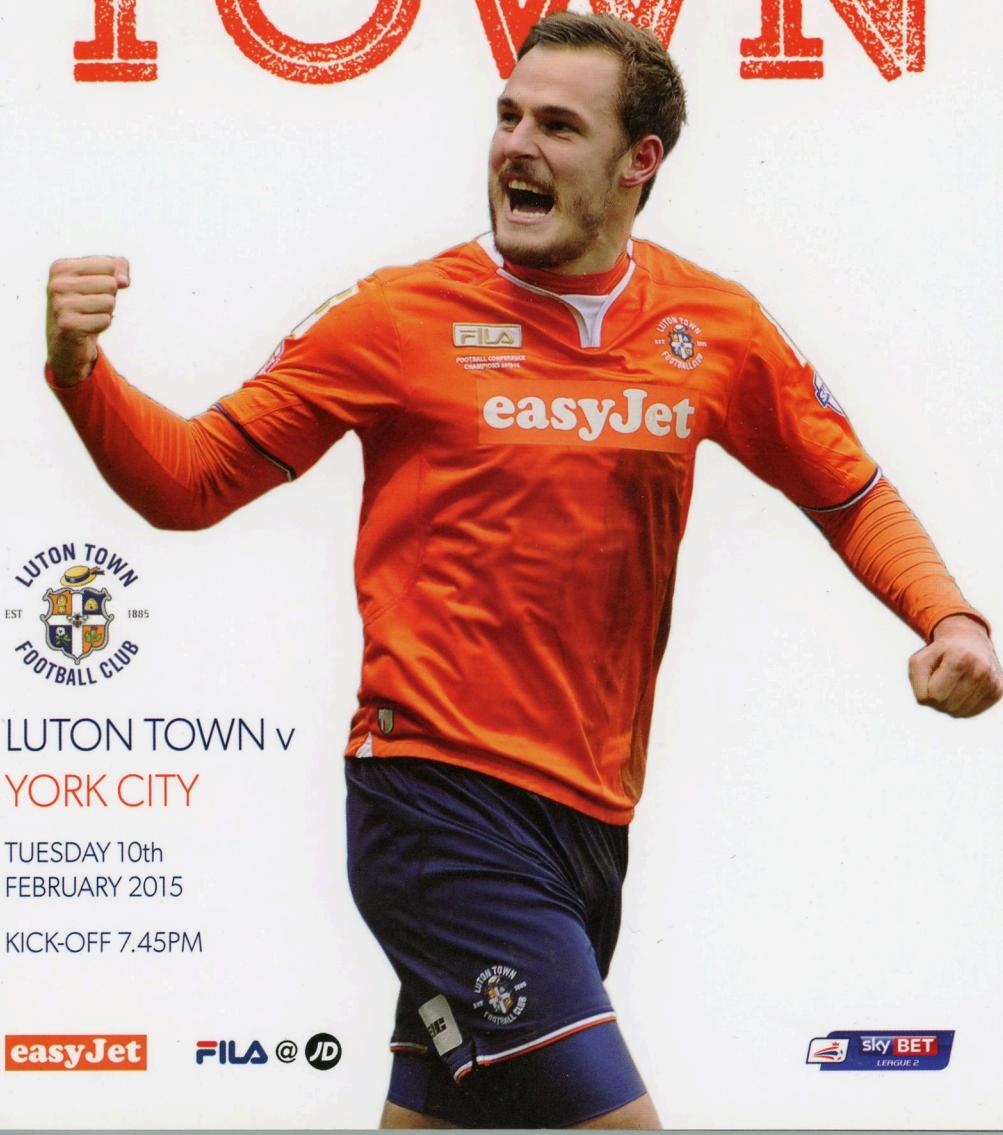


TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v
YORK CITY

TUESDAY 10th
FEBRUARY 2015

KICK-OFF 7.45PM

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welcome TO KENILWORTH ROAD



“ Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the first of two matches here on home soil this week, with York City our visitors tonight and Carlisle United in town on Valentine's Day.

After our last two matches against the varsity sides in Cambridge and Oxford we remain in a healthy position in the League 2 table but we will be wary tonight of a York side who have proven to be a thorn in our side in the past. The Hatters have won just once in the last 12 encounters. It's time that changed!

You can read more about our visitors inside tonight's issue of Talk of the Town, as well as catching-up with all the transfer deadline day news last week, including words from new signing Ryan Hall who has penned an 18-month contract.

There's plenty more besides, including notes from the boardroom by finance director Roger Bannister and all the news and views from our academy and community departments. Remember if you want anything to appear in a later issue of Talk of the Town – just get in touch by email or by giving us a call at the club. Enjoy! #COYH

”

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FINANCE DIRECTOR: Roger Bannister

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GOALKEEPER COACH: Kevin Dearden

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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 evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the first of two home matches in Sky Bet League 2 this week.

Tonight I'd like to welcome Russ Wilcox and his team and staff, plus the directors and supporters of York City. Our visitors have had found results hard to come by in recent weeks but you can guarantee that they will be up for turning that around here this evening in front of a big crowd.

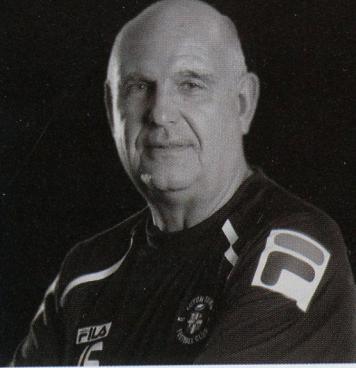
Talking of support, I must start these notes by thanking you for your backing in our last two matches.

At home to Cambridge over 10,000 people were in the ground which made for a fantastic atmosphere, and the game itself matched the buzz of the crowd. As Cambridge staged a comeback we really needed your support, especially in the closing stages, and in the end we were able to hang on to record an important victory.

Tremendous

At Oxford on Saturday over 2,000 of you made the short trip and helped us earn another point on our travels. It was tremendous to see so many of you in the away end and although your level of support away from home is something we've become accustomed to it is never, ever taken for granted. On behalf of all the staff and players, thank you.

On the pitch the last two games have seen us take four points and I was particularly happy with the result and performance against Cambridge. The first half saw us play some excellent football and score some really good goals.



Cambridge came out in the second half and gave it a really good go but we held firm.

At Oxford I was satisfied with a point. It was a game in which both sides enjoyed some dangerous spells in which some decent chances were created. I was delighted for Jayden Stockley to score his first goal for us because he has worked his socks off in every game he's played for us so far. Oxford's goal was disappointing to concede so close to half-time and after half-time they put us under pressure.

We rode that storm, made a few changes and ended the game the more likely team to score a winner. It wasn't to be in the end but a point against an improving Oxford side is not to be sniffed at.

Welcome

On Saturday we were able to give debuts to two new arrivals in Ryan Hall and Nathan Oduwa and I'd like to welcome them both to Kenilworth Road. I think supporters who were at Oxford will have, like me, been impressed with their contributions.

Ryan is a player I have known for sometime and have worked with him before when he was younger. He has a real abundance of talent and he was unlucky not to mark his debut with a goal early in Saturday's game. Nathan is a young, raw, powerful attacker who really gave us some energy and dynamism going forward following his second half introduction.

Deadline

We signed Nathan on-loan from Spurs on deadline day, a day in which we also secured the services of Jayden for another month.

I am really not a fan of the whole deadline day thing. Myself and Gary Sweet spent pretty much the whole day on the phone, talking to players and other clubs. It really is quite an exhausting process.

STILL ENCOURAGED

"ALTHOUGH YOUR LEVEL OF SUPPORT AWAY FROM HOME IS SOMETHING WE'VE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO IT IS NEVER, EVER TAKEN FOR GRANTED. ON BEHALF OF ALL THE STAFF AND PLAYERS, THANK YOU."

We were close to finalising a deal in the final hour for a player but we could not make it happen in time. That particular player might be something we revisit soon when the loan reopens this week, but we shall see.

Turning attention back to tonight, though, and like all the games this one will be tough. Your support has made the difference before so please make sure that's the case again and get behind your team.

Enjoy the game.

BOARDROOM

WITH FINANCE DIRECTOR ROGER BANNISTER



Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for this evening's game against York City.

A special welcome goes to the players, officials and supporters from old rivals York City in what is sure to be an exciting hard fought game. Our record against York is not the best, with just one win from our last 12 games. Who will ever forget the 2012 Conference Play-Off final at Wembley when, after the ecstasy of an early Andre Gray goal, we lost 2-1. Their winner will always be a talking point among Luton supporters – but that is in the past now, and tonight we meet as two Football League clubs for the first time since 2002. However, a repeat of the 2011 home game when we won 5-0 would be very welcome!

Madness

Thankfully the annual madness that is the January transfer window is over for another year with over 400 transfers taking place, 115 of them on the last day! And whether it is the signing by Manchester City of Wilfred Bony, the Ivory Coast striker, for £28m, or the free transfer of Kostadin Gadzhalov from Dobrudzha Dobrich to Dundee, there does appear to be an element of panic involved in the merry go round. I was listening to the BBC Radio 4 sports news yesterday morning on my way in to work and an 'expert' was being interviewed who had analysed last year's January transfer dealings. His conclusions were that very few of the players transferred had had a huge impact on their new clubs, in fact quite a large percentage of the signings had not featured regularly in their respective teams!

So how did Luton do in the 'window'? As is the Luton way there was no panic involved, John Still, Gary Sweet and club secretary Kevan Platt were involved on the deadline day but no ridiculous fees or astronomic wages were paid to attract players. Financial stability being the key feature although investors had made it clear that if there was an outstanding deal to be done they would be willing to finance it.

Ryan Hall was signed on a permanent deal, Nathan Oduwa was signed on loan from Tottenham Hotspur and Michael Harriman and Jayden Stockley's loan deals were extended. Meanwhile, Solomon Taiwo and Dave Martin also left Kenilworth Road, and we thank them for the contributions they have made here and wish them well at their new clubs.

Although we have a large squad by League 2 standards, the policy pursued by the manager and chief executive is to reduce costs and get players match fit by placing them out on loan playing competitively with other clubs. Taking into consideration, however, the players out on-loan – as well as those unavailable through injury – we have 21 available senior professionals, which is a healthy number for John and his team to work with. What's most pleasing from my financial point of view is that this has all been achieved within budget.

Strong

Our squad looks strong and with injured players such as Luke Guttridge, Alex Lawless and Paul Benson coming back to fitness we are in a great position to push on and achieve a second successive promotion.

Having had long spells at Birmingham City and West Ham United I am always impressed by the support and commitment in terms of time and money displayed by fans. Luton Town's supporters are second to none! Up to the Cambridge United game the aggregate total of fans attending Kenilworth Road games was 122,426, an average home gate of 8,745 (and growing) second only to Portsmouth.

We also top the league in away fans, with an average of 1,228, travelling the length and breadth of the country to support the team – although that figure is likely to be even greater after 2,500 of you travelled to Oxford on Saturday. I think there's no doubt that these numbers travelling to away matches would be higher had we been given more tickets to sell. The support, however has been nothing short of magnificent, so thank you.

We have also had our game against Wycombe Wanderers scheduled for television coverage, the original Saturday match on the 21st March re-scheduled to the following Tuesday, the 24th. The Club has had a number of supporters, quite understandably, a little perturbed for a variety of reasons, by this change.

We do, however have little choice - we have signed a contract with the Football League, who in turn are contracted to the broadcaster, in this case Sky. The Club receives £30,000 for being featured on television, the equivalent of 1,800 paying fans at £20 per ticket once VAT is excluded. Very often the value of the fee is reduced as fans decide to watch the game on the small screen rather than attend the match with the result that some atmosphere within the stadium can be lost. I would personally rather have a full ground AND the fee! So, if at all possible, get down to Kenilworth Road and support the team in what could be a crucial, possibly season-defining game.

Event

Off the pitch our commercial activities continue to grow, with more and more supporters making a day a Kenilworth Road an event rather than just watching a football match. We are offering a package based in the newly created Trophy Room, which is proving popular having already sold for six of the last 10 games. Numbers eating within the Eric Morcambe suite prior to the match have more than doubled on last season and, while some teething problems have occurred, we are working hard to make sure that supporters are treated to a first class experience. All remaining games have a match sponsor and ball sponsor and mascot packages are selling well. As part of our relationship with sponsors last week saw a five-a-side competition at which EasyJet, NICEIC, Venue 360, Bedfordshire Police and SKF entered teams. The Luton Town office team were knocked out in the quarter finals, the competition eventually being won by Venue 360!

Condolences

Finally last Tuesday we saw the death announced of Ken Hawkes, a member of the 1959 FA Cup Final team, aged 81. Ken attended our 2009 function to commemorate 50 years since that great Luton team reached the cup final. He was an absolute gentleman and will be remembered with great affection here at Kenilworth Road. Our condolences go to his family and friends. There will be a minute's applause, in his memory, before the game this evening.

Roger



HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

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

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup:
Runners-up 1988

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

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

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One:
Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Skrill Premier Champions:
2013/14

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

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

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

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

Southern Alliance:
Runners-up 1913/14



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MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



I think that Saturday's point at Oxford could turn out to be a very valuable one come the end of the season.

They might have been in and around mid-table but they made life very difficult for us and you can see why their results have picked up in recent weeks. They had us under the cosh in spells just before and after half-time, during which they equalised and came close to taking the lead. The gaffer made a few changes with about half-an-hour left and they had the desired effect and Wally came close to snatching us a win, only to see his free-kick well-saved. Jayden scored his first goal for us and we were all delighted for him and the two new lads also did well. They've fitted in straight away and I think they are both going to make quite an impact for us.

A point is better than nothing, though, and it kept our unbeaten run going which now stands at eight games since our last defeat against Morecambe. Since that December defeat we have played well without really hitting top form and come up against some good sides in decent form. Five of the last eight games have ended in draws but I certainly feel we could have taken an extra two points in a couple of those matches. The Shrewsbury home match and the away game at Cheltenham spring to mind.

As I've said before, however, it goes to show how far we've come as a football club to be disappointed with draws against experienced Football League players. I think our performances this season have been good so far, and with a number of players returning from injury I can only see us improving as the season reaches its climax. Including tonight's game we have 18 matches and 54 points left to play for. You can be rest assured that we will be going into every game with confidence that we can end the season in the kind of form that made us a success last year.

We know what we are capable of and at home and the good thing is we've made Kenilworth Road a real fortress in the last few months.

Our rivals from last year Cambridge gave us a right old test in our previous home match. We played some great stuff to lead 3-0 at the break before they came back and almost pinched a draw. I thought we deserved to win the game, but as a defender I was frustrated at the two goals we conceded. I guess if you're looking for a positive from conceding twice, it's that it just serves as a reminder for us to keep switched on in games. Despite those two sloppy goals, defensively our record has been pretty impressive this season with only Shrewsbury conceding fewer goals than ourselves.

Tonight we face York, a team I know Luton have struggled to beat in the recent past, including a Play-Off final. The majority of the lads, including myself, weren't involved in those games so anything that's happened previously should have no bearing on this evening's game. All I know is that we are very strong at home and I will be expecting us to continue our good run of results on home soil tonight. Don't get me wrong, York will make it tough. They're not doing as well as they would probably like so we have to guard against that. But we know what we are capable of at home and the good thing is we've made Kenilworth Road a real fortress in the last few months.

It's probably been well documented elsewhere in this programme but I'd like to say a big thank you as well to the numbers of you who have turned out to support us this season, in particular in the last two games. The support over the festive period and throughout January was unreal. It makes me a very proud captain to look out and see so many people roaring us on. To have almost 2,500 at Oxford on Saturday is quite an achievement. I'm reliably informed that the following was the eighth highest in England over the weekend which is astonishing.

Enjoy the game tonight and I look forward to welcoming you again on Saturday when we play Carlisle.

Meet the new boys

Since we were last at Kenilworth Road the Hatters announced the arrivals of attackers Ryan Hall and Nathan Oduwa.

We unveiled the signing of Hall on an 18-month contract following his departure from Championship side Rotherham United at half-time at our game with Cambridge United just over a week ago.

The 27-year-old winger has previously played under John Still whilst on-loan with Dagenham & Redbridge from Crystal Palace in 2008.



Ryan Hall

Hall began his career as a youngster at Arsenal and then Palace, but was restricted to just one League appearance with the Eagles. He left Selhurst Park and resurrected his career in non-league circles at Bromley.

After impressing at Bromley, Hall made the switch to League 2 Southend United in July 2010, and the winger made an instant impact at Roots Hall. He scored nine goals in his first season with the Shrimpers and then scored

11 times the following campaign – which also saw him create 25 goals – as Southend reached the Play-Offs.

His form with the Shrimpers was alerting the attention of other clubs and in October 2012 the attacker joined Championship Leeds United.

Ryan's time at Elland Road saw him play just nine times and last season he spent time out on loan, including a spell at Sheffield United. He left Leeds this summer and signed for their Yorkshire rivals Rotherham, and scored the winning goal in the Millers' 1-0 win over Wolves in August.

Having joined Notts County on-loan in November, Hall made six appearances in League 1 for the Magpies before returning to Rotherham and negotiated his release.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Oduwa penned a youth loan contract with the Town from Tottenham Hotspur on deadline day.

The England Under-18 international forward is capable of playing on the left flank or down the middle, and joined Spurs in July 2012. He made six appearances for their Under-18s in 2012/13, scoring in his first three matches.

The powerful and pacey attacker scored 10 goals for the Tottenham youth team last term, missing just four of Spurs' 24 matches. He also made three appearances for the London club's under-21 side.

This season Oduwa has scored twice and set-up four further goals in 14 matches for the Tottenham Under-21s, including a strike against Manchester United in the Under-21 Premier League.

Striker Jayden Stockley extended his loan from AFC Bournemouth for a further month, keeping him at Kenilworth Road up to and including the away game at Bury on 3rd March.

Two players have also since departed Kenilworth Road. Midfielders Solomon Taiwo and Dave Martin have had their contracts mutually cancelled. We wish them well in their future careers.

REST IN PEACE

We were saddened to receive the news of the death of long-standing Hatters supporter John Custance.



John, pictured above, sadly passed away on December 29th aged 84. A proud Town fan for 75 years, John would always talk about his beloved football team to anyone who would listen. He would often reminisce about meeting Sir Stanley Matthews's walking up Hazelbury Crescent to the ground, stopping to sign autographs, the 1959 Cup Final, and being so excited when he went to Wembley to see the Town beat Scunthorpe in 2009. He even had some of the turf in his front garden when the plastic pitch was laid in the 1980s.

Our thoughts are with all of John's family and family.

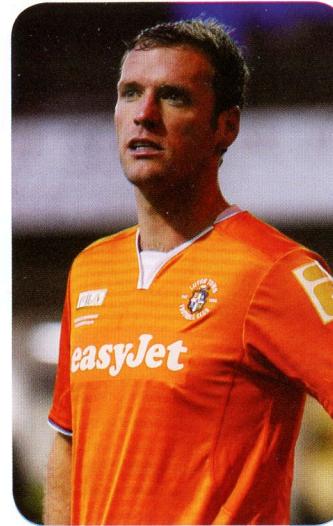
DIAMOND VOTES NOW OPEN

Voting for the January's Diamond Player of the Month is now open until Sunday 15th February.

Diamond season ticket holders must send their vote to diamond@lutontown.co.uk. One lucky supporter who votes for the eventual winner will receive either a Diamond Mascot Package if a junior winner is drawn out, or two tickets for hospitality and the opportunity to present the trophy if an adult is successful. These will be available for the Accrington Stanley game.

December's winner was Andy Drury, who will be presented with the trophy after tonight's game.

Other points of note for diamonds season ticket holders: One of your



benefits for adult diamond season ticket holders are two tickets for hospitality in the Eric Morecambe Suite for a game of your choice. This was on a first come, first served basis subject to specific game availability.

A large number of diamond season ticket holders have now taken advantage of this benefit. However, anybody still looking to do so should be advised the choice of games is now very limited. So please book as soon as possible whilst some availability remains.

Lastly, please be advised a date for the Diamond Meet the Manager night will be announced shortly as will dates for the Junior Matchday experience of a penalty shootout on the pitch.

THANK YOU!

A small group of Town supporters, pictured right, turned up at Kenilworth Road with shovels in hand on the morning of our last home match with Cambridge.

A dusting of snow fell on the covers on the night before the game which made them heavy and difficult to move for head groundsman Richard Bird and his assistant Roger Osborne.

But thanks to our magnificent volunteers the pitch was cleared and the covers removed revealing the surface beneath.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who turned up and helped ready the ground for the match, which of course we won 3-2! The stronger the team, the stronger the team!



THANK YOU... AGAIN!

A big thank you to those supporters who contributed to the MS Society's bucket collection at our last home match with Cambridge, which raised £879.79.

The money raised will go towards the £15,700 target the Society aims to raise annually for a minibus and driver which helps transport people to the Bedford MS Therapy Centre.

TOWN ON TV

The Town's home Sky Bet League 2 fixture with Wycombe Wanderers has been chosen for live television coverage by Sky Sports.

The game will now take place on Tuesday 24th March and kick-off at 7.45pm, and not Saturday 21st March as previously stated. Wycombe, who currently lie in second place in the League 2 table, have only lost once away all season. The Town, meanwhile, will be hoping to improve a record in front of the television cameras that has seen them win just once in the last 12 televised fixtures!

up next



HATTERS FANS WON'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER HOME GAME AS CARLISLE UNITED ARE THE VISITORS TO KENILWORTH ROAD ON SATURDAY

CARLISLE UNITED



WHO? Carlisle United, aka the Cumbrians, aka the Blues, are the next visitors to Kenilworth Road when they make the 275-mile trip down to Bedfordshire on Saturday. Formed in 1904, their badge (left) takes elements from the city's coat of arms, including two wyverns which are the regent of Cumbria. United are back in League 2 this term after relegation from League 1 last season.

WHERE? Carlisle is a long way away so you might not know too much about it. It's the city and county town of Cumbria and is just 10 miles south of the Scottish border. United spent one season – 1974/75 – in the top flight, which made the city the smallest location, by population, to have had a resident top-flight club in English football since 1906. United play their home games at Brunton Park, which has a capacity of over 18,000. Their average league gate this season is 4,298, but their highest gate of the season was the 6,760 for the Hatters' first on the opening day of the campaign.

SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE. In the years in which the Town were out of the Conference (United spent a season in that division, too, winning the Play-Offs in 2005), United enjoyed an eight-season spell in League 1. Carlisle won the League 2 title in 2006 and came close to reaching the third tier's Play-Offs in 2011/12 when finishing eighth and four points off the top six. Success did come in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in 2010/11 – the Cumbrians' second Football League Trophy triumph.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? The Hatters' opening day of the season win at Brunton Park was the Town's ninth victory over the Cumbrians.

Saturday's game will be the 24th meeting between the two clubs. The Town hold the head-to-head advantage, winning nine to Carlisle's six – eight games have finished all square. At Kenilworth Road, Saturday's visitors have won twice before – but not since a 1-0 win back in 1972. Since then the Hatters have won five and drawn two of the last seven meetings at Kenilworth Road. Included in those are a 6-1 win in September 1973 and a 5-0 victory in March 1977.

THIS TIME ROUND. Many were expecting Carlisle to be challenging for an immediate return to League 1 but the Brunton Park faithful have been left frustrated with a season of struggle. Graham Kavanagh was axed in September and was replaced by Keith Curle. United's form has improved under Curle as Carlisle edge away from the relegation zone. Tonight they could do the Town a favour when they host Shrewsbury – and then on the following Saturday when they take on Wycombe.

CLUB CONNECTIONS. Few players have held the distinction of playing for both the Hatters and Carlisle during their careers. As far as we can fathom, only three have enjoyed permanent spells and made a significant contribution with both clubs: Dixie Deans, Jack Lornie and Alan McBain. Deans, now 68, was prolific for Motherwell and Celtic before moving to Kenilworth Road in 1976 for a brief spell that saw him score six times in 14 matches.

DID YOU KNOW? United have reached the final of the Football League (JPT as known now) Trophy a record six times, winning twice – in 1997 and 2011 – and losing four times – in 1995, 2003, 2006 and 2010. Their 1995 defeat to Birmingham was the first time a Wembley final was decided by a golden goal when Birmingham scored their winner.

tickets please



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 on general sale from the Ticket Office 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

This match is all-ticket for Luton Town supporters.

We have received an allocation of 750 terrace tickets and 79 seats for this fixture. Sales plan: Tickets will be on sale to Diamond Season Ticket holders from 2.30pm Thursday 5th February. They will remain on sale until close of business Wednesday 11th February. An allocation of one ticket per person we be allowed.

Due to the limited the number of seats, attempts are currently being made to contact Away Season Ticket holders to ask if they require a seat or terrace ticket. If you have not received a call please contact the Ticket Office on 01582 416976 or via e mail on ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk to advise.

If you do not require your ticket please contact the Ticket Office as soon as possible.

Due to the limited total allocation, a further sales plan will be released in due course.

Dependant on the number of tickets left, this may well include an extra sales period for Season Ticket holders who have attended a certain number of away games this season. In an effort to make it fair to all Season Ticket holders, it is also possible that the sales periods for Season Ticket holders may be via phone only in the evenings.

Prices: Seats: £20 adults, £13 over-65s and students with ID, £9 under-18s. Terracing: £16 adults, £10 over-65s and students with ID, £4 under-18s.

Ambulant supporters will pay the appropriate price for their age with a carer free of charge.

Wheelchair disabled supporters should contact AFC Wimbledon directly on 020 8547 3528.

AFC Wimbledon have advised that checks will be carried out on the day, and anybody with any concession or age related ticket could be asked to show proof of this. If not available they will be liable to the additional cost.



LUTON TOWN v ACCRINGTON STANLEY

SKY BET LEAGUE 2



SATURDAY 28th 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.

SPEAKING Commercially

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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TODAY'S MASCOT

This evening we have the pleasure of welcoming our commercial mascot tonight who is 10-year-old Jazzy Graham from Taddington in Derbyshire.

Jazzy comes to home matches here at Kenilworth Road with her dad, granddad and sister. Her favourite player is Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, who Jazzy will meet before the game before she leads the team out onto the pitch prior to kick-off. We hope you have an evening to remember with us tonight Jazzy!



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welcome

YORK CITY



It gives us great pleasure to welcome all those associated with York City who have made the trip down from Bootham Crescent to be here at Kenilworth Road this evening.

The Minstermen make their first visit to Kenilworth Road since beating the Hatters 2-1 in March 2012, which turned out to be Gary Brabin's last match in charge of the Town.

Since then of course, both clubs have experienced plenty of highs and lows. At the end of the 2011/12 campaign, City beat the Hatters in the Conference Play-Off final to win promotion back to the Football League.

Last season, as the Hatters romped to the Conference title to earn themselves promotion, tonight's visitors were on the march towards the League 2 Play-Offs.

The Minstermen were towards the foot of the table at around this time last season but went on a magnificent run which cumulated in a seventh place finish and with it a shot at the Play-Offs. However, Fleetwood Town beat City in the Play-Off semi-final and the Lancashire side would go on and win promotion by beating Burton in the final.

Last season's success was masterminded by former Northern Ireland and Norwich manager Nigel Worthington,

but he paid for a poor run of form at the start of this season and was axed in October. Barking orders from the away dugout this evening will be Russ Wilcox, the one-time centre-half in his playing days, who took over from Worthington.

Last season Wilcox enjoyed success of his own, guiding Scunthorpe to promotion from League 2 as runners-up behind champions Chesterfield.

The Minstermen have continued to struggle under Wilcox, though, and arrive in Bedfordshire tonight in need of the points to steer them clear of relegation trouble. York have particularly found it tough to win in front of their own supporters but on their travels Wilcox's side have a record that is better than promotion chasers Shrewsbury and Bury.

On the road in recent weeks the Minstermen have found life difficult, not helped by fixtures away to Southend, Wycombe, Burton and Plymouth in their last seven games away from Bootham Crescent. Wilcox's side last won on their travels on 28th December with a comfortable 3-0 win at fellow strugglers Carlisle.

Those diehard York supporters in the Oak Road will be hoping their side can continue their excellent record against the Hatters in recent meetings – but the Town can take heart that all seven previous Football League fixtures played at Kenilworth Road have all been won by the home side.



in opposition

OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM THE BOOTHAM CRESCENT

► MANAGER

RUSS WILCOX. The boss who took over from Nigel Worthington in October earlier this season. A defender as a player, he was in charge at Scunthorpe last season, helping the Iron win promotion to League 1 after finishing as runners-up.

► GOALKEEPERS

MICHAEL INGHAM. Experienced stopper now in his seventh full season at Bootham Crescent. Joined from Sunderland, initially on-loan, he has kept over 100 clean sheets in more than 300 games for City.

BOBBY OLEJNIK. Former Austrian under-21 international who joined the Minstermen in early January this year – the fourth keeper to appear for City this season. Formerly with Villa, Falkirk and Peterborough.

► DEFENDERS

MARVIN McCOY. Former Arsenal and Watford scholar who arrived at York in 2014 after almost 100 games for Wycombe. Has been capped seven times for Antigua and Barbuda.



FEMI ILESANMI. Left-back or centre-half who joined City this summer after spending four years with Dagenham. Firstly on the books at Wimbledon and then QPR, John Still signed the defender from Ashford.

JOHN McCOMBE. Experienced Football League campaigner, centre-half John began his career at Huddersfield. A short spell at Hereford followed before five seasons and 200 games for Port Vale. Joined York from Mansfield in 2013/14.

KEITH LOWE. Centre-back in his first full season with City, having arrived in November last season. Joined after over 100 appearances for Cheltenham, but he has also played for Wolves, Burnley and QPR.

MALVIND BENNING. Young defender currently on-loan from League 1 side Walsall. Broke into the Saddlers' first team as a teenager, making 41 Football League appearances.

STEPHANE ZUBAR. Guadeloupe-born centre-half currently on loan from AFC Bournemouth. Started at Caen in France before moving to England with Plymouth in 2010.

► MIDFIELDERS

MICHAEL COULSON. Winger or striker who joined York from Grimsby in 2012/13. Started his career at hometown Scarborough before moving to Barnsley, but joined Grimsby in 2010.

LUKE SUMMERFIELD. Devon-born central midfielder who came through the ranks to play 91 times for Plymouth. Left for Cheltenham in 2011/12 and then Shrewsbury before signing for York this summer.

RUSSELL PENN. The York captain. Signed for the Minstermen in 2013/14 from Cheltenham. The midfielder has played over 450 times in his career, having also had spells at Kidderminster and Burton.

JOSH CARSON. Northern Ireland international winger who signed last season from Ipswich. Originally joined City on loan before making the move permanent in 2013.

BRAD HALLIDAY. Teenager midfielder, who can also play at right-back, who is on a season-long loan from Championship side Middlesbrough.

TOM PLATT. Central midfielder who can also fill in at centre-half. Came through the ranks at Bootham Crescent and has established himself over the past two seasons to become a regular.

► STRIKERS

WES FLETCHER. Frontman who arrived at Bootham Crescent in 2013 following his release from Burnley. Made two appearances for the Clares but spent time out on loan at five clubs. Scored 13 goals last season.

LINDON MEIKLE. Striker or wideman who signed this summer after making over 100 appearances for Mansfield. Began his career at Eastwood Town before helping the Stags win the Conference title.

CARLTON MORRIS. England Under-19 international forward currently on-loan from Norwich City. Had a spell with Oxford earlier this season.

EMILE SINCLAIR. Striker who joined the Minstermen last month after his release from Northampton. A successful spell at Macclesfield saw him sold to Peterborough before stints at Doncaster and Crawley.

JAKE HYDE. Forward who signed from Barnet in the summer after scoring 12 goals last season in the Conference for the Bees. Began his career at Swindon before a spell in Scotland with Dunfermline and Dundee.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

Two teams who wanted the same thing – that's how Minsterman **Will Harris** sums up the Luton versus York rivalry as we battled to get out on the Conference. Now minus Brodie, minus Walker, minus Blair, Will introduces York's class of 2015...



TALK OF THE TOWN: What have been the highlights and low points of your season so far? How has manager Russ Wilcox fared since he took the reins at Bootham Crescent?

WILL: Highlights – not that many! It turned out that poor summer recruitment combined with conceding a number of late goals in the early games meant we fairly quickly ended up down the bottom of the table. The 3-0 away win over Carlisle in December was the best overall team performance – strong in all areas, slick passing and three tremendous goals. The low points must be the amount of late goals conceded. If matches had only been played for 85 minutes we'd be in the top 10, which shows how many points we've thrown away. We've only won once at home all season in all competitions, which is pretty depressing.

City head honcho Russ Wilcox's arrival came after Nigel Worthington resigned following a horrible display away at Newport. So far, Russ has attempted to strengthen the side in key positions and is introducing a more considered style of passing, but these things take time.

TOTT: Are you surprised the team haven't kicked on this season after a strong finish last campaign? Are you concerned that the team may slip back into non-league?



Russ Wilcox

to parent clubs and Lanre Oyebarjo turned down his contract offer and moved to Crawley. If you're down the bottom, you're always concerned you'll slip back, but Russ is improving the team slowly and we should have enough to pull away.

TOTT: Which of your players have impressed most so far this season and why?

WILL: Keith Lowe has been a rock at the back, continuing his form from last season, but also now adding goals to his repertoire – five to date. Michael Coulson has been a force both wide and as a striker, although since Russ arrived he's played exclusively in a wide role.

TOTT: Describe how much of a relief it was to get out of the Conference. Did you think City deserved to win the Play-Off final three years ago?

WILL: Getting out of the Conference was massive, as you all know as well. If we'd still been in the Conference today there is a very realistic possibility we'd no longer exist due to the losses we were making. Promotion got us back on a more even financial keel and allowed the long-awaited move to a new stadium to take shape, which will again help us financially. We all love Bootham Crescent but it costs us a huge sum of money every year to keep it open.

WILL: Not really – last season's strong finish was built almost exclusively on an incredibly strong defence, including two loan players, one of whom, Nick Pope, is one of the best goalkeepers I've seen play for City in 23 years of watching them. We lost three of the five players who made up that defence in the summer – two returned



The Minstermen celebrate promotion after beating the Town in the Conference Play-Off final in 2012

On the Play-Off final, Luton fans will point to the offside Matty Blair goal early in the second half. City fans will point to a nailed on penalty not given to us in the first half. I'd say we deserved to win on chances created, but then I would say that wouldn't I? City played at Wembley twice in eight days that season as we were there the week before in the FA Trophy final, beating Newport County 2-0. That day I simply enjoyed the match and how we knocked the ball around. During the Play-Off final though, I was a bag of nerves. Worry after Gray scored very early for you, then three moments of elation – the two goals and the final whistle.

TOTT: Tell us about the Luton versus York rivalry from your point of view. Has this disappeared now both teams are back in the league?

WILL: I don't think it was ever a proper 'rivalry', simply two of the bigger clubs at that level both wanting the same thing – to get out of the Conference. I don't think any Luton fans see us in the same light as your proper rivals Watford. I saw every game between City and Luton during our Conference years, including that 2010 semi-final here, and looking back, it was just two teams going for the same objective. You're bound to have some needle there.

TOTT: What's the best York City game you have ever seen and why?

WILL: The 3-0 win in the League Cup at Old Trafford in 1995 takes some beating – we beat a Man United team with eight full internationals, had a goal wrongly disallowed for offside and this with a team second bottom of the Second Division (now League 1).

TOTT: Where will City and Luton finish come the end of the campaign? What's your prediction for today's game?



Keith Lowe



Michael Coulson

WILL: I think Luton will finish in the top seven, possibly kicking on to the top three.

You've had good results so far, you don't concede many – the joint lowest goals against at the time of writing – and you've got a good squad of players.

John Still is a very good manager. I think we'll have enough to stay up, hopefully with Russ pulling off some transfer market magic in the summer to help us have a season a bit better than this one next time around.

Today's game – look at the league positions! I'd take a draw right now.

A HATTER...

AND A MINSTERMAN

There are two former Minstermen in the current Town ranks in the shape of midfielders Jonathan Smith and Alex Lawless.

Smith in fact spent two spells with tonight's visitors, having originally signed for York from Forest Green Rovers in 2010. He played 39 times for the Minstermen in 2010/11 before his form took him to League 2 with Swindon the following campaign that saw Paolo Di Canio's men win the League 1 title. Smith fell out of favour at the County Ground and re-signed for City in the summer of 2012 – but his stay at Bootham Crescent would be a short one as the Town snapped up the midfielder, originally on loan, in October.

Like Smith, Lawless also made the switch from York to Kenilworth Road, arriving back in October 2010. And, like Smith, too, Lawless joined the Minstermen

from Forest Green Rovers. The Welshman also served Rovers well, racking up over 100 appearances in three seasons. He spent two seasons with York, helping the Minstermen to the Conference Play-Off final in 2011. Alex signed for the Town the following season and suffered the fate of losing in three successive finals – thank goodness for last season, eh?!

Talking of Play-Off finals, which we'll get onto more of below, Jason Walker played in successive finals, once for the Town, against Wimbledon in 2011, and then for York against the Hatters the following season.

Other players to have represented both clubs include defender Luke Graham, midfielders Rob Matthews and Andre Boucaud and the late goalkeeper Mark Ovendale, who once signed for the Hatters for just shy of half-a-million pounds.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

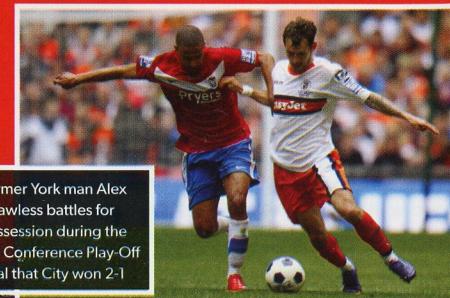
Ohhhh yes. If this piece was written before our years in the Conference the following paragraph would tell a story of how well the Town had done against the Minstermen in the previous meetings. Unfortunately, as we know, that is not the case.

The Hatters' record overall against York is still, just, better in terms of head-to-head meetings, winning 11 to City's nine with seven ending in stalemate. But the last 12 meetings between the two sides have the Town win just once – and that came courtesy of a 5-0 win when York keeper Michael Ingham was sent-off and the visitors had to play without a recognised stopper for over an hour. In the past 12 matches York have won seven. Crucially, one of those triumphs saw City beat the Town to promotion to the Football League during the Play-Off final at Wembley in 2012.

At Kenilworth Road the Town's record is much better than the record up at Bootham Crescent – the Hatters haven't even scored in their past

six visits there. On home soil the Town have won eight of the 12 games with York winning twice – once when coming from behind to win 2-1 in the Conference in March 2012, and once when winning 1-0 in the second leg of the Play-Off semi-finals in 2010.

Seven of the 12 matches played at Kenilworth Road have taken place in the Football League with the Hatters winning all seven of these fixtures. Included in this sequence is a 3-1 win in September 1967 – the season the Town went on to win the Division Four title – and a 2-1 triumph in February 2002 – the same season the Hatters also went onto win promotion from today's League 2 equivalent.



Former York man Alex Lawless battles for possession during the 2012 Conference Play-Off final that City won 2-1

back to the future

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

► 1983/84 FOURTH DIVISION CHAMPIONS

ROGER JONES: Former England Under-23 goalkeeper who followed Denis Smith to Sunderland as reserve team coach, then was a painter and decorator in Madeley, Staffs, and is now Swindon Town's kit man.

STEVE SENIOR: Right-back who joined Northampton Town in May 1987, then played for Wigan Athletic, Preston, Witton Albion and Stalybridge Celtic. He now runs a brick paving business in Sheffield.

ALAN HAY: Scottish left-back who later played for Tranmere, York again, Sunderland and Torquay. He was a publican in York, then ran Hat-Tricks Vans in Stockton and now has an antiques shop in Yarm.

RICKY SBRAGIA: Central defender who netted seven goals in 149 League games, then was youth coach at York, Sunderland, Manchester United and Sunderland again. He now manages Scotland Under-17s.

JOHN MACPHAIL: Central defender who joined Bristol City in August 1986, then Sunderland and Hartlepool's player-boss. He ran a kitchen business and is now a Reg Vardy car sales executive in Darlington.

DEREK HOOD: Long-serving favourite who netted 32 goals in 300 League games for York before moving to Goole in July 1988, then played for Harrogate. He has since become a BT engineer in Harrogate.

GARY FORD: Ever-present winger who joined Leicester City in July 1987, then Port Vale, Mansfield Town, Harstad, Hartlepool and York Railway Institute. He has since worked for Rowntree in York.

MALCOLM CROSBY: Midfielder who became assistant-boss. He also assisted Denis Smith at Sunderland and Oxford United, briefly managing both clubs, since becoming Birmingham City's chief scout.

KEITH WALWYN: Striker who joined Blackpool in July 1987, then played for Carlisle United and Kettering Town until a heart problem. He ran a sports shop in Kirkham until his early death in April 2003.

JOHN BYRNE: Leading scorer who joined QPR in October 1984. The Republic of Ireland international later played for Le Havre, Brighton, Sunderland, Millwall, Oxford United, Brighton again and Crawley.

BRIAN POLLARD: Ex-England Youth winger who later played for Chesterfield, Scarborough, Hartlepool and North Ferriby. He ran the East Riding pub in Sherburn, then worked in despatch for Ward Structures.

► 1992/93 PLAY-OFF WINNERS

DEAN KIELY: Goalkeeper who moved to Bury in August 1996. The Republic of Ireland international later played for Charlton, Portsmouth, Luton and West Brom, where he is now goalkeeping coach.

ANDY McMILLAN: Long-serving right-back who netted five goals in 421 League games before injury ended his career in October 1999. He has been a youth coach at York, Hull City and Lincoln City.

WAYNE HALL: Left-back who scored York's winning Wembley penalty and netted nine goals in 372 League games before joining Gainsborough Trinity in July 2001. He has since been a prison officer.

NIGEL PEPPER: Midfielder who moved to Bradford City in February 1997, then Aberdeen, Southend and Scunthorpe where injury ended his career. He helps to rehabilitate young offenders in York.

PAUL STANCLIFFE: Central defender and captain who scored three times in 91 League games for York and became their youth coach, then assistant-manager. He is now Doncaster Rovers' head of youth.

PAUL ATKIN: Ex-England Youth central defender who scored three goals in 153 League games before joining Scarborough in August 1997. Later with Gainsborough, he is now a driving instructor in York.

JON McCARTHY: Northern Ireland international who later played for Port Vale, Birmingham City, Doncaster, York again and Carlisle United. He now lectures in Sports Science at Mid-Cheshire College.

TONY CANHAM: Winger who netted 57 times in 347 League games prior to joining Hartlepool United in August 1995, then Harrogate Railway. He has since worked in the building industry in Leeds.

PAUL BARNES: Top scorer who moved to Birmingham in March 1996, then Burnley, Huddersfield, Bury, Doncaster, Tamworth and Hinckley United. He has since worked in sports finance in Leicester.

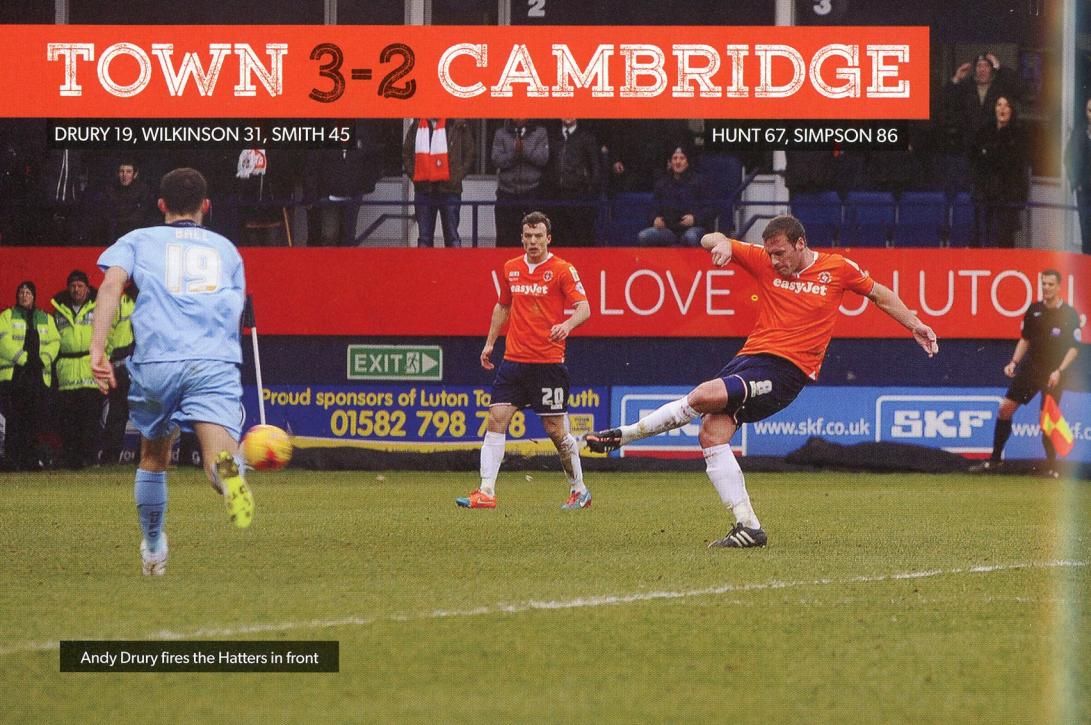
GARY SWANN: Midfielder who netted four goals in 82 League games before joining Scarborough in August 1994. He later played for South China and now works in leisure centre management in Surrey.

IAN BLACKSTONE: Winger who moved to Scarborough in August 1994, then Southport, Chorley, Guiseley and Harrogate. He is production manager for an engineering company in his native Harrogate.

TOWN 3-2 CAMBRIDGE

DRURY 19, WILKINSON 31, SMITH 45

HUNT 67, SIMPSON 86



Andy Drury fires the Hatters in front



Cambridge are powerless to stop Luke Wilkinson from doubling the lead

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town survived a second half onslaught from Cambridge United to record a ninth home league victory of the season.

First half goals from Andy Drury, Luke Wilkinson and Jonathan Smith had put the Hatters well in control at half-time.

But the visitors, who knocked the Town out of the FA Cup last month, dominated the second half and almost came back to equalise in a frantic finale.

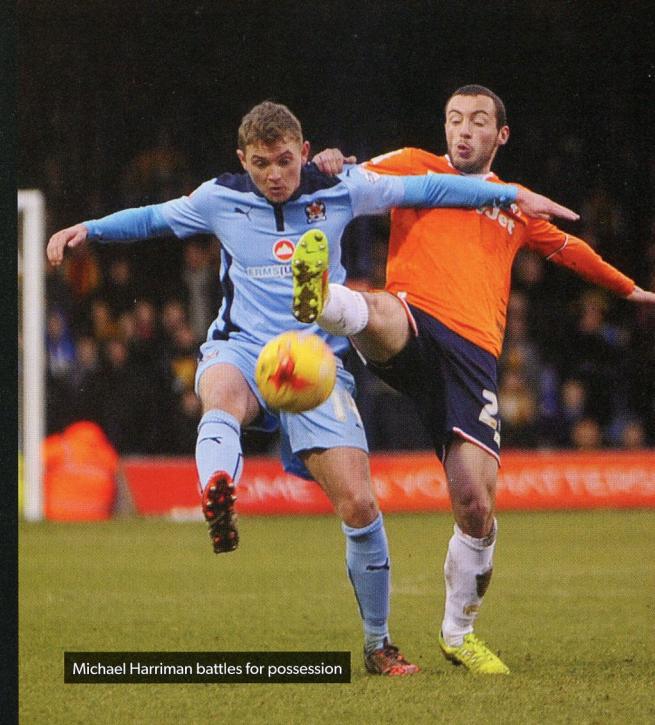
With 23 minutes left substitute Johnny Hunt steered home to make it 3-1 and with four minutes remaining fellow sub Robbie Simpson's strike set-up a grandstand finish.

But the Town held on to move to within four points of top spot in League 2, with a game in hand, in part to the three first half goals that put them in command.

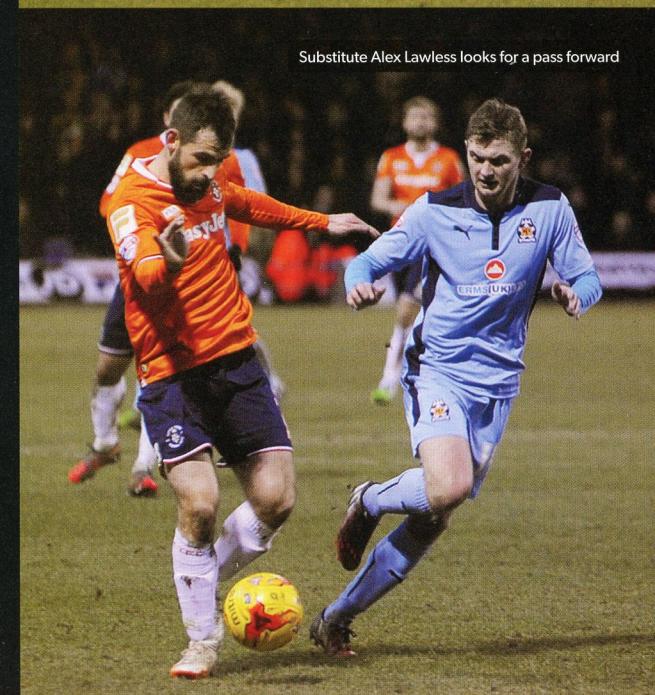
After Cambridge had gone close several times, Drury scored his second goal in three matches in the 19th minute after Cambridge goalkeeper Chris Dunn had parried Jake Howells' shot.

Wilkinson's header from Drury's left-wing corner 12 minutes later doubled the lead before Smith's arrowed finish on the stroke of half-time made it 3-0.

United were a different side in the second period as they pushed the Hatters back but despite scoring twice they couldn't find an equaliser.



Michael Harriman battles for possession



Substitute Alex Lawless looks for a pass forward

TOWN: Tyler; Harriman, Griffiths (sub Cullen 73), McNulty, Wilkinson (sub Franks 41); Doyle, Smith, Drury; Howells, Whalley (sub Lawless 70), Stockley. **SUBS NOT USED:** Guttridge, Robinson, Wall, Justham.

OXFORD 1-1 TOWN

MULLINS 43

STOCKLEY 36



The Town bench look on as Ryan Hall goes close in the first half



Jonathan Smith speeds away from his marker

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town made it eight games unbeaten in League 2 with a point in an entertaining game with Oxford.

Jayden Stockley put the Hatters in front on 36 minutes but the home side levelled two minutes before the break when Johnny Mullins slotted past Mark Tyler.

The second half was an end-to-end affair with the home side close to going ahead only for the Hatters to hold firm.

John Still made one change to the side that beat Cambridge with Ryan Hall given his debut, replacing Scott Griffiths, and the new signing came mighty close to giving the Town the lead on six minutes when his close range shot was saved by Oxford goalkeeper Ryan Clarke.

Chances were few and far between for half-an-hour until Stockley opened his account in Town colours when sliding to convert Shaun Whalley's cross.

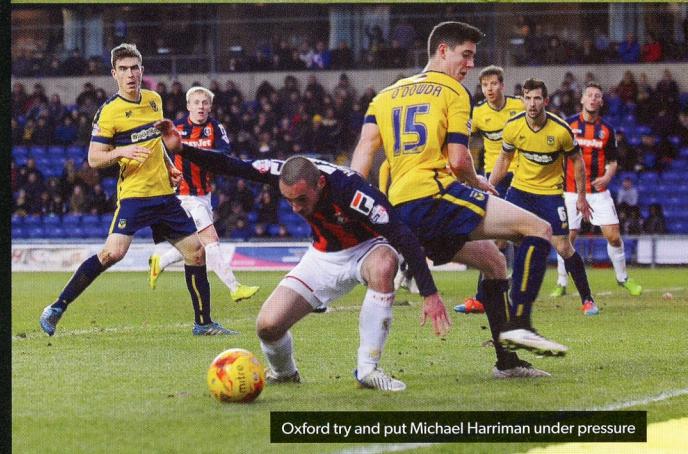
But Oxford ended the first half stronger and Mullins finished well to level after the Hatters had failed to clear their lines following a cross from the right flank.

The home side continued to press after the break and came close to going ahead a number of times and had a goal disallowed for offside, but the Town defence held firm and in the final moments could have snatched victory.

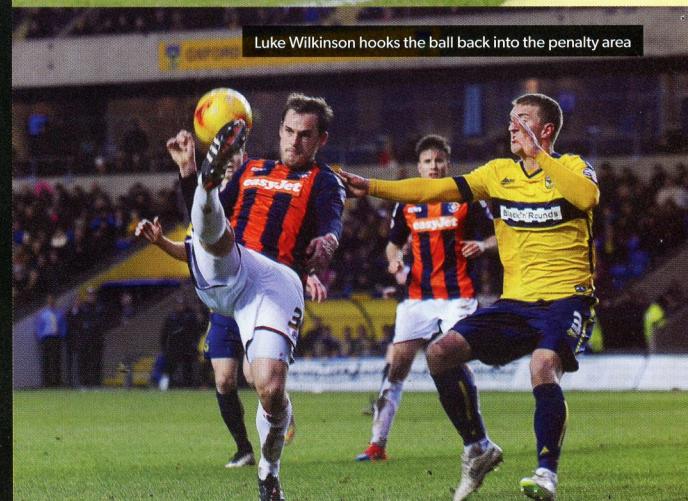
Substitute Alex Wall had the best chance in the closing stages when his fierce free-kick thundered goalwards but Clarke was able to parry the effort and Mark Cullen wasn't far away from tapping home the rebound.



Nathan Oduwa on the run



Oxford try and put Michael Harriman under pressure



Luke Wilkinson hooks the ball back into the penalty area

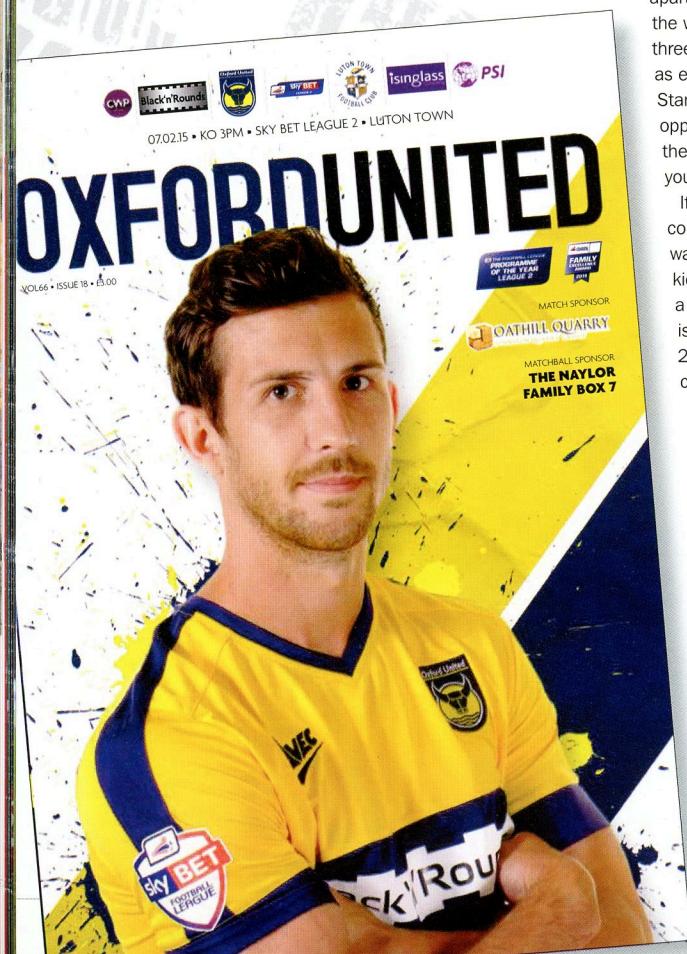
TOWN: Tyler; Harriman, Howells, McNulty, Wilkinson; Doyle, Smith, Drury; Hall (sub Odewa 59), Whalley (sub Cullen 59), Stockley (sub Wall 68). **SUBS NOT USED:** Lacey, Justham, Gutridge, Robinson.

Travellers' TALES

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

THE JOURNEY

The trip to Oxford may have been a short one but for those of us on the Bobbers coaches it was quite an eventful one! Two coaches departed Luton station just after 12pm, relieved that the match had survived the earlier pitch inspection. All seemed to be running smoothly until we got a couple of miles from the ground when one of the coaches broke down!



Luckily we were close enough to the ground and there in good time that the other coach could go back for those stranded and everyone made it to the ground on what was a pretty chilly day with plenty of time before kick-off.

THE GROUND

Not much has changed at the Kassam Stadium apart from the almost customs-like stewarding on the way into the place. The ground still has only three stands and the car park is still as awkward as ever to get out of. Town had half of the North Stand, the big stand down the side of the pitch opposite the dugouts. The one good thing about the Kassam is that wherever you sit in the ground you've got a decent view of the action.

If there is a downside to the ground then it comes underneath the stand where everything was pretty cramped, especially around the food kiosk and bars. The exits out of the stands were a bit crowded but luckily there were no major issues. I suspect they're not used to well over 2,000 away fans turning up, but even so things could be better in that part of the ground.

THE FOOD

There were a number of burger bars outside the ground which in hindsight was probably the way forward as there seemed to be just one food bar open where we were inside the ground. Although there were a number of people serving it was a bit chaotic. The food was moderately priced with the usual hot and cold food and drinks available. It was a hot dog for me which wasn't too bad and once that was polished off it was up into the seats!

THE PROGRAMME

A glossy covered 84-page programme was produced for this match costing the usual £3. It had much of the stuff you see in all away programmes. There was



no welcome to the Town in the manager's notes which was a little strange but the rest of it was much as you would expect. There were four pages on the Town squad with Stephen McNulty named as the key player then there was a feature on players who have played for both sides. I must admit I didn't realise the list was as long as it is! If you like quizzes and crosswords this one was for you as there were a number of those in there.

THE MATCH

The result aside, this was one of the more enjoyable matches of the season. The Town fans created a brilliant atmosphere which helped. At times it felt like a cup tie with there being a real end-to-end feel to the game with two sides clearly wanting to win which made a refreshing change.

We made one change from the win over Cambridge with new signing Ryan Hall making his debut in place of Scott Griffiths and he had the first chance when a cross fell to him but the keeper saved his shot. Jayden Stockley's follow up was also saved.

Soon after Oxford had a good chance but Mark Tyler saved well from the winger who was through one on one. Ten minutes before half-time we took the lead.

Jonathan Smith's driving run broke to Shaun Whalley on the right. His shot-cross was diverted in by Stockley for his first goal in Town colours – a well-deserved goal too. Unfortunately we couldn't get to half-time all square as we couldn't deal with a corner and having only half-cleared it, the ball came back into our box and the Oxford centre-half rifled it home.

None of the Oxford players got a bit giddy after the goal and was taunting Nathan Doyle but McNulty soon sorted him out at the cost of a yellow card!

Oxford absolutely flew out of the blocks after the break and missed a couple of good chances to go ahead. We looked on the ropes for 10 minutes or so but once Nathan Oduwa, Alex Wall and Mark Cullen came on and we switched to a 4-4-2 formation we looked a lot better. Oduwa immediately caught the eye on his debut with a devastating burst of speed that took him past three but we couldn't create an opening.

Cullen looped a header just wide and a Wall piledriver from a free-kick was spilled by the keeper with Cullen unable to convert the rebound.

Oduwa was fouled in injury time. It looked inside the box but the referee gave a free-kick and we had to settle for a fairly decent point.

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

Jonathan Smith was everywhere as always. His drive with the ball created havoc in the Oxford defence, especially in the first half and his tackling in the second half broke up a number of attacks from the home side. He was tireless in his pursuit of a win and almost won it with a shot which flashed wide late on but all in all this was another very strong performance from the ever reliable midfielder.

SUMMARY

Overall it was a fairly decent day. We picked up a pretty good point given the way the game went and the slightly tricky pitch and some of the other results went our way. We got out of the car park relatively quickly and were back in Luton just after 7.30pm after the 130-mile round-trip which wasn't too bad. Hopefully we can win the two home games coming up to set us up nicely for the next two trips.

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reaction

BELIEF BEHIND HATTERS PROMOTION PUSH SAYS WILKINSON



Centre-half Luke Wilkinson says there is huge confidence in the Town squad that automatic promotion can be achieved this season.

The 23-year-old defender has enjoyed a fine start to his career at Kenilworth Road after joining from Dagenham & Redbridge in the summer and now has four goals to his name after scoring the Town's second goal in the 3-2 win over Cambridge. With the Hatters going into tonight's game with York unbeaten in 11 home matches in League 2, Wilkinson believes the Town have what it takes to go on and record back-to-back promotions after last season's Conference triumph.

"There's a massive belief in the squad – we've always felt we should be up there near the top of the league," said Wilkinson. "We've had a couple of draws in the last few fixtures, but we're still in amongst it.

"We believe 100 per cent we can go up automatically and we're pushing to go up, that's what we want. The top four are keeping winning, and I think Southend are probably in there as well now, but we've just got to keep concentrating on ourselves and keep winning games. If we do that we can get in the top three."

Wilkinson hobbled off in the 3-2 win over Cambridge shortly before half-time with the Town 2-0 to the good after the defender had added to Andy Drury's opener.

And although the U's rallied to almost earn a point, Wilkinson was quick to praise the Hatters' electric first half show.

"We'd like more performances like the first half than the second, but that's football," said Wilkinson. "You can be 3-0 up and the other team comes out and has a right go at you.

"Fair play to Cambridge, they had a right go in the second half but we managed to hold on. It was an absolutely fantastic first half and then second half they came out after having a right talking to at half-time and put us under a lot of pressure.

"There were a lot of long balls into our box and they are a big physical side who are going to cause you problems when they're going forward, but we managed to scrape through in the end."

On the injury itself, Wilkinson said: "It was precautionary, as I felt my hamstring tighten up. It's better to come off early rather than risk tearing it and obviously better to come off, not train for a few days, rest it, and make sure I'm back fit for the next game."

Wilkinson's goal was his fourth of the season – all against relatively local opposition in Cambridge, Southend, Oxford and Stevenage.

After missing long spells of last season through injury, the defender is relishing his opportunity at the heart of the Town defence this term.

"It's been really good and I'm really enjoying playing for this club," said Wilkinson. "I came to this club to help us get promoted and by scoring goals that is one way I'm contributing. Everyone knows how important set-pieces are in football, and if I can capitalise on the excellent delivery of Andy Drury and Jake Howells then that's all the more better for us. Keeping clean sheets and winning games is most important but if I can chip in with a few goals then that's a bonus."

DID YOU KNOW?

Luke scored his fourth goal of the season for the Hatters against Cambridge in our last game here. In 2012/13 the defender scored six times in 43 appearances for Dagenham & Redbridge in League 2.



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SMITH RELIEVED TO SEE OUT CAMBRIDGE WIN

Jonathan Smith thought the Town did well to hold on to record a victory in the last home game against Cambridge 10 days ago.

The Hatters stormed in to a three-goal lead at half-time with Smith scoring the third goal – his second of the season – to put the Town in command at the interval.

But Cambridge upped the ante after the break and almost snatched a point in a game that suited Smith's battling qualities in midfield down to the ground.

"It wasn't just a battle in the second half, it was a battle all game, it was a right old scrap," Smith told Hatters Player after the 3-2 victory.

"Fair play to Cambridge, they gave it a right good go. They came out in the second half with a nothing-to-lose mentality.

"It was hard, it wasn't something we intended, Cambridge were sharper after half-time but the most important thing is we came through it. You have to come through all sorts of games in all sorts of conditions and this was one of them."

The fixture was Cambridge's last before their FA Cup fourth round replay against Manchester United at Old Trafford, and Smith admitted the Town hoped to make the most of any wandering United minds.

"In fairness the way they played I don't think many teams would have done that well with Man Utd on the horizon," admitted Smith. "We tried to play on that early in the game, to see if it was playing on their minds in the first half but in the second half they really took the game to us and we were hanging on a bit towards the end."

The victory was the Town's ninth in 11 home League 2 matches during an unbeaten home sequence stretching back to early September.

And Smith is hopeful the Hatters can continue that between now and the end of the season.

"We've got such a good home record that we were really desperate to keep that going against Cambridge," said Smith. "To be 3-0 up at home against anyone at any level is fantastic."

"It was a massive three points. We had a tough game at Cheltenham and we knew we needed to back that point up with a win and that's what we did."

"The win keeps us up there and all we need to do now is focus on the games as and when they come."



Smith's strike was his second since Boxing Day – when his excellent effort earned the Town a point against promotion rivals Wycombe.

"I gave Scotty [Griffiths] a big shout to get out of the way because I would have tackled him if he didn't," joked the midfielder. "I don't think it took a deflection, I think it just bounced in front of the goalkeeper."

"That put us 3-0 up at a good time. It's nice to score but for me I just want to win. I'm here to win every week, that's just the way I am."

"I'm happy to score, but more important is the three points."

Competition for places in midfield are about to hot up with Luke Guttridge and Alex Lawless back on the bench after recovering from injury.

And with Paul Benson and Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu also back in training, Smith believes the Hatters are well set to mount a serious promotion challenge.

"All of those names are really key players for us," said Smith. "We've missed them but I think it is credit to us to be missing those players but to still be challenging at the top. The lads who have been playing have been tremendous – Jake Howells was outstanding again and set the tone for the whole game."



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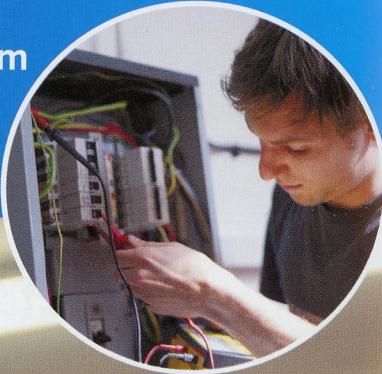
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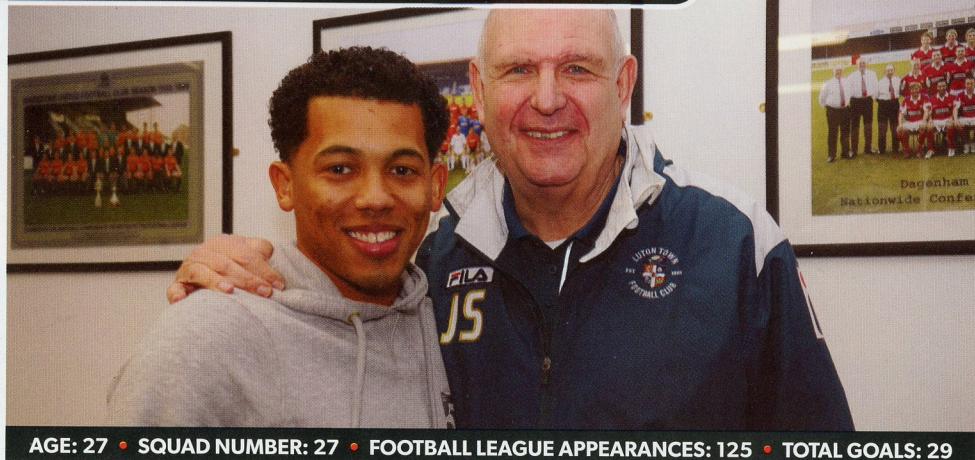
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welcome ryan

HALL OUT TO PROVE THE DOUBTERS WRONG



AGE: 27 • SQUAD NUMBER: 27 • FOOTBALL LEAGUE APPEARANCES: 125 • TOTAL GOALS: 29

The Hatters' new signing Ryan Hall is out to prove the doubters wrong after joining the Hatters on an 18-month deal.

The 27-year-old attacker, who can play on either wing or behind a central striker, arrived at Kenilworth Road last week after spending two years in the Championship with spells at Leeds United and Rotherham United.

But it was at Southend United in League 2 where Hall first shot to prominence, scoring 20 goals in two seasons and setting up many more as the Shrimpers reached the Play-Offs in 2012.

That form was enough for Leeds to show enough interest to take him to Elland Road – then managed by Neil Warnock, who had managed him earlier in his career at Crystal Palace – on a permanent deal.

However after finding it difficult to nail down a first team place with the Yorkshire outfit and their rivals Rotherham this season, the Town's new man is looking forward to reigniting his career at Kenilworth Road.

"I moved to Leeds from Southend and I didn't get the chance that I thought I would," Hall told Hatters Player after putting pen to paper before the 3-2 win over Cambridge. "I had a few loan spells but I knew I had to get myself back playing. There are some people, some fans and manager, who I want to show what I can really do."

Hall started his career as a youngster at Palace but knows manager John Still after spending two months on loan at Dagenham & Redbridge in 2008, where he scored twice in eight games.

And the winger believes the Town boss can help him thrive back in League 2.

"Knowing John is a massive factor," admits Hall. "I wanted to go somewhere where the people knew me as a person as well as a player. It was good to feel wanted and to know there was a chance of playing regular football."

DID YOU KNOW?

Ryan scored his first senior goal when on-loan at Dagenham in a 6-2 win over Chester in League 2 in February 2008. He came on as an 84th-minute substitute and scored the Daggers' sixth and final goal. Scott Griffiths played then 90 minutes that afternoon for Dagenham.

Hall's senior debut came for Crystal Palace as a half-time substitute in a 1-1 draw against Queens Park Rangers at Selhurst Park in the Championship in November 2007.

He made his senior debut for Leeds as a substitute in the Whites' 1-0 home defeat to Birmingham in October 2012.

Ryan scored once in the Championship this season – the winner in Rotherham's 1-0 victory over Wolves in August. Hall came on as a substitute in the 45th minute, scored in the 76th minute and was the substituted with 11 minutes left.



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KEN HAWKES

6th MAY 1933 – 2nd FEBRUARY 2015



LUTON TOWN APPEARANCES: 106 • LUTON TOWN GOALS: 1 v PORTSMOUTH (A) D 2-2 25th OCTOBER 1958

LUTON TOWN LEAGUE DEBUT: DECEMBER 14th 1957 LUTON TOWN 5-1 WEST BROMWICH ALBION

FINAL LUTON TOWN LEAGUE GAME: APRIL 3rd 1961 SWANSEA TOWN 3-1 LUTON TOWN DIVISION TWO

Everyone at Kenilworth Road was saddened to learn of the death of Ken Hawkes, one of the members of our FA Cup final side of 1959, at the age of 81.

Ken was born in Easington, Co Durham in May 1933 and as befitting someone from the 'hotbed of soccer' became interested in football at an early age watching Newcastle one week and Sunderland the next.

The Town's North East scout, Dick Trembath, who introduced Jack Taylor and Ray Smith to Kenilworth Road, spotted Ken playing for Shotton Colliery Welfare with the upshot that he joined the Hatters in October 1951.

Progressing straight from the 'A' team to the reserves, Ken was then called up for National Service where he was stationed in Oswestry but seemed to spend most of his time playing football for various Forces sides as well as securing a regular release to play for the Town's reserves.

After leaving the Army it was back to Kenilworth Road where it was quite some time before he made his breakthrough into the first team, unable to dislodge the likes of Bud Aherne and Les Jones from his favoured left-back slot. Just at a time when both Southampton and Bristol Rovers were showing interest Ken replaced Jones

in a home game against West Brom in December 1957 which the Town won 5-1. Ken retained his place for the remainder of the campaign and was virtually ever present during the FA Cup final season of 1958/59. His tales of the lackadaisical preparation for the Cup final including being woken late at night, with the game only hours away, by a supporter wanting tickets were legion. This was the downside to living in a club house in Kenilworth Road.

Following the break-up of the Cup final side and the Town's eventual relegation from the top flight Ken suffered injuries and when fit again found things had changed and decided to move to Peterborough in June 1961.

A broken arm followed by a cartilage operation restricted his appearances with 'Posh' and as he had married a Luton girl and wanted to stay local he enjoyed two seasons at Bedford followed by a spell at St Neots before throwing in his lot with Electrolux with whom he was connected for many years.

A regular visitor to Kenilworth Road until last season, Ken was always happy to be a club ambassador giving talks to corporate guests and helping where he could.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Please pay your respects to Ken tonight by joining us in a minute's applause. Rest in Peace, Ken.

centre spot



Mark Tyler is at full stretch as the Kenilworth Road end look on at our last home game with Cambridge 10 days ago

PICTURE THE PAST

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



Brian Chambers scores the Town's first goal in the 3-2 win at York in February 1976 in a Division Two (now Championship) clash. Making their full debuts for the Hatters that afternoon were Paul Price and Lil Fuccillo, who scored the third goal.

Camera Never Lies

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



Action from the Town's 5-1 win over York at Kenilworth Road on the final day of the 1966/67 campaign.

Pictured is the lesser spotted Frank Conboy who made 19 appearances that season after becoming George Martin's last signing before he handed over the managerial hot-seat to Allan Brown.

Conboy, who was signed from Chelsea, was making his final Luton appearance that afternoon as were Bobby Thomson and a certain David Pleat.

YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian ROGER WASH looks back to a previous clash with the Minstermen in 1967.

Luton Town 3-1 York City. 23rd September 1967.

At the end of the 1966/67 season the Town finished in their then lowest ever position in the Football League, only four points off the re-election places at the bottom of Division Four (now League 2).

Having said that, after the appointment of former player Allan Brown to the Kenilworth Road hot-seat in November 1966 it could be seen, following the astute signings of Max Dougan from Leicester and Keith Allen from Stockport during the campaign, the team was heading in the right direction.

The summer of 1967 was to see much activity on the transfer front and by the time of the opening day fixture at Wrexham it was a much changed Luton side that took to the field to fight out a 1-1 draw.

Given that the Town had won only six points away from home the previous season the draw seemed like a victory and the wave of optimism that had been growing over the summer grew even further, leading to a crowd of 7,887 turning up at Kenilworth Road the following week to see the Hatters beat Barnsley 2-0.

The next four League games saw a home win, an away defeat and two away draws which was not particularly impressive but was a marked improvement on the previous season and given that dovetailed amongst these fixtures was a League Cup replay win at Charlton and a commendable display at mighty Leeds in the same competition supporters were still enthusiastic, feeling it was going to be 'our year'.

Even I was caught up with the positive vibes and decided to start a comprehensive scrapbook that season – a first.

Next up were York at Kenilworth Road, and leading up to the game we were searching far and wide for a



'Golden boy' Bruce Rioch

new centre-forward as summer signing Rodney Green was about to have a cartilage operation. Paul Aimson of Bury had been approached but had decided to fight for his place at Gigg Lane, while Alan Peacock of Leeds was wanted by Plymouth which is where he eventually ended up:

Leading the attack against the Minstermen was to be utility player Billy McDerment, who had been signed from Leicester in the summer as a half-back. Mercurial winger Graham French returned to the side after a two-game absence while full-back Tommy Hare came through a late fitness test.

On a wet day, a crowd of 7,977 gathered who were shocked when lowly York took the lead on 22 minutes.

French gave the ball away to York winger Rowland Horrey who raced through the Luton defence before setting up Ted McDougall for a simple tap in.

For a time York had the upper hand with McDougall, who was destined to enjoy a stellar career in the top flight, a constant threat.

Gradually the Hatters came back and levelled on 36 minutes when Ray Whittaker split the York defence with a clever pass leading to golden boy Bruce Rioch taking the ball in his stride, rounding the goalkeeper and stroking it home with his left foot.

After the interval a similar move saw Rioch sent crashing to the floor after York goalkeeper Harry Fallon seemed to have been first to the ball. A penalty was awarded, much to the disgust of the Minstermen defenders, which was slotted home by Whittaker.

After that there was only likely to be one winner but it took until the 84th minute for the game to be made safe when Rioch chipped the ball home through a ruck of defenders.

As a postscript, the centre-forward the Town needed was signed four days later with £11,000 being spent on Derby striker Ian Buxton who turned out to be the final piece in the jigsaw in what was to become a glorious season.

THE PROGRAMME

For the 1967/68 season a good number of clubs included the 'Football League Review' as a programme filler. Such was the poor quality of the Town's programme, however, that it became the filler!

The decision to hide the programme was not difficult to understand, as the 12-page effort, unchanged for

years, was an embarrassment. Six pages of adverts, a short Club Notes section, pen portraits of the visitors, team lines and a fixture list did not take long to read.

At least we could learn that Roger Whittaker and Les Dawson were to be future attractions at Cesars Palace – Luton's leading night spot.

ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

- Pele signs a new 3 year contract with Santos who will pay him £25,000 a year.
- Leeds buy Mick Jones from Sheffield United for £100,000.
- Brian Eastham plays for Rochdale after slipping through an FA ban on 'outlawed' players in the 'illegal' League in North America. Eastham's name is overlooked, but the other 'outlaws' face a year's ban.

THE BIG INTERVIEW

ASK ANY HATTERS FAN WHO THEY BELIEVE THE TEAM HAVE MISSED THE MOST THIS SEASON, AND YOU CAN BET THE MAJORITY WILL SAY **LUKE GUTTRIDGE**. BACK ON THE BENCH IN RECENT WEEKS AFTER RECOVERING FROM A RECURRANCE OF AN INJURY WHICH KEPT HIM OUT OF LAST SEASON, THE MIDFIELDER ADMITS TO TALK OF THE TOWN HE FEARED HIS CAREER MIGHT HAVE BEEN OVER

Talk to footballers and the thing they say they fear the most is hanging up their boots. Packing it all in. No more quickfire changing room banter, gone the cold February mornings on the training pitches; goodbye to the glory, the disappointment – and the tense anticipation of 3pm on a Saturday.

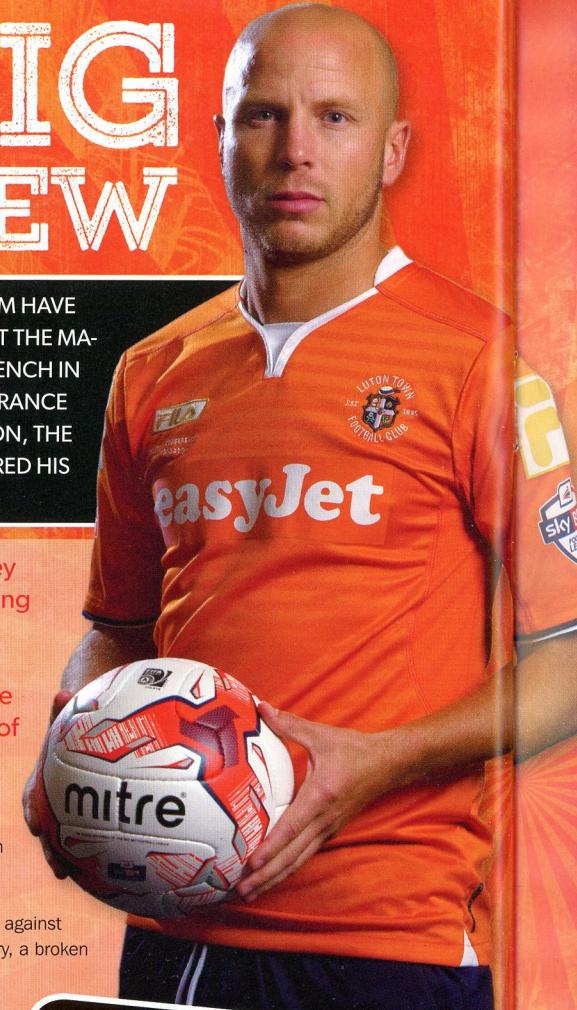
At the start of last season Luke Guttridge's reputation as a player had been changed by the spoiling tactics of a previous manager at his previous club. His goal threat negated, his touch and skill on the ball reversed into a defensive midfield position. Unshackled by John Still, Guttridge flourished. 13 goals in 30 games helped the Town to the top of the Conference. But injury against Alfreton in March ended his season, a recurrence of an old injury, a broken metatarsal.

Honour

The Hatters still got the job done, winning the title and with it a prize, belated return to the Football League. Guttridge was named players' player of the year by his fellow pros. The one end-of-season honour all footballers place huge significance on.

At the beginning of this season Still wrapped the 32-year-old up in cotton wool. Starts were restricted, but when called upon he'd do the business. Changing the game as an early sub at Accrington. Scoring the last-minute winner against his old club Northampton to send the Town top at the end of October.

For those that play football the adrenaline and buzz of game day, or better still, scoring, is almost irreplaceable. For our very own Luke Guttridge that was, in the past few months, a distinct possibility.



DID YOU KNOW?

LUKE HAS SCORED 15 GOALS FOR THE HATTERS AND 13 OF THOSE HAVE COME AT KENILWORTH ROAD. THE MOST GOALS HE HAS SCORED FOR ANY OTHER CLUB IS 20, A HAUL HE REACHED AFTER PLAYING 259 TIMES FOR CAMBRIDGE UNITED. GUTTRIDGE SCORED HIS 15 FOR THE HATTERS IN JUST 49 GAMES.

The metatarsal problem had struck once more. Did the veteran of over 500 appearances – 500 pre-match team-talks and post-match warm-downs – think he'd made his last?

"It was definitely something I thought about when I was aware it could be a problem," Guttridge admits to Talk of the Town. "When it actually came through, seeing the specialist and sitting down to speak to people, it was 50/50 which way it would go... and I thought it was going to go the way I didn't want it to."

Metatarsal did not have a place in the football vernacular until 2002, until David Beckham went and bust his. Now it's commonplace, and thankfully, the treatment and subsequent recovery is swifter than ever before.

Prepared

"Like any footballer, you think you are prepared for it, but it opened my eyes that actually that is how close you are to finishing your career," continued Guttridge.

"The problem was the bone never fused itself all the way across, it didn't set from the outside in. It grew enough to get me by, but fingers crossed the treatment I've had has finished it off."

"Hopefully if I cannot aggravate it and change my training schedules and work load it can continue to grow and not deteriorate."

Guttridge's comeback took place in the Hatters' 5-0 win over Stotfold in the Bedfordshire Senior Cup two weeks. It was a far cry from Wembley – where he had played before, or Kenilworth Road, but he was involved – and the buzz was back.

"It was ahead of schedule so I was a bit surprised, but it felt so good," he says. "The first game back was a bit of a novelty and a bit like a school game with the state of the pitch."

"I've played that sort of standard of football before when I was younger so it was no problem for me."

"I was brought up playing on pitches like that, so I was just happy to get out and play a game and I can't grumble with that."

"I had to go easy a bit on the tackles, I was playing much more of an offensive roll, getting my feel and my touch, and it might have been frustrating on Robbo [Matthew Robinson] when I didn't go in for tackles. But the main thing was it went well for me."

"Any player will tell you it's difficult being out injured. You don't quite feel part of it. When the lads come in from training laughing and joking you want to know what

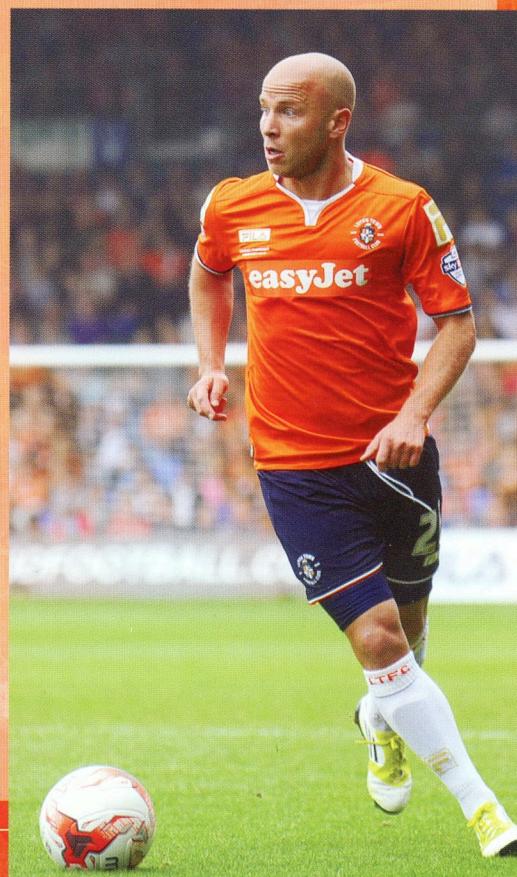
you missed and it's not the same even when they tell you because we weren't there."

"But every player plays their part to help you. It's frustrating when not playing but touch wood I'm over that now and as a group we can go on and get promotion, which – after all – is what I wanted when I came here."

Guttridge believes his time on the sidelines has made him value what his life in the game has given him. And now the worst of it is over he's going to make the most of it.

"I've been lucky that I've got back to where I am," he says. "I'll certainly be enjoying the rest of my career."

"I think I've been trying to do that for the past couple of years anyway. You know you've got a certain shelf-life as a footballer. As you get older, you appreciate it more than when you were younger when you take it for granted that you're going to play forever."



New Year... NEW CAR...

IN 2014, NEARLY 2.5 MILLION NEW CARS WERE REGISTERED IN THE UK, AND THIS YEAR THAT NUMBER IS SET TO RISE!

In fact 2014 was the fourth largest year of all time for new registrations, and the UK is the second largest market in the EU. With an exciting year ahead and some fantastic new vehicle launches just around the corner, now's the time to step into spring, and a **brand new car!**

At **Hartwell Dunstable** we have an impressive line-up of the latest models from *Ford*, *Fiat* and *Peugeot* including the brand new *Ford Mondeo* and *Fiat 500X*, due in showrooms in the Spring. Packed with cutting-edge design and world-class technology, our stunning range of new cars offer ultimate comfort and driver experience.

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have something for you. With vehicles from as little as **£62.61 per month**, we've got a car to suit every budget too. What's more, we've got plenty of exciting events coming up this year including our **Weekend Factory Specials**, where you can meet official manufacturer representatives and unlock exclusive savings and deals.

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Get down to **Hartwell Dunstable** now to find brilliant deals, exclusive previews of the latest *Ford*, *Fiat* and *Peugeot* models or book a test drive.

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"It's feeling really good and I've just got to take it day-by-day. I've had the x-ray back and the specialist was very surprised by how well it's healed.

"It's a lot better than he had anticipated and it is pretty much fully healed now. If I can keep on top of that and it doesn't start deteriorating then fingers crossed that should be the end of it."

Victory

Back among his peers in training and on the bench against Cambridge United last week, Guttridge witnessed yet another home victory to keep the Town in contention for what could be successive promotions for the first time in the Hatters' history.

"I came to this club be successful and that's what I wanted to do. Hopefully we can finish off the job this year and then see where we are in the summer," he says.

"I signed for this club when they were in the Conference and we got ourselves up last year. Everyone would like to see this club further up the pyramid but you can only win one promotion each season.

"The reason I signed for Luton was to be around success. I wanted to be around somewhere that was on the up, was going to progress then keeping progressing and not stand still.

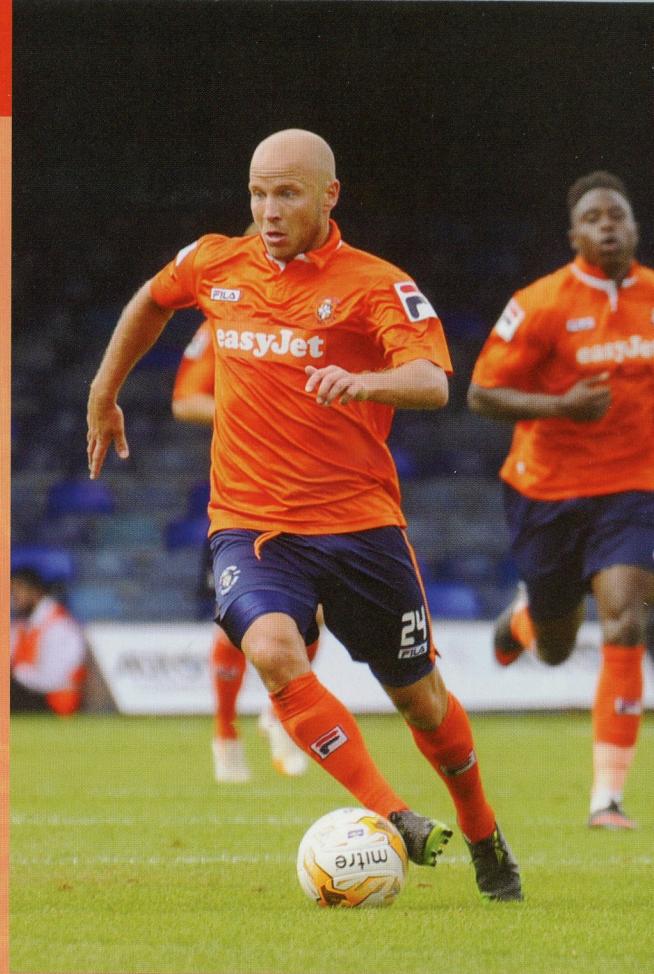
Pushing

"As an older player you want some excitement. You'd rather be playing for a team that's pushing to get out of the division each year rather than just maintaining themselves.

"We've got ourselves in a good position, what we need to do now is really push on. We knew what we want to do and we're not far off.

"We're not far off the top, so it's going according to plan and I can carry on with what I wanted to do when I came here – and that's get promotion."

Guttridge is joining an ever-growing list of senior players back in training as the season enters its final three, crucial, months. Despite missing Paul Benson, Alex Lawless, Pelly Ruddock and Guttridge – all regulars in last season's title-winning team – for long spells this term goes to show how well the Hatters have done to be within a shout of an automatic promotion spot in League 2.



"If everyone can stay fit, we've got plenty of options," says Guttridge. "It's not just myself, Pelly's coming back too. Is there anyone at the club who can do what Pelly does? Me personally, I don't think so. Everyone's got their own opinions and I think Alex Lawless can do a great job too.

"We must be doing something right as we're in a perfect position and that's been our strength all season. Whoever's stepped up to the plate, whether it be an injury, a quiet game, or a rest, I think nine times out of 10 they have been one of the best players and as a result they've kept their place.

"What we need to do now is push on. We're looking at it as though it is like a mini-league. Of course we can say we want to win the league but it's up to us to go and do it. If we go on a good run and others slip up who knows, and with people coming back from injury, options are what we need between now and the end of the season."

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WHAT'S IN STORE ONLINE AT THE HATTERS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

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

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

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

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

TEAMSHEETS

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

FREE CLOCKWATCH

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

LIVE COMMENTARY

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

FULL-TIME REPORT

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

POST-MATCH REACTION

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

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

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

MOBILE INTERNET

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

STAY IN TOUCH AND HELP THE HATTERS TOO...

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

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

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Youth Team &

Development

FIXTURES & RESULTS

YOUTH

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	STARTING XI	SUBS												
AUGUST																		
Sat 2	11.00am	H	Milton Keynes Dons	W 3-1	King	TROTMAN 1	Hawkes	Atkinson ♦	TAMPLIN	Musonda	McGhan-George	Galliford	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Justin ♦	Magaraushe ♦
Tue 12	12 noon	A	AFC Bournemouth (LC)	W 2-1	King	Justin	Magaraushe	TAMPLIN	Musonda	McGhan-George	Galliford	GALLIFORD 1	GALLIFORD 1	Tayali ♦	Hawkes ♦	Allman ♦	Craig ♦	
Sat 16	11.00am	H	Stevenage	D 1-1	King	Trotman	Hawkes	Justin	Musonda	McGhan-George	Galliford	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi 1	Amadi	
Wed 20	11.00am	H	Cambridge United	W 2-0	King	Trotman	Magaraushe ♦	TAMPLIN	Musonda	McGhan-George	Galliford	ALLMAN 1	ALLMAN 1	Tayali ♦	Hawkes ♦	Perry	Kotter	
Sat 23	10.30am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 5-0	King	Trotman	Perry ♦	Justin	TAMPLIN	Musonda	Galliford	ALLMAN 1	ALLMAN 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Bakinson	Good	
Sat 30	11.00am	H	Watford	W 3-0	King	TROTMAN 1	Perry	TAMPLIN ♦	Musonda	Ngwala	Galliford	ALLMAN 1	ALLMAN 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Tayali ♦	Craig	
SEPTEMBER																		
Tue 2	12 noon	A	Dagenham & Redbridge (LC)	L 1-3	King	Trotman	Perry	Hawkes	Musonda	Magaraushe ♦	Galliford	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1	Ngwala	McGhan-George	Justin ♦	Magaraushe ♦	
Sat 6	10.30am	A	Barnet	L 2-4	King	Trotman	Magaraushe ♦	TAMPLIN 1	Musonda	McGhan-George	Galliford	GALLIFORD 1	GALLIFORD 1	Tayali ♦	Hawkes ♦	Allman ♦	Craig ♦	
Sat 20	11.00am	H	Northampton Town	D 1-1	King	MAGARAUSHE 1	Parry	Hawkes	McJannett	McGhan-George	Galliford	ALLMAN 1	ALLMAN 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi	Amadi	
Sat 27	10.30am	A	AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	King	Magaraushe	Perry	Justin	Hawkes	McJannett	Galliford	ALLMAN 1	ALLMAN 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Tayali ♦	Hawkes ♦	
OCTOBER																		
Sat 4	11.00am	H	Southend United	D 1-1	King	Magaraushe ♦	PERRY 1	McGhan-George	Musonda	Hawkes	Galliford	TAYALI 1	ALLMAN 1	Tayali ♦	NGWALA 1	Justin ♦	Craig ♦	
Sat 11	10.30am	A	Leyton Orient	W 2-0	Gooch	Magaraushe	Perry	Justin	Musonda	Hawkes ♦	Galliford	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi	Amadi	
Sat 18	11.00am	H	Gillingham	W 4-0	King	Hankins	Perry	McJannett ♦	Musonda	McGhan-George	Galliford	ALLMAN 1	ALLMAN 1	Atkinson	Murray ♦	Tayali ♦	Cassar	
Sat 25	11.00am	H	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 4-2	Gooch	Magaraushe	Perry	Justin	Fanewo	McGhan-George	Galliford	TAYALI 1	TAYALI 1	Atkinson	Snelus ♦	Amu ♦	Hark	
NOVEMBER																		
Sat 1	11.00am	A	Cambridge United	W 4-3	King	Magaraushe	Perry	Hawkes	Musonda	Hawkes	Galliford	ALLMAN 1	ALLMAN 1	Atkinson	Hankins	Amadi ♦	Brown	
Tue 4	7.30pm	H	Didcot Town (FAYC1)	W 4-1	King	Perry	Hawkes	Justin	Bakinson	McGhan-George	Galliford	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	Atkinson	Fanewo	Tayali ♦	Craig ♦	
Sat 8	11.00am	H	Barnet	L 0-5	Gooch	Magaraushe ♦	Perry	Justin	Hawkes	McGhan-George	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Bakinson	McGhan-George	Amu ♦	Amu ♦	
Sat 15	10.30am	A	Watford	D 3-3	King	Perry	Hawkes	McGhan-George	Fanewo	McGhan-George	Galliford	TAYALI 1	TAYALI 1	Atkinson	Snelus ♦	Amu ♦	McJannett	
Sat 18	7.30pm	A	Oxford City (FAYC2)	L 1-2	King	Justin	Perry	Hawkes	McGhan-George	McGhan-George	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Bakinson	Magaraushe	Tayali ♦	Hark	
Sat 22	11.00am	A	Northampton Town	D 1-1	Gooch	Hawkes	McJannett	Justin	Hawkes	McGhan-George	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ♦	Craig ♦	
Sat 29	11.00am	H	Peterborough United	D 0-0	Gooch	Justin	Perry	McJannett	Hawkes	McGhan-George	Galliford	NGWALA 1	NGWALA 1	Atkinson	Snelus ♦	Amu ♦	McJannett	
DECEMBER																		
Sat 6	11.00am	A	Southend United	W 1-0	Gooch	Justin	Perry	Fanowa	McJannett	Hawkes	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ♦	Brown	
Sat 13	11.00am	H	AFC Wimbledon	W 4-0	Gooch	Musonda	MUSONDA 1	Fanowa	McGhan-George	McGhan-George	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Bakinson	Murray ♦	Craig ♦	Cassar	
Tue 16	1.00pm	H	Peterborough United	D 1-1	King	Perry	Musonda	McJannett	McGhan-George	McGhan-George	Galliford	MAGARAUSHE 2	MAGARAUSHE 2	Bakinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ♦	King	
Sat 20	11.00am	A	Gillingham	W 2-0	King	Perry	McGhan-George	McJannett	McGhan-George	McGhan-George	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Atkinson	Murray ♦	Fanewo	Good	
JANUARY																		
Tue 6	11.00am	H	Leyton Orient	W 4-1	Gooch	Justin ♦	MUSONDA 1	Hawkes	Perry	McGhan-George	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ♦	Trotman	
Sat 10	11.00am	A	Milton Keynes Dons	L 1-3	Gooch	Justin ♦	Musonda	Fanowa	McGhan-George	McGhan-George	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Atkinson	Murray ♦	Amu ♦	McJannett	
Sat 24	11.00am	A	Stevenage	L 0-1	Gooch	Justin	Musonda	McGhan-George	Bakinson	McGhan-George	Galliford	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Atkinson	Hinds ♦	Fanowa	Good	
FEBRUARY																		
Sat 7	11.00am	A	Milton Keynes Dons	D 1-1	King	Trotman	Perry	Musonda	McGhan-George	JUSTIN 1	Magaraushe ♦	Atkinson	ATKINSON 1	ATKINSON 1	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ♦	Trotman
Sat 14	1.00pm	H	Exeter City								Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Atkinson	Murray ♦	Amu ♦	McJannett
Sat 21	11.00am	A	Peterborough								Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Atkinson	Hinds ♦	Kotter	Bakinson
Sat 28	1.00pm	H	Plymouth Argyle								Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Magaraushe ♦	Atkinson	McGhan-George	Amadi ♦	Craig ♦
MARCH																		
Sat 7	11.00am	A	Southend United															
Sat 14	11.30am	H	Portsmouth															
Sat 21	11.00am	A	Swindon Town															
Sat 28	11.00am	H	Watford															
APRIL																		
Sat 4	11.00am	A	AFC Bournemouth															
Sat 11	11.00am	H	Barnet															
Sat 19	11.00am	A	Stourbridge															
THE TOWN UNDER-18S																		
The Town Under-18s were denied a victory by a late equaliser by MK Dons in their first fixture in the merit league on Saturday.																		
The Town, who finished two places below the Dons in the initial South East division, were denied by a string of fine saves from the MK keeper with one stop from a point-blank Kyran McGhan-George header particularly impressive. But with two minutes left the home side																		
grabbed a leveller from a set-piece to earn a share of the spoils to leave Driver with mixed feelings on the draw.																		
The Town coach said: "We played MK last month and they were by far the better team on that occasion but this time I thought we were. We had a lot more chances and their goalkeeper pulled off some unbelievable saves. It was very disappointing to concede from a set-piece so late in the game."																		
TOWN: King, Trotman, Perry, Musonda, McGhan-George, Justin, Magaraushe (sub Fanowa 75), Atkinson, Allman, Galliford (sub Cotter 80), Amadi (sub Craig 68). SUBS NOT USED: Hinds, Gooch.																		

DEVELOPMENT

community trust

WITH HEAD OF COMMUNITY TRUST KEVIN THOBURN

STREETGAMES

StreetGames is coming to Dunstable and Houghton Regis with the support of the Hatters Community Trust coaching team and we're launching it next Saturday with a seven-a-side St Valentine's footie tournament!

StreetGames was launched in 2007 to change lives and change communities for the better. It was inspired by the success of joint work by The FA and The Football Foundation and the Club's Community Trust have now teamed up with the Football League Trust to expand our work particularly in the more sports-deprived areas of Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis.

StreetGames and Luton Town aim to give as many young people exactly what they're seeking – the chance to enjoy sport, give back to their communities and aspire to greater things. The enthusiasm that this breeds leads we hope will lead to an increase in sports participation and a recognition of the enjoyment that can be gained from taking part in sport. We aim to do this by supporting a network of 4 weekly projects across Dunstable and Houghton Regis which will give sports and

volunteering opportunities to young people over 16 years of age.

Doorstep Sports Clubs is StreetGames' delivery method, where we bring sport close to the home in disadvantaged communities at the right time, for the right price, to the right place and in the right style and our aim is to set up sustainable sports clubs that eventually become part of the fabric of the community. We want this to lead to stronger and safer communities, a championing of social action and volunteering, as well as improved health and wellbeing. Big aims for a big project we are beginning.

We are launching StreetGames this Saturday at Dunstable Leisure Centre but we plan four weekly centres with two in Dunstable and two in Houghton Regis on separate

evenings through the week.

Football won't be the only sport on offer, though, as our coaches have been hard at work learning all kind of sports, including handball and dodgeball with street-golf and street-tennis to follow later in the project which we hope will have a life of at least three years and beyond with the help of volunteers.



The StreetGames project ties in really well with our 18 current community trainee coaches currently on a pathway with Luton Adult Learning to becoming part of our workforce to deliver the growing number of social projects being undertaken by the Club's Trust. The 'stronger the team, the stronger the team' comes to mind!

If you want to get involved this Saturday just turn up at the astro pitch for a 10.30 am start behind Megabowl at the Leisure Centre in Dunstable and join in – on your own, with a mate or in a team – just get involved! – and yes girls if you want – you can join in and show the fellas how to play! If you want further information on this Saturday's tournament call the Community Office on 01582 737568.

LUTON TOWN FC KINDER+SPORT UNDER-11 KIDS SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Congratulations to Arnold Academy Year 6 boys from Barton-le-Clay who won our Kids Cup final last Saturday during the half-time break at the Cambridge game.



Over 30 schools took part in the tournament and the Barton boys will now progress to the next stage of this national competition as Luton Town into the Division 2 South Play-Offs which will be held down at Portsmouth's Fratton Park. They will play against teams representing AFC Wimbledon, Cambridge United, Cheltenham Town, Dagenham & Redbridge, Exeter City, Newport County, Northampton Town, Oxford United, Plymouth Argyle,

february half term football camps
to book: 01582 737568 or 07725 172345
ltfc.soccerschools@hotmail.co.uk



VENUES
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Flitwick
Harpden
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Luton
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Woburn

I Free ticket + 1 half price adult ticket per participant (MINIMUM TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS)

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TECHNIQUE TRAINING SESSIONS • WARM-UP AND REACTION GAMES
FULL DAY OF FOOTBALL SKILLS TRAINING • FUN GAMES TO PRACTICE TECHNIQUES

Southend United, Stevenage, Wycombe Wanderers and the hosts Portsmouth.

We'll keep everyone posted on how the boys get on as they aim to make the winners of the Div 2 North and Div 2 South Final and then qualify for the chance to play before the League Division 2 Play-Off Final on Saturday 23rd May. So good luck boys - enjoy the trip down to Pompey!

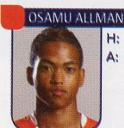
FEBRUARY HALF-TERM SOCCER CAMPS

Next week is half-term and as usual hundreds of youngsters across Luton and Bedfordshire will be joining our soccer camps as they look to improve their skills and have a great time with their mates!

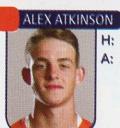
We have centres running in Barton, Bedford, Caddington, Flitwick, Harpenden, Leighton Buzzard, Shefford as well as Luton and Dunstable. If you've not tried a soccer camp before they are great fun, open to all abilities and run from 10am to 3pm each day and are great value at £15 each day you attend. Of course everyone receives the legendary LTFC medal as well as a great ticket offer to a home match! You can book direct with our Community Office on either 01582 737568 or 07725 172345 or ask for further information via the dedicated email at ltfc.soccerschools@hotmail.co.uk.

Youth Team Sponsors

H: HOME | A: AWAY



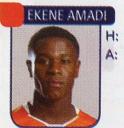
OSAMU ALLMAN
H: Available
A: Available



ALEX ATKINSON
H: Available
A: Available



GEORGE CRAIG
H: Available
A: Available



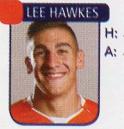
EKENE AMADI
H: Available
A: Available



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



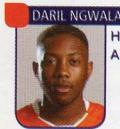
FRANKIE MUSONDA
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A: Available



LEE HAWKES
H: Available
A: Available



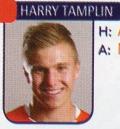
CRAIG KING
H: Mike Tearle
A: Available



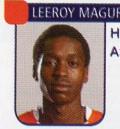
DARIL NGWALA
H: Available
A: Available



TUKI TAYALI
H: Available
A: Available



HARRY TAMPLIN
H: Allianz
A: NPA Commercial



LEEROY MAGARAUSHE
H: Available
A: Available

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF FOOTBALL

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



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www.footballfoundation.org.uk



WITH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE LEAD COACH JORDAN MCCANN

Over the festive period a select group of our Under-9s to Under-11 academy players travelled to Germany representing the Town in some of the biggest elite indoor tournaments in Europe.

Tours provide a great opportunity for our signed academy players to display their skills against boys from different cultures, learn and engage with new languages, as well as begin to appreciate the professionalism required off the pitch to be a football player with a heavy focus on correct nutrition, hydration and game analysis.

The first group away were our Under-10s at the Hulpert Indoor Masters featuring a host of top clubs including Juventus, Borussia Dortmund, Schalke 04 and Rapid Vienna. After three straight wins in the initial group stage, we emerged as 1-0 victors over German giants Borussia Dortmund to progress as group winners and into the second round of matches. The standard of football was nothing short of breathtaking as we followed up with a 4-3 defeat to Nuremberg FC, a 3-3 draw against Werder Bremen and a 2-0 defeat to eventual winners Schalke, narrowly missing out on making the quarter finals in a 72-team tournament. The boys were commended by other coaches throughout the tournament and certainly enhanced the academy's glowing reputation in Europe.

Next up were our Under-11 group at the Merck Super Cup in Frankfurt. After a mixed day in the warm-up tournament – where the boys had to learn quickly to adapt to the German's increased understanding of how to use the side boards – the boys arrived on Sunday at the main tournament full of confidence. After victories in the group stage over Southend United, VFL Wolfsburg and Stuttgart Kickers, we set up a mouth-watering semi-final tie with Turkish Champions Besiktas FC. After a strong physical battle, the Town players' technical superiority shone through with a 3-0 victory setting up a final with Saturday's winners FC Mainz 05 – the breeding ground for a host of Premier League Players. The Under-11s emerged victorious with two lethal counter attacking goals finished by Ed McJanet who scooped the tournament top scorer award. Our very own academy player Charlie Patino was also named overall player of the tournament.

Bring on the New Year and our newest recruits (Under-9s) travelled away to the Hallenmasters. After a mixed first day, where the boys displayed an incredible rate of learning, the boys had a very difficult draw on the Sunday. A final group game victory over FC Leipzig with one of the best goals you will ever see from young Razie Ahmed, squeezed us through to the semi-finals. Following a 0-0 draw with Werder Bremen, the Town Under-9s broke the mould defeating the German giants on penalties, and went on to achieve the same feat in the final after drawing 2-2 with FC Wattenscheid.

Plans for the summer tours are now well and truly under way and I look forward to hopefully bringing you more success stories at the start of the new season!

Follow the boys' progress on twitter - @lfcacademytour
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Luton Ladies

HATTERS LADIES COMEBACK TO STUN TRACTOR GIRLS

The Town Ladies returned to league action hosting Ipswich Town on Saturday and in spite of a bright start found themselves a goal down after just 10 minutes.

A corner was poorly defended and after several failed attempts to clear, the ball was bundled goalwards and was judged to have crossed the goalline.

In the heavy conditions Luton played some excellent one-touch passing football but lacked the vital cutting edge in front of goal as chances went begging without the vital finishing touch.

Erica Byrne came closest to getting on the scoresheet, going past two players before coming inside and firing her shot against the crossbar.

Just before half-time Luton suffered another blow allowing the Ipswich strike far too much time to line up and fire her shot into the roof of the net from 25 yards.

Trailing 2-0 at the break against a defensively mean team of late the signs were not good but whatever went on in the dressing room at half-time a determined, the Town side emerged for the second half.

Just when it appeared Ipswich had weathered the storm Michelle Byrne lined up a shot from 25 yards out and smashed it high into the net to register her first goal of the season.

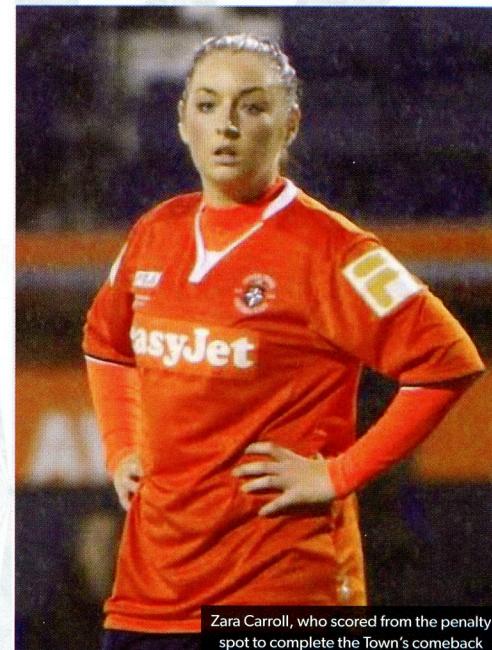
Tempo

Visibly lifted, the Town upped the tempo and just five minutes later substitute Remi Bains timed her run to perfection, beating the offside trap and neatly slotting the ball home across the diving keeper.

The Tractor Girls were shaken and within minutes Byrne skipped past another two tackles and was about to shoot when she was tripped.

She did superbly to stay on her feet but could not get her shot off and the referee pointed to the penalty spot. Up stepped Zara Carroll and despatched her penalty powerfully into the top corner of the net to give Luton a 3-2 lead.

Substitute Lilley Coleman then became involved in an exchange of views with the visiting skipper which sparked a large melee and both players were cautioned.



Zara Carroll, who scored from the penalty spot to complete the Town's comeback

With 10 minutes left a further foul from Coleman earned her a second yellow card reducing Luton to 10 players.

Ipswich poured forward and placed the Luton goal under huge pressure. The referee found eight minutes of injury time, and in the final minute of stoppage time a ball across the area was met at the far post and turned goalwards but Luton keeper Hollie Staples turned the ball around the post.

A delighted Town manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "The players showed tremendous character to fight back from 2-0 down to win and then hold on at the end under tremendous pressure when we were pinned in our own half."

"It was a real gutsy performance, but there were clearly fitness issues and we were rusty having not had a run of games in the past two months."

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reaction

STOCKLEY AND HALL ON OXFORD POINT



Town loan striker Jayden Stockley was delighted to get off the mark for the Town at Oxford on Saturday – and now hopes to start finding the target more regularly.

The 21-year-old forward, on-loan from AFC Bournemouth, connected with Shaun Whalley's right-wing cross to poke the Hatters ahead at the Kassam Stadium.

And although the Town could not build on the striker's opener, Stockley was relieved to score his first goal for the club in what was his fifth match in Luton colours.

"It felt like an absolute age to get in the goal but as soon as it crossed the line it was a moment of joy," Stockley told Hatters Player afterwards. "It's just unfortunate that we didn't hold on to the lead."

"That was the first time in the game that we had some sustained pressure so I gambled on a shot-cross from Shaun. He can call it what he wants but I managed to poke it goalwards and it crept in the tightest of gaps so I'm very happy about that."

"Hopefully that is now the first of many."

Stockley penned a one-month extension to his loan deal on deadline day and the striker admitted he is enjoying his time at Kenilworth Road.

"I've settled in really well," he said. "I love the area, I love the place and the fans are brilliant. It was a no-brainer to extend it. I'm just taking it month by month,

game by game, picking up points for Luton and hopefully getting promotion."

The Town gave debuts to Ryan Hall and Tottenham winger Nathan Oduwa and Stockley believes their pace and guile down the flanks can be a real benefit to him and the Town.

"I think they'll give us the pace that we need, especially on the wings, plus the creativity around the box. As a striker, hopefully I can capitalise on that," said Stockley.

"I think both gave a great impression as to what they can give us, going forwards this season, especially our aim to get promoted."

Hall, meanwhile came close to capping his debut with a goal, only to be denied in the sixth minute by a great save from Oxford goalkeeper Ryan Clarke.

"I thought it was in," admitted the winger, who started the game following an illness to Scott Griffiths. "I couldn't believe it when he saved it. It opened up and I hit it well but the keeper made himself big and did well."

But Hall is now looking forward to sampling the Kenilworth Road atmosphere tonight having been backed by over 2,000 Hatters fans at the Kassam Stadium.

"I've said before the level of support is massive and it really does help you. I can't wait to play at home. The amount of fans we've taken away from home is unbelievable but now we've got to keep grinding out results, starting on Tuesday."

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JUNIOR HATTERS

WORD SEARCH

CAN YOU FIND ALL 13 WORDS HIDDEN BELOW?

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

YORK
CORNER
BALL
GOAL
PITCH
ODUWA
HALL
HAKAN
ORANGE
LEAGUE
TICKET
STILL
KENILWORTH
ENCLOSURE



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10th FEBRUARY

ON THIS DAY

► THE RECORD

Overall the 10th February has been a mixed day for the Town over the years. 17 matches have taken place – today being the first in over a decade. The Hatters have won five and lost five, while seven have ended in draws. A total of 52 goals have been scored, which works out an average of just over three goals per game. Only six of the 17 games have seen the Town play on home soil.

► THE LAST TIME

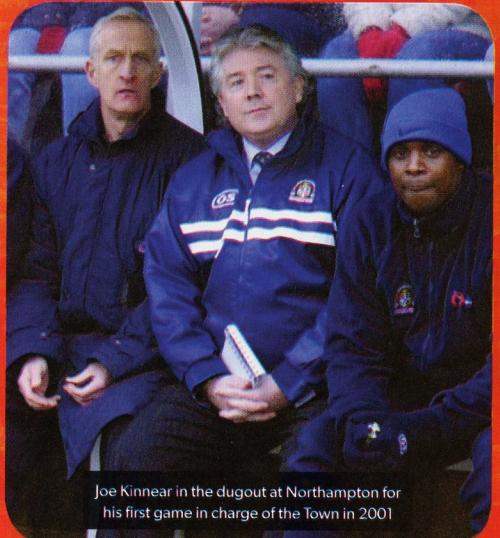
You have to go back 11 years for the last time a Town side took the field on 10th February. That particular day the Hatters beat Brighton 2-0 at Kenilworth Road in Division Two (now League 1) before a crowd of 6,846. Peter Holmes put the Town ahead before a penalty from Kevin Nicholls doubled the lead to give the Town all three points. Brighton, would, however, end the season smiling: they beat Bristol City in the Play-Off final to win promotion to the Championship.

► AWAY THE LADS

At this stage of the season in 2001, the Town were struggling at the foot of the Division Two (League 1) table and the powers that be at Kenilworth Road turned to Joe Kinnear as the man to guide the Hatters out of relegation trouble. On this day 14 years ago, Kinnear took charge of his first game, away at Northampton, and a strong contingent from Bedfordshire celebrated all three points thanks to Stuart Douglas' winner. While the Hatters moved out of the relegation zone after a string of good results, it didn't last and the Town were relegated come the end of the campaign.

► SANDWICH-GATE!

In 1996 the Town were struggling as well. Lennie Lawrence had just taken over from Terry Westley and results were beginning to pick up as the Hatters edged away from the Division One (now Championship) dropzone. A ding-dong battle against Grimsby saw the Town triumph 3-2 on this day 19 years ago. Graham Alexander fired the Town in front but on the hour Grimsby led 2-1. But goals from Bontcho Guentchev and Dwight Marshall gave the Hatters a vital win. Again, however, the joy was short lived as the Town went down at the end of the season.



Joe Kinnear in the dugout at Northampton for his first game in charge of the Town in 2001

This game, though, is best remembered for the post-match incident in which an angry Mariners boss Brian Laws allegedly threw a plate of sandwiches at striker Ivano Bonetti, which gave the striker a cut above his eye.

► VICTORIES IN SHORT SUPPLY

The Town's first win on 10th February came with a 3-1 victory over Wellingborough in the United League and in the following 12 matches, spanning 70 years, the Hatters would win just once on this day. It wasn't until 1968 that the Town would taste victory on 10th February when beating Rochdale 4-1 at Kenilworth Road. 10,040 watched goals from Bruce Riach, Terry Branston, Keith Allen and Ian Buxton beat Dale. This time there was a happy ending to this season: the Town lifted the Division Four (now League 2) title.

► BEST OF THE REST

On this day in 1988 the Town drew 1-1 at Oxford in the Littlewoods Cup semi-final first leg, with Brian Stein scoring the Hatters goal. Of course the Town would go on and win the second leg, reach the final and go on and lift the trophy in glorious style against Arsenal at Wembley.

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Nathan Oduwa

NEW LOAN SIGNING LOOKING FORWARD TO TOWN CHALLENGE

Nathan Oduwa is looking forward to showing the Hatters fans what he is capable of after signing on loan from Tottenham on deadline day.

The 18-year-old will stay at Kenilworth Road for the rest of the campaign from the Premier League side and impressed in his cameo in Saturday's 1-1 draw at Oxford when he came on as a second half substitute.

"This is my opportunity to showcase myself and experience first team football," said Oduwa, who has represented England at Under-18 level and has been a regular for Spurs' Under-21 development squad this season.

"I was patient as I could have gone out at the start of the season but I wanted to make sure it was the right move for me.

Ready

"Luton came earlier but it wasn't the right time and now I feel I'm ready. I wanted to get out and get first team football and I felt Luton was the right club."

Oduwa took part in his first training session last Thursday prior to being included on the bench at the Kassam Stadium and is now looking forward to stepping up to senior level.

"I'm very happy and excited to get started. Thursday was my first training session and I loved it," he said.

"It's going to be more aggressive as I'm playing with men but I'm well developed, my size is very mature for my age and I'm ready for this difference."

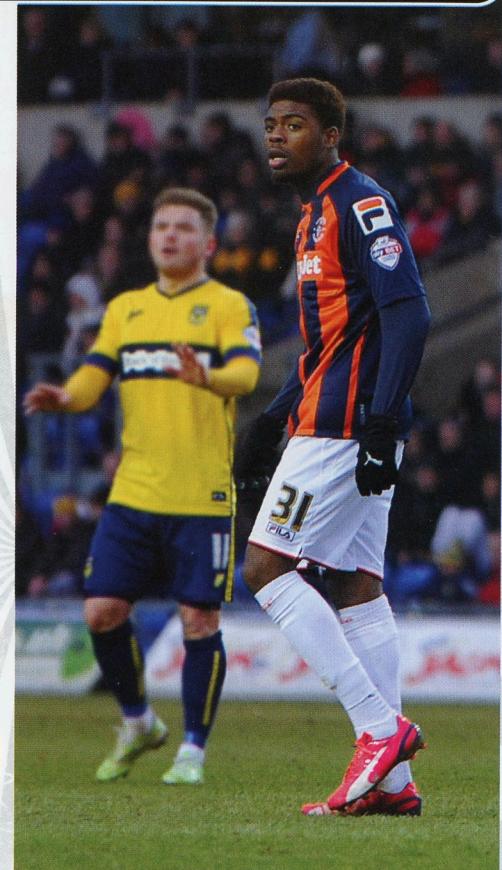
The forward knew plenty about the Town's history, including the fact the club won the Conference title last year and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley in 2009.

And Oduwa hopes his arrival at Kenilworth Road can coincide with another promotion this season.

"I'm very excited to join this promotion push and I just hope I can help them," he said.

"I'm quick and dynamic as the manager said, I've got good feet and hopefully I can entertain the fans. I'm very versatile, I can play through the middle, out wide or up the top."

"I've achieved quite a lot recently so I'm just here to achieve more, I want to get promoted, I know I'm still developing as a player but I want to win things."



Town boss John Still was delighted to be able to sign the highly-rated youngster for the rest of the campaign.

Quick

"Nathan's six foot one, powerful, quick and I mean electric quick," said Still. "He's two footed, he can go inside, go outside, can go off of both feet."

"He's a really nice young man as well. We were trying to do it for a while and couldn't, eventually we did it and the first time I spoke to him, he wanted to thank me for the opportunity to come here."

"I know he's very highly rated at Tottenham and he's thanking me, so that tells you a little bit about the lad."

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The FOOTBALL Paper

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BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

The Sky Sports cameras may have spent deadline day feeding on Premier League scraps, but down in the lower divisions there was plenty going on.

League 2 Cheltenham had the busiest day, signing five new players – including four strikers.

Cardiff, too, kept the FA registration department busy with three signing in the space of eight minutes, the best surely the permanent acquisition of Chesterfield's free-scoring striker Eoin Doyle.

But for out-and-out impact, we at the FLP reckon you can't beat this lot as the best deadline day signings.

TOM INCE HULL – DERBY (LOAN)

All that talk of Inter Milan must seem a long way off for Ince. Supposedly in talks with the Italian giants this summer, the winger eventually signed for Hull, never played, and now, after an aborted loan spell at Nottingham Forest, finds himself at Pride Park.

It's a baffling state of affairs because anyone who has watched Ince over the past three years knows he's a) quick, b) talented and c) in possession of a very decent attitude.

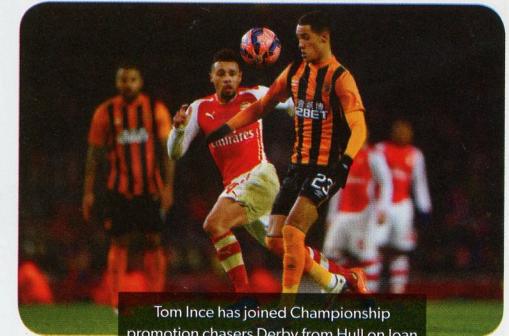
Still, Derby's three-man forward line should suit the 23-year-old perfectly and if he can recapture the form that propelled Blackpool to the play-offs in 2012, the Rams won't miss Jordan Ibe at all.

LEE FOWLER NUNEATON TOWN – CRAWLEY (LOAN)

At the start of the season, 31-year-old Fowler was coaching a kids' team and playing part-time for Cefn Druids. Just last week he was turning out for Conference strugglers Nuneaton.

Now, after being signed by his old mate Dean Saunders, the midfielder is plying his trade in League 1 with Crawley and got off to a flier by volleying a spectacular winner on his debut last weekend.

Hailed by Saunders – who managed him at Forest Green, Wrexham and Doncaster – as the most talented player in League 1, it's fair to say Fowler hasn't always made the most of his ability. But if he can strut his stuff for the next four months, he may be the man who keeps Crawley out of League 2.



Tom Ince has joined Championship promotion chasers Derby from Hull on loan

CALLUM ROBINSON ASTON VILLA – PRESTON (LOAN)

A sensation in his first stint at Deepdale, the England Under-20 striker hit five goals in 16 games and was just hitting his straps when Villa pointlessly terminated his loan in late November. Things then got even worse for Preston when top-scorer Joe Garner was ruled out for three months.

Since then, Preston's push for automatic promotion has hit the skids with a five-game winless run leaving Simon Grayson's men eight points off the pace.

But with 20-year-old Robinson now back on board until the end of the season, the Lilywhites once again have the pace to hurt teams...and a player who won't need any time to bed in.

CAOLAN LAVERY SHEFF WED – CHESTERFIELD (LOAN)

It's fair to say Lavery hasn't set Hillsborough alight this season. There again, who has? The Owls routinely struggle to create chances and are amongst the lowest scorers in the Championship. It's a difficult place for anyone to learn their trade.

And even if the 22-year-old isn't quite Championship standard, he did enough on loan at Plymouth in 2013/14 to suggest he's more than capable lower down.

The Canadian striker hit three goals in four starts for the Pilgrims before being recalled and – truth be told – probably needed another 12 months at that level. A stint in League 1 could be the perfect next step.

league look

Burton Albion extended their unbeaten run in League 2 to 10 games as they returned to the top of the table with a comfortable 3-1 win at Cheltenham on Saturday.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's side lie one point clear of Wycombe in the standings after goals from Stuart Beavon, Adam McGurk and Phil Edwards did the damage at Whaddon Road. Defeat for the Robins leaves them just one place above the relegation zone.

Wycombe moved back in to second place after a 1-0 win at Cambridge United with Hogan Ephraim scoring the winning goal seven minutes after the break. Cambridge, who lost their FA Cup fourth round replay at Manchester United last week, also saw Cameron McGeehan sent-off shortly after the Wycombe goal.

Rivals

Promotion rivals Shrewsbury met Southend at the New Meadow and the home side came within five minutes of losing their unbeaten home record. Josh Payne had the Shrimps ahead early in the second half but Micky Mellon's side grabbed a point thanks to debutant Tyrone Barnett's 85th-minute equaliser.

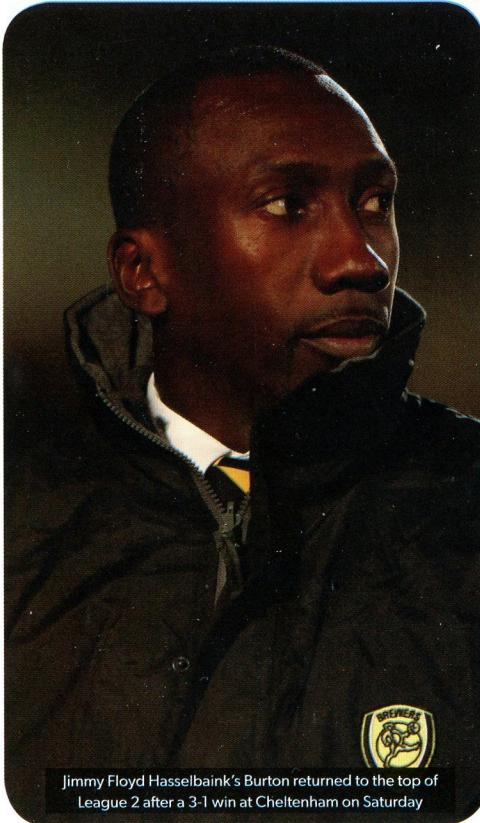
The Town's draw at Oxford keeps us in fourth place, four points behind the final automatic promotion place with a game in hand and level on points with Southend who lie in fifth place but with an inferior goal difference.

Newport were on the receiving end of a fourth successive defeat as two Adebayo Akinfenwa goals gave AFC Wimbledon victory at Kingsmeadow. County stay in sixth place but now face up to life without manager Justin Edinburgh, who has taken charge at League 1 Gillingham.

Two teams battling for a place in the Play-Offs shared the spoils with Bury coming back from a goal down to earn a point at home to Exeter at Gigg Lane. Bury sit in seventh – the final Play-Off spot – on 45 points, whilst Exeter sit in ninth on 42 points.

Those sides sandwich Plymouth in eighth place after Argyle got back to winning ways with a 1-0 win over Accrington to move to within two points of the top seven.

Northampton are League 2's form side – the Cobblers racked up their fifth straight win with a 2-1 victory at home to Morecambe. Chris Wilder's side sit in 11th place and are now just five points off the Play-Offs.



Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's Burton returned to the top of League 2 after a 3-1 win at Cheltenham on Saturday

At the other end of the table, Hartlepool sit nine points from safety after losing 1-0 at Portsmouth, while tonight's visitors York dropped into the bottom two after a 2-0 home defeat against Dagenham & Redbridge. The Minstermen have not won in their last six games, losing four of the last five.

Two clubs relegated from League 1 last term, Trammere and Carlisle, continue to edge away from the relegation zone but the two met at the weekend with the in-form Cumbrians – Saturday's visitors to Kenilworth Road – coming out on top 2-0. Keith Curle's men have won three of their last four games to rise to 18th. Their last 10 games have seen them win five and lose five.



League 2 news in brief

TONIGHT'S FIXTURES

Accrington v Oxford
Burton v AFC Wimbledon
Carlisle v Shrewsbury
Dag & Red v Portsmouth
Exeter v Cambridge
Hartlepool v Northampton
Morecambe v Mansfield
Newport v Tranmere
Southend v Cheltenham
Stevenage v Bury
Wycombe v Plymouth

TOP GOALSCORERS

Richards (Northampton) 16
Tubbs (Portsmouth) 13
Collins (Shrewsbury) 12
Hylton (Oxford) 12
Reid (Plymouth) 12
Akinfenwa (Wimbledon) 11
Cureton (Dag & Red) 10
Nichols (Exeter) 10
Wallace (Portsmouth) 9
Cullen (Luton) 8

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Portsmouth	15,185	Exeter	3,738
Luton	8,745	Hartlepool	3,523
Plymouth	7,427	Bury	3,485
Oxford	5,967	York	3,432
Southend	5,808	Newport	3,360
Shrewsbury	5,020	Stevenage	3,184
Cambridge	5,012	Burton	3,088
Tranmere	4,946	Mansfield	2,913
Northampton	4,441	Cheltenham	2,715
Carlisle	4,298	Morecambe	2,037
Wycombe	4,039	Dag & Red	1,914
AFC W'don	3,973	Accrington	1,505

LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Burton Albion	29	17	6	6	41	27	14	57
2 Wycombe Wanderers	29	15	11	3	41	21	20	56
3 Shrewsbury Town	29	16	7	6	41	19	22	55
4 LUTON TOWN	28	14	9	5	34	21	13	51
5 Southend United	29	14	9	6	31	24	7	51
6 Newport County	29	13	7	9	36	35	1	46
7 Bury	29	13	6	10	40	34	6	45
8 Plymouth Argyle	29	12	7	10	33	22	11	43
9 Exeter City	30	11	9	10	40	42	-2	42
10 Stevenage	29	12	5	12	39	38	1	41
11 Northampton Town	29	12	4	13	47	40	7	40
12 AFC Wimbledon	28	11	7	10	40	38	2	40
13 Morecambe	29	10	8	11	29	28	1	38
14 Cambridge United	28	10	6	12	42	34	8	36
15 Oxford United	29	8	10	11	33	37	-4	34
16 Portsmouth	28	8	9	11	29	33	-4	33
17 Dagenham & Redbridge	29	9	6	14	32	39	-7	33
18 Carlisle United	29	10	3	16	37	50	-13	33
19 Accrington Stanley	28	10	3	15	36	49	-13	33
20 Mansfield Town	28	8	7	13	23	35	-12	31
21 Tranmere Rovers	28	7	9	12	29	34	-5	30
22 Cheltenham Town	29	7	9	13	26	43	-17	30
23 York City	29	5	13	11	27	35	-8	28
24 Hartlepool United	29	5	6	18	22	50	-28	21

PLAYER STATS 2014/15

LEAGUE	THIS SEASON					LFC CAREER TOTAL
	APPS	GLS	CUP	APPS	GLS	
Zane Banton	10 (0)	0	0	0 (0)	0	0 0 6 0
Paul Benson	10 (3)	1	3	0 (0)	1	13 (3) 2 4 0 54 20
Paul Connolly	4 (0)	0	2	0 (0)	0	6 (0) 0 3 0 6 0
Mark Cullen	22 (3)	8	5	0 (0)	1	27 (8) 9 1 0 66 19
Nathan Doyle	19 (0)	0	4	0 (0)	0	23 (0) 0 5 0 23 0
Andy Drury	22 (5)	2	4	0 (0)	0	26 (5) 2 1 0 57 10
Fraser Franks	5 (1)	0	4	0 (0)	0	9 (1) 0 1 0 27 0
Scott Griffiths	23 (0)	1	4	0 (0)	0	27 (0) 1 2 0 79 2
Luke Guttridge	9 (4)	1	2	(1)	1	11 (5) 2 1 0 49 15
Ryan Hall	1 (0)	0	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0) 0 0 1 0 1 0
Michael Harriman	17 (0)	0	4	0 (0)	1	21 (0) 1 1 0 21 1
Jake Howells	16 (6)	3	3	2 (2)	1	19 (8) 4 1 0 303 30
Elliot Justham	0 (0)	0	1	0 (0)	0	0 (0) 0 0 8 0
Alex Lacey	8 (4)	0	2	0 (0)	0	10 (4) 0 0 0 45 1
Ross Lafayette	1 (10)	0	0	(3)	1	13 (0) 2 0 2 14 0
Alex Lawless	2 (3)	1	0	(1)	0	2 (4) 1 1 0 162 19
Steve McManamy	27 (0)	0	4	0 (0)	0	31 (0) 0 4 1 99 2
Ricky Miller	2 (8)	1	1	(2)	1	3 (10) 2 1 0 13 2
Nathan Odubwa	0 (1)	0	0	(0)	0	1 (1) 0 0 1 0 1 0
Andrew Parry	0 (0)	0	0	(0)	0	0 (0) 0 0 26 4
Ian Rees	0 (0)	0	0	(0)	0	0 (0) 0 0 4 0
Matt Robinson	5 (1)	0	1	(2)	0	6 (3) 0 1 1 54 3
Luke Rooney	8 (3)	3	2	(0)	2	10 (3) 5 2 1 19 5
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	10 (5)	1	0	(2)	0	10 (7) 1 1 0 41 3
Charlie Smith	0 (0)	0	0	(0)	0	0 (0) 0 0 3 0
Jonathan Smith	21 (0)	2	5	(0)	0	26 (0) 2 4 0 86 5
Jim Stevenson	2 (9)	1	1	(0)	0	3 (9) 1 1 0 18 1
Jayden Stockley	5 (0)	1	0	(0)	0	5 (1) 0 0 5 1
Mark Tyler	28 (0)	0	5	(0)	0	33 (0) 0 2 0 263 0
Charlie Walker	0 (3)	0	1	(2)	0	1 (5) 0 0 6 0
Alex Wall	1 (4)	1	1	(0)	0	2 (4) 1 3 0 33 7
Shaun Whalley	11 (1)	3	1	(0)	0	12 (1) 3 2 0 35 5
Luke Wilkinson	26 (0)	4	6	(0)	0	32 (0) 4 1 32 4
Curtley Williams	3 (0)	0	0	(0)	0	0 0 0 0 3 0

THE SEASON

Fixtures & Results

S P E C S | FRIDAY C O M E D Y | 6 T H M A R

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AT THE MALL ARNDALE

**SKIPPER STEVE McNULTY*
& GOALKEEPER MARK TYLER***
WILL BE AT THE STORE SIGNING CLUB MERCHANDISE



HOLD THE Back Page

WITH LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR MIKE SIMMONDS

A crucial month in the Town's bid for back-to-back promotions started with a hard-earned point at Oxford United on Saturday.

Although plenty of Luton followers would have arrived at the Kassam expecting Hatters to become yet another team to leave the U's empty-handed at home, this was a tougher Oxford side than previously after some transfer window strengthening.

Triumphant

In the end, it was most definitely a point earned as the hosts enjoyed much the better chances, and but for the linesman's flag, might even have walked away triumphant.

However, now Hatters have a real chance of putting some wins on the board, as tonight York, and then on Saturday, Carlisle pitch up at Kenilworth Road.

On the back of an unbeaten home league run stretching back to 6th September, there is a real air of invincibility surrounding Luton on their own patch.

Nosedived

The Minstermen have nosedived dramatically and are a shadow of the side who caused Town so many problems in recent years, finding themselves in a relegation dogfight after Saturday's terrible 2-0 home defeat to Dagenham.

Meanwhile, Carlisle, despite improving under Keith Curle and winning at Tranmere on Saturday, don't enjoy travelling that much, having lost 10 matches away from Brunton Park.



So Luton have a superb chance to pocket six points from six, before hitting the road themselves with successive away games at Mansfield and AFC Wimbledon. February is then ended with another hugely winnable home clash against an inconsistent Accrington Stanley.

A big points return is needed as well, with the top three not looking like faltering any time soon and Southend now well and truly breathing down Hatters necks.

Boss John Still can be pleased with his work during January too, bringing in Ryan Hall, who was a huge hit in League 2 earlier in his career. Spurs youngster Nathan Oduwa showed real glimpses of his potential during 30 minutes against Oxford too and could well be a star in the making.

With the boss still looking at the loan market, who's to say there won't be one or two more new faces recruited to bolster the Town's push for League 1 football next season.

All things being well, tonight should mark the 100th appearance in Luton colours for skipper Steve McNulty, who is quite rightly revered by those of a Hatters persuasion.

Both he and the club have come a long, long way since his debut back on 2nd February, 2013 when Town were beaten 1-0 at Barrow on a miserable afternoon in Cumbria.

McNulty has stated he wants to continue until the club reach a level he feels he can't play at, i.e. the Championship.

If Town can make the most of their fixtures this month, there's every chance that dream could move a step closer.

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THE SQUADS



LUTON TOWN

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



YORK CITY

2	Marvin McCoy
3	Femi Ilesanmi
5	John McCombe
7	Michael Coulson
8	Luke Summerfield
9	Wes Fletcher
10	Russell Penn
12	Josh Carson
14	Lewis Montrose
15	Keith Lowe
16	Dave Winfield
17	Bradley Halliday
18	Tom Platt
20	Lindon Meikle
21	Ben Hirst
24	Michael Ingham
25	Carlton Morris
28	Malvind Benning
29	Emile Sinclair
31	Bobby Olejnik
38	Stephane Zubar
39	Jake Hyde

TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Charles Breakspear



Simon Barrow



David Rock



Akil Howson

NEXT UP

v CARLISLE UNITED • SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2015 • 3pm
SKY BET LEAGUE 2

