Issue 16

Luton Town Football Club

Match Day Magazine £3.00

Hatters

Cambridge United

Saturday 16th January 2016

Kick-off 3.00pm

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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 Cambridge fixture from March 1993. 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.

NATHAN JONES

THE FIRST NOTES FROM THE NEW MANAGER

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR THIS SKY BET LEAGUE 2 FIXTURE AGAINST CAMBRIDGE UNITED.

I'd like to welcome Shaun Derry and everybody associated with our visitors for what promises to be a keenly-contested game in front of a passionate crowd.

Shaun has made a really positive impact since he took over at the Abbey Stadium in November and, knowing him from his playing days, I am sure he will bring a lot his qualities that he had as a footballer to Cambridge United.

PROUD

Today, however, is my first game as manager of Luton Town, and I can tell you that I am very proud to have been entrusted with the job of taking this club – your club – forward.

This is a big club with a great reputation, and one know I know a lot about. I was privileged to have spent a brief but hugely useful year on the books here as a young player, and I am now looking forward to making a positive difference here as a manager.

First and foremost I want to produce a team that the people of Luton can get behind, be proud of and relate to. I learned a lot about the ethos of this club during my time as a player here and I want to be able to give you a team that makes you happy to call your own.

I hope over the next few months you will quickly see what we're trying to do.

However, it's important to understand that the first step in this new chapter will not happen overnight. What I can tell you, though, is that it will involve a lot of hard work. I can assure you that I will put a Luton Town team out there on the pitch to represent this club that will give absolutely everything, especially for you, our supporters.

LOYALTY

Your importance in getting behind the team will play a major part in what we will be trying to do. Having watched games at Kenilworth Road, and been a part of this club before, I know how your passion, loyalty and noise can translate onto the pitch.

If we want success we are going to have to move forward together. This will be done in small but quick steps to firstly enable us to get a good footing in the League 2 table.

I can tell you that since I was appointed and took my first training session last week, the players have been superb. They have responded brilliantly to what I have put across to them.

The ability in the squad is something we'll be looking to harness and put into our style of play to hopefully take Luton Town forward. The hard work will speak for itself.

This is a start of a new era and a new challenge for me too. I realise where this club wants to go, and we get there by doing so sensibly and constructively, so get behind us and enjoy the game.

Nathan Jones is sponsored by: Thompsons Accountants and Country Properties (Hitchin) 01462 452951

From the BOARDROOM

WITH VICE-CHAIRMAN **DAVID WILKINSON**

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE, A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD, AND A BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR BOARD.

Today we greet Dave Doggett, Shaun Derry and all the officials, players and supporters from Cambridge United.

The U's, like us, are around mid-table at the moment and like us have not come up to early expectations, but there is always a little extra spice when we play each other so let's all hope for a thrilling afternoon of football.

What a difference a year makes! This time last year we were flirting with the top of the table and John Still was firmly ensconced in the hot seat. Richard Money had just taken Cambridge to Old Trafford and seemed secure in his position. Now they have both gone and the challenge begins again for the new men.

A New Year, a new manager and a new challenge.

135 applications were received for the position, some serious and some not, from a wide variety of people with a wide range of experience. A large number were rejected quite easily and the list was whittled down, eventually, to a long short list of some 10 candidates. Some potential candidates were also considered who hadn't applied and all were eventually reduced to a shorter short list.

After Gary had undertaken the initial interviews the whole Board, or at least as many as were available, had the opportunity of presentations from the top candidates and their views were sought before making the final proposal.

Nathan came highly recommended from a broad spectrum of the football community and, having received permission from Brighton, it was arranged that he meet the entire Board and present to them.

IMPRESSED

He made a lengthy presentation outlining his football philosophy, which matched our own in every respect. He showed us how games and the opposition are analysed. He also talked about his contacts and experience in football and was questioned by us all. All those present were highly impressed by the man and his ideas and felt that he was a natural motivational speaker.

He told us that it was the way David Pleat treated him when he bought him from Merthyr Tydfil and the enjoyment he then had at Luton that started him thinking about coaching and his football philosophy.

He is young, qualified, technically strong, ambitious, focused, driven and dedicated.

He has the reputation of being an excellent coach and we believe he has the potential to be a great manager. Some will say this is a bold move because he hasn't been part of the managerial merry-go-round, but "it's only by being bold you get anywhere".

The Board, as in all previous cases, were unanimous in their approval and support.

We wait with interest to see who joins the coaching staff and to see the structure and content of the management team.

Changing managers is not something we like doing. We, and you, get to know them well and it is a wrench when they have to go, not only emotionally but also financially. Every time a manager leaves he and his staff receive compensation and when a new one joins he has to recruit new staff and probably make changes to the playing squad, which of course tends to negatively affect the playing budget.

There have been comments about the number of managers we have had since we took control of the Club. We have released five and appointed five in the last eight years, which sounds a lot. However, the average tenure of a manager in the professional game in England is 1.23 years whereas our average is 1.6 years, and this despite the abnormal pressure to get out of the Conference.

AMBITIONS

When we employ a manager we believe and expect that his and our ambitions match and that we can succeed together in the longer term. Let's hope that Nathan can reverse the trend and help us climb the divisions.

Our thanks to Andy Awford for standing in after John's departure and congratulations to him, Paul Driver and our Under-18s for winning the Youth Alliance League last Tuesday. What a fantastic achievement with only one defeat in all competitions this season.

As mentioned in my last notes a considerable number of the Board and vice presidents went to Meadow Lane to see them play Notts County in the FA Youth Cup third round. We were full of optimism after their unbeaten record to that date and they did not disappoint. They played a style of football we hadn't seen for some time and even though they were reduced to 10 men early in the game came out comfortable winners. Their next opponents are Oldham away and I'm sure that a number of us will make the trip wherever it ends up being.

I had a Christmas gift of a book entitled "Winners and how they succeed" and thought I would share one of the quotes with you: "the interesting thing about coaching is that you have to trouble the comfortable and comfort the troubled." - R Charlesworth Australian coach and athlete.

Enjoy the game.

COYH

Please give a warm welcome to Nathan this afternoon - remember your support will be vital in this second half of the season

Welcome Nathan!

Chief executive Gary Sweet: "On behalf of the board I am thrilled and excited to welcome Nathan Jones to Luton Town.

"After a lengthy and thorough process, in which we received numerous excellent candidates for the position, we believe that have found the best man to lead the Club's footballing aspirations forward.

"Nathan is a professional, disciplined, strong and open-minded character who is going to install a hard-working team ethic and, importantly, the prospect of fast-flowing football to Kenilworth Road.

"The Board believe Nathan will modernise our Club's football culture, blending the elements of our footballing heritage with a modern, forward-thinking philosophy.

"As a Club we realise a change of thinking will not happen overnight, but we are already excited at the prospect of Nathan's ideas and vision for Luton Town."

NATHAN JONES

Last week we were delighted to announce Nathan Jones as the Club's new first team manager.

The 42-year-old has signed a two-and-a-half year contract and joins the Hatters from Championship Brighton & Hove Albion where he had held the position of first team coach.

REPUTATION

Although this will be Jones' first full managerial position, the Welshman has forged himself a fine reputation as a coach and assistant manager.

Jones holds a UEFA Pro Licence and last summer helped England Under-21 boss Gareth Southgate prepare the Young Lions for their UEFA Under-21 championship campaign in the Czech Republic.

A defender as a player, Jones began his professional career at Kenilworth Road 20 years ago, when David Pleat signed him for £10,000 from Merthyr Tydfil in 1995.

After a year at Kenilworth Road Jones left for a 12-month spell in Spain, playing for Numancia and Badajoz, but on his return to the UK Jones went on to enjoy success at Southend, Brighton and Yeovil, making over 500 appearances and winning promotion three times.

SUCCESS

Success continued to follow after he hung up his boots. It was with his final club as a player, Yeovil, that Jones began his coaching badges, and in 2009 he became the Glovers' assistant manager.

After a brief spell as Under-21s manager at Charlton, Jones was appointed assistant head coach to Oscar Garcia at Brighton in 2013. In his first season at the Amex the Seagulls reached the Championship Play-Off final.

Following Garcia's departure, Jones was then named as new boss Sami Hyppia's first team coach but after the Finn's exit in December last season, Jones took over as interim manager and helped the then-struggling Seagulls to four points from two games in the Championship.

Despite another change in manager at the Amex, Jones was kept on by the newest man in the hotseat and became Chris Hughton's first team coach – a position he has held until his arrival at Kenilworth Road.

10 THINGS ABOUT NATHAN JONES

- Nathan Jones is the Hatters' 31st different manager.
- He is the 13th different manager to have previously been on the Town's books as a player.
- Nathan was born in Rhondda, South Wales on 28th May 1973.
- His early football career started as an apprentice at Cardiff City. He turned professional in 1993.
- Nathan was signed by David Pleat from Merthyr but left the Hatters without making a single appearance. Before the 1995/96 campaign had even begun, Pleat left to take over at Sheffield Wednesday.
- Jones is bi-lingual and is able to speak English and Spanish. He has an A-level in Spanish.
- As assistant manager at Yeovil he helped introduce future English internationals Andros Townsend, Steven Caulker and Ryan Mason in their first steps in professional football. The trio all joined the Glovers on loan from Tottenham during Jones' time at Huish Park.
- Jones began coaching at a young age, and was a coach coordinator in American soccer camps in the States when only 19.
- He has worked under three separate managers at Brighton – Oscar Garcia, Sami Hyypia and Chris Hughton. When Hyypia left the Seagulls last season, Jones took caretaker charge, overseeing two matches: a 2-2 draw with Reading and a 2-0 win at Fulham in the Championship.
- Last summer Nathan was asked to assist and shadow England Under-21 coaches Gareth Southgate and Steve Holland ahead of their Euro 2015 preparations.

NATHAN JONES

AFTER A BUSY FIRST DAY IN CHARGE, MEETING THE PLAYERS, THE PRESS AND THE STAFF, NEW MANAGER NATHAN JONES SAT DOWN AND SPOKE TO HATTERS PLAYER LAST FRIDAY.

THE BOSS OUTLINED HIS VISION FOR NOW AND BEYOND AND BELIEVES THE TOWN SUPPORT HAVE A MASSIVE PART TO PLAY.

JONES ON... LUTON TOWN

"I feel it's a good match. Our ethos and what we believe in run parallel. It's an ambitious club that has plans to get back to where it once was. I believe I have a way doing things that coincides with the club's philosophy and ethos and I think we're very much alike.

"The Club were looking for something a bit different from the norm, from the experienced managers, if you like.

"When I first came to Luton I took confidence from being spotted and brought here by David Pleat and then working with Wayne Turner and John Moore, good coaches held in very high regard. It was a good education and a lot of the things I've picked up at Luton have since contributed to shaping my career. I loved it here and I'm privileged now to be back to lead this club forward."

JONES ON... MUTUAL POTENTIAL

"I've followed this club for a long time and I enjoyed my small time here and know it has the potential to do very well.

"I wasn't looking for a quick fix in my career. I was at a good club in Brighton who invested a lot of time in and saw progression in me so it is a bit of a gamble, but a calculated one, a good one. I can feel the potential at the club and I believe our achievements together can run parallel. Hopefully we can find a way to bring the good times to Kenilworth Road."

JONES ON... EXPERIENCE

"People have to gain experience…and I am experienced. I've been in football for 27-and-a-half years. I was never a player that just switched off. I gleaned a lot off of managers I've worked with. I knew I wasn't going to be a top, top player but I worked hard every day to try and achieve something so I started preparing myself for this moment from quite an early stage.

"Since I've embarked on my coaching career I've worked with a lot of people, and had lots of different roles. I haven't had masses experience of managing a football club but I've got masses of experience of seeing how a club is managed. And I believe I'm ready for that."

JONES ON...FOOTBALL PHILOSPHY

"The kind of football I hope for is winning football. I'd like us to work hard, play at a tempo, pass the ball quickly and be good to watch. Teams who are good to watch win football matches and that's what we'll endeavour to do. We'll work hard, defend well, pass the ball when we can, create chances and, if we've got the quality to take those chances, we will be in a position to win football matches.

"It's not going to be all about tiki-taka football or Barcelona. The Nathan Jones philosophy will be attempted to be implemented by doing what I think will take the club forward. It's what I believe in and what I've worked so hard for."

Jones takes training at Ely Way

JONES ON... PATIENCE

"We're going to take it game-by-game. Let's see where we go. I'm not going to say 'we're going to do this, we're going to do that'. I'm hopeful of a day-by-day improvement from the people we have here. Then we'll be in a better position to win matches. It's clichéd, it's boring, but you've got to take it game by game, it's all you can do. We'll try and win and if we do we'll go back and see how we did it, work on it again and see if we can improve on it to try and win another match. If you don't succeed, we'll go back, analyse what went wrong and try and improve and move onto the next. It's simple."

JONES ON... THE FANS

"They fans are going to play a massive part. There's been a lot of positivity around my appointment which I really appreciate.

"The fans can lift this team and play their part in taking us forward and getting behind the team and drive them forward. We want Kenilworth Road to be a tough place for people to come but a place where our players enjoy playing. That will help us win football matches, it really, really does. I know we're not in a good position at the moment but as a collective – as a town, club and a community – we can move forward together. The fans are going to be a vital part. It's excellent to see this club averaging 8-9,000 every week and I want to put a team out on the pitch which will make the fans happy."

JONES ON... MANAGEMENT

"I think it was when I was about 27 that I kind of thought to myself that I wasn't going to be a Premier League player. It wasn't through a lack of trying – I played until I was 39. I was offered the player/assistant role at Yeovil at 36. But in my 20s I knew I wasn't going to be a top, top player but thought to myself 'what am I going to do in my career after I've finished playing?' That's when I started writing out [training] sessions, some ideas in what I liked in managers and what I didn't like in managers. I wrote down things, stored a lot of knowledge and I have the passion. I started coaching the women's team at Yeovil and loved doing that and since I've learnt a lot.

"Over the course of my career I've found out and been interested in how people conduct themselves and deal with certain situations, how they talk to players, what kind of body language they use.

"Chris Hughton is a good example of man-management – how he controls a club. Everything's contributed and I hope to be able to transfer what I've learned here: getting people wanting to play for you is important. I've seen a lot good coaches and a lot of not-so-good coaches throughout my career and now the challenge for me is to use that experience and put it into practise."

JONES ON... THE CHALLENGE

"I am ready, it is a wonderful challenge and a challenge I am ready for. I dedicate my life to doing what I do. I wouldn't go home at night if I didn't have an understanding girlfriend to go back to: I'd immerse myself in the job too much otherwise. She allows me to switch off a bit.

"It's fantastic…it's not quite like an exam but when you prepare and feel you're ready and that you want the opportunity and then you're given that chance… it gives you a buzz. Fail or succeed here I know that I have belief that I am ready and I'm excited. I know I'll bring something to Luton Town and that's the challenge – making it all work."

WELCOME NATHAN!

Following the announcement of Nathan Jones' appointment, our social media feed on Twitter was besieged with good luck messages from Town supporters, Brighton fans and ex-pros. Here's the best of the tweets.

Nathan Jones @cocowasp

I am truly touched by all the messages, it rips my heart out to leave @OfficialBHAFC but I'm excited for this new challenge @LutonTown.

Trust in Luton @trustinluton

Welcome back to @LutonTown as manager @cocowasp. All at TiL look forward to seeing you take the club forward over the next 2.5 years #COYH

Adam Virgo @Adamvirgs19

All the very best @cocowasp as manager of Luton. They have an excellent young manager in the making. Great coach and fit for club and fans

Marvin Johnson @Marv700

In my opinion it's great that a young hungry driven coach is given the opportunity. I know Jonesy and wish him luck

Laurence Inwood @lolinwood

@LutonTown At last! Brilliant news. Welcome to Luton Town Nathan Jones.

Matt Jackson @LetsTalkBHAFC

All the best to Nathan Jones who's leaving to become @LutonTown FC Manager. Great servant to #BHAFC

Uwe Hünemeier @UweHuenemeier2

Thanks jonesy and all the best for your job @LutonTown it was a pleasure to work alongside you! #bhafc #NathanJones

Ann Pinn @stivesseagull

Pleased for Nathan Jones - good luck - we'll miss you #bhafc

Terry Hilder @SaltashSeagull

@cocowasp Only just seen this. Gutted your going Nathan but good luck at Luton.Will be keeping a eye on their results now #legend

Matt Thompsett @thompsett_matt

@cocowasp welcome to our club. All the best. Let's hope we can push on out of this league #WelcomeNathan @LutonTown #COYH

Staffs Hatter @StokeHatter

Welcome to @LutonTown Nathan Jones @cocowasp Here's to a successful and lengthy stint at the Hatters Helm. #LTFC

Phil Harper @PAHarper

Leaving the country to good @LutonTown news. A young, intelligent, articulate coach - Nathan Jones looks a good pick. #COYH

Gary Markham @centurion40

@LutonTown good luck Nathan Jones, gutted to see you go, thanks for your hard work and passion at BHAFC, you're a top man.

Julian Goode @juliangoode

Sad to see Nathan Jones leaving #bhafc Good luck at @LutonTown @cocowasp Sure we'll see you back at @OfficialBHAFC one day!

Alex Palmer @50shadesofAP

Really excited with the appointment of Nathan Jones as new @LutonTown manager. Young, hungry manager - just what we need. Welcome @cocowasp!

Spence @Spencer_69

@cocowasp @LutonTown @OfficialBHAFC Welcome Nathan Jones to Luton Town we're a loyal bunch and we're ready to get behind you and the team

Tracy @tracy4000

Feel pleased for him but gutted for me that Nathan Jones is leaving. Wish you all the very best @cocowasp

Darryl Mollart @mollart4

Think this is a very good appointment for #LTFC. Seems to be highly thought of and plays football the right way. #WelcomeNathan

Hector Nunns @senornunes

Good luck to Nathan Jones @cocowasp at @LutonTown Showed when in temporary charge at @OfficialBHAFC that he could make a decent manager

Yannik @yannik_ua27

Welcome to the club Nathan. I'm full of hope that you can turn the things around here! #COYH #WelcomeNathan

Nils Tore Heggestad @NilsTHeggestad

Nathan Jones har fått jobben som manager i @LutonTown . Utruleg spennande !! #coyh

Holly Kemp @heyitshollyk

Think Nathan jones is just what we need, onwards and upwards #LTFC #WelcomeNathan

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

MANSFIELD TOWN

Saturday 23rd January 2016, 3pm

This is an all-ticket game and tickets will not be available on the day at Mansfield.

We have received an initial allocation of 1,047 tickets for the fixture at Field Mill. Tickets are available to Season Ticket holders until close of business today. Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale online from 6pm today, and then in person or by phone on Monday 18th January. **Prices:** £18 adults, £15 seniors (over 60), £13 young adults (17-21), £10 juniors, free for six and under. Disabled tickets are available. Contact the Luton Town Ticket Office for price details.

H

NOTTS COUNTY

Saturday 30th January 2016, 3pm

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

H

YEOVIL TOWN

Tuesday 2nd February 2016, 7.45pm

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

WYCOMBE WANDERERS

A

Saturday 6th February 2016, 3pm

This match is all-ticket for Luton Town supporters with none available on the day at Adams Park.

The Luton Town ticket office has received an initial allocation of 1,000 reserved seats in the Panache Stand for this fixture. If required the full allocation of 1,800 will be made available.

Tickets are on sale to Diamond Season Tickets at two per person from Wednesday 13th January until close of business Monday 18th January. Tickets will go on sale to Season Ticket holders at two per person from Tuesday 19th January until close of business on Monday 25th January. Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale from Tuesday 26th January online and from the Ticket Office in person or via phone. They will remain on sale until 2pm Friday 5th February.

Away Season Ticket holders' seats will be held and processed on Monday 18th January. One seat will be allocated unless advised otherwise. Please advise by emailing ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk before this date.

Prices: £20 adults (26-59), £17 seniors (60 and over), £15 young adults (19-25), £11 juniors (8-18), children under 8 free.

Wheelchair tickets are available in the Panache Stand. These need to be ordered directly from Wycombe. Please call them on 01494 441118.

Ambulant disabled tickets are available through the Luton Town ticket office with a Carer free of charge with proof of medium rate disability or above.

COMMERCIAL TALK...

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER **DAVID HOSKINS**

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MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming six mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon. They will get to meet new manager Nathan Jones, all the Town players and Happy Harry before leading the team out on the pitch prior to kick-off. We hope you have a great afternoon with us!
Amelie Hunt. Age: 6. Favourite player: Mark Tyler.
Elliott Hunt. Age: 8. Favourite player: Cameron McGeehan.
Seth Burden. Age: 7. Favourite players: Mark Tyler and Paul Benson.
Frankie Battle. Age: 10. Favourite player: Mark Tyler.
Jude Faulkner. Age: 9. Favourite player: Craig Mackail-Smith.
Jake Edwards. Age: 9. Favourite player: Mark Tyler.

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Welcome to Kenilworth Road CAMBRIDGE UNITED

TEAM PROFILE CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Nickname: United/The U's
Ground: Abbey Stadium
Last season: 19th, League 2
Manager: Shaun Derry
Last league fixture: Crawley 1-0 Cambridge

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

The U's arrive in Bedfordshire on the back of two league defeats, but sit comfortably in 12th place in Sky Bet League 2 table, having won 10 and lost 10 of their 26 fixtures to date.

The Hatters are no strangers to the Abbey Stadium club, with today's meeting the 12th in just three-and-a-half years as the two sides shared promotion back to the Football League a couple of years ago.

The Town have the better of the recent history, losing just three out of the last 13 meetings in all competitions, including victories in the last three League 2 clashes.

Mark Cullen's late winner sealed an away victory last term, while Andy Drury, Luke Wilkinson and Jonathan Smith were all on target to seal the double, just weeks after FA Cup disappointment against the same opposition, who went on to play Manchester United in the following round.

Wilkinson was also on target in the reverse fixture this season, a game remembered for Luke Guttridge's wonder strike as the Town ran out 3-1 winners at the Abbey back in September.

Cambridge started the campaign on fire, with seven goals in their opening two league games as a 3-0 hammering of Newport County was followed by one of the games of the season – a 4-4 draw from their trip to Carlisle.

But September proved far more subdued, netting just twice in five games, featuring that defeat against the Hatters as their topsy-turvy results continued through the autumn months.

Form steadied, but not in a good way – with four league defeats in five matches, including a 2-1 home defeat to Bristol Rovers that marked the end of Richard Money's tenure at the club, three years after he had arrived at the Abbey Stadium.

After two defeats to mark the start of his appointment, results for new manager Shaun Derry began to pick up, courtesy of a 4-2 victory at Morecambe and a 3-1 success over Notts County before a 2-1 win at high-flying Plymouth, arguably the result of Cambridge's season to date.

That victory formulated a run of six unbeaten in League 2 for United, but two defeats to begin 2016 – a 4-1 home thrashing by AFC Wimbledon and a narrow defeat at Crawley – has seen Derry's team slip three points off the Play-Off places having played more than the majority of sides in the division.

Cambridge's most potent goal threat has been Barry Corr, with the striker occupying fourth spot on the league top scorers chart on 12 strikes, and he is sure to be a troublesome thorn in the Hatters' side this afternoon.

The U's also boast two former Hatters in their ranks, but it's unlikely we'll get to see fans' favourite Keith Keane, who remains on the treatment table following an injury he picked up as long ago as August, with his side understandably looking to manage his workload back to fitness.

Also in the Cambridge squad is Greg Taylor, who started over 30 games for the Town in two spells while the side were in the Conference.

HATTERS v CAMBRIDGE

Luton wins: 13
Draws: 14
Cambridge wins: 9

LAST MEETING

Cambridge 1-3 Hatters
(5 September 2015)

Meet the VISITORS

OUR GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM THE ABBEY STADIUM

THE BOSS

SHAUN DERRY

United manager Shaun took charge in November last year following the sacking of former Town boss Richard Money. As a player Derry enjoyed a long and successful career as a midfielder with Notts County, Sheffield United, Portsmouth, Palace, Leeds and QPR.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

SAM BEASANT

Son of former Wimbledon keeper Dave, Sam was snapped up in the close season from Stevenage. Played youth football in Cyprus before spells with Maidenhead, Billericay and Woking before joining Boro.

IN DEFENCE

GREG TAYLOR

Former Town full-back Greg joined Cambridge in 2013 and has now played over 100 times in black and amber. Joined the Hatters from Darlington in 2010 and has also played for Mansfield and Kettering.

ELLIOTT OMOZUSI

Summer arrival and England youth international Elliott penned a two-year contract after leaving Orient. Came through the ranks at Fulham and experienced loan spells with Charlton and Norwich.

LEON LEGGE

Commanding centre-half Leon was United's first signing of last summer following his departure from Gillingham. The experienced defender began his Football League career with Brentford.

MARK ROBERTS

Another experienced centre-half, Mark joined Cambridge three weeks after last season ended. Was a success at Stevenage, helping Boro win the Conference before he joined Fleetwood.

DARNELL FURLONG

Luton-born defender Darnell joined United on-loan from QPR earlier this month. Made his Rangers debut as a teenager and spent a spell on-loan at Northampton earlier season. Son of striker Paul.

ACROSS THE MIDDLE

HARRISON DUNK

Left-winger Harrison netted on his home debut in August 2011 after signing from Bromley. Played an integral part in United's promotion season and is nearing 150 appearances in black and amber.

RYAN DONALDSON

Highly-rated attacking midfielder Ryan joined the U's from Gateshead in 2013. The former England youth international started at Newcastle and was another who starred in the U's promotion season.

LIAM HUGHES

A product of the Abbey Stadium academy, versatile midfielder Liam was converted from a centre-half. Has now played over 170 times for the United first team.

LUKE BERRY

Box-to-box midfielder Luke returned for a second spell at the Abbey this summer having left for Barnsley at the start of last season. A product of the U's academy, he was United's top scorer in 2013/14.

CONOR NEWTON

Summer arrival Conor signed for the U's from Rotherham. Another former Newcastle youngster, he enjoyed two loan spells with St Mirren in Scotland before joining the Millers.

RYAN LEDSON

England youth international Ryan joined United on-loan from Everton in November. Turned pro at Goodison Park on his 17th birthday and made his Toffees debut in the Europa League last year.

UP FRONT

ROBBIE SIMPSON

Forward Robbie rejoined United for a second spell in June 2014. The striker has spent time with Coventry, Oldham, Brentford and Orient and was the U's' top goalscorer last season.

BARRY CORR

United's top goalscorer to date with 12 goals already this season, Corr joined the U's in the summer from Southend. Made almost 200 appearances for the Shrimpers and fired them to promotion last term.

From the OAK ROAD

Much was expected from Cambridge at the start of this season but former Town manager Richard Money paid the price for an inconsistent start. However new boss Shaun Derry's arrival has now got the United fans dreaming of a shot of the top seven. Now that they lie just three points off the Play-Offs, is promotion a possibility?
We ask United fan and commentator **MARK JOHNSON** for his verdict

Mark (left) interviewing former Town and Cambridge boss Gary Brabin

THE SEASON AHEAD...

After a solid season last term on your return to the Football League, what was the expectation at the Abbey Stadium at the start of this season?

The message coming from the club was very clear during the summer; they were expecting to challenge for the Play-Offs and were actively encouraging the supporters to buy into that expectation.

Richard Money has managed both the Town and United. What was he like and was it the right decision for the Board to part with him?

What you saw was what you got with Richard Money; he was single-minded and passionate about what he was trying to achieve and as the manager that finally ended Cambridge's seemingly interminable Conference exile, he will be remembered as one of the most successful in the club's history. Having said that, results and performances had tapered off and the time did seem right for a change of direction.

Shaun Derry's arrival has seen an upturn in fortunes. What has he brought to the side and what's changed?

Shaun Derry is certainly a very different character from Richard Money, but no less passionate about what he's trying to achieve. The most noticeable change since his arrival has been that the players seem to be enjoying their football again.

Many of your summer signings came to the Abbey with excellent reputations. Who's been the pick of the new boys? Have the new signings under-achieved given was what expected of them?

Given his goal scoring record so far this season, it's tough to look much further than Barry Corr in terms of the pick of the summer signings; but you'd have to say that the team as a whole has yet to meet the level of expectation set for this season.

Who's the one player to watch this season in the Cambridge side today?

Barry Corr - it's one thing knowing what he's trying to do and another preventing him from doing it.

SEASONS PAST...

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

My Dad took to me see Cambridge in the late 1960s but I can't remember which match. I started watching them regularly in the mid-70s, reporting on them in the mid-90s and commentating on their matches for BBC Radio Cambridgeshire in 2002.

The Conference promotion winning season saw the Hatters overhaul United. At the start of that campaign what was the expectation then? Was it a surprise that you were challenging for the title?

I remember the squad being assembled early in the summer leading up to the promotion season and how the side seemed to 'click' immediately during pre-season. It wasn't, therefore, a huge surprise to see them start that campaign so well; and of course when you start a season without losing any of your first 17 games, you do get an idea that the season might turn out to be a decent one.

Which is your favourite season following United and why?

I'm torn between two seasons: 2013/14 - two Wembley wins and promotion and 2014/15 - which might not have had the silverware, but was the first back in the Football League and also included a couple of FA Cup ties against Manchester United.

Cambridge spent their fair share of time in the Conference, and narrowly missed out on promotion a number of times. What do you remember about your non-league days? What was so special about those times?

Other than sometimes having the feeling that we were destined to be trapped in the Conference for ever, I look back on those years with more than a modicum of fondness... not that I'd want to go back of course! When you work in the press box you come across some good people; people who make up for some of the facilities being on the prehistoric side of basic. This was particularly the case with the FA Trophy, a competition that took us to some bizarre places where we had to be really inventive with finding kit which would allow us to broadcast a full match commentary - there were a couple of times I nearly had to resort to semaphore and pigeons to keep us on air.

LUTON AND CAMBRIDGE

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

A couple come to mind: one is a Football League Trophy tie in October 2002 when Luke Guttridge scored a golden goal winner for the U's on the coldest night since the last ice age. The other memory is of an FA Trophy replay in January 2014 when Ashley Chambers scored the only goal of the game ... or so I understand; I actually didn't see the goal as the entire penalty area at that end of the ground was blocked from my view in the press box by the widest pillar in Christendom.

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?

As always with a trip to Luton, I'm expecting a tight game and an electric atmosphere ... and hoping not to have to commentate from behind a pillar!

QUICKFIRE

Terrace or Seats?
Press Box!

Who are your rivals?
Peterborough

Gary Brabin or Richard Money?
Gary Brabin

Favourite promotion season?
1991

Guess your player of the season
Barry Corr

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

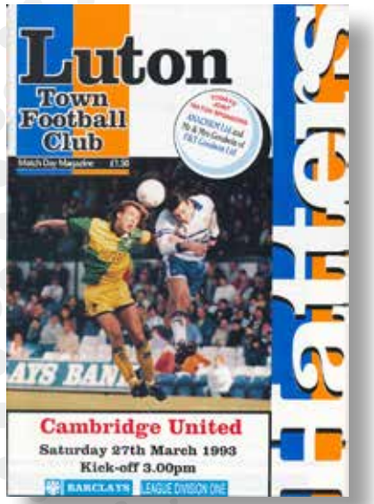
Most treasured Cambridge piece of memorabilia? Team sheets from all my commentary matches

What league will Cambridge be in next season? Two

Who will win promotion from League 2?
Automatic promotion for three of the current top four (Plymouth, Northampton, Oxford and Portsmouth) with your guess as good as mine about the Play-Offs!

COVER STORY

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



LUTON TOWN 2 CAMBRIDGE UNITED 0

27th March 1993

Relegation in 1992, after 10 years at the top, and missing out on the new Premier League meant that the Town needed to get used to Barclays League Division One (or Division Two as we still called it).

Financial pressures on the club following demotion meant the sale of Mark Pembridge to Derby for £1.25 million to be replaced by Steve Claridge from Cambridge United for a tribunal fixed £160,000. At least we had Mick Harford to lead the line though but we were all devastated when he went to Chelsea just as the season started.

From a low starting point things got steadily worse as we endured a very rude awakening as the campaign unfolded. The home record was appalling as teams caught us on the break and it was not until the end of November that a win was recorded at Kenilworth Road with Watford being seen off 2-0.

It was only a smattering of away victories that kept the Hatters out of the relegation places, but when the record on the road started to slip the team found itself rock bottom in January and we were staring a second relegation in the face.

Fortunately, the dire situation slowly turned and a settled defence, keeping seven clean sheets in a row, saw the Town creep up the table. At the other end, the loan signing of Kerry Dixon was taking some weight off the shoulders of Phil Gray.

Local boy Dixon had been on the Town's books as a youngster but had been allowed to leave by David Pleat. He persevered and after starring for Dunstable Town and Reading earned a dream move for Chelsea where he scored 147 goals in 335 starts as well as playing eight times for England.

A big money move to Southampton in 1992 turned sour and Pleat nipped in to sign the big striker on loan some 15 years after discarding him!

By the time of the visit of Cambridge in late March the Hatters were outside the bottom three but only just with United only one place above on the same number of points. The clash was therefore a true six-pointer as the campaign drew to a close.

A crowd of 8,077 turned up to see a Town side hit by flu and suspensions with Gray out on a one-match ban and influential midfielder David Preece bed-ridden. This gave an opportunity to 19-year-old Martin Williams and a return to the fold for Chris Kamara, who had been out on loan since the previous November following stinging criticism of his performances from Pleat. Kamara had in turn said some less than complimentary things about the Hatters but was forced to return to Kenilworth Road with his tail between his legs after finding that no-one wished to keep him. The Luton crowd were remarkably forgiving I seem to remember. Returning to Kenilworth Road for the opposition was Steve Claridge who had been sold back to United after a pressing VAT bill needed settling.

Kerry Dixon attempts to win the ball during the clash with United

In a tense atmosphere the Town got off to a cracking start and any nerves were settled on 20 minutes when Dixon scored a stunning goal. Receiving a pass from Marvin Johnson with his back to goal he flicked the ball up, swivelled, and hit a right foot volley into the top corner.

On Pleat's insistence the pitch had been heavily watered to reduce the bounce of the ball and encourage passing football. On a rare foray upfield Cambridge defender Phil Chapple headed goalwards from a corner but his effort bounced over the bar having hit the only dry spot on the pitch.

Williams was fouled in the box by Cambridge defender Mick Heathcote but the referee waved play on and then the youngster hit a 30 yard volley to try to emulate Dixon but his effort was tipped onto the bar by goalkeeper John Vaughan.

Cambridge changed formation and tactics at the interval reverting to three up front and hoisting the ball forward. This proved dangerous for a time until the revival was snuffed out with another Luton goal on 50 minutes.

Williams motored down the wing and for once his far post cross was perfect being met by a diving Scott Oakes header which flew into the net.

The Town defence then needed to withstand an aerial bombardment which they did with relative ease and even found time to set up counter attacks which almost led to further goals from Williams and Jason Rees.

Cambridge manager Ian Atkins accused his side of "bottling it", while Pleat was merely "pleased with the effort". Dixon was asked if he was likely to sign for the Town permanently and replied "Get [MD] David Kohler to sell his car and buy me!"

THE PROGRAMME

Returning to the right conditions

"THE LAST WEEKS OF A SEASON CAN BE MORE THAN DIFFICULT."

Team Check

GREAT AT TAKING CORNERS

Previous encounters fail to capture the imagination

The Town produced a 32-page programme for the visit of Cambridge priced at £1.50.

Manager David Pleat, in his column, made mention of a brief appearance to be made by Darren Salton on the pitch at half-time. Salton and fellow team member Paul Telfer had been involved in a fatal road accident the previous November.

Pleat also stated that seven balls had been lumped out of the ground during the 0-0 draw with Swindon 10 days before, never to be seen again, which meant that we were around 30 balls light for season (he didn't mention John Dreyer by name). Multiple ball sponsors were therefore required.

It was mentioned that the Town had appointed a new head groundsman. Richard 'Dickie' Bird is still here 23 years later!

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DEFINING MOMENTS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN **LEIGH EDWARDS** SELECTS FIVE KEY MATCHES AND MOMENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED CAMBRIDGE UNITED'S POST-WAR ERA

1969 SOUTHERN LEAGUE 'DOUBLE'

Bill Cassidy and Tony Butcher scored 43 goals between them as Cambridge achieved the Southern League 'double' in 1968/69. Bill Leivers' side lost four of their first seven Southern League games before the arrival of Cassidy and Butcher from Chelmsford heralded a considerable improvement. Tony Butcher grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-0 victory at Margate and Cambridge went top for the first time with a 2-0 win over rivals Hillingdon in January. United were unbeaten in their final ten matches, clinching the title with a 3-0 victory over Kettering on the last day and beating Cheltenham 1-0 in the Southern League Cup final.

1973 UNITED'S STAG PARTY

Cambridge clinched promotion as two goals by Ronnie Walton plus Bobby Ross' penalty secured a 3-2 Fourth Division win at home to rivals Mansfield Town on 28th April 1973. Leivers' side lost four of their opening five matches but the arrival of Graham Watson from Doncaster in September coincided with a 15-match unbeaten run that lifted Cambridge to third place in November. United maintained their promotion challenge, signing Bobby Ross from Brentford, but promotion hopes were dented with defeats against Exeter and Hereford. Another run of seven games without defeat set Cambridge up for promotion.

1977 FOURTH DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Ron Atkinson managed United to the Fourth Division title in 1976/77. The U's suffered just two defeats in their opening 18 matches, strengthening the team with Tom Finney from Sunderland and Dave Stringer from Norwich. Cambridge regained pole position as newcomer Jim Hall scored in a 2-1 win over rivals Bradford City on New Year's Day, then extended their lead at the top with seven straight wins. Tom Finney netted hat-tricks against Southport and Brentford during the closing weeks. Alan Biley was top scorer with 19 goals as United clinched the title with a 0-0 draw at Stockport County on 6th May 1977.

1978 PROMOTION WINNERS

Alan Biley was leading marksman with 21 goals as Cambridge United won promotion in 1977/78. Sammy Morgan was signed from Brighton and Cambridge overcame a poor start, with the arrival of Lindsay Smith and John Cozens strengthening the team. United beat Peterborough 1-0 in front of 10,998 shortly before Atkinson became West Brom's manager in January. John Docherty stepped up to replace him and United went top with a 3-0 win over Plymouth in February. Cambridge lost just one of their final nine matches, clinching promotion as runners-up with a 2-1 victory at home to Exeter City on 29th April 1977.

1992 SECOND DIVISION PLAY-OFFS

Cambridge United so nearly became founder members of the FA Premier League in 1991/92. Beck's side kicked off in the Second Division with three straight wins, then trounced Leicester 5-1 and went top of the table with a 12-match unbeaten run. They faltered after Christmas but revived automatic promotion hopes with four wins in five matches, including a 6-1 demolition of Bristol Rovers. Top scorer Dublin and Claridge netted 27 goals between them as Cambridge qualified for the Second Division Play-Offs in fifth position. They drew 1-1 with Leicester in the semi-final first-leg but lost 5-0 in the second-leg.

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Numbers GAME

CAMBRIDGE AND THE HATTERS IN NUMBERS

DID YOU KNOW?

The Town have only lost one of the past 14 league (including Conference) meetings between the clubs.
That one Cambridge win came in the Conference at Kenilworth Road in September 2011.
It remains United's sole league win on Bedfordshire soil, although the U's have won four times overall including in cup ties.

2000 You have to go back to October 2000 for Cambridge's last home win against the Hatters in the League – a 2-1 win at the Abbey in Division 2 (now League 1). However, United beat the Town 2-1 in the FA Cup third round last season and went on to draw with Manchester United in fourth round, earning a replay at Old Trafford.

5 United's last visit here a year ago saw the Town come out on top in a five-goal thriller. The Hatters led 3-0 at the break thanks to goals from Jonathan Smith, Andy Drury and Luke Wilkinson. Cambridge dominated the second half and pulled two goals back but despite an inspired performance from Cameron McGeehan the visitors couldn't force an equaliser.

0 The Hatters are unbeaten at home in the Football League against United, winning four and drawing four of these games down the years. The first three Football League meetings at Kenilworth Road against the U's ended in draws between 1978 and 1981. The Hatters' first home League win over United came thanks to a Brian Horton winner in a 1-0 victory in 1982.

HEAD 2 HEAD

36	PLAYED
13	LUTON WINS
14	DRAWS
9	CAMBRIDGE WINS
57	LUTON GOALS SCORED
43	CAMBRIDGE GOALS SCORED
1910	YEAR OF FIRST MEETING

The Hatters beat Cambridge 9-1 in an FA Cup fourth qualifying tie at Kenilworth Road 106 years ago. It wasn't until 1978 that the two sides met in League competition.

18 Since September 2009 the Hatters have met United no less than 18 times in the past six years. The Town have lost just four times in these meetings, winning seven while drawing seven too. The two clubs have met three times in the FA Trophy (Cambridge winning two of these) and twice in the FA Cup (one win each, both at the Abbey).

1-3 Of Cambridge's nine wins over the Town, seven have been by the odd goal. United have twice won by a two-goal margin and both came courtesy of 3-1 victories. The first came at the Abbey Stadium in November 1999, the other in an FA Trophy tie in December 2009.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED TROPHY CABINET

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE: **WINNERS 1991, RUNNERS-UP 1978**
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR: **WINNERS 1977, RUNNERS-UP 1999, PLAY-OFF WINNERS 1990**
CONFERENCE PREMIER: **PLAY-OFF WINNERS 2014**
FA TROPHY WINNERS 2014
FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY: **RUNNERS-UP 2002**

10,801

The biggest attendance to witness a Luton v Cambridge clash came in a 1-1 Division 2 (now Championship) draw in September 1978. Brian Stein scored the Town's goal.

TOWN 0 2 WYCOMBE

ATTENDANCE 9,676
829 WYCOMBE

WHAT'S THE STORY?

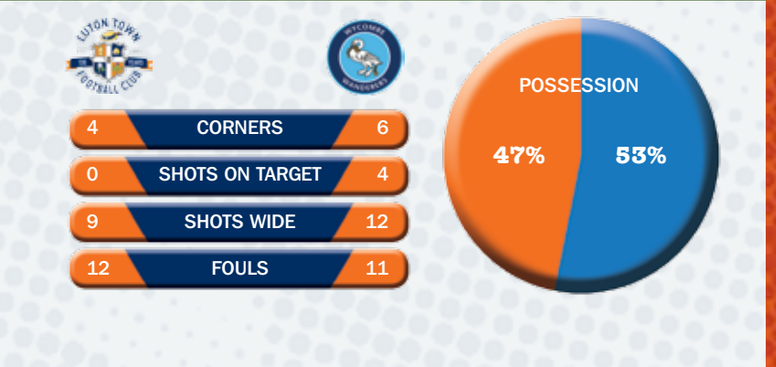
The Hatters slipped to a third straight home defeat as two second half goals were enough to give Wycombe all three points on Boxing Day.

After a goalless first half it took the visiting Chairboys just six minutes after the restart to take the lead when Garry Thompson tapped home from close range.

And the Town's misery was complete on 66 minutes when Paul Hayes headed home to give Wycombe a third successive victory at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters struggled to create one clear-cut chance with Craig Mackail-Smith's half-volley from 30 yards the closest the Town came to scoring on a Boxing Day game which belonged to the visitors.

LUTON TOWN	V	WYCOMBE WANDERERS
SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2015		
TYLER		INGRAM
CUTHBERT		JACOBSON
OKUONGHAE		STEWART
LONG		PIERCE
HOWELLS		THOMPSON
LAWLESS		HAYES (C)
McGEEHAN		BLOOMFIELD
GREEN		HARRIMAN
LEE		WOOD
BENSON		O'NIEN
MACKAIL-SMITH		McCARTHY
SUBSTITUTES		
SMITH, GRIFFITHS, MARRIOTT, JUSTHAM, GUTTRIDGE, McGOOD, MUSONDA		LYNCH, JOMBATI, McEINN, AMADI-HOLLOWAY, KRETZSCHMAR, ROWE, UDUMAGA



AWFORD SAID:

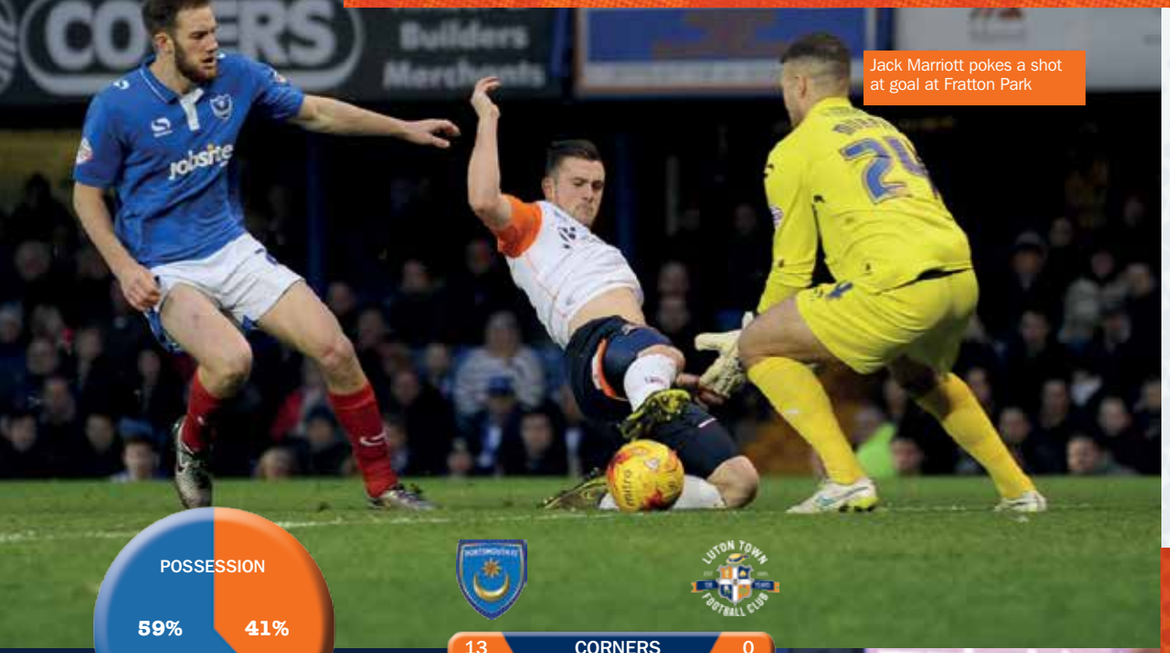
"Unfortunately, individual errors cost you, don't they? That's cost us all season. I've heard John Still say that, I've heard Terry Harris say that and I've heard Hakan Hayrettin say that all season.

"Unfortunately that has happened again today.

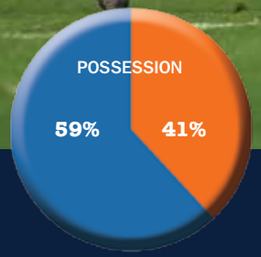
"We move on. I'm not going to blame one person for a defeat, that's not me. We win as a team, like we did last week, and we lose as a team."

Magnus Okuonghae waits for a set-piece

PORTSMOUTH 0 0 TOWN



Jack Marriott pokes a shot at goal at Fratton Park



13	CORNERS	0
8	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
10	SHOTS WIDE	4
7	FOULS	17
5	OFFSIDES	2

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town kept their first clean sheet in seven matches as they stubbornly held Portsmouth to a goalless draw at Fratton Park.

Hatters goalkeeper Mark Tyler had a busy afternoon, foiling the high-flying hosts with a number of crucial saves through the 90 minutes.

The Town side, which showed five changes from the side that lost to Wycombe two games prior, defended solidly throughout but only threatened in the Pompey half on a few occasions.

Craig Mackail-Smith and Jack Marriott both saw shots saved while Magnus Okuonghae headed wide.

But Tyler was the Town's man-of-the-match with a string of important stops to keep Pompey at bay and ensure a first shut-out since the goalless draw at Stevenage in November.

MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER 2015

MURPHY	TYLER
DAVIS	O' DONNELL
STEVENS	CUTHBERT (C)
DOYLE (C)	HOWELLS
McNULTY	LAWLESS
LAVERY	SMITH
BARTON	HALL
CLARKE	OKUONGHAE
BENNETT	McQUOID
EVANS	MARRIOTT
HOLLANDS	BENSON

SUBSTITUTES

AWFORD SAID:

"We wanted to freshen it up, I'd made my mind up even before the Wycombe game with the two games in three days that we would need to freshen it up coming down here and we thought long and hard about that.

"The important thing was the work ethic and the character shown because after Wycombe I wasn't too happy with that, there were a few people not too happy with that, and the players weren't too happy either.

"They needed to bounce back and show some resilience, show some character and I thought they did that, so fair play to them.

"I'm delighted with a point, it's a tough place to come isn't it and no-one knows more than me what a difficult place it can be to play in as an opposition.

"I thought the lads stood up to it really well, showed bags of character, bags of resilience and fully deserved their point, it's a good point."

ATTENDANCE 17,668
1,556 LUTON

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Traveller's TALES

ARDENT HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER CONTINUES TO DOCUMENT HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE TOWN. HERE'S HIS TAKE ON THE GOALLESS DRAW AT PORTSMOUTH

The journey

After the horror show on Boxing Day the two coaches that set off for Portsmouth weren't full of optimism it has to be said. Luckily there was the cricket to take my mind off what was to come and made the journey go very quickly.

Despite setting off late we were in Portsmouth well before 1.30pm with the short walk through the alleys to Fratton Park itself.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽⚽

The ground

Nothing had changed at Fratton Park since last season except we had the other half of the stand behind the goal. The view was decent enough and, with the home ends packed, a good atmosphere was created all game despite events in front of us being a bit underwhelming.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽⚽

The food

Once you had climbed the dozens of steps up to the away end there was a food kiosk.

I grabbed a burger which wasn't great and they ran out of lids for hot drinks much to the detriment of my good friend 'Part Time Pete's' coat which got covered in coffee. Not an ideal start to that particular Christmas present!

Rating: ⚽

The programme

The 84-page issue had some decent enough stuff in it not least the 10 pages about Luton both present and past. There were the usual welcomes from the Pompey board and manager particularly to Andy Awford which was a nice touch. All in all it was a decent read.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽

The match

I'm struggling for anything for this section really because not much happened! In fact the highlight of the match was shortly before half-time when the Pompey right-back curled a free-kick comfortably wide. It flicked the side netting but never looked like it was in.

All of a sudden the loud noise comes over the tannoy "AND THE SCORER OF PORTSMOUTH'S FIRST GOAL……". I quickly double checked to make sure it hadn't gone in before a follow up comment "OOPS CORRECTION IT DIDN'T GO IN!!!"

The all too predictable "sacked in the morning" chants went up at the said individual from the away end and when we got a free-kick which we missed by miles we celebrated like we had scored as to mock the home fans further!

That aside it was a pretty boring match apart from a bit of huff and puff from Portsmouth but we saw it out easily to earn a point and clean sheet.

Rating: ⚽

Man-of-the-Match

He might have been at fault against Wycombe but Scott Cuthbert was brilliant in this match. Strong in the air and dominant on the floor. A real powerful defensive performance and true captain performance from the Scot.

Summary

Not the greatest day but at least we had a shot on goal which was more than we got on Boxing Day! I was back home shortly before 8pm so well in time to make something of the evening which was a rare positive on the day apart from the hard earned point.

OVERALL RATING
13 out of 25
MILES TRAVELLED THIS SEASON
3,421.5

BRISTOL ROVERS 2 0 TOWN

Ryan Hall finds himself surrounded by Rovers defenders

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters start to 2016 ended in defeat as two second-half goals from Rory Gaffney gave Bristol Rovers all three points.

After a goalless first half the Pirates took the lead on the hour when Gaffney rifled home inside the penalty area and, 13 minutes later, the home striker completed his double after Mark Tyler had spilled his initial shot.

The Hatters had started the second half brightly prior to Rovers' opening goal with Ryan Hall slamming a shot into the side-netting.

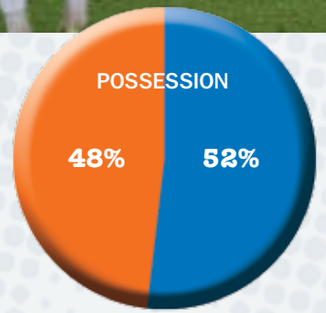
But Gaffney's brace punished the Town in the final half-hour, undoing the hard work and commitment shown before the Pirates opened the scoring.

	V

SATURDAY 2ND JANUARY 2016

MILDENHALL	TYLER
LEADBITTER	O' DONNELL
BROWN	CUTHBERT (C)
LOCKYER	HOWELLS
PARKES	LAWLESS
MANSELL (C)	SMITH
CLARKE	HALL
TAYLOR	OKUONGHAE
CLARKE	McGEEHAN
SINCLAIR	MACKAIL-SMITH
GAFFNEY	BENSON

SUBSTITUTES



6	CORNERS	6
6	SHOTS ON TARGET	1
5	SHOTS WIDE	6
5	FOULS	13
9	OFFSIDES	5

ATTENDANCE
9,131
707 LUTON

AWFORD SAID:

"I'm livid with them today as we shouldn't have lost that game, the way we conceded the goals are very disappointing.

"It goes without saying when you get beat you're never happy, but the manner in which we lost the two goals leaves that sour taste.

"We haven't done the basics well enough from a set-piece, we haven't gone with a runner, for the second goal Mark spills it and its 2-0 before you know it and that's a disappointing factor.

"Concentration, focus, there's a great group of lads there in terms of people, they're a really good group to work with, they give you everything they've got, but they've switched off at a vital moment and you can't do that."

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Traveller's TALES

ARDENT HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER CONTINUES TO DOCUMENT HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE TOWN. HERE'S HIS TAKE ON THE FIRST GAME OF 2016 AT BRISTOL ROVERS

The journey

Two coaches set off from Luton Interchange shortly after 10.30am for our first game of 2016. The weather was pretty foul and that equated to plenty of traffic on the roads but despite that we made it in good time.

All went well enough with the journey until it came to parking the other coach to ours. A steward was guiding the driver back as he reversed into the parking space then seconds later an almighty bang. A quick look behind and a brick wall that was there when we arrived no longer was. The coach had destroyed it! #epicfail

Rating: ⚽⚽

The ground

This was my first visit to the Memorial Ground since that crazy Boxing Day in 2007 and nothing has changed. Knowing the terrace was open I opted for a seating ticket. The view wasn't the best, but at least it was dry but that's about all that was good about it.

Rating: ⚽

The food

Just a couple of Cornish pasty stands were in the away end with pasties and sausage rolls on offer. I had the latter which was not good at all so the least said about that the better.

Rating: ⚽

The programme

There was a nice interview with Lee Mansell in the programme reminiscing about his time with us and a piece comparing the two clubs and our shared misfortune in being relegated to the Conference and having Paul Buckle as manager. Fair to say he isn't popular there! The usual Town pen pics were in there too. I've read worse.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽

The match

If the Portsmouth game was hard to watch this was even harder. It was clear from the outset we had the intention of parking the bus but sadly it was parked worse than the fans coach outside!

Not once in the game did you ever think we were going to score and although we kept a pretty solid line you always thought we was going to cave in to the pressure in the end.

It was a surprise it took until the second half but eventually a goal came. Jake Howells blocked a free header from a corner on the line but the rebound was slammed in. It was 2-0 soon after when Mark Tyler spilled a shot straight to the same scorer as the first. He couldn't miss and didn't and that was that. Truly tough to watch.

Rating: 0

Man-of-the-Match

Bit of a token gesture this. Ryan Hall was our best player on the afternoon but that said as much for how bad his teammates were as how good he was in truth. The best of a bad bunch describes it best sadly.

Summary

A rotten day. Rotten weather and not the best journey home given how long it took to escape Bristol. Thoroughly miserable day all round and hopefully that's the first and only one of those in 2016!

OVERALL RATING
7 out of 25
MILES TRAVELLED THIS SEASON
3,686.7

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WELCOME CHUMS

This afternoon we'd like to extend a special welcome to CHUMS Chief Executive Dawn Hewitt and her team, who are special guests at the Club for their dedicated match.

During the off-season we made the decision to formalise our approach to working with charities, and undertook the process of selecting our three official charities. Since their selection as Club Charity of the Year, it's been a genuine pleasure to work alongside Dawn and her team on a number of initiatives, lending our help wherever possible to raise awareness and funds for this important charity. Although there's still a lot to come this year for our partnership, today's match is a fantastic opportunity to raise much-needed funds, and to raise the profile of CHUMS both locally and nationally.

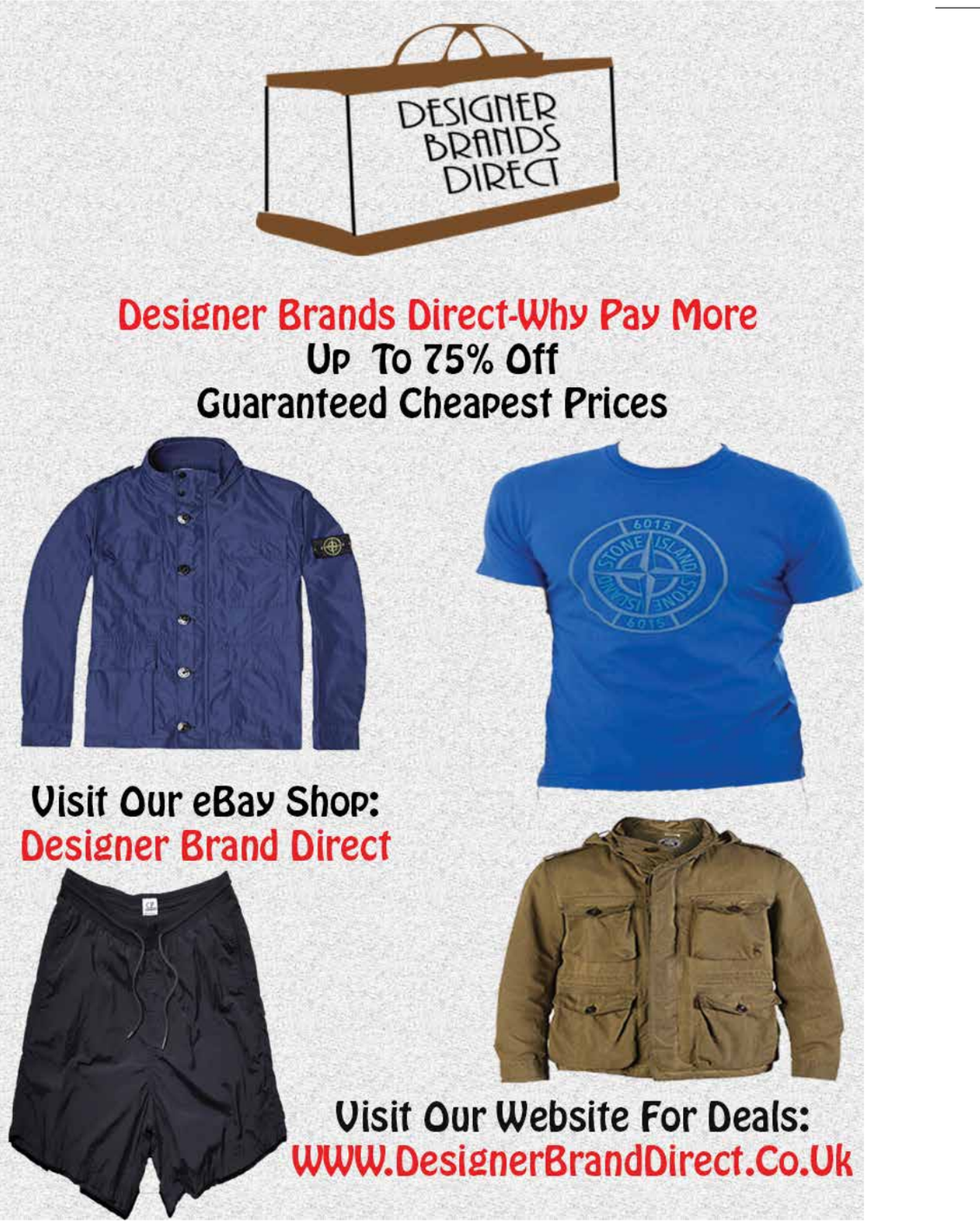
We'd also like to thank and commend our shirt sponsor, Barnfield College, for embracing the idea of surrendering their space on the shirt for today's match so willingly. It's hard to quantify the exact impact this will have on the children and families helped by CHUMS, but photos and videos from today's match will be seen tens of thousands of times, and in turn, this will shine a spotlight on their fantastic work helping young people who are dealing with bereavement, trauma and mental health issues. So once more, our thanks to Tim Eyton-Jones and the team at Barnfield.

A MESSAGE FROM CHUMS

CHUMS would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Luton Town for making this first annual club charity adoption so successful. We are also thrilled that Barnfield College have generously given up their shirt sponsorship so that CHUMS can make the most of today's special charity fixture.

CHUMS is key to supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in Luton and Bedfordshire. The prevalence of mental health disorders in Luton's children and young people is estimated to be 25 per cent higher than the national average. Early intervention is so important as 75 per cent of mental health problems begin before the age of 21, which is why we offer support to children and young people who have been bereaved, traumatised, are young carers and/or would benefit from mentoring. In addition the Charity offers football and music Recreational Therapeutic programmes to those who can't readily engage in talking therapies as well as a Youth Club for young people with disabilities. We cannot offer these services without the support of our local communities via funding and volunteering so we are extremely grateful for your support always.

If you would like information about any of our services please contact us on 01525 863924 or info@chums.uk.com. The service is free and confidential. To donate to CHUMS text LUTN16 £3 or LUTN16 £5 etc to 70070



KENILWORTH ROAD LATEST

The Hatters confirmed that Terry Harris and Hakan Hayrettin were both been released from their coaching contracts at Kenilworth Road following last week's appointment of new manager Nathan Jones.

Harris and Hayrettin both joined the Hatters in 2013 when brought to the Club by previous manager John Still as assistant manager and first team coach respectively.

The pair were instrumental in the Town's Conference title success of 2013/14 and depart Kenilworth Road with everyone's thanks and best wishes.

Hatters chief executive Gary Sweet said: "Decisions like this are always very tough for us to make, especially considering Terry and Hakan were part of a successful and memorable season for us.

"However, football can be a harsh and ruthless business at times in order for Club's like ours to continue our progress, and with Nathan's arrival as our new manager, we are now looking forward to a direction change in the way we apply ourselves on the pitch.

"On behalf of all the staff at the Club I would like to wish both Terry and Hakan all the very best of luck in their careers and request that supporters fondly remember their time at Luton as vital members of staff who helped deliver the most important promotion in our history."

THANK YOU!

Our supporters' charity LAMP were delighted with the response following their call to fans to bring chocolate to our last home game with Wycombe.

LAMP's Helen Snowden emailed us: "Thank you so much to you and your team of helpers for organising the collection of the selection boxes for LAMP at the end of last year. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of your supporters, we were able to give our young people a really good selection of Christmas treats and to share with other charities working with vulnerable people. You made a real difference to a lot of people. Thank you again for all you are doing for LAMP."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A very happy 16th birthday to Hatters fan Jay Calvert who is at today's game celebrating with his friends and family in the Oak Road. Love from your little brother Tyler and family. Have a good day, Jay!

MAD AS A HATTER!

Town supporter Brian Anley has pledged to raise money for the supporters' charity of the Year - LAMP, by undertaking a massive 37-mile walk from Kenilworth Road to Northampton Town's Sixfields Stadium.

To make things all the more interesting - Brian will be dressed as The Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland.

The walk will begin at midnight on the 30th April 2016, arriving at Sixfields around 1pm the following afternoon.

If you'd like to donate, and help support Brian with his fundraising, ahead over to the Hatters Talk Facebook page. Good luck Brian!

LOAN LATEST

Defender Sean Long returned to parent club Reading after his loan spell ended after the 2-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers.

The 20-year-old full-back made 11 appearances during his time at Kenilworth Road and made his debut in the 2-1 defeat at Crawley in October. We would like to thank Sean for his services to the Club during his time here.

The Hatters have also recalled Luke Trotman and Isaac Galliford from their youth loans at Histon and St Neots respectively, while Zane Banton and Mark Onyemah have had their loans extended at Hemel Hempstead and Dartford respectively by a further month.

GET WELL CHRIS

Everyone at Luton Town would like to wish loyal Hatters fan Chris Claridge all the best.

Chris is currently in Addenbrokes Hospital but will receive a copy of this programme from his friends and family. We're all thinking of you Chris – hopefully there'll be three points to make you smile even more when you read this!

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

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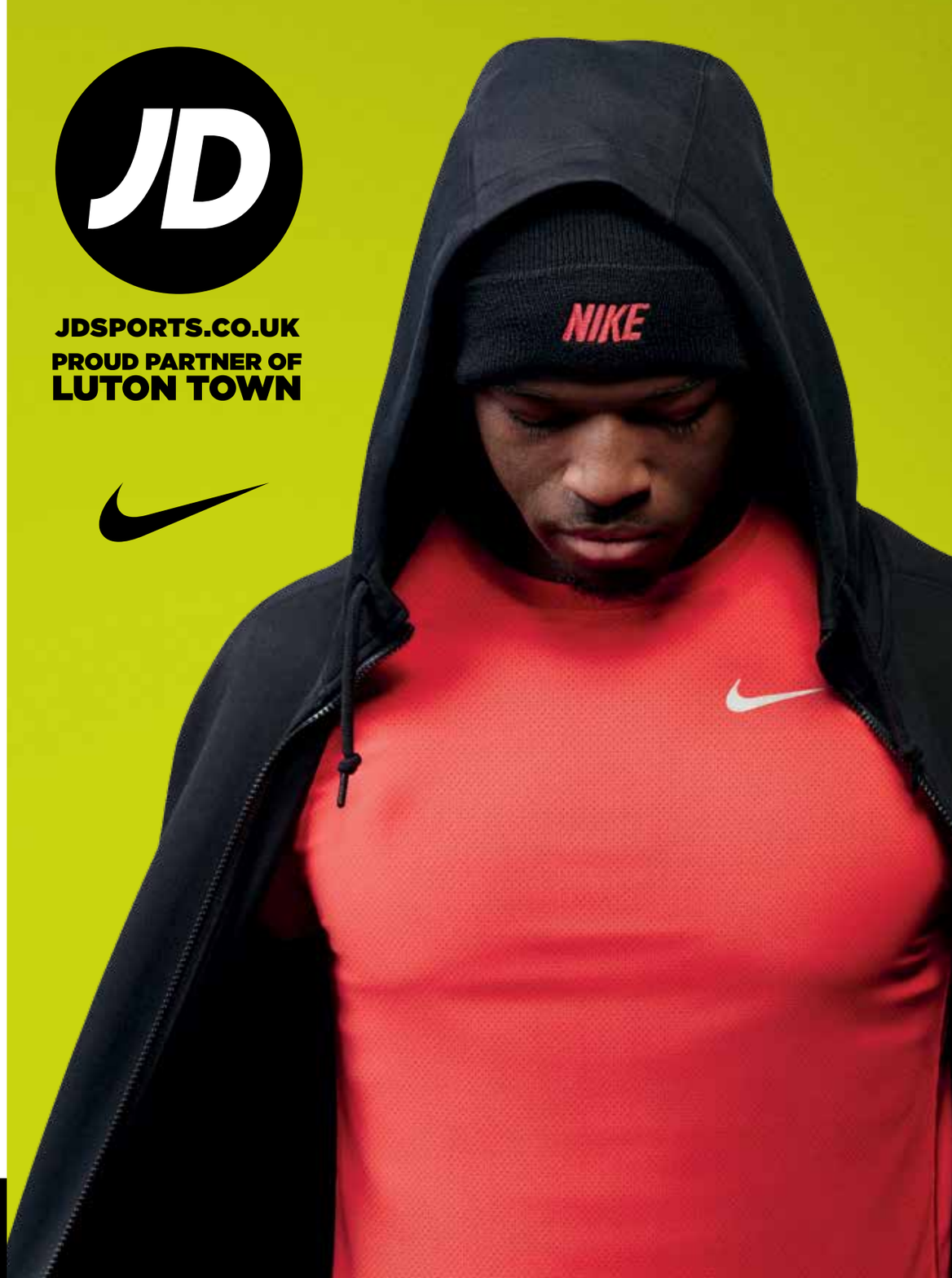

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DIRECTOR FOR A DAY

Lucky SoLYD supporter, Ben Gray, was the winner of the SoLYD prize draw in December giving him a once in a lifetime experience of spending a match day with Hatters director David Wilkinson. Here's what he thought of his amazing prize:

My Dad and I had a really fantastic day being directors for the day for the home game against Northampton. Arriving at Kenilworth Road around 1.30, we were shown to the directors' box where David Wilkinson welcomed us. David was really friendly and gave us a personal tour of the stadium. We went out of the players' tunnel onto the hallowed turf, were introduced to Gary Sweet, Dave Richardson (the fitness coach) and also had a good chat with Jake Howells.

We were then shown the coaches' room where we met John Still and the coaching staff. They were also really friendly and they shared the team news with us and that they were starting with a 4-4-2 formation. After wishing them all the best we headed back to the directors' box for a couple of beers and had lunch with David and Nick Owen. They were great company and seemed just like us - passionate, genuine Luton fans. We were also introduced to Paul Ballantyne and Bob Curson before we went out to watch the game.

I found myself sitting next to the BBC's John Motson and Bob. I had mentioned that my all-time favourite player was Ricky Hill and so was overjoyed when David mentioned that he was in the directors' box watching the game and he took me over to shake the great man's hand. The result ultimately didn't go our way and at the end of the game the directors were in deep conversation. It was no surprise when John Still parted company with the Hatters a few days later.

We had a fantastic day and would like to thank David and all the directors for their hospitality. It is so good to know that the football club that we all love is in safe hands with genuine Hatters fans. Hopefully they can appoint the right manager to take us forward and lead us up the leagues.

Many thanks again for the amazing prize.

If you would like the chance to win the next amazing prize in the SoLYD draw, all you need to do is to sign up to donate to SoLYD – further details can be found on the official website. Every penny raised is used to support the Hatters' Youth Development Department and their work for the future of our football club.

PICTURE the PAST

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

Brian Stein sees his penalty saved by QPR goalkeeper Peter Hucker in this top flight clash at Kenilworth Road in March 1985. No matter, as two goals from Mick Harford secured a 2-0 win as the Town edged their way above the relegation zone.

THE CAMERA never LIES

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

"Don't you know who I am? I played for Manchester United in the 1968 European Cup Final!"
One of Luton's finest ever wingers, John Aston, is booked by referee Brian Daniels during the Town's 2-1 win over reigning champions Leeds at Kenilworth Road in March 1975.
A crowd of 23,048 saw Aston give the Hatters a third-minute lead in a 2-1 victory.

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IN THE HATTERS HOTSEAT

In welcoming Nathan Jones to Kenilworth Road on becoming our 31st manager, he also becomes one of the elite band of 13 who have also played for the club.

The Hatters were a little late out of the blocks when appointing their first manager as by 1925, when we selected the little known George Thompson, most clubs had a manager in place. Up until this point the directors scouted for players and picked the team but pressure from the supporters led to the Board bowing to the inevitable and appointing Thompson although they still reserved the right to pick the team!

Thompson did not last long and the Board did not hurry themselves in picking a successor, leaving it two years before appointing John McCartney who had played for the club in the 1890s and came to Kenilworth Road with a good managerial pedigree.

David Pleat, the Town's longest serving manager

Sadly, his two years at the club were dogged by illness but his spell was only bettered in length by Harold Wightman in the period leading up to the war. It is worth pointing out that we were 'between managers' when the untried Joe Payne was picked to play against Bristol Rovers in 1936 with the 22-year-old bagging 10 goals in the 12-0 win.

After the War, Dally Duncan enjoyed 11 years at the helm, initially as player-manager, and saw the club rise to the top flight. He departed though, in October 1958 just as the club embarked on the run to Wembley for the 1959 FA Cup final. The selection of the team by 'committee' during that run caused a great deal of upset at the time and has not been repeated since.

The club plummeted through the divisions in the early 1960s and it was not until the appointing of ex-player Allan Brown did the Town show signs of rising back to their rightful place. Brown was dismissed in unfortunate circumstances with his successors Alec Stock and Harry Haslam enjoying some good times on the field, each with a promotion to their name.

After Haslam left the club for Sheffield United, the Hatters made the brave decision to

John Moore whose 12 months in charge saw the Town finish in their highest spot in their history – seventh in the top flight in 1986/87

appoint untried and untested David Pleat to the hot seat and what a masterstroke that proved. Playing free flowing and cavalier football Pleat set the Hatters up for ten years at the top and although he had left for Tottenham by the time of the unforgettable 1988 Littlewoods Cup final win over Arsenal the nucleus of the side were still Pleat signings.

Pleat returned to the club for a less successful four year spell in the 1990s to become our longest-serving manager overall and since then Joe Kinnear earned a promotion in 2002, Mike Newell did the same in 2005, Mick Harford oversaw a Wembley win in 2009 while John Still put together the side that won promotion back to the Football League in 2014.

By the time you read this Nathan Jones will no longer be the Luton Town manager in charge for the shortest period of time – Jack Crompton was appointed on 29th June 1962 but resigned a week later!

Luton Town in the COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

Walking football for the over 50s

It's all about the golden oldies this week! In 1957, Stanley Matthews became the oldest person to play football for England, at the age of 42 years and 104 days. With our new walking football centre at Venue 360 we're giving our supporters and friends the chance to be record breakers of there own.

Mind you, Sir Stan wasn't a fluke – ask Messrs Friedel, Strachan and Sheringham, who played at the age of 40 and what a five-a-side team of 39ers Robson, Giggs, Pearce, Winterbottom and Wilkins would have made!

So gents (and ladies!), we don't have to tell you how important it is to stay active, fit and healthy – that's what the Doctor is for – but we do understand for most of us it is hard to find the motivation, time or desire to exercise. Well, one-hour of walking football with fellow Hatters and mates, along with a bit of a social, can go a long way towards the two-and-a-hours of exercise a week we are all meant to be doing - as a minimum!

Last year we held a Football League Trust regional walking football tournament at Venue360 and the turnout was great with three teams competing for the Hatters against teams from other local professional clubs including Northampton, Stevenage and Norwich, and we hope by holding weekly sessions we can hold similar tournaments but on a regular basis – wouldn't it be great to have a game with Watford?!

If you've not tried it before and think what's the point, then believe us when we say that last year's tournament was extremely competitive – especially when Norwich turned up in the first team coach with a 'Mourinho' as manager! Of course, the sessions we will be running will be really about getting fit and so can be as competitive or as friendly as you want – the real benefit is exercising without really thinking about it. Just think about the health benefits for a second – more muscle, harder bones and better cardiovascular systems that can help you build strength, lose weight and improve core stability. Think how much better you will feel sinking a pint after all that!

Of course, as well as being able to increase your fitness levels, we hope we can give your 'emotional health' a boost by turning out for regular sessions and meeting new people, and we hope lots of our supporters will join in and maybe have a 'Hatter natter' afterwards in the bar at Venue 360. For those of you who used to play when you were younger, I'm sure you can remember how much fun the banter in the pub was after a game and probably how much you miss that friendship on a regular basis.

Action from last season's walking football tournament

The rules are simple, the same as five-a-side, if you can cast your memory back that far, except if you run, you concede a free-kick. We will be running every Wednesday evening from this week from 6pm to 7pm on the astroturf cages at the back of Venue360 and really hope to see as many of you as possible. Don't worry if you haven't pulled a shirt on for 20 years or you are think you might lack a bit of confidence, everybody will be in the same boat and just looking for a bit of a run out.

If you would like further information, or would like register a place, simply call the community office on 01582 737568 or email us on community@lutontown.co.uk. The cost of each session will be £5 and you can simply pay and play with no commitment to play regularly – you can miss a week or two and play whenever you feel up to it.

Those fans who visited our first social club last here on Wednesday

Hatters Stadium Social Club for over 50s

This week we held our very first regular Wednesday morning social club for over 50s in the Eric Morecambe Suite and were delighted to welcome over a dozen new members along who all enjoyed a cup of tea and a special behind the scenes stadium tour with Hatters life vice president John Buttle.

That was followed by a big screen showing of the legend himself, Eric Morecambe, in various clips from his Morecambe & Wise tv specials. We also welcomed representatives from Age Concern and the NHS who all joined in the fun.

The weekly social club, which is aimed at the over 50s, will offer a variety of activities to engage with lonely and potentially vulnerable members of our local community. They run from 10am for two hours each Wednesday with activities dependent upon the wishes of those attending, but film-shows, talks, bingo, quizzes and indoor bowls are already in the pipeline.

Loneliness affects a lot of people – there are over seven million single households in the UK and it can have a bit of a stigma attached to it. However, in all honesty it can suddenly happen through a basic change in personal circumstance and not just through the obvious ones such as bereavement, job loss, retirement or family moving away. It's the simple things like being afraid of going out in case you are caught short because there are no more public loos or you lose the confidence to drive or your local library or pub has shut.

So loneliness can be both emotional and/or social and of course can be felt by people of all ages but as we get older the risk factors that might lead to loneliness begin to increase and with it come all of the physical health and mental health issues that are overwhelming our Doctors' surgeries and hospitals. The statistics are not great and we hope our weekly get together can play a small part in the solution in Luton.

Nobody wants to grow old and no one wants to be lonely but we hope that every Wednesday morning our over 50s have a reason not to be. We are really encouraging everyone to come along if you want a bit of company or maybe bring along your elderly relative or neighbour for the first time to overcome any shyness or nerves. We are sure after their first visit they will want to visit the Kenny every week whether they are a football fan or not as lots of the activities we plan will have nothing to do with football.

Anyone over 50 can simply turn up on the day and for further information on upcoming activities at the social club please contact the Hatters Community Trust office on 01582 737568 or email community@lutontown.co.uk.

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ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMY MANAGER ANDY AWFORD

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's home match versus Cambridge United.

I will as normal give you the general insight into the major goings on within the Academy, but first I wanted to publicly state on record my sincere thanks to all the Academy staff who have worked tirelessly during the period I have been involved with the first team. Obviously I have not been able to give it my usual time and effort, but thank you lads, you are a great bunch, and I look forward to rejoining you soon as we continue to strive to produce some young Hatters for the future.

Academy Update

Massive congratulations are due to Paul Driver and his Under-18 Youth Team. A 2-0 victory away at Stevenage last Tuesday saw the boys deservedly wrap up the Alliance Youth South East League. The lads deserve huge credit for this achievement, which has seen them lead the league from day one, and they thoroughly deserve to be crowned champions. It has been a huge team effort from the players and the staff. I would also like to say a well done to the boys' parents and family members too, who travel all over the South East of England to watch them. Their support and commitment is fantastic.

The next couple of weeks will a busy and exciting period for the Under-18s as due to enjoying a successful season, the games are now coming thick and fast. Today, we have made the long journey down to play AFC Bournemouth in the semi-final of the Southern League Cup, whilst we are also in discussions with Oldham Athletic, whom we will meet at Boundary Park in the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup, to finalise a date for the game. We also have three more league games to play before the end of January before we enter the Southern Merit League. Hectic times, but we would rather have it this way, enjoying the success and testing ourselves against better opposition.

Winning the league and progressing through both cup competitions that we are entered into is great recognition for the Academy and definitely enhances the players' overall football education. However, I think it is a poignant time to remind ourselves that the actual purpose of the Academy is to provide players for the club that can play in our first team. That is what we are all about and that remains our 'bread and butter' - our one and only goal!

We have some very good young players at the club and we are hopeful that we will see the hard work reap its rewards in the not too distant future. We all know that there is nothing like seeing a home-grown talent make it through the treacherous football pathway and run out on the home hallowed turf - hopefully it won't be too long before we can have one or two trot out at Kenilworth Road.

Enjoy the game.

Andy

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 2 Leyton Orient W 1-0
Tue 12 Stevenage W 2-0
Sat 16 Bournemouth A (Cup)
Wed 20 Southend United H
Sat 23 Stevenage H

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Youth PROFILE

KAVAN COTTER

Name: Kavan Cotter

Date of birth: 3/5/1999

Birthplace: Harrow

Position: Midfielder

Year joined Luton: 2011

WHY DID YOU JOIN LUTON TOWN?

Because I want to become a professional footballer.

WHAT WAS THE BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP?

Work hard and don't regret not working hard enough.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL SO FAR?

Cordial Cup as an Under-13.

WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A KID?

Arsenal.

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND?

David Beckham.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS ARE YOU GOOD AT?

Table tennis.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT?

PE.

WHO IS YOUR MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE?

Jack Snelus.

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

Luke Guttridge.

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB APART FROM BEING A FOOTBALLER?

There is no other dream job.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TYPE OF MUSIC?

Rap.

WHAT'S YOUR AMBITION FOR THIS SEASON?

To win the Youth Alliance and do well in the FA Youth Cup.

WHAT THE COACH SAYS

Under-18s boss Paul Driver on Kavan:

"Kavan came to us as a 12-year-old having previously been with Arsenal's academy set-up.

"He's an exceptionally well-organised individual who is very willing to work hard on and off the pitch.

"Kavan will always try to give more than 100 per cent and although a midfielder by trade he is better suited to a position on right-side of a diamond.

"He has a great chance of having a successful career and caught the eye last season as an Under-16 playing for us in the FA Youth Cup.

"One of his best performances to date this season came in the FA Youth Cup win at Notts County where he showed a great maturity both win and without the ball.

"As a player he is a key creator of goals – that is the biggest string to his bow.

"Kavan is another player who has been brought through the age groups with a number of his team-mates and that togetherness and hard-working nature is something he epitomises.

"He's got a dry sense of humour and is a really good person to have around the place."

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YOUTH UPDATE

The Hatters Under-18s secured the Youth Alliance South East title after a 2-0 win at Stevenage on Tuesday.

After Southend's defeat at Barnet last weekend, the Town youngsters got the three points they needed to become champions thanks to the routine win over Boro which saw James Verney and Cameron McJannet find the target.

James Verney

Cameron McJannet

Striker Verney fired the Hatters in front on 10 minutes before McJannet made victory safe with 20 minutes to go when he lashed home from a narrow angle after his corner was half-cleared.

The victory, their 16th in 19 league matches this season, also ensured the Town's passage into the Merit Division which begins in mid-February. The Hatters and the next five clubs from the South East will form a division with the top five clubs from the South West section.

A proud Paul Driver told lutontown.co.uk: "It is a wonderful and deserved achievement from a fine group of players.

"The effort and hard work the boys have put in has been absolutely tremendous. To reach 50 points after 19 games is a terrific achievement – not to mention the number of clean sheets, the goals scored and the goal difference.

"They are a dream group to work for, too. They always take on board what we tell them but I can't stress how hard they work. On and off the pitch their work ethic is second to none but is it important to remember that only five of the group are second year scholars."

Town v Stevenage: Gooch; Justin, McJannet, Musonda, Famewo; McGhan-George (sub Murray 27), Bakinson, Atkinson, Snelus; Verney (sub Peck 81), Hinds (sub Bean 78). Sub not used: Gordon-Stern.

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Luton LADIES

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The Ladies endured an extremely tough FA Cup away tie at Brighton & Hove Albion having won three previous ties.

The Seagulls are currently the highest ranked team in the country and they named a full strength team for the tie.

The hosts began at a high tempo playing some fine flowing football but the Town kept their shape and discipline and withstood the early onslaught with Rachel Evans making two full stretch saves pushing shots around the post.

It was proving difficult for Luton to relieve the pressure as Albion kept the ball well and were patient in their build up. Town finally conceded the opening goal after half-an-hour following a surging run down the wing and low cross which was finished from close range.

A similar second followed five minutes later but Town were unlucky not to pull a goal back following a 50-yard run and shot from Natasha Fensome. A cruel third goal arrived on the stroke of half-time when the ball bounced off the top of the crossbar back into play and was volleyed home.

The second half was another difficult one for the Town as Brighton continued their relentless pressure and in spite of a huge and determined effort from the Town players, and notably the defence, the home side ran in a further four second half goals to record a 7-0 win. Evans made a number of saves during a busy second half including a penalty and a team with less character would have collapsed under the weight of pressure.

Manager Nikki Baker said: "Brighton are probably the strongest team we have ever played. They openly state they have Champions League ambitions within four years and with the structure and backing they have in place I would not bet against them.

"They do the simple things very well and left us chasing shadows for much of the time.

"What I must say is that I am very proud of the way our team played and competed and our defence and in particular keeper Rachel Evans had the game of her life.

"Sometimes you just have to credit the opposition and say they were too strong on the day for us.

"The Seagulls entertain Super League Oxford United in the next round and I would be surprised if they didn't win that tie as well. We must now regroup and aim to finish our league campaign strongly."

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

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JUNIOR HATTERS

MANAGER PROFILE

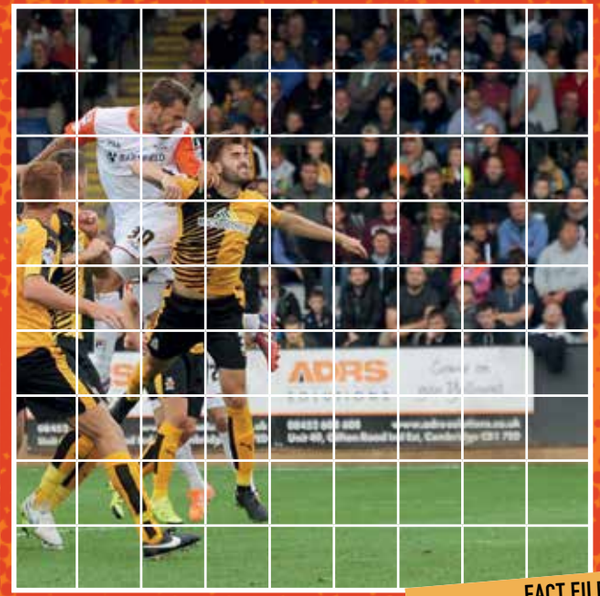
NATHAN JONES

DATE OF BIRTH: 28TH MAY 1973
FROM: RHONDDA, WALES
HEIGHT: 5ft 6
POSITION: MANAGER

NATHAN JONES WAS UNVEILED AS THE NEW HATTERS MANAGER AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY. NATHAN BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER. WHEN HE WAS SIGNED BY DAVID PLEAT FROM MERTHYR TYDFIL ON 1995. JONES HAD A LONG PLAYING CAREER, NOTEABLY WITH SOUTHEND, BRIGHTON AND YEOVIL AS A DEFENDER. BEFORE JOINING US AT THE HATTERS, NATHAN WAS FIRST-TEAM COACH AT BRIGHTON.

SPOT THE BALL

WE'VE REMOVED THE BALL FROM THE PICTURE ON THE RIGHT – CAN YOU GUESS WHICH SQUARE IT BELONGS IN? TWEET YOUR ANSWERS TO @LUTONTOWN #SPOTTHEBALL #COYH



FACT FILE

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FROM LEFT MIDFIELD

WITH KEVIN CROWE

MODERN LOVE: POWER COURT AND NATHAN JONES

Grab it with both hands before the new dawn fades. A new ground in the centre of Town, a new manager. No more looking back. New Year, new me, new you...

This might change you, all this.

Being irrevocably Luton, you think of yourself as a bit of an outsider I imagine, mate. You're not really very "ample parking and catering facilities" to be honest; you're more "ankle deep in whatever that is on the floor of the bogs ruining your trainers". Don't look at me like that.

You're just a nostalgic exhibit in the smoking area by the bins of the Museum of English Football Past. You are the Malice in the shadows of their Wonderland, a roaming funeral pyre for the gentrified generation out there, with spray paint on your coat and a moody Sky box. And don't you just love it.

It defines us. The resilience re-born of our Bedfordshire betrayal by the Bodies that govern football keeps us coming back year after year. This angry old school badge of honour hung from the rafters of our angry old school ground, recently personified, in a way, by an old school manager too. Well make way for the new...

Just before Christmas the Board announced that around the 2020 mark, all being well, the football club will move to a new home at Power Court. Almost double in size, smack bang in the middle of town. Four stands. Station. Pubs. It couldn't be more perfect if they renamed Church Street 'Wegerle Way'. Actually that would be better.

Hot on its heels was the announcement of a new manager so modern he's barely managed anyone else anywhere outside of this young New Year. He's young too, maybe younger than you. And he's got his own badges to honour; a UEFA Pro License, which I believe is like doing that motorway driving thing after you pass your test.

Nathan Jones was once signed for Luton Town by David Pleat. He's a studious coach by trade who likes

quick, flowing football. There are even whispers of tiki-taka emerging from the Tikka haze of Kenilworth Road (that's Catalan for ON THE DECK, lads). So, a sprinkling of Luton pedigree and plenty of scope for moaning about how he should just play 4-4-2 when we've had a bad week. Your Dad'll be buzzing, mate.

This new managerial era is set to be less about the traditional, paternal presence of his predecessor and more about the dynamism of young ideas; just as, when it comes, the new ground might offer a new way of watching the game and more financial security for the club, just without the familiar echoes and smells of Saturdays past that currently let you know you're home. It could be awful, or the stuff of Lutopian dreams.

But, as a wise man formerly known as David Jones (no relation) once said, things don't really change. A bit of leg room and taps that work in the toilets won't turn you into a passive, Selfie Sticking Gooner overnight will they? And with all the respect in the world to John, Hakan and Terry, I'm pretty sure we can agree that the football we're playing could do with a facelift from the future.

Despite what Bowie (née Jones) said next, I'm willing to give this Modern Love a try.

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A WORD FROM
The Football League Paper

BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Everton's humdrum 2-0 win over Dagenham in the FA Cup last weekend was briefly enlivened when a black and white cat burst onto the Goodison Park pitch.

The freeloading feline strolled down the left flank and evaded the grasp of Toffees keeper Joel Robles before nonchalantly sitting back to watch the second half from behind the Everton goal.

"He had great style, great movement," said Everton boss Roberto Martinez. "He brought us luck and if we can keep him throughout the run that would be great."

These pitch invaders, however, were rather less welcome…

Pine Marten

During a Swiss league match between Zurich and FC Thun in 2013, the referee was forced to stop play for almost five minutes as a pesky pine marten traversed the pitch.

A cat-sized member of the weasel family, the pine marten has a nasty temper and razor sharp teeth - as Zurich defender Loris Benito discovered when he dived full length to apprehend the intrepid invader. Benito was left with blood dripping from his thumb as cowardly stewards refused to relieve him of the writhing creature, which subsequently escaped again. It was finally left to Zurich 'keeper Davide Da Costa, protected by his gloves, to do the deed.

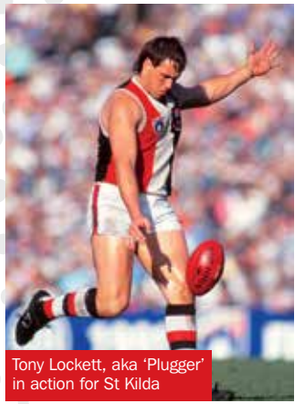
Lucien Harinordoquy

There's nothing wrong with parents sticking up for their kids but Lucien Harinordoquy took things a bit too far during the 2011 Basque Derby between Bayonne and Biarritz. Seeing his son, the French international Imanol Harinordoquy, in a fist-fight with two Bayonne players, Lucien - still wearing his glasses - tore onto the pitch and attempted to punch one of them in the face. Instantly tackled to the ground by Bayonne fly-half Benjamin Boyet, the former rugby player and cattle dealer was led from the field and soon made a grovelling apology. "I broke a cable," he said (the French version of a brain fart). "It was unacceptable behaviour. If at my age I set this kind of example for young people, where will we be? I am disappointed in myself."

Plugga the Pig

Tony Lockett was a 6ft 5ins behemoth who played Aussie Rules for St Kilda and went by the nickname of 'Plugger'.

Unable to stop him by conventional means, the players of Sydney attempted to put Lockett off his game by smuggling a piglet into the ground, then - with the aid of supporters - releasing it onto the pitch. On it came, spray-painted with the No.4 and a misspelt 'Plugga', eventually requiring three minutes and two players to apprehend.


Tony Lockett, aka 'Plugger' in action for St Kilda

There was only one problem - Lockett had injured himself in training and wasn't playing.

Tapumanaia Lautasi

Samoa fan Lautasi had been on the drink for several hours when he attempted to stop South Africa's Louis Koen taking a conversion during the 2003 World Cup.

Which explains why he made such a mess of it, falling over and colliding with Koen's hip, somehow managing to knock himself unconscious in the process. To add insult to injury, the Springbok fly-half scored anyway. Lautasi later claimed he couldn't remember the incident, but that didn't stop an Australian court fining him $1,200.

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LEAGUE LOOK

It's been a while since the Hatters last played in League 2, but there's been plenty happening around the grounds, none more so than at Huish Park for the bottom-of-the-table clash between Yeovil and York.

It was the hosts who prevailed 1-0 there, with Scott Dolan's penalty helping his side leapfrog York, who sit bottom with more than half of their season played.

At the other end of the table, the top five all enjoyed success a couple of Saturdays ago. League leaders Plymouth made the trip to Ewood Park with a 2-0 victory at Carlisle, while Marc Richards netted once again to keep Northampton second thanks to a comfortable 3-0 win over Barnet.

Oxford make up the last of the automatic promotion places, with Callum O'Dowda and Kemar Roofe both netting in the 90th minute in an extraordinary 4-2 win at Notts County – a week before their FA Cup heroics over Swansea.

There were also a smattering of fixtures last weekend, too, with Gavin Hoyte netting the only goal in Barnet's victory over Bristol Rovers, and Matt Harrold's first-half strike gave Crawley their seventh home win in eight, this one against Cambridge.

Midweek also saw League 2 teams in action, not least a top-of-the-table clash between Plymouth and Northampton, in which the visitors prevailed to narrow the gap at the top of the table to goal difference.

FIXTURES

Accrington v Portsmouth
AFC Wimbledon v Mansfield
Barnet v Carlisle
Crawley v Notts County
Dagenham v Northampton
Hartlepool v Wycombe
Orient v Exeter
Morecambe v Yeovil
Plymouth v Stevenage
York v Newport
Oxford v Bristol Rovers (Sunday)

Former Hatter Jayden Stockley scored for Exeter as the only other game on Tuesday evening saw the Grecians take a 1-1 draw from Morecambe.

LEAGUE TABLE 2015/16

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Plymouth Argyle	26	16	4	6	39	22	17	52
2	Northampton Town	25	16	4	5	44	29	15	52
3	Oxford United	25	13	9	3	40	21	19	48
4	Portsmouth	25	11	11	3	44	22	22	44
5	Bristol Rovers	26	13	4	9	36	26	10	43
6	Wycombe Wanderers	24	11	7	6	32	24	8	40
7	Accrington Stanley	22	11	6	5	38	26	12	39
8	Mansfield Town	25	10	8	7	35	25	10	38
9	Leyton Orient	25	9	10	6	40	35	5	37
10	Carlisle United	23	10	7	6	42	39	3	37
11	AFC Wimbledon	25	9	9	7	35	31	4	36
12	Cambridge United	26	10	6	10	39	39	0	36
13	Crawley Town	26	10	4	12	33	44	-11	34
14	Morecambe	24	9	5	10	43	42	1	32
15	Exeter City	25	8	7	10	32	38	-6	31
16	Barnet	26	9	4	13	36	44	-8	31
18	Notts County	24	8	6	10	37	44	-7	30
19	Stevenage	26	6	9	11	35	47	-12	27
20	Newport County AFC	24	4	8	12	27	39	-12	20
21	Hartlepool United	21	6	2	13	20	35	-15	20
22	Dagenham & Redbridge	25	4	7	14	26	45	-19	19
23	Yeovil Town	25	3	8	14	23	38	-15	17
24	York City	24	3	7	14	26	47	-21	16

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	10	(1)	4	1	(2)	1	11	(3)	5	0	1	76	25
Scott Cuthbert	22	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	26	(0)	0	1	1	26	0
Nathan Doyle	6	(5)	0	2	(1)	0	8	(6)	0	2	0	45	0
Danny Green	11	(1)	5	2	(3)	1	13	(4)	6	6	0	17	6
Scott Griffiths	17	(1)	0	3	(3)	0	20	(4)	0	1	0	115	3
Luke Guttridge	6	(2)	2	3	(0)	0	9	(2)	2	1	0	74	19
Ryan Hall	4	(4)	0	0	(3)	0	4	(7)	0	1	1	17	0
Jake Howells	4	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	1	0	321	31
Elliot Justham	2	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0	0	27	0
Alex Lawless	10	(6)	1	3	(0)	0	13	(6)	1	3	0	191	22
Olly Lee	16	(1)	1	5	(0)	0	21	(1)	1	4	0	22	1
Sean Long	7	(2)	0	2	(0)	0	9	(2)	0	2	0	11	0
Craig Mackail-Smith	18	(4)	3	1	(0)	0	19	(4)	3	0	0	23	3
Jack Marriott	7	(14)	6	4	(0)	2	11	(14)	8	0	1	25	8
Paddy McCourt	7	(6)	0	1	(0)	0	8	(6)	0	3	0	14	0
Cameron McGeehan	19	(3)	7	2	(2)	2	21	(5)	9	2	0	59	15
Steve McNulty	9	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	11	(1)	0	3	0	125	2
Josh McQuoid	15	(6)	2	4	(2)	2	19	(8)	4	0	0	27	4
Mark O'Brien	2	(4)	0	3	(0)	0	5	(4)	0	1	0	9	0
Stephen O'Donnell	9	(0)	0	3	(0)	1	12	(0)	1	1	0	12	1
Magnus Okuonghae	5	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	7	(1)	0	2	0	8	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	21	(2)	4	4	(0)	0	25	(2)	4	4	0	127	9
Mark Tyler	23	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	27	(0)	0	0	0	293	0
Luke Wilkinson	20	(0)	3	4	(0)	0	24	(0)	3	3	0	72	7

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**	**L 0-2**	**9,676**	**829**	**15**	**Tyler**	**Long**	**Howells**	**Cuthbert**	**Okuonghae**	**Lee**	**Lawless ●**	**McGeehan**	**Green ◆**	**Mackail-Smith**	**Benson ▲**	**Smith**	**Griffiths**	**Marriott ▲**	**Guttridge ◆**	**McQuoid ●**	**Musonda**	**Justham**
Mon 28	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth	D 0-0	17,688	1,556	14	Tyler	O'Donnell	Howells	Cuthbert	Okuonghae	Smith	Lawless ▲	Hall	McQuoid ●	Marriott ◆	Benson	McGeehan ●	McCourt	Long ▲	Guttridge	Mackail-Smith ◆	Wilkinson	Justham
JANUARY																										
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Bristol Rovers	L 0-2	9,131	707	15	Tyler	O'Donnell	Howells ●	Cuthbert	Okuonghae	Smith	Lawless ▲	McGeehan	Hall	Mackail-Smith ▲	Benson ◆	Marriott ▲	McCourt ●	Lee	Long	McQuoid ◆	Wilkinson	Justham
Sat 16	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Cambridge United**																						
Sat 23	3.00pm	A	Mansfield Town																						
Sat 30	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Notts County**																						
FEBRUARY																									
Tue 2	**7.45pm**	**H**	**Yeovil Town**																						
Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers																						
Sat 13	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon																						
Sat 20	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Hartlepool United**																						
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	York City																						
MARCH																									
Tue 1	**7.45pm**	**H**	**Morecambe**																						
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Leyton Orient																						
Sat 12	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Crawley Town**																						
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle																						
Fri 25	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Dagenham & Redbridge**																						
Mon 28	3.00pm	A	Barnet																						
APRIL																									
Sat 2	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Stevenage**																						
Sat 9	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Accrington Stanley**																						
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Oxford United																						
Tue 19	7.45pm	A	Carlisle United																						
Sat 23	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Newport County**																						
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Northampton Town																						
MAY																									
Sat 7	**3.00pm**	**H**	**Exeter City**																						

*Lost 8-7 on penalties

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LUTON TOWN

1885-PRESENT DAY

THE FULL RECORD

PLAYED: **5293**

WON: **2111**

DRAWN: **1286**

LOST: **1896**

GOALS SCORED : **8403**

GOALS CONCEDED: **7620**

MEET THE REF

ANDREW MADLEY

West Yorkshire referee Andy makes his first visit to Kenilworth Road since last April's game between the Hatters and Burton Albion.

So far this season, Andy has taken charge of 25 games in which he has shown 78 yellow cards and three red cards.

Those three reds were shown in his first eight matches this season.

This season has also seen Andy officiate in Salford's 2-0 win over Notts County in the FA Cup and Carlisle's draw in the League Cup at Liverpool. Please give a warm welcome to all of our officials this afternoon.

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

HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH MIKE SIMMONDS

So it's a case of the king is dead, long live the king after Nathan Jones was appointed as Luton Town's new manager last week.

The former Brighton & Hove Albion first team coach was appointed as John Still's successor and then unveiled to the media just over a week ago now.

As far as first impressions go, it was a hugely impressive one from Jones during his opening press conference as he spoke intelligently, with a pretty obvious burning passion and desire to make the most of his chance at Kenilworth Road.

Although in his first managerial post, it's hard not to be impressed with Jones' extensive coaching background, from his time at Yeovil, Charlton and the Seagulls.

Despite being a proud Welshman, he's helped out with England too, assisting Under-21 boss Gareth Southgate as he prepared his side for the European Championships in the Czech Republic, and is especially highly rated within the game.

On paper it seems the ideal fit for Luton as they look to 'effectively restructure and rethink the way we do things' according to chief executive Gary Sweet, with more emphasis being paid to the technical side of things than perhaps it has been in the past.

It was also refreshing to hear Jones discuss bringing home-grown players through, which is definitely an area Hatters have struggled with in recent seasons.

Only Zane Banton has featured in a league game, and that was back in the Conference days, during the last few moments at Woking, with Luton already 4-0 to the good.

With Hatters' current crop of Under-18s potentially some of the best the club has seen in years, reaching the FA Youth Cup fourth round and winning the title this season, Jones could be the perfect man to bring them through after spending a year in charge of the Charlton Under-21s.

Talk is cheap, though, as we all know, and it's results on the pitch that Jones will be judged on, something he is no doubt well aware of.

Automatic promotion might already be gone, but there remains a chance of a Play-Off berth, especially if Luton can sort out their wretched home form, beginning with the visit of Cambridge this afternoon.

The game might not have as much edge to it as in recent times, now a certain Richard Money has vacated the United dugout, but rest assured, there will be no quarter given by either side.

Jones hasn't promised he can deliver promotion by the end of the season, but has big plans for his tenure with the Hatters.

Bringing an attacking brand of football back to the frustrated watching faithful at Kenilworth Road would go some way to getting supporters behind him immediately though.

And you never know, if results go Town's way today, then those Play-Off places might not start to look as far away as they have been.

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
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

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

1 Chris Dunn
2 Elliot Omozusi
3 Greg Taylor
4 Keith Keane
5 Mark Roberts
6 Leon Legge
7 Ryan Donaldson
8 Luke Berry
9 Jordan Slew
10 Barry Corr
11 Harrison Dunk
12 Lewis Page
13 Sam Beasant
14 Josh Coulson
15 Robbie Simpson
17 Liam Hughes
19 Danny Carr
21 Rory Gaffney
23 Ryan Ledson
24 Conor Newton
25 Darnell Furlong
35 Will Norris

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Andrew Madley
Nick Hobbis
Alan Dale
4 Christopher Pollard

Back cover photograph taken from Main Stand Block E.
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