**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £3.00 ISSUE 2**

# Luton T. v Oxford Utd.

**Saturday, August 15th, 2015 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.**

# LUTON TOWN

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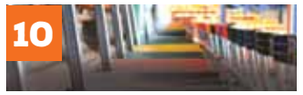
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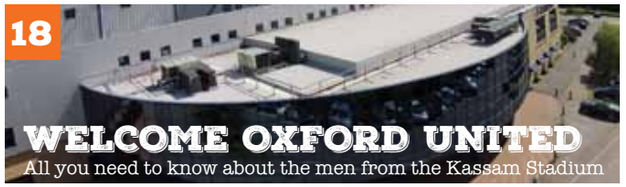
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## LUTON TOWN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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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 an Oxford United fixture from February 1988. To find out more, turn to page 22.


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

# JOHN STILL

## NOTES FROM THE MANAGER

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR THE FIRST HOME GAME OF THE LEAGUE SEASON. I'D LIKE TO EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO MICHAEL APPLETON AND HIS STAFF AND PLAYERS WHO VISIT US TODAY.

With this being the first home match of the league season it is always an exciting time. All teams across the country, regardless of where they finished in the previous campaign, have good expectations for the next 10 months.

We're no different of course and we can be proud of our achievements over the past two years, having progressed in each of the past seasons; returning back to the Football League before finishing eighth last year. We felt that we could have done a touch better last season but this campaign we are all totally committed to try and improve once more. Progress is important and everyone should be proud of the progress we have made over the past two years.

This is not just the case on the pitch, but off it too – and we are becoming stronger. We're building a foundation of younger players, something I set out to do when I came here, and moved things around slightly in terms of staff. We've brought Kevin Dearden to the club as goalkeeper coach and Pete Booker has joined permanently as our video analyst. We are a tight-knit group and a really good team – everything we're doing is to make us stronger.

Looking back to Saturday and our long, long trip to Accrington, I think it is best to describe that game as 'uninspiring'. However, it was our first game and away from home and all in all I was quite content. I was relatively pleased at half-time and felt the longer the game went on we would be able grind them down and put them under pressure in an attempt to win the game. However, unfortunately we conceded a penalty which meant we were chasing the game. The plus, of course, was that we got back in it late on to get a point. The important message though was that we should have never got ourselves in that losing position and conceding goals from restarts is something we've got to learn to stop.

A lot of people look at the budgets and facilities available to a club like Accrington and just assume and expect we should turn up and win. That just isn't the case and we all knew what kind of test they would pose us. That was further enhanced when Hull needed a penalty shootout to beat them in the League Cup on Tuesday night.

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Talking of Tuesday, I was delighted that we secured such an impressive victory, especially considering we made eight changes. It was a hard decision to pick the team but I thought it only fair to give those players not involved on Saturday a chance against a very good Bristol City side. Formation-wise we matched up to them and knew we had to be resolute and organised if we were to get a result.

### EXCEPTIONAL

Pleasingly, that's exactly what happened and our discipline enabled us to slowly get our game together and impose ourselves on the match. All three goals were of the highest quality, all finished exceptionally well by Jack Marriott and Paul Benson. The team deserves credit for playing with such tenacity, commitment, organisation and quality.

Today we host an Oxford side also fresh from cup success. They also drew their opening game last week before then pulling off an excellent result against Brentford. We know from experience what a good side Brentford are having played them already so we're sure to expect a difficult match today. However…we've got something Oxford won't have and that's 9,000 Luton supporters behind our team.

So please get behind us this afternoon as we aim to replicate the performance of Tuesday night today. Enjoy the game.

# From the BOARDROOM

## WITH CHAIRMAN **NICK OWEN**

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR OUR FIRST HOME LEAGUE GAME OF THE SEASON – ALWAYS A SPECIAL OCCASION. AND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS FROM OXFORD UNITED, WHO, LIKE US, STARTED OFF WITH A 1-1 DRAW A WEEK AGO TODAY.

Then came Tuesday! What a night for us both, as we knocked Championship sides out of the Capital One Cup.

Oxford absolutely thrashed Brentford 4-0 at Griffin Park, while we played some scintillating stuff to beat Bristol City 3-1 here at the Kenny.

And, of course, we both have history in the League Cup. Oxford won it back in 1986, when it was called the Milk Cup, and we beat them in the semi-finals on the way to lifting the then branded Littlewoods Cup two years later. I remember those semis so well – particularly a stunning first leg goal from Brian Stein on a frosty night at the old Manor Ground.

It came after some good interplay between Brian and Mick Harford. Brian's clinical finish hit the back stanchion so hard it came straight back out, so there was a moment or two before we realised we'd scored!

I also recall an 11-goal thriller in the First Division that same season, when we beat Oxford 7-4 here at Kenilworth Road. A hat-trick for Brian's brother Mark that day, two for big Mick and a top flight crowd that just crept over 8,000.

We've both been through some extremely testing times since, including lengthy spells in the Conference, as you know. Who'd have imagined it during those glory days of the eighties?

### WINNER

Just one more reminiscence! Who could forget that Luton-Oxford thriller here in February 2010 when Keith Keane scored our late, late winner direct from a corner and promptly got sent off!

The start of a new season is always a time of great optimism and I really think we have good cause to think in terms of automatic promotion this time. We had a bitterly disappointing finish last season for a number of reasons, but the squad we have now is unarguably stronger and better equipped for the challenge.

John Still always says it takes eight to 10 games for things to bed down, but there were some good signs spasmodically at Accrington Stanley on Saturday and some flashes of brilliance on Tuesday. Once we get into our stride, who knows how good we can get.

### PEDIGREE

I'd like to welcome all our new signings, 11 of them no less! They all have a tremendous pedigree. Also a special welcome to our new club secretary Mark Dennis. He's joined us from Cardiff City, but he's a Luton lad originally and thoroughly enjoying being back on home turf. He takes over from Kevan Platt who has moved up to a higher role as senior operations manager.

While we're talking about backroom staff, a special mention for the team in our ticket office. They work tirelessly to make sure everyone is catered for and how brilliant it is that we have sold 5,740 season tickets this time around, including a record number of diamond holders.

A big thank you to all of the supporters who travelled to Accrington last Saturday

And while we're on the subject, I must say thanks to all the fans who managed to get tickets for last Saturday and made it all the way to Accrington. What a mission it is on the M6, isn't it?There is always a problem somewhere – this time it was around Stoke on Trent – and I know a few coaches were stranded for so long on the motorway that they missed the start of the match. It took me more than three hours just to make the trip from the Midlands, a mere 120 miles, and I only arrived just in time.

### ENJOY

At least there was the cricket to enjoy on the journey and that fabulous finish to the Fourth Test which gave us back the Ashes. I bumped into the England captain Alastair Cook the other day and the first thing he said to me before we even touched on cricket was, "Are WE going to go up this time?"

As I am sure you know, he's been spotted occasionally at Kenilworth Road…the interest started with his dad…and he was very keen to hear all about the new signings.

Well, I hope he manages to get along to a few matches this season and savour what I am sure will be a belting campaign. As ever, I can assure you we are hell bent on winning promotion and the huge amount of business we have done in the summer illustrates that.

We are a very ambitious club, both on and off the field, and I am confident you will be impressed with what you see and hear in the coming months. Incidentally, it is our 130th anniversary this season and we are planning a few events along the way to mark the fact.

Meanwhile today will be the first chance for the bulk of our supporters to see the name of our new sponsors Barnfield College on our shirts. We are delighted to welcome them on board - we are confident that our relationship will be excellent for both sides and indeed for the community as a whole.

We are expecting a near full house today, please give it your best shout and back the players a 100 per cent. They thrive on the magnificent Hatters support, home and away, and it will be a special moment for the new boys this afternoon when they hear the full Kenilworth Road roar for the first time. It always makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck.

Enjoy the game, bye for now.

Nick Owen

Did you know? England test cricket captain Alistair Cook came to watch our match with Shrewsbury last January

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# MACCA

## THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING...

On behalf of all the lads I'd like to welcome all of you back to Kenilworth Road for our first home league match of the new season.

We kicked-off the campaign with a hard-earned point at Accrington last week and all things considered it was a decent draw from what I knew was going to be a tough game. Opening games of the season tend to be 100 miles per hour affairs and games against Accrington are always difficult anyway.

There was an expectation on us to get the season off to a winning start but the most important thing was that we were able to come home with a point, and that enabled us something to build on going into Tuesday's game with Bristol City.

And what a performance and result it was against Championship opposition. They fielded their strongest team – one which had walked away with the League 1 title last season, so the context of our victory cannot be underestimated.

Bristol enjoyed more of the ball on the night but we remained patient and disciplined and when our chances came along we took them, and big pats on the back go to Jack for his brace and for Benno for his goal too.

The fact we made eight changes from the side that played Accrington is a testament to the strength in depth we are blessed with in the squad this season.

That wasn't the case last year and Tuesday's result really does give the gaffer a real selection headache. That's what we need though, and competition for places is already hotting up after just one week of the season.

We also played a different formation, reverting to a 3-5-2. Now that gives the gaffer even more food for thought. Does he change the formation today? Which team does he pick this afternoon? These are the kinds of decisions managers love to make and it really does bode well for our chances between now and the end of the season.

### COMFORTABLE

Personally I felt playing in the 3-5-2 very comfortable and you find, like anything, that the more you do things a certain way the better you'll get. Only the gaffer knows what lies ahead.

Other positives to take from Tuesday night were the performances of the young players. If you take myself, Benno and Tyles out of the team it was a very young-looking one. The likes of Jack, Wilko, Pelly and Cameron are all in their early 20s and their displays against a side like Bristol City is very encouraging for the future of this football club.

Today we take on an Oxford side tipped to do well this season. Like us they have added a number of good players over the summer. And, also like us, they come into the game off the back of a good win in the cup in midweek. They will be confident but so we will and it has all the makings of hugely entertaining game – although I'm sure it will be a much tighter affair than both clubs' recent cup ties.

I'm told there's a big crowd expected for this afternoon's game and I'm looking forward to stepping out to a near Kenilworth Road sell-out. It will be an eye-opener for the new lads I'm sure. Your support was probably one of the reasons a lot of them signed for us in the summer so please give them all a warm welcome.

We'll hope to use your noise to our advantage this afternoon in our quest for three points so please get behind us.

# ANDY KING 1956-2015

Everyone at Luton Town Football Club were saddened to hear the news of the passing of former Hatters midfielder Andy King aged 58 over the close season.

Andy was born in Luton, and after completing his apprenticeship with the Hatters, he turned professional in 1974. He remained with the club for two years as a player, making 33 appearances and scoring nine times for the Hatters.

Andy then moved on to Everton in 1976, where he quickly established himself as a favourite with the Goodison Park crowd. Andy made an impressive 151 appearances for the Toffees, scoring 38 goals including a spectacular effort in the Merseyside derby in 1978, helping to seal Everton's first win over arch rivals Liverpool in seven years. It was during this time that Andy was also awarded two caps playing for the England Under-21s.

Andy then went on to play for, among others, QPR, West Brom and Wolves as well a second spell with Everton and also with the Hatters from 1985-86. His playing career spanned 14 years amassing 80 goals and 310 league appearances.

He remained in professional football as a manager for Waterford, Mansfield, Swindon, Grays Athletic and a spell as caretaker manager for Northampton Town.

At Kenilworth Road, Andy will also be remembered fondly as the commercial manager during the early 1990s. Current staff members who worked with Andy remember him as a hardworking, kind person who was always excellent company. Many board members saw Andy as a friend and have been touched deeply by this loss.

Former team-mates, including many former Town players, joined friends and family at Andy's funeral service in Liverpool.

This afternoon we would like you to join us in remembering Andy's life and career with a minute's applause shortly before kick-off.

RIP Andy





## GOLDEN GAMBLE

Town fan Andrew McPhee went home even happier on Tuesday night after he won £395 in our Golden Gamble draw.

Andrew's ticket, number 00352, was plucked out of the barrel at half-time to give him a tidy prize in our first draw of the season.

Look out for our next draw this afternoon when the prize could top four figures. Remember tickets cost just £1 with half of the proceeds making up the pay-out. Keep your eyes peeled for our sellers in and around the ground.

## LOAN MOVE FOR MARK

Town defender Mark Onyemah has completed his youth loan to National League South side Dartford.

Onyemah, who has yet to feature for the Hatters since signing from Thurrock last summer, will remain at Princes Park for an initial month.

The left-back has been granted permission to play for the Darts in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy.

Furthermore, first year professional Craig King has joined Ryman League Met Police on loan for the rest of the season.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Big happy birthday shout out to Town fan Benjamin Abbott, who was 14 on 13th August. Lots of love from Mum, Dad, Joshua and friends – and of course from us all here at Kenilworth Road.

## CELEBRATE THE NEW SEASON WITH SOLYD

Everyone's invited to the SoLYD summer BBQ this evening at the Bricklayers Arms in Luton after today's game.

Come and have a pint or two of SoLYD's very own fundraising ale, SoLYD Gold, enjoy the barbecue and discuss the Hatters' start to the season with your fellow supporters.

Since its inception SoLYD has raised over £90,000 for the Hatters' Youth Development Department. This is all thanks to the generosity of fans like you. As always, your continued support is much appreciated.

Join SoLYD and special guests from Luton Town at the Brickies to support the future of your club! For more information visit www.solyd.co.uk.

## TOM TRIBUTE TODAY

Some of you may have heard the sad news recently about the passing of devoted Town fan Tom Close aged just 20 years old.

Tom was a passionate Hatters supporter, and will be missed by many at Kenilworth Road.

During today's game, Tom's family and close friends, who include members of staff here at the club, will be remembering him with a minute's applause during the 20th minute of the match today. Please feel free to join in with the applause if you wish. A flag in memory of Tom will also be on display which was paid through donations from friends, family and fellow supporters.

We'd like to wish our sincere condolences to Tom's nearest and dearest. Rest in peace, Tom.

## NEW SEASON, NEW PROGRAMME

We hope you like our new-look programme for the forthcoming season, the covers of which take inspiration from covers of old issues in the past as we celebrate our 130th anniversary this year.

Remember, if you have any requests, photographs, news stories, holiday snaps or birthday dedications – send them over to us by emailing info@lutontown.co.uk.

Last season's issue of Talk of the Town came fourth overall in the League 2 Programme of the Year awards, behind Oxford, Shrewsbury and Bury.

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

# UP NEXT

**THERE'S NO REST FOR THE WICKED AS THE TOWN ARE BACK IN ACTION AT KENILWORTH ROAD ON TUESDAY NIGHT WHEN JOHN STILL'S SIDE HOST NEWLY-PROMOTED BRISTOL ROVERS IN SKY BET LEAGUE 2**

**WHO?** Bristol Rovers, aka the Gas, aka the Pirates, from Bristol, make the journey across the M4 to make their first visit to Kenilworth Road since September 2007. Last season saw Rovers make an instant return to the Football League having suffered relegation to the Conference at the end of the 2013/14 campaign. They won the Conference Play-Off final on penalties against Grimsby at Wembley. Until their relegation, the Pirates had been a member of the Football League since 1920.

**IN CHARGE.** Darrell Clarke masterminded Rovers' return to the League at the first time of asking to complete a fairytale turnaround for the Pirates boss. The 37-year-old took over at the Memorial Stadium in March 2014 and couldn't stop Rovers from sliding in to the Conference. After an indifferent start to last season, the former Mansfield, Salisbury and Hartlepool man galvanised his team to reach and then win the Conference Play-Offs in his first full season in charge.

**THIS SEASON.** After such a strong end to last season and the success that came with it, it's understandable that expectations at the Memorial Stadium are high once again now that Rovers are back in the Football League. However, the Pirates have begun their campaign with two defeats; 1-0 at home to Northampton in League 2 last weekend before a 2-1 reverse against Championship side Birmingham in the Capital One Cup on Tuesday night. This afternoon they travel to Yeovil.

**HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?** The Town and Rovers have been regular adversaries down the years, with Tuesday's meeting number 121. The Hatters shade the overall head-to-head record 46-45. 29 games have ended in draws. The most famous Hatters win is, of course, the 12-0 victory in 1936, but Rovers' biggest win over the Town was a 5-0 triumph in 1920. The last time the two sides met came on Boxing Day 2007 when the Hatters earned a 1-1 draw at the Memorial Stadium despite having three men sent-off. Rovers won on their last trip here 2-1 with Matthew Spring scoring a penalty that needed taking three times.

**FAMILIAR FACE.** Hatters academy graduate Lee Mansell was a driving force behind Rovers' return to the Football League last season. He scored the Pirates' decisive penalty in the Play-Off win over Grimsby. Mansell, now 32, began his Town career with a bang, scoring a minute into his debut in an FA Cup replay against QPR in 2001. However the Hatters' were denied a fourth round tie against Arsenal as Rangers levelled in injury time before scoring a winner in extra-time. In total Mansell scored 10 goals in 62 matches for the Town.

**TICKETS.** Fancying coming the game? Well, tickets for the match against Bristol Rovers are now on sale at the ticket office at category C prices.

## BRISTOL ROVERS FACTFILE

Formed: 1883
Nicknames: The Pirates
Last season: Conference Play-Off winners
Follow them on Twitter: @Official_BRFC
Colours: Blue and white quarters
Ground: Memorial Stadium
Manager: Darrell Clarke

To get clued up on Bristol Rovers before Tuesday visit www.bristolrovers.co.uk





# 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 |

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## BRISTOL ROVERS

### Tuesday 18th August 2015, 7.45pm

Tickets for this match are now available from the ticket office and online at category C match prices. £18 adults, £13 young adults and seniors, £10 golden seniors, £6 youths, £3 accompanied youth.

A

## YEOVIL TOWN

### Saturday 22nd August 2015, 3pm

We have received an allocation of 505 seats and an initial allocation of 500 terrace tickets for this match. Tickets are on sale now to diamond and season ticket holders until kick-off on today.

Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale from the ticket office or online after today's game. Tickets will then be available via phone or in person or online from Monday 17th August until 2pm on Friday 21st August. Subject to availability, tickets will be available on the day at Huish Park.

**Pre-match day prices:** Seats in the Screwfix Community Stand: £20 adults, £16 seniors over 65 and ambulant disabled/wheelchair, £14 young persons 16-21, £8 under 16s.

Copse Road Terrace: £16 adults, £14 seniors over 65, £12 young persons 16-21, £7 under 16s.

If matchday tickets are available they increase by £2 on the day. Duplicate tickets will not be issued for the Copse Road Terrace.

H

## PORTSMOUTH

### Saturday 29th August 2015, 3pm

Tickets for this match are now available from the ticket office and online at category A match prices. £22 adults, £17 young adults and seniors, £14 golden seniors, £10 youths, £7 accompanied youth.

A

## CAMBRIDGE UNITED

### Saturday 5th September 2015, 3pm

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters. We have been allocated 1,433 seats in the South Stand. Tickets are now on sale to diamond season ticket holders at one ticket per person until close of play on Monday 16th August.

Tickets will be on sale to season ticket holders at one per person from Tuesday 17th August until close of business on Saturday 22nd August.

Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale online or in person or via phone on 01582 416976 from Monday 24th August and remain on sale until 2pm on 4th September, subject to availability. **Prices:** £20 adults, £15 over-62s, students with ID and 17-21-year-olds, £10 under-16s. Wheelchair disabled seats should be purchased from Cambridge on 01223 566500. Ambulant disabled tickets will be sold at relevant price with a carer free of charge from the Luton Town ticket office.

# COMMERCIAL TALK...

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER **DAVID HOSKINS**

## MATCH SPONSOR

### ADAM BUCKINGHAM

Today's match sponsorship was arranged as a surprise 30th birthday present for life-long Luton fan Adam 'Goose' Buckingham.

Adam first started watching Luton in the early 1990s with his grandfather, also a massive Hatter, when his favourite player was John Hartson.

He can't get down to Kenilworth Road too often, as his Saturdays are usually taken up with playing for and managing Cambridgeshire side Fenstanton FC, so he will be looking forward to watching the new signings in action today.

We hope you have a wonderful afternoon with us day Adam.

## MATCHBALL SPONSOR

### CHRIS CLARIDGE

Our matchball sponsor today is another surprise – this time for ardent Hatters supporter Chris Claridge.

A proud father and grandfather Chris, or 'Curly' to his friends, is a born and bred Lutonian and Hatter. Aged just five, Chris first stood in the Oak Road in 1960 with his black and white rattle and scarf, watching the Hatters beat West Ham 3-1. From then he was hooked.

As well as travelling the globe following England, Chris has travelled the length and breadth of this country following his true love Luton Town, and can still be seen at nearly every game with his son Matthew.

A Top Hatter. Enjoy your afternoon with us today Chris.

## MASCOTS

### FIONA, SAMMY & ZAC

Three lucky, Hatters-mad mascots have the distinction of being our first mascots of the new season this afternoon.

First up on our roll call is 10-year-old Fiona Jackson. Fiona doesn't live a million miles from our opponents, Oxford, as she lives in Wantage. But she's very much a Luton supporter and her favourite player is defender Scott Griffiths.

Second on our list is Sammy Jones. Sammy, from Flitwick, is also 10 and her favourite Hatter is goalkeeper Mark Tyler.

Last, but by no means least is eight-year-old Zac Lowe. Zac lives in Luton and he has two favourite players: goalkeeper Elliot Justham and new striker Craig Mackail-Smith.

All three will get to warm-up on the pitch before the game and then lead the team out onto the pitch before kick-off. We hope you all have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with us!

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# BARNFIELD COLLEGE

## A WORD FROM OUR NEW SPONSORS

**Barnfield College are excited to be the new shirt sponsor for the Hatters' 2015/16 campaign.**

Having recently unveiled our new logo and re-brand, it will feature on the front of all home, away and third kits, including replica kits from the beginning of the season.

Barnfield College have two sites within Luton have a long history of providing vocational courses, further education, adult education and apprenticeships to the local community. The curriculum base for the 2015/16 academic year is robust and offers a varied range of courses from business and retail and accountancy, to art and design, construction to sports and fitness.

The intention is to offer an excellent student experience to support their individual requirements at their own pace. Additional extra-curricular activities will be encouraged in addition to their study programme and we are expecting a huge demand in football to be on the agenda!

We are undergoing a transformation of quality-led curriculum to meet the demands of local companies to provide a skilled workforce. We expect every student to progress into employment, Higher Education or develop entrepreneurial flair. The college is shaping up well and we are building a team from the UK's outperforming establishments to support the direction and strategy outlined by Tim Eyton-Jones Principal and CEO.

We have a three-year college development plan with a focus on reclaiming the reputation and engaging locally with the immediate community, fast becoming once again a College embedded within our community.

The mission of Barnfield College will realise outstanding and innovative 2015/16 academic year programmes of study.

We recognise the strength of the Hatters' team this season which totally underpins the direction for the students, staff and management here at the two campuses.

2015/16 academic year course enrolment days run from 20th – 28th August 2015, so please see the Barnfield website or Facebook page for exact details and times.

Our next planned open day is Saturday 17th October 2015, (don't worry the team are playing Crawley away that day, so for those that are not travelling through London that day, come and visit us here at New Bedford Road or Enterprise Way campus?!).

We will be presenting the portfolio of enhanced, skilled-based courses for the, dare we say it, 2016/17 academic year.

Looking at the future the predictions we hope the club will have been promoted up a league and Barnfield will be once again be the college we remember as the local institution, and the 'must go to' local further education provider.

Working with Luton Town will help us raise the profile of the College via the mutual collaboration and will offer huge benefits to the College, and moreover Barnfield students in many other ways.

To find out more about Barnfield College visit www.barnfield.ac.uk

# Welcome to Kenilworth Road OXFORD UNITED

## TEAM PROFILE OXFORD UNITED

Nickname: U's, Yellows,

Ground: Kassam Stadium

Last season: League 2 13th

Manager: Michael Appleton

Last match:
Brentford (a) W 4-0

## HATTERS v YELLOWS

Luton wins 16
Draws 8
Oxford United wins 12

## LAST MEETING

Oxford United 1-1 Luton Town
7th February 2015

We wish a warm welcome to everybody associated with Oxford United to Kenilworth Road this afternoon and congratulate them on an impressive result in midweek against Brentford in the Capital One Cup.

United fans in the Oak Road end today will be anticipating another exciting 90 minutes just four days after their 4-0 win over the Bees at Griffin Park.

Manager Michael Appleton is now in his second season in charge at the Kassam Stadium and hopes are high in Oxford that United can build on their 13th-place finish last season and win promotion to League 1.

Appleton has certainly improved his squad over the summer months, giving the U's faithful hope of a successful campaign. Three signings have stood out in particular: Kemar Roofe, Liam Sercombe and Ryan Taylor.

Roofe is the man United fans are all talking about. The winger scored six goals in a loan spell at the back end of last season before signing permanently from West Brom this summer. Sercombe was one of the stand-out performers in League 2 last term while with Exeter – and we seem to remember him having a good game here in the Grecians' 3-2 win on Easter Monday. Taylor is a proven goalscorer at this level and he scored against the Hatters for Portsmouth last March.

### EXPERIENCE

When you add the experience of Johnny Mullins and Jack Wright in defence it is little wonder why the U's are so fancied to do well over the next 10 months.

United opened their League 2 campaign with a 1-1 draw against Crawley at the Kassam Stadium last weekend but their League Cup win at Brentford will seriously heighten their expectations this afternoon.

However, experienced United fans will be aware that their recent record at Kenilworth Road isn't the greatest, with just one victory in their last 10 visits. Oxford were last victorious on Bedfordshire soil in a League Cup in 1998, while you have to go back to a top-flight fixture in 1987 for the last time the Yellows left Kenilworth Road with three points in a league fixture.

Like the Hatters, Oxford are also League Cup winners who faced relegation to the Conference – a division they left via the Play-Offs in 2009/10, which ended five seasons of exile from the Football League.





# Meet the VISITORS

OUR GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM THE KASSAM STADIUM

## THE BOSS

### MICHAEL APPLETON

Former Manchester United, Preston and West Brom midfielder who began his career as a boss with Portsmouth. After brief spells in charge at Blackpool and Blackburn he took over the hotseat at the Kassam Stadium last summer.

## BETWEEN THE STICKS

### SAM SLOCOMBE

Former Lincoln and Scunthorpe stopper Sam has played most of his football in the Championship and League 1 and joined United this summer.

## IN DEFENCE

### JAKE WRIGHT

Club captain and centre-half Jake began his career at Bradford before a switch to Halifax. After moves to Crawley and Brighton he joined the U's in 2010, initially on loan.

### JOE SKARZ

Former Huddersfield full-back Joe signed for United from Bury in January this year. He has previously won promotion twice while on the books at Rotherham.

### JOHNNY MULLINS

Another former promotion-winning Rotherham defender, Johnny joined the U's in July 2013. He began his career at Reading and has also played for Mansfield and Stockport.

### CHEYENNE DUNKLEY

Crewe academy graduate Chey shot to prominence with Kidderminster who he played over 100 times for. He joined the U's on loan in November last year before moving permanently in the summer.

### GEORGE BALDOCK

Full-back who arrived on a season-long loan from MK Dons. Has previously spent time out on loan at Northampton, Tamworth and in Iceland. Played 50 times for the Dons.

## THE MEN IN THE MIDDLE

### LIAM SERCOMBE

Summer arrival Liam joined from Exeter after an excellent season at St James Park. Came through the Grecians' youth ranks and helped them win promotion from League 1 in 2009.

### DANNY ROSE

Former Manchester United youth team captain who returned to the Kassam for a second spell in June 2013. Previously on the books at Fleetwood, Newport and Aldershot.

### MICHAEL COLLINS

Republic of Ireland under-21 international Michael was Appleton's first signing. He joined from Scunthorpe in July 2014. Made his name at Huddersfield where he made almost 200 appearances.

### CALLUM O'DOWDA

Oxford-born, highly-rated academy graduate Callum made his United debut in August 2013. Last season the midfielder was named the Yellows' young player of the season.

### KEMAR ROOFE

Attacking midfielder Kemar joined the U's permanently this summer after impressing at the tail end of last season on loan from West Brom. Able to play on the wing or in attack.

## UP FRONT

### ALEX MACDONALD

Scotland under-21 international Alex signed for United in February. Originally at Burnley, he gained experience with loans at Falkirk, Inverness and Plymouth.

### DANNY HYLTON

Striker who finished the Yellows' top goalscorer with 16 goals in his first season at the Kassam Stadium. Began his career at Aldershot before he joined Rotherham.

### PATRICK HOBAN

Irish striker who signed at the Kassam Stadium from Dundalk in November last year having previously spent time with Bristol City and Clevedon Town.

### RYAN TAYLOR

Centre-forward Ryan arrived at United this summer having netted 10 times last season for Portsmouth. Began his career with hometown club Rotherham.

Kemar Roofe scored from 40 yards in Oxford's win at Brentford on Tuesday

# From the OAK ROAD

It's been five years since Oxford escaped the Conference and after four seasons of consolidation in League 2, hopes are high at the Kassam Stadium for a return to the third tier. Ardent United follower **Andrew Brockbank** gives us the lowdown.

## THE SEASON AHEAD...

You're one of the bookies' pre-season favourites to win promotion? Why do you think that is? What are your own thoughts about the campaign ahead?

We have been amongst the favourites every year since returning from our four seasons in non- league, so I don't take much notice of the bookies. I believe it goes hand in hand with being one of the better supported clubs in League 2. Compared to 12 months ago we have better quality players all over the pitch. As a club we appear to be better prepared on and off the field more than I've ever known us to be. So as always supporter expectation is high!

That said, Oxford never do seem to do things straight forward so I'd expect a roller coaster of a season, though running away with it would be amazing!

Kemar Roofe is one of your biggest signings of the summer – what's all the fuss about? Why is he so talked about?

Kemar spent the last 16 games of 2014/15 playing for us which coincides with when last season took shape. He notched six goals in the last seven games most of which would have been shown on TV a 100 times if they were in the Premier League! This made him an instant hero with supporters and thankfully he had impressed management enough to earn a contract.

What we saw in his loan spell is he plays without fear, takes players on, has good pace and will shoot from anywhere. At 22 I expect he will only improve. Giving Kemar a three-year deal is a great bit of business by the club as I expect him to play at a higher level, but hopefully that will be with us.

We doubt that it's not just Kemar that can do the damage, though. Tell us about the rest of the squad. Who else have you been impressed with during pre-season?

We have not seen much of new keeper Sam Slocombe but he appears to be a good signing. After full backs Joe Skarz and George Baldock joined in January and February respectively things tightened up at the back. Liam Sercombe in midfield has a lot of experience for a 25-year-old playing over 240 times for Exeter City, so we have high hopes there. But Danny Hylton is a work horse and he'll still be chasing down four minutes into injury time giving 100%. He was top scorer last season with 16 goals and already of the mark this season.

Michael Appleton has now had a year in charge. What do you make of him and is he the man to guide Oxford into League 1?

I believe Michael had a season long pre=season in 2014/15. This is only because he was bought in so close to the start of last season when the club changed ownership. He had very little time to assemble a squad and what he inherited had finished 2013/14 very poorly. It took him until February to get who he wanted, and that's when our season changed and our last 15 games saw us win seven and lose just twice.

I like how he generally sets up the team to play good passing football, keep possession and be patient in breaking teams down. That said I also feel that last season there were times we needed to change tactics and have a target man up front, we now have this with Ryan Taylor who we signed from Portsmouth.

Michael has shown a lot of faith in our youngsters, we have no fewer than 11 home-grown players in the squad and most got an opportunity to play last season. It's almost the only way to survive nowadays as a League 2 club with little funds for transfers.

And yes, I do think Michael will take us up to League 1. He is a young manager with a lot to prove but he is very determined and hungry for success.

## SEASONS PAST...

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

It's simple really I was born in Oxfordshire so I support my local team. My biggest hate is when someone asks me who my Premier League team is!

I started going up the Manor Ground in the mid-1980s just a handful of times a season with school friends so I had a little taste of our best years. Then at 16, when I started work, I bought a season ticket. It was 1988/89 believing that good times would return and I have bought one every season since, still waiting for the good times to return 28 years later!

I've watched Oxford at around 115 stadiums in competitive matches, I've seen two promotions, four relegations, two Play-Offs and a whole load of just missing out on both promotion and relegation. But I've met some great people who have become lifelong friends.

The club won the League Cup in 1986. What are your memories of this game? Is this up there in your all-time favourite Oxford match?

I was 14-years-old and went on a coach with my mate and his mum. The A40 out of Oxford came to a grinding halt and there were yellow and blue flags and scarfs out all the cars and buses. Inside the stadium was the same a sea of yellow and blue at one end. It was my first experience of a Wembley final, the atmosphere was electric and there were many crowd surges on a huge terrace, no one got hurt and something I really miss.

QPR never really turned up that day and we took full advantage. The 3-0 scoreline speaking for itself. I've have hung on to the most memorable day in Oxford's history by attending each of the anniversary dinners 10, 20, 25 and looking forward to next year's 30 year dinner!

Give us your all-time Oxford United XI

I have only included players from my time as a supporter:

Alan Judge
Les Robinson
Matt Elliott
Malcolm Shotton
John Trewick
Jim Magilton
Ray Houghton
Joey Beauchamp
Paul Simpson
John Aldridge
Paul Moody

## LUTON AND OXFORD

Both clubs have been involved in some real humdingers over the course of history. High-scoring games in the top flight, last-gasp injury-time turnarounds and League Cup semi-finals...What are your best and worst memories of Oxford v Luton clashes?

My best memory is in 2009 at home when James Constable misses a penalty in front of Luton fans only to then scores 45 seconds later from open play. Thank you to the Luton fan who posted this on You Tube, it's priceless.

The worst memory? Scoring four at Kenilworth Road 87/88 and still losing.

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?

Today will no doubt be like recent encounters - a tight affair with not much between the two teams. You'd expect Luton to edge it at home but I think you'll let Oxford play a bit and we could nick it 1-0.

Kenilworth Road reminds me a bit of the Manor, except you have greenhouses down one side of the pitch. It's an old fashioned place with character and you make it an intimidating place to come for visiting fans and players. As for the seats - we'll just stand up!

## QUICKFIRE

Terrace or Seats? Terrace

Bristol City or Swindon? Neither

Steve Foster or James Constable? Constable

The Manor Ground or the Kassam? Manor

Guess your player of the season Roofe

Milk Cup 86 or Conference Play-Off final 10? Milk Cup

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

Paul Moody - for his rocket penalties

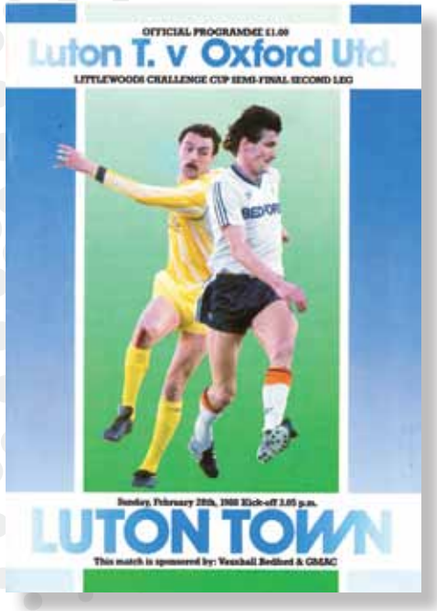
Most treasured Oxford piece of memorabilia? 1986 Milk Cup final team sheet signed by the whole squad and staff. I bought it in the Wembley auction, a piece of unique memorabilia.

# COVER STORY

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

## LUTON TOWN 2 OXFORD UNITED 0

### LITTLEWOODS CUP SEMI-FINAL FEBRUARY 28TH 1988.




In 1987/88 the Hatters progressed further in the League (Littlewoods) Cup than ever before and before they knew it Wembley loomed large on the horizon.

After seeing off Wigan, Coventry, Ipswich and Bradford City all that stood between them and the Twin Towers was Oxford who had won the trophy two years before.

Both the Town and Oxford were then top flight sides but we held the upper hand in League clashes that season, winning 5-2 at the Manor Ground and 7-4 in a crazy game at Kenilworth Road in the return.

The semi-final first leg took place at Oxford on 10th February where the Manor pitch, which had been covered with snow only hours before kick-off, had seen a quick thaw and was now a slippery mudbath.

This seemed to suit the Town who were first to go close when Mick Harford brought a flying save from ex-Hatter Alan Judge in the Oxford goal. Luton keeper Les Sealey was forced to tip over a 30-yard effort from Trevor Hebberd while at the other end Harford appeared to be tripped by Tommy Caton but referee Keith Styles would have none of it.

The breakthrough came five minutes before the interval when Harford and Brian Stein exchanged passes before the latter drilled a left foot shot past Judge from 20 yards.

Only 33 seconds after the interval Oxford were level when Judges's long clearance enabled Dean Saunders to beat Mal Donaghy for speed before falling over. The referee, still 40 yards behind play, pointed to the spot with Saunders sending Sealey the wrong way with his kick to keep up his record of scoring in every round.

The Town players were incensed when Saunders and Donaghy were involved in another tussle with the result that a second penalty was awarded. This time Sealey listened to the advice of Danny Wilson, who had played with Saunders at Brighton, and went the right way to save the kick.

The drama was not yet over as Saunders went over for a third time in the area, which looked the most blatant penalty of the lot but the referee waved play on.

Mick Harford goes airborne against Oxford's John Dreyer

Afterwards, Saunders expressed surprise that the referee had awarded the first penalty from so far away and admitted that the second was no more than a little bump.

Although the Town had beaten United twice in the League during that season the second leg could not be looked on as a foregone conclusion. United quite liked playing on the Town's artificial surface and had won on it twice previously.

The second leg was played on a Sunday afternoon to accommodate a live TV audience.

Even seasoned professionals like skipper Steve Foster were tense before the start as the feeling around the ground was that the Town had done the difficult job at Oxford. All Foster could do was trot out the old cliché about it being only half-time.

On the pitch the Luton players were heartened to see creative midfield player Trevor Hebberd lining up as a sweeper for Oxford. Whatever the formation the Town stuck to their game plan and attacked from the start and by the interval were two goals up and strolling.

Firstly, Brian Stein took advantage of a clever cross from Rob Johnson to head the ball powerfully into the top corner of the net and then, after Caton was judged to have fouled Harford, Ashley Grimes curled a sweet left foot free-kick over the wall for number two.

The Hatters easily contained Oxford in the second half with Sealey having only one save to make while at the other end both Wilson and Stein went close to adding to the tally.

The Hatters were going to Wembley and I think we all know what happened next!

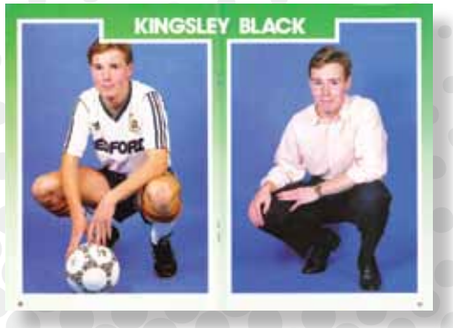
# THE PROGRAMME

It was a busy, and expensive, time being a Luton supporter in February 1988.

In the 18 days between the Littlewoods Cup semi-final first and second legs, the Town had lost at Arsenal in the League, won at Everton in the Simod Cup and had beaten QPR, after a replay, in the FA Cup.

As such, the programme was full of ticketing arrangements for the forthcoming Simod Cup clash with Stoke and the FA Cup quarter-final tie against Portsmouth. There was no mention of Wembley in the Littlewoods Cup as that would have been tempting fate!

On top of all these games there had been a flurry of international fixtures and Mick Harford talked of his pride in winning his first England cap when appearing for his country against Israel in Tel Aviv in a 0-0 draw. His long awaited call-up came on his 29th birthday.




Appearing for Northern Ireland in Greece were Danny Wilson and Mal Donaghy, who were delayed 24 hours in Athens due to an industrial dispute. Wilson talks of the boredom of being holed up in a hotel and being unable to find out the result of the Town's Simod Cup game at Everton.

Just breaking into the Hatters side was Luton-born Kingsley Black, and he mentions that he stood on the terraces when the Town won promotion to Division One (now the Premier League) in 1981/82 and never dreamed that he would one day be pulling on the famous shirt.

# DEFINING MOMENTS

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

## 1962 ELECTED TO FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Southern League champions Oxford United were elected to the Football League on 2nd June 1962. The previous day, the Associate Members had met to discuss the vacancy left by Accrington Stanley who folded three months earlier. This brought a recommendation for Fourth Division membership for Oxford United and the re-election candidates – Chester, Doncaster Rovers and Hartlepools United. The Football League AGM saw Oxford United emerge as clear winners of the non-League clubs with 39 votes, the biggest-winning margin by a newcomer. Oxford United were destined to lose 3-2 at Barrow in their first Fourth Division match on 18th August 1962.

## 1964 FA CUP GIANTKILLERS

Fourth Division strugglers Oxford United gained a shock 3-1 FA Cup fifth round victory over First Division high-fliers Blackburn Rovers in front of a then record 21,700 crowd at the Manor Ground on 15th February 1964. Arthur Turner's side took the lead on 13 minutes when Tony Jones hammered the ball home. The pressure on Rovers' goal continued and Jones scored again from close range early in the second-half. Rovers reduced the deficit on 68 minutes when Mike Ferguson volleyed high into the net and Oxford United defended gallantly as the visitors pressed hard for an equaliser. Bill Calder sealed a memorable win with a goal in the closing stages.

## 1968 OXFORD GET TOP MARKS

Oxford United went top of the Third Division for the first time with an emphatic 4-0 win over Stockport County at Edgeley Park on 26th April 1968. Colin Clarke headed home Graham Atkinson's 13th minute free-kick and Arthur Turner's side doubled their lead on 34 minutes when Mickey Bullock exchanged passes with Rodney Smithson before scoring from a narrow angle. Bullock netted again with a drive in the 52nd minute, then Colin Harrington shot in off the post for Oxford's fourth goal on the hour and John Lloyd had an effort disallowed. The victory lifted Oxford above Bury and they also won their last two games to clinch the Third Division title.

## 1983 UNITED FAIL OXFORD EXAM

Third Division leaders Oxford United defeated Manchester United 2-1 in a League Cup fourth round second replay at the Manor Ground on 19th December 1983. The two sides had drawn 1-1 in both of the previous games and Oxford United attacked from the start.

Oxford win the League Cup

United celebrate winning the Conference Play-Offs

Manchester United broke the deadlock on 40 minutes when Arthur Graham stabbed home but Jim Smith's side levelled two minutes later as George Lawrence stooped to head in. Kevin Brock had a shot cleared off the line on 59 minutes and Trevor Hebberd twice went close before extra-time. Steve Biggins headed the decisive goal in the 104th minute and 314th overall of the marathon tie.

## 1986 WEMBLEY WINNERS

Oxford United stormed to an emphatic 3-0 victory over First Division rivals QPR in the League Cup final at Wembley Stadium on 20th April 1986. Maurice Evans' side went ahead on 40 minutes when Trevor Hebberd shot low inside the near post. Oxford doubled their lead against Jim Smith's QPR after 53 minutes as Hebberd set up Ray Houghton to score from close range. With four minutes left, Paul Barron parried John Aldridge's shot and Jeremy Charles netted with ease. It is widely regarded as the most important result in the club's history. Manager Evans invited long-serving 72 year old trainer Ken Fish to go up and receive his winner's medal.

## 1986 TOP-FLIGHT SURVIVAL

Oxford United entered the Bank Holiday Monday match at home to Arsenal on 5th May 1986 needing to win to avoid relegation after only one season in the top-flight. Oxford's worries were soon eased as Ray Houghton's shot gave them the lead after just three minutes. United remained on top and Houghton's inswinging corner was headed off the line by Paul Davis, then John Aldridge headed just over. But Oxford's lead remained a slender one until Aldridge's 71st minute penalty after he was felled by Viv Anderson. With the pressure eased, United sealed a 3-0 win with nine minutes left when Houghton's pass enabled Billy Hamilton to fire past John Lukic.

## 2001 FROM THE MANOR BORN

Oxford United played their final League match at the Manor Ground on 1st May 2001, drawing 1-1 against Port Vale watched by a crowd of 7,080. Oxford had played there since 1925 and bought the lease outright in 1959. Despite numerous ground improvements, the capacity remained seriously restricted and its location meant it would be hard to expand, so the club decided to build a new stadium on the site of a former sewage farm. The Kassam Stadium, named after Oxford's chairman Firoz Kassam, staged its first League match on 11th August 2001 when newly-relegated United began life back in the fourth tier by losing 2-1 to Rochdale in front of 7,842.

## 2010 CONFERENCE PLAY-OFF WINNERS

Oxford United regained Football League status after an absence of four years in 2009/10. Chris Wilder's side made a ten-match unbeaten start and remained top of the Conference until January, losing just two of their opening 23 games. They also beat Yeovil Town in the FA Cup first round and reached the FA Trophy quarter finals. James Constable was leading marksman with 22 goals as The U's qualified for the play-offs in third place. They beat Rushden & Diamonds 3-1 in the semi-finals, then goals by Matt Green, James Constable and Alfie Potter gave them a 3-1 win over York City in the Wembley final watched by 38,857 on 16th May 2010.

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# Numbers GAME

## OXFORD AND THE HATTERS IN NUMBERS

**1** Number of times **each club** has won the League Cup

**4-0** The Hatters triumphed convincingly in the first meeting between the clubs on 1st September 1970 at Kenilworth Road. Two goals apiece from Matt Tees and Malcolm Macdonald secured the Hatters a 4-0 win in front of 16,173 – the biggest crowd to watch a Luton versus Oxford match.

**22** In 1987/88 the two sides met four times, twice in the top flight and twice in the League Cup semi-final, as you'll read elsewhere in today's programme. Across those four games 22 goals were scored, with the Hatters coming out on top 12-6 in the two First Division meetings. The Town won 5-2 at the Manor Ground in 1987 before hammering the Yellows 7-4 in a goal-crazy win at Kenilworth Road five months later in February.

**90 90** Among a number of memorable matches at Kenilworth Road against the U's down the years, who can forget the 2-1 win over United in the Conference in February 2010? Trailing to a Matt Green goal going into injury time, the Hatters scored twice – through George Pilkington and Keith Keane – to seal a dramatic late turnaround.

**6** Oxford have won six times at Kenilworth Road from 17 visits. Their last here was a 3-2 win the League Cup in August 1998.

**8,766** Across the 35 meetings over 300,000 people have watched Luton versus Oxford clashes. That works out an average of just under 9,000 per match.

### HEAD 2 HEAD

| | |
|---|---|
| 35 | PLAYED |
| 16 | LUTON WINS |
| 8 | DRAWS |
| 11 | OXFORD WINS |
| 65 | LUTON GOALS SCORED |
| 52 | OXFORD GOALS SCORED |
| 1970 | YEAR OF FIRST MEETING |

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Hatters have met United in every one of the top five divisions in England. The clubs have also met in the League Cup, the Football League Trophy and Zenith Data Systems Cup – but never have we met United in the FA Cup.

### OXFORD UNITED TROPHY CABINET

LEAGUE CUP: 1986
SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONSHP: 1985
THIRD DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP: 1968, 1984
SOUTHERN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: 1953, 1961, 1962

# THE HATTERS' PRE-SEASON

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town's pre-season got underway in Portugal with a 1-0 win over Farense during their training camp with Stephen O'Donnell on target, and when they returned to the UK a youthful side beat Lowestoft 2-1.

A more senior side took on Boreham Wood where Craig Mackail-Smith scored the Hatters' equaliser in a 1-1 draw. The striker raced onto Luke Guttridge's pass to finish expertly to cancel out the hosts' early second-half goal.

Two days later after the Boreham Wood draw, the Town were held to a goalless draw against Hitchin at Top Field where Mackail-Smith and Josh McQuoid came closest to breaking the deadlock against the Canaries.

After a 1-1 draw at Peacehaven, three successive wins were then achieved against non-league opposition. Gosport were beaten 5-2 with McQuoid on target twice, before a Luton XI beat Kettering 2-1 and then Thurrock 4-2 with Jake Howells notching a brace.

# THE HATTERS' PRE-SEASON

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

Jack Marriott scored a late equaliser as the Town earned a 1-1 draw against League 1 side Coventry in their first friendly on home soil of pre-season.

The summer arrival from Ipswich swept home the leveller with four minutes left on the clock to cancel out James Maddison's goal for the Sky Blues.

Goals from Luke Wilkinson and trialist Calvin Zola then gave the Hatters an impressive win over Championship side Brentford – a game that also saw the first return to Kenilworth Road of striker Andre Gray.

A Luton XI then won 2-0 at AFC Hornchurch with Mark Tyler playing the full 90 minutes before Walsall ended the Town's unbeaten pre-season with a 1-0 victory in the final friendly at Kenilworth Road.

# ACCRINGTON 1 1 TOWN

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

Jonathan Smith deflected home an injury-time equaliser as the Hatters began the season with a 1-1 draw at Accrington Stanley last weekend.

The midfielder went from villain to hero in the second period having initially conceding the penalty that led to the home side taking the lead from Josh Windass just after the hour mark.

But Smith was in the right place at the right time in the second minute of time added on to deflect Craig Mackail-Smith's goalbound shot home inside the six-yard box to earn the Town a share of the spoils.

The Town had the better of the clear-cut chances during the 90 minutes and could have even snuck an unlikely winner in the close stages with Jack Marriott and Mackail-Smith both going close in a frantic final climax.

## TOWN TEAM

Justham
Cuthbert
Griffiths
McNulty
Wikinson
Doyle
Smith ⚽
McCourt
Green
McQuoid
Mackail-Smith

SUBSTITUTES
Ruddock (On for McCourt)
Benson (On for McQuoid)
Marriott (On for Green)
Tyler
Potts
Guttridge

## STILL SAID:

"Were we good? No. Were we bad? No. We were ordinary. It was disappointing to have to come from 1-0 down. We always want to attack, we always want to score and we always want to win. We tried to win, but gave ourselves a bit too much to do from 1-0 down."

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| 3 | CORNERS | 4 |
| 4 | SHOTS ON TARGET | 3 |
| 6 | SHOTS WIDE | 5 |
| 15 | FOULS | 13 |
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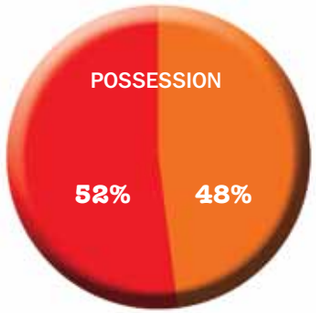



**ATTENDANCE** 2,359
1,175 Luton

# Traveller's TALES

ONCE AGAIN, SUPPORTER **KEVIN HARPER** IS WRITING ABOUT FOLLOWING THE HATTERS UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY THIS SEASON. HERE'S HIS VERDICT ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE SEASON TRIP TO ACCRINGTON STANLEY

## The journey

As usual the buzz and excitement of a new season had hit me in the days leading up to it, so having found it hard to sleep on Friday night it was probably no bad thing my journey to Accrington involved leaving my house at 8am to get to Ampthill for the coach at 8.20am.

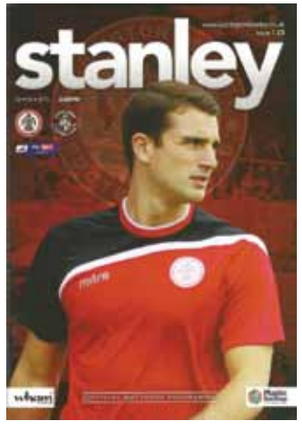
From there the coach headed to Luton to meet up with two other Bobbers coaches which left the interchange at 9.15am.

I sensed a positive excitement for both the day and the season ahead. Finally we were off up the motorway and what will be an excellent season was ready to begin!

Some of that early positivity began to wane during the journey though when having encountered coach loads of Watford fans at the services (never a pleasant experience let alone on the opening day!) it was clear that a deluge of traffic problems meant we were struggling to make kick-off.

Excellent work from the coach drivers minimised the damage though, and we arrived in Accrington just after 3pm.

Rating: ⚽




## The ground

Accrington have recently renamed their ground 'The Wham Ground' but on a breezy day it was no Club Tropicana and neither were any drinks free! Nothing has changed from last season apart from the name. It is still as basic as it gets, but luckily the sun was out so none of our fans got soaked on the open terrace. Town fans had the open terrace behind the goal and the seated stand down the right hand side from there. The leg room in the seats was non-existent and the view wasn't the best. It was good to get one of the worst grounds out of the way straight away.

Rating: ⚽

## The food

Being late to the ground there was no time for food when I got in. It was straight in and straight through to see the pitch but I did catch the food bars after the game and the burger bar was doing a decent mix of stuff for relatively fair prices. There was a mobile bar at Accrington last year but I saw no signs of that here so the pubs around the ground should've enjoyed decent business!

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽

## The programme

A pretty low budget 48-page A5 sized programme was produced for this game. With it being the opening game of the season you'd have thought they'd have gone to town on their first issue but there wasn't much in it. A couple of interviews with their new signings, a page on ourselves and the usual stats – but for £3 it was pretty disappointing.

Rating: ⚽

## The match

For a season opener this was a fairly low key and at times drab affair. Hopefully it won't be one of the matches we remember although come the end of the season the ending could be significant!

We started with five of our new signings. Scott Cuthbert was at right-back, Danny Green and Paddy McCourt on the flanks with Craig Mackail-Smith and Josh McQuoid up front.

I can't account for the first 10 minutes as I was still getting into the ground, although I'm reliably informed I didn't miss much! The Town set up with a 4-4-2 against a 4-5-1 and in an even first half 0-0 was probably the most likely result and probably a fair one at the break. We came close a couple of times. Nathan Doyle fired just past the post from distance and Jonathan Smith hit the keeper from the edge of the area. Elliot Justham dropped on a scuffed shot from Accrington.

The second half was much better. We came out on top and forced a number of corners although unfortunately we conceded straight from one! Before then though we almost took the lead after Luke Wilkinson played a lovely ball to Green out wide. He found CMS but his shot was saved. Then came their goal. A corner was cleared and an overloaded counter attack broke. Eventually Josh Windass was forced wide but his run was halted by a silly tackle from Smith in the box. He knew straight away he'd made a mistake and the penalty was given. The same man converted it.

That gave us a chance to show our squad depth. On came Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, Paul Benson and Jack Marriott and all three had an effect. One of the things I love about this team is we never know when we're beaten and we showed it here. We had to wait until injury time for the equaliser but it came eventually. Cuthbert's long throw was flicked on and CMS' volley at the back stick hit Smith and wrong footed their keeper. We deserved that on the balance of the second half and but for a good save from Marriott's shot we could even have stolen the win.

Rating: ⚽

## Man-of-the-match

I thought defensively we were solid all day and Luke Wilkinson epitomised that. Nothing got past him and he swept up dangerous attacks down the channel on a few occasions. He also moved forward with the ball and launched a couple of our own attacks. There's plenty of competition for places in this squad and on the evidence of this game Wilkinson is relishing that and has got his game to its top level as a result.

## Summary

It wasn't the three points we'd have liked but in what wasn't the best game it was good to get something out of it. Thankfully the journey home was much smoother than the one there despite another encounter with the yellow men at the services.

We were back in Luton just before 9.45pm and back home in time for last orders which was handy after a pretty long opening day of the season! All in all the round trip was 408 miles which was long but thankfully not as long as the first day of last season!

OVERALL RATING
**7 out of 25**

MILES TRAVELLED THIS SEASON
**408**

The Town have now drawn all three of their fixtures away to Accrington (0-0, 2-2, 1-1)

# REACTION

## SMITH'S ROLLERCOASTER, WHILE PELLY PLEASED TO BE BACK

The relief was palpable at the end of a dramatic finish to the Town's opening game of the League 2 – and no player was more relieved was midfielder Jonathan Smith.

The 28-year-old's mistimed tackle led to the penalty from which Accrington took the lead – an advantage the home side looked set to hold on to until Smith deflected home Craig Mackail-Smith's goalbound effort in stoppage time to earn the Hatters a last-gasp point.

And while the effort won't be winning any goal of the season competitions any time soon, Smith was just happy to make amends for his earlier misjudgement.

"It was a bit of a rollercoaster for the first game of the season, but I'm relieved to get something out of the game," said Smith, who put pen to paper on a new three-year at Kenilworth Road in the summer.

"Personally, I was disappointed to let the team down for the first goal. I should know better than to dive in there.

"I definitely shouldn't have made the challenge. It was sloppy from me and I should know better.

"In the midfield area I'd go for that, but in the box you shouldn't do it and I'll learn from that."

### GLORY

On the goal itself, Smith added: "It was just a bit of luck. It hit me. I'm not fussed who scores. I'm not here to be taking glory, I'm just here to get results.

"My job isn't to be scoring loads of goals, my job is to do better for the first goal."

With the Hatters chasing the game a goal behind, John Still sent on Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu for his first appearance in Town colours since Valentine's Day.

The good news for Ruddock and the Hatters is, after enduring a nightmare time with injuries – that saw him play just 18 times last term – the 22-year-old is now fit and setting his sight on promotion this season.

"It's the first time I've been injured for that long, so it was hard mentally but I'm strong now and hopefully this season I'm injury free and promotion is a must for us," Ruddock said after the 1-1 draw.

"I'm fine now. Hopefully in the next couple of weeks I'll be fully fit and hopefully start."

Now he's fit again, the problem for Pelly now is to win a place in the side with competition stronger than ever

"There's a lot of quality," said Ruddock. "Paddy McCourt is an international as is Craig Mackail-Smith. There's a lot of depth in our team and hopefully they can push us on to promotion.

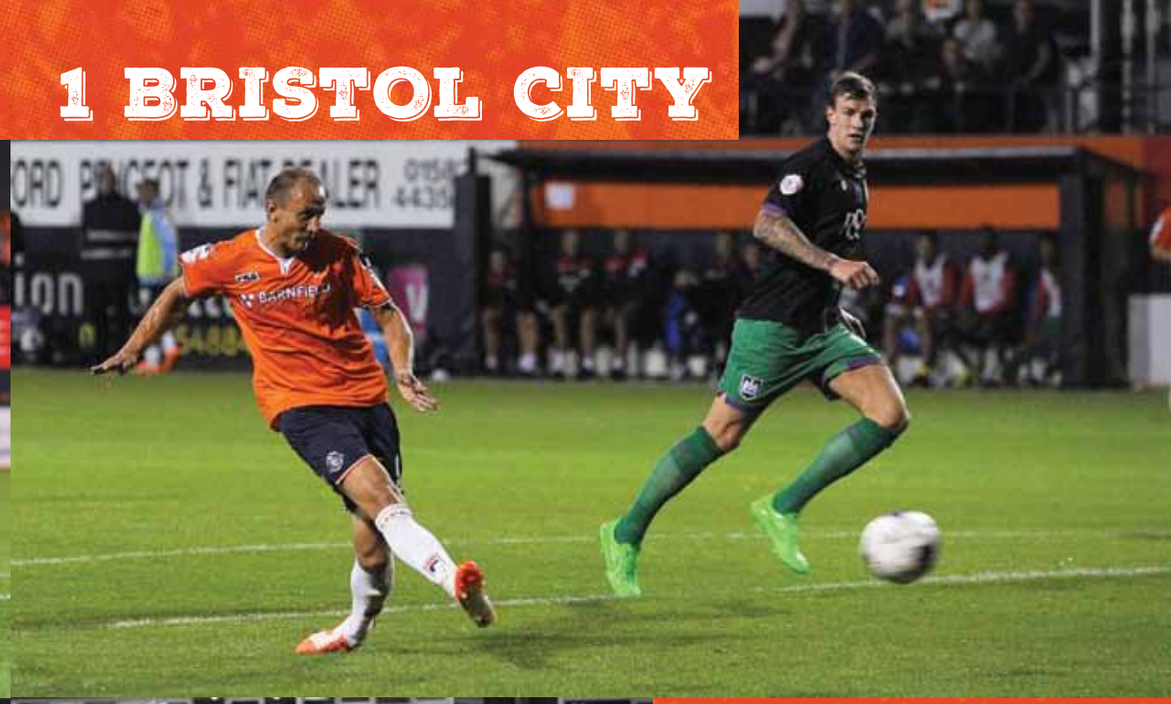
"I think they've settled in very well. Paddy started against Accrington and so did Josh McQuoid.

"Scott Cuthbert played at right back and played well and everyone is gelling and getting to know each other.

"Then there was me, Cameron McGeehan and Luke Guttridge on the bench and obviously, I'm a centre midfielder but if the gaffer needs to play me out wide, I'll play out wide. There is competition for places and it keeps everyone on their toes."

You can watch both interviews with Jonathan and Pelly on Hatters Player

# TOWN 3 1 BRISTOL CITY



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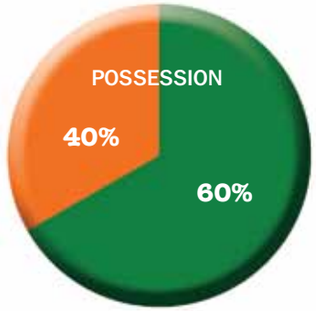


**ATTENDANCE** 3,948
437 BRISTOL CITY

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters booked their place in the second round of the Capital One Cup for the first time since 2007 with an impressive victory over Championship Bristol City.

Jack Marriott scored two well-taken goals on his full debut for the Hatters either side of half-time, while fellow striker Paul Benson coolly finished in between both Marriott goals as the Town raced into a three-goal advantage.

City, League 1 champions last season, were dangerous in the first half before Marriott's goal and they reduced areas late on through Callum Robinson – but it was too little too late and the Hatters were left to toast a fine victory come full-time.

## TOWN TEAM

Tyler
Cuthbert
Mcnulty
Wilkinson
Potts
O'Donnell
Mcgeehan
O'Brien
Ruddock
Benson ⚽
Marriott ⚽⚽

SUBSTITUTES
Griffiths (On for O'Donnell)
Doyle (On for O'Brien)
Lawless
Hall
Guttridge
Justham

## STILL SAID:

"We played against a good side and said before the game that they're very fluid with the 3-5-2, so we matched up and knew we were going to have to work hard early on ."It's very clever and you can't coach that, you've got to work it out as you go. Once we did that, we exploited their players going forward and the first goal was a classic example of that."

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# REACTION

## GOALSCORERS' GLEE AT CUP VICTORY

Two-goal hero against Bristol City Jack Marriott was over the moon with his role in the Hatters' 3-1 win over the Robins in the Capital One Cup on Tuesday night.

"It was pretty awesome," Marriott said, who capped his home debut with the Hatters' first and third goals against the Championship newcomers.

"The roar that you hear when you score is second to none. I really enjoyed that and hopefully there'll be plenty more goals for the fans to celebrate.

"It's good to get the fans on your side as a new signing coming in. I want to show what I'm about and hopefully I've done that. All I want to do while I'm here is work hard, score goals and progress the club because we all know what we want."

### EXPLOITS

The previous week saw Marriott score four in the Town's 6-1 win over Barton Rovers in the Beds Premier Cup and, naturally his exploits against City meant much more to the striker.

"No disrespect to the pre-season friendlies, but they are pre-season friendlies and they are there for a reason – to get you fit" he said.

"They're useful to the players that have come in and the players that you're going to be playing with.

"It was a very competitive fixture. It was in the cup and it means a lot."

Marriott's brace and Paul Benson's goal gives manager John Still a real selection headache for this afternoon's game but the former Ipswich man is happy to go along with whatever the boss decides.

"I trust the manager," he said. "I know he knows how to treat me and when to play me, so I'll go by whatever decision he makes.

"Hopefully that has put me back up there with all of the strikers we've got. We've got a hell of a strike-force, so I'm just hoping I can do my bit, keep chipping away and hopefully keep them on their toes as well.

### HEALTHY

"We can all play together and that's a good thing to have when you've got four strikers all competing for the two places in the team. It's healthy to have that competition because it keeps everyone on their toes."

Benson, meanwhile, was happy to get off the mark for the campaign and knows that scoring goals will keep him in the manager's thoughts.

"Hopefully when I next get an opportunity I can put another one in the back of the net and try to keep it rolling," said the 35-year-old.

"I'm getting older now and winning football games is more important to me than scoring goals. If you'd have asked me 10 years ago, I think scoring goals would have been more important. I was a bit more selfish back then, but now I'm coming towards the end of my career, I want to win games and I want to win trophies."

The Hatters' display, especially in the second period, was too much for a City side who stormed to the League 1 title last term – much to Benson's delight.

"It was a great performance from us and we should be very happy with the night's work," he said.

"We wanted to have pride in our performance and not be embarrassed in any way. To play against a Championship side, who ripped all apart last year, we've put on a great performance."

# PICTURE the PAST

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

Ron Futcher heads home the Town's first goal during the 3-2 win over Oxford at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day 1975.

# THE CAMERA never LIES

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

The Town squad are photographed before they set off to Coventry on the opening day of the 1947/48 season.
After returning from a 4-1 thrashing we turned things around by winning the next three games with Hugh Billlington (fourth from the left with the open neck white shirt) netting hat-tricks against Brentford home and away.

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# Trust in LUTON

WELCOME TO THE NEW SEASON FROM OUR SUPPORTERS' TRUST

## What does your Supporters' Trust do?

Trust in Luton has now been active for 12 years, having been formed by concerned supporters in 2003 when the Club was facing one of its darkest hours.

The extraordinary events of that summer were captured on film in BBC2's documentary Trouble at the Top and can still be viewed online, which portrays a vivid reminder of life as a Luton Town fan at that time. Owners have come and (with the Trust's help) gone, but fans are in it for life and the film features some familiar (albeit much younger) faces that are very much part of the present day Club and the Trust, as well as many of the supporters who still attend every game – home and away.

Five years later, in 2008, the Trust was again well-placed to help the 2020 consortium rescue the Club from near extinction and the Trust's involvement with the Club from then on – both as a shareholder and an active participant in Club affairs – was enshrined in 2020's founding cornerstone principles.

When things are running smoothly, fans naturally take less of an interest in what is going on behind the scenes at Kenilworth Road, but this is where the Trust plays one of its most important roles. Regular meetings and dialogue ensure that we – as your representatives – are fully up to speed with the many issues involved in running a 21st century football club. As well as access to the financial accounts, we are consulted across a range of matters, from new kits to match-day catering, from community issues to initiatives on share ownership.

Eighteen months ago, against a background of other club owners seeking to make radical kit colour changes, and even to change another club's actual name – all against supporters' wishes – Luton Town made a unique pledge to hand the Trust a veto on such fundamental changes to these and other key "identity assets", unless supporters' approval was first obtained.

We are also involved in the wider issues regarding stadium relocation and are aware of the huge amount of work that is going on behind the scenes. That said, we understand the very sensitive commercial issues mean that, like you, we do not yet know where the stadium will eventually be sited.

However, once the location is confirmed, the Trust anticipates discussing stadium facilities, transport links and the myriad of other issues that a new stadium will bring, and on which supporters will have a voice.

The Trust also incorporates the official Luton Town Supporters' Club and we are now planning our annual series of events for fans to participate in throughout the season – culminating in our end-of-season awards evening.
This includes the well-established and popular Trust in Luton Award given each year to someone (but not a player) who has made a long and outstanding contribution to the life of Luton Town.

Finally, just like the playing squad – the Trust itself has had an injection of new talent in the past couple of months and you may have already noticed a significant increase in our Twitter and Facebook activity.

We have also commissioned a new Trust website and membership database both of which we hope will go live soon, and at that time we will also be announcing another exciting development for the Trust.

In the meantime, enjoy the season ahead.

Tony Murray
Chairman, Trust in Luton

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# KIT SPONSORS

## 2015/16 season

**1 MARK TYLER**
H: Tim Fordham
A: Whosh
G: Alan Francome

**2 STEPHEN O'DONNELL**
H: Dean Kemp
A: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin

**3 DAN POTTS**
H: Maddie Knight
A: AVAILABLE

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

**5 STEPHEN McNULTY**
H: Sports262
A: Whosh

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

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

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

**9 PAUL BENSON**
H: Ben & Richard Banks
A: The Mad Hatter

**10 RYAN HALL**
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

**11 DANNY GREEN**
H: Ben Gray
A: Keyholder Account Lettings

**12 SCOTT GRIFFITHS**
H: CME Heating
A: Matthew Crossland

**14 JACK MARRIOTT**
H: Jonathan Perry
A: Tommy Lennon

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

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

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

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

**21 LUKE GUTTRIDGE**
H: Kathy Baldry-Mitchell
A: AVAILABLE

**22 CRAIG MACKAIL-SMITH**
H: Dot Group Int.
A: Tom

**23 JOSH MCQUOID**
H: Peter Little
A: George & Chris Stonier

**24 CURTLEY WILLIAMS**
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

**25 MARK O'BRIEN**
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

**26 NATHAN DOYLE**
H: Paul Watmuff
A: Geoff Owen

**30 LUKE WILKINSON**
H: Tommy Lennon
A: AVAILABLE

**31 CRAIG KING**
H: Ben Banks
A: AVAILABLE

**32 LUKE TROTMAN**
H: Jacqui Peacock
A: Bobbers Travel

**33 MARK ONYEMAH**
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

**34 ISAAC GALLIFORD**
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

**35 ZANE BANTON**
H: Loyal Luton
A: Kelly Knight

**M JOHN STILL**
H: Thompsons Accountants
A: Country Properties

**AM TERRY HARRIS**
H: Doug Knight
A: Peter Mitchell

**C HAKAN HAYRETTIN**
H: Luton Town Supporters of Scandinavia
A: AVAILABLE

H: HOME | A: AWAY | G: GLOVES

# CENTRE SPOT

Just look at his face! Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu screams his delight - together with the Hatters fans in the executive boxes - after Jack Marriott opens the scoring on Tuesday night. The Bristol City bench, however, aren't so happy!

# WHO'S WHO

It's the start of another season at Kenilworth Road! We – or rather John Still – has been busy over the course of the summer with no less than 11 new faces arriving in town. Whether you're new to Luton Town this season or have been a fan for years and know everything inside out, here's our guide to the team you'll be supporting over the next 10 months.

### 1 Mark Tyler. Goalkeeper.

Now in his seventh season at Kenilworth Road, Tyler has amassed over 250 appearances for the Hatters since signing from Peterborough in the summer of 2009. The 39-year-old helped the Hatters to promotion back to the Football League during 2013/14 and played in the history-making 1-0 win over boyhood club Norwich in January 2013.

### 2 Stephen O'Donnell. Defender.

NEW BOY! Summer arrival from north of the border, O'Donnell signed from Partick Thistle where he had earned a fine reputation as a maurauding right-back with a real eye for goal. He started his career as a youngster at Celtic and has also played for the Scotland Under-21s.

### 3 Dan Potts. Defender.

NEW BOY! Another new face at Kenilworth Road, Potts is also a full-back, but operates on the left-hand flank. The 21-year-old has joined us from West Ham, where he made five appearances in the Premier League. Whilst with the Hammers he has also represented England at youth level and spent time on-loan at Colchester and Portsmouth.

### 4 Jonathan Smith. Midfielder.

With a never-say-die attitude and exhaustive work-rate, Smith has become a firm favourite with Town fans since his arrival from York City in 2011. Part of the squad that won the Conference title, the midfielder – who began his career at Morecambe and won League 2 with Swindon – fought back from a broken leg sustained on Boxing Day 2013 and has now made over 100 appearances for the club. Smith, who was named players' player of the year by his team-mates last season, signed a new three-year contract with the club this summer.

### 5 Stephen McNulty. Defender.

Team captain and centre-half McNulty has become a vital member of the Hatters' squad having joined in January 2013. Another who has now racked up over 100 appearances for the side, he helped the Town win the Conference title with a string of assured performances in defence. Joined the Town from Fleetwood but began his career in the youth academy at Liverpool.

### 6 Scott Cuthbert. Defender.

NEW BOY! Capable of playing at either centre-half or right-back, Cuthbert signed for the Hatters this summer having spent two years at Leyton Orient. He helped the O's reach the League 1 Play-Off final the season before last, and prior to that his influential performances enabled Swindon to do the same. He has been capped at B level for Scotland and, like O'Donnell, also came through the youth ranks at Celtic.

### 7 Alex Lawless. Midfielder.

Another long-serving player in the Town ranks, the Welsh midfielder arrived at Kenilworth Road from York in 2010 and has now made almost 175 appearances in Town colours. Capable of spectacular goals from distance, Lawless has also played for Forest Green. He had the disappointment of losing in three successive Play-Off finals (twice with Luton), before he helped the Hatters to the Conference title in 2013/14.

### 8 Cameron McGeehan. Midfielder.

The Hatters were finally able to lure McGeehan to Kenilworth Road on a permanent contract this summer having previously enjoyed two spells on-loan from Norwich City. The central midfielder played a key role in the Conference title campaign before rejoining again last season. He originally came through the ranks at Chelsea and has also spent time on-loan with Cambridge, helping them to a draw with Manchester United in the FA Cup.

### 9 Paul Benson. Striker.

Hugely experienced striker who signed for the Hatters originally on a season-long loan in 2013/14 from Swindon. His 18 goals helped the Town lift the Conference title before a broken leg disrupted his first permanent season with the Hatters last term. The forward was found by John Still playing in the Essex Olympian League in 2005 and has helped former clubs Dagenham and Swindon to promotion in the past.

### 10 Ryan Hall. Midfielder.

Attacking midfielder Hall joined the Hatters at the end of the January transfer window this year. Unfortunate injury and illness has curtailed his progress in the Hatters side since then, restricting him to just six first team appearances so far. Hall joined the Town following his release from Rotherham but he has previously excelled at League 2 level while with Southend, scoring 19 goals from the wing across two seasons.

### 11 Danny Green. Midfielder.

NEW BOY! Right-sided attacking midfielder Green signed for the Hatters this summer, linking up once more with manager John Still. The Hatters boss plucked Danny from Bishop's Stortford while at Dagenham, and the winger went onto help the Daggers win the League 2 Play-Offs. After 27 goals for the Essex side he moved to Charlton who he won promotion with from League 1 to the Championship.

### 12 Scott Griffiths. Defender.

Popular left-back who is now closing in on 100 appearances for the Hatters following two years of service, during which he helped the Town win the Conference title. Griffiths is another player who John Still unearthed from obscurity, having signed him from Aveley. The defender won the Conference title at Dagenham with Still before moving to Peterborough. He has also won the League 2 with Chesterfield.

### 14 Jack Marriott. Striker.

NEW BOY! Talented young striker Marriott made the move to Kenilworth Road this summer having spent six years at Ipswich Town where he came through the Portman Road academy. The forward only played twice for Ipswich in the Football League but gained experience out on-loan over the past three seasons, including two spells at Woking in the Conference where he impressed in matches against the Hatters.

### 15 Paddy McCourt. Midfielder.

NEW BOY! Northern Ireland international attacking midfielder Paddy is sure to be a crowd pleaser at Kenilworth Road this season. McCourt came through the ranks at Rochdale but came to prominence at Celtic where he became a cult hero for the Bhoys with his silky skills and incredible solo goals. After winning the SPL twice, he left Scotland for Barnsley in 2013, briefly turned out for Brighton last season and ended the campaign on-loan at Notts County.

### 16 Elliot Justham. Goalkeeper.

Giving Mark Tyler some serious competition this season, Justham comes into the new campaign buoyed by an excellent end to last season having grasped the opportunity given to him following an injury to Tyler. He made his Football League debut in the 3-2 defeat at AFC Wimbledon in February and kept his place for the remainder of last term. An ever-present on the bench during the Town's Conference title campaign, Justham originally joined us from East Thurrock.

### 17 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu. Midfielder.

Former West Ham United academy graduate Ruddock Mpanzu is hoping that injury is well behind him following an injury-hit season last year. The direct, pacey youngster was an instant hit when signed on-loan by John Still from the Hammers midway through the Conference title winning campaign. Versatile to play in central defence or in midfield on the wing, Ruddock, like Ryan Hall, has been likened to a new signing this season after his return to fitness.

### 18 Magnus Okuonghae. Defender.

NEW BOY! Commanding defender Okuonghae is another player known to John Still having previously been on the books at Dagenham. The Nigerian centre-half began his career at Fulham as youngster before moving to Rushden, Aldershot, St Albans and Crawley before Still came calling in 2007. After two years with the Daggers, Magnus was off to Colchester where he went onto become a regular and fans

favourite. After almost 200 appearances for the U's the Town were quick to snap the defender up this summer.

### 21 Luke Guttridge. Midfielder.

Hugely experienced and influential midfielder Guttridge now has over 500 senior appearances under his belt during a career which has seen him win promotion three times. After spells with Cambridge, Southend, Colchester, Leyton Orient, Aldershot and Northampton Guttridge joined the Town in 2013 and his 13 goals were vital in the Conference title winning campaign of 2013/14. Injury meant he was in and out of the side last term but he still contributed well with four goals.

### 22 Craig Mackail-Smith. Striker.

NEW BOY! Prolific goalscorer Craig put pen to paper at Kenilworth Road a week before the start of the season having trained with the Hatters during pre-season. Another John Still find, Mackail-Smith came to prominence at Dagenham before a move to Peterborough. He scored 99 goals in 212 games for Posh, helping them win promotion on two occasions. His goals at London Road got the forward a big money move to Brighton in 2011. He scored 10 goals in his debut season at the Amex and 11 in the next before two injury-affected campaigns followed that restricted his game-time. Now fully-fit he is reunited with Still for a second time.

### 23 Josh McQuoid. Striker.

NEW BOY! Attacker Josh arrived at Kenilworth Road this summer having spent the previous three years at Premier League-bound Bournemouth. That was the forward's second spell at the Dean Court club in between a spell at Millwall. During his time at the New Den, McQuoid was capped at international level by Northern Ireland. Capable of playing on the flanks or in a central role he spent last season out on loan in League 1 with Peterborough and Coventry.

### 24 Curtley Williams. Defender.

Right-back or centre-half Curtley is now in his second season at Kenilworth Road having joined the Hatters last summer from Lowestoft. Injuries kept him out of the Town side last season, restricting him to just three appearances but following his return to injury he helped the Hatters development squad win the development league title.

### 25 Mark O'Brien. Defender/Midfielder.

NEW BOY! Dublin-born Mark became the Hatters' 10th new recruit this summer when signing on the dotted line during the pre-season training camp in Portugal. Although versatile enough to also play in midfield, O'Brien made his name as a centre-half having come through the ranks at Derby. Injury and illness halted his progress at Pride Park but following his return to fitness he spent last season on loan at Motherwell north of the border.

### 26 Nathan Doyle. Midfielder.

Defensive midfield lynchpin Doyle may have only played 31 times for the Hatters prior to last weekend's seasonal curtain raiser but his performances last season were enough for him to be named as the supporters' player of the season. Snapped up by John Still in September last year following his release from Bradford, Doyle immediately began taking control of the midfield, screening the back four to great effect. Nathan began his career at Derby but went onto

enjoy success at Barnsley, Hull and Bradford, winning promotion while with the latter two clubs.

### 30 Luke Wilkinson. Defender.

Wilkinson enjoyed an excellent first season at Kenilworth Road following his arrival from Dagenham last summer. John Still raided his former club to recruit the commanding centre-half and Wilkinson repaid his boss with a string of committed displays from central defence as well as chipping in with four goals. Luke began his career at Portsmouth before moving to Dagenham where he was named player of the year in 2012/13.

### 31 Craig King. Goalkeeper.

Teenage stopper Craig signed his first professional contract this summer having impressed the first team staff with his performances in the youth and reserve teams last year. With Mark Tyler injured, King deputised on the substitutes' bench in a number of Football League matches last season. To enable his development the young keeper has been sent on loan to Ryman League side Met Police for the rest of the season.

### 32 Luke Trotman. Defender.

Another Hatters academy product, Luke signed professional forms earlier last season after a string of impressive displays for the youth team. The right-back made his senior debut aged 16 in the FA Trophy during the title-winning campaign, and has bounced back to full fitness in time for the start of this season after breaking his leg in a youth team fixture in September last year.

### 33 Mark Onyemah. Defender.

Young left-back Mark joined the Town last summer from Thurrock, who he returned to on-loan for a spell last term. Yet to make his Hatters debut, the powerful, quick defender has recently joined National League South (the new name for the Conference South) Dartford for a month on loan.

### 34 Isaac Galliford. Midfielder.

Teenage attacking midfielder who hit double figures for the youth team last season. Isaac scored two impressive goals for the Hatters development squad in a match at the tail end of last season and that helped the coaching staff make the decision to offer the Luton-born youngster his first professional contract.

### 35 Zane Banton. Striker.

Another Town academy graduate, forward Banton first came onto the scene during the Hatters' Conference title winning campaign, making his first team bow in a 4-0 win at Woking. He was soon snapped up on a professional contract and continued to impress in his appearances in the FA Trophy. Spent time out on loan last season with Biggleswade Town and Hemel Hempstead to further his footballing education.

## MEET THE STAFF

**John Still.** Manager.

The boss joined the Hatters in March 2013 having enjoyed a hugely successful 10-year spell at Dagenham & Redbridge where he guided the Daggers to the Conference title, as well as promotion to League 1 via the League 2 Play-Offs. In his first season in the Hatters' hot-seat he guided the club to the Conference title with 101 points. It was the third time he had won the division in his career.

**Terry Harris.** Assistant manager.

John Still's right-hand man who had been with Dagenham & Redbridge since 1999. As a player he starred for the old Dagenham FC – scoring a winning goal at Wembley – and has also coached at Dartford, Enfield and St Albans.

**Hakan Hayrettin.** First team coach.

During the 2012/13 campaign Hakan was manager at Grays Athletic where he led the Blues to the Ryman League Division One South title with 102 points. Held in high regard by John Still, he arrived at Kenilworth Road in early July 2013.

**Kevin Dearden.** Goalkeeper coach.

Luton-born former Tottenham, Brentford and Torquay goalkeeper Kevin joined the Town's coaching staff in December 2014. After hanging up his gloves, Dearden took over the goalkeeper coach position at Leyton Orient in 2008 before leaving to join the Town last season.

**Andy Awford.** Academy and development manager.

Former Portsmouth defender Awford joined the Town as the head of the academy and development squad this summer. Previously in the same position at Pompey he was also in full charge at Fratton Park during 2014/15 in which he oversaw a 1-0 win over the Hatters in League 2.

**Dave Richardson.** Fitness coach.

Fitness coach Dave made the switch from Dagenham & Redbridge in the summer of 2013 to be reunited with John Still and Terry Harris.

**Simon Parsell.** Physiotherapist.

Experienced physio who joined the Town in 2010. Previously held the same position at Rushden & Diamonds.

**Darren Cook.** Kit man/masseur.

Originally employed by the Town as a masseur, Cook took up the role of kit man in 2010.

The first team are also assisted on occasions by youth team boss Paul Driver, former England goalkeeper David James and, on a full-time basis by Peter Booker, the club's video analyst, and Alisdair Kerr, our sports scientist, who works closely with Dave Richardson.

# CRAIG MACKAIL-SMITH

## Goal-hungry Craig targets goals – and promotion

**Watch out League 2 defences – Craig Mackail-Smith has vowed to score the goals to fire the Hatters to promotion this season.**

After hitting the target just three times in the past two injury-hit campaigns it's a return to the goal trail that the now fully-fit Scotland international is looking forward to most having signed a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road.

When asked what his goals were for the season ahead, Mackail-Smith exclusively told our official YouTube channel: "To score goals – I've missed it.

"I scored a few goals last season but no-where near as many as I wanted.

"That's my job, I love doing it. I've come here to score as many goals as I can and help push this team to win the league.

"I feel this club has a fantastic chance to push through the leagues and I want to be a part of that. I want to enjoy my football again and I know that this club is going places.

"John Still has put together a fantastic squad with great quality. This team can definitely challenge at the top this season."

Having trained with the Hatters over the course of pre-season that also saw him play for the Town in a number of pre-season friendlies, Mackail-Smith is relieved to have resolved his future by committing himself two at least two seasons at Kenilworth Road.

And now Mackail-Smith cannot wait to get his Luton Town career up and running after returning to full fitness thanks to the Hatters fitness coach Dave Richardson.

"It feels good," he says. "It's been up in the air for the last few months. It's good to get it sorted and now I can relax now and focus on my job. I knew my contract at Brighton was up and I spoke to Dave Richardson and asked him if he could train me over the close season.

"John Still then invited me for pre-season training but there was no pressure, he just said 'come and train with us and see how you feel'.

"I was welcomed in by everyone like one of their own and I just wanted to see what Luton had to offer.

"We had a chat on Monday and let them know my situation and I said I wanted to be part of a club that is growing and moving in the direction."

An Achilles injury had restricted the striker's appearances over the last two seasons but with the help of fitness coach Richardson that is now behind him.

"I never had an injury before I did my Achilles at Brighton and it was very difficult," explains Mackail-Smith.

"Coming back and working with Dave has got me fit and healthy, I've had no repercussions, I'm getting stronger and playing regular football will help my body catch-up.

"Regular football is what I need. I don't think I played two back-to-back games last season and I wasn't enjoying it.

"I know the staff here will keep me fit and get my body right."

### CHANCE

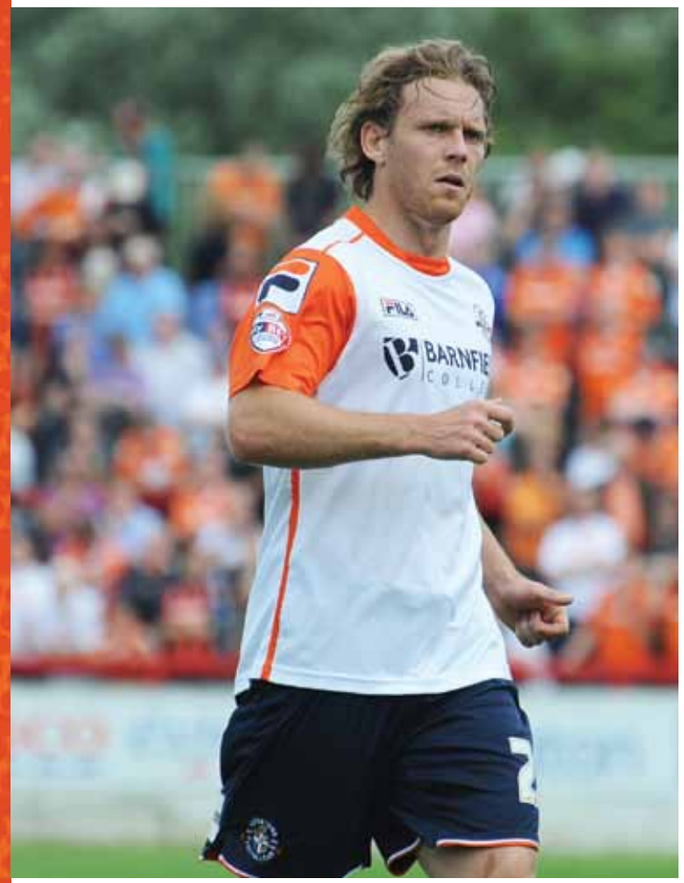
However, at the heart of the move was Mackail-Smith's desire to link-up with the manager that gave him his first chance in professional football.

"I've got a lot to thank John for," he says. "At the time I was playing for Arlesey and working part-time in Homebase.

"John offered me the chance to play for Dagenham and I never looked back. He converted me from a winger into a striker and since then I've just scored goals so I have that to thank him for too.

"We've always kept in touch, even when I was at other clubs so it's nice to come back and get the opportunity to work with him again because I believe he gets the best out of me

"He knows a player: it shows because so many others have progressed, so it is nice to come back and work with him again."



## FROM THE BOSS

"Every indication when I spoke to Craig, was, 'I'm fine. I'm not looking at anything else.' He had something come up quite close, which was a good club, but the overriding factor was that he wants to be happy first and he's happy to be at Luton Town.

"Money was certainly never really spoken about. I outlined to him where our budget lines were. From Craig's point of view he felt he'd earned good money for the last couple of years – Championship money. He's an international player but I think he actually felt that maybe he didn't enjoy it as much as he would have liked at Brighton.

"He just felt that these next three or four years, he wants to enjoy his football more.

"It's great to be working with Craig again. Everyone knows his record and what he's capable of doing. It speaks for itself, it's why he's had the career he's had and he wanted to continue that and be a success at Luton."

## NUMBERS GAME

| | |
|---|---|
| 31 | AGE |
| 22 | SQUAD NUMBER |
| 167 | CAREER GOALS |
| 7 | CAPS FOR SCOTLAND |
| 3 | PROMOTIONS WITH PETERBOROUGH |

Craig once scored 35 goals in a single season while with Peterborough

# Mark O'BRIEN

## O'Brien looking to keep injury firmly in the past

New Town signing Mark O'Brien has signalled his determination to stay injury-free at Kenilworth Road following a career that has so far been hampered by injury and illness for the centre half.

The Hatters signed the 22-year-old from Championship outfit Derby County but, despite spending six years at Pride Park, O'Brien was limited to just 35 senior appearances for the Rams, with his time in the Midlands dominated by prolonged spells on the treatment table.

### PROMISING

The Irishman was first spotted by Derby while playing for local team Cherry Orchard, and was given a chance to prove himself among other promising youngsters, making a first team appearance against Watford at just 16. The youth system proved to be a profitable venture for O'Brien, earning the Derby County scholar of the year, while also winning the Republic of Ireland Under-19 player of the year award in 2009.

But just a few months down the line, disaster struck for the then-teenager after a routine medical inspection revealed O'Brien had a problem with a valve in his heart and an operation was required to correct the issue. Yet the defender, still awaiting a proper run of football in his career, believes the past will shape his career in a positive manner as he looks to prove himself at Kenilworth Road.

"With the heart operation being when I was young, I never really had time to think about it," said the centre-back exclusively to Hatters Player. "I was more football-orientated when my parents moved off to England, and all I wanted to do was play, so whatever it took to get me back and playing football I did.

### STRONGER

"I feel as though it has made me a stronger character.

"Not a lot of people go through their career without a single injury, but for me to have mine when I was young made me deal with it a lot better than if it was later on in my career.

"If it wasn't for football, God knows what would have happened, so football kept my mind on the straight and narrow and I was able to get back and do what I always love doing."

The heart operation proved to be far from the only setback for O'Brien, who subsequently suffered the misfortune of cruciate ligament damage just a couple of months since signing a four-year contract with Derby. Ten more months on the sidelines followed for the centre-back as recovery proved troublesome, before eventually finding the fitness required to get back in the Rams' first team on sporadic occasion.

More was to come for the increasingly unfortunate O'Brien who, as quickly as he got back into Championship football, was ruled out once again for a further six months due to a knee operation.

### FITNESS

"The operations came around, which knocked me for six a little bit," O'Brien explains. "Then I had another knee operation which knocked me back further, but saying that I've been clear of all that for the past two years, and I'm back and playing games and I just want to get my head down here, keeping my fitness levels going."

As the player himself alludes to, it seems now that Mark's injuries could well be a thing of the past as he looks to kick-start a career which showed such promise in its early stages. A move on loan to Motherwell in the 2014/15 season yielded 21 appearances, with playing time seemingly become more of a regular occurrence after an irregular period at Pride Park.

"I loved every minute of it at Motherwell," he says. "It was a chance for me to play some football and I was more than happy to go up there and meet some great people.

"It was brilliant to go back to playing football. I was at Derby for a full season and kind of in the background, and the manager had his own different opinions so I was given the chance to go to Motherwell to show what I could do.

### BUZZ

"As the season went on, I feel that I progressed and that I was getting somewhere. To get back in the buzz of the changing room and playing again, it was a great experience for me."

O'Brien insists his move to Kenilworth Road will not lead him to rest on his laurels, however, as he looks to force his way to being a regular fixture in the Hatters' defence.

"Every new Club you go to, you have to prove yourself. At the end of the day, I've played for other teams, you have a new manager and you want to impress, you want to settle down with the lads and with new people. I feel that having a chance to do that has just made everything smooth for me."

### NUMBERS GAME

- **22** AGE
- **25** SQUAD NUMBER
- **32** GAMES PLAYED IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR DERBY
- **2** CAPS FOR IRELAND UNDER-19s
- **21** APPEARANCES IN THE SPL FOR MOTHERWELL LAST SEASON

### FROM THE BOSS

"I've seen Mark play a couple of times and liked him and when I saw he was leaving Derby we made some enquiries, invited him over, had a chat and felt he'd be a great acquisition.

"Everybody I've spoken to about him has said what a good attitude he has and I know the people at Derby were very fond of him.

"I think that he would still be at Derby if the manager [Steve McLaren] had still been there.

"He's a centre-half, that can play right-back or midfield and if there's a battle going on he's the kind of player you need in your team."

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# DAN POTTS

## TOWN'S PROMOTION AIM LURES LEFT-BACK TO KENILWORTH ROAD

The scene over the summer in John Still's office.
"Sit down. Do you want to win promotion?"
"Yes. Where do I sign?"

Okay, well that might not be the exact way the conversations went, but for Dan Potts it wasn't far off the mark.

He's a "young, hungry" player – the John Still-type, if you will. And he wants to make a success of his career and believes that can happen at Kenilworth Road.

"There was talk and interest from other clubs but when I met the gaffer he laid on the line his wants for the season and what he thought about the club. We both saw it mutually from that respect and it was a bit of a no-brainer," says the 21-year-old defender.

"Promotion is what we all want. That's definitely the feeling between everyone. We're not going to settle for anything else, so that's that.

"Promotion was definitely the thought, not only personally but I think between everyone that has come in and everyone that has been here."

With the manager a big West Ham fan and former Hammer Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu already at Kenilworth Road, Potts certainly isn't arriving at Kenilworth Road a stranger.

"I knew Pelly from West Ham and he's been here for a couple of seasons now, so he definitely knows what it's all about," says Potts. "When I came in it was nice to see faces that you know. That was pleasing.

"The gaffer is a big West Ham fan and he's got a good relationship with West Ham. I think that's maybe a coincidence. When I met him, if it had been any other club [that he managed] I probably would have joined."

While Potts has experienced playing in front of big crowds during his time at Upton Park, the lure of impressing 9,000 Hatters fans every week was also a big head-turner for the left-back.

"It's definitely a major factor to join," Potts said of Town's loyal support. "A lot of the players I've spoken to have always said about the crowd and the fan base.

"The gaffer did mention that a lot, so that will be a good experience and it will definitely help the players on the pitch."

### NUMBERS GAME

- **21** AGE
- **3** SQUAD NUMBER
- **2** APPEARANCES IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE
- **2** UNDER-20 CAPS FOR ENGLAND
- **1** PROMOTION WITH WEST HAM FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2012

### FROM THE BOSS

"Dan's always been a player that we were interested in if it became possible, and when you look at the other players we've taken from West Ham, and other local teams, it gives us a good opportunity to look.

"We've been looking at Dan for some time. He knows how to defend, he's a good talker, a good organiser so although he's only 21, he's got experience.

"Dan's a young man, a young player who's reasonably experienced. He's played in the Premier League, he's played lower league – a left-sided defender who can play left-back and centre half – he'll be a good addition to our squad."

# SCOTT CUTHBERT

## Defender aiming to put past disappointments behind him

There have been many Town players over the past few seasons who have suffered disappointment. Mark Tyler and Alex Lawless have both lost successive Play-Offs while in the Conference.

The same misfortune bestowed new Hatters defender Scott Cuthbert. Once with Swindon and a second time while with Leyton Orient, the centre-half was one game away from becoming a Championship player.

Last season, amid the soap opera that Orient had become, his frustration hit new heights as a relegation was added to his CV.

### TARGET

But now, free from the stresses of Brisbane Road and in the calmer, exciting waters at Kenilworth Road, Cuthbert is targeting a return to the happier times and what better club to do it than Luton Town?

"When a manager like John Still and club the size of Luton come in for you it's a hard one to knock back," Cuthbert says to Hatters Player.

"It was everything really – the size of the club, the fan base and the way they want to take the club forward. The manager's track record speaks for itself and everything just seemed to fit. You get a good feeling about a club and that's what I had when I met the manager and when I decided to sign here.

"It's a club going places, and it was important, coming down to League 2, that it needed to be the right club and I don't think Luton could be more perfect.

"The support is fantastic, the manager has all the experience in the world and I know Kevin Dearden from my days with Leyton Orient and he couldn't speak highly enough of the place. I don't think there's a better fit for me.

### PROMOTION

"The aim is promotion – I wouldn't have come to this club if I didn't think that was possible."

Cuthbert is one of just a number of experienced players to have arrived at Kenilworth Road over the summer and the defender believes that kind of know-how is just what a team with promotion ambitions requires.

"There's a vast amount of experience all through the team and that was one of the pulls of coming here," he says. "When there's competition for places, you know if you have a bad game there's someone capable of coming in and taking your place.

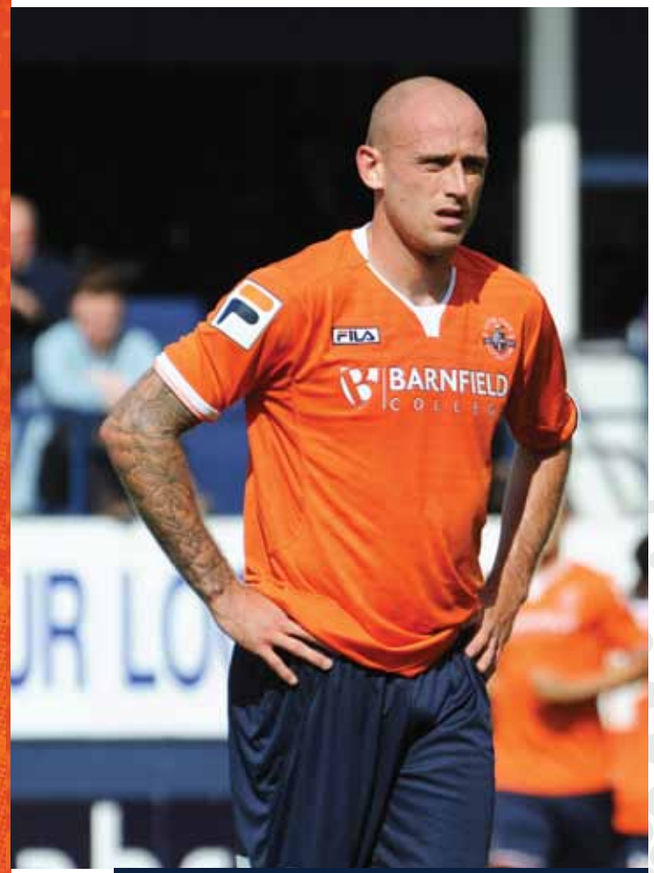
### IMPRESS

"It's all about doing as well as you can in pre-season and games leading up to the season, to do as well as you can and impress and hopefully you're one of the players that is starting."

The Town began their campaign at Accrington on Saturday and now face promotion favourites Oxford and Portsmouth in the next two home matches in League 2 at Kenilworth Road.

### NUMBERS GAME

| | |
|---|---|
| 28 | AGE |
| 6 | SQUAD NUMBER |
| 295 | CAREER APPEARANCES |
| 12 | UNDER-21 CAPS FOR SCOTLAND |
| 2 | APPEARANCES IN PLAY-OFF FINALS |




And Cuthbert is hoping the Hatters can hit the ground running in the opening month of the campaign and get their season off to a solid start.

"We'll be looking to get as high up the league as we can," says the Scot. "I was looking at the fixtures and it's a tough start, a testing start, so we're looking forward to that. You want to play against the better teams and see where we are.

### TALENT

"We're more than confident with the squad of players we've got, the talent that we've got in the squad and also the fitness that we've got over the last few weeks – it's been a tough pre-season but a good one – we feel we can be up there challenging for promotion."

After Cuthbert penned a two-year deal in late May, the Hatters then added defenders Magnus Okuonghae and Mark O'Brien to the squad over the summer.

It means the Town are blessed with a number of options in defence and Cuthbert is relishing the competition.

"I know from training with Luke Wilkinson for the last three or four weeks, he's an excellent defender, so is Magnus.

I've played against Mags many a time against Colchester. Mark O'Brien as well, there are so many choices and they are all very good pros and very good players so it's a bit of a headache for the manager, but it's a good headache to have."

## FROM THE BOSS

"When you set your targets you don't always get them but Scott was the one we wanted. We stuck at it and we've got him.

"He's impressed us as we didn't have to push him towards us, he wanted to come here. Scott's dropped a level but he thinks he can get back up to League 1 and beyond in his time with us.

"He's a warrior, he's got leadership qualities; he's a good talker and a good organiser. When you sign an experienced player like this you want them to put it to good use and I think Scott will.

"He was the top man at Orient and I'm delighted with this capture. We felt it was important to bring in a player that will come in and make all our centre-backs look at each other and ask 'who is going to play?' And that's what we want."

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# MAGNUS OKUONGHAE

## PROMOTION THE AIM FOR CENTRE-HALF

New signing Magnus Okuonghae is targeting a first-ever promotion in his career after being reunited with former boss John Still.

The 29-year-old centre-half penned a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road this summer eight years after being signed by Still at Dagenham & Redbridge.

After six years at Colchester United, which saw him skipper the U's in League 1, a move to the Hatters to work with the manager was just too good an opportunity for the defender to turn down.

"I was in the car park at another club when I got the call I wanted. It was John Still," Okuonghae tells Hatters Player, his grin wider than the interview room itself. "I'd been waiting for the call. I drove out of the car park and the rest is history.

"To me it was a no brainer and after six years at Colchester it was important to come to a club that had ambition to get promoted – no matter what the division.

"I'm desperate to get promoted as I've never been promoted. I've come close, but not before and I'm desperate to be and that's my main aim for this season."

But working with Still was the biggest pull for Okuonghae and now the defender hopes to put his experience to good use in his and the Town's quest for a successful campaign.

"John signed me as a kid, really, I was only 21," he says. "He's done wonders for my career with little bits of advice, even after I moved away from Dagenham. As I say, his call was the one I was waiting for this summer and to get to work with him again his fantastic. I've changed a bit since then…I'm a little bit older and have a few more opinions now!

"It was important, though, that following the injury I had last year, I worked under somebody who knew me, someone that could take their time with me and look after me.

"But John also builds winning teams; he teaches people how to win and I want to be a part of that.

"Luton is a massive club and we have every chance of being promoted this season."

Magnus' time as captain at Colchester has served him well and, as Still continues to build a squad fit to mount a serious promotion challenge, the defender is looking forward to being a key part of the dressing room.

"I captained my youth teams and while I wouldn't say I'm a shouty type of player I'm more of an organiser and tend to try and lead by example," he explains. "From my point of view I've always seen the job of being a professional a hugely privileged one – it's a career you can't just take for granted.

"That mentality makes me work hard and I train like I play and vice-versa, by giving 100 per cent. I think that is why managers have given me the armband in the past as I'm a player I can look up to.

"Together with the rest of the experienced players at the club, that kind of knowledge should stand us in good stead."

## NUMBERS GAME

| | |
|---|---|
| 29 | AGE |
| 18 | SQUAD NUMBER |
| 366 | CAREER APPEARANCES |
| 13 | CAREER GOALS |
| 215 | APPEARANCES FOR PREVIOUS CLUB COLCHESTER |

## FROM THE BOSS

"He's a beast, a big, strong, powerful player and a great lad.

"The crowd will love him, he always plays with a big grin on his face and but you wouldn't want to fight him!

"Magnus make us strong in defence. Last season when we lost two centre-halves that gave us a problem, but we've brought in good competition.

"If somebody doesn't play it won't make us weaker – in fact it might even make us stronger. And that's what we wanted.

"He's only 29, too. The best years of his career are still in front of him. I really am pleased."

# CAMERON McGEEHAN

## HE'S BACK - FOR GOOD!

"We want you to stay, we want you to stay – Cameron McGeehan we want you to stay," sung the Town supporters during the title-winning campaign of 2013/14.

After McGeehan had helped the Hatters to promotion he and the fans hankered for the midfielder's permanent return to Kenilworth Road.

And now, finally, after a second loan spell last season, the 20-year-old is back and back for good after putting pen to paper on a two-year deal.

"I wanted to come back since the day I left," McGeehan says. "The fans have been amazing from day one, I love them.

"They have been a major factor for wanting to return. That and John Still, Terry, Hakan and the lads. I always knew I'd come back. I'm so happy it's finally happened. The Conference title season was special. So many memories. Now's the time to create some more."

Indeed the Town, after coming oh-so close to reaching the League 2 Play-Offs in their first season back in the Football League last year, are eying promotion once more this time around.

### CRAVES

It is success that McGeehan craves and the youngster believes the Hatters are well set for a serious promotion challenge in 2015/16.

"From what I've seen there's not a massive difference in the standard between League 2 and the Conference," he says. "There are better teams and better players, but I think the Luton team we had in the Conference season would be good enough to win League 2 and after going close last season hopefully this year we can achieve our goal this time.

"Luton showed they were way too big for the Conference and I think we're still way too big for League 2 as well.

"For me personally I think it is special to be a part of a team and club, on the rise."

If McGeehan first set foot on the Hatters' Ely Way training ground as a wet-behind-the-ears unknown with no senior experience to his name, that is certainly not the case 18 months later.

"The season before last gave me my first taste of senior football and I absolutely loved it," says McGeehan. "Playing Under-21s football is absolutely no comparison.

"It's pretty poor, and in terms of competition, it's rubbish for young professional players trying to force themselves into the first teams.The difference to first team level, even at Conference level, is miles apart.

"That's why I went to Cambridge on loan – you can play as many development games as you like but nothing beats playing week in week out in front of big crowds.

"Going to Cambridge got me back playing again – I was happy to call myself an official first team player.

"I learned a lot, though. Playing twice against Manchester United, including once at Old Trafford, was an unforgettable experience.

"But it's that experience I'm now hoping to use back at Luton and I've got some know-how of League 2 now."

This time last year the Town were hopeful of keeping McGeehan on a permanent deal but it never materialised, much to the midfielder's genuine disappointment and frustration.

"Last summer I was hoping a deal to Luton could be done to bring me back, but for whatever the reason it didn't materialise," says McGeehan.

"I switched my attention to trying to get into Norwich's first team, but with the opportunity almost non-existent I knew I had to find some football and that's when Cambridge came to help."

His performances in the amber of United, coupled with the Abbey Stadium coffers swelling with funds generated from a twice-televised tie and a replay at Old Trafford, meant most assumed Cambridge would be McGeehan's port of call on a more permanent basis.

Wrong…

"I had a great time at Cambridge but they are simply not a bigger club than Luton," he says.

"My goal was always to come back to Luton at some point and now, thankfully, here I am and I couldn't be happier.

"The aim, like it was when I came here a year ago, is promotion and that's what I believe we can do."

### FROM THE BOSS

"It goes without saying that we are thrilled that Cameron will be a Luton Town player.

"We all know what Cameron is capable of; we have seen it in the last two seasons.

"Cameron has become a Luton Town player. He gets it. He loves the club and the fans have really taken to him.

"That's what we have tried to install in all of our players and that can only bode well for now and the future."

### NUMBERS GAME

**20** AGE

**8** SQUAD NUMBER

**6** GOALS FOR THE HATTERS

**3** UNDER-21 CAPS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER-21s

**1** FA YOUTH CUP WINS

# Stephen O'DONNELL

## O'Donnell determined to play his part

New addition Stephen O'Donnell has confirmed his delight at joining a club looking to go in the "right direction", with the full-back hoping to play his part in a successful season for the Hatters.

The 23-year-old Scot joined the Town from Scottish side Partick Thistle and, despite four promising years north of the border, felt it was the right time to make a move in a bid to develop his career.

"At Thistle we were able to gain promotion, and I'll be looking to use that experience this season," O'Donnell says. "If we can manage that it will be a nice boost. I had a great few years up there, but now I've come here hungry and determined to progress as a footballer at a club I feel has similar ambitions to myself.

"I'm really looking forward to what is a whole new chapter in my life, moving away from Scotland and just outside London, and I hope I settle in quickly and hit the ground running. I'm looking to play lots of games. I played most of the time when I was fit at Thistle, and I hope to do the same here when I'm available."

O'Donnell quickly became a fan's favourite in Scotland with his work ethic and desirability to support the attacking side of the game as much as possible – traits the youngster is looking to bring to Kenilworth Road after scoring five goals in the Scottish Premiership last campaign.

"I played first-team football for Partick Thistle for three or four years, and I hope that the fans would say I'm a genuine player, someone who will give it all for the club and the jersey, and maybe a little bit of quality in me too.

"I'm going to come and try and play attractive football, which the gaffer has assured me will be one of the objectives for this season. I hope to be part of a team which entertains the fans but wins also, because that's the most important thing at the end of the day.

"I like to play up and down the pitch and get crosses in, assists and maybe the odd goal, and hopefully my defending will be good and we can keep plenty of clean sheets as well. I do like to try and get forward at every opportunity, and hopefully that's something the Luton Town fans will be able to see in the coming years."

### NUMBERS GAME

| | |
|---|---|
| **23** | AGE |
| **2** | SQUAD NUMBER |
| **1** | SCOTLAND UNDER-21 CAP |
| **139** | APPEARANCES FOR PARTICK |
| **10** | GOALS SCORED FOR THISTLE FROM RIGHT-BACK |

## FROM THE BOSS

"One of our scouts alerted me about Stephen – we had a look and were very impressed.

"He's a very positive and enthusiastic player and he's very keen to do well for himself.

"During our conversations Stephen wanted to know exactly how we saw him as a player, how we played, and wanted to know precisely the Club's future plans, on and off the pitch. He'd certainly done his homework on us.

"He was a highly sought-after player and we're thrilled he's joined us."

The Bellshill-born man conceded that Luton were not the only club interested in his services, with the then-Championship outfit Blackpool making an offer for O'Donnell at the start of the year.

### POSITIVITY

"Blackpool offered a lot for me back in January, including at least six months in the Championship, but you need to look at the Club as a whole," he says. "That league is obviously where I want to be – you want to get as high as you can, but at that time I didn't feel Blackpool was the right move for me. As I said, I've had nothing but positivity from the manager and the chief executive here in conversations with them.

While location also had its part to play in O'Donnell's decision, the youngster insists the mantra of the Town, as well as the attitude of John Still, were the main focal points for his switch south of the border.

"I was quite fortunate in that I had a couple of options in terms of clubs, which allowed me to get a feel of ambitions and aims. Speaking to the manager, I got great, positive feedback regarding the Club currently and what they're looking to do in the future.

You never know what's round the corner with any Club, but everything I'm seeing is hugely positive to hopefully get promotion this season and then kick on again which every fan and every player should be excited about, and I'm looking forward to being part of that.

### AMBITION

"With some clubs, you can feel that perhaps the ambition of the supporters is not always matched by the board or the club itself, and I'd be surprised if we at Luton didn't meet the fans' expectations over the next couple of years. I'm looking forward to what will hopefully be a productive season which the fans can buy into.

"The manager has a wealth of experience, and to work with him was an attraction point in itself. He'll try and play attacking football, and that impressed me and I can't wait to play under him."

# DANNY GREEN

## Winger aiming to fall back in love with football again

### NUMBERS GAME

- **27** AGE
- **11** SQUAD NUMBER
- **3** PROMOTIONS WON
- **27** GOALS SCORED FROM MIDFIELDER IN TWO SEASONS AT DAGENHAM
- **18** WAS RESTRICTED TO JUST 18 APPEARANCES IN LEAGUE 1 LAST SEASON

Danny Green is hoping to get his career back on track and fall back in love with the game after signing a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road this summer.

The 27-year-old is another former Dagenham man who is looking forward to working with his old boss John Still again – but it's a return to regular first team football that Green is craving the most.

"The last couple of years I've lost a bit of love for it – probably because I've not been playing so much," Green tells Hatters Player. "Getting back into it and knowing that John knows what I'm capable of is really exciting and I'm really looking forward to it.

"Every footballer will tell you how important it is to be playing and to be wanted.

"I want to play every week, I want to get back scoring goals and setting them up, but at the end of the day I wanted to be enjoying my football again."

If that's the case then League 2 full-backs are going to be in for a tough time this season as when Green is playing with a smile on his face he has enjoyed huge success.

Plucked by Still from Bishop's Stortford he helped the Daggers to promotion via the League 2 Play-Off final at Wembley in his first season, before then getting Charlton up to the Championship two years later.

### ACHIEVEMENT

It's that kind of level of achievement that Green is eyeing now he's joined the Town.

"I've won three promotions as a player, I'm only 27 and hopefully I can earn a few more promotions as a Luton player," he says. "John knows my game, how I play so it should be a good fit.

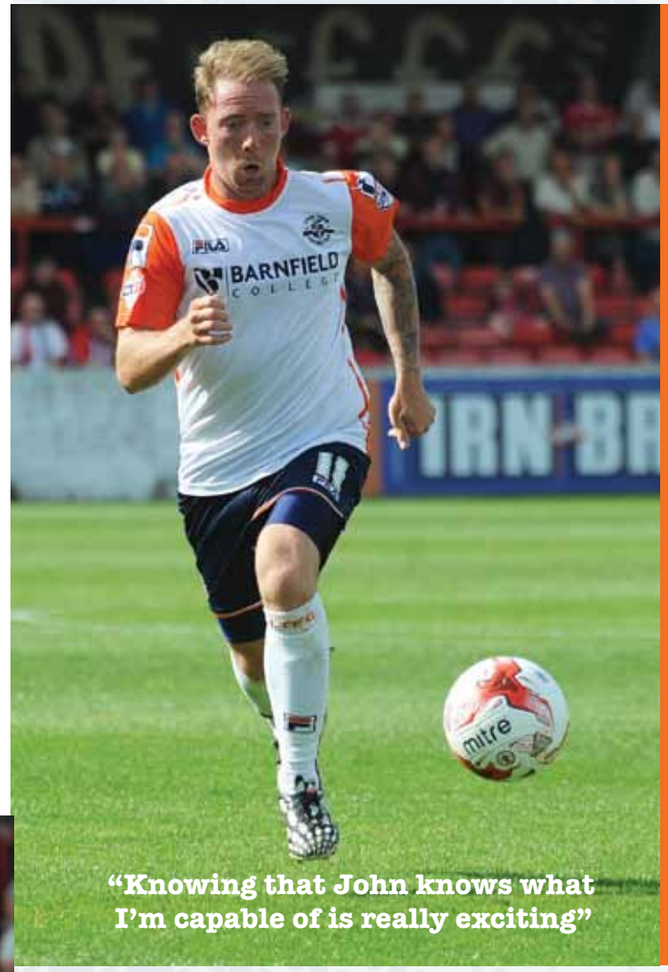
"Luton is a massive club and although I've been promoted before I come here still needing to prove my worth."

Still believes the Town are getting a better player than the one he snapped up as a youngster back in 2009 – and that's something Green agrees with.

"I think I've matured as a player," he admits. "I know the game well enough now, I've played 200-odd games.

"When I went to Dagenham I was a raw talent. Now I'm more of a rounded player. I also like to help the younger players.

"You learn different things from different managers and as I've said, I know the gaffer can get the best out of me.



**"Knowing that John knows what I'm capable of is really exciting"**

### FROM THE BOSS

"Danny had a feeling that he might not play as much as he would like this year so when the opportunity came up we didn't think twice about taking him.

"I had him as a young man at Dagenham, taking him from Bishop's Stortford and he did unbelievable for us.

"He's a great crosser of the ball, scores goals and we felt that he's a great age now and he's still got the best years of his career ahead of him.

"He felt that he hadn't played enough last year and it sometimes it surprises me when people sign a player they try and change the way they play.

### SCORES

Dan's a wide man who can cross a ball and scores goal. People try and mess around with they want players to play but for me you have to understand the player and play them to their strengths.

"We've beaten a number of League 1 clubs to his signature, and I think that says a lot about us as a club. He knows the history and the support and the quality of players we've got here.

"And what's more he's a better play now than when I had him before. He's older, more experienced and more knowledgeable."

"I certainly owe him a lot – when I was released by Forest in 2008 it was horrible and there didn't seemed to be any light at the end of the tunnel. But the gaffer took a chance on me and it went on from there.

"Hopefully I can repay him with promotions, results and goals for Luton again because this club is massive.

"The supporters are great, the ground is always full, it really is unbelievable."

With a trio of promotions already under his belt, Green is hungry for more and he thinks he's come to the right club to continue his own personal success story.

"There's an ambition of this club that goes beyond this season," he says.

"The players we have here, the talk of the directors and how soon they would like to see the club in the Championship really does make Luton an attractive club to come and play for.

"We want to push on this year and if we go up we want to do the same next year. That level of ambition is something I want to be involved in."

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# PADDY McCOURT

WINGER LOOKING TO PROSPER IN SHARED AMBITIONS

## Paddy McCourt is no stranger to success.

Having previously had spells with Rochdale and Shamrock Rovers, the winger returned to his hometown side Derry City to claim three League of Ireland titles before later moving to Scotland to pick up two Scottish League titles and a pair of Scottish Cups in his five seasons north of the border. But can the winger replicate his silverware-laden career to lead the Hatters to honours at Kenilworth Road?

As well as his periods in Northern Ireland and Scotland, McCourt also has experience in England's second tier with both Barnsley and Brighton and Hove Albion, as the 31-year-old looks to make his years count for the Hatters' benefit in their second season in League 2.

"I hope to bring experience among other things," McCourt told Hatters Player. "As we keep saying, we want to win the division. It's what everyone's hoping for. It's not as easy as just signing players, we're going to have to put in a lot of hard work and there'll be a lot of hard games over the season.

"I've been in this league before when I was younger at Rochdale so I know a bit about it, I know what it takes to be successful in the division.

"The game has changed a lot since I was last in the division, the tackles aren't as bad as people think, but I know that I'm joining a club that wants to go and win the league and challenge at the top end."

### AMBITIONS

McCourt's ambitions for the season are as clear as day as the winger looks to add promotion from League 2 from his already-impressive CV, in a career that could have taken him to the Premier League had he chosen West Bromwich Albion as opposed to Celtic back in 2008.

"Luton is a club that's very ambitious – I've spoken with the manager and the chief executive a number of times and they have big plans," McCourt continues. That was part of my reasoning for signing a two-year deal, with the success we hopefully have this year looking to be carried into next year too.

"The manager wants us challenging near the top of the league this season and that's where I want to be myself. It's a drop in leagues, but Luton is a big club – you see that with the fanbase and the fans they get at every game. In all senses it was perfect for me to join with their location and ambition.

"To be honest, I probably wouldn't have signed for the club if they weren't looking to get promoted or weren't looking to achieve. Everything's pointing towards a good season but it's up to the players now to deliver on the pitch."

### NUMBERS GAME

| | |
|---|---|
| 31 | AGE |
| 15 | SQUAD NUMBER |
| 326 | CAREER APPEARANCES |
| 2 | SCOTTISH LEAGUE TITLES WON WITH CELTIC |
| 2 | INTERNATIONAL GOALS SCORED FOR NORTHERN IRELAND |

### FROM THE BOSS

"What can I say about Paddy? He's a crowd pleaser. He can play wide left, or inside…supporters will make their own minds up about him, but he has fantastic talent.

"He's still involved with Northern Ireland and could be going to the Euros next year – simple as that.

"Paddy's got great ability – we've just got to get him on the ball. He's what we're looking for – someone who can play the pass to unlock the defence. Those kind of players aren't easy to get."

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# Josh McQUOID

## Career kick-start the aim for Josh

**New Hatters striker Josh McQuoid is ready to reignite his career at Kenilworth Road – and do so by helping the Town to promotion.**

The 25-year-old penned a two-year contract with the Town in June and has already impressed with a number of performances during pre-season. And after leaving Premier League-bound Bournemouth following a couple of loan spells last season, McQuoid is hoping the best of him is yet to come now in Luton colours.

"I went out on loan and it has been a bit back and forth over the past few seasons," McQuoid told Hatters Player. "It would be good to just settle in at a club, have a full season where I play lots of games and hopefully score a few goals – that would be nice."

The Hatters beat off competition from a number of clubs higher up the league to secure the striker's signature but dropping down to League 2 is no problem for the attacker.

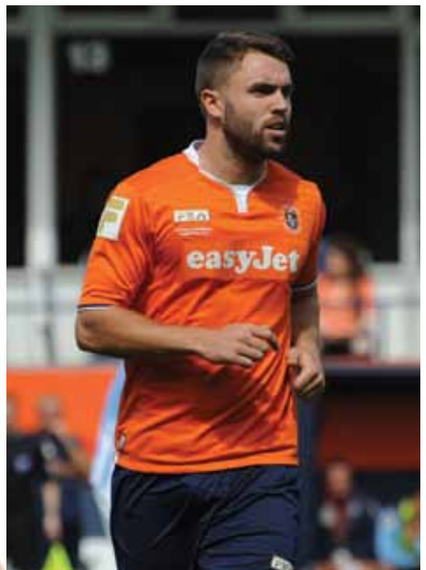
"I've played League 2 before a few years back – the league wasn't an issue for me and I feel like Luton have got a good chance of getting out of it," he says. "The club are trying to achieve something, so rather than going to a League 1 club that is mid-table, it's a club that is trying to push on through the leagues and get promotion. The size of the club and the support was a major factor in signing but I want to achieve something here.

"I could tell from the first meeting with the manager that this was a club that wanted to go places. I didn't want to sign for a mediocre club happy just to sit in the middle of the league.

"I've come here to do well and help this club win promotion.

"And I think they're going about it the right way. They've got people behind the scenes who are on the same wavelength as the manager and all the staff, so that's always nice to see at a club. That's a big a positive. I think we'll have a good squad for next season. I've been impressed so far with what I've seen."

McQuoid joins the Town after a second spell with Bournemouth – a club he will always hold dear to his heart.




## NUMBERS GAME

**25** AGE
**23** SQUAD NUMBER
**5** CAPS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
**2** NUMBER OF PROMOTIONS WITH BOURNEMOUTH
**1** JOSH WON THE JPT WITH PETERBOROUGH IN 2013/14

"I'm happy for all my old team-mates," he says. "I've got some good friends there and Eddie Howe was good to me over the years.

"I was with him when he started and went to Burnley with him and back at Bournemouth when he went back.

"The first season back there was good and we got promoted to League 1 but I got another injury and never really got back in because they were pushing up so much. But I have no regrets and I'm looking forward to a successful season here at Luton."

## FROM THE BOSS

"Josh is a very good player; experienced but a good age, too. He's a busy player, a buzzy one – he can play down the middle as a two or in a three – and he's versatile, can score and can create goals. I think his all-round play is first-class. With Bournemouth's rise to the Premier League I think he feels as though he's got to play catch-up with his career again. I sense that he's hungry to resume his career and we're delighted to have secured his future."

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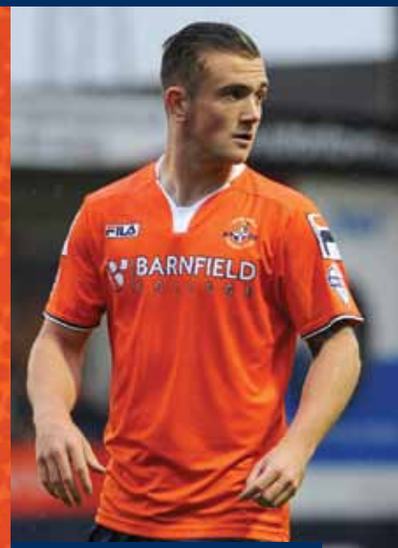
# Jack MARRIOTT

## YOUNG STRIKER'S BURNING AMBITION




**Like so many of the new signings this summer, the pull of working for someone like John Still was the main reason for joining.**

But when you're a young striker out to make a name for yourself – and prove one or two people wrong – having team-mates and fellow strikers of proven quality alongside you it makes you even hungrier to succeed. And that's the case for Jack Marriott, the 20-year-old who the Town quickly nipped into secure on a two-year deal following his release from Ipswich.

"We've got Craig Mackail-Smith and Paul Benson – and you're not going to learn from anyone better," said the youngster.

"As for Craig, I'd like to think we're fairly similar players, with our work-rate. It would be a really good learning curve to play with him and learn from him, but it's understandable if he looks to go higher because he has that ability."

With competition for a place in attack up for grabs, Marriott is just happy to learn from the experienced players in the squad and improving as a result, even in training.

"I'm learning from them every day in training, seeing the things they do, questioning them and asking them," says Marriott.

"They are willing to teach you because they've been in the game a long time and I'm just starting out, so it's good to learn from them, especially such big names. Long may it continue."

### IMPRESS

Still had been watching Marriott impress during his previous loan spells at Woking and the striker is hoping to repay the faith the manager has shown by bringing him to Kenilworth Road.

"He wants me to score goals and I imagine that's why the manager brought me in," he says. "I hope that I can repay some faith and stick the ball in the back of the net.

"It's what I've done since I've been playing football really, I want to score goals. It doesn't mean that I'm stupidly greedy, but if I've got a chance then I want to take it, it's always something I've strived for."

Having gained experience out on loan in recent seasons – Marriott is now keen to grab the opportunity at Kenilworth Road with both hands and nail down a first team spot.

"I've had two good seasons out on loan and learned a lot but now I'm ready to settle at a club where I've got a good chance to contribute to the team."

### NUMBERS GAME

**20** AGE

**14** SQUAD NUMBER

**2** APPEARANCES IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR IPSWICH

**13** GOALS FOR WOKING IN 24 GAMES DURING 2013/14

**15** AGE JACK JOINED THE IPSWICH ACADEMY

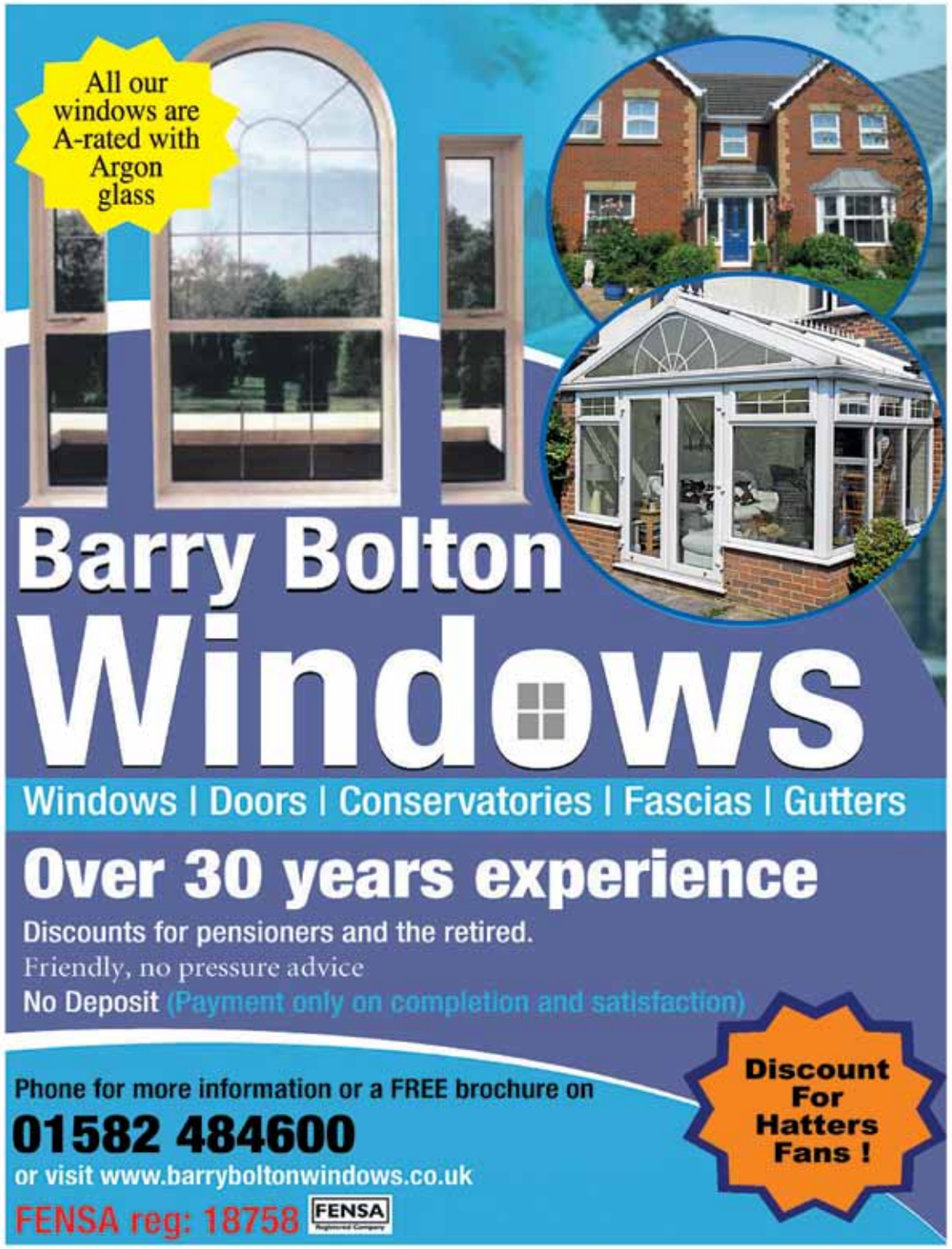
### FROM THE BOSS

"Jack's quick, he's aggressive, he's had a bit of Football League experience and he's scored goals in the Conference.

"He's somebody we actually looked at bringing in on loan during the Conference title season but we decided against it as we had the firepower at the time.

"So naturally he's a player we've been looking at for a while – I actually first saw him playing for Ipswich reserves.

"And what I liked about him – putting goals to one side – was his attitude on the pitch. So we kept a close eye on him and when we knew something could be possible we've moved quickly."

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# Youth PROFILE

## LIAM GOOCH

Name: Liam Gooch

Date of birth: 25/11/1997

Birthplace: Barnet

Position: Goalkeeper

Year joined Luton: 2012

**WHY DID YOU JOIN LUTON TOWN?**

Because the staff and players are all lovely people…and because it was the only club that wanted me at the time!

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

My dad always said to me when I was growing up "expected the unexpected" and now I take most things with a pinch of salt.

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

When I was in the Under-16s I played for the Under-18s in one of their last game of the season. I saved two penalties against Northampton to help the team win the game 2-1. To this day I think that one game got me my scholarship.

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

Chelsea

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

Peter Schmeichel

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

Water polo, chess, bowls

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT?**

Drama

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

Kyran McGhan-George

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

Mark Tyler

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

An armed response unit commander

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

I love the 80s classics, maybe some 60s and 70s too. I love a bit of Elvis and Luther Vandross, especially Never Too Much.

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

To become a professional at Luton Town.

## WHAT THE COACH SAYS

Under-18s boss Paul Driver on Liam:

"Liam joined our academy at the start of his under-15 year, and arrived as what you would call a typical keeper you find at junior levels: a really good shot stopper. This was never more evident when he saved four penalties for the under-18s when he was still an under-16 - including two in one game in a win over Northampton.

"Liam's a player who really works hard on his game and relishes training with Kevin Dearden and learning from the other keepers at the club. Whenever he's had to step up - playing in a development game for example - he has always done well.

"Off the pitch, he's one of the, shall we say, more professional boys we've had in the youth team. If a job needs doing that's not his he'll still get up and do it.

"He's probably the best 'finder' of balls after training, and he doesn't make a bad cup of coffee either.

"You definitely know he's a goalkeeper though. They are all crazy and Liam isn't afraid to fool about."

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# ACADEMY UPDATE

## WITH ANDY AWFORD

First of all I would like to thank all the staff and supporters at Luton Town for the way in which I have been welcomed into the club.

Everybody has been so supportive and accommodating as I've settled into my role as Academy & Player Development Manager since replacing Wayne Turner.

Obviously, it is very early days for me at the moment, but I have been really pleased with the work ethic, team spirit and togetherness that I have witnessed from both academy staff and academy players since joining seven weeks ago.

The 'all in it together' message is very evident around the whole football club and these factors certainly shone through in the Under 18s' worthy 4-0 victory over Barnet in our opening league game of the season last Saturday.

My role will see me oversee all aspects of the academy. This process has already started with a slight change to the staff structure and interviews being undertaken for the mandatory roles of head physio and head of education and welfare.

### CHANGES

It is important to add that I am not here to make drastic changes, as there has been an awful lot of good work gone on at Luton Town Academy over the past few years. I will just manoeuvre things around slowly to enhance the good working environment that has already been created by the existing and previous staff.

Once again sincere thanks for the warm welcome and I look forward to us having a successful season at all levels and hopefully seeing some 'home-grown' players grace the hallowed turf at Kenilworth Road in the not too distant future.

Up the Hatters

Andy Awford joined the Hatters this summer after previously holding a previous position at Portsmouth

### YOUTH ALLIANCE FIXTURES

**AUGUST**

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

**SEPTEMBER**

Wed Sep 2 Cup 1
Sat Sep 5 Cambridge United A
**Sat Sep 12 Leyton Orient H**
**Sat Sep 19 Dagenham & Redbridge H**
Sat Sep 26 Northampton Town A

**OCTOBER**

**Sat Oct 3 Stevenage H Cup 2**
Sat Oct 10 Southend United A
**Sat Oct 17 Peterborough United H**
Sat Oct 24 Barnet A
Sat Oct 31 Cup 3

**NOVEMBER**

Sat Nov 7 A.F.C. Wimbledon A
**Sat Nov 14 Milton Keynes Dons H**
Sat Nov 21 Gillingham A

**DECEMBER**

**Sat Dec 5 Cambridge United H**
Sat Dec 12 Leyton Orient A
Sat Dec 19 Dagenham & Redbridge A

**JANUARY**

**Sat Jan 9 Northampton Town H**
**Sat Jan 16 Southend United H Cup 4**
Sat Jan 23 Stevenage A

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# YOUTH UPDATE

The Hatters' Under-18s began their season in the Youth Alliance with a bang by beating Barnet 4-0 at Ely Way on Saturday morning.

Paul Drivera's youngsters, who were beaten 5-0 by the Bees last term, were 1-0 to the good at half-time thanks to Geo Craig's strike. The forward finished in the penalty area after Frankie Musonda had nodded down James Justin's free-kick in the 37th minute.

The second half was only five minutes old when the Town doubled their lead when Jack Snelus looped home a 30-yard effort.

Brimming with the confidence of a two-goal advantage, the Hatters made it 3-0 on 72 minutes when substitute Freddie Hinds headed home from close range.

And with four minutes left the scoring was completed when another sub, James Verney, also nodded home from inside the six-yard box.

A happy Driver told lutontown.co.uk: "There's no getting away from what a fantastic result it is but it's important to keep the boys' feet on the ground. It was only the first game.

Jack Snelus - scored from 30 yards last weekend

"There is definitely room for improvement in our overall play and we can, and will, get better.

"The boys played some good football, especially in the second half, and this kind of performance bodes well for the rest of the campaign."

**Town: Gooch, Bean, McJannett, McGhan-George, Justin, Atkinson (sub Hinds 71), Cotter, Snelus, Craig (sub Verney 67), Murray (sub Famewo 88).**

**Subs not used: Jones, Lee.**

# YOUTH KIT SPONSORS

## 2015/16 season

| | H: | A: |
|---|---|---|
| ALEX ATKINSON | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| GEO CRAIG | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| EKENE AMADI | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| LIAM GOOCH | Paul Bacon | AVAILABLE |
| FRANKIE MUSONDA | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| TYREEQ BAKINSON | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| HARRY BEAN | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| JOSHUA BROWN | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| KAVAN COTTER | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| AKINLOLU FAMEWO | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| FREDRICK HINDS | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| JAMES JUSTIN | AVAILABLE | Bobbers Travel |
| CAMERON MCJANNET | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| GEORG MURRAY | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| JACK SNELUS | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| JAMES VERNEY | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |
| KYRAN MCGHAN-GEORGE | AVAILABLE | AVAILABLE |

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# GET ONE IN!

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# JUNIOR HATTERS

PLAYER PROFILE

## JACK MARRIOTT

DATE OF BIRTH: 9TH SEPTEMBER 1994
FROM: BEVERLEY, YORKSHIRE
HEIGHT: 5FT 7"
POSITION: FORWARD

Tuesday night's two-goal hero and man of the match Jack Marriott signed for the Hatters back in May 2015 from Ipswich Town, where he came through the ranks from their youth team. Jack has now scored 8 goals in a Luton Shirt including pre-season friendlies. Jack has also spent time on loan with Woking, Gillingham, Carlisle and Colchester. Well played Jack!

## WHO'S THAT GUY?

CAN YOU GUESS WHO'S FACE WE'VE HIDDEN STRAIGHT AWAY OR WILL YOU NEED NUMBER 9 GUESSES...?

PRE ORDER A HAPPY HARRY LUNCH BAG AND YOU AND THREE FRIENDS COULD BE WATCHING THE WARM UP FROM THE DUG OUT...

For full details visit lutontown.co.uk/fans

FACT FILE

## OXFORD UNITED

Today's match will be the 37th meeting of the two sides. Back in 1988, both teams were in the 1st Division (now called the Premier League) and on the 6th February their match at Kenilworth Road featured eleven goals in total, with the match ending 7-4 to the Hatters!

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# Luton LADIES

It has been a very busy pre-season behind the scenes with the Ladies with a large turnover of players.

Following last season's fourth placed finish the club is looking to challenge for promotion and across the two squads there have been 15 new signings with an additional seven players making the jump from our successful under-16 squad from last season. Additions to the backroom staff also place the club in a stronger position to progress on and off the field to move the club forward and further develop our youth section.

First team manager Nikki Baker told us: "I am really pleased with the shape of the squad and our summer recruitment campaign has proved really successful.

"We finished strongly last season but it was obvious that there was insufficient strength in depth to make a realistic title challenge and we have recruited a mix of players with a balance of experience and youth who we believe we can quickly develop into quality first team players.

## ABILITY

"In spite of not being goal shy last season we have recruited two proven goal scorers in Natasha Fensome and Jo Rutherford and hope that they will quickly gel and give us the ability to put some serious pressure on teams at the sharp end. To add to the internal move into senior football of our youths we have recruited five other 16-year-olds from other clubs who we consider to be the finest within the area and it is hoped that we can develop them quickly into the footballers we believe they can be."

With so many changes to personnel the squad has to hit the ground running and begins the League campaign tomorrow entertaining Enfield Town at Stockwood Park Athletics Stadium with a 2pm kick off. All are welcome to come along and support the Ladies.

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

## FA Women's Premier League

South East Division One

**AUGUST**

**16 Enfield Town (H)**
23 Lowestoft Town (A)

**SEPTEMBER**

2 Bedford (A)
6 Cambridge United (A)
**13 Lowestoft Town (H)**
20 MK Dons (A)
**23 Bedford (H)**
**27 Gillingham (H)**

**OCTOBER**

4 Enfield Town (A)
**18 Old Actonians (H)**
25 Norwich City (A)

**NOVEMBER**

**1 Crystal Palace (H)**
15 Ipswich Town (A)
**22 MK Dons (H)**

**DECEMBER**

6 Gillingham (A)
**13 Denham United (H)**
**20 Norwich City (H)**

**JANUARY**

**3 Cambridge United (H)**
17 Crystal Palace (A)
**24 Ipswich Town (H)**
31 Denham United (A)

**FEBRUARY**

21 Old Actonians (A)

# Luton Town in the COMMUNITY

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

Today we are continuing to look at the activities of the Trust over summer months starting with our community stadium weekend in May which saw over 2,000 participants play on the Kenilworth Road pitch

We looked at the Hatters Cup in the Bristol City programme on Tuesday, but today we will look at all of the other activities that also took place over the same weekend.

## FFD School Girls Competition

The first event involved our Female Football Development (FFD) School Year 10 and 11 girls' tournament.

Twelve local high schools took part on the Friday morning with over 100 participants which was also attended by Luton Town Ladies FC and the Beds FA.

The girls were split into three groups with the group winner and best runner-up progressing to knockout stages with Cedars Upper School from Leighton Buzzard and Barnfield Academy West meeting in the final with the Luton girls ending up as eventual winners.

We all know the women's game is now growing massively in popularity following the Lioness's success in the recent Women's World Cup, and the Trust have now been involved in the FFD programme for a year now with the goal to inspire the future female game, aiming to play an integral role in the progression of the women's and girls' game and drive participation growth and retention through the delivery of sessions built around fun, friends, and fitness.

Certainly for everyone there on the day, and for the participants in particular, the excitement of playing at Kenilworth Road was plain for all to see. We have now joined nearly every other Football League club in delivering FFD sessions aimed at 14-25 year-olds and, in partnership with the Beds FA and our County Sports Partnership team Beds&Luton, we have set up over 15 centres in local schools and colleges to engage with fresh participants, as part of the new FA Women's and Girls' programme.

We are pleased to report that new participants are falling in love with the game for the first time, or all over again, now have numerous pathways to graduate beyond grassroots at the Club through our partnership with Luton Ladies FC and we were delighted with the number of girls recruited on the day by Luton Town Ladies first team coach Nikki Baker and her staff.

We see this partnership now really beginning to grow and real opportunities for women and girls of all abilities opening up throughout Luton and Bedfordshire.

## PCUK Charity Competition

Later the same day we held our charity Prostate Cancer UK football tournament for men's teams who were made up of supporters groups and local corporate football teams all of whom had paid £500 per team towardS the charity for the privilege of playing on the pitch. I'm sure almost all of our supporters were aware of our stadium name change for Prostate Cancer UK prostate cancer awareness at last seasons' game with Wycombe, and our charity tournament was all part of the overall effort we made as a Club to raise awareness of the disease. Our commercial department were also closely involved in the project as they held several online auctions of specially autographed t-shirts and photographs from the Wycombe match.

The winners of the tournament on the day were the boys from St Joseph's FC and Mike Summers, Project Manager – Football Partnerships from Prostate Cancer UK was on hand to present the trophy. However, the real winners on the day were PCUK as the charity event raised £10,000 on the day as well as raising awareness of prostate cancer.

Remember, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men with over 42,000 men in the UK diagnosed with prostate cancer every year – that's more than 110 men every day. Every hour one man dies from prostate cancer – that's more than 10,500 men every year and one in eight men will get prostate cancer in their lifetime. Get yourselves checked out fellas!

## Social Integration Project

On the Friday evening our Community Integration through Sport (KiTS) project's annual football tournament took place on the pitch.

Currently, the Club's Community Trust, along with Active Luton, deliver football coaching using the sport and our badge to engage, empower and improve the lives of disadvantaged young men in the Marsh Farm, Lewsey Farm and Farley Hill areas of town. Over 140 boys from all three estates visited the stadium for the KiTS football tournament and played each other on the pitch in a fantastic competitive tournament. The boys also attended various workshops in the Eric Morecombe suite from youth services, Police cadets and the Prince's Trust, as well as meeting former ex-offenders who spoke about their experiences with the boys.

Guests of honour at the tournament that evening included the Town's two MPs, Kelvin Hopkins and Gavin Suker, along with Helen Barnet, chief executive of Active Luton and Olly Martins, Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire.

We would like to think that the boys' conduct on the night was noticed along with our work on behalf of the Club in these well-known parts of Luton.

The integration projects run every Thursday at Lea Manor at 8pm and in Lewsey and Farley Hill at Barnfield South and West Academies on Friday 6.30pm. Boys aged 14-19 can simply turn up and join in. The sessions are lively and the banter is even livelier. If you would like further information, or know someone who would be interested in coming along, please call the community office on 01582 737568.

So that was our big weekend at the stadium in May with over 2,000 participants flogging the pitch to death. We're delighted to report that planning for next year's event is already well under way.

In Tuesday's programme I will report more news of our other summer events, including our Walking Football tournament at Venue 360 and our Disability Multi sport day up at Stockwood.

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# FROM LEFT MIDFIELD

WITH KEVIN CROWE

## THE HATTERS OF KENILWORTH ROAD: STILL HOME FOR NOW

Whether you spent your summer in Louisiana, Lusaka or Lewsey Farm; voting Labour or Tory; Snap Chatting in your Snap Back, or at the Bingo Hall napping on your Jack, when Saturday comes we are all heading back home...

Alright?

The first league game at Kenilworth Road is as close as adults of Lutopia get to a first day back at school. That same subtle smugness in new trainers, only instead of playgrounds it's in pubs with sticky carpets and graffiti'd bog doors that have missed you as much as you've missed them.

Four-deep queues for the bar ring out with blokes overselling their three-star holidays and invented Spanish girlfriends, while handshakes and nods reunite men and women whose full names neither know... and we're all heading for one place.

Kenilworth Road. The old ground is starting to feel like an elderly grandparent you've just realised might not be around forever. We're told our immortal home will soon be mortal once more with the promised announcement of a "preferred site" and talk of Council support and it's all I can do not to sit her down, make her a nice cup of tea and ask her about the War.

A new ground could mean so much for the future of Luton Town Football Club. One day *we* could be a club that doesn't run at a loss, a club that *families* will *drive* to from Milton Keynes in their family cars with rucksacks full of Fruit Shoots and ... *ZZZZzzzzzzZZZZzzzz*.

Won't be the same will it? To be fair, I felt like that when they recast Aunt Viv in Fresh prince of Bel-Air and to be honest by the third time Uncle Phil had chucked Jazz out of the front door, I'd forgotten what the old one looked like. Presumably it'll be the same for this.

A decent number of you are already two magic moments into this new term, of course.

Before a Football League ball was kicked at Kenilworth Road, the Old Girl had already hosted a minor League Cup upset versus Championship Bristol City on Tuesday night, where the Town began to shine just as the sultry floodlights were warming up during the second half.

An opening away-day up north overflowed with all the fun of a late equaliser at Accrington, where, wonderfully, the promise of Hatters hoards on the M1 had earlier caused hundreds of Watford fans, clutching carrier bags on official coaches to Goodison Park, to go via the M42 instead and miss their opening goal in the Premier League.

For the rest of us, Bury Park's perfect pitch offers plenty of "Who is that fella over there?" fare for the back-of-the-programme-new-squad-number-squadron, with more new signings than John can comfortably drive over from Dagenham in his Capri Ghia.

You'll have no trouble spotting the rugged yet graceful "Derry Pele", his complexion throbbing in the afternoon sun like Jim Smith's nose.

Up top the floppy haired initials CMS should spell goals and graft, while a young man named Jack Marriott winces in the shadows as John Still tenderly tattoos the words "SELL ON CLAUSE" to the bottom of his neck.

Add the usual School of Dagenham alumni and children of West Ham to the existing group, including the fit again Pelly "as good as a new signing" Ruddock Mpanzu, and the league is surely ours for the taking. But I say that every year.

Here's to another vintage season for the Hatters of Kenilworth Road. Still home for now.

leftmidfield.blogspot.com

# Don't forget...

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Jack Marriott delighted with cup double

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# LEAGUE LOOK

## A RUNDOWN OF WHO, WHEN AND WHERE THE TOWN WILL BE PLAYING IN LEAGUE 2 BETWEEN NOW AND MAY

### AFC WIMBLEDON
Nickname: The Dons
Ground: Kingsmeadow
Manager: Neal Ardley
Last season: League 2, 15th
Last meeting: Disappointment at Kingsmeadow as the Town go lose 3-2 after an injury time winner.
Home: 26th September.
Away: 13th February

### ACCRINGTON STANLEY
Nickname: Stanley
Ground: The Crown Ground
Manager: John Coleman
Last season: League 2, 17th
Last meeting: Jayden Stockley and Luke Guttridge score a goal each either side of half-time to put Luton within two points of the automatic places.
Home: 9th April
Away: Last weekend!

### BARNET
Nickname: The Bees
Ground: The Hive Stadium
Manager: Martin Allen
Last season: Conference Premier Champions (promoted)
Last meeting: Andre Gray and Paul Benson were on the scoresheet for the Hatters in a memorable and crucial 2-1 win in soaking wet conditions on New Year's Day 2014.
Home: 14th November.
Away: 28th March.

### BRISTOL ROVERS
Nickname: The Pirates
Ground: Memorial Stadium
Manager: Darrell Clarke
Last season: Conference Premier, 2nd (promoted)
Last meeting: An eventful Boxing Day draw in 2007 as as Chris Coyne, Steve Robinson and Anthony Grant are all sent off for Luton. Rickie Lambert put Bristol ahead but Dave Edwards equalised for the Hatters.
Home: 18th August.
Away: 2nd January.

### CAMBRIDGE UNITED
Nickname: The U's
Ground: Abbey Stadium
Manager: Richard Money
Last season: League 2, 19th
Last meeting: Luton win 3-2 but only after a nervy second half that saw the visitors come back strongly from a 3-0 deficit.
Home: 16th January.
Away: 5th September.

### CARLISLE UNITED
Nickname: The Cumbrians
Ground: Brunton Park
Manager: Keith Curle
Last season: League 2, 20th
Last meeting: Mark Cullen scores in a 1-0 home win on Valentine's Day, as Cameron McGeehan returns to Kenilworth Road.
Home: 24th November.
Away: 19th April.

### CRAWLEY TOWN
Nickname: Red Devils
Ground: Broadfield Stadium
Manager: Mark Yates
Last season: League 1, 22nd (relegated)
Last meeting: Luton lose out to a solitary Gwion Edwards goal in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Kenilworth Road.
Home: 12th March.
Away: 17th October

### DAGENHAM AND REDBRIDGE
Nickname: The Daggers
Ground: Victoria Road
Manager: Wayne Burnett
Last season: League 2, 14th
Last meeting: Paul Benson is sent off in a goalless draw at Victoria Road as the Hatters scrapped for a Play-Off place.
Home: 25th March.
Away: 31st October.

### EXETER CITY
Nickname: The Grecians
Ground: St James Park
Manager: Paul Tisdale
Last season: League 2, 10th
Last meeting: Exeter come back from two goals down to win 3-2 with more or less the last kick of the match.
Home: 7th May.
Away: 19th December.

### HARTLEPOOL UNITED
Nickname: Monkey Hangers
Ground: Victoria Park
Manager: Ronnie Moore
Last season: League 2, 22nd
Last meeting: Cameron McGeehan, Jake Howells and Scott Griffiths help the Hatters to a 3-0 win in April.
Home: 20th February.
Away: 3rd October.

### LEYTON ORIENT
Nickname: The O's
Ground: Brisbane Road
Manager: Ian Hendon
Last season: League 1, 23rd (relegated)
Last meeting: Our last meeting with the O's was back in February 2008, with the Hatters losing 1-0 at Kenilworth Road.
Home: 20th October.
Away: 5th March.

### MANSFIELD TOWN
Nickname: The Stags
Ground: Field Mill
Manager: Adam Murray
Last season: League 2, 21st
Last meeting: Mansfield steal a 1-0 win at Field Mill in a drab match on a cold, Tuesday evening in mid February.
Home: 19th September.
Away: 23rd January.

### MORECAMBE
Nickname: The Shrimps
Ground: Globe Arena
Manager: Jim Bentley
Last season: League 2, 11th
Last meeting: Morecambe retain the Eric Morecambe trophy with a 3-2 win at Kenilworth Road. Cameron McGeehan and Alex Lawless on target for the Hatters.
Home: 1st March.
Away: 29th September.

### NEWPORT COUNTY
Nickname: The Exiles
Ground: Rodney Parade
Manager: Terry Butcher
Last season: League 2, 9th
Last meeting: Luton fall to a fourth consecutive defeat thanks to former Hatter Aaron O'Connor's 21st minute strike.
Home: 23rd April.
Away: 28th November.

### NORTHAMPTON TOWN
Nickname: The Cobblers
Ground: Sixfields Stadium
Manager: Chris Wilder
Last season: League 2, 12th
Last meeting: Alex Lawless' early second goal can't stop Luton's poor run of form as the Cobblers win 2-1 at Sixfields
Home: 12th December.
Away: 30th April.

### NOTTS COUNTY
Nickname: The Magpies
Ground: Meadow Lane
Manager: Ricardo Moniz
Last season: League 1, 21st (relegated)
Last meeting: The Hatters' last meeting with the Magpies was at Meadow Lane in 2009, winning 2-0 thanks to goals from Chris Martin and Tom Craddock.
Home: 30th January.
Away: 12th September.

Who can follow Burton Albion's lead of last season and win the League 2 title?

### OXFORD UNITED
Nickname: The U's
Ground: Kassam Stadium
Manager: Michael Appleton
Last season: League 2, 13th
Last meeting: Jayden Stockley helps extend the Town's unbeaten run to eight matches with a 1-1 draw at the Kassam Stadium.
Home: Today!
Away: 16th April.

### PLYMOUTH ARGYLE
Nickname: The Pilgrims
Ground: Home Park
Manager: Derek Adams
Last season: League 2, 7th
Last meeting: Andy Drury's strike saw Luton take all three points away from Home Park last January.
Home: 24th October.
Away: 19th March.

### PORTSMOUTH
Nickname: Pompey
Ground: Fratton Park
Manager: Paul Cook
Last season: League 2, 16th
Last meeting: Luton lose 2-0 at Fratton Park, despite a decent performance from John Still's men.
Home: 29th August.
Away: 28th December.

### STEVENAGE
Nickname: The Boro
Ground: Broadhall Way
Manager: Teddy Sheringham
Last season: League 2, 6th
Last meeting: A sell-out crowd watch Mark Cullen and Michael Harriman score in the Hatters 2-0 home win over Boro in the final game of last season.
Home: 2nd April.
Away: 21st November.

### WYCOMBE WANDERERS
Nickname: The Chairboys
Ground: Adams Park
Manager: Gareth Ainsworth
Last season: League 2, 4th
Last meeting: Two goals from Luton-loanee Elliott Lee can't prevent a 3-2 Wycombe win at the Prostate Cancer UK Stadium in front of live Sky Sports cameras.
Home: 26th December.
Away: 6th February.

### YEOVIL TOWN
Nickname: The Glovers
Ground: Huish Park
Manager: Paul Sturrock
Last season: League 1, 24th (relegated)
Last meeting: Calvin Andrew's diving header gives Luton a 1-0 win over The Glovers on New Year's Day 2008.
Home: 9th January.
Away: 22nd August.

### YORK CITY
Nickname: The Minstermen
Ground: Bootham Crescent
Manager: Russ Wilcox
Last season: League 2, 18th
Last meeting: Mark Cullen comes off the bench to score twice and help earn the Hatters a 2-2 draw in a game that saw three red cards.
Home: 10th October.
Away: 27th February.

# 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 (Capital 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** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Tue 18** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Bristol Rovers** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 22 | 3.00pm | A | Yeovil Town | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 29** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Portsmouth** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Tues 1** | **7.15pm** | **H** | **Leyton Orient (JPT 1)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 5 | 3.00pm | A | Cambridge United | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 12 | 3.00pm | A | Notts County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 19** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Mansfield Town** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 26** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **AFC Wimbledon** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 29 | 7.45pm | A | Morecambe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OCTOBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 3 | 3.00pm | A | Hartlepool United | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 10** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **York City** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 17 | 3.00pm | A | Crawley Town | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Tue 20** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Leyton Orient** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 24** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Plymouth Argyle** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 31 | 3.00pm | A | Dagenham & Redbridge | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NOVEMBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 14** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Barnet** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 21 | 3.00pm | A | Stevenage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Tue 24** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Carlisle United** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 28 | 3.00pm | A | Newport County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DECEMBER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 12** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Northampton Town** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 19 | 3.00pm | A | Exeter City | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 26** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Wycombe Wanderers** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 28 | 3.00pm | A | Portsmouth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JANUARY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 2 | 3.00pm | A | Bristol Rovers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 9** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Yeovil Town** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 16** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Cambridge United** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 23 | 3.00pm | A | Mansfield Town | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 30** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Notts County** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FEBRUARY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 6 | 3.00pm | A | Wycombe Wanderers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 13 | 3.00pm | A | AFC Wimbledon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 20** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Hartlepool United** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 27 | 3.00pm | A | York City | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MARCH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Tue 1** | **7.45pm** | **H** | **Morecambe** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 5 | 3.00pm | A | Leyton Orient | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 12** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Crawley Town** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 19 | 3.00pm | A | Plymouth Argyle | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Fri 25** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Dagenham & Redbridge** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mon 28 | 3.00pm | A | Barnet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| APRIL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 2** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Stevenage** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 9** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Accrington Stanley** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 16 | 3.00pm | A | Oxford United | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 19 | 7.45pm | A | Carlisle United | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 23** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Newport County** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 30 | 3.00pm | A | Northampton Town | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sat 7** | **3.00pm** | **H** | **Exeter City** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Paul Benson celebrates scoring in Tuesday's win over Bristol City

## MEET THE REF

### MARK BROWN

Mark makes the trip down from East Yorkshire to take charge of the game this afternoon in what will be his third fixture of the season. His season began overseeing a 1-1 draw between Walsall and Oldham before he then was in action on Tuesday in Sheffield Wednesday's 4-1 win over Mansfield. Last season he took charge of our goalless draw at York and today is his first visit to Kenilworth Road. Please give Mark and his fellow match officials a warm welcome today.

## LUTON TOWN

### 1885-PRESENT DAY THE FULL RECORD

PLAYED: **5264**
WON: **2101**
DRAWN: **1280**
LOST: **1883**
GOALS SCORED : **8359**
GOALS CONCEDED: **7577**

## LEAGUE TABLE 2015/16

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

## 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 | 0 | (1) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 1 | 1 | (1) | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 64 | 21 |
| Scott Cuthbert | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 2 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2 | 0 |
| Nathan Doyle | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (1) | 0 | 1 | (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 33 | 0 |
| Danny Green | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0 |
| Scott Griffiths | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (1) | 0 | 1 | (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 93 | 3 |
| Luke Guttridge | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 63 | 17 |
| Ryan Hall | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 6 | 0 |
| Elliot Justham | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 24 | 0 |
| Alex Lawless | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 172 | 21 |
| Craig Mackail-Smith | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0 |
| Jack Marriott | 0 | (1) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 2 | 1 | (1) | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 2 | 2 |
| Paddy McCourt | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0 |
| Cameron McGeehan | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 34 | 6 |
| Steve McNulty | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 2 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 115 | 2 |
| Josh McQuoid | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (1) | 0 | 1 | (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2 | 0 |
| Mark O'Brien | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0 |
| Stephen O'Donnell | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0 |
| Magnus Okuonghae | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Dan Potts | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0 |
| Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu | 0 | (1) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 44 | 3 |
| Jonathan Smith | 1 | (0) | 1 | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 101 | 6 |
| Mark Tyler | 0 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 267 | 0 |
| Luke Wilkinson | 1 | (0) | 0 | 1 | (0) | 0 | 2 | (0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 50 | 4 |

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

# HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH MIKE SIMMONDS

When Luton Town boss John Still stated he would be making changes to his squad over the summer, few supporters could have imagined the complete overhaul and, let's face it, dramatic upgrade it has been given.

While Still deserves great credit for being able to persuade all the new faces to make Kenilworth Road their home, so to do the club's board as they have allowed the manager to take the required switch from non-league players who might be able to cut it in the Football League, to those who are proven at this level, and in most cases a fair few higher too.

Vice chairman David Wilkinson, writing in the midweek programme, confirmed the board had sanctioned an increase in the playing budget this term, and Still has used his extra funds wisely, with Craig Mackail-Smith, clearly the stand out addition over the summer.

However, Still hasn't just put all his eggs in one basket by bringing in a player he shaped the career of back at Dagenham, not at all.

Paddy McCourt, Danny Green and Scott Cuthbert to name just three, were all snapped up, with every one of the new additions speaking how they were drawn to the ambition of the club who are clearly not happy stopping at just one promotion.

Another player who might not have earned the same headlines when signing was Jack Marriott, but there is no question he is doing everything he can to change that since.

Four goals against Barton Rovers in the Beds Premier Cup showed he clearly knew where the goal was, but taking into account the level of opposition, the question was could he do it for the first team.

## IMPRESSIVE

All the early signs say he has what it takes as an impressive cameo at Accrington was followed by a man-of-the-match display versus Bristol City on Tuesday night, with two lethal finishes. The old adage of competition for places can't ring truer at Kenilworth Road right now, as Luton swapped eight players and still saw off their Championship opponents.

Today's clash against Oxford United has all the makings of a cracker too, as if Hatters think they are going into the game full of confidence after Tuesday's victory, imagine the scenes in the U's changing room after their tie.

Drawn away to Brentford, who admittedly look like they could struggle this year, an opening blast saw Michael Appleton's side 3-0 up inside just 12 minutes, eventually easing through 4-0.

Predictions can usually can come back to bite you, but had I been asked to choose a top three this term, I'd have been tempted to go for the Hatters, Portsmouth and maybe Oxford, not necessarily in that order, although it would be nice.

Cambridge look strong too having used their FA Cup money wisely, while Notts County dwarfed even Luton's recruitment in the summer, bringing in 16, and have started promisingly. Whether that can last remains to be seen, so although as Still has said, it will take eight to 10 games for the league to settle down, an early victory over a potential promotion rival wouldn't hurt at all this afternoon.



Mike Simmonds is the sports editor of the Luton News and the Dunstable Gazette

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# TEAMSHEET

## LUTON TOWN

1 Mark Tyler
2 Stephen O'Donnell
3 Dan Potts
4 Jonathan Smith
5 Stephen McNulty
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
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

## OXFORD UNITED

1 Sam Slocombe
2 George Baldock
3 Joe Skarz
4 Kemar Roofe
5 Johnny Murray
6 Jake Wright
7 Danny Rose
8 Liam Sercombe
9 Patrick Hoban
10 Danny Hylton
11 Alex Macdonald
14 Josh Ruffles
15 Callum O'Dowda
19 Michael Collins
20 Ryan Taylor
21 Max Crocombe
22 Sam Long
24 Josh Ashby
25 Freddie Grant
26 Robbie Cundy
27 AJ George
30 Sam Humphreys
31 James Roberts
32 Aidan Hawtin
33 Cheyenne Dunkley

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Mark Brown
Adrian Waters
Nigel Lugg
4 Guy Stretton

Back cover photograph taken behind the Kenilworth Road end.
Do you have an image you would like us to use here on our back cover? Email us at info@lutontown.co.uk