2-1 at Portsmouth to move up to fifth and level on points with the Town, whilst Newport lost for the second successive weekend – this time 3-0 at Northampton – to drop to sixth. Elsewhere, the Hatters' next opposition, Oxford United, were held to a 2-2 draw at the Kassam Stadium thanks to an equaliser two minutes into injury time from

James Roberts. AFC Wimbledon beat Accrington 2-1 at Kingsmeadow to move into 12th place in the table while Morecambe rewarded their 66 travelling fans with a 1-1 draw from their long trip to Plymouth.

Six of the 11 fixtures in League 2 last weekend ended in draws and at the other end of the table, Hartlepool earned a 1-1 draw at Ronnie Moore's former employers Tranmere. However Pools remain nine points from safety. Eight teams above Hartlepool in the table are separated by just four points.

**Today's fixtures in League 2:** Accrington v Northampton, Burton v Bury, Carlisle v Mansfield, Dagenham v Cheltenham, Exeter v Tranmere, Hartlepool v Plymouth, Morecambe v AFC Wimbledon, Newport v Shrewsbury, Southend v York, Stevenage v Oxford, Wycombe v Portsmouth.

**Next week's games:** AFC Wimbledon v Newport, Bury v Exeter, Cambridge v Wycombe, Cheltenham v Burton, Mansfield v Stevenage, Northampton v Morecambe, Oxford v Luton, Plymouth v Accrington, Portsmouth v Hartlepool, Shrewsbury v Southend, Tranmere v Carlisle, York v Dagenham.

## LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Wycombe Wanderers	27	14	10	3	40	21	19	52
2 Shrewsbury Town	27	15	6	6	39	18	21	51
3 Burton Albion	27	15	6	6	37	26	11	51
4 LUTON TOWN	26	13	8	5	30	18	12	47
5 Southend United	27	13	8	6	29	23	6	47
6 Newport County	27	13	7	7	36	32	4	46
7 Bury	27	13	5	9	39	32	7	44
8 Stevenage	27	12	5	10	39	35	4	41
9 Exeter City	28	11	8	9	38	39	-1	41
10 Plymouth Argyle	27	11	7	9	30	19	11	40
11 Morecambe	27	10	7	10	27	25	2	37
12 Cambridge United	26	10	6	10	40	30	10	36
13 AFC Wimbledon	26	10	6	10	37	37	0	36
14 Northampton Town	27	10	4	13	40	38	2	34
15 Accrington Stanley	26	10	3	13	35	43	-8	33
16 Oxford United	27	7	9	11	30	36	-6	30
17 Cheltenham Town	27	7	9	11	24	37	-13	30
18 Portsmouth	26	7	8	11	28	33	-5	29
19 York City	27	5	13	9	27	32	-5	28
20 Mansfield Town	26	7	7	12	21	33	-12	28
21 Tranmere Rovers	26	6	9	11	27	31	-4	27
22 Dagenham & Redbridge	27	7	6	14	27	38	-11	27
23 Carlisle United	27	8	3	16	33	49	-16	27
24 Hartlepool United	27	4	6	17	19	47	-28	18

## PLAYER STATS 2014/15

	LEAGUE				CUP				TOTAL				DISCIP				LIFE			
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS	Y	R
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Benson	10	(3)	1	3	0	1	13	(3)	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	20	0	0
Paul Connolly	4	(0)	0	2	0	0	6	(0)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Mark Cullen	22	(1)	8	5	0	1	27	(1)	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	19	0	0
Nathan Doyle	17	(0)	0	4	0	0	21	(0)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0
Andy Drury	20	(5)	1	4	0	0	24	(5)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	9	0	0
Fraser Franks	5	(0)	0	4	0	0	9	(0)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0
Scott Griffiths	22	(0)	1	4	0	0	26	(0)	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	2	0	0
Luke Guttridge	9	(4)	1	2	(1)	1	11	(5)	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	15	0	0
Michael Harriman	15	(0)	0	4	0	1	19	(0)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	1	0	0
Jake Howells	14	(6)	3	3	(2)	1	17	(8)	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	301	30	0	0
Elliot Justham	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Alex Lacey	8	(4)	0	2	(0)	0	10	(4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	1	0	0
Ross Lafayette	1	(10)	0	0	(3)	0	1	(13)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0
Alex Lawless	2	(2)	1	0	(1)	0	2	(3)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	161	19	0	0
Steve McNulty	25	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	29	(0)	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	97	2	0	0
Ricky Miller	2	(8)	1	1	(2)	1	3	(10)	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	2	0	0
Andrew Parry	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	4	0	0
Ian Rees	5	(1)	0	1	(2)	0	6	(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Matt Robinson	8	(3)	3	2	(0)	2	10	(3)	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	59	3	0	0
Luke Rooney	10	(5)	1	0	(2)	0	10	(7)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	3	0	0
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charlie Smith	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jonathan Smith	19	(0)	1	5	(0)	0	24	(0)	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	4	0	0
Jim Stevenson	2	(9)	1	1	(0)	0	3	(9)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	1	0	0
Jayden Stockley	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Mark Tyler	26	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	31	(0)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	261	0	0	0
Charlie Walker	0	(3)	0	1	(2)	0	1	(5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Alex Wall	1	(3)	1	1	(0)	0	2	(3)	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	7	0	0
Shaun Whalley	9	(1)	3	1	(0)	0	10	(1)	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	5	0	0
Luke Wilkinson	24	(0)	3	6	(0)	0	30	(0)	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	3	0	0
Curtley Williams	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0



# THE SEASON

# Fixtures & Results

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI	SUBS
<b>AUGUST</b>									
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 Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Lacey Robinson
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	L 0-2	5,888	1,037	18	Tyler	Connolly Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Robinson Stevenson
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>									
IV 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 Ruddock
Tue 16	7.45pm	A	York City	D 0-0	3,649	445	18	Tyler	Williams Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Ruddock
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United	W 1-0	6,533	2,050	13	Tyler	Williams Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Ruddock
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Oxford United	W 2-0	9,101	868	10	Tyler	Lacey Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 Smith Doyle
<b>OCTOBER</b>									
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 (UPT2)	L 0-1	2,186	125	-	Justham	Lacey Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Southend United	W 2-0	9,238	1,033	4	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United	W 2-1	4,225	525	4	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 3-1	7,746	166	3	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town	W 1-0	10,040	1,018	1	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
<b>NOVEMBER</b>									
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 Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Franks Doyle
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Burton Albion	L 0-1	4,772	1,998	3	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Franks Doyle
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town	W 3-0	8,418	294	2	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Franks Doyle
<b>DECEMBER</b>									
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 Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Franks Doyle
Tue 16	7.45pm	H	Bury (FAC2R)	W 1-0	2,923	182	-	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
Sat 20	3.00pm	H	Newport County	W 3-0	8,383	317	3	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 Smith Doyle
Fri 26	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers	D 1-1	7,539	2,566	4	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 SMITH 1 Doyle
Sun 28	3.00pm	H	Portsmouth	D 1-1	10,071	1,021	4	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
<b>JANUARY</b>									
Sat 3	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United (FAC3)	L 1-2	7,063	1,380	-	Tyler	HARRIMAN 1 Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Connolly Smith
IV Thu 8	7.45pm	H	Shrewsbury Town	D 0-0	177	7,666	4	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle	W 1-0	8,420	802	4	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town	D 1-1	3,611	1,282	4	Tyler	Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith Doyle
Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United						
<b>FEBRUARY</b>									
Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Oxford United						
Tue 10	7.45pm	H	York City						
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Carlisle United						
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Mansfield Town						
Sat 21	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon						
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley						
<b>MARCH</b>									
Tue 3	7.45pm	A	Bury						
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Morecambe						
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth						
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Newport County						
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers						
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Northampton Town						
<b>APRIL</b>									
Fri 3	3.00pm	H	Exeter City						
Mon 6	3.00pm	A	Tranmere Rovers						
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Burton Albion						
Tue 14	7.45pm	A	Dagenham & Redbridge						
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Hartlepool United						
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Southend United						
<b>MAY</b>									
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage						

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Guttridge	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Williams	Ruddock	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham
Guttridge	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Howells	RUDDOCK 1	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Cullen	Benson	Franks	Wall	Guttridge	Ruddock	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham
Guttridge	Rooney	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Williams	Ruddock	Miller	Lafayette	Justham
Guttridge	Howells	Rooney	Cullen	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Lafayette	Stevenson	Wilkinson	Justham
Ruddock	Guttridge	CULLEN 1	Lafayette	Drury	Wall	Howells	Lafayette	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Guttridge	Howells	Cullen	Wall	Rooney	Lafayette	Whalley	Stevenson	Connolly	Justham
Stevenson	Guttridge	CULLEN 1	Wall	Drury	Lafayette	Whalley	Robinson	Doyle	Walker	Justham
Ruddock	Whalley	HOWELLS 1	Cullen	Drury	Lafayette	Stevenson	Robinson	Guttridge	Walker	Justham
Ruddock	Drury	Cullen	Benson	Howells	WALL 1	Stevenson	Robinson	Guttridge	Walker	Justham
Guttridge	Howells	Wall	Benson	Walker	Robinson	Stevenson	Lawless	Tyler	Stevenson	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	LAWLESS 1	CULLEN 1	Lacey	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	Miller	CULLEN 3	Lacey	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	Lawless	Cullen	Lacey	Benson	Wall	GUTTRIDGE 1	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Miller	Rooney	Guttridge	Stevenson	Whalley	Justham
Smith	GUTTRIDGE 1	BENSON 1	Cullen	Franks	Griffiths	MILLER 1	Rooney	Ruddock	MILLER 1	Justham
Smith	Guttridge	Benson	Cullen	Lacey	Drury	Griffiths	Rooney	Ruddock	Miller	Justham
Howells	Whalley	Guttridge	Benson	Franks	Cullen	Rooney	Ruddock	Miller	Walker	Justham
Drury	WHALLEY 2	BENSON 1	Cullen	Lacey	Howells	Rooney	Ruddock	Miller	Walker	Justham
Smith	Drury	Walker	CULLEN 1	Robinson	Howells	Miller	Stevenson	Rooney	Lacey	Justham
Smith	Drury	Whalley	Cullen	Lafayette	Griffiths	Miller	Stevenson	Rooney	Lacey	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Cullen	Lacey	Howells	Lafayette	Stevenson	Robinson	Stevenson	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Cullen	Franks	Howells	Lafayette	Stevenson	Robinson	Stevenson	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Cullen	Franks	Connolly	Stevenson	Howells	Miller	Lafayette	Justham
Stevenson	Drury	Miller	Cullen	Lacey	Rooney	Robinson	Ruddock	Lafayette	Walker	Justham
Drury	Howells	Rooney	Stockley	Franks	Cullen	Miller	Whalley	Robinson	Walker	Justham
DRURY 1	Howells	Whalley	Stockley	Lacey	Wall	Cullen	Robinson	Walker	Connolly	Justham
Drury	Howells	WHALLEY 1	Stockley	Lacey	Lawless	Wall	Cullen	Miller	Robinson	Justham

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# HOLD THE Back Page

WITH BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO'S SIMON OXLEY

So here comes part three of this season's Cambridge trilogy. Even JK Rowling would be tested to come up with new storylines to the Luton versus Cambridge saga, but in fairness the matches seldom disappoint.



The league game at the Abbey Stadium back in September was crucial for Luton as they were in the early stages of a run which has placed them among the promotion contenders.

The FA Cup game earlier this month was a cracking tie, once the referee realised you could play on a muddy pitch, and Cambridge have gone on to fully reap the rewards of winning. What a performance they put in against Manchester United, and what a night they will have at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

## Fans

I'm sure there were more than a few Hatters diehards who were Cambridge fans for that second 45 minutes, as Falcao, Van Persie, Di Maria and co were given a real taste of English football. Shame their manager couldn't have been more gracious, but there we are.

Speaking of outspoken managers, it's another return to Kenilworth Road today for Richard Money.

I know he wasn't everyone's cup of tea, but Richard played an important role here. As I wrote in these pages when promotion was confirmed last season, all the managers in the "conference years" made a contribution before John Still moulded everything together.

Richard's honesty in giving us some home truths about what was in store for the club in the Conference

made us realise that a return to the Football League was not a formality.

Returning managers have had mixed welcomes down the years, for example polite applause for Lennie Lawrence, which recognised the job he had done in difficult circumstances, without ever taking on "hero" status. I don't think we knew quite what

to do when Mike Newell came back with

Grimsby. There was recognition of the fantastic memories of winning League One, mixed with a sadness at the way it all ended.

I can remember the late Ray Harford returning with Wimbledon a year after his departure, and that was a lively affair to say the least. John Fashanu pole-axed David Beaumont, and was afterwards defended by Ray who was more upset with Luton physio Dave Galley for apparently standing on Fashanu as he dashed on to attend to the stricken Beaumont.

Many of us smiled as we recalled how Ray - when Luton manager the season before - has condemned Fashanu for his role in a red card for Mick Kennedy.

## Welcomed

There are mixed reactions for former players coming back as well of course, but I think it's safe to say that the young man from Norwich back on this pitch this afternoon will be warmly welcomed.

Automatic promotion is up for grabs. Shrewsbury, as we saw here, look strong and overcame a resurgent Stevenage last week. Surely Wycombe will fade - but we've been saying that since October; but could today's opponents emerge from the pack if some of the Man Utd windfall finds its way into the playing budget?

So stand by for the next chapter of Luton versus Cambridge - will there be another one before the end of the season I wonder?



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# THE SQUADS



## LUTON TOWN

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Mark Tyler            | 19 Ricky Miller     |
| 2 Fraser Franks         | 20 Shaun Whalley    |
| 3 Danny Fitzsimons      | 21 Luke Guttridge   |
| 4 Jonathan Smith        | 22 Michael Harriman |
| 5 Stephen McNulty       | 23 Matthew Robinson |
| 6 Alex Lacey            | 24 Curtley Williams |
| 7 Alex Lawless          | 26 Nathan Doyle     |
| 8 Andy Drury            | 28 Jim Stevenson    |
| 9 Paul Benson           | 29 Paul Connolly    |
| 10 Alex Wall            | 30 Luke Wilkinson   |
| 11 Jake Howells         | 32 Brett Longden    |
| 12 Scott Griffiths      | 33 Mark Onyemah     |
| 13 Mark Cullen          | 34 Zane Banton      |
| 14 Andy Parry           | 35 Charlie Walker   |
| 15 Luke Rooney          | 36 Charlie Smith    |
| 16 Elliot Justham       | 37 Kynan Isaac      |
| 17 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu | 39 Ian Rees         |
| 18 Ross Lafayette       |                     |



## CAMBRIDGE UNITED

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Chris Dunn      | 17 Liam Hughes      |
| 2 Richard Tait    | 18 Michael Nelson   |
| 3 Greg Taylor     | 19 Dominic Ball     |
| 4 Josh Coulson    | 20 Cameron McGeehan |
| 6 Ian Miller      | 22 Luke Chadwick    |
| 7 Ryan Donaldson  | 26 Liam Hurst       |
| 8 Tom Champion    | 27 Bobby Joe Taylor |
| 10 Tom Elliott    | 28 James Akintunde  |
| 11 Harrison Dunk  | 30 Matt Lowe        |
| 13 Will Norris    | 31 Sullay Kaikai    |
| 14 Johnny Hunt    | 32 Ryan Bird        |
| 15 Robbie Simpson | 40 Jordan Chiedozie |
| 16 Mitch Austin   |                     |

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Jeremy Simpson



Ashvin Degnarain



Craig Hicks



Mathew Buonassisi

## NEXT UP

v YORK CITY • TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2015 • 7.45pm  
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