Luton Town Football Club

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Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all supporters!

Luton Town v Wycombe Wanderers

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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 2003. 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.

ANDY AWFORD

NOTES FROM THE CARETAKER MANAGER

GOOD AFTERNOON, HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S SKY BET LEAGUE 2 FIXTURE AGAINST WYCOMBE WANDERERS.

A big welcome to our visitors from Adams Park; manager Gareth Ainsworth and his staff and players and the directors and supporters of the Chairboys.

Last week was a difficult one for everyone associated with the Club following John's departure but I was absolutely delighted with the response of those involved in last weekend's dramatic 3-2 victory at Exeter.

It is never easy for a team who has just lost their manager but I was really pleased with the effort and application of the players. They went about their business in a very professional manner and they were rewarded with an important three points.

PRESSURE

To get our noses in front by half-time was credit to the lads but we always knew we would have to face a bit of pressure in the second half. Obviously it was disappointing that we allowed Exeter to equalise, however, the lads stuck to their task, rolled their sleeves up and showed the kind of fighting spirit that I think the supporters could be proud of come the final whistle.

I've watched a few first team games this season and seen a number of the last-minute goals go against the team.

So, having been on the wrong side of a few late goals, it was nice for us to be on the right end for once. The late winner by Paul Benson was just reward for the endeavour the lads put in for 100 minutes. This week has been good in terms of preparation ahead of today's game. Personally I have enjoyed the responsibility that Gary Sweet and the Board have given me in leading the staff and players through a difficult period.

PREPARED

The players have trained well and we've prepared thoroughly for a test against a strong Wycombe team who were only a few minutes away from winning promotion through the Play-Offs last season. They beat Oxford in their last match and Gareth's team are putting a decent run of form together at an important time of the season.

However, we need to focus on what we're capable of and one of our biggest advantages this afternoon will be your support. The players will need your backing so please get behind them. Kenilworth Road is usually a buoyant place to be but it would be great to see the place really rocking today. Your support is paramount and it's vital we're all singing from the same hymn sheet in our quest for a positive result.

EXCITING

We hope we are able to continue a bit of the feel-good factor around the club from the past week which also saw exciting plans of the Club's preferred stadium location in the town centre.

The players will also be itching to carry on from the Exeter win with two big and important away matches coming up after this afternoon.

Finally I would like to, on behalf of all the football staff and players, wish all supporters a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There's bit of a break until the next home league match here against Cambridge on 16th January – which gives you all enough time to get over your Christmas hangovers!

Thank you for your support, enjoy the game and get behind the lads.

Andy.

From the BOARDROOM

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE **GARY SWEET**

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE AND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD. TODAY WE GREET CHRIS WILDER AND THE OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS FROM NORTHAMPTON TOWN.

The Cobblers, despite their reported problems off the pitch, are riding high in the League following a great recent run of form, so we are under no illusions as to the difficulty and importance of today's game.

Our performances over the last few weeks, on the other hand, have not been good enough. Losing a two-goal lead against Carlisle followed by defeat at Newport were very disappoin

A big thank you to the 1,800 of you who supported us at Peterborough last weekend

Gary

POWER COURT

OUR VISION OF A NEW STADIUM FOR LUTON TOWN

On Monday we were delighted to announce that our preferred location for a new stadium, and home for Luton Town Football Club is Power Court.

This announcement follows on from the publication of our Representations to Luton Borough offering our suggested proposals to the emerging Local Plan.

The site, which has been redundant for well over a decade is ideally situated just a stones-throw from Luton's excellent rail, bus and road links – including the Luton/Dunstable Guided Busway.

The local plan sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used, determining what will be built where and adopted local plans provide the framework for development across England.

The process of consultation, which took place between the 26th October and 7th December 2015, gave the public and other stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the plan with regards to the soundness and legal compliance of the proposals and policies in the local plan.

Within that framework, the Club has put forward what it feels to be a convincing case for the local plan to be amended, and that the location of a new football stadium should be at Power Court, rather than at the land south of Stockwood Park adjacent to Junction 10 of the M1 as outlined in the existing draft local plan.

THE KEY POINTS:

- POWER COURT PREFERRED SITE
- INITIAL 17,500-SEATER STADIUM
- HATTERS EXPECT TO SUBMIT PLANNING APPLICATION BY AUGUST 2016
- TOWN HOPE TO BE IN THE NEW STADIUM BY 2020/21

The need for a new home for The Hatters is well documented, and has been a priority for the 2020 group since taking over the Club in 2008. Kenilworth Road has been the Club's for 110 years, after moving to the location from Dunstable Road in 1905.

VISION

Luton Town chief executive Gary Sweet said: "When we became custodians of the Club, we had a clear long term vision of where we wanted to the Club to be by the year 2020. As in so many cases, our business was named after the year of its birth.

"Our strategy was all about stability and steady growth. Initially, we needed to stabilise the Club's financial position, then begin to rebuild the team, supporters' and the public's confidence and faith in us – working towards a stable but ambitious Club that was fully integrated into and that proudly represented its community.

"Everyone at the Club has a great deal of affection for Kenilworth Road. However our need to move to a more suitable location with better facilities and a larger capacity is no secret.

An aerial view of Power Court site

"The provision of a new stadium remains a fundamental part of this vision – and our representations to the Council demonstrate our fervent belief that the site at Power Court offers the best possible solution – not just for Luton Town Football Club, but for the continued regeneration of the Town and the benefit of the wider community.

COMMUNITY

"It's fair to say that we are a club at the heart of the community, with the community at its heart. Currently, around 9,000 Hatters fans visit Kenilworth road on home match days – 95% of the stadium's home capacity. Despite our current position in the fourth tier, our supporters continually demonstrate their passion for the Club. In return, we are able to offer a safe environment for all supporters from any walk of life to meet their friends and share in the ups and downs of the game as well as the pride we have in our town.

POSITIVE

"Through our Community Trust we deliver many thousands of teaching hours every week to young people throughout Luton, as well as helping to raise tens of thousands of pounds for good causes each year. We work closely with schools and other community groups, and do what we can to help shine a positive light on the Town.

"We strongly believe that by developing a stadium in the centre of Luton, we will be best placed to continue this work and increase the value that we are able to bring to local people.

"As we speak, we have positive discussions with British Land with regards to the site at Power Court as well as with Luton Borough Council in order to adopt proportion owned by the authority. We are grateful for the help we've received so far from the Council, and we're looking forward to working with them, as well as other local organisations such as The University of Bedfordshire, St Mary's Church and The Mall as the project progresses.

"Our intention is to submit a formal planning application for a new stadium prior to the beginning of the 2016/17 season along with plans for other enabling developments at Power Court and facilitating developments on the land owned by the Club at Junction 10 of the M1."

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POWER COURT

STADIUM SITE 'WORST-KEPT SECRET' SAYS CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On Monday Town chief executive Gary Sweet explained to members of the media the Club's vision for the future, which included the news that Power Court is the preferred site for a new 17,500-seater stadium.

Gary Sweet presents the Town's plans to the media

Sweet said a planning application for the Hatters' new home would be submitted by the start of next season and it is hoped the Town can be in a new stadium at the start of the 2020/21 campaign.

Talking to the media at Kenilworth Road, Sweet said: "Some people have said that this is the worst kept secret in town.

"I would go the other way and say that with the length of time we have been planning this it is incredible more hasn't come out.

"This is our preferred site and the reason for that is that in order for a stadium to be built there it has to be paid for.

PREFERRED

"It is a very difficult piece of land – that means it is expensive. There are a lot of pieces that need to be put in place and that is not done yet.

"But we are now in a position where we can call this our preferred site."

As things stand Luton Borough Council's Local Plan has Power Court chalked up as a site for a retail development but our proposed changes would see it listed as the site for a new stadium.

Sweet also revealed that plans to develop a stretch of land by M1 junction 10a, recently acquired for £10m, will help fund the move to Power Court without the need for loans.

ENRICH

"This isn't just going to be a football stadium, this will be a new hub in the town centre that will enrich and revitalise the town," said Sweet. "It is badly needed.

"We need things like this to come alive and since we have taken a bold step with this other developers are thinking the same.

"Between two or three developers in town Luton could become a little bit of a special place again and we want to be a part of that."

HOUSING

On the future of Kenilworth Road, Sweet added: "Luton is desperate for housing, that's one of the reasons why we are taking it upon ourselves to put as many apartments as possible on the Power Court site.

"Without me wanting to second guess anything it is likely to have a large chunk of housing.

"We have made a polite request that the site is recognised as to what it used to be."

POWER COURT

Following our news this week of our preferred location for a new stadium, many of you were particularly pleased and shared your views on social media. Here are a section of the best from our Twitter followers. Remember to follow us @LutonTown for the latest news

Simon Darwen @Darwen88
Genuinely buoyed and excited by new ground plans @LutonTown A stadium in the middle of the town, near the train, exactly as it should be

Luke Gregory @LukeGregory18
Ahhhh so buzzed for the new stadium! Nice one @LutonTown

Kevin Harper @kevshat
Days like today highlight how lucky we are to have Gary Sweet and 2020 in charge and what a good time to be a @LutonTown fan this is.

Scott @ScottLTFC_
Thank God the ground is not a dome. @LutonTown

Kieran Moore @kandkcanada
@LutonTown looks very exciting! May have to fly back for opening game in 2020

Kev Steptoe @THESTEPTOESHOW
Great news about new stadium at #powercourt Great to keep the ground/club in the town! #coyh

David Finan @davefinan82
Great news re new stadium at Power Court. Great location as close to many pubs and great transport links #thefuturesbright

Benet @benet22
I'm delighted to swallow my cynicism and support #PowerCourt project.

Future's looking bright for @LutonTown and #Luton town centre! #COYH

Dave O'Flanagan @LTFC_Dave
100th minute winner on Saturday, new ground plans on Monday... I'd have worse Christmas's. Thanks @LutonTown

Joe Smith @JKS1989
Unbelievably excited about the possibility of a new ground!

Darren Hickin @AshbyHatter
@LutonTown 35 years following the mighty Hatters, I finally believe we may just get a new home! Exciting times! #powercourt

Dumps @ltfcdumps
@LutonTown I've been waiting for this for years! Think it'll be great for the regeneration of the town centre #COYH #ProperClub #LTFC

Alan Keers @RedKiteAlan
After getting lots of stick recently for #MyTeam it's nice to finally see future plans. #CommunityFootball

Steve Ward @stevewardy
@LutonTown Amazing news. I really hope GS and the board can pull this off. Exactly what the club and town need! #COYH

Paul Cöleman @Coleman86
Good to see @LutonTown proposal to move to #PowerCourt positive for both the town and the club.

Robert Massey @DoctorMassey
@LutonTown Great news re Power Court proposal. Congrats to 2020!

Matt Storey @StoreyMatt
Huge day for @LutonTown. New stadium vital if the club wants to progress, can't really imagine leaving Kenilworth Road though #COYH #LTFC

Richard Gray @rugfoot
@LutonTown looks awesome! And great it's in the town and near the station. Those out-of-town stadia are so last century

David Boutwood @djbhatter
@LutonTown Can't wait for the new stadium, first class location. Well done Gary and the board.

Andy Burgess @AndyBurgess11
Fantastic news coming out of @LutonTown today. Will be gutted when we leave Kenilworth Road but it's the best thing that can happen #future

Shepltfc @shepltfc
@LutonTown I feel blessed to have been chosen to support the greatest club in the World #COYH

James @jmorgs88
@LutonTown nice Christmas present on top of the late winner at Exeter. Another story in the ups and downs of Luton town eh?

TICKET OFFICE

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.

Home ticket prices for the 2015/16 season

	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C
Adult	£22	£20	£18
Young Adult (18-21)	£17	£15	£13
Senior (65+)	£17	£15	£13
Golden Senior(75+)	£14	£12	£10
Youth (10-17)	£10	£8	£6
Acc. Junior (U10)	£7	£5	£3

A

PORTSMOUTH

sky BET

Monday 28th December 2015, 3pm

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters. Tickets are no longer on sale and will not be available on the day at Fratton Park.

A

BRISTOL ROVERS

sky BET

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 now on general sale 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.

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.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

H

sky BET

Saturday 16th January 2016, 3pm

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

MANSFIELD TOWN

A

sky BET

Saturday 23rd January 2016, 3pm

We are yet to receive ticket information for this match. This will be released in due course and published in future programmes and online.

NOTTS COUNTY

H

sky BET

Saturday 30th January 2016, 3pm

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

COMMERCIAL TALK...

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER **DAVID HOSKINS**

MATCH SPONSOR

THE KING FAMILY

The King family and friends are delighted to continue a commitment which started in our non-league days by sponsoring a Hatters Christmas/ New Year home match.
Joining brothers Andy, Nick and Robert are Malcolm, Gary, Dorcas, Ian, Graham, Bob, Cameron and Elliot. Family support for the club goes back through the generations, with Grandmother Kate claiming to have witnessed Joe Payne's 10 goal match in 1936! Newest member Freddie Wilson joined the Junior Hatters on the day he was born in January this year. Ian may have racked up the longest distance in getting to Kenilworth Road today having left Kuala Lumpur 6,500 miles and three days ago!

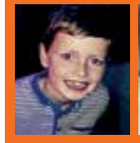
MATCHBALL SPONSOR

JOHN & ANN CHATTERLEY

John and Ann have supported the Hatters through the highs and lows over the years and are Club Members in the John Moore Lounge (previously the Century Club). Over the past years John, (who worked for the Club in the 1990s) has been match and ball sponsor many times as well as mascot sponsorships.
John and Ann welcome Derek Vere, the Managing Director of VERCO Office Furniture Limited together with his guests from Wycombe and hope they have an enjoyable time but leaving the three points behind at Luton!

MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming five mascots to Kenilworth Road for this Boxing Day match with Wycombe.



First up is eight-year-old Darragh Ely from Luton. His favourite Hatters player is Cameron McGeehan and he watches matches in the Kenilworth Road end with his dad.
Our second is Dylan Horseman. 10-year-old Dylan comes to matches with his dad and his favourite player is Craig Mackail-Smith.
Next is Aidan Blackman from Luton. Aidan is 10, watches games with his dad and his favourite Town player is Mark Tyler.
Mascot number four is Jayden Wood, who is also from Luton. Jayden is seven and his favourite player is Jack Marriott.
Last but by no means least our fifth mascot is Teagan Fenney who is celebrating her seventh birthday today! Teagan comes to games here with her dad and brother Kieran and her favourite player is Jack Marriott.
Wish hope you all have a fantastic day with us!

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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

10 RYAN HALL
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

11 DANNY GREEN
H: Ben Gray
A: Keyholder Lettings and Management

12 SCOTT GRIFFITHS
H: CME Heating
A: AVAILABLE

14 JACK MARRIOTT
H: Jonathan Perry
A: Tommy Lennon

15 PADDY McCOURT
H: Raj Koyes
A: Luton Celtic Supporters Club

16 ELLIOT JUSTHAM
H: Les Miller, Miller & Company
A: AVAILABLE
G: Mark Francome

17 PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU
H: David Alexander
A: Liz Herrick

18 MAGNUS OKUONGHAE
H: A-Top Properties
A: AVAILABLE

19 OLLY LEE
H: Tradeline Recruitment Ltd
A: Whosh

21 LUKE GUTTRIDGE
H: Kathy Baldry-Mitchell
A: G. Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd

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H: Mark Warne
A: Tom

23 JOSH McQUOID
H: Peter & Linda Little
A: George & Chris Stonier

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H: SsangYong Motor UK Ltd
A: AVAILABLE

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H: Sports262
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Welcome to Kenilworth Road
WYCOMBE WANDERERS

TEAM PROFILE
WYCOMBE WANDERERS

Nickname: The Chairboys/The Blues
Ground: Adams Park
Last season: 4th League Two (lost in Play-Off final)
Manager: Gareth Ainsworth
Last league match: Wycombe 2-1 Oxford United

It gives us a great Christmas pleasure to welcome everyone associated with Wycombe Wanderers to Kenilworth Road this afternoon for some festive football.

The Chairboys arrive in Bedfordshire in touching distance of the Sky 2 League Two Play-Off places, and a strong Christmas period could see the Wanderers scrapping towards the top of this already congested division.

Wycombe marks the first permanent managerial role for Gareth Ainsworth, having previously tasted an illustrious playing career and two separate spells as caretaker manager at Queens Park Rangers.

Ainsworth took over early on in the 2012/13 season after a bad start left the Chairboys with just four points from their opening seven games. The Adams Park outfit have seen an improvement over the subsequent seasons, with Ainsworth leading the side to last season's Play-Off final, earning the League Manager's Association Manager of the Year award in the process.

Wycombe starting this season in scintillating fashion, winning their first three league matches without even conceding a goal, while also running Championship side Fulham close in the first round of the League Cup. Wins over York, Barnet and Morecambe were followed up by draws with Dagenham and Crawley, but Ainsworth and co returned to winning ways with victory over Hartlepool.

The Chairboys were successful against Plymouth in last season's Play-Off semi-finals, but the same side found revenge in the sides' meeting at Adams Park. A difficult October followed, losing the first four games in all competitions, yet successes over Halifax and a shock against Millwall have led Wycombe to Round Three of the FA Cup, and a tie against Premier League Aston Villa to look forward to.

Despite the cup progression, league form has been patchy over recent weeks, but a win last time out against high-flying Oxford has left the Buckinghamshire side on the cusp of the top seven heading into a hectic spell of games.

Fixtures against the Chairboys have been few and far between over the years, and you have to go back 11 years for the last Hatters victory, when Steve Howard's brace and a goal from Kevin Nicholls put the Town into the next round of the FA Cup. Since then the two have played each other on four occasions, with two draws at Adams Park while Wycombe have got the better of contests at Kenilworth Road.

Jonathan Smith got an eighth-minute equaliser, coincidentally on Boxing Day last year when the Town made the 40-mile trip, but Elliot Lee's two goals were not enough to stop the Chairboys taking all three points at Kenilworth Road back in March of this year, a game which saw the return of Paul Benson to the Hatters side.

They may be flying high, yet goals have come at a premium for Ainsworth's side, whose 28 goals is the lowest out of anyone in the top 19, but the Blues do possess the fifth meanest defence in League 2. The goals they have notched have been shared around, with nobody boasting more than the six from Garry Thompson and ex-Hatter Michael Harriman.

HATTERS v WYCOMBE

Luton wins 8
Draws 8
Wycombe wins 3

LAST MEETING

Hatters 2-3 Wycombe
(23rd March 2015)

Meet the VISITORS

OUR GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM ADAMS PARK

THE BOSS

GARETH AINSWORTH

Manager Gareth took control at Adams Park in September 2011. Guided the Chairboys away from relegation in his first season and then to the League 2 Play-Offs last season. He enjoyed a distinguished playing career at all four levels of the game.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

MATT INGRAM

Highly-rated, home-grown goalkeeper Matt made the number one spot his own in 2013 after making his debut against Accrington. Won a host of supporters' awards in his first season with the Chairboys.

IN DEFENCE

SIDO JOMBATI

Portuguese full-back Sido joined Wycombe in 2013 after two successful seasons at Cheltenham. Began his career in the UK with Weymouth before moves to Basingstoke and Bath.

JOE JACOBSEN

Former Wales Under-21 captain Joe signed for the Chairboys in June 2014 after leaving Shrewsbury. The left-back began at Cardiff before spells with Bristol Rovers, Oldham and Accrington.

MICHAEL HARRIMAN

No stranger to Kenilworth Road, right-back Michael spent almost the whole of last season on-loan with the Town. Currently back at Wycombe on-loan from QPR and has six goals to his name so far.

AARON PIERRE

Centre-back Aaron joined Wanderers from Brentford following a successful loan spell. Started his career as a youngster at Fulham and put pen to paper on a three-year deal at Adams Park.

ANTHONY STEWART

Defender now in his second spell at Adams Park. Anthony came through the youth ranks before joining Crewe in 2014. Arrived back at the club this summer.

THE MEN IN THE MIDDLE

MARCUS BEAN

Central midfielder Marcus began his career as a youngster at QPR before moves to Blackpool and Brentford. He played over 150 times for the Bees and then signed for Colchester and then Wycombe in January.

MATT BLOOMFIELD

Hugely experienced midfielder Matt is now in his 12th season at Adams Park having joined from Ipswich in 2003. The club's longest-serving player, he enjoyed a testimonial against Chelsea.

LUKE O'NIEN

Young midfielder Luke signed for the Chairboys this summer following his release from Watford. Spent last season on loan at Wealdstone, scoring five goals in 35 games.

SAM WOOD

Midfielder Sam has now over 100 appearances under his belt for the Chairboys having joined the club from Brentford in 2012. Began his career in non-league at Cray and Bromley.

UP FRONT

GARRY THOMPSON

Former Morecambe, Scunthorpe, Bradford and Notts County forward Garry joined Wycombe on a two-year deal this summer. Netted his 100th career league goal in the 2-2 draw with Portsmouth in November.

PAUL HAYES

Experienced former Scunthorpe and Barnsley striker Paul signed for the Chairboys in 2014. Scored 15 times in his debut season in which he made his 500th career appearance and scored his 100th goal.

AARON HOLLOWAY

Welsh youth international Aaron joined Wanderers in 2014 after leaving Newport. Began his career in Cardiff's youth ranks before moving to Bristol City. Capped at Under-19 and 17 level for Wales.

GOZIE UGWU

Former Reading youngster Gozie joined the Chairboys in the summer having impressed on trial. Played at Yeovil last term, finishing the Glovers' top goalscorer. Has also played in Scotland.

From the OAK ROAD

AFTER COMING SO CLOSE TO WINNING PROMOTION LAST SEASON, WHAT IS THE EXPECTATION AT ADAMS PARK THIS SEASON? IS ANOTHER CRACK AT THE TOP THREE POSSIBLE? CHAIRBOYS COMMENTATOR **PHIL CATCHPOLE** ANSWERS OUR QUESTIONS.

THE SEASON AHEAD...

Having been so close to promotion last season what were expectations at Adams Park at the start of the season?

I think the fans expected more of the same initially, but that was soon tempered by Gareth Ainsworth announcing that 61 points was his target for the season. With the budget at his disposal, it's an understandable target as the club continue to sort out the problems off the pitch. The chairman has a five year plan and this is only year two.

Gareth Ainsworth has enjoyed success at Wycombe so far. What were your initial thoughts about him and how do you rate the job he has done so far?

Gareth was a hugely popular player at Adams Park and nearly everyone agreed with his appointment. Although the club very nearly got relegated in his first full season in charge, I think he has done a very good job so far. He had to deal with a tremendous amount of problems off the pitch during that awful season, along with learning his trade. Gareth was incredibly dignified in how he dealt with everything and also was strong enough to admit to his own failings. He changed everything he could after that and despite a tiny budget, gathered the clubs highest ever points total in the league last season.

Having missed out in the Play-Offs last season you are in the mix again this time round with games in hand. Has anything changed from last season?

The loan market was vital for Wycombe last season, with young loanee Alfie Mawson winning the player of the season award. As the season wears on, the loan market will be vital again. Wycombe had a bit of luck last season with no postponements, coupled with early exits in the cups. This meant the small squad did not have to deal with any fixture congestion. At the time of writing, the Chairboys have already had three games called off and have made it to round three of the FA Cup. The fixture schedule may well have a big say in where Wycombe end up in the league.

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

A player that will need no introduction to Luton Town fans. Michael Harriman. He has been outstanding so far and is the club's top scorer and is also chipping in with regular assists.

SEASONS PAST...

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

I moved to High Wycombe when I was five years old and went to my first game in January 1987. It was a 3-0 victory over Bromley in the Isthmian League at Loakes Park and I remember the famous slope very well.

We're sorry to mention it once more...but last season. Did you ever envisage doing so well?

Ex-Town loanee Michael Harriman is Wycombe's top goalscorer this season

What were your overriding emotions of the campaign overall once the dust had settled on the Southend game?

I never dreamt that Wycombe would do so well last season. The campaign before was incredibly depressing (but with a euphoric finale) and to see the club respond and so very nearly achieve promotion was fantastic. A day out at Wembley through the Play-Offs also provided some much needed funds for Wycombe too. It was impossible not to feel proud of the club after the final.

Which is your favourite season following the Chairboys and why?

1992/93. Wycombe Wanderers won the non-league double and were simply magnificent. Under Martin O'Neill the Chairboys played some great stuff too and Adams Park was a great place to be.

Wycombe are a now established Football League club. But what do you remember about your non-league days? What was so special about those times?

I was a bit too young to get to many away games at the time but Wycombe had some great rivalries during those days. Colchester and Slough Town being the two I remember the most. Two successful trips to the old Wembley in the FA Trophy are cherished memories too.

LUTON AND WYCOMBE

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

Last season at Kenilworth Road was a great game. Under the floodlights and in front of the cameras, it was a great advert for League 2. I also remember a 1-0 defeat at Adams Park during the awful reign of Alan 'Bald Eagle' Smith. Ray Wilkins played for Wycombe that day in what appeared to be a mini dress in the club's colours.

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?

It will be tight but Wycombe are very strong on the road and will nick it by the odd goal in a niggly affair. I'm normally in the press box, commentating for BBC Three Counties Radio, but will be away on holiday following it online.

QUICKFIRE

Terrace or Seats? Terrace

Who are your rivals? Colchester United

Martin O'Neill or Gareth Ainsworth? Martin O'Neill

Favourite promotion season? 1992/93

Guess your player of the season Michael Harriman

If you could bring one player from the past back in the Wycombe team who would it be? Steve Guppy

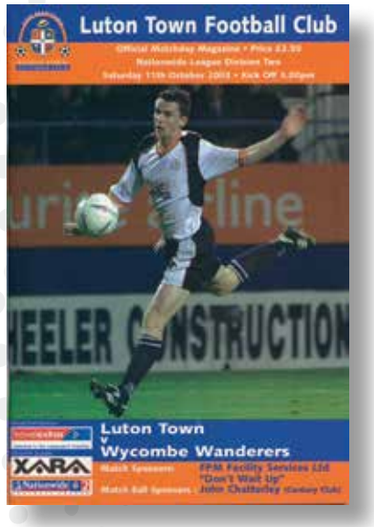
Most treasured Wycombe piece of memorabilia? Signed FA Trophy final programme.

What league will Wycombe be in next season? League 2

Who will win promotion from League 2? Pompey, Oxford, Northampton. Carlisle through the Play-Offs.

COVER STORY

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



LUTON TOWN 3 WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

11th October 2003

The summer of 2003 goes down as the most bizarre in the long history of Luton Town Football Club and probably deserves several articles all of its own.

New 'owner' John Gurney with his proposed re-brand to London-Luton, a 70,000 seater stadium, a 20,000-space underground car park, a Grand Prix racing track and a telephone vote to pick the new manager made the club a laughing stock as every day went by with something even more ridiculous hitting the headlines.

Gurney was now gone and it was down to those left at the club, which was now in administration, to pick up the pieces. With manager Mike Newell barred from signing players and faced with suspicion from the fans he had a massive task to win everyone around.

A healthy crowd of 6,878 turned up at Kenilworth Road on the opening day not knowing what to expect from the threadbare squad available to Newell. They were though pleasantly surprised when Rushden were overturned 3-1 to be followed up with a 2-1 win at Stockport.

As to be expected with the lack of depth, the team blew hot and cold but by early October were in a top 10 position although the Play-Off positions were always tantalisingly out of reach. Given the predicament at the start of the season this was a far better position to be in than was secretly hoped but football supporters always want more!

For the visit of Tranmere on 6th October the Town were down to 16 fit players, and of those, two were loan signings, three YTS players and one a non-contract employee. To win 3-1 was remarkable given that big target man Steve Howard was likely to be out for two months following a hernia operation, skipper Kevin Nicholls was recovering from a knee operation, defender David Bayliss now out for the season with a ruptured Achilles, Alan Neilson out with a calf injury and Ahmet Brkovic absent on compassionate leave.

Next up at Kenilworth Road were struggling Wycombe, who were one place off the bottom after only one win all season, which was probably a good job as the Town had two more absentees to report. Defender Kevin Foley was away in international duty while goalkeeper Rob Beckwith was suspended after being dismissed during the 3-0 defeat at Oldham in the Hatter's last away game.

Russell Perrett is congratulated by his team-mates after putting the Town 2-1 up

Making his full League debut in goal against the Chairboys was 17-year-old Dean Brill and his big chance almost got off to the worst possible start when, after only 80 seconds, his scuffed clearance fell to Wycombe skipper Michael Simpson who returned to ball first time from 40 yards but fortunately for the Town it rebounded off the bar. Chairboys striker Gavin Holligan then went close after outpacing Hatters defender Russell Perrett before Adrian Forbes saw a header brilliantly saved by Wycombe goalkeeper Frank Talia.

Loanee Courtney Pitt also brought a smart save from Talia before the half-time whistle sounded with honours even.

Wycombe took the lead against the run of play four minutes after the interval after Pitt and Chairboys Daniel Senda collided in the area with Steve Brown scoring emphatically from the spot.

A double substitution from Newell on 74 minutes inspired a Luton fightback when Enoch Showunmi and Lee Mansell replaced Forbes and Steve Robinson. Sixty seconds after the change a cross from the overlapping Hatters full-back Sol Davis looked to have been dealt with by Wycombe's Andy Thompson but another loanee, Gary McSheffrey, showed great awareness to block the attempted clearance into the bottom corner of the goal.

There was only likely to be one winner now as the Hatters ran riot with Perrett nodding home Matthew Spring's corner before McSheffrey brought the house down with a 25-yard unstoppable rocket into the top corner in the final minute.

A vindicated Newell said afterwards: "Sometimes you have to change things with substitutions for the sake of it to liven the game up. Fortunately things went for us today and we were helped by getting the break for the first goal."

THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced a colourful 60-page programme for the visit of Wycombe priced at £2.50.

Mike Newell, in his notes, is none too complimentary about the referee at the recent Swindon away game which the Town drew 2-2. The clash saw a dismissal for each side and Newell sent to the stands. "I can't accept complete incompetence and definitely can't accept arrogance," said Newell warming to the task. "It is basically a hobby for officials, and a good opportunity to make a name for themselves."

It was reported that the Town had needed to attend a FA disciplinary hearing due to the club's record over the previous two seasons. Newell's comments presumably were not likely to assist the Hatters' cause!

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DEFINING MOMENTS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN **LEIGH EDWARDS** SELECTS FIVE KEY MATCHES AND MOMENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED WYCOMBE WANDERERS' POST-WAR ERA

1991 FA TROPHY WINNERS

Martin O'Neill's side beat Kidderminster Harriers 2-1 in the FA Trophy final watched by 34,842 at Wembley Stadium on 11th May 1991. Wycombe went ahead after 18 minutes when Paul Jones fumbled Mark West's low cross and Keith Scott forced the ball home. Kidderminster took a grip of the game in the second half and drew level on 61 minutes as Stewart Hadley's shot squirmed under John Granville. The Chairboys regained the lead four minutes later when Scott's centre was met by a brilliant diving header from West. Harriers pushed forward in the closing stages and Granville foiled Steve Lilwall as Wycombe held out for their first FA Trophy success.

1993 WYCOMBE AT THE DOUBLE

Wycombe Wanderers completed a Conference title and FA Trophy 'double' on 9th May 1993. The Chairboys had secured the Conference title and Football League status with Steve Thompson's goal in a 1-0 victory at Gateshead on 18th April 1993. Martin O'Neill's side faced Runcorn in the FA Trophy final watched by 32,968 at Wembley Stadium. Wycombe took the lead with Jason Cousins' free-kick after just three minutes and doubled their advantage on 21 minutes when Andy Kerr headed in Dave Carroll's cross. Steve Shaughnessy reduced the deficit on 42 minutes but second-half goals by Thompson and Carroll gave Wycombe a 4-1 win.

1994 WEMBLEY WINNERS

Wycombe Wanderers defeated Preston North End 4-2 in the Third Division play-off final watched by 40,109 at Wembley Stadium on 28th May 1994. Martin O'Neill's side missed several early chances and Preston broke the deadlock on the half hour when Ian Bryson scored with an overhead kick. Steve Thompson quickly equalised but Preston regained the lead through Paul Raynor on 34 minutes. Simon Garner levelled in the 47th minute and Dave Carroll slotted home Garner's pass to give Wycombe the lead on 56 minutes. Glyn Creaser headed against the bar before Carroll sealed their 4-2 win and promotion at the first attempt with a fine goal in the 70th minute.

2009 TAYLOR MADE FOR SUCCESS

Peter Taylor managed Wycombe Wanderers to promotion in 2008/09. He succeeded Paul Lambert in charge during the summer and Wycombe were early pace-setters in League two, unbeaten in their first 18 matches, culminating in a 4-0 demolition of Macclesfield. They lost 3-2 at Aldershot and were displaced at the top after a mid-season run of just two wins in nine games. The Chairboys briefly slipped out of the automatic promotion places but four wins in five matches enabled them to finish in third position, finishing one goal ahead of Bury. Matt Harrold was leading marksman, while left-back Craig Woodman was ever-present 'Player of the Year'.

2011 PROMOTION WINNERS

Wanderers clinched promotion as Scott Donnelly, Ben Strevens and Scott Rendell scored in their 3-1 League Two victory at home to Southend United on 7th May 2011. Gary Waddock's newly-relegated side lost just two of their opening 16 games, including seven draws, then moved up to second place with seven wins in eight matches. The Chairboys briefly slipped out of the automatic promotion places with three successive defeats during February but a ten-match unbeaten end to the season enabled them to finish third and regain League One status at the first attempt. Scott Rendell was leading marksman, while Nikki Bull was ever-present.

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PROUD TO PRINT THE LUTON TOWN MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Numbers GAME

WYCOMBE AND THE HATTERS IN NUMBERS

DID YOU KNOW?

The Town have never lost a game at Adams Park. The Town have won five and drawn five of their 10 visits to the Buckinghamshire venue and have only conceded five goals in the process.

2001 It took the Wanderers 10 attempts to register a victory over the Town. The Hatters had won four and drawn five of the first nine meetings until the Chairboys beat the Hatters 2-1 in January 2001 at Kenilworth Road.

3 Wycombe have won three of their last five matches here at Kenilworth Road, including the last two.

1.9 Only 37 goals have been scored in the 19 meetings between the Hatters and Wycombe. Of the eight draws four have been goalless.

5 The Chairboys' visit last season saw Gareth Ainsworth's side win 3-2. It was the first time that more than four goals were scored in a game between the two clubs.

AT THE DOUBLE

Four Hatters players have scored more than once in a game against Wycombe. Steve Howard has done it twice. As well as the two in 2004 the forward secured a double in a 2-1 win at Adams Park in 2002. Gary McSheffrey scored twice in a 3-1 win in 2003 while Elliot Lee notched two in last season's 3-2 defeat to the Chairboys.

HOME GROWN

Across four meetings between 1999 and 2000 all six goals scored by the Town were by products of the Hatters academy; Spring, Evers, Doherty; plus Matthew Taylor and Tresor Kandol.

8,379

Last season's televised defeat against the Chairboys saw the highest attendance to watch a Luton versus Wycombe match. It was also the one and only time Kenilworth Road was renamed as the Prostate Cancer UK stadium.

HEAD 2 HEAD

19	PLAYED
8	LUTON WINS
8	DRAWS
3	WYCOMBE WINS
23	LUTON GOALS SCORED
14	WYCOMBE GOALS SCORED
1996	YEAR OF FIRST MEETING

The year of the first meeting. The Hatters won 1-0 at Adams Park thanks to a goal from David Oldfield. The Wycombe side that day included Ray Wilkins.

HOME WIN

The Town needed three attempts to register a home victory over the Chairboys. After a goalless draws in 1997 and 1998 the Hatters beat Wanderers 3-1 in January 1999 thanks to goals from Matthew Spring, Sean Evers and Gary Doherty.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS TROPHY CABINET

LEAGUE 2	PROMOTED 2009, 2011
DIVISION 3	PLAY-OFF WINNERS 1994
FOOTBALL CONFERENCE	CHAMPIONS 1993
ISTHIMAN LEAGUE	CHAMPIONS 1956, 1957, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1983, 1987
FA TROPHY	WINNERS 1991, 1993
FA AMATEUR CUP	WINNERS 1931

TOWN 3 4 NORTHAMPTON

Danny Green steps up at the penalty spot to make it 3-3

ATTENDANCE 8,792
1,032 NORTHAMPTON

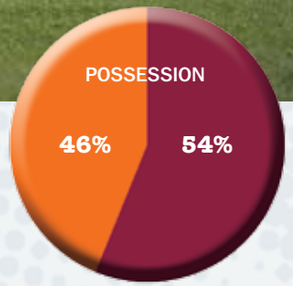
WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters were consigned to a second consecutive 4-3 defeat at Kenilworth Road as a frantic first half proved the difference for Northampton in Bedfordshire.

Paul Benson had opened the scoring with an excellent overhead kick, but goals from John-Joe O'Toole, Lawson D'Ath and Marc Richards had the visitors 3-1 ahead by the interval.

Benson fired in his second following Alex Lawless' cross to reduce the deficit before Danny Green's penalty levelled the encounter to set up a frantic finish.

But Cobblers substitute Danny Holmes unleashed an excellent drive to win the game, condemning the Town to a fourth successive defeat in all competitions.



V

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2015

TYLER	SMITH
OKUONGHAE	MALONEY
SMITH (C)	DIAMOND
GRIFFITHS	CRESSWELL
LONG	D'ATH
LAWLESS	BYROM
WILKINSON	RICHARDS (C)
LEE	ADAMS
GREEN	POTTER
MACKAIL-SMITH	BUCHANAN
BENSON	O'TOOLE

SUBSTITUTES

1	CORNERS	6
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
3	SHOTS WIDE	2
16	FOULS	9
3	OFFSIDES	1

HAKAN SAID:

"When you go 1-0 up at home you expect to win, when you score three goals at home you expect to win.

"I think our second half performance was decent, but we can't concede the goals we conceded the way we have been and expect to get back in the game.

"Our defending wasn't good enough, we know that, we've got to get back to work and try and rectify that.

"But the goals we're conceding are so sloppy. You cannot defend like that and expect to go and win the game.

"We've given it a go second half but it just wasn't to be. The players don't want to go out and make fundamental mistakes."

EXETER 2 3 TOWN

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Paul Benson's 100th-minute winner handed the Hatters a dramatic late victory in a thrilling, topsy-turvy encounter in their first game since John Still's departure.

The experienced striker was in the right place at the time in the 10th minute of added time to seal a remarkable win on the road and end a run of four straight defeats.

Goals from Cameron McGeehan – from the penalty spot – and Danny Green had the Hatters 2-0 in front at the break.

But hosts Exeter, who had only lost once at home this season before kick-off, pulled a goal back with 20 minutes left through Tom Nichols' free-kick. And Paul Tisdale's side completed the comeback when Alex Nicholls headed home with seven minutes left to play.

The Grecians had dominated the second period in their bid to get back on level terms and looked as though they would go on and condemn the Town to another defeat – but Benson struck at the death to swing the three points into the Hatters' hands.

V

SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2015

OLEJNIK	TYLER
WOODMAN	CUTHBERT (C)
OAKLEY	OKUONGHAE
HOLMES	HOWELLS
DAVIES	LONG
NICHOLLS	LAWLESS
MOORE-TAYLOR(C)	McGEEHAN
REID	GREEN
NICHOLS	LEE
TILLSON	BENSON
GRANT	MACKAIL-SMITH

SUBSTITUTES

Cameron McGeehan fires the Hatters in front at Exeter

18	CORNERS	3
16	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
3	SHOTS WIDE	3
11	FOULS	9
0	OFFSIDES	2

AWFORD SAID:

"I've watched a lot of games this year, obviously, and especially early in the season we seemed to have heartbreak at the end of the game, so maybe it has turned a little bit and maybe we deserved that little bit of luck for what went on earlier in the season.

"We've had our fair share of hard luck stories over the season, so may it has evened itself out a little bit. I think, for the effort, the application and the discipline that the players showed, I think they deserved that result.

"We've all pulled together after a difficult week. It's a fantastic result and a good end."

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416 LUTON

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REACTION

DEFENDER DELIGHT AT LAST-GASP EXETER TRIUMPH

Scott Cuthbert was full of praise for the Hatters after Paul Benson's 100th-minute winner stole the show and all three points at Exeter last weekend.

A difficult week on and off the pitch has seen the Town slump to three consecutive league defeats, and they were also having to adjust to life without manager John Still.

But a dogged performance proved the clincher as the Hatters sealed the 3-2 victory in the dying moments of the match.

"To win it like that is just unbelievable," said the centre-half. "Scoring in the 100th minute is just a huge credit to the lads – if that doesn't show that we're all together and showing that team spirit we've got, then nothing will.

WORK

"We're a bunch of lads who will work our socks off for everyone. We dug in, we could easily have folded at 2-2, but then we found something that little bit extra."

Despite taking the three points, it wasn't all plain sailing for the Hatters, and the skipper admitted that the side, under caretaker Andy Awford, did ride their luck for periods of the afternoon.

Cuthbert added: "You could tell we were a bit nervous in that first 25 minutes.

"We were defending quite well but we were giving the ball straight back to them.

"Within about five minutes of us actually getting the ball and passing it around, we got the penalty, we got the goal, and then it wasn't long before we got the other one."

The Town had gone two goals to the good thanks to a Cameron McGeehan penalty, while Danny Green added the second before the interval.

But Tom Nichols' stunning free-kick made it 2-1 before Alex Nicholls levelled with a header to send the following faithful jittery as the game headed into the closing stages.

"We said at half-time that a third goal would kill the game off, but Exeter are a really good side, they'd only been beaten here once before so far this season, so it just shows you how strong they are at home," said Cuthbert.

"We knew they would come out and put us under pressure, but I thought it was bit of a soft free-kick. He's put it in the top corner though, but we didn't let that affect us.

DELIGHTED

"It was a tough game because Exeter are a good passing side and we had to defend really well for large parts of the game, so I'm delighted that we got that winner."

The departure of John Still just two days before the trip to the south west clearly impacted on those in a Hatters shirt, but the 28-year-old Scot felt that the performance on the pitch was deserving of the quality in the Kenilworth Road dressing room.

"It's been such a tough week," he said. "We've said goodbye to the manager that brought us back into the Football League, a fantastic man that brought us all to the club, and I feel as a team and an individual that we let him down.

"Today we've gone out and given a real performance for Andy, the quality may not have been there for the whole 100 minutes, but the commitment was there, the strikers and midfielders running and chasing everything.

"We showed fantastic character and that's what you need when you don't have all the quality."

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 SATURDAY'S DRAMATIC VICTORY AT EXETER CITY

The journey

A new era began in pitch-black darkness as the alarm went off at 6.30am ahead of the long distance coach journey to Exeter. Still tinged with a bit of sadness at the dismissal of such a great manager and the poor run of form we'd been on, I'd be lying if I said I was full of optimism as I boarded the sole Bobbers coach making the journey from Ampthill.

After a slight delay when we got to Luton the coach eventually set off just before 9am and despite some heavy rain and strong winds on the way down we made it to Exeter just after 1.15pm. That included a service stop at Leigh Delamere along the way which broke up a power nap I grabbed to pass the time! Credit to the drivers for getting us there much quicker than I had anticipated.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽⚽

The ground

With plenty of time to fill before kick-off we decided to head round to the bar behind the Main Stand. We were warmly welcomed in there and the place did a cracking pint of Thatchers Gold so an uninspiring start to the day began to get a bit brighter!

After a quick pint it was time to go into the ground and those of us in the seats were in the opposite stand to the one we were in last year. The view from this stand was much better as we were sat much higher up and the stand itself was really good. Thankfully we were well protected from the heavy rain by a big roof which was welcome.

The only negative about the place really was the stewards who were much more confrontational than they needed to be.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽

The food

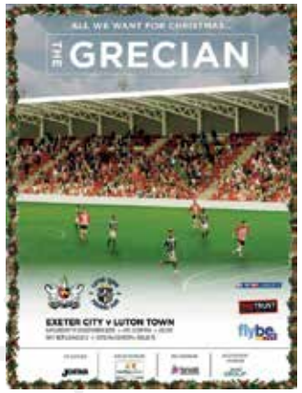
A burger bar just inside the terrace was the food option. Hot dogs, pasties, pies and sausage rolls were the hot food options and then there was the usual confectionary.

After a pint in the bar it was only right to have a pie afterwards so it was a steak and kidney one for me which went down well after the long journey.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽

The programme

An 84-page programme was produced for this fixture. There was a welcome to the Town from the always elegant looking Paul Tisdale, a page on the last time we met (we don't need reminding of that thanks!) along with a couple of pages on our current squad and another double page spread



on our best players from the past. Apart from a guide to their stadium development the rest of the programme was largely the usual local adverts and home player interviews.

Rating: ⚽⚽

The match

To coin a popular cliché this was very much a game of two halves. Andy Awford made three changes for his first game in charge. In came Jake Howells, Scott Cuthbert and Cameron McGeehan and they replaced Scott Griffiths and the injured Luke Wilkinson and Jonathan Smith.

So the new era began in torrential rain and a fairly strong breeze – perfect conditions for football! In stormy conditions we had to weather a bit of an early storm but immediately noticeable was the organisation and work rate and we really defended for our lives which was good to see.

After Mark Tyler had made a couple of saves we went 1-0 up on the half hour against the run of play when Craig Mackail-Smith sent Sean Long into the area only for him to be tripped when he got there. A penalty was given and after a bit of an argument about who would take it between McGeehan and Danny Green the former coolly rolled the ball into the net.

One became two five minutes later as another move played Long in on the right and his cross to the back stick was expertly volleyed home powerfully by the aforementioned Green. We saw the half out to go in 2-0 up at half-time.

We'd been here before though. 2-0 up against Exeter at half-time. Added to this were that we'd had the conditions and had to go against them in the second half. With players coming back from injury and the wilderness this wasn't going to be easy.

After McGeehan had a shot blocked and Paul Benson glanced wide, the Alamo got launched at us. Initially we coped with it well but a top draw free-kick into the top corner from the edge of the box got Exeter back in it with 20 to go and the equaliser came with just under 10 to play when a corner was powerfully headed in.

The Town were hanging on. Tyler made a reaction save and nine minutes of injury time was signalled. Half-way through that Josh McQuoid broke through. He slid in Jack Marriott to win it but the keeper saved – and we thought that was it.

But, as time ran out, a Benson flick-on sent Marriott to the by-line. He pulled the ball back and Benson beat the keeper to a back pass to bundle it home and win it for us in the 100th minute! Cue pandemonium on the pitch and in the stands. What a way to win!

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽⚽⚽

A massive thank you to the 416 of you who made the trip to St James Park

Man-of-the-Match

Easy one to pick this. Captain Scott Cuthbert was brilliant. He threw himself in the way of everything that came his way and cleared a number of crosses. He organised the defence well and stood out when we really needed someone to stand up to the plate. Brilliant performance from the big defender.

Summary

What a feeling that was! A long day but one that was well worth it in the end. You can't beat a winning away day but to win in that style was even better! I was home by 10.15 in time to celebrate with a couple of ciders and Match of the Day!

OVERALL RATING
17 out of 25

MILES TRAVELLED THIS SEASON
3,226.7

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REACTION

HOWELLS' DELIGHT AT 'SECOND DEBUT'

Jake Howells admitted that his return to first-team action felt like a second debut after a long period out of the fold.

The 24-year-old made his first appearance of the season in Town colours, having also played on loan at Yeovil, in the 3-2 victory over Exeter last Saturday.

And despite his time away from the Kenilworth Road starting line-up, Howells feels he can learn from the experiences of recent months as he looks to add to his 318 Hatters appearances to date.

BUZZ

He told Hatters Player: "Even today was a learning curve, it was like another debut for me. It had that feeling, that buzz, and it was nice to be back out there.

"I think everyone knows I've been a Luton boy from day one, so it's a lovely thing to be put back in and be giving 100 per cent. It's hard for me to sit in the stands, not that I can do massive changes, but everyone knows I'll give everything."

Howells is currently the longest-serving player on the Town's books, but was put on the transfer list at his own request over the summer, and has not played for his side since the final game of the 2014/15 campaign.

But Howells, who played at left-back in the Hatters' trip to the south west, is adamant that the change in manager has not been the reason for his return to the starting XI.

"John had been trying to get me back in for a while so it wasn't entirely out of the wilderness," he explained. "Perhaps it was just coincidence that it's come after he's gone because he was doing everything he could to try and get me in.

POTENTIAL

"At the time I thought it was best for me personally to perhaps look elsewhere, and maybe it was the wrong step but it's a learning curve. In football, you've got to learn and I think for me it's a good to see the potential of this club and see what Luton is all about.

"It's nice to be considered in that position, some people have doubted me there so it's up to me to prove people wrong. When you get put on a pitch for a team like Luton, you've got to give 100 per cent and I always will do that, wherever the manager decides to put me.

"Today I've hopefully changed a few people's opinions, and hopefully I can keep that going."

Having spent large parts of the season on the fringes on the squad, Howells has worked alongside Andy Awford closely, and the player is backing the caretaker boss to make the most of the notoriously difficult Christmas period, following the departure of John Still.

CREDIT

Howells said: "The run we've been on hasn't been great but to get that three points after a tough week was excellent for everyone. It's a credit to John, he deserves the credit more than anyone.

"I've been with Andy a lot already this season, so I know how he works. He's a brilliant coach and hopefully he does well in the time he gets, and we'll go from there.

"It's always tricky over the Christmas period, but everybody really enjoys it – there's never an easy game in this league. We have four tough games, but we've started well."

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

IT'S NEVER STRAIGHT-FORWARD FOLLOWING THE HATTERS. ANOTHER 12 MONTHS HAVE ALL-BUT FLOWN BY. HERE'S OUR TAKE ON 2015...

JANUARY

2015 didn't start in the best way for the Hatters, slipping out of the FA Cup at the hands of Cambridge. Michael Harriman's goal wasn't enough to prevent a 2-1 defeat, with the Abbey Stadium club then playing Manchester United in Round Four.

League form proved more profitable, as the Town took two wins and two draws, including revenge over the U's in a 3-2 victory on the 31st.

The Hatters also beat Plymouth 1-0, while securing honourable draws against Cheltenham and high-flyers Shrewsbury to end January four points off top spot.

P5 | W2 | D2 | L1 | GS: 6 | GC: 5

FEBRUARY

Mark Cullen's brace secured a 2-2 draw against York, the second of two draws for the Town to start February. The same man scored in the 1-0 win over Carlisle, but the Hatters then lost their first league games since mid-December.

A 1-0 defeat on the road was followed by a last-gasp loss to AFC Wimbledon 3-2, but John Still's side got back to winning ways, with Jayden Stockley and Luke Guttridge netting in a 2-0 win over Accrington Stanley, keeping the Town fourth in League 2.

P6 W2 D2 L2 GS: 8 GC: 7

MARCH

The less said about March, the better! Six games and six defeats all but ended the Town's chances of promotion, but the month did see the return of Paul Benson for the first time since November.

A 1-0 defeat at Bury came before a 3-2 downing at the hands of Morecambe, the first home league defeat since September.

The Hatters also fell to Portsmouth, Newport, Wycombe and Northampton in a desperate month on the pitch.

P6 W0 D0 L6 GS: 5 GC: 12

APRIL

April began with more goals and a 3-2 loss against Exeter for an eighth defeat in nine, but the Hatters got back to winning ways with Cameron McGeehan scoring in a 1-0 win over Tranmere to complete the Easter period.

Burton prevailed 1-0 for a fourth home defeat in a row, but parity was restored thanks to a stalemate at Dagenham and a 3-0 thrashing of Hartlepool. Goals from McGeehan, Jake Howells and Scott Griffiths put the Town in eighth place, level on points with Play-Off incumbents Plymouth.

P6 W2 D1 L3 GS: 6 GC: 5

MAY

Just one game for the Town in May, but a 2-0 victory only secured bragging rights over Stevenage, proving not enough to secure a Play-Off spot, despite Cullen's 14th goal of the year.

Jack Marriott and Dan Potts made their arrivals to Kenilworth Road, while the Hatters bid farewells to Shaun Whalley, Danny Fitzsimons, Alex Wall, Charlie Walker and Ricky Miller among others.

Cameron McGeehan is the Hatters' top goalscorer of 2015

Jonathan Smith also signed a three-year contract with the club.

P1 W1 D0 L0 GS: 2 GC: 0

JUNE

Despite the season being at an end, there was still plenty to talk about off the pitch as McGeehan, Stephen O'Donnell and Josh McQuoid completed permanent deals to join the Hatters, while Mark Cullen departed for Blackpool.

The new fixtures for 2015/16 were announced, including the League Cup tie against Bristol City, and the side also returned for pre-season training.

JULY

Another month, and more new faces at Kenilworth Road with the arrivals of Paddy McCourt, Danny Green, Mark O'Brien, Magnus Okuonghae to send the summer signings into double figures as Lee Angol, Ross Lafayette,

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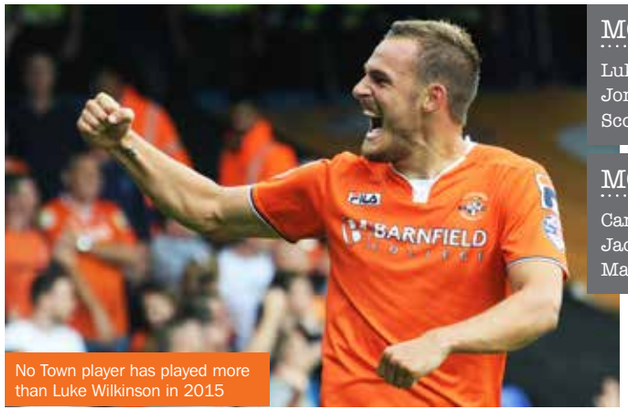

No Town player has played more than Luke Wilkinson in 2015

MOST GAMES IN 2015*

Luke Wilkinson	46
Jonathan Smith	45
Scott Griffiths	40

MOST GOALS IN 2015*

Cameron McGeehan	12
Jack Marriott	8
Mark Cullen/Jonathan Smith	5

Fraser Franks, Alex Lacey and Andy Drury head in the opposite direction.

Marriott was among those to open his Luton account in one of many games against teams from higher divisions in the Town's pre-season friendlies.

AUGUST

The Town confirmed the signing of Craig Mackail-Smith, while Olly Lee also joined the Club.

The Hatters opened their season with a 1-1 draw at Accrington, while completing a fantastic 3-1 shock over Bristol City in the League Cup and pushing Stoke all the way to penalties at Kenilworth Road.

League wins proved evasive, however, despite Mackail-Smith scoring on two occasions, with the Town succumbing to Bristol Rovers, Yeovil and Portsmouth.

P7 W1 D2 L4 GS: 10 GC: 11

SEPTEMBER

More cup success, this time against Leyton Orient in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, began September, and the Hatters also enjoyed a good month in League 2, winning four out of their five games.

An impressive 3-1 victory at Cambridge was followed by a 3-2 defeat at Notts County, but wins over Mansfield, AFC Wimbledon pushed the Town up the league, while the month was gleamed with a 3-1 scalp of Morecambe at the Globe Arena, courtesy of goals from Luke Wilkinson, Smith and McGeehan.

P6 W5 D0 L1 GS: 13 GC: 6

October

October proved a fraction trickier for the Town, thrashing Hartlepool 4-1 thanks to a Marriott brace, but going the rest of the month without winning another game.

A defeat at the hands of Gillingham saw John Still's side exit the JPT, but they were then held to 1-1 home draws by York and Leyton Orient, sandwiching a 2-1 defeat at Crawley. Sean Long made his Hatters debut in that match following his loan switch from Reading.

A 2-1 defeat to table-toppers Plymouth ended the month, with the 90th minute winner consigning the Town to 15th place in the table.

P6 W1 D2 L3 GS: 9 GC: 9

November

The merry-go-round that is football continued into November, where the Town this time won the first three games of the month. 2-0 league successes over Dagenham and Barnet surrounded an impressive display at Crawley, as the Hatters came from a goal down to win 2-1 thanks to Josh McQuoid's double, sending them through in the FA Cup.

The month petered out from there, however, as a stalemate away at Stevenage was followed by a 4-3 humbling at the hands of Carlisle, prior to Newport claiming their first league win since March – where they beat the Hatters – courtesy of a 3-0 victory in Wales.

P6 W3 D1 L2 GS: 9 GC: 8

December

With a heavy heart, December saw the departure of manager John Still after he joined the club two-and-a-half years ago.

On the pitch, the Hatters exited the FA Cup at the hands of League 1 Peterborough, and also suffered a second successive 4-3 home victory, this time to high-flying Northampton.

But the year to date has ended with a positive, and a 100th minute winner, one of the latest goals in the club's history, as Paul Benson stole all three points from last week's trip to Exeter.

Today is the Town's final home game of the year while the curtain will come down on 2015 at Portsmouth on Monday. A trip to Bristol Rovers next Saturday brings in 2016.

P3 W1 D0 L2 GS: 6 GC: 8

*stats up to and including Exeter away.

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LET'S GO

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR KENILWORTH ROAD FIX TODAY AS THE HATTERS DON'T PLAY ON HOME SOIL FOR ANOTHER THREE WEEKS WITH TRIPS TO PORTSMOUTH AND BRISTOL ROVERS NEXT UP IN LEAGUE 2

PORTSMOUTH

WHO? Portsmouth, aka Pompey, are the Town's next port of call. Paul Cook, who took over in the summer, has helped Pompey enjoy one of the best seasons in recent years. The side have been flirting with the automatic promotions places since the campaign began in August and remain well-positioned to mount a serious challenge for the top three.

WHERE? With a capacity of 20,700, Fratton Park is the largest stadium in League 2. It's all-seater these days and Town supporters will be, like last season, situated in the Milton End behind the goal. It's a covered stand with a reasonable view of the playing action, but it used to be a terrace so the legroom's a tad stingy.

HOW TO GET THERE? It's approximately 100 miles from Kenilworth Road to Fratton Park. Take the M1 south, M25 anti-clockwise and A3 south before turning onto the M27 (ignoring the M275 turn off for Portsmouth town centre). Continue on to the A27 and at the junction with the A2030 turn right towards Southsea/Fratton. Continue straight along the A2030 and eventually you will see the ground in front of you, just slightly to your left.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? The Hatters lost the meeting at Kenilworth Road in August and the Town have won just five of their previous 38 visits to Fratton Park, losing the last six including last season's 2-0 defeat. The Hatters' last victory at Portsmouth came courtesy of a 2-0 win in September 1975 with Andy King and Adrian Alston on target before a crowd of 9,835.

BRISTOL ROVERS

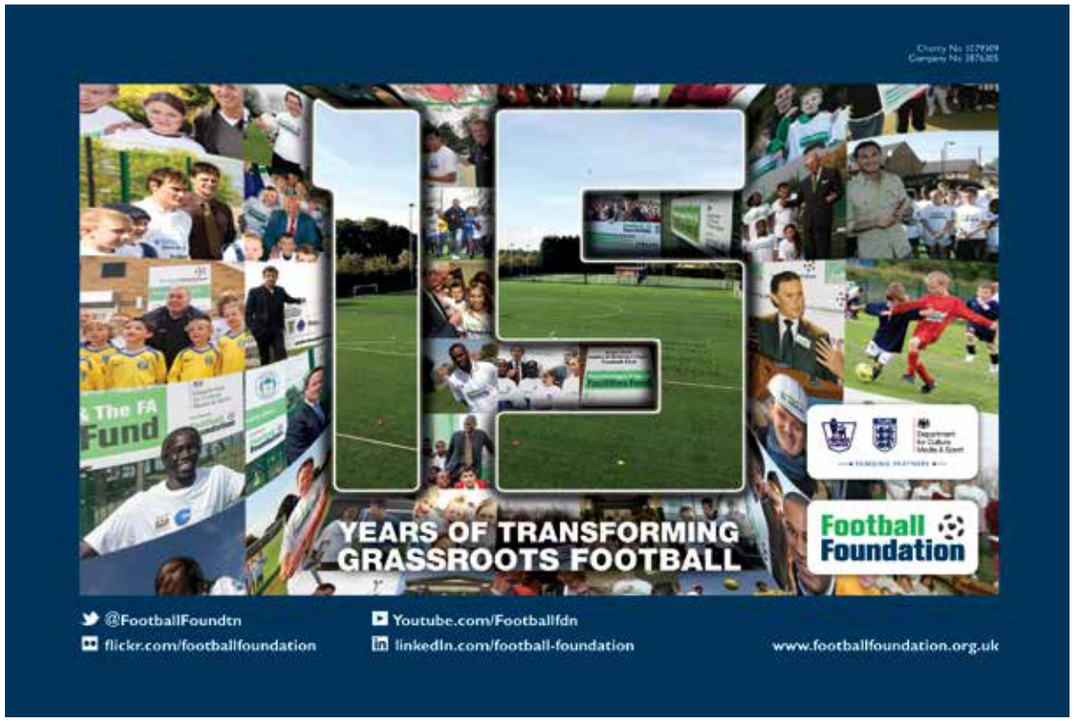
WHO? Bristol Rovers, aka the Pirates, will be the Town's first opponents of 2016. Rovers won promotion via the Conference Play-Offs last season to bounce back immediately to the Football League. So far this season, Darrell Clarke's side have picked up form of late and are in striking distance of the top seven.

WHERE? The Pirates still play their home fixtures at the Memorial Stadium, a 12,000-capacity former home of the Bristol rugby club. Opened in 1921, it wasn't until 1996 that Rovers moved in as tenants. Hatters fans have the option of uncovered terracing beside the pitch or a covered seat behind the goal in a temporary stand.

HOW TO GET THERE? Luton to Bristol is about 150 miles and a two-and-half-hour drive all being well. Take the M1 south, M25 anti-clockwise and M4 westbound and then M5. Exit the M5 at junction 16 (Signposted Filton) and join the A38 (South) towards Bristol City Centre. Continue on the A38, passing the Wellington pub on your right, before turning left into Filton Avenue.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? Like at Portsmouth, the Town teams of the past have rarely returned from Bristol Rovers with much to smile about. The Hatters have never won at the Memorial Stadium, drawing four and losing six. The Town did, however, earn a point that felt like a victory on their last visit in League 1 on Boxing Day 2007. Despite playing with eight men the Hatters drew 1-1. Not since 1980 have the Town won against Bristol Rovers in Bristol (an FA Cup win in 1995 was played at Bath).

To get clued up on Portsmouth and Bristol Rovers, visit www.portsmouthfc.co.uk and www.bristolrovers.co.uk



HATTERS SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Members of the Hatters squad paid their annual visit to the children's ward at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital last week.

The players helped give out gifts and pose for photographs with the children, their families, and ward staff - and club photographer Gareth Owen was on hand to capture the best images.

Luton Town would like to wish them all a very Merry Christmas.

YEOVIL GAME REARRANGED

The Hatters' League 2 home fixture with Yeovil Town has been rearranged for Tuesday 2nd February (kick-off 7.45pm).

The match was originally scheduled for Saturday 9th January but this now clashes with the Glovers' FA Cup third round tie away to Carlisle United on the same day.

Tickets for this match remain at category C prices.

REST IN PEACE, ALBERT

Lifelong Hatters supporter Albert Stronell sadly passed away on 30th November.

Born in Luton on 7th October 1915, Albert recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Following nearly 40 years working at the Luton Vauxhall plant, he then began his retirement alongside his loving wife of 67 years, Doris.

As a lifelong fan of the Town, Albert continued to keenly follow the Hatters and celebrated a few of his recent birthdays, including his 99th, enjoying the Club's hospitality in the Eric Morecombe Suite.

Albert will be fondly remembered with a smile by Margaret, Brian and all his family.

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

PICTURE the PAST

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

A delighted Charlie Watkins watches as a deflection from Leeds United defender Jim McCabe sees the ball make its way into the net.
A further effort from Jesse Pye ensured a 2-0 home win for the Town in front of a crowd of 19,480 on Boxing Day 1952. The Hatters travelled to Leeds the following day for the return and earned a point in a 2-2 draw.

THE CAMERA never LIES

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

Just to remind you of warmer times!
A Town eleven takes part in a cricket match in July 1971.
Back row (left to right): Alan Slough, Charlie Sorbie, Ken Whitfield (coach), Keith Barber, Peter Anderson, Robin Wainwright, Jack Bannister.
Front row (left to right): Tony Read, Chris Nicholl, Roger Hoy, Eddie Hartley, (groundsman), Don Shanks.

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ON THIS BOXING DAY

DECEMBER 26

THE RECORD

One, if not the, most regular fixture on the calendar, Boxing Day has been kind to the Town over the years with 33 victories from 71 matches played in Football League and Conference football since 1898.

The Hatters have only lost 19 of the 71 games, scoring 118 goals and conceding 98. That combined is 217 goals which works out at a smidgen over three goals per game.

Of the first 12 matches, the Town only won twice, losing seven. Home victories over QPR, in 1922, and Gillingham, in 1925, were the only successes on Boxing Day for the Hatters between 1898 and 1931.

Between 1936 and 1960, the Hatters hit a purple patch on this day, winning a remarkable 11 of the 13 fixtures - drawing twice and remaining unbeaten. Six defeats out of seven then followed!

Again, between 1972 and 1985 the Town won eight of 11 successive fixtures, again going unbeaten in that sequence. The Hatters recorded six successive Boxing Day wins between 1978 and 1985 – a run ended by a 2-0 home defeat to local rivals Watford in 1986. Bah! Humbug!

It may not be as prolific as earlier sequences, the Hatters go into today's game showing a record of just one defeat in the last 18 encounters on Boxing Day. The sole defeat in that time came in 2006 when the Town were thumped 4-1 at Colchester. The other 17 fixtures in the run since 1991 have yielded nine wins and eight draws.

The Town's last Boxing Day win came two years ago at Barnet with Paul Benson and Alex Lawless on target

MILESTONES

The Hatters have won three of their last four matches on Boxing Day. Last season's 1-1 draw at Wycombe ended a run of three straight wins, which included a 2-1 win at Barnet, a 3-1 home victory over Woking in 2012 and a 5-0 win over Kettering in 2011.

The last time the Hatters lost at home on Boxing Day was a 1-0 reverse at the hands of Sheffield United.

The first Football League fixture involving the Town on this day was a 1-1 draw at Burton Swifts in 1898, with the first victory coming against QPR in 1922, as mentioned above. It wasn't until a 2-0 win at Bournemouth in 1932 that the Hatters registered a first Football League away win.

SIX OF THE BEST... AND WORST

The Town have twice scored six goals on Boxing Day. A 6-1 win over West Ham United at Kenilworth Road was recorded in 1951, in which Gordon Turner grabbed a hat-trick. Then, in 1958 the Town – now in the top flight – stuck six past Arsenal in a 6-3 victory in front of 21,870 at Kenilworth Road.

In 1927, the Town the Town were 5-1 up at Northampton in Division Three (South) but contrived to blow the lead in a fierce blizzard and lost 6-5. Two years later on the same day the Cobblers beat the Town again, this time only winning 4-1.

DO MENTION

The Town have won all three encounters with both Arsenal and West Ham on Boxing Day. Wins against the Hammers came in 1946, 1951 and 1953, while victories over the Gunners came in 1991, 1959 – at Highbury – and 1958.

DON'T MENTION

Watford. The Town may have a good record on this day as a whole but the Hornets have won three of the four past meetings on Boxing Day between the two clubs. The Town's sole win came in 1979 at Vicarage Road but the Hertfordshire club triumphed in 1924, 1964 and 1986 – all at Kenilworth Road.

Luton Town in the COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

It's been another great year for the Trust which has seen further growth in both personnel and a big growth in the number of varied football and non-football projects we deliver to our local community.

As a registered charity we look to represent the Club in the wider community using the power of football to be at the heart of communities. We rely on raising our own funds through both our coaching activities as well as grant funding from the Premier League, Football League, FA and PFA and support from the main Club and our main sponsor easyJet.

Additional partnerships with Active Luton, Luton Adult Learning, The Princes Trust, Luton Airport's Luton Youth Community Fund and StreetGames has enabled us to both expand our existing activities and begin lots of new and exciting projects.

As you can see from our infographic, we now provide over 70 free PE lessons every week to over 2,000 local school children as part of the Premier League School Sport project. Our girls only coaching has really taken off with support from the FA as part of the Female Football Development programme to increase the number of women and girls enjoying football and the link with Luton Town Ladies is working well in providing player pathways.

Our growing involvement in Disability Football has also been hugely rewarding for both staff and participants and as well as our two Men's teams the Hatters and Boaters we also now coach weekly sessions at both Weatherfield and Woodlands SEN Schools.

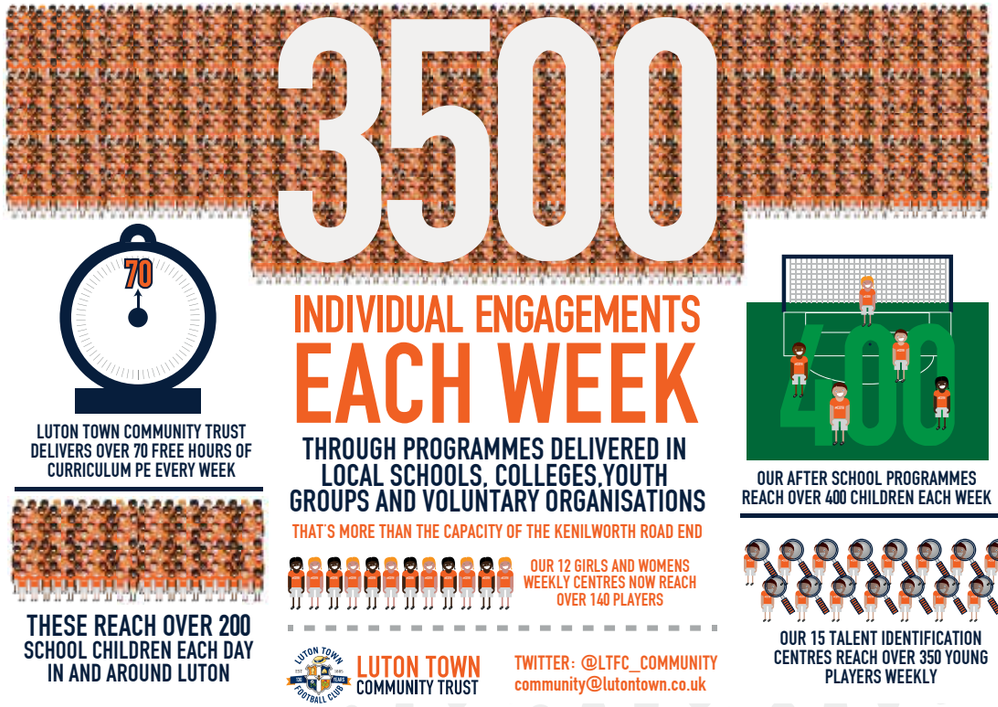
We've also increased our football tournaments this year with the Hatters Cup involving 1,200 youngsters playing at Kenilworth Road we also involve hundreds of additional youngsters in the national Kinder+Sport Girls and Kids cup as well as our FFD female tournament. We also have our Integration Cup with Active Luton for boys from Marsh Farm, Farley Hill and Lewsey Farm at the stadium which forms an important part of our social projects on these estates.

Our airport-funded project has also been hugely successful in establishing youth football teams in Marsh Farm for the first time in years and we are now concentrating on doing the same in Farley Hill – with lots of other parts of Town on our radar. Luton Adult Learning are also helping us to find and train 36 new community coaches to deliver our projects with two courses for both men and women.

2016 will see lots of other exciting projects being delivered by our community staff around school literacy, attendance and behavioural issues and for our more mature community members we are also launching walking football as well as opening up the stadium for a weekly 'social club' where local members of our community can meet and chat.

We look forward to keeping everyone updated and engaged through these pages during 2016 on all of our existing and new projects as we look to both promote Luton Town Football Club to new supporters and also use the power of football to effect and improve the lives of as many members of our community as we can.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone. COYH!



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WITH DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMY MANAGER ANDY AWFORD

FA YOUTH CUP

Earlier this month the Under-18s travelled up to Notts County for the FA Youth Cup third round tie at Meadow Lane and I was absolutely made-up for Paul Driver, all the staff and the boys following their thoroughly deserved 3-1 win.

What a performance it was, it was as good as we've played all season – and they have played some excellent football most weeks – but this really was a superb performance.

We lost Frankie Musonda to a red card on the half-hour but I think if anybody walked into the stadium after that point they would have never of known it was 11 versus 10. It was a fantastic performance all-round and it could have been more. The boys were worthy winners and we now look forward to the next round and a tie away to Oldham or Bournemouth in the New Year. It's unfortunate we're not at home as we would have liked a game at Kenilworth Road.

UNDER-18s UNBEATEN RECORD ENDS

Last Saturday the Youth Team were beaten 3-1 at Dagenham & Redbridge which ended their proud, long, unbeaten run which had stretched 30 matches including eight games at the end of last season. It was going to happen sooner or later but the run has been unbelievable and credit goes to everyone involved. They were going to be beaten at some point but the boys had an off day – one bad off day in 30 isn't bad, is it?

However, there's no pressure on the boys now. The run is over and it's back to business again to start another run starting next year. It would have been nice to go the whole season unbeaten but massive congratulations to the boys for maintaining such an incredible record for so long.

Their last match of the year against Stevenage was postponed on Tuesday and they are not back in action until the New Year so they will have a breather now before aiming to wrap up the league title in early 2016. The focus after that will then be the FA Youth Cup.

DUO IN THE FIRST TEAM SQUAD

It was great to see two of the Under-18s in the squad in recent first team games. Frankie Musonda was on the bench for the Northampton game and he was then joined in the 18-man squad by James Justin at Exeter.

It's nice to see young lads making an imprint into the first team squad and training regularly with the senior squad. Every club likes to see homegrown players coming through the ranks and challenging for a spot in the first team.

It's particularly pleasing to see such hard work and investment in keeping the academy going in the club's non-league days bearing fruit. Congratulations to everyone who has helped over the years – now we have to push on.

ACADEMY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Finally, a mention on the Academy staff Christmas party on Monday. A very healthy 95 per cent turn-out saw us all enjoy a fruit juice or two (although some opted for something more potent and were a bit worse for wear the next day – you know who you are!). It was all good fun, though, and for me it was good to see the camaraderie between the staff. It was good to see everyone enjoying themselves. An unbelievable amount of hard work and effort goes in each week and I'd like to wish them all a happy Christmas. I'd also like to send my festive wishes to all the players in the Academy plus all of their parents, who work tirelessly ferrying the boys to training and to matches.

Have a wonderful break everyone and here's to a successful 2016 in the Academy set-up.

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) W 3-1
Sat 19 Dagenham & Redbridge A L 1-3

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 UPDATE

The Town Under-18s stretched their extraordinary unbeaten run to 22 games when they booked a fourth-round place in the FA Youth Cup despite playing an hour with 10 men.

The young Hatters started much the brighter of the two sides and were almost in front on nine minutes. Kavan Cotter's low cross from the right found Freddie Hinds but the striker's instinctive shot at the near post was well-saved by home goalkeeper Joe Searson-Smithard.

DOMINATING

With the Town dominating it came as no surprise on the quarter-hour mark when the Hatters went in front. Alex Atkinson's defence-splitting pass found the run of Hinds and the forward guided the ball past the on-rushing keeper to roll home his 13th goal of the season.

Hurt by going behind, the hosts tested Hatters keeper Liam Gooch from a set-piece on 19 minutes but less than 60 seconds later it was 2-0 when a superbly-worked goal doubled the Town's lead. Jack Snelus played a one-two with George Murray to surge into the penalty area to unleash an unerring finish into the bottom corner.

However the game turned on 29 minutes when Magpies striker Montel Gibson raced through on goal and was brought down by Frankie Musonda just inside the penalty area. After much deliberation the referee sent-off the Town skipper and Gibson converted the resultant spot-kick.

Despite their numerical disadvantage that Hatters, to their credit, settled well and Hinds was inches away from making it 3-1 on 36 minutes when just unable to force the ball home.

As half-time approached Snelus sent a firm shot straight at Searson-Smithard and Hinds lofted a shot over the crossbar before Murray's shot flew wide.

ADVANTAGE

However, any fears of an early County fight-back in the second half were snuffed out when the Town restored their two-goal advantage five minutes after the restart. Murray's shot from 15 yards was deflected behind for a corner but from the resultant flag-kick Murray rose at the back-post to nod home with a little help from the crossbar.

With breathing space once more, the Town looked full of confidence going forward – at times looking as though it was them and not Notts who were a man light. A mazy run from Cotter on 55 minutes cumulated in the midfielder forcing Searson-Smithard into a comfortable save. As the hour-mark passed, County upped the ante and the Town defence needed to be brave to clear from a corner on 63 minutes that fell at Gibson's feet.

The Hatters then spurned a decent chance to make it 4-1 on 67 minutes when Cameron McJannet's left-wing cross meant for Hinds was missed by Murray with the goal at his mercy inside the six-yard box.

As time ticked down the home side ran out of ideas as the Hatters asserted their control even without their captain and Snelus almost capped the evening with a superb strike only to see his rasping 25-yard drive tipped over the crossbar.

But that was the final chance and the final whistle signalled celebrations from the Town knowing they were one game away from a place in the fifth round of the Youth Cup.

Town: Gooch; Justin, McJannet (sub Bean 68), Famewo, Musonda; McGhan-George, Cotter, Atkinson, Snelus; Murray (sub Bakinson 73), Hinds. Subs not used: Verney, Brown, Shamola.

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YOUTH UPDATE

Victorious Under-18 boss Paul Driver hailed the character of his side after the Town youth team progressed to the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup with a 3-1 win at Notts County last week.

The Hatters played an hour with 10 men following the dismissal of captain Frankie Musonda but goals from Freddie Hinds, Jack Snelus and George Murray booked the youngsters a meeting with Bournemouth or Oldham in January.

BRILLIANTLY

"The most important aspect is how well the boys coped when Frankie went off," Driver told lutontown.co.uk. "We pulled through brilliantly with 10 men. There were six first years on the pitch at the time of the red card but it didn't faze them, they were all excellent without their leader.

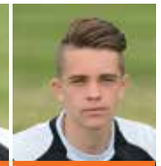
"Even with 10 men we created more chances and I don't remember [goalkeeper] Liam Gooch making a save.

"As a collective unit the fact we did so well without Frankie is almost as important as the win itself. It showed the lads could step-up and show character to get the job done and pull through."

The victory set-up a place in the fourth round of the competition – the first time a Hatters youth team has reached that stage in nine years.

On the potential fourth round opposition, Driver said: "Like Notts County they are two teams who are in different league to us but they are playing at the same level of youth football.

Freddie Hinds


Jack Snelus

HOMEWORK

"We'll go and watch the game and do our homework like we always do, but youth football is a funny old game.

"Notts County played Oldham earlier in the season, losing 5-0 before beating them 1-0 with precisely the same team the following week."

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Luton LADIES

The Town Ladies returned to league action and climbed back into second place in the table following a 3-2 win over Norwich City last weekend.

Illness and injury left the Ladies with a less than fully-fit squad, but a bright opening saw plenty of crisp passing football which was rewarded when Michelle Byrne found Tasha Fensome and she outpaced her marker to neatly roll the ball past the keeper to make it 1-0.

However, the lead was short-lived when some indecisive defending gave the Canaries an opportunity down the flank and when the ball was pulled back across the penalty area it was rifled home in spite of the best efforts of Rachel Evans to keep the shot out.

It seemed inevitable that Luton would regain the lead when Fensome again rounded the keeper only to see the ball bobble unkindly as she fired her shot into the side netting.

The second half began poorly for the Town as Norwich went ahead when a deflected shot ballooned kindly into the air leaving the Canaries striker with only the goalkeeper to beat.

A change of formation with half-an-hour left helped turn the game on its head when Jess McKay unleashed an unstoppable drive from 35 yards past the helpless keeper to level the game up at 2-2.

Luton gambled on the stronger finish and fitness in search of all three points with Fensome's shot being tipped round the post and Tamera Bayne only being denied by a fine smothering save. The winner appeared to have arrived when Fensome won a race to the ball with the keeper and dinked the ball over her but a covering defender was just able to nip in behind and clear off the line.

At the other end Evans did well to push the ball away from under her crossbar as the game remained in the balance. In the 75th minute the third Hatters goal arrived when a Zara Carroll corner swung in under the crossbar and the keeper under pressure from Samiara Khan could only fumble the ball into the net. Luton never looked in serious trouble after that and managed the game well to pick up all the points and complete the league double over the Canaries.

Manager Nikki Baker said: "We are delighted with the win and the character shown by the players to grind out a win in the circumstances.

"There's usually plenty of goals in our meetings and this was no exception with both sides on the attack throughout. An especially well fought three points taking into account the changes forced upon us by availability and will hopefully set us up for the second part of the season."

Meanwhile the Development team were also involved in a five-goal thriller but came out the wrong side in a 3-2 defeat against league leaders West Wickham. Tamera Bayne and Phoebe Brown were on target in a thrilling first half but the visitors grabbed a second half winner.

The Under-16s go into the second half of the season unbeaten but it was a close shave when Jodie Bellinger fired a last minute equaliser to add to her earlier strike in a 2-2 draw with title challengers Harvesters.

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

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JUNIOR HATTERS

PLAYER PROFILE

SCOTT GRIFFITHS

DATE OF BIRTH: 27th NOV 1985
FROM: WESTMINSTER
HEIGHT: 5ft 9
POSITION: DEFENDER

A FIRM FAVOURITE WITH THE HATTERS FAITHFUL, SCOTT GRIFFITHS FIRST ARRIVED AT KENILWORTH ROAD ON THE 25TH MARCH 2013. THE FULL BACK WENT ON TO PLAY IN EVERY LEAGUE MATCH DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING SEASON OF 2014/15 AS PART OF THE DEFENSIVE TEAM WHO MANAGED TO KEEP A CLUB RECORD OF 23 CLEAN SHEETS.

WORD SEARCH

WE'VE HIDDEN 15 WORDS OR PHRASES IN THE GRID ON THE RIGHT – CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL?

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

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

THE LAST TIME THE CHAIRBOYS VISITED US, KENILWORTH ROAD HAD BEEN RENAMED AS THE 'PROSTATE CANCER UK STADIUM' IN SUPPORT OF THE CHARITY OF THE SAME NAME. THE HATTERS FELL TO A 2-3 DEFEAT THAT EVENING, DESPITE TWO GOALS FROM ELLIOT LEE. OUR RECORD AT ADAMS PARK IS MORE RELIABLE – WE'VE NEVER LOST AWAY TO WYCOMBE. WITH 5 WINS 5 DRAWS IN OUR TEN APPEARANCES THERE. LET'S HOPE WE BRING SOME OF THAT FORM HOME THIS AFTERNOON!

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FROM LEFT MIDFIELD

WITH KEVIN CROWE

UP THE JUNCTION

I never thought that it would happen, with us and the bloke from Newham
That night we won promotion, that night we aint forgotten

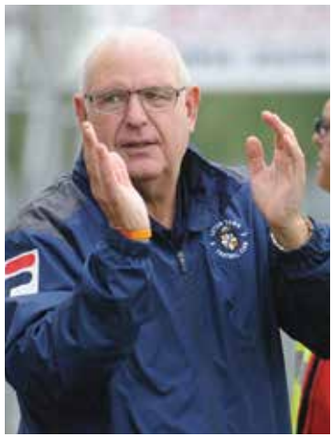
Now. I'm not normally a man to reach for the Squeeze lyrics on important occasions; I'm normally a man, as you'll know by now, who overly romanticises the sometimes mundane ritual of following a provincial football club, and I live in hope that some of you occasionally recognise a little bit of yourselves in the pathetic, sentimental and emotionally expensive way I approach staring and shouting at the footballers of Luton Town. It's probably why we get on, me and you, mate.

John Still's a man, like your mate's dad, who still has a ring tone that he downloaded off the internet. Unlike your mate's dad (who likes Dire Straits and watches Top Gear) John Still's ringtone is 'Up the junction' by the band Squeeze, who you'll know by now.

LOVE

It's a kitchen sink drama of a pop song about a normal man (like you) falling in love with a girl (like you) on Clapham Common, working hard to start a family and then losing it all to the booze and the bookies, delivered in a lazy London monotone – never too high never too low.

Still's a man that could appreciate the simple romance



and heartbreak of an unglamorous, occasionally scandalous but essentially unfashionable tale of English life. He's the type of soppy sod that could probably get a bit obsessed by it to be honest, to the point that he spends half his money following it to blinking Gateshead in the FA Trophy and getting tattoos of it on is calves. You know the type…

Without getting too maudlin and Scouse about the whole thing, I want to wish the man who got us back in the league the very best that life after Luton can offer, because a lot of us thought it was never going to happen.

Plenty of half-decent managers had a crack before John and were found wanting, or seething, and there'll be plenty more coming down the road. We had a right old time of it for what seemed like a hell of a lot longer than a couple of years and for a while there Still squeezed something fairly special out of us soppy sods at Kenilworth Road and we're all a little bit richer for it.

TOUTED

In the cold heart of the pre-season bookmaker, Boxing Day against the Wanderers of Wycombe might have been touted as a promotion six-pointer, and the ridiculous thing about this league is that for two teams currently lying around the middle and bottom bits of the #EFLL2 or whatever it's called today, it still could be.

So once I've finished Cointreauing the Cointreaullables, I for one intend to drag my increasingly seasonal Ian RopeNulterly Aris out of Christmas cabin fever and towards the beautifully lit star of wonder that is Kenilworth Road.

Everyone'll be there. Even old Jake Howells.

Cheers, John and g'on you Rip Roarin'.

leftmidfield.blogspot.com

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A WORD FROM The Football League Paper

BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Unbeatable (well at the time of writing!) Brighton's 2-2 draw at Derby means the Seagulls have not tasted defeat in their first 20 games - a new Championship record.

The Seagulls overtook Neil Warnock's QPR, who didn't lose a game until December 10th in their title-winning campaign of 2010/11.

Of course, football did exist before the division was rebranded in 2004. And while Chris Hughton's men are clearly a doughty lot, they've got a way to go before they can be called the second tier's most invincible side.

Liverpool
28 games - 1893/94

Just two years old when they kicked off against Middlesbrough Ironopolis, Liverpool destroyed all and sundry as they finished the season unbeaten in 28 matches.

In an era when the default formation was six up front and it was practically impossible to stay onside, their Scottish-themed side (two McQueens, McQue, McOwen, McLean, McCartney, McVean and McBride) won all but six of them.

Oddly, though, it still wasn't enough for promotion. In those days, the bottom three sides in the First Division played the top three in the second in a set of promotion 'Test matches'.

Liverpool were drawn away at Man United, where a 2-0 victory took their tally to 29, clinching a place in the top flight and sparking a rivalry that endures to this day.

Reading
33 games - 2006/07

Arguably the greatest side the second tier has ever seen, Steve Coppell's Royals actually began the season with a dismal defeat at home to Plymouth.

It would be six months before they lost again, by which time they had overtaken Liverpool's benchmark and all but sewn up the easiest of titles.

Inspired by the goals of Dave Kitson and unknown £78,000-signing Kevin Doyle, the Royals were actually promoted on March 25 and, six games later, had notched a still-unbeaten Football League record of 106 points.

And who ended the run? Luton Town…

Chelsea
27 games - 1988/89

On September 20th, 1988, Chelsea lay bottom of the Second Division. Six games had yielded no wins and just three points. Manager Bobby Campbell - who'd hung his hat on summer signings Graham Roberts and Peter Nicholas - was feeling the heat.

Then, out of the blue, everything clicked. For the next seven months, the Blues were unstoppable, their only other defeat - a 2-0 reverse at Filbert Street in April - punctuating a title-winning run of 13 straight victories.

Chelsea finished 17 points clear, Kerry Dixon won the golden boot with 28 goals and, but for that sole defeat, the Blues would have set that mark of 33 games two decades earlier.

Brighton boss Chris Hughton

West Ham
21 games - 1990/91

Next up for Chris Hughton's boys is the record of Billy Bonds' Hammers - and it's one the Brighton boss should remember well.

Hughton played 32 times as West Ham finished runners-up to Oldham and, alongside fellow veterans Alvin Martin and Tony Gale, formed part of the division's meanest back four.

They conceded just 34 goals as Bonds guided the Hammers back into the first division, though it would prove a short-lived stay as they plummeted straight back down again.

AND WHO CAN FORGET?

Our own 27-match unbeaten run, which ran from September to March in 2013/14 that set the Hatters on their way to the Conference title.

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LEAGUE LOOK

Amidst the highs, lows and more highs from last Saturday's trip to Exeter, there was a full programme of League 2 football as the Christmas period got underway with a bang.

Northampton, top before the weekend's fixtures after their win against the Hatters, were dethroned from top spot as Portsmouth prevailed 2-1 at Sixfields, Conor Chaplin netting the winner five minutes from time to put the south coast club within a point of the automatic promotion places.

Plymouth were the benefactors of Northampton's slip up, returning back to the summit after their first win in five saw Hartlepool consigned to their sixth defeat in seven matches thanks to Kelvin Mellor's last-gasp winner.

Oxford make up the last of the automatic promotion places, although they suffered a loss for the first time since 24th October, with the Hatters' opponents today doing the damage, also by two goals to one. That win put Wycombe up to ninth, and with a game in hand, an opportunity to threaten the League 2 Play-Off places is well within their grasp if they have a good start to the New Year.

Carlisle and Bristol Rovers currently occupy two of those final two Play-Offs spots, and they enjoyed comfortable 3-0 victories over Notts County and Dagenham respectively, but the two are separated by Accrington Stanley, held to a 1-1 draw from their trip to Stevenage. For Carlisle, it was an extra special victory, with the flooding at Brunton Park meaning their home game had to be moved to Preston North End's Deepdale – 85 miles away.

Outside of the top seven, Leyton Orient registered their fourth consecutive 1-1 draw, and had Jobi McAnuff to thank as his stunning strike rescued the point against Yeovil with just 15 minutes left on the clock.

It's all change at the bottom of the league, with York getting just their third win of the campaign, boasting a 2-1 victory over Morecambe having previously gone seven games in a row in defeat.

That win took the Minstermen out of the bottom two at the expense of Dagenham, who slipped to the foot of the table, while Yeovil stretched their winless run to 14 after that 1-1 draw at Orient.

Mid-table Cambridge and Mansfield played out a 1-1 draw as the latter slipped out of the Play-Off places, while AFC Wimbledon were overtaken by the Hatters as they were forced to come from two goals down to secure a draw, courtesy of Lyle Taylor's brace.

BOXING DAY FIXTURES

Dag and Red v Cambridge (1pm)
Accrington v Carlisle
AFC Wimbledon v Bristol Rovers
Barnet v Newport
Crawley v Stevenage
Hartlepool v Notts County
Leyton Orient v Portsmouth
Morecambe v Mansfield
Oxford v Exeter
Plymouth v Yeovil
York v Northampton

Plymouth Argyle boss Derek Adams has the Pilgrims top of League 2 on Christmas Day

LEADING SCORERS

Simpson (Orient) 13
Taylor (Bristol Rovers) 12
Ibehre (Carlisle) 12
Corr (Cambridge) 10
Richards (Northampton) 10
Windass (Accrington) 10

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

OUR 130TH YEAR

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI							SUBS											
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**	**L 3-4**	**8,792**	**1,032**	**17**	**Tyler**	**Long ◆**	**Griffiths**	**Wilkinson**	**Okuonghae**	**Lee**	**Smith**	**Lawless ●**	**GREEN 1**	**BENSON 2**	**Mackail-Smith**	**O'Donnell**	**McGeehan**	**Hall ◆**	**Marriott ●**	**McQuoid**	**Musonda**	**Justham**
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Exeter City	W 3-2	3,777	416	13	Tyler	Long	Howells ●	Cuthbert	Okuonghae	Lee	Lawless	McGEEHAN 1	GREEN 1 ▲	Mackail-Smith ◆	BENSON 1	Griffiths ●	Marriott ▲	Guttridge	McQuoid ◆	Justin	Musonda	Justham
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																						
Tue 9	**7.45pm**	**H**	**Yeovil Town**																						
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**																						

*Lost 8-7 on penalties

MEET THE REF
DEAN WHITESTONE

Northamptonshire referee Dean Whitestone makes the short journey down the M1 today to take charge of his first game here at Kenilworth Road since New Year's Day 2008 when the Town beat Yeovil 1-0.

Last season Dean oversaw two of our matches: the 1-1 draw at Exeter and the 1-0 win at Tranmere over Easter. So far this season Dean has only shown two red cards in the 21 matches he has officiated.

Please give all of our officials a warm welcome this afternoon.

LUTON TOWN
1885-PRESENT DAY
THE FULL RECORD

PLAYED: **5290**
WON: **2111**
DRAWN: **1285**
LOST: **1894**
GOALS SCORED : **8403**
GOALS CONCEDED: **7616**

LEAGUE TABLE 2015/16

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Plymouth Argyle	22	13	4	5	33	19	14	43
2	Northampton Town	22	13	4	5	38	28	10	43
3	Oxford United	22	11	8	3	33	19	14	41
4	Portsmouth	22	10	10	2	39	19	20	40
5	Carlisle United	22	10	7	5	42	37	5	37
6	Accrington Stanley	20	10	6	4	35	23	12	36
7	Bristol Rovers	22	11	3	8	32	24	8	36
8	Mansfield Town	22	9	7	6	30	20	10	34
9	Wycombe Wanderers	21	9	7	5	28	22	6	34
10	Leyton Orient	22	8	9	5	34	29	5	33
11	Cambridge United	22	8	6	8	33	33	0	30
12	Exeter City	21	8	6	7	30	30	0	30
13	LUTON TOWN	22	8	5	9	38	34	4	29
14	AFC Wimbledon	22	7	8	7	29	30	-1	29
15	Notts County	22	8	5	9	33	38	-5	29
16	Crawley Town	22	8	4	10	30	38	-8	28
17	Morecambe	21	8	3	10	38	39	-1	27
18	Stevenage	22	6	8	8	30	38	-8	26
19	Barnet	22	7	4	11	32	39	-7	25
20	Newport County AFC	22	4	8	10	26	35	-9	20
21	Hartlepool United	21	6	2	13	20	35	-15	20
22	York City	22	3	6	13	25	45	-20	15
23	Yeovil Town	22	2	7	13	22	37	-15	13
24	Dagenham & Redbridge	22	2	7	13	21	40	-19	13

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	7	(1)	4	1	(2)	1	8	(3)	5	0	1		73	25
Scott Cuthbert	19	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	23	(0)	0	0	1		23	0
Nathan Doyle	6	(5)	0	2	(1)	0	8	(6)	0	2	0		45	0
Danny Green	10	(1)	5	2	(3)	1	12	(4)	6	6	0		16	6
Scott Griffiths	17	(1)	0	3	(3)	0	20	(4)	0	1	0		115	3
Luke Guttridge	6	(1)	2	3	(0)	0	9	(1)	2	1	0		73	19
Ryan Hall	2	(4)	0	0	(3)	0	2	(7)	0	0	1		15	0
Jake Howells	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0		318	31
Elliot Justham	2	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0	0		27	0
Alex Lawless	7	(6)	1	3	(0)	0	10	(6)	1	2	0		188	22
Olly Lee	15	(1)	1	5	(0)	0	20	(1)	1	3	0		21	1
Sean Long	6	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	8	(1)	0	2	0		9	0
Craig Mackail-Smith	16	(3)	3	1	(0)	0	17	(3)	3	0	0		20	3
Jack Marriott	6	(12)	6	4	(0)	2	10	(12)	8	0	1		22	8
Paddy McCourt	7	(5)	0	1	(0)	0	8	(5)	0	2	0		13	0
Cameron McGeehan	17	(2)	7	2	(2)	2	19	(4)	9	2	0		56	15
Steve McNulty	9	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	11	(1)	0	3	0		125	2
Josh McQuoid	14	(4)	2	4	(2)	2	18	(6)	4	0	0		24	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	2	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	4	(1)	0	1	0		5	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	19	(2)	4	4	(0)	0	23	(2)	4	4	0		125	9
Mark Tyler	20	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	24	(0)	0	0	0		290	0
Luke Wilkinson	20	(0)	3	4	(0)	0	24	(0)	3	3	0		72	7

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

HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH MIKE SIMMONDS

It's been quite a few days at Kenilworth Road then.

The unfortunate side of football hit home earlier this month with John Still losing his job as manager.

It had always been on the cards ever since Hatters' expensively assembled squad failed to get anywhere near top gear this season.

The odd unbeaten run was put together, but never on a consistent enough basis to break into the top seven, which is the very least expected by the Luton Board this season.

With the Hatters' defensive frailties hitting home, the 4-3 home defeat against Northampton proved to be the final straw for a majority of supporters and also the main men behind the scenes too.

UNITING

No-one can ever take away the job that Still did here though, uniting a club that had lost its way in the doldrums of the Conference, leading them to a wonderful title victory.

It might well be that Hatters' fans get to give the popular ex-boss the send off he thoroughly deserves in the new year as who's to say he won't be back in football sooner than expected, with the Dagenham job now available too.

Following from Still's exit, Andy Awford was swiftly appointed as caretaker boss, while that was followed by the news that Jake Howells returned to the squad after a lengthy hiatus.

The club's longest serving player was not only back in the fray, but back in the starting line-up as well for the trip to Exeter, which summer up Town's season perfectly.

Leading 2-0 with 20 minutes to go, Luton conceded twice in quick succession yet again, before that now customary last-minute goal. Although this time, thankfully, it wasn't Mark Tyler fishing the ball out of the net as Town enjoyed a much-needed victory.

IMPRESSIVE

Then came possibly the biggest news of the as last Monday, when, in an impressive presentation from chief executive Gary Sweet, it was confirmed the club have chosen Power Court as their preferred site for a new ground.

Early sketches are certainly eye-catching, with the 17,500-capacity for now to be commended too as Sweet admitted he wants the facility to come alive and be full on a regular basis, not just look impressive when empty as other stadia can do.

PLAN

If everything goes to plan, then Luton will be able to call it their home from the 2020/21 season, with Sweet also hoping the club will have won not just one, but two promotions in that time, starting off as a Championship club.

So exciting times are ahead, while for Sweet, his immediate decision is of huge significance, just who will be the next manager appointed to the Kenilworth Road hotseat?

Mike is the Luton News Sports Editor

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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
36 James Justin
37 Frankie Musonda
40 Jake Howells

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

1 Matt Ingram
2 Sido Jombati
3 Joe Jacobson
4 Stephen McGinn
5 Anthony Stewart
6 Aaron Pierre
7 Garry Thompson
8 Marcus Bean
9 Paul Hayes
10 Matt Bloomfield
11 Sam Wood
12 Jason Banton
13 Barry Richardson
15 Ryan Sellers
16 Aaron Amadi-Holloway
17 Max Kretzschmar
18 Danny Rowe
19 Michael Harriman
20 Luke O'Nien
21 Alex Lynch
22 Jason McCarthy
23 Gozie Ugwu
24 James Ferry
25 Jermaine Udumaga

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Dean Whitestone
Mark Griffiths
Nigel Smith
4 Robert Whitton

Back cover photograph taken from the home dugout.
Email us your Kenilworth Road pictures info@lutontown.co.uk