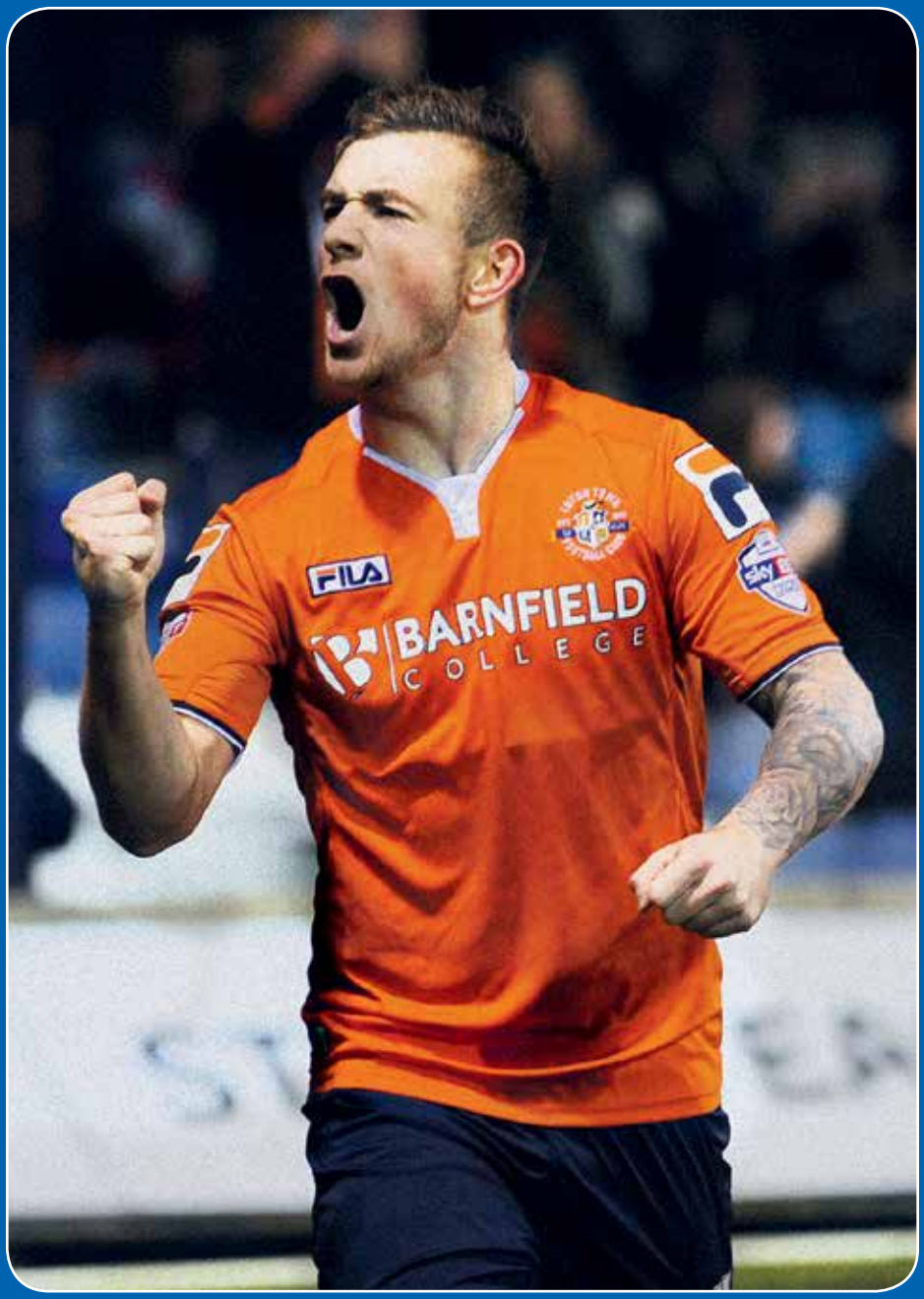
# Luton Town v Northampton Town

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Issue 14. Price £3

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## COVER STORY

Throughout the 2015/16 season our programme covers will be a nod to the covers of yesteryear. Today's cover is based on a Northampton fixture from October 1998. To find out more, turn to page 22.

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**Thoughts, feedback and announcements are welcome by post, phone or email #COYH**
The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.

# JOHN STILL

## NOTES FROM THE MANAGER

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR THIS SKY BET LEAGUE 2 ENCOUNTER AGAINST NORTHAMPTON TOWN.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to the Cobblers' manager Chris Wilder and his staff and players plus the directors and supporters of our visitors today.

I have known Chris for a long time and he's always done a very good job wherever he has been in his career.

Chris and the team have had to put up with some off-the-field problems but they have come through them with flying colours and find themselves in a really strong position near the top of the table. They have had a good first half of the season and come to us in good form so we know we will have to be up for the challenge today.

Our last few games have been a bit disappointing. From a winning position against Carlisle things turned around and ended up with a hugely frustrating defeat. That result was followed by the defeat at Newport which was also very difficult to take. It's easy with hindsight, but given how tight this division is this season, had those results gone in our favour we could have found ourselves in a good position in the table. As it is, we're not and it is now up to us to remedy the situation starting this afternoon.

Last weekend we travelled to Peterborough for an FA Cup second round tie where I thought the lads fought their absolute socks off. On the day I thought Peterborough deservedly won. They have been in a really rich vein of goalscoring form and they showcased that against us. However, I thought we stuck to the task manfully and hopefully we will have taken something out of the day, in particular the discipline side of the game which has been missing somewhat from our previous two league fixtures.

### STRONG

On the squad front, hopefully one or two knocks we have had in recent weeks are starting to subside, and we will also have Paul Benson available for selection this afternoon following his suspension. While it's difficult to predict injuries I would like to think the squad will be strong as we enter this busy Christmas period.

It's always a hectic time of year and I think it's fair to say it's a period in which we really need to be in gear. At the turn of the year in previous seasons we have always been in and around the top group and that is where we need to aim for now.

These crucial few weeks will be vital for us.

This coming Tuesday our youth team have their important FA Youth Cup tie away to Notts County. The lads have done terrific and I think everyone at the Club is very appreciative of the hard work and endeavour put in by Paul Driver, the team and all concerned. They will be well supported at Meadow Lane and by all the staff. Good luck to you all.

Turning attention back to this afternoon, what do we need? We need a committed, intelligent and hard-working performance. We've found ourselves in a strong position in our last home match against Carlisle but unfortunately couldn't hold on. We need to ensure we put in the same kind of performance but make sure we don't let any advantage we have slip like we did on that night.

Enjoy the game, get behind us like you always do and help us push on towards this festive period.

John Still is sponsored by: Thompsons Accountants and Country Properties (Hitchin) 01462 452951

# From the BOARDROOM

## WITH VICE CHAIRMAN **DAVID WILKINSON**

GOOD EVENING AND A WARM WELCOME TO THE OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS OF CARLISLE UNITED.

In my last programme notes I questioned the logic of the football league computer software sending the Town on successive long away trips.

Tonight the Cumbrians make their long journey down the M6 to Kenilworth Road and we repay the compliment on a Tuesday

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# LET'S GO

**THE TOWN HIT THE ROAD IN THEIR FINAL GAME BEFORE CHRISTMAS WHEN THEY MAKE THE LONG TRIP DOWN TO DEVON TO FACE EXETER.**

**WHO?** The Town take on Exeter City, aka the Grecians next Saturday. The club were formed in 1904 and are currently in their fourth season in League 2 following relegation in 2011/12. Like the Hatters, the Grecians spent five years in the Conference and ended their spell in the fifth tier by beating Cambridge in the Play-Offs final at Wembley in 2008.

**WHERE?** The ground that is often confused with Newcastle's St James' Park – Exeter's hasn't got an apostrophe at the end of their James – was built in 1904 and opened in September that year. Its current capacity is 8,541 and its record attendance was 20,984 when Sunderland visited for an FA Cup quarter-final replay in 1931.

**HOW TO GET THERE.** From Luton, take the M1 south, M25 anti-clockwise. Take the M4 and then M5 south, leaving the M5 at Junction 30, following signs for Exeter city centre along Sidmouth Road (A379) and then onto Rydon Lane (A3015). Take the Sidmouth Road turn off (B3183) towards the city centre. Keep going towards the town centre as the road becomes Heavitree Road. On nearing the city centre, take the fourth exit at the large roundabout onto Western Way. At the next roundabout take the second exit onto Old Tiverton Road, then turn left into St James Road for the ground. There is street parking, but quite a way from the ground as there is a local residents' scheme in operation. If you have a satnav, safely type in EX4 6PX in to it to get you there.

**ON THE BOBBERS.** It's a three-and-a-half-hour, 213-mile drive to Exeter but if you'd rather somebody else take you there why not travel with fellow Town fans on the Bobbers? They depart Luton train station bright and early at 8.30am and the fare is £33 for adults and £30 for concessions. Call 01234 856542 to book your place.

**HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?** The Town hold a decent record against the Grecians overall, winning 31 of the 60 previous meetings, which includes 12 matches (W6, L6) in the Southern League. The Hatters have drawn 13 and lost 16. The Hatters don't have a bad record at St James Park, winning 12, losing 11 and drawing eight of their 31 previous trips to Exeter. The Town have won two and drawn two of their last four games away at Exeter, winning 5-0 in 1967 and 1-0 in 2008. Last season the Town drew 1-1 with Scott Griffiths on target.

**THIS TIME ROUND.** The Grecians currently sit three places and four points above the Town in League 2 going into today's games. Paul Tisdale's side have only lost one of their 10 games on home soil this season – to Wycombe back in September. Exeter are unbeaten in their last six matches which includes a 2-0 win over Port Vale in the FA Cup last weekend. Their reward for that victory is a home third round draw against Liverpool. However, City are also decent on the road, with wins at Plymouth, Mansfield and Portsmouth.

## EXETER FACTFILE

Formed: 1904
Nickname: The Grecians
Last season: 10th League 2
Follow them on Twitter: @officialECFC
Colours: Red and white stripes
Ground: St James Park
Manager: Paul Tisdale

To get clued up on Exeter City, visit www.exetercityfc.co.uk

# SOLYD DIRECTOR FOR A DAY WINNER!

We are pleased to announce that SoLYD supporter, Ben Gray, and his father, Roger, will be attending today's game as guests of Town director, David Wilkinson.

They will be entertained in the Directors' lounge pre-match and will then watch the game from the comfort of the Directors' box.

The committee of SOLYD wish Ben and his father a great day. For you to be in with a chance of winning a future prize all you need to do is sign up to make a regular donation to SOLYD. It doesn't have to be large as every little helps. Through the kind donations of people like Ben, over the last six years SOLYD has been able to donate in excess of £90,000 to support the Luton Youth Development Department.

# DIAMOND VOTING FOR NOVEMBER

Voting for the Diamond Player of the Month award for November is now open.

Diamond season ticket holders have until next Friday, 18th December, to vote for their player. Cast your votes by emailing your diamond details to diamond@lutontown.co.uk.

All those who vote for the eventual overall winner will be entered into a draw. If an adult is drawn they will receive two tickets for hospitality in the Eric Morecambe Suite and a junior will receive a Diamond Mascot Package. This is one of the benefits available to Diamond Season Ticket Holders. Why not upgrade to become a Diamond as an ideal Christmas present? Contact the Ticket Office for more details.

Last month goalkeeper Mark Tyler won the award for the second successive month, and was he presented with his trophy by Kieron Burden at our last home game against Carlisle.

# LUTON ANTHEM – THE RESULTS!

A few weeks ago we asked you to let us know what you thought about Club anthems.

As usual, we were overwhelmed with responses from supporters, sharing their thoughts on the idea of anthems both for and against, as well as your favourite songs and artists.

All in all we had well over 100 responses, representing a huge range of musical styles from Metallica to Madness, Thin Lizzy to the Barron Knights and beyond. One thing's for sure, loads of you still love a bit of Eric and Ernie! Many supporters also joined the conversation on social media, with some voicing their objection to the idea of organised anthems.

There were three stand-out suggestions with Bring Me Sunshine a clear winner with 36 votes, followed by Thin Lizzy's The Boys are Back in Town in second with 27 and The Jam's A Town Called Malice two votes behind in third.

Thanks to everyone that took part. Come on you Hatters!

# HELLO WIXAM HATTERS!

A big welcome to Wixam Wanderers Hatters Under-7s who are unbeaten this season!

They a forming part of our community day today and four of the boys are big Luton supporters.

So welcome Reece, Finn, Daniel, James, Kyle, Tyler and Nathaniel! Have a great afternoon with us boys!

For all the latest news at Kenilworth Road visit our official website www.lutontown.co.uk





# GREETINGS FROM NORWAY

Hatters fan Reidar Solli from Oslo in Norway was one of 72 overseas supporters that stood a chance to win a trip to the UK to see their team play, after being shortlisted to win The Football League's 'Stand Up & Be Counted' campaign.

The overall winner from the 72 shortlisted fans was announced on last Saturday evening's 'Football On 5' highlights programme on Channel 5 from 9pm. And, although Reidar was unsuccessful in the draw, he is, however, at Kenilworth Road this afternoon to watch the Town in action against Northampton. We hope you have a great day with us, Reidar!

# REST IN PEACE

It is with sadness that we learnt of the deaths of two long-standing and ardent Hatters fans.

Dennis Ecott, pictured above passed away on 2nd December aged 85. Dennis was a life-long Town supporter and season ticket holder, regularly attending matches with his brothers, his son Martin and his grandsons Lewis, Tommy and Jack. Dennis's friends and family are all present this afternoon.

Martin told us: "It will be the first game without him and it will be a sad day for us. However he would expect us to carry on following the team we all love."

The friends and family of Hatters supporter Joan Lamb are also here at Kenilworth Road to celebrate her life and continue the support of the team. Joan passed away aged 86 in November and was at every Town game, no matter what. She was a beloved wife, mother, nan, friend and dedicated Luton fan who will be deeply missed.

# VAUXHALL VISIT

John Still and members of the Town squad visited staff at the Vauxhall Luton Plant this week, trying their hands on the production line, signing autographs and hosting an exclusive question and answer session with staff.

Paddy McCourt joined defender Stephen O'Donnell and striker Josh McQuoid to help with the new Vauxhall Vivaro, currently being manufactured on the production line.

Players took part in two signing sessions for staff as well as an exclusive question and answer session.

Still said: "We had a little tour of the production line and saw how the Vauxhall Vivaro was put together, which was very interesting. We met some of the staff on various shifts and chatted about how this plant was formed and some of the history. I think it helped myself and the players get a bit of an insight into what the working man and woman encounters every day of the week.

"Although this kind of trade is very different to what my lads do on the football pitch, it also has many similarities too. There's still team work, there's still a group of people together trying to produce something. They still rely on each other to make their own jobs easier, but I think it's good for the lads to see it in action for themselves."

Paddy McCourt got involved in helping to fit the new wheels on the Vivaro and said he enjoyed the experience of meeting all the staff.

Paddy said: "I've not been to a production line like this before and it's great to see how hard the people here work. It's fantastic to come here and meet some of the Luton fans that work here at Vauxhall and thank them for all their support this season. I didn't realise until today that our manager actually drives a Vauxhall, so at least now if he gets a puncture I'll be able to fix it for him!"

# SEASON TICKETS & 5 TICKET BOOKLETS

Treat your loved-ones this Christmas and they can enjoy the remainder of the 15-16 campaign as a season ticket holder. Our 5 match booklets are another great way to enjoy the Hatters at Kenilworth Road.

Call the ticket office today and get yours in time for Christmas

01582 416976

# TICKET OFFICE

A

## EXETER CITY

### Saturday 19th December 2015, 3pm

The Luton Town ticket office has received an allocation of 371 seats in the Main Stand and an initial 500 terrace tickets for this match. Selling arrangements: Tickets are now on general sale until 2pm Friday 19th December. Subject to availability, tickets will be available at Exeter on the day of the game – however there is a price increase on some of these tickets. **Prices:** Main Stand seats: £24 adults (£25 on the day), £20 seniors (£21 on the day), £10 under-18s/students (also £10 on the day). Terracing: £16 adults, £13 seniors, £5 under-18s/students. Ambulant Disabled tickets are available with a Carer free of charge. Wheelchair tickets can be purchased from the Luton Town ticket office.

H

## WYCOMBE WANDERERS

### Saturday 26th December 2015, 3pm

Tickets for this match are now available from the ticket office and online at category A prices.

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## PORTSMOUTH

### Monday 28th December 2015, 3pm

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

We have received an allocation of 2,689 seats in the Milton End for the fixture. Tickets are now on general sale up until 11am on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December. **Prices:** £20 adults, £15 seniors over 61, young persons 17-22 and ambulant, £10 unaccompanied under-17, £5 accompanied under-17s with paying adult/senior. £10 wheelchair/carer, £15 ambulant concession, £5 ambulant junior, carers (higher rate DLA only) free of charge.

A

## BRISTOL ROVERS

### Saturday 2nd January 2016, 3pm

The Luton Town ticket office have received an initial Earlybird allocation of 100 seats and 400 terrace tickets for the fixture. Further tickets are available up to a full allocation of 1,243. Tickets are on sale to Diamond Season Tickets at one per person from Thursday 10th December until close of business Monday 14th December. They will be on sale to Season Ticket holders at one per person from Tuesday 15th December until close of business on Friday 18th December. Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale from Saturday 20th December online and from the ticket office in person or via phone. They will remain on sale until 5pm Wednesday 30th December. Subject to availability tickets will be available at Bristol Rovers on the day of the game. However there is a price increase of £2 on all tickets.

Away Season Ticket forms will be held and processed on Tuesday 15th December. One seat will be allocated in the South Stand seats unless advised that a Terrace ticket is preferred. Please advise to ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk before this date.

**Earlybird prices:-** South Stand seats: £19 adults, £15 16-21-year-olds, £10 under-16s and over 65s. Terrace: £16 adults, £12 16-21-year-olds, £8 under-16s and overs-65s.

Wheelchair tickets are available from Luton Ticket Office priced £9 with a Carer free of charge. Ambulant Tickets are available in the South Stand front Row at £9 with a Carer free of charge.

## TICKETS FOR **HOME MATCHES**

You can buy tickets for games here at Kenilworth Road in three simple ways. You can either pop into our ticket office in Kenilworth Road, or alternatively at our club shop in the Mall; telephone our ticket office on 01582 416976; or purchase tickets online at our online ticket website www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown. Matchday tickets vary slightly depending on categorisation of matches this season. Each match will be assigned a category A, B or C and are outlined on this page and on our websites.

# COMMERCIAL TALK...

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER **DAVID HOSKINS**

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### ORIGINAL MADS

Today's match ball sponsorship is dedicated to the original MADS…they know who they are, we know who you are, wish you were with us today!

This MADS** sponsorship is to remember the day back in March 2007 when it all began with a group of 'supporters-many middle aged*' (Daily Mail) protesting about the club's previous owners. Thanks to you all, ladies and 'gentlemen' - a glass or ten are being raised in the Eric Morecambe today (and will be with some of you in the pub afterwards).

*Middle aged – a generous description for some, but not for others! **The name is an in-joke, there's no such organisation of course…

## MASCOTS

### STEPHEN & NATHANIEL

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

First up is 59-year-old (no, that's not a typo!) Stephen Skolsky from Leighton Buzzard who will be surprised by his friends and family by today's entertainment. A season ticket holder, Stephen attends matches here at Kenilworth Road with his sons Stuart and Chris, brother Andrew and friends Paul, Vinny, Dave, George and Jamie.

A second mascot is 11-year-old Nathaniel Chatterley from Eaton Bray. Nathaniel enjoys football, cricket, reading and playing the ukulele. He attends matches with his grandad John and his favourite player is Scott Griffiths.

Both Stephen and Nathaniel will meet all the players before the match and then lead the team out on the pitch prior to kick-off. We hope you both have a day to remember this afternoon!

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H: Maddie Knight
A: AVAILABLE

**4 JONATHAN SMITH**
H: Holly Kemp
A: SoLYD Gold Hatters

**6 SCOTT CUTHBERT**
H: Whosh
A: AVAILABLE

**7 ALEX LAWLESS**
H: David Goodge
A: Gill, Julie & Yvonne

**8 CAMERON McGEEHAN**
H: Ben & Richard Banks
A: Simon Pitts & Rick Hooper

**9 PAUL BENSON**
H: Emma Banks
A: The Mad Hatter

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H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

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To find out more information about kit sponsorships, contact our commercial team on 01582 411622

# Welcome to Kenilworth Road NORTHAMPTON TOWN

## TEAM PROFILE NORTHAMPTON TOWN

Nicknames: The Cobblers
Ground: Sixfields Stadium
Last season: 12th League 2
Manager: Chris Wilder
Last league match:
Northampton 2-0 Yeovil

## HATTERS v NORTHAMPTON

Luton wins 39
Draws 15
Northampton wins 28

**It gives us great pleasure to welcome everyone associated with Northampton Town to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.**

It's been a difficult season off the field for the Cobblers so far, with a sizable debt threatening the future existence of the club during the early parts of the year.

But a takeover from former Oxford United chairman Kelvin Thomas has helped the club reach a level of stability, putting any uncertainty firmly in the past at Sixfields.

And despite the troubles, Northampton have been performing excellently in League 2, currently sitting third in the table, denied the top spot by goal difference from Oxford and Plymouth.

Having finished solidly in mid-table last year, Northampton are already two thirds of the way towards eclipsing the 61 points they accumulated in the 2014/15 campaign.

Manager Chris Wilder, who enjoyed a playing career lasting 15 years, has been at the helm since January 2014 after signing a three-and-a-half year contract, guiding the club away from an imminent relegation danger in his first season.

This season, however, started a lot brighter for Wilder and co., winning the first three games of the season, including a 3-0 hammering of League 1 outfit Blackpool in the Capital One Cup. The Cobblers suffered a slight blip from there, falling 4-1 to Newcastle in the same competition as part of a run of just two wins in ten games.

A 2-1 defeat away at Cambridge left Northampton ninth in the league, but a run of six league victories in seven games has seen them rocket up the table, taking 19 points from a possible 21 since the middle of October.

After a narrow 3-2 victory over Carlisle, the Cobblers then edged out Stevenage 2-1 before being held to a 2-2 draw by a vastly improved Newport County. Wilder's side then secured one-goal victories over Mansfield, Notts County and Crawley as well as a 2-0 victory over Yeovil a fortnight ago.

Northampton may also have a cup run to look forward to when they host MK Dons in the third round of the FA Cup. Victory over League 1 high-flyers Coventry saw Northampton cause a shock in the first round, but they were then forced to overcome the favourites tag themselves, coming from 2-0 down with 10 minutes remaining to edge past non-league side Northwich Victoria.

The Cobblers have not been a stranger to goals this season, netting 33 in the league this year, with Marc Richards responsible for nine of those, and he could provide a threat to the Hatters this afternoon. Northampton have also failed to score away from home in just one league game so far, so it could be a busy day at the back for the Town defence.

But the Hatters were victorious the last time the two met at Kenilworth Road. Luke Guttridge's 90th-minute winner earned a 1-0 victory in front of 10,000 here last season – a result which sent the Town to the top of the table last October. Northampton collected three points in the last meeting though, winning 2-1 at Sixfields in February, despite Alex Lawless getting on the scoresheet.

## LAST MEETING

Northampton 2-1 Hatters
(28th March 2015)





# Meet the VISITORS

OUR GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM SIXFIELDS

## THE BOSS

### CHRIS WILDER

Former Oxford and Halifax boss Chris took over at Sixfields in January 2014. Led Oxford to promotion from the Conference in 2010 before guiding the Cobblers to safety in his first few months at the helm.

## BETWEEN THE STICKS

### ADAM SMITH

Summer arrival Adam joined the Cobblers on a two-year deal after leaving Leicester. Began at Middlesbrough but has enjoyed experience out on-loan at Chesterfield, Lincoln, Stevenage and Cambridge.

## IN DEFENCE

### DAVID BUCHANAN

Rochdale-born left-back David signed for Northampton this summer from Preston. Started his career at Bury before moves to Hamilton and then Tranmere. Joined Preston in 2012 but left Deepdale in July.

### RYAN CRESSWELL

Centre-half Ryan is now in his second season at Sixfields after joining from Fleetwood in September 2014. Has plenty of experience to offer following spells with Sheffield United and Bury among others.

### ZANDER DIAMOND

The Cobblers signed Zander initially on loan from Burton in 2014 before a permanent deal was struck. An experienced centre-half, he made over 200 appearances for Aberdeen in the SPL.

### JOSH LELAN

Right-back Josh was snapped up in the summer after his release from Championship side Derby. Has previously spent time out on loan at Swindon and Gateshead.

### ROD McDONALD

Another summer arrival, centre-half Rod penned one-year deal following a successful trial. Liverpool-born, he has previously spent time in Manchester City and Stoke's academies.

## THE MEN IN THE MIDDLE

### NICKY ADAMS

Creative attacking midfielder or attacker with the most assists in League 2 this term, Nicky joined the Cobblers this summer after helping Bury to promotion last season.

### LAWSON D'ATH

Young midfield player who signed for the Cobblers in August 2014 after impressing on a pre-season trial. Came through the ranks at Reading's academy before arriving at Sixfields.

### JOHN-JOE O'TOOLE

Attacking midfielder with an eye for goal, John-Joe is now in his second season with the Cobblers after signing from Bristol Rovers last term. Has also enjoyed spells at Sheffield United and Colchester.

### JASON TAYLOR

January transfer window arrival Jason penned an extended two-year deal in the summer having originally joined from Cheltenham. Has also played for Stockport, Rochdale, Oldham and Rotherham.

### JOEL BYROM

Experienced former promotion winner Joel signed for the Cobblers from Preston at the start of last season. Helped Stevenage win back-to-back promotions and has also played for Accrington.

### RICKY HOLMES

Former Portsmouth winger Ricky joined the Cobblers on a two-and-half-year deal in January 2015. Made his name at Barnet after springing to prominence in non-league with Chelmsford City.

## UP FRONT

### SAM HOSKINS

Young forward Sam arrived at Sixfields in the summer following a successful trial. Began his career as a youngster at Southampton before loan moves to Rotherham and Stevenage. Joined from the Cobblers from Yeovil.

### MARC RICHARDS

Last season's top goalscorer and player of the year, prolific goalscorer Marc is again the Cobblers' main source of goals. Arrived at Sixfields from Chesterfield in May 2014 and has previously been on the books at Blackburn, Barnsley and Port Vale prior to his move to Chesterfield.

### DOMINIC CALVERT-LEWIN

Teenage frontman on-loan from Sheffield United. Also capable of playing in midfield, Dominic came through the Blades' academy and has previously been on-loan at Stalybridge Celtic.

# From the OAK ROAD

IT'S BEEN AN EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER FOLLOWING THE COBBLERS THIS SEASON. A LONG-DRAWN OUT TAKEOVER HAS FINALLY, HOWEVER, BEEN SETTLED AND NOW NORTHAMPTON SUPPORTERS CAN CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS ON A PROMOTION PUSH. COBBLERS FAN GLEN COUSNER GIVES US THE LOWDOWN

## THE SEASON AHEAD...

After coming close to the Play-Offs last season what were expectations at Sixfields at the start of the season?

I think the main focus was having our stadium completed to be honest. Hopefully, now that Mr. "Promise a lot and deliver very little" Cardoza has left (with Kelvin Thomas taking over) we may see that completed for next season.

We knew some good teams were relegated last season, as well as some of the bigger teams investing well in their already strong squads, so we were calm about progress - we knew that it may take time for our new players to gel.

The takeover of the club was an on-going saga that threatened administration and points deductions. The squad have responded magnificently through times of adversity – what's been the mood and why do you think the team have done so well?

They've been incredible to a man... I'm saying no more as I don't want to tempt fate on today's result – all I'm saying is, we owe Luke Guttridge a 1-0 defeat!

Chris Wilder has enjoyed success at Oxford before coming to Sixfields. What were your initial thoughts about him and how do you rate the job he has done so far?

Initially, I thought his tactics were a little negative, but he was doing the best with the players he had at that time. Since the summer, his signings have come in and gelled, we have been great to watch. Counter attacking, fast and sharp passing with an aggression to recover the ball quickly, plus I understand we're top of the shooting accuracy lists…there I've gone and delivered yet another defeat at Kenilworth Road now haven't I?

Having missed out on the Play-Offs last season you are flying this time round. What's changed and do you think promotion is a realistic possibility?

No, we're going to lose 5-0 to Luton and that'll be the start of a slippery slope (Jinx removed)!

Luke Guttridge celebrates his last-minute winner against the Cobblers last season

Who's the one player to watch this season in the Northampton ranks?

Lots to choose from, my personal favourite would be Nicky Adams who's been the best thing since Martin Smith. However, you can look at any player this season and high five them for what they've achieved.

## SEASONS PAST...

Tell us about you. Why do you support Northampton? When did it all start? What was your first game? What do you remember about it?

I've been going since 1980, my first game was against our real rivals Peterborough, all I can remember was my cousin Russ (who took me) disappearing at half-time, I next saw him being removed from the Posh end with a few other Northampton fans….oh the 80's eh?

I get annoyed when I see locals from Northampton all togged up in United or other Prem shirts claiming to be supporters…They have no idea what being a real supporter is all about. Credit to your fans who turn up in great numbers!

Which is your favourite season following Northampton and why?

Has to be 1986/87 when we won the old Division 4 with 99 points and 100 goals scored. We were untouchable that season… Richard Hill, Trevor Morley, Eddie McGoldrick…three players who will forever be etched in my mind as legends.

## LUTON AND NORTHAMPTON

What are your best and worst memories of Northampton v Luton clashes? Do any games in particular stick out?

None whatsoever, we always seem to play badly against you – Luton is our bogey side without doubt. The worst memory was last season probably, not just because of Luke's celebration but somebody behind the Oak Road stand had left her smalls on the washing line again…ewwww!

What do you expect from today's game? What's your prediction? Are you looking forward to the lack of leg room in the away end?

I expect (and hope) that the Luton hoodoo will finally be broken by our gritty squads' determination and flowing football…I'm not going to predict anything though, other than the lack of leg room won't be an issue as we'll all be standing making as much noise as possible!

## QUICKFIRE

Terrace or Seats? Terrace

Who are your rivals? Peterborough

Marco Gabbiadini or Martin Smith? Martin Smith

Favourite season? 86/87

Guess your player of the season Adam Smith

If you could bring one player from the past back in the Cobblers team who would it be? Richard Hill

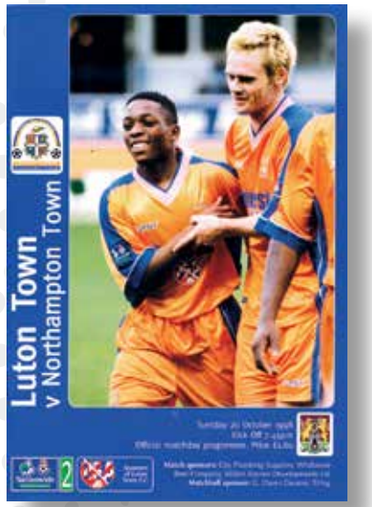
Most treasured Northampton piece of memorabilia? Sold it recently to help save the club

What league will Northampton be in next season? League 1

Who will win promotion from League 2? Plymouth, Pompey, Oxford..... and maybe a club at Junction 15a on the M1.

# COVER STORY

Club historian ROGER WASH tells the story of the match behind today's programme cover




## LUTON TOWN 1 NORTHAMPTON TOWN 0

### 20th October 1998

Following the narrow escape from relegation at the end of 1997/98, Town manager Lennie Lawrence knew that he was likely to endure another season of problems, given the parlous financial state at Kenilworth Road.

The experienced Darren Patterson and David Oldfield departed to bigger and better things while veteran Gary Waddock moved back to his first love, QPR, where he took up a coaching post.

Lawrence took heart with the number of good quality youngsters coming through the Town's youth system but unless you had a nucleus of experience in the squad then you were always likely to struggle. Mitchell Thomas, Marvin Johnson, Phil Gray and Steve Davis were the only players who could be regarded as experienced, so in Lawrence's eyes he would have to make do with what he had got and hope for the best.

With the sun shining, pre-season went well with ex-Monaco striker Herve Bacque forcing Lawrence, aided it must be said by fan-power, to offer him a contract. Sadly, he failed to live up to his early promise as he proved unable to stand up to the rigours of Division Two (now League 1) football.

Surprising everyone, the Town got off to a good start and by the beginning of September were up to second spot following wins at Wycombe and Wigan and at home to Colchester and Burnley. Defeats at Blackpool and at home to Walsall took some shine off proceedings but eyebrows were raised when the Hatters were well deserved 3-1 winners at moneybags Fulham.

A 3-3 draw at York was then followed by a 2-0 home victory over defensive Oldham with 18-year-old debutant Andre Scarlett coming off the bench to be clattered by Latics' David McNiven, who was dismissed, and then netting the clinching goal in the final minute.

Next up, for a midweek home clash, were Northampton. The Cobblers had reached the Play-Off final, when they lost narrowly to Grimsby, the previous season but were now struggling at the wrong end of the table with only two wins to their credit from 13 starts.

Lennie Lawrence resisted the temptation to include Scarlett in the starting XI leaving the team unchanged for a third successive game. A crowd of 6,087 turned up, the best of the season at that stage, to see Northampton take the initiative with left back John Frain continually lifting the ball on to the head of ex-Hatter Paul Wilkinson at every opportunity.

Thankfully, Sean Evers cut down the Frain supply line early on forcing Northampton to change their tactics and with it a game of football rather than a war of attrition broke out.

The Cobblers had the ball in the net in the 16th minute but Carlo Corazzin's free-kick was disallowed by the referee as he had not signalled that the kick should be taken.

Three minutes later the Town had their own free-kick on the edge of the area and with Steve Davis, Ray McKinnon and Michael McIndoe hovering over the ball the latter played it sideways to full-back Graham Alexander whose 25-yard effort was deflected past Andy Woodman in the Cobblers goal for his fourth strike of the season.

The goal angered Northampton with both Ian Sampson and his central defensive partner Doug Hodgson going through the back of Northern Ireland international Phil Gray with only Sampson receiving a yellow card. Although Gray and Stuart Douglas spurned decent opportunities it was the Cobblers who finished the half the stronger side with Corazzin forcing a point blank save from Luton keeper Kelvin Davis and Dave Savage seeing his 20-yard volley cannon off the crossbar.

In the second period, though, the Town took control and only heroics from Woodman who saved well from McIndoe, Douglas and Andrew Fotiadis, prevented the scoreline from becoming more realistic.

With the Hatters now up to third, one point off the top, it was left to Lennie Lawrence to say: "I am not getting carried away as we've had our moments of good fortune."

Graham Alexander runs away in delight after scoring against the Cobblers

# THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced a colourful 48-page programme for the visit of Northampton.

There was a report on the forgotten man of Kenilworth Road, Julian James, who had broken his leg following a very late challenge by Barry Hayles at Bristol Rovers the previous season. It was confirmed that James would need another operation on his leg which would mean that he would be out for the foreseeable future. Sadly, James never played League football again.

Skipper Steve Davis, in his column, mentioned the foul on Andre Scarlett which left the Oldham miscreant receiving his marching orders. Davis said, "This resulted in John Moore, Clive Goodyear and others from the Luton bench asking the Oldham lads if they fancied a pint after the game!"

The Town topped both the Football Combination and South East Counties League tables showing that the youth system was working full throttle.

# DEFINING MOMENTS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN **LEIGH EDWARDS** SELECTS EIGHT KEY MATCHES AND MOMENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED NORTHAMPTON TOWN'S POST-WAR ERA

## 1961 FIRST PROMOTION SUCCESS

Dave Bowen guided Northampton Town to promotion in 1960/61. The Cobblers started well, with only three defeats before Christmas, and the first-ever League visit to Peterborough United ended 3-3 in front of 22,959. Newcomers during the season included Laurie Brown, Norman Coe, Barry Lines, Mike Everitt and Norwich trio Ron Spelman, Jimmy Moran and Bob Edwards. Long-serving Roly Mills missed just one match as the Cobblers finished third in the Fourth Division with 60 points. England Amateur international Laurie Brown was leading marksman with 22 goals and moved to Arsenal at the end of the season.

## 1963 THIRD DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Northampton clinched the Third Division title as two goals by Frank Large secured a 2-0 victory over Carlisle United in front of 15,094 at the County Ground on 9th May 1963. Newcomers Alec Ashworth and John Kurila starred as the Cobblers made a fine start, losing just once in their first ten games, beating Wrexham 8-0 and Halifax 7-1. Billy Hails arrived from Peterborough and Dave Bowen signed Frank Large from QPR to replace Cliff Holton who joined Crystal Palace. Chic Brodie and Barry Lines were ever-present, while Alec Ashworth was top scorer as the Cobblers won all except one of their last 11 matches.

## 1965 TOP-FLIGHT COBBLERS

The Cobblers completed their meteoric rise under Dave Bowen by reaching the top-flight in 1964/65. New signings Charlie Livesey and Harry Walden starred as a 17 match unbeaten run lifted the Cobblers into second place by the start of December. Northampton bounced back from a 5-0 defeat at title rivals Newcastle United and clinched promotion to the First Division as two goals by Don Martin plus others from Bobby Brown and Joe Kiernan secured a 4-1 victory at Bury on 17th April 1965. Theo Foley, Bryan Harvey and Derek Leck were ever-present as the Cobblers also reached the League Cup quarter-finals.

## 1976 PROMOTION WINNERS

Leading marksman Jim Hall scored twice as Northampton Town clinched promotion with a 2-1 Fourth Division win at Bradford City on 10th April 1976. The Cobblers had lost just one of their opening nine Fourth Division games and went top of the table after a 1-0 win at Cambridge United in early November. Don Martin returned from Blackburn Rovers and grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-2 win over Hartlepool. Jim Hall scored three times in a 6-0 win over Bournemouth and Paul Stratford did likewise as Bill Dodgin's side ended the season with a 4-0 demolition of Stockport County, finishing runners-up behind Lincoln City.

The Cobblers celebrate promotion via the Play-Offs at Wembley in 1997

Northampton knocked out Liverpool of the League Cup at Anfield back in 2010

## 1987 RECORD-BREAKING CHAMPIONS

Northampton stormed to the Fourth Division title with a record 99 points in 1986/87. A five match unbeaten start ended with a 2-1 defeat at Swansea but the Cobblers then went another 21 League games undefeated until losing 1-0 in the return match at home to Swansea. Russ Wilcox was signed from Frickley and Dave Logan from Mansfield. Graham Carr's side clinched promotion as goals by Dave Gilbert and Richard Hill secured a 2-1 win at home to Crewe on 29th April 1987. Richard Hill, Trevor Morley and Trevor Benjamin scored 63 goals overall, while Peter Gleasure and Keith McPherson were ever-present.

## 1994 MOVE TO SIXFIELDS STADIUM

The club moved from the County Ground to Sixfields Stadium in 1994. The Cobblers had played at the County Ground, also home to Northamptonshire CCC, since the club's formation in 1897. The last match played at the County Ground was the 1-0 Third Division defeat by Mansfield Town watched by 4,993 on 11th October 1994. Northampton's first match at the newly-built Sixfields was the 1-1 Third Division draw against Barnet four days later, with Martin Aldridge scoring the first goal there in front of a 7,461 crowd. The record attendance at Sixfields is 7,557 for Manchester City's visit in September 1998.

## 1997 WEMBLEY WINNERS

John Frain's late strike gave the Cobblers a dramatic 1-0 victory over Swansea City in the Third Division Play-Off final watched by 46,804 at Wembley Stadium on 24th May 1997. The Cobblers had won just two of their opening 11 League games but the 1-0 victory at Exeter was a turning point and January saw high-scoring wins over Cardiff, Chester and Hartlepool. Newcomers included John Frain and John Gayle as Ian Atkins' side ended the season with an unbeaten seven-match run and qualified for the Play-Offs in fourth place. The Cobblers beat Cardiff 4-2 on aggregate to reach Wembley in their centenary year.

## 2006 PROMOTION PARTY

Northampton clinched promotion as Scott McGleish's goal secured a 1-0 League 2 win at home to Chester City on 29th April 2006. Colin Calderwood's side failed to win any of their opening four games but then triumphed 1-0 at eventual champions Carlisle United. They lost just three times before Christmas and remained in the promotion race throughout the season, winning 5-0 at home to Macclesfield Town in January. The Cobblers overcame two consecutive defeats in March to win seven of their last nine matches. Goalkeeper Lee Harper was ever-present, while Scott McGleish was top scorer as they finished runners-up.

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# Numbers GAME

## NORTHAMPTON AND THE HATTERS IN NUMBERS

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Town lost only one of their first 15 meetings with the Cobblers. The Hatters were unbeaten in the first eight meetings before Northampton first beat us 2-1 in the Southern League on 24th April 1905.

**75%** The Hatters hold an impressive home record against the Cobblers, winning a massive 75 per cent of the 40 matches on home turf. 30 of the 40 games have won, five have been drawn and five have gone Northampton's way.

**5** Northampton have only won five matches on Bedfordshire soil, the most recent came in 2000 when a Steve Howard-inspired Cobblers side won 2-0. That was Northampton's first win here since 1920!

**5-6** On Boxing Day 1927 the Town led 5-1 at half-time against Northampton but the Cobblers stormed back in the second half to triumph 6-5! The Town have only scored five or more against the Cobblers once and it came in this match.

**1** The Town have only ever won once at Sixfields – a 1-0 win in Joe Kinnear's first match in charge in 2001. Stuart Douglas scored the Hatters' only goal. Northampton have won six of the seven games at Sixfields.

### HEAD 2 HEAD

| | |
|---|---|
| 82 | PLAYED |
| 39 | LUTON WINS |
| 15 | DRAWS |
| 28 | NORTHAMPTON WINS |
| 123 | LUTON GOALS SCORED |
| 105 | NORTHAMPTON GOALS SCORED |
| 1900 | YEAR OF FIRST MEETING |

The two clubs first met in the United League in 1900. The Hatters, five years before they moved to Kenilworth Road, ran out 2-1 winners against the Cobblers on Boxing Day 1900.

### HOME COMFORTS

The Hatters have won 10 of their last 12 matches at Kenilworth Road and have won their last five. The aggregate score in the Town's favour in the last five home meetings is 11-3. Last season the Town beat Northampton here 1-0 thanks to Luke Guttridge's last minute goal. But the Cobblers gained revenge later in the season, coming back to win 2-1 after Alex Lawless had put the Town ahead.

### ON THE ROAD

While the Town enjoy a strong home record against the Cobblers, away from home it is a different story, winning just five of their last 25 visits to Northampton.

### 26,220

The largest attendance to watch a Luton versus Northampton game came at Kenilworth Road in an FA Cup third round tie in 1961. The Hatters ran out 4-0 winners with all-time leading marksman Gordon Turner scoring twice.

### NORTHAMPTON TOWN TROPHY CABINET

| | |
|---|---|
| SECOND DIVISION RUNNERS-UP | 1965 |
| THIRD DIVISION CHAMPSIONS | 1963 |
| THIRD DIVISION SOUTH RUNNERS-UP | 1928, 1950 |
| FOURTH DIVISION CHAMPIONS | 1987 |
| FOURTH DIVISION/LEAGUE 2 RUNNERS-UP | 1976, 2006 |
| FOURTH DIVISION/DIVISION 3 PLAY-OFF WINNERS | 1997 |

# TOWN 3 4 CARLISLE

Jonathan Smith in typical combative action against the Cumbrians

## STILL SAID:

"I think it was the second goal, we had three defenders on the floor, well you've got no chance of defending if you're on the floor.

"In possession we were terrific, but we've got to defend better. Going forward at one stage when we were 3-1 up I thought it was going to be four or five.

"Defending's been our Achilles heel this season, I thought we'd got over that and only conceded one in four matches before tonight.

"We've got three goals at home and it should be enough, but it wasn't."

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

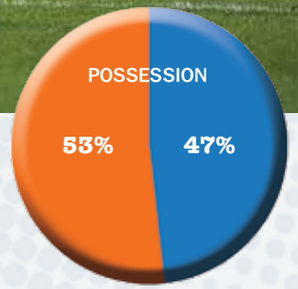
The Town threw away a 3-1 lead to lose 4-3 at Kenilworth Road as Carlisle completed an incredible second-half comeback.

An early Jack Marriott goal had the Hatters 1-0 up after four minutes but United levelled a minute before the break through Charlie Wyke's strike. But the Town seemed to be on their way to three points when Josh McQuoid and Danny Green struck to make it 3-1 before the hour mark.

However, the Cumbrians – the league's leading goalscorers who also possessed the leakiest defence – turned the game on its head with three goals in an unbelievable 14 minutes to leave Kenilworth Road stunned.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | CORNERS | 3 |
| 2 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 3 |
| 8 | SHOTS WIDE | 5 |
| 10 | FOULS | 14 |
| 3 | OFFSIDES | 4 |

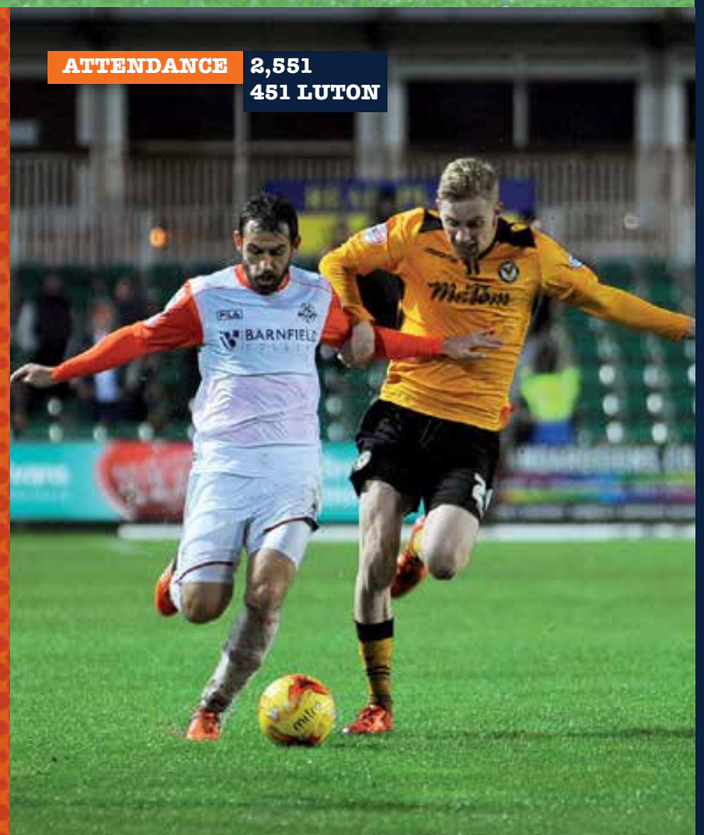
**ATTENDANCE**
7,298
169 CARLISLE



# NEWPORT 3 0 TOWN

## STILL SAID:

"We never managed the game very well from that first goal on. We managed the game brilliantly before that, in really difficult conditions for both teams. Up until they scored I thought if anybody would win, it would be us.
"Individual errors are giving us problems at the moment.
That's how it is, there's nothing I can do about it now. We can only get back on the training ground but it's hard to irradiate an individual error.
"This is football. You have to get back on the horse. There's no remedy or quick fix. You've got to make the most of your opportunities which we haven't done. These last few games have been bitterly disappointing."



**ATTENDANCE** 2,551
451 LUTON

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

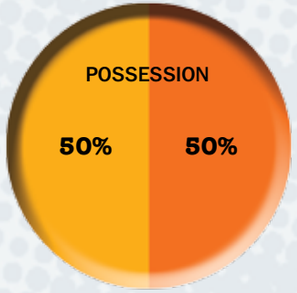
The Town slipped to their second defeat on the spin as a second-half hat-trick from substitute Oliver McBurnie gave Newport their first home win of the season.

The Hatters came close in the first half with Alex Lawless, Danny Green and Josh McQuoid testing home goalkeeper Joe Day.

But the Town barely threatened in the second half and County sub McBurnie – introduced in the 58th-minute – helped himself to a hat-trick in the space of 23 minutes to give the hosts their first victory on home soil since beating the Hatters in March last season.

The on-loan Swansea forward tapped home his first, pounced on a fumble from Mark Tyler for the second and completed his treble when receiving a square pass to guide home into an empty net to leave the Hatters to reflect on a miserable second 45 minutes.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | CORNERS | 10 |
| 2 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 3 |
| 3 | SHOTS WIDE | 4 |
| 7 | FOULS | 6 |
| 2 | OFFSIDES | 1 |



Danny Green goes for goal in what was the Town's best chance

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# Traveller's TALES

ARDENT HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER CONTINUES TO DOCUMENT HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE TOWN. HERE'S HIS TAKE ON THE DEFEAT AT NEWPORT COUNTY

## The journey

I sensed a slightly cautious mood from most of the people travelling on the two Bobbers coaches to Newport after the capitulation against Carlisle four days previously.

The two coaches left Luton interchange not long after 9.30am on a windy and thoroughly miserable morning. Despite the atrocious conditions we made good headway and were in Wales shortly before 1pm so after a quick stop at the services we made it to Rodney Parade just after 1.30pm.

Rating: ⚽⚽

## The ground

This was my second trip to Rodney Parade and, while it is better than the previous Newport grounds, we went to it still isn't great. Although there was a roof on the Bisley Stand we were in it made no difference as everyone still got soaked by the torrential rain. This wasn't really a day for creating much of an atmosphere but kudos to the dozen or so in the uncovered stand behind the goal who tried!

Rating: ⚽⚽

## The food

Given that we stopped at the services I grabbed something there and I'm glad I did as the food option was a burger van out in the torrential rain so swerving that was easy. A friend got a coffee at half-time and said everything was overpriced too! There was a bar under our stand which did a decent pint though.

Rating: ⚽⚽

## The programme

A rather hefty priced £3.50 edition was produced for the game but it has to be said it was lacking anything remotely interesting. There were three pages about our squad and two or three more pages about what fans have put on message boards and websites but, on the whole, it was pretty much a waste of money.

Rating: ⚽

## The match

With a swirling wind and rain beating down for much of the match it was never going to be a classic and it is fair to say it wasn't.

With the wind we had the better of the first half with Danny Green, Olly Lee and Josh McQuoid forcing their keeper into good saves but we were unable to take advantage of the conditions and you feared we might be made to pay in the second half.

And we were. We were slow to react to a free-kick to be given and Newport got down the left and the young Swansea loanee McBirnie who had just came on tapped home. Mark Tyler spilled a tricky long range shot given the conditions to the same man a little while later and then the keeper misplaced a pass straight to the Newport forward who squared for a tap in to condemn us to a really poor defeat.

Rating: ⚽

## Man-of-the-Match

Tough one to give to anyone this but Scott Griffiths got forward when he could and defended as well as anyone so I'd probably give it to him but nobody really stood out with an awful lot of credit.

## Summary

There wasn't much good about the day overall. Perhaps the only good thing being we were back in Luton shortly after 8.30pm so I was home for the Fury versus Klitschko fight that night! That aside this was very much one of those away days to forget.

OVERALL RATING
**8 out of 25**

MILES TRAVELLED THIS SEASON
**2,674.3**

# PETERBOROUGH 2 0 TOWN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | CORNERS | 3 |
| 11 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 1 |
| 15 | SHOTS WIDE | 2 |
| 6 | FOULS | 5 |
| 2 | OFFSIDES | 1 |

One of the many saves made by Mark Tyler

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters' bid for their second successive Third Round appearance in the FA Cup was shattered by a 2-0 defeat away at League 1 outfit Peterborough.

Conor Washington's first half strike had Posh ahead at the break before substitute Marcus Maddison sealed the Town's exit eight minutes from time.

Craig Mackail-Smith had hit the post on his return to London Road and Luke Wilkinson headed over in two of the Hatters' best chances, but Peterborough's quality proved decisive in East Anglia.

Mark Tyler delivered a stellar performance against his old side, producing a string of saves to keep the Town in the contest despite Peterborough's heavy shot count.

## STILL SAID:

"It was a fair result, the right result, but I thought we competed really well. They've been free-flowing lately and scoring lots of goals so we knew we'd have to do our fair share of defending.

"We felt we could break at them, Craig Mackail-Smith hit the post, but they had other chances so I'm not moaning about that.

"It was just a hard exercise of trying to keep in the game for as long as we could. In that last little bit of the game I thought they were just getting a bit nervy and they scored the second goal.

"I thought we stuck to the task well. They're on a rich vein of form, playing well. Our confidence is obviously a touch low, but I think we'll gain a lot of confidence from that today. I think when the boys came off they felt very positive about it and it's back to work this week."

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# Traveller's TALES

ARDENT HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER CONTINUES TO DOCUMENT HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE TOWN. HERE'S HIS TAKE ON LAST WEEKEND'S FA CUP TIE AT PETERBOROUGH

## The journey

After two disappointing defeats in the league it was probably a good time to take our minds off the bread and butter of that and focus on a mini-giantkilling in the FA Cup when we went to Peterborough.

Two Bobbers coaches left Luton interchange shortly after 11am and while it would be fair to say there wasn't much optimism around I liked to have thought out previous exploits in the cup this season had given some reason to hope.

After a bit of traffic around Peterborough city centre we eventually parked up just after 12.30 with a 10 or so minute walk to the ground.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽

## The ground

This was my first visit to London Road or the ABAX Stadium as it is now known, for quite a while. We were sat in the Main North Stand down the side of the pitch of the dugouts. The stand behind the goal to our left used to be a huge terrace but is now a brand new all-seater affair.

The turnstiles were pretty tight on the way in and the walkways and things very shallow which made me wonder if Snow White and her friends built the place!

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽

## The food

Served up in the tiniest food cove I've been in the food was pretty pricey and wasn't that great in all truth. You could have hot dogs, pies and pasties or the usual chocolate and normal variety of drinks.

Rating: ⚽⚽

## The programme

This one cost just £2 which was immediately a positive but the phrase 'you get what you pay for' rang true in terms of quantity. Just a 36-page issue was produced but despite that there were three pages on the current squad and a couple on the returning heroes Mark Tyler and Craig Mackail-Smith.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽

## The match

This looked a tough game on paper and for once it was represented that way on grass too. In all fairness we took a right old beating but we stuck to the task and didn't give in.

But for Tyler we could have been two or three goals down early on but then came a big chance for us when Luke Wilkinson headed a corner over. Just as we'd looked to have weathered the storm Peterborough took the lead with a classy finish into the top corner. Mackail-Smith was sent through at the end of the half but hit the post when most expected the net to bulge.

The second half was almost Peterborough against Tyler, with the keeper making a number of saves coupled with some gilt edged misses that kept us in it but we were put out of our misery late on to succumb to a 2-0 defeat.

Rating: ⚽⚽

## Man-of-the-Match

This one didn't need much thinking about! Mark Tyler was pretty much a one man mission to keep Peterborough at bay making some stunning saves to keep us in the cup tie for as long as we were in it. An amazing performance.

## Summary

That's our cup run over, but we can't have too many complaints. We were well beaten. Now we're left to relaunch a promotion charge. We were back in Luton just prior to 6pm after an easy journey back.

OVERALL RATING
**13 out of 25**
MILES TRAVELLED THIS SEASON
**2,804.7**

LUTON TOWN EST 1885 130 YEARS FOOTBALL CLUB

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# REACTION

## TYLER ON POSH RETURN

Town goalkeeper Mark Tyler was glad he got the opportunity to play at his former club Peterborough last weekend – but was gutted about the result.

The Hatters went down 2-0 to an in-form Posh side but had 38-year-old Tyler to thank for keeping the score down as the hosts lay siege on the Town goal.

Tyler made almost 500 appearances in 10 years at London Road and was given a hero's welcome from the Posh faithful.

"It was great," the Town stopper told Hatters Player. "I loved my time playing here, it was my first club, professionally.

"I did get a little bit of banter, but I love it. I made a few saves and they were signing my name, so it is a nice feeling. I thank them all and good luck to them in the next round."

With the Hatters struggling for results and with Peterborough high in confidence, Tyler still thought his side did well against Graham Westley's Posh.

London Road reunion – especially considering Elliot Jusham was used in the first round tie at Crawley.

"I didn't want to play just because it is Peterborough United," explained Tyler. "I'm a Luton Town player now but I'm glad the gaffer kept faith in me because I did owe the team one.

### PERFORMANCE

"It was disappointing at Newport. I held my hands up, so I needed to put a performance in. The gaffer kept faith in me, which was great. I didn't want to play under sentiment.

"The gaffer kept it close to his chest all week, I only got told two days ago. We did our match preparation but I fully expected Elliot to play."

Tyler was easily the busier of the two goalkeepers with the home side hitting 34 shots in his direction.

And while he was happy to make the saves, Tyler believed had the Town taken their chances it could have been a different game.

Tyler said: "I enjoy playing in goal. It's what I've done for a lot of years. Making saves is what I do day in, day out so it was nice to make a few saves. I'm just gutted about the result.

"Don't get me wrong, Peterborough had a fair share of the possession, but I think if Craig Mackail-Smith sticks his chance in it might have been a different game.

"He was a bit unlucky. He needs someone with him, so hopefully we'll look at that, do our work on the training pitch and look forward to the Christmas period."

### TYLER IN NUMBERS

| | |
|---|---|
| APPEARANCES FOR PETERBOROUGH: | 485 |
| APPEARANCES FOR LUTON TOWN: | 288 |
| TOTAL CAREER APPEARANCES: | 784 |

"I thought we stuck to the task well," admitted Tyler. "They're on a rich vein of form, playing well. Our confidence is obviously a touch low, but I think we'll gain a lot of confidence from that today. I think when the boys came off they felt very positive about it and it's back to work this week."

After the previous week's defeat at Newport, the Town keeper was surprised that he was picked for a

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# JUNIOR HATTERS

PLAYER PROFILE

## MAGNUS OKUONGHAE

DATE OF BIRTH: 16TH FEB 1986
FROM: NIGERIA
HEIGHT: 6ft 2
POSITION: DEFENDER

FORMER COLCHESTER UNITED CLUB CAPTAIN MAGNUS OKUONGHAE JOINED THE HATTERS IN JULY THIS YEAR. HE MADE 215 APPEARANCES FOR COLCHESTER BETWEEN 2009 AND 2015, SCORING 8 GOALS ALONG THE WAY. MAGNUS IS YET TO FEATURE IN THE LEAGUE THIS SEASON, BUT ENJOYED A POSITIVE SPELL ON LOAN WITH HARTLEPOOL BEFORE SUSTAINING A FOOT INJURY, BUT STARTED FOR THE TOWN LAST WEEK AGAINST PETERBOROUGH IN THE FA CUP.

## THESE FIVE HATTERS STARS DON'T LOOK THEMS'ELVES'. BUT CAN YOU SPOT WHO IS WHO???

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For full details visit lutontown.co.uk/fans

FACT FILE

### NORTHAMPTON TOWN

NORTHAMPTON TOWN ARE ALSO KNOWN AS 'THE COBBLERS' BECAUSE OF THE TOWN'S HISTORICAL SHOE-MAKING INDUSTRY. THEIR HOME GROUND HAS BEEN THE 'SIXFIELDS STADIUM', SINCE 1994, BEFORE WHICH THEY PLAYED AT THE COUNTY GROUND. THE COBBLERS MASCOT 'CLARENCE THE DRAGON' WILL BE MAKING AN APPEARANCE WITH THE VISITORS TODAY, SO MAKE SURE YOU GIVE HAPPY HARRY AN EXTRA BIG CHEER AS HE RUNS OUT WITH THE TEAM.

ANSWERS: 1 - PADDY McCOURT, 2 - OLLY LEE, 3 - SEAN LONG
4 - CRAIG MACKAIL-SMITH, 5 - MARK TYLER

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This season they'll be in glorious HD, and following the Football League's deal with Channel 5, the highlights won't be held to just a few minutes. Depending on the action, up to eight minutes of highlights will be able to view the day after!

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We know you live for the Town 24/7 and that's why we know you'll want to take Hatters PlayerHD with you wherever you go. And since Hatters PlayerHD is accessible on mobile, tablet and PC you'll never miss a thing - remember go to the App store, download FLI Player, select Luton Town and away you go!

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# 2015-16 STAT PACK

## LEAGUE TWO TOP FIVES

### GOALS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | SIMPSON | 15 |
| 2 | TAYLOR | 12 |
| 3 | CORR | 10 |
| 4 | IBEHRE | 10 |
| 5 | WINDASS | 10 |

### ASSISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | NICKY ADAMS | 11 |
| 2 | DEVITT | 10 |
| 3 | COX | 7 |
| 4 | AKINDE | 6 |
| 5 | FRANCOMB | 6 |

### SHOTS ON TARGET

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ROOFE | 32 |
| 2 | CAREY | 30 |
| 3 | SIMPSON | 25 |
| 4 | TAYLOR | 25 |
| 5 | CORR | 22 |

### MINUTES PER GOAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | IBEHRE | 93 |
| 2 | MULLIN | 103 |
| 3 | TAYLOR | 111 |
| 4 | SIMPSON | 111 |
| 5 | CORR | 113 |

### % OF GOALS INVOLVED IN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | TAYLOR | 48 |
| 2 | SIMPSON | 47 |
| 3 | AKINDE | 46 |
| 4 | KEE | 41 |
| 5 | ROOFE | 39 |

### MINUTES PER CHANCE CREATED

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DEVITT | 105 |
| 2 | NICKY ADAMS | 148 |
| 3 | COX | 151 |
| 4 | MARQUIS | 210 |
| 5 | KEE | 216 |

### FOULS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | GREEN | 51 |
| 2 | AKINFENWA | 49 |
| 3 | HARROLD | 38 |
| 4 | HYLTON | 35 |
| 5 | RICHARDS | 35 |

### MINUTES PER GOAL CONCEDED

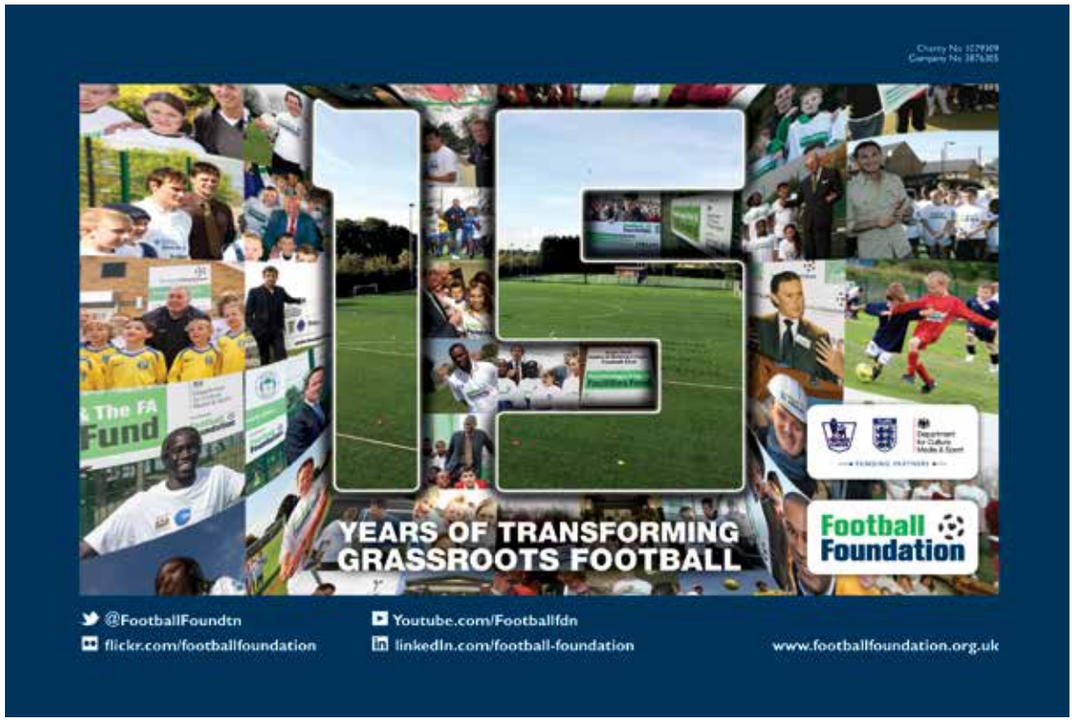
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | FLINDERS | 43 |
| 2 | ROCHE | 47 |
| 3 | JORONEN | 47 |
| 4 | SAM BEASANT | 50 |
| 5 | GILLESPIE | 50 |

## LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT

Northampton Town have been shown a league-high five red cards this season; two more than any other team.

## LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT

AFC Wimbledon have the worst shot conversion rate in the division, scoring with just 12.56% of their shots.



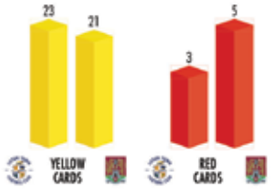
# 2015-16 STAT PACK

sky BET LEAGUE 2

## LUTON TOWN v NORTHAMPTON TOWN

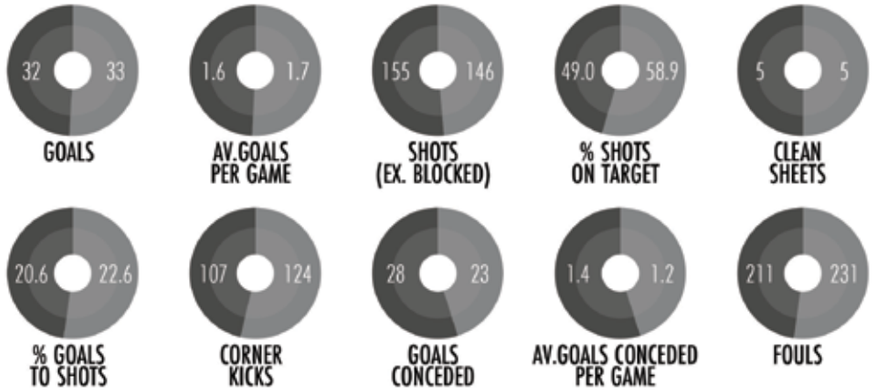
### MATCH FACTS

Luton have lost only one of their previous 24 home league games versus Northampton (W19 D4).

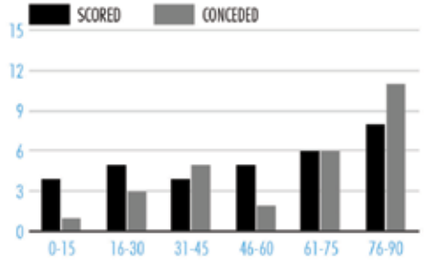



### MATCH FACTS

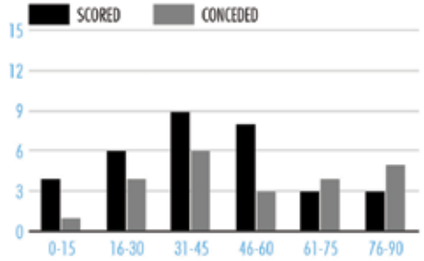
There hasn't been a draw between these two sides in league competition since December 1997 (five wins apiece).




### GOAL TIMES




### GOAL TIMES




opta OFFICIAL DATA

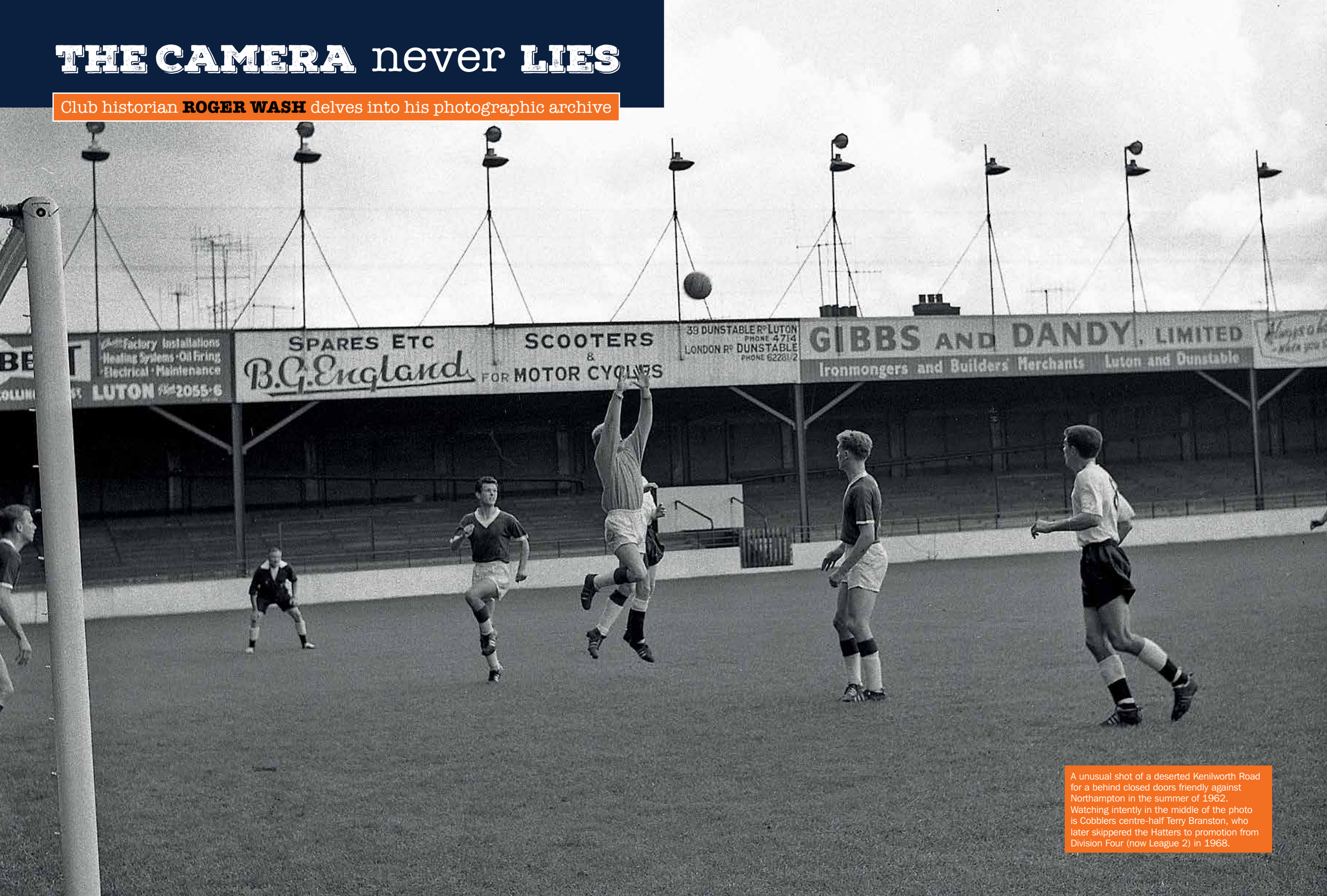
# PICTURE the PAST

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

Mercurial winger Graham French lets fly during the 2-1 home win over Northampton at Kenilworth Road in October 1968, watched by Cobblers defender John Mackin. This was the first League meeting between the two sides since 1936/37 and a crowd of 17,818 turned up to see the Hatters make it eight home wins out of eight for the season.

# THE CAMERA never LIES

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




A unusual shot of a deserted Kenilworth Road for a behind closed doors friendly against Northampton in the summer of 1962. Watching intently in the middle of the photo is Cobblers centre-half Terry Branston, who later skippered the Hatters to promotion from Division Four (now League 2) in 1968.

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# EARLIEST TOWN TEAM PHOTO UNCOVERED

**Hatters fan Brian Webb on finding a Luton Town team photo from 1889/90**

Since I retired in 2010 I have been working as a volunteer at Wardown Park Museum helping with some of the more mundane tasks.

As I got to know my way around behind the scenes, I found some fascinating Luton Town memorabilia, such as the fixture card from the 1885/86 season. I also located an old photograph of a football team, which was labelled as 'Luton Town in 1891/92'. The staff at the museum looked to me to identify the players but I didn't have a clue who they were. Roger Wash's books helped identify some of the players but many were a mystery.

Retirement has many benefits but your brain can wither away if you do not use it. I needed a project to occupy my time. I had always been puzzled about the formation of the club - a merger between Excelsior and Wanderers yet the latter continued to exist!? I decided to find out more from the local newspapers held at Luton Central Library.

When I read the reports about the 11th April 1885 meeting at the Town Hall I was struck by a number of things: The absence of a merger between Excelsior and Wanderers was the major discovery. However, I was also impressed by the men involved. Who were J.C. Lomax, E.H. Lomax, G.H. Small and Herbert Spratley? J.C. Lomax, appears in the records as scoring some goals but there did not appear to be a photo of him nor any information about his life.

I started to investigate and found that John Charles Lomax and his brother, Ernest Herbert Lomax, went to Peterhouse, Cambridge University in 1884. I contacted Peterhouse and the person I was put in touch with was a Lutonian! He could not have been more helpful and sent me a photo of the Peterhouse football team from 1886 which included the Lomax brothers. I went back to the old photograph in the Museum and there were the Lomax brothers in their cardinal red Luton Town shirts. I subsequently identified other players from photographs but we have one mystery man, back row, extreme right.

If you have any information please get in touch so that we can give this Straw Plaiter the recognition he deserves. Contact Roger Wash via the club or myself via the contact button on my website thestrawplaiters.com.

The players are in the photograph are as follows:

Back row: Albert Sanders, Alfred "Jack" Hoy, Ernest Herbert Lomax, Thomas Read and 'Unknown'.

Middle row: Frank Whitby, John Charles "Charlie" Lomax, George "Chubby" Deacon and Arthur Holey Taylor.

Front row: Harry Whitby and Walter Frederick Miller.

The players are in their cardinal red shirts. Five appear to be wearing red caps and two caps with hoops (possibly from the pink and dark blue kit). Note the differing knickerbockers, Bert Sanders' snake belt (which were often in club colours), shin pads outside the stockings and bars instead of studs.

# Luton Town in the COMMUNITY

**BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST**

## Prince's Trust and Hatters Community Trust

The Hatters Community Trust partner many different organizations both locally and nationally and last week teamed up the Prince's Trust once again to run a Get Started into Football programme for eighteen local 16 to 25-year-olds who were currently out of work and not in training or education.

The course was specifically designed to help young people move forward with their lives, remove barriers and have a go at fun activities and with the help of the Hatters Community staff and the Beds FA the participants all passed their Level 1 Coaching Certificate as part of the programme.

The Level 1 coaching course provides an introduction to the planning and delivery of safe and enjoyable coaching sessions for young players and included an introduction to practical games to develop players' technical skills such as shooting, turning with the ball and running with the ball. The course is aimed at the Prince's Trust youngsters who want to work with groups of young players and who were new to football coaching and working with young players.

As well as gaining some new coaching skills and understanding more about the role of a coach, the course also includes an FA Emergency Aid course and Safeguarding Children in Football workshop allowing our new coaches to put their new skills to good use straight away and during the week lots of activities were offered which gave everyone the chance to develop new skills, confidence and motivation as well as the opportunity to make new friends within the group. They also made lots of new friends at the stadium and enjoyed meeting the first team at their pre-match training session on the pitch ahead of last week's FA Cup tie at Peterborough.

The Prince's Trust also continues to give one to one support to help the participants think about what they want to do the after the course finishes and at the Club we also look to involve them in our community projects as assistant coaches and put their new found skills to good use. We wish all of our young Princes Trust coaches well for the future.

## Kids Cup Under-11s and Girls' Cup Under-13s

Today at half-time is the big school finals day for both the Kids and Girls Kinder+Sport Cup with Arnold Middle from Barton defending their title from last year playing St Martin de Porres from Lewsey Farm in the Kids Cup.

In the Girls' Cup it's an all Luton final with Cardinal Newman playing Chalney Girls. All of the boys and girls have qualified for today's finals through our local tournaments so please show them your support at half time!

Every Football League club is involved in organising their local Kids Cup competition for teams representing schools at Under-11 level and a Girls' Cup for teams representing schools at Under-13 level and in each of the last three years, nearly 2,500 schools and 20,000 children have participated in these competitions giving them an incredible experience as well as encouraging them to maintain that elusive healthy lifestyle.

Our winners from today will go on to represent the Hatters at the Regional and National finals at Wembley should they progress.

The Kinder+Sport Girls' Cup competition comprises of a six-a-side competition for Under-13 girls that culminates in a final prior to the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium in March.

Before that he winners of the final will then proceed to an area final to play the winning school from Charlton Athletic, Dagenham, Leyton Orient, Millwall, Southend and Gillingham with the overall winners proceeding to a regional North v South final with the eventual final to be played at Wembley.

The Kinder+Sport Kids Under-11 Cup also comprises of a six-a-side competition for Under-11 school children and culminates in three finals across the Football League Play-Off weekends in May. In the Kinder+ Sport Kids Cup competition all 72 Football League clubs are first split into three divisions, and in line with our divisional status we will compete in the League Division 2, before being again split into two groups, north and south - so our winners today will progress as Luton Town into the Division 2 South Play-Offs against the winners of the Div 2 North and Div 2 South finals will then qualify for the chance to play before the Football League Division 2 Play-Off Final at Wembley in May.

Last season the Barton boys progressed to the regional finals down at Portsmouth's training ground finishing a fantastic third place and narrowly missing out on the national semi-finals.

Good luck to all the boys and girls playing in today's finals!

## Christmas Indoor Soccer camps

Monday and Tuesday 21st and 22nd December

In a week or so we will be running four soccer camps in Luton and Bedfordshire as lots of our youngsters look to improve their skills and have a great time with their mates!

We are running three centres in Luton at Cardinal Newman School and both Barnfield South and West Academies. They are all indoor courses inside the schools' sports halls and we also have an outdoor course on the 3G pitch (weather permitting) at Redborne Upper School in Flitwick/Ampthill.

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 great value at £10 each day you attend - and 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 soccerschools@lutontown.co.uk. Please note, unlike our outdoor courses, places are strictly limited in our three indoor Luton course.

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# ACADEMY UPDATE

**WITH DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMY MANAGER ANDY AWFORD**

Good afternoon everyone. Here's that latest from the academy on what has been a busy couple of weeks for us.

## Under-18s

The youth team remain unbeaten this season, (21 games in total) after 3-0 home victories over MK Dons and Cambridge United.

Both games presented totally different psychological challenges for the group, which I am delighted to say they passed and deservedly ran out comfortable winners in both games. Sandwiched in between those two league games was a reserve game away at Cambridge, which involved a few of the youth team squad and, although we were on the end of a very unfortunate 2-1 defeat, I was pleased with the performance of the young players, although I must add that the senior players selected that day were also very professional.

Next up for Paul Driver's Under-18s is the FA Youth Cup third round tie away at Notts County (7pm kick-off) this coming Tuesday. Myself and Kevin Dearden attended Notts' second round tie against Rochdale, which saw County progress to face us with a 2-1 victory. The game will be a stern test, as Notts are organised and obviously have home advantage, but I am confident that if the boys play to the levels that they have shown for 95 per cent of the season so far, then we have every chance of being in the hat for round four. Fingers and everything else will be crossed on the evening.

## Schoolboy Update

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ciaran Gordon-Stearn. Ciaran is an Under-16 goalkeeper who has recently joined us from Ipswich Town and came to our attention through a close ally of the club Mick Payne and his goalkeeping school 'The Art of Saving'. Ciaran has settled in well under the watchful eyes of our goalkeeping coaches Kevin Dearden and Albert McCann and we wish him well as he starts his new venture with us.

## Under-11s

The Under-11s recently travelled to Germany and had a fantastic trip. We were up against some big European names but played some great stuff to progress through to the Gold Round group stages with the eye-catching result being our 5-3 win over FC Moenchengladbach.

The Gold Round saw us drawn in the same group as Schalke, Mechelen, Hamburg, Borussia Dortmund and PSV Eindhoven. A quite daunting list, and we were right up against it after losing two out of the first three games. However, the boys put on fantastic displays in the final two games to beat Dortmund and PSV 2-1 and send coaches Jordan McCann and Paul Reed into overdrive.

Next up in the quarter-finals were Round 1 Group winners Hannover 96. Having previously beaten us 3-0 they were clear favourites. The boys chose this moment to put in their performance of the tournament and sent Hannover packing with a great 3-0 victory. McCann and Reed were now rightly ecstatic! They then faced local side Armenia Biefield in the semi-final, but unfortunately the efforts in the quarter-final had taken their toll and we were defeated narrowly 3-2 and had to watch on through teary eyes as Hamburg SV lifted the trophy after a 5-4 victory.

The whole experience for the young boys was fantastic and they along with the coaches, Jordan and Paul, should be congratulated for their conduct off the pitch and their play on it. Well done boys!

Enjoy today's game - Come on you Hatters!

## YOUTH ALLIANCE FIXTURES

**AUGUST**

**Sat 8 Barnet H W 4-0**
Sat 15 Peterborough United A W 3-1
**Tue 18 A.F.C. Wimbledon H W 5-0**
Sat 22 Milton Keynes Dons A W 8-2
**Sat 29 Gillingham H D 1-1**

**SEPTEMBER**

Tue 1 Bristol Rovers (Cup) A W 2-0
Sat 5 Cambridge United A W 2-0
**Sat 12 Leyton Orient H W 3-0**
**Sat 19 Dag & Red H W 4-0**
Sat 26 Northampton Town A W 1-0

**OCTOBER**

**Sat 3 Dag & Red (Cup) W 2-0**
Sat 10 Southend United A W 2-1
**Sat 17 Peterborough United H W 4-1**
Fri 23 Barnet A W 5-0
**Fri 30 Leyton Orient (Cup) H W 4-3 pens**

**NOVEMBER**

**Mon 2 Colchester Utd H (FAYC1) W 3-1**
Sat 7 A.F.C. Wimbledon A W 4-1
Mon 16 Leyton Orient A (FAYC2) W 1-0
Sat 21 Gillingham A D 1-1
**Tue 24 Milton Keynes Dons H W 2-0**

**DECEMBER**

**Sat 5 Cambridge United H W 3-0**
Tue 15 Notts County A (FAYC3)
Sat 19 Dagenham & Redbridge A

**JANUARY**

**Sat 9 Northampton Town H**
Sat 16 Bournemouth A (Cup)
**Wed 20 Southend United H**
**Sat 23 Stevenage H**

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# Youth PROFILE

# JAMES VERNEY

Name: James Verney

Date of birth: 17/10/1998

Birthplace: Hemel Hempstead

Position: Striker

Year joined Luton: 2013

**WHY DID YOU JOIN LUTON TOWN?**

To give myself the chance of becoming a professional footballer.

**WHAT WAS THE BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP?**

Never give up.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL SO FAR?**

Scoring a volley in the last minute of a cup match to win the game and send us through to the final.

**WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A KID?**

Luton Town.

**WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND?**

Thierry Henry.

**WHAT OTHER SPORTS ARE YOU GOOD AT?**

Athletics.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT?**

PE.

**WHO IS YOUR MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE?**

Jack Snelus.

**WHICH MEMBER OF THE FIRST TEAM DO YOU LOOK UP TO THE MOST?**

It was Stephen McNulty.

**WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB APART FROM BEING A FOOTBALLER?**

To be a personal trainer.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TYPE OF MUSIC?**

House.

**WHAT'S YOUR AMBITION FOR THIS SEASON?**

To win the FA Youth Cup and to make an appearance for the first team. I'd also like to score 25 goals.

## WHAT THE COACH SAYS

Under-18s boss Paul Driver on James:

"James is one of the newest members of the squad, having joined our ranks in 2013. He came through Kevin Thoburn's Centre of Excellence programme where he was very highly-thought of. James is a great example of a player who has come through at a later stage in their career.

"As a player, James is a striker – it is a toss of the coin between him and Freddie Hinds who is the quickest player in the squad so he is a very pacey frontman who likes to play high up the pitch and use his speed to his advantage.

"Pace is something you can't coach but he also has plenty of skill and has good movement and they are two attributes we are working with him on to develop further. James has all the raw materials for us to work with and it helps that he has a willingness to learn.

"Off the pitch he is a quiet lad and I think there's a sense of humour in there somewhere!

"So far this season he has hit double figures already – not bad for a player who is in his first year and has been largely used as an impact player off the bench."

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# YOUTH UPDATE

The Town Under-18s surged eight points clear at the top of the Youth Alliance as a 3-0 win over Cambridge at Kenilworth Road extended their unbeaten run this season to 21 games.

After a tight early opening the Hatters took the lead in the 20th minute when James Verney raced through one-on-one with the Cambridge keeper and coolly slotted home his eighth goal of the season.

In front, Paul Driver's side doubled their lead 10 minutes later when Akin Famewo smashed home in the penalty area after the visitors failed to clear a Town corner.

It could have been 3-0 before the break with Kavan Cotter denied by a block and George Murray kept-out by a fine save from the Cambridge goalkeeper.

After the interval it took the young Hatters until just after the hour mark to make victory safe when Murray stabbed home his 10th goal of the season from close range.

With Southend's game postponed the Town's advantage at the top is now eight points.

The victory was the Hatters' 18th in 21 matches this season. It was also a 13th clean sheet of the campaign, too.

Boss Driver said afterwards: "It was very like many of our games already this season – we took time to get into the game but once we did we took control.

George Murray

"We knew the first goal after half-time was important and although it took a while to come we were delighted to get the third. Once we had the third it was game over."

On Tuesday Driver's side play their most important match of the season – away to Notts County at Meadow Lane in the third round of the FA Youth Cup. Good luck boys!

**Town:** Gooch, Bean (sub Justin 84), McJannet, McGhan-George, Famewo, Brown (sub Justin 69), Cotter, Bakinson, Snelus, Murray (Shamola 82), Verney. Sub not used: Hinds.

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# Luton LADIES

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**The Town Ladies eased past Bedford into the second round Proper of the FA Cup with a 3-2 away victory.**

Luton were soon on the attack testing the Bedford keeper and it seemed that Erica Byron had given the Town an early lead when she got on the end of a fine move. Her shot seemed destined for goal but the home goalkeeper just got enough of a touch on the effort to deflect it wide for a corner.

The attacks kept coming and Luton took the lead in the 20th minute when Zara Carroll's corner was bundled over the line by Jo Rutherford. Soon it was 2-0 when the ball found Natasha Fensome. There seemed no immediate danger as she jumped and volleyed the ball over her head goal wards and sailed into the net over the surprised goalkeeper.

The home side tried to get back in the game putting pressure on which was resisted until the stroke of half-time when a percentage ball over the top. The resulting scramble saw Bedford awarded a penalty which was duly converted to reduce the arrears.

The first half began with Luton looking to add a third and another fine move ended with Fensome's cross being struck towards goal by Byron but the keeper flung herself across the goal to push the ball around the post.

Erica Byron nets the Town winner against Bedford

Byron was not to be denied though, and when she was played in on goal slotted the ball home midway through the half to make it 3-1 to the Town.

## PUSHING

Zara Carroll then struck the crossbar with a free-kick before a late Bedford rally made things uncomfortable for a Town side previously in control. Firstly, a dipping volley appeared to be dipping just under the crossbar before Luton goalkeeper Rachel Evans leapt to punch the ball onto the crossbar and over. Evans made another fine save just after pushing away a goal bound free-kick before Bedford pulled a goal back.

The Blues threw everything in search of an equaliser but were held by some strong defensive work with the closest threat being a corner being well cleared from the far post following a corner.

Manager Nikki Baker said: "Bedford always raise their game against us and this cup tie was no exception.

"We got ourselves into a comfortable position but failed to land the killer blows and credit to Bedford who fought back and caused problems late on. A single goal win is all that is required in the cup and it is job done as far as we are concerned."

## RECORD

The Under-16s remain top of their League with a 100% record but made things hard for themselves falling a goal behind to Watford in the opening minute. The response was impressive though, as the Town youths ran in eight goals without further reply.

Jodie Bellinger led the way with four goals, Chloe Fitzsimmons scored twice with Eireann O'Donoghue and Daisy Slowey completing the scoring. Luton Town 8-1 Watford is always a result worth repeating at any level!

For more information on the Ladies visit www.lutontownladiesfc.co.uk

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# YOUTH UPDATE

## Hatters youngsters excel to reach tournament semis

On Friday 27th November a mixture of our U10 / U11 academy players travelled to Dortmund in Germany to take part in the 2005 born Hallenmasters in the nearby town of Unna.

This is the second year we have attended this particular tournament having had a great experience last season playing the likes of Borussia Dortmund, Werder Bremen and Rapid Vienna. Last year we narrowly missed out on achieving a place in the quarter finals and our aim was to go further in the competition this year.

### Group Stage 1

1) Luton Town v SpVGG Wallstadt. Final score – 5-2.
2) Luton Town v FC Moenchengladbach. Final score – 5-3.
3) Luton Town v Werder Bremen. Final score – 2-3.
4) Luton Town v Hannover 96. Final score – 0-3.
5) Luton Town v JSG Palz Hellweg. Final score – 6-0.

The above results meant that we finished third in the initial group stages and were through to the gold round of the tournament on day 2. The standard and caliber of teams was exceptionally high and we drew; Borussia Dortmund, Hamburger SV, Schalke 04, PSV Eindhoven and SC Mechelen. To progress through to the quarter finals we would need to finish in the top 2 of the second group stages or finish as the best third-place team out of 4 groups.

### Group Stage 2

1) Luton Town v Hamburger SV. Final score – 3-4.
2) Luton Town v SC Mechelen. Final score – 4-1.
3) Luton Town v Schalke 04. Final score – 1-2.
4) Luton Town v Borussia Dortmund. Final score – 2-1.
5) Luton Town v PSV Eindhoven. Final score – 2-1.

Despite narrow losses to both Hamburger SV and Schalke 04 the boys progressed in second place on goal difference finishing level on 9 points with Hamburger SV from the Bundesliga. Last year's winners Schalke 04 finished with a perfect 15 points and were looking strong again to go on and win the tournament. The strength of the group was such that both Borussia Dortmund and PSV Eindhoven were eliminated at the second group stage.

### Quarter Final Draw

1) VFL Wolfsburg v DSC Armenia Bielefeld
2) Luton Town v Hannover 96
3) Schalke 04 v VFL Bochum
4) Juventus v Hamburger SV

The quarter final line up was again extremely strong and we were pitted against Hannover 96 who had beaten us 3-0 earlier in group stage 1. After learning from the earlier game we managed to reverse the result and progress to the semi-final to face Armenia Bielefeld following a 3-0 victory and our performance of the tournament. Despite our best efforts the boys lost out narrowly 3-2 in the semi-final to Armenia Bielefeld despite hitting the post and the bar in the last minute things just didn't fall our way.

Once the tears had subsided the boys can look back on the tournament and be extremely proud of what they achieved against some of the biggest clubs in Europe, finishing ahead of the likes of Borussia Dortmund, Juventus and PSV Eindhoven. The tournament was eventually won by Hamburger SV who overcame Bielefeld 5-4 in the final. The boys have represented the club in a glowing light and are a fine example of the academy moving from strength to strength in terms of the quality of young players it has. The boys will now look forward to meeting some of the same teams again out on the grass when we return to Germany in the summer.

**Squad:** Top left to right: Darcy Moffat, Pele McDermott, Jack Bateson, Charlie Mallett, Anthony Carr. (As above: Bottom left to right) Harvey Heeps, Evan Tweed, Logan Flecknall, Rio Bedingfield, Jake Burger.

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# FROM LEFT MIDFIELD

WITH KEVIN CROWE

## PRESSURE DROP

Rumour, intrigue and speculative boos from the spectacularly boozed. When you're the manager of a fourth division football club called Luton Town, eventually the pressure's gonna drop on you.

The Sunday after defeat to Newport an unknown journalist on Twitter, with just enough followers to seem credible and a name you couldn't make up, told us that John Still would leave Luton the following day. At least that's what he understood.

Rumours on the internet are usually easy to ignore: At the time of writing for example, neither Keenan nor Kel have actually died, there's rarely *really* ever a riot at Dartford away and reports of Nathan Tyson's signing for The Town remain greatly exaggerated.

### RUMOUR

But sometimes rumours have a flicker of foreboding truth about them. Just enough corroborating circumstance to provoke that involuntary twinge of acceptance. Maybe a little, tepid part of me had wanted it to be true… Could it really be the end of the road for Still?

And so, for I and others who read the rumour, like a bruised and bloody Dr Jones senior staring over the cliff edge at the fireball he believes has taken his son Indiana, we experienced a little preview of that moment of clarity that might come when Our John does eventually leave.

I was absolutely gutted.

I didn't think I would be, to be honest. It's been a bit of a slog following Luton this past year and there hasn't been a whole lot to cheer or to inspire our enduring travelling armies. But reading the words on Twitter and seeing the rumour take hold of the good people of Lutopia last week, there was none of the excitement or throat throbbing relief that my frustrated face at full-time the previous day might have hoped for. Instead, looking back over John's post-match interview from south Wales, it felt as if a bit of the club (and me by extension) might have fallen, prematurely, off.

### MISS

Whenever Still does eventually leave, for me at least, there'll be plenty to miss. Because football today is littered, like my Tube journey to work, with enough throwaway spivs in blazers and hair product and teeth they haven't finished paying for. Clubs are built like Corporations from the dugout down on financial models and scouting networks and big data. Marketing collateral. The brand. Disposable people with barely opposable thumbs.

Customer satisfaction or your Moneyball back.

It hit me that the John Still era at Luton might be the last chance we ever get at giving a betracksuited football manager a bit of time to build something around him – something we were all up for a year ago. It's a nice philosophy for a club to have, but I suppose it's only easy to walk the talk while you're winning.

### HOUNDING

In a world moving more and more quickly every day, expectation will only grow the further up the league we go, and sooner or later we'll be just another Championship machine screaming and crying on our own YouTube channel until managers are leaving every three months just in time to start hounding out the next badge-wielding careerist, talking his way up a ladder so shallow it won't remember it was ever climbed.

Sooner or later there'll be no such thing as Managerial Eras anymore. Just a perpetual merry-go-round. And every club will be just like that soul-for-sale Udinese tribute band down in Watford.

Sooner or later that's what we're gonna get, mate.

So what's your hurry? Drop the pressure…

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# A WORD FROM
## The Football League Paper

BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Minnows Whitehawk – who have five former Luton players in their squad – have been dangled the ultimate carrot ahead of their FA Cup second round replay with Dagenham & Redbridge.

Havant & Waterlooville celebrate knocking out Swansea of the FA Cup in 2008

Victory for the National League South side would earn a trip to play Everton at Goodison Park and a day in front of the TV cameras.

The prize should make for a tense evening at Victoria Road but that doesn't mean it won't be dramatic. After all, the FA Cup has thrown up some spectacular replays over the years...

### Tranmere 4 Southampton 3
Round 5, 2001

Over the course of 18 euphoric months, John Aldridge's giant killers dumped no fewer than nine Premier League sides out of the cups. Yet even by their standards, this was an remarkable night.

Having ground out a dour 0-0 at the Dell, Rovers - then rock bottom of the First Division - went 3-0 down inside 40 minutes.

But cometh the hour, cometh 37-year-old Paul Rideout.

The veteran striker, scorer of Everton's FA Cup final winner in 1995, notched a 22-minute hat-trick then teed up sub Stuart Barlow to scramble home a late winner as Saints inexplicably collapsed. Tranmere would bow out in the quarters to Liverpool; Southampton boss Glenn Hoddle - who would jump ship for Spurs just a month later - branded his players "a disgrace to the club".

### Leyton Orient 8 Droylsden 2
Round 2, 2010

With 15 minutes left at Brisbane Road, Conference North side Droylsden were two goals and a man to the good. Forty-five minutes later, they were two men light and six goals down.

Orient pulled one back in the 77th minute, then equalised with a minute to go. Over the course of the next half hour, hat-tricks for Scott McGleish and Jonathan Tehoue gave the League One side a victory they'd scarcely deserved.

In fact, of 220 minutes over two matches, Droylsden - known as the Bloods - were behind for just 27 of them.

### Swansea 2 Havant & Waterlooville 4
Round 2, 2008

Seemingly dead and buried, Conference South side Havant stunned the League 1 leaders with a last-gasp leveller at the Liberty, taking the tie back to Hampshire.

And by the time the replay kicked off, both sides had been dangled the ultimate carrot - a trip to Anfield in round three.

Were the minnows fazed? Not a bit. They battered Roberto Martinez's side, running out comfortable 4-2 winners. The Spaniard - now in charge of Everton - won't fancy Whitehawk much.

### Hereford 2 Newcastle 1
Round 3, 1972

You know the goal but did you know it came in a replay? And it wasn't even the winner? The Southern League Bulls had drawn 2-2 at St James Park, taking the lead after just 17 seconds before levelling at the death.

Then came that famous replay, part-time carpenter Ronnie Radford equalising after 85 minutes before setting up Ricky George to net an extra-time winner that history rarely remembers. It was the first time a Non-League side had beaten top-flight opposition for 23 years.

### EX-HATTERS AT WHITEHAWK

Arnaud Mendy, Jake Robinson, Dave Martin, Scott Neilson and Danny Stevens all ply their trade with the National League South outfit.

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# LEAGUE LOOK

It may have been a disappointing weekend for the Hatters, but there was certainly plenty of entertainment around the rest of League 2 a fortnight ago.

With teams in FA Cup action last week, we have to go back 11 days for the last dose of league football, where Matt Taylor's 12-minute hat-trick secured a 3-0 victory for Bristol Rovers over Wycombe, while Paul Mullin's goal ensured Dagenham and Redbridge, playing their second game in four days, made the long trip home from Morecambe empty-handed.

## BUMPER

Those two games succeeded a bumper week in the division, with table-toppers Plymouth held to 1-1 draw at Dagenham, allowing Oxford United to leapfrog Argyle to the top of the table. The U's profited from Danny Hylton's winner to go top by goal difference, and the pair have been joined on 40 points by Northampton, the Hatters' opponents this afternoon, who won 2-0 at home to Yeovil.

Fellow-promotion candidates Accrington kept in touch with the early pace-setters courtesy of a 5-1 thrashing of York – who have now conceded 11 goals in two games – and are five points adrift in fourth but with a game in hand. Portsmouth slipped up with a 2-2 draw at Wycombe, while Carlisle and Mansfield make up the remaining play-off places with 3-1 successes over Crawley and Barnet respectively.

## ADRIFT

The bottom three sides have been cut adrift somewhat, as York and Yeovil's defeats kept them in the relegation zone, while Dagenham are just a point clear. Newport are now six points clear of the base thanks to their victory over the Hatters last week moving them up to 21st.

There's a full programme of League 2 fixtures this weekend, with all 24 teams kicking off at 3pm this afternoon.

Oxford host Carlisle while Portsmouth entertain Hartlepool at Fratton Park. York go to Bristol Rovers while Yeovil take on Barnet at Huish Park.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

Accrington v Wycombe
AFC Wimbledon v Stevenage
Bristol Rovers v York
Crawley v Dag & Red
Mansfield v Leyton Orient
Morecambe v Exeter
Notts County v Newport
Oxford v Carlisle
Plymouth v Cambridge
Portsmouth v Hartlepool
Yeovil v Barnet

Michael Appleton's Oxford are now top of League 2

## LEADING SCORERS

Simpson (Orient) 15
Taylor (Bristol Rovers) 12
Corr (Cambridge) 10
Ibehre (Carlisle) 10
Windass (Accrington) 10
Richards (Northampton) 9
Kee (Accrington) 8
Roofe (Oxford) 8
Whelpdale (Stevenage) 8

For more information on League 2 visit www.football-league.co.uk

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| **AUGUST** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 8 | 3.00pm | A | Accrington Stanley | D 1-1 | 2,359 | 1,175 | 13 | Justham | Cuthbert | Griffiths | McNulty | Wilkinson | Doyle | SMITH 1 | Green ▲ | McCourt ● | McQuoid ◆ | Mackail-Smith | Tyler | Potts | McGeehan | Benson◆ | Marriott▲ | Ruddock ● | Guttridge |
| **Tue 11** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Bristol City (Cap One Cup 1)** | **W 3-1** | **3,948** | **427** | **-** | **Tyler** | **Cuthbert** | **McNulty** | **Wilkinson** | **Potts** | **O'Donnell ◆** | **O'Brien ●** | **Ruddock** | **McGeehan** | **BENSON 1** | **MARRIOTT 2 ▲** | **Justham** | **Lawless** | **Hall** | **Griffiths ◆** | **Guttridge** | **McQuoid ▲** | **Doyle ●** |
| **Sat 15** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Oxford United** | **D 2-2** | **8,877** | **781** | **15** | **Tyler** | **Cuthbert** | **McNulty** | **WILKINSON 1** | **Griffiths** | **O'Donnell ●** | **Doyle** | **McCourt ▲** | **McGEEHAN 1** | **Benson** | **Mackail-Smith ◆** | **Justham** | **Lawless** | **Ruddock ●** | **Potts** | **McQuoid** | **Smith ▲** | **Marriott ◆** |
| **Tue 18** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Bristol Rovers** | **L 0-1** | **8,061** | **553** | **18** | **Tyler** | **Cuthbert** | **McNulty** | **Wilkinson** | **Griffiths** | **O'Donnell** | **Doyle ●** | **McCourt** | **McGeehan ◆** | **Benson** | **Mackail-Smith ▲** | **Potts** | **Smith ●** | **Lawless** | **Ruddock ◆** | **Marriott ▲** | **McQuoid** | **Justham** |
| Sat 22 | 3.00pm | A | Yeovil Town | L 2-3 | 3,830 | 820 | 22 | Tyler | Cuthbert | Griffiths | McNulty ● | Wilkinson | Smith | McGeehan | Green ▲ | Hall ◆ | BENSON 1 | MACKAIL-SMITH 1 | O'Donnell | Lawless ◆ | McCourt ▲ | Ruddock | McQuoid | O'Brien ● | Justham |
| **Tue 25** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Stoke City (Cap One Cup 2)** | **D 1-1*** | **6,099** | **823** | **-** | **Justham** | **O'Donnell** | **Griffiths** | **Wilkinson** | **Cuthbert** | **O'Brien** | **Smith** | **Lee** | **Green ◆** | **Ruddock ●** | **McQuoid ▲** | **McNulty** | **Hall ●** | **McGEEHAN1 ◆** | **Benson ▲** | **Guttridge** | **Mackail-Smith** | **Tyler** |
| **Sat 29** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Portsmouth** | **L 1-2** | **9,083** | **1,032** | **22** | **Justham** | **O'Donnell** | **Griffiths** | **Wilkinson** | **Cuthbert** | **O'Brien ●** | **Smith** | **McGeehan** | **Hall ▲** | **McQuoid** | **MACKAIL-SMITH 1 ◆** | **Tyler** | **McNulty** | **Green** | **Marriott ◆** | **McCourt** | **Ruddock ▲** | **Lee ●** |
| **SEPTEMBER** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Tue 1** | **7.15pm** | **H** | **Leyton Orient (JPT1)** | **W 2-1** | **1,953** | **300** | **-** | **Tyler** | **O'DONNELL 1** | **Griffiths** | **McNulty** | **Cuthbert ●** | **Lee** | **Smith** | **Ruddock ◆** | **GREEN 1 ▲** | **Guttridge** | **Marriott ▬** | **Hall ◆** | **Justham** | **Okuonghae ●** | **Mackail-Smith** | | **McQuoid ▲** | |
| Sat 5 | 3.00pm | A | Cambridge United | W 3-1 | 6,298 | 1,425 | 19 | Tyler | O'Donnell | Griffiths | WILKINSON 1 | Cuthbert | Lee | Smith | GREEN 1 | McQuoid | GUTTRIDGE 1 | Mackail-Smith | McNulty | Hall | Justham | Ruddock | Okuonghae | Williams | O'Brien |
| Sat 12 | 3.00pm | A | Notts County | L 2-3 | 5,820 | 1,689 | 20 | Tyler | O'Donnell | Griffiths | Wilkinson | Cuthbert ▬ | Lee | SMITH 1 | Green ● | McQuoid | Guttridge ◆ | Mackail-Smith | McNulty ▲ | McGEEHAN 1 ◆ | Hall ●▲ | McCourt | Ruddock | Williams | King |
| **Sat 19** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Mansfield Town** | **W 1-0** | **7,939** | **262** | **18** | **Tyler** | **O'Donnell** | **Griffiths** | **Wilkinson** | **McNulty** | **Lee** | **Smith** | **McCourt ▲** | **McQuoid ●** | **McGeehan ◆** | **MACKAIL-SMITH 1** | **Lawless ▲** | **Hall** | **Green ●** | **Marriott** | **Williams** | **O'Brien ◆** | **Justham** |
| **Sat 26** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **AFC Wimbledon** | **W 2-0** | **8,415** | **588** | **16** | **Tyler** | **O'Donnell ●** | **Griffiths ▲** | **Wilkinson** | **McNulty** | **Lee** | **Smith** | **McCourt** | **Guttridge ◆** | **McGeehan** | **Mackail-Smith** | **Potts** | **Lawless ●** | **Hall ▲** | **Green** | **MARRIOTT 2 ◆** | **O'Brien** | **Justham** |
| Tue 29 | 7.45pm | A | Morecambe | W 3-1 | 1,388 | 295 | 11 | Tyler | Cuthbert ◆ | Griffiths | WILKINSON 1 | McNulty | Lee | SMITH 1 | McCourt ● | McQuoid | McGEEHAN 1 | Mackail-Smith ▲ | Potts | Lawless ◆ | Green | Marriott ▲ | Guttridge | Doyle ● | Justham |
| **OCTOBER** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 3 | 3.00pm | A | Hartlepool United | W 4-1 | 3,876 | 406 | 19 | Tyler | Cuthbert | Griffiths | Wilkinson | McNulty | LEE 1 | SMITH 1 | Guttridge | McQuoid ◆ | McGeehan | Mackail-Smith ● | Potts | Lawless | Hall | Green | MARRIOTT 2 ● | Doyle ◆ | Justham |
| Tue 6 | 7.45pm | A | Gillingham (JPT2) | L 1-2 | 3,428 | 193 | - | Tyler | Lawless | Potts | O'Brien | Okuonghae | Lee ● | Doyle | Guttridge ◆ | McQuoid | McGEEHAN 1 ▲ | Marriott | Hall ● | Green ◆ | Griffiths ▲ | Wilkinson | Justham | | |
| **Sat 10** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **York City** | **D 1-1** | **8,612** | **222** | **10** | **Tyler** | **Cuthbert** | **Potts** | **Wilkinson** | **McNulty** | **Lee** | **Smith ◆** | **Guttridge ▲** | **McQuoid** | **McGEEHAN 1** | **Mackail-Smith ●** | **Lawless ◆** | **Hall** | **Green** | **Marriott ●** | **Ruddock** | **Doyle ▲** | **Justham** |
| Sat 17 | 3.00pm | A | Crawley Town | L 1-2 | 3,335 | 1,412 | 12 | Tyler | Long | Potts | Wilkinson | Cuthbert | Doyle | Smith | Lee ● | McGEEHAN 1 | Marriott ◆ | Mackail-Smith | Lawless | Hall | McCourt ● | Ruddock | McQuoid ◆ | O'Brien | Justham |
| **Tue 20** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Leyton Orient** | **D 1-1** | **8,022** | **638** | **12** | **Tyler** | **Long** | **Potts** | **Wilkinson** | **Cuthbert** | **Lee ●** | **Smith** | **McCourt ◆** | **McGeehan** | **MARRIOTT 1** | **Mackail-Smith ▲** | **Lawless** | **Ruddock** | **Guttridge ◆** | **McQuoid ▲** | **O'Brien** | **Doyle ●** | **Justham** |
| **Sat 24** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Plymouth Argyle** | **L 1-2** | **8,703** | **745** | **15** | **Tyler** | **Long ◆** | **Potts ●** | **Wilkinson** | **Cuthbert** | **Doyle** | **Smith** | **McGeehan** | **Ruddock ▲** | **Guttridge** | **Marriott** | **Lawless ●** | **Hall ◆ ▬** | **McCourt** | **Lee** | **McQUOID 1 ▲** | **O'Brien** | **Justham** |
| **NOVEMBER** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sun 1 | 2.00pm | A | Dagenham & Redbridge | W 2-0 | 2,773 | 1,083 | 13 | Tyler | Long | Griffiths | Wilkinson | Cuthbert | Doyle | Smith | LAWLESS 1 ◆ | McQuoid | GUTTRIDGE 1 | Marriott ● | Potts | McGeehan ◆ | Green | McCourt | Lee | Mackail-Smith ● | Justham |
| Sat 7 | 3.00pm | A | Crawley Town (FAC1) | W 2-1 | 1,929 | 487 | - | Justham | Long | Griffiths | Wilkinson | Cuthbert | Lee | Smith | Lawless ◆ | McQUOID 2 | Guttridge | Marriott ● | Potts | McHeeham | Benson ● | Green ◆ | McCourt | O'Brien | Tyler |
| **Sat 14** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Barnet** | **W 2-0** | **8,497** | **612** | **10** | **Tyler** | **Lawless** | **Griffiths** | **Wilkinson** | **Cuthbert** | **Lee** | **Smith** | **McGEEHAN 1** | **GREEN 1 ◆** | **McQuoid ▲** | **Benson ●** | **Potts** | **Marriott ●** | **McCourt ▲** | **Long** | **Guttridge** | **O'Brien ◆** | **Justham** |
| Sat 21 | 3.00pm | A | Stevenage | D 0-0 | 4,782 | 1,892 | 10 | Tyler | Lawless | Griffiths | Wilkinson | Cuthbert | Lee ▲ | Smith | McGeehan ● | Green ◆ | McQuoid | Benson ▬ | Marriott ● | McCourt | Long ◆ | Guttridge | Mackail-Smith | O'Brien ▲ | Justham |
| **Tue 24** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Carlisle United** | **L 3-4** | **7,298** | **169** | **12** | **Tyler** | **Lawless** | **Griffiths** | **O'Brien** | **Cuthbert** | **Lee** | **Smith** | **McGeehan ◆** | **GREEN 1** | **MCQUOID 1** | **MARRIOTT 1 ●** | **Hall** | **McCourt ◆** | **Long** | **Mackail-Smith ●** | **Williams** | **Doyle** | **Justham** |
| Sat 28 | 3.00pm | A | Newport County | L 0-3 | 2,551 | 451 | 13 | Tyler | Lawless | Griffiths | Wilkinson | Cuthbert | Lee ● | Smith | McGeehan ● | Green | McQuoid ◆ | Marriott | McCourt ● | Mackail-Smith ◆ | Doyle ● | Okuonghae | Long | Hall | Justham |
| **DECEMBER** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sun 6 | 2.00pm | A | Peterborough United (FAC2) | L 0-2 | 8,379 | 1,740 | - | Tyler | Long | Lawless ▲ | Wilkinson | Okuonghae | Lee ● | Smith | Doyle | McCourt ◆ | McQuoid | Mackail-Smith | Hall | Guttridge | Williams | McGeehan ● | Green ◆ | Griffiths ▲ | Justham |
| **Sat 12** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Northampton Town** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 19 | 3.00pm | A | Exeter City | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 26** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Wycombe Wanderers** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 28 | 3.00pm | A | Portsmouth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **JANUARY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 2 | 3.00pm | A | Bristol Rovers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 16** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Cambridge United** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 23 | 3.00pm | A | Mansfield Town | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 30** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Notts County** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **FEBRUARY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 6 | 3.00pm | A | Wycombe Wanderers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 13 | 3.00pm | A | AFC Wimbledon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 20** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Hartlepool United** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 27 | 3.00pm | A | York City | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **MARCH** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Tue 1** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Morecambe** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 5 | 3.00pm | A | Leyton Orient | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 12** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Crawley Town** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 19 | 3.00pm | A | Plymouth Argyle | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Fri 25** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Dagenham & Redbridge** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 28 | 3.00pm | A | Barnet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **APRIL** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 2** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Stevenage** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 9** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Accrington Stanley** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 16 | 3.00pm | A | Oxford United | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 19 | 7.45pm | A | Carlisle United | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 23** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Newport County** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 30 | 3.00pm | A | Northampton Town | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **MAY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 7** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Exeter City** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **TBA** | | **H** | **Yeovil Town** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*Lost 8-7 on penalties

## MEET THE REF
### MIKE JONES

Premier League and Select Group referee Mike makes his first appearance at Kenilworth Road since November 2008. The Cheshire official is a regular in the Premier League and last weekend oversaw Bournemouth's 1-0 win at Chelsea. He has refereed 11 top flight games this term and has sent only one player off: Newcastle's Darryl Janmaat. Mike's last appearance at Kenilworth Road came in our minus-30 League 2 relegation season - a match the Town won 2-1 against a Dagenham side managed by John Still. Please give Mike and his fellow officials a warm reception this afternoon.

## LUTON TOWN
### 1885-PRESENT DAY THE FULL RECORD

PLAYED: **5288**
WON: **2110**
DRAWN: **1285**
LOST: **1893**
GOALS SCORED : **8397**
GOALS CONCEDED: **7611**

## LEAGUE TABLE 2015/16

| | | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Oxford United | 20 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 31 | 16 | 15 | 40 |
| 2 | Plymouth Argyle | 20 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 30 | 16 | 14 | 40 |
| 3 | Northampton Town | 20 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 33 | 23 | 10 | 40 |
| 4 | Accrington Stanley | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 34 | 22 | 12 | 35 |
| 5 | Portsmouth | 20 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 33 | 18 | 15 | 34 |
| 6 | Carlisle United | 20 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 38 | 36 | 2 | 33 |
| 7 | Mansfield Town | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 18 | 10 | 32 |
| 8 | Leyton Orient | 20 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 32 | 27 | 5 | 31 |
| 9 | Wycombe Wanderers | 19 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 24 | 19 | 5 | 30 |
| 10 | Bristol Rovers | 20 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 27 | 23 | 4 | 30 |
| 11 | Exeter City | 20 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 28 | 27 | 1 | 30 |
| 12 | AFC Wimbledon | 20 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 26 | 26 | 0 | 28 |
| 13 | Morecambe | 20 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 37 | 37 | 0 | 27 |
| 14 | LUTON TOWN | 20 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 32 | 28 | 4 | 26 |
| 15 | Cambridge United | 20 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 30 | 31 | -1 | 26 |
| 16 | Notts County | 19 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 27 | 30 | -3 | 25 |
| 17 | Crawley Town | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 25 | 32 | -7 | 25 |
| 18 | Stevenage | 20 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 27 | 36 | -9 | 22 |
| 19 | Barnet | 20 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 26 | 35 | -9 | 21 |
| 20 | Hartlepool United | 19 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 19 | 29 | -10 | 20 |
| 21 | Newport County AFC | 20 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 21 | 29 | -8 | 19 |
| 22 | Dagenham & Redbridge | 20 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 19 | 34 | -15 | 13 |
| 23 | York City | 20 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 22 | 42 | -20 | 12 |
| 24 | Yeovil Town | 20 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 19 | 34 | -15 | 11 |

## PLAYER STATS 2015/16

| | THIS SEASON | | | | | | | | | | LTFC CAREER TOT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | LEAGUE | | | CUP | | | TOTAL | | | DISIP | | | | |
| | APPS | | GLS | APPS | | GLS | APPS | | GLS | Y | R | APPS | GLS |
| Zane Banton | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Paul Benson | 5 | (1) | 1 | 1 | (2) | 1 | 6 | (3) | 2 | 0 | 1 | 71 | 22 |
| Scott Cuthbert | 18 | (0) | 0 | 4 | (0) | 0 | 22 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 0 |
| Nathan Doyle | 6 | (5) | 0 | 2 | (1) | 0 | 8 | (6) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 45 | 0 |
| Danny Green | 8 | (1) | 3 | 2 | (3) | 1 | 10 | (4) | 4 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 4 |
| Scott Griffiths | 16 | (0) | 0 | 3 | (3) | 0 | 19 | (3) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 113 | 3 |
| Luke Guttridge | 6 | (1) | 2 | 3 | (0) | 0 | 9 | (1) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 73 | 19 |
| Ryan Hall | 2 | (3) | 0 | 0 | (3) | 0 | 2 | (6) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| Elliot Justham | 2 | (0) | 0 | 2 | (0) | 0 | 4 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 |
| Alex Lawless | 5 | (6) | 1 | 3 | (0) | 0 | 8 | (6) | 1 | 2 | 0 | 186 | 22 |
| Olly Lee | 13 | (1) | 1 | 5 | (0) | 0 | 18 | (1) | 1 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 1 |
| Sean Long | 4 | (1) | 0 | 2 | (0) | 0 | 6 | (1) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Craig Mackail-Smith | 14 | (3) | 3 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 15 | (3) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 3 |
| Jack Marriott | 6 | (10) | 6 | 4 | (0) | 2 | 10 | (10) | 8 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 8 |
| Paddy McCourt | 7 | (5) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 8 | (5) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Cameron McGeehan | 16 | (2) | 6 | 2 | (2) | 2 | 18 | (4) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 55 | 14 |
| Steve McNulty | 9 | (1) | 0 | 2 | (0) | 0 | 11 | (1) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 125 | 2 |
| Josh McQuoid | 14 | (3) | 2 | 4 | (2) | 2 | 18 | (5) | 4 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 4 |
| Mark O'Brien | 2 | (4) | 0 | 3 | (0) | 0 | 5 | (4) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Stephen O'Donnell | 7 | (0) | 0 | 3 | (0) | 1 | 10 | (0) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 |
| Magnus Okuonghae | 0 | (0) | 0 | 2 | (1) | 0 | 2 | (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Dan Potts | 4 | (0) | 0 | 2 | (0) | 0 | 6 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu | 1 | (4) | 0 | 3 | (0) | 0 | 4 | (4) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 3 |
| Jonathan Smith | 18 | (2) | 4 | 4 | (0) | 0 | 22 | (2) | 4 | 4 | 0 | 124 | 9 |
| Mark Tyler | 18 | (0) | 0 | 4 | (0) | 0 | 22 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 288 | 0 |
| Luke Wilkinson | 19 | (0) | 3 | 4 | (0) | 0 | 23 | (0) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 71 | 7 |

Key: ● First Substitute | ◆ Second Substitute | ▲ Third Substitute | ▬ Sent off | GOALSCORER

# HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH SIMON OXLEY

The fact that it was only 2-0 was one of many surreal moments at London Road. It's many years since I was there, but our commentary position was still buried in the back of the stand, balancing various pieces of equipment on our knees, although I was able to make use of an 'occasional' table abandoned among the mixture of seats.

It was here that the strange events unfolded, starting with the press steward - when she discovered I was from the BBC - asking me if Jeremy Clarkson would ever be returning with Top Gear, before quizzing bemused colleagues from Five Live and Final Score if they had voted for BBC weather presenter Carol Kirkwood when she was on Strictly.

A man dressed in top hat and tails, carrying a silver walking cane, then introduced himself. It was "Mr Posh", smartly dressed, with a hanky in his top pocket, and well-polished shoes. His accent though was more Eastenders than Downton, but it was a nice idea.

The pre-match entertainment was in full swing, with Graham Westley high-fiving the ballboys and girls, the Fry/Mackail-Smith family having more photos taken than when Barry introduced George Best at Dunstable, and then we had the team sheet to work through.

Graham enjoying such pre-match joviality should have served as a warning.

Steve Watkins - 3CR's Stevenage commentator who popped up the A1 on his day off - wasn't the only one rubbing his eyes, as Peterborough produced a style which made Brazil look "long-ball".

And don't get me started on the rabbit mascot with the giant carrot, who tried to kick a ball into a wheelie bin from 30 yards at half-time.

Ah the magic of the FA Cup, and aside from all this there were no shortage of stories on the pitch. Mark Tyler returned to London Road to give one of his best ever performances for either club; Craig Mackail-Smith got the chance he must have dreamed about the night before; Lee Angol didn't score against his old club either despite more chances than he would get in another 10 games against them; and Erhun Oztumer defied medical opinion to be man-of-the-match.

We all know it's never dull following Luton, but this was indeed an interesting afternoon.

Now I'm not going to pretend that all this obscured a disappointing defeat, to follow those against Carlisle and Newport.

We all know it's not going according to plan. It will be a crucial Christmas period.

It won't get any easier today against a Northampton side who have again been more occupied with the boardroom than the pitch in recent weeks.

## STABILITY

It reminds us that for all the frustration on the pitch here, there is stability behind-the-scenes with exciting plans for a new stadium on the horizon.

As quickly as it deflates you, so football can lift you again. There we were watching the third round draw on Monday night, thinking of what might have been, when up popped that clip of John Hartson scoring against Newcastle in 1994. Super, super John...

Simon is a commentator for BBC 3 Counties Radio



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# TEAMSHEET

## LUTON TOWN

1 Mark Tyler
2 Stephen O'Donnell
3 Dan Potts
4 Jonathan Smith
6 Scott Cuthbert
7 Alex Lawless
8 Cameron McGeehan
9 Paul Benson
10 Ryan Hall
11 Danny Green
12 Scott Griffiths
14 Jack Marriott
15 Paddy McCourt
16 Elliot Justham
17 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu
18 Magnus Okuonghae
19 Olly Lee
20 Sean Long
21 Luke Guttridge
22 Craig Mackail-Smith
23 Josh McQuoid
24 Curtley Williams
25 Mark O'Brien
26 Nathan Doyle
30 Luke Wilkinson
31 Craig King
32 Luke Trotman
33 Mark Onyemah
34 Isaac Galliford
35 Zane Banton

## NORTHAMPTON TOWN

1 Adam Smith
2 Brendan Moloney
3 Evan Horwood
4 Jason Taylor
5 Zander Diamond
6 Ryan Cresswell
7 Lawson D'Ath
8 Joel Byrom
9 Marc Richards
10 Nicky Adams
11 Ricky Holmes
12 Josh Lelan
14 Sam Hoskins
15 Alfie Potter
16 David Buchanan
17 Paul Corry
18 Rod McDonald
19 Ryan Watson
20 Dominic Calvert-Lewin
21 John-Joe O'Toole
22 Chris Hackett
26 Ryan Clarke
28 Danny Clifton
29 Sam Warburton

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Michael Jones
Harry Lennard
Simon Barrow
4 Darren Deadman

Back cover photograph taken from behind the Kenilworth Road end.
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