



THE
LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL
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ISSUE 3

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League II

August 18th, 2015. 7.45pm.

LUTON TOWN v. BRISTOL ROVERS



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Welcome to **KENILWORTH ROAD**

What's inside your matchday programme tonight...



5

THE BOSS

John Still looks ahead to this evening's game with the Pirates

6 FROM THE BOARDROOM

With finance director Ray Williams



10

AROUND TOWN

A round-up of the latest news at Kenilworth Road

18



WELCOME BRISTOL ROVERS

All you need to know about the men from the Memorial Stadium

28



LOOKING BACK

Pictures, reports and reaction from Saturday's game with Oxford

54 HATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

The latest from our community projects around Luton and Bedfordshire

96 SPEAKING STATISTICALLY

Stats, facts, fixtures and results this season

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COVER STORY

Throughout the 2015/16 season our programme covers will be a nod to the covers of yesteryear.



Today's cover is based on a Bristol Rovers fixture from April 1936.

To find out more, turn to page 22.

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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FITNESS COACH: Dave Richardson

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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With thanks to our contributors Roger Wash,

Ed Smith, Leigh Edwards, Simon Pitts, Ross

Lawson, Martin Daniels and Keith Brookman at

Bristol Rovers.

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 evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the third time this week as we host Bristol Rovers.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Darrell Clarke and his staff and players, plus all the directors and officials of the Pirates.

Darrell has done a fantastic job so far in his time at the Memorial Stadium. Very, very few clubs have bounced back from relegation from the Football League and won promotion at the first time of asking so the magnitude of their achievements last year should not be underestimated. They arrive here having won away at Yeovil on Saturday so we know that we're going to be up against confident opponents this evening.

On Saturday we were disappointed to concede two late goals against Oxford which meant we were denied our first league win of the season. There wasn't much we could do with their first goal but the second was particularly frustrating and one in which I was very unhappy with. Individual errors in our first two matches this season have cost us. Let's hope they don't turn out to be costly come the end of the season.

The positives, however, certainly outweighed the negatives on

Saturday and I thought we played some terrific football. Looking back at the first half, the passing and movement and chances we created as a result were highly encouraging, and the only disappointment was the fact we couldn't turn those opportunities into goals. Craig Mackail-Smith had the ball in the back of the net with a goal I thought was onside but we kept going and after weathering a bit of pressure from Oxford we deservedly took the lead through Luke Wilkinson.

I thought Luke was excellent throughout and he has really stepped up since we've returned this summer as a direct result of having to really compete for a place in the team this year.

Another one of our younger players, Cameron, put us in control at 2-0 and at that point we looked very comfortable, but Oxford's deflected first goal changed the dynamic of the game with 10 minutes to go. Despite that we still had three points in our grasp, only to shoot ourselves in the foot with a disastrous goal in injury time. The players knew exactly how I felt after the match, and I am sure they will be keen

to make amends tonight against Bristol Rovers.

Overall, though Saturday's performance was pleasing; we know we attacked well and we know we could have scored more goals, and as the season progresses we know we will be able to maintain that level of performance for longer periods.

We also know that Oxford are a good side, who have recruited well in the summer, and taking into consideration how much effort we put in against Bristol City four days before, I must credit the players for their efforts in the past week.

My last notes went to press before the Capital One Cup draw and I was thrilled that we were drawn against Premier League opposition in the shape of Stoke. That game, a week tonight, is something we're all looking forward to. While we have two important matches in League 2 before then, the test that Stoke will offer us can only be a good thing. As I always say, playing against top quality players is only going to make our boys even better. Enjoy tonight's game.

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

From the BOARDROOM

WITH FINANCE DIRECTOR **RAY WILLIAMS**

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR OUR THIRD HOME GAME IN A WEEK.

Tonight we welcome the officials, players and supporters of Bristol Rovers who like the Hatters are now back in their rightful place in the Football League following promotion from the Conference at the first attempt. Our congratulations to them.

I am delighted and feel privileged to write these my first ever programme notes after my appointment as Finance Director last May, this following the well-deserved retirement of my predecessor Roger Bannister. I am grateful to Roger for his help while I was settling in and for allowing me to tap into all his experience, Roger having served at a number of league clubs in this capacity.

I have supported Luton Town all my life and grew up attending infant, junior and senior schools within a mile or so from the Kenny. It's been a rollercoaster ride, and although I played local football myself I have watched every era of team over the last 50 years.

I would like to return to this a bit later.

Firstly let me outline briefly my work background. I studied for my accounting qualification at Luton College. My particular finance experience is from within the property sector having worked as Property FD for a large private property investment and development company in London for 27 years. In addition to the expected financial disciplines that excite us all of financial controls, accounts and budgets, I spent much of my time measuring past and forecasting future investment property portfolio performance and specialising particularly in large scale development schemes.

Big project development schemes are of particular interest. By their very nature they are complex, are often in many phases and can span a decade in planning, construction and letting. Ultimately the success of a scheme is down to meticulous planning. Get it right and the development can transform and enrich an area, get it wrong and one of the many consequences is that the community is left with an expensive and inappropriate eyesore.

I worked within a commercial project team and particularly focused on the overall structuring of



the schemes within separate legal entities, financing the project costs, the schemes viability and identifying and valuing risk.

My role therefore here at Luton Town will be to actively contribute to the Club's relocation and property development plans. I love this old football ground; metaphorically speaking it has been my second home. We now have a wonderful opportunity to move to a new location. I have been heartened and impressed by the progress the Club has made and excited to join the excellent project team that I found to be already in place.

My other important task is of course the financial management of the football club, including managing cash flow, the fundamental life-line of any business, not least football, and reporting the financial performance both historic and projected to the Board in the form of accounts and budgets.

Effectively I have only been in this job during the close season and I have been surprised how busy



the club is at this time of the year. David Wilkinson outlined this in his programme notes last week, but I must say that, along with the formation of a more experienced team on the pitch, there is a great team also working tirelessly off it. I thank them all for helping me settle in and making me so welcome.

So now for a bit of football sentimentality, which I hope will resonate with those of you who watched the Hatters back in the black and white days. I am still amazed and disappointed that at the age of six attending school little more than a stone's throw from the ground the excitement of Luton Town reaching the FA Cup final just passed me by. I understand that over 30,000 fans crammed into this ground on a midweek afternoon to watch the quarter final against Blackpool. A number of kids skived off from school, a misdemeanour in those days which was more than just a ticking off from your teacher.

My first game was in 1963, peering over the fence in the Bobbers stand and we lost at home to Newcastle 3-2. It was not really the score that etched in memory but to me at the time the fantastic long slide tackles that was being made on the wet pitch. I was literally hooked from then on. Until I later played competitive football myself I was at this ground every week.

It seems incredible now with all the multimedia at our finger tips that news of your team was not instantly available. I relied on the Luton News and the Saturday Green 'Un. Furthermore, by attending the reserves' football combination games intermittently you would hear the click of a loud speaker coming through and the latest score from the first team away game would be transmitted.

ILLUSTRIOS

I am afraid the scores at that time were all too often disappointing. The team was in decline and dropping down the leagues. However I was lucky enough to see some of the greats from the 1950s team as they played their last few games of their illustrious careers. I remember Bob Morton's testimonial in 1964 against a cup-winning West Ham team. The legendary Gordon Turner, our highest ever goalscorer, was still playing at that time, as was England international Ron Baynham. I have yet to see a goalkeeper come out for a corner and catch a ball in a crowded penalty box like Ron did. Invariably he would then prefer to throw the ball over the half way line than kick it.

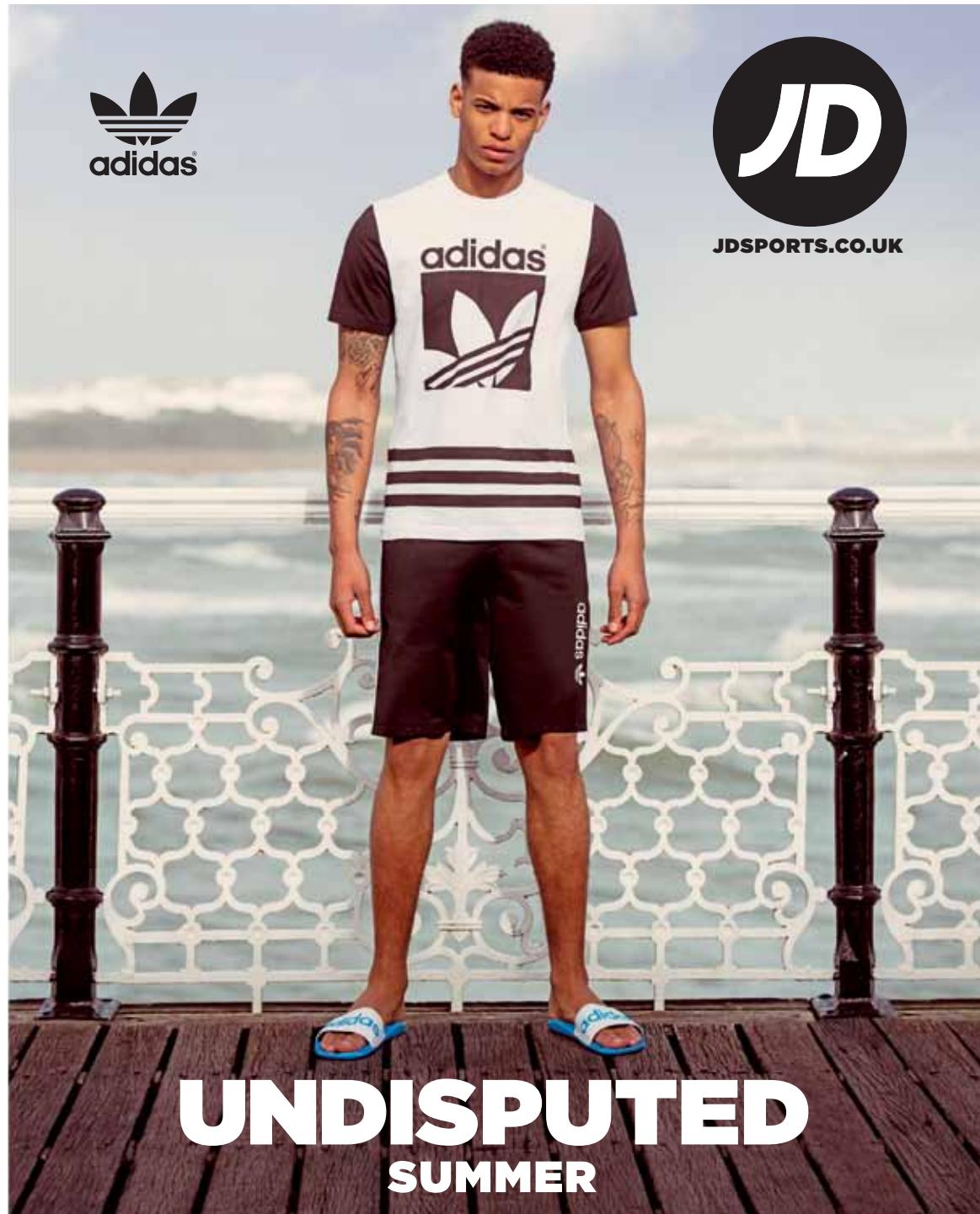
Looking back now over the number of brilliant teams and moments we have had, I think following the years of decline during the early 1960s,

the 1967/68 Division Four team is most special. Watching them from the infamous Oak Road terrace many of those games in that season were won by four or five goals. We had players such as Bruce Rioch, Alan Slough, John Moore and a certain player called Graham French. Now much has been written about Graham, including of course that goal that grows in stature each year. He is another one of my favourite players from the past. He had super dribbling skills, was deceptively quick – the ball always under control and close to his feet. He also had the habit of rounding the full-back more than once before releasing the ball and defenders would literally queue up to tackle him.

In the interests of editor's space and the risk of being even more self indulgent in my Luton Town memories, I will sign off here. Suffice to say I am delighted to have been given this opportunity to serve Luton Town and proud also to have been a supporter over all the years. I hope you enjoy the game, it always a special Kenny atmosphere at evening games under the floodlights.

Come on you Hatters.





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MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING...

It goes without saying that Saturday's game against Oxford ended in hugely frustrating and disappointing circumstances.

To be 2-0 up in the last 10 minutes and let the lead slip is unacceptable. As a group of players we know that and the obvious disappointment afterwards almost made it feel like a defeat.

We should be good enough to be in control of those situations. We expected ourselves to win the match. We had the three points in our grasp but we came off the pitch with just one point to show for our efforts.

However, there were plenty of positives to take from the game – the final 10 minutes apart. We played some excellent football and scored two good goals.

Luke Wilkinson and Cameron McGeehan are two young players with bright futures in the game and I think both of them are examples of how the strong competition for places has made them up their performances.

So disappointment yes, but thankfully we're at an early stage of the season. We've only played two league matches and we have 44 games to play.

Titles aren't won or lost in August. This league can gobble you up and spit you out if you don't have the quality and characters in the dressing room and I can tell you for sure that we have the players to go on and enjoy a successful season.

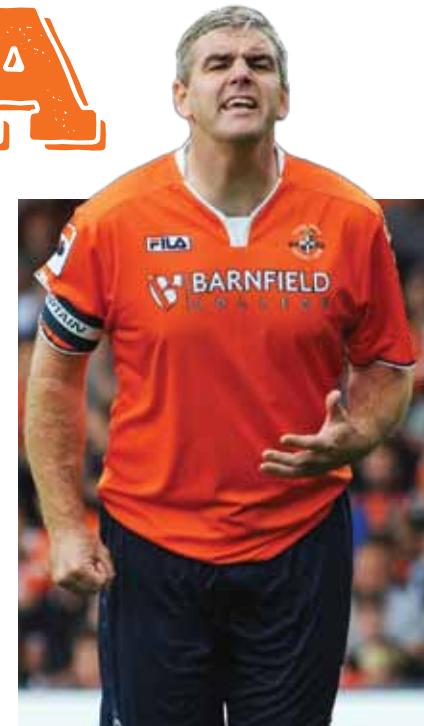
We know that there are expectations at board level and on the terraces from you the fans. And as players we do too. I would even go as much to say that our expectations are higher than yours. We see day in, day out in training the capability of each and every member of this squad. That was why Saturday was so tough to take, especially given the circumstances.

IMPORTANT

We've got almost an entire season left. Things take time and it's vitally important that nobody panics. You won't begin to even see the best of teams until we reach the 10-game mark. That's not just here at Luton Town but at any club. It takes time for players to settle, to get used to playing with their teams, as well as finding their own form.

Tonight we welcome a Bristol Rovers side who picked up their first win of the season on Saturday at Yeovil. It's good that we are able to play so soon after Saturday because we owe to you and ourselves to record three points. As always it will be a tough game; they have some good players and will be confident after their result at the weekend.

Remember we have a young group of players who need your support. Sometimes we will make mistakes but it is at those times in which we need your backing the most, so I urge you all to encourage us – especially our younger lads – as much as possible because honestly it does make a massive difference.



As I've said we're only two games into a long, hard season and we know from the past that John Still teams always come strong. There's such a long way to go – it's not all doom and gloom. We haven't lost yet, although Saturday felt like it, and we'll be aiming to pick up three points tonight with your support.

It was great to see the ground full on Saturday and the noise when we scored our goals was deafening. Don't forget that we hold similar expectations to you so when you're disappointed so are we. Writing these notes on a Sunday after a defeat is pretty disheartening but there's so much good to come this season and I hope we can show you a little bit of that tonight.





TOWN HOST PREMIER LEAGUE STOKE CITY

The Hatters' reward for beating Bristol City last week is a second round Capital One Cup tie at home to Premier League Stoke City.

City are fellow winners of the competition, having lifted the trophy in 1972, and it will be the first time the two clubs will meet in the competition.

The tie at Kenilworth Road will be played on Tuesday 25th August and has been chosen for live television broadcast for Sky Sports, and will kick-off at 7.45pm.

It will be the first time the Hatters host a Premier League side at Kenilworth Road since an FA Cup third round tie against Liverpool in 2008.

Full ticket details for this match can be found on page 13.

FULL DRAW:

Aston Villa v Notts County
Walsall v Brighton
Crystal Palace v Shrewsbury
Sheffield Wednesday v Oxford
Portsmouth v Reading
Hartlepool v Bournemouth
Fulham v Sheffield United
MK Dons v Cardiff

Hull City v Rochdale
Sunderland v Exeter
Bury v Leicester City
Doncaster v Ipswich
Rotherham v Norwich City
Swansea City v York
QPR v Carlisle
Barnsley v Everton
Peterborough v Charlton
Birmingham v Gillingham
Newcastle United v Northampton
West Brom v Port Vale
Wolves v Barnet
Burton v Middlesbrough

LUTON TOWN v STOKE CITY
Preston v Watford

MARRIOTT NAMED IN TEAM OF THE ROUND

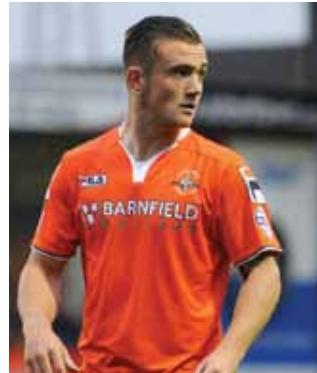
Jack Marriott's two goals against Bristol City last Tuesday night earned him a place in the Capital One Cup team of the first round.

The 20-year-old striker capped his full Town debut by scoring once in each half in the Hatters' fine 3-1 victory.

Jack was one of four League 2 players in the XI, which also included York's Scott Flinders, Oxford's Kemar Roofe and Notts County's Liam Noble.

Many congratulations Jack!

TEAM OF THE ROUND: Flinders (York), Onuoha (QPR), Collins



(Sheffield United), Yorwerth (Ipswich), Antonio (Forest), Roofe (Oxford), Noble (Notts County), Ogogo (Shrewsbury), **MARRIOTT (LUTON)**, Bradshaw (Walsall), Clarke (Bury). Manager: Collins (Hartlepool).

ORIENT GAME: KIDS GO FREE

Tying in with a number of new family friendly initiatives for the new season here at Luton Town, we're thrilled to announce that for our Johnstone's Paint First Round tie with Leyton Orient, an adult attending, can bring up to four children under 16 to the match **ABSOLUTELY FREE**.

So whether you're a season ticket holder, or you've never been to the ground before this is a great opportunity to give your kids an evening to remember. Furthermore, this match will kick-off at 7.15pm at Kenilworth Road. For further ticket information turn to page 13.

SIMON PITTS JOINS LUTON TOWN!

We are excited to announce that commentator Simon Pitts will join the Luton media team in the press box this season as the official commentator for Hatters Player.

Simon is no stranger to subscribers to Hatters Player – having been official match commentator since 2009. Prior to that he also delivered match commentary around the Club since

1998, as well as working alongside Club Historian Roger Wash as co-writer on Luton Town Football Club – The Full Record.

"It's an absolute honour and a privilege to be commentating on Luton Town matches and I'm absolutely delighted that the Club have asked me to continue providing the commentary for



the Hatters Player," said Simon. "I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to continue my commentary, and particularly those goal celebrations!"

If you're unable to get to Yeovil on Saturday, why not sign-up now to Hatters Player to hear Simon in action. You can find out more about Hatters Player on page 49.

HATTERS ON HOLIDAY!

Season ticket holders Dave Boutwood and Ken Hathaway and their wives spent their summer holiday touring Italy.

The two couples started in Venice and finished up in Sicily. All the famous sights were taken in including the Colosseum, The Vatican City, Pompeii and Pisa. In the photograph Ken and Dave are standing in front of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.



"We're both hoping the Town will be leaning towards League 1 at the end of the season," says Dave.



BRIAN GAZELEY - RIP

We were saddened to hear of the passing of lifelong Luton fan Brian Gazeley on the 30th July 2015 aged 80.

Brian attended games with his son Chris and friends John, Paul, Helen, Angela, Simon and family.

He had a season ticket in the Kenilworth Upper tier until he required a disabled season ticket and Brian's last game was the 4-1 win over Forest Green on the day the Hatters lifted the Conference championship trophy.

Unfortunately Brian was not fit enough to see our return to the

Football League, but Brian's love of Luton was his passion and when he wasn't fit to attend games Simon Pitts would cheer him with his commentary.

Rest in peace, Brian.

In photo from right to left, is Helen Gatward, Chris Gazeley, Brian Gazeley, Paul Gardner (back) Angela Gatward (front) and John Gatward.





LET'S GO



THE HATTERS HIT THE ROAD FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS SEASON WHEN THEY MAKE ONLY THEIR SECOND-EVER VISIT TO HUISH PARK TO TAKE ON YEOVIL TOWN IN SKY BET LEAGUE 2 ON SATURDAY

WHO? Yeovil Town, aka the Glovers, from Huish Park, Yeovil in Somerset. The club were formed 120 years ago in 1895 as Yeovil Casuals. Managed by Paul Sturrock, the Glovers were promoted to the Football League in 2003 and have twice been promoted as a League side. They won the League 1 title in 2004/05 and then won promotion to the Championship through the Play-Offs in 2012/13. Two successive relegations, however, followed and now the club find themselves back in League 2 for the first time in 10 years.

WHERE? The Glovers play their home games at Huish (pronunciations vary) Park. The stadium itself was only opened in 1990 and holds 9,565. Hatters fans making the journey to Somerset have the option of sitting in covered seating beside the pitch, or standing on an open terrace behind the goal.

HOW TO GET THERE? It's a three-hour 150-mile drive down to Yeovil from Luton. Take the M1 south, M25 anti-clockwise then M3 and then the A303 west.

The ground is located on the very outskirts of Yeovil and is signposted from the A303. Leave the A303 at the Cartgate roundabout and take the A3088 towards Yeovil. Follow the road for around four miles until you reach a roundabout on the outskirts of Yeovil with the Westlands Airfield directly in front of you. Turn left at this roundabout and then continue straight on, crossing a number of roundabouts. As you pass the entrance to an Asda superstore, take the next left for the ground, which can be seen from the road. The postcode is BA22 8YF.

HOW THEY DOING?

After finishing bottom of the Championship and League 1 in their last two seasons, Glovers fans – who have seen their team win just 18 times in that time – will be hoping for a better campaign this time round. However, Sturrock's side haven't got off to the best of starts, losing all three games in league and cup so far. They lost their season opener at Exeter, were beaten 3-0 at home by QPR in the Capital One Cup last Tuesday and on Saturday they fell to late 1-0 defeat against our opponents tonight.

TICKETS. The Hatters' last, and only, trip to Yeovil was on a Tuesday night, so if you fancy making the journey to Somerset to back the Town, take a look at the information on the opposite page.

To get clued up on Yeovil Town before Saturday visit www.ytfc.net

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

available via phone or in person. Season Ticket holders that completed an automatic cup authorisation form will be sent their tickets this week.

A



YEOVIL TOWN



Saturday 22nd August 2015, 3pm

Tickets are on sale now on general sale. Subject to availability, tickets will also 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.

H



STOKE CITY



Tuesday 25th August 2015, 7.45pm

We have agreed the following prices with Stoke for this match: £20 adults, £15 seniors and young adults, £12 golden seniors, £8 youths, £3 accompanied juniors. **Selling arrangements:** Season Ticket holders can now book their own seats via phone or in person. Additional seats can also be booked by Season Ticket holders at this time. Season Ticket seats will be reserved until close of business Friday 21st August after which they will be released for general sale. Oak Road Season Ticket holders should book seats in other areas of the ground (although may be able to transfer back to the Oak Road at a later date.) Non-Season Ticket holder seats are available to book on general sale online only now. They will remain on sale online only until close of business on Wednesday 19th August. From Thursday 20th August they will also be

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.



PORTSMOUTH



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 18th 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**

We're delighted to be able to offer supporters a variety of corporate hospitality packages at Kenilworth Road for the forthcoming season.

If you are interested in any of the below, please contact our commercial team on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk. Keep in mind that space is limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

ERIC MORECAMBE LOUNGE SEASONAL HOSPITALITY

MEMBERSHIP: £1,400 CONCESSION
£1,260 CHILDREN, UNDER 12: £800

- Seating in the Directors Balcony
- Exclusive pre-match two-course Carvery meal at every game
- Waiter service and cash bar before, during and after each game
- Team sheet and programme for each guest each game
- Opportunity to purchase match-day tickets to the lounge for guests
- Half-time refreshments
- Invitation to the pre-match tour every game
- Meet man of the match at the end of each game and receive photographs

MATCHDAY BOXES

Prices per match are:

8 seater box @ £500 inc. VAT

18 seater box @ £900 inc. VAT (subject to availability)

Package Includes

- Programmes & team sheets
- Sky TV in box
- Half time refreshments
- Catering upgrade options

ALSO AVAILABLE...

- CELEBRATION PACKAGE
- MATCH DAY CORPORATE HOSPITALITY

MILLENNIUM CLUB MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP: £1,000 CONCESSION
£900 CHILDREN, UNDER 12: £650

- Exclusive use of the Millennium Suite Lounge for all home league games
- A private cash bar facility
- Pre match meal
- Half time refreshments
- Seating in the Millennium Balcony

MILLENNIUM DIAMOND MEMBERSHIP

AVAILABLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL COST OF £325.00

- End of Season Dinner invitation
- Two complimentary Millennium Suite guest tickets to a home league game
- 20% discount in the club shop
- 20% discount on Millennium Suite guest tickets
- Youth player sponsorship

MASCOT PACKAGE

SATURDAY MASCOT £300 MID-WEEK MASCOT £250

- Mascot + 3 guests (Additional guests at £70.00pp, £40.00 per Child Under 12)
- Tour and photographs (Saturday games only)
- Meets team and gets autographs
- Mascot included in team warm up / leads team onto pitch
- Replica kit
- Photograph & name in programme
- Signed framed programme cover
- Programmes & team sheets
- Two course meal
- Half time refreshments
- Seating in the Directors Balcony
- Cash bar facility
- Enter a match day competition to win a signed ball
- Meet man of the match

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BOOK KEEPING AND ACCOUNTS

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10: Fascel Group Ltd



11: CES Electrical



13: Barham Press



14: TJ Aldridge



15: Taylor French Developments Ltd



16: Prestige Design
Prestige
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Welcome to Kenilworth Road **BRISTOL ROVERS**



It gives us great pleasure to welcome back everyone associated with Bristol Rovers to Kenilworth Road this evening.

Rovers arrive here in Bedfordshire tonight buoyed by Saturday's victory at Yeovil Town – the Pirates' first victory back in the Football League since their relegation in 2014.

Our visitors experienced just one season in the Conference after that demotion, as Darrell Clarke's side bounced back to the League at the first attempt following a penalty shootout win over Grimsby at Wembley in the Play-Off in May.

At first it looked as though Rovers would struggle to mount a serious promotion challenge – losing three of their first seven matches – until a red-hot streak in form in the second half of the season put them in contention for the title. In fact the Pirates took the destiny of the title to the final game of the season but they were pipped by Barnet despite winning 7-0 against Alfreton.

Any Hatters fan will tell you about the agonies of the Play-Offs but Rovers fans – who have seen their side promoted via the end-of-season competition before in 2007

in League 2 – will hold happier memories of them as, after a comfortable two-legged victory over Forest Green, they got over the line and clinched an immediate return to the Football League with a nervy penalty kick win over the Mariners.

With success comes expectation of more, and given their form in the second half of last season, there is no surprise that the Rovers faithful have high hopes of a decent season at the Memorial Stadium.

Clarke, however, is hoping that those players who did so well last year can do the same this time round with only a few new faces arriving at the Mem over the summer. Billy Bodin and Cristian Montano are perhaps the two which stick out, while Rovers' newest two faces are loan signings midfielder Jeffrey Monakana from Brighton and goalkeeper Aaron Chapman from Chesterfield.

Turning attention back to tonight, though, and those Gasheads in the away end will be confident that their

TEAM PROFILE **BRISTOL ROVERS**

Nicknames: Pirates, Rovers, Gas
Ground: Memorial Stadium
Last season: Conference 2nd
Manager: Darrell Clarke
Last match: Yeovil (a) W 1-0

HATTERS v **PIRATES**

Luton wins 46
Draws 29
Bristol Rovers wins 45

side can continue an incredible record on the road. Rovers are currently unbeaten in 21 away matches (including Play-Offs, not including Wembley), stretching back to a 2-0 defeat at Braintree on 6th September.

In their bid to keep that run going tonight, Rovers supporters can be confident in the knowledge that their side won on their last visit here back in 2007 when future England international Rickie Lambert helped the Pirates to a 2-1 win with a spectacular 40-yard volley. Matthew Spring scored the Town goal – a penalty which had to be taken three times before being allowed!

LAST MEETING

Bristol Rovers 1-1 Luton Town
26th December 2007

Meet the **VISITORS**

OUR GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM THE MEMORIAL STADIUM

THE BOSS

DARRELL CLARKE

Appointed Pirates boss in March 2014 but couldn't stop Rovers plummeting into the Conference. But in his first full season in charge the ex-Salisbury chief guided the club back into the Football League at the first attempt.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

STEVE MILDENHALL

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who arrived at the Memorial Stadium in January 2013 and is now nearing 100 appearances for the club. Rovers are the stopper's ninth permanent pro club.

IN DEFENCE

LEE BROWN

Tough-tackling full-back Brown began his career at QPR, coming through the ranks to make his debut in 2010. After loans spells with Salisbury and Hayes he joined the Pirates in the summer of 2011.



JAMES CLARKE

Strong central defender James was Clarke's first signing this summer following promotion. Began his career at Oxford before spells with Salisbury and, most recently, Woking.

DANIEL LEADBITTER

Newcastle-born right-back Daniel began at his hometown club before his release in 2011. He then joined

Lee Mansell scored one minute into his Luton debut in an FA Cup replay at QPR in January 2001

Torquay and then Hereford before arriving at Rovers last summer.

TOM LOCKYER

Defender who is nearing 100 appearances for the club since coming through the youth ranks. Enjoyed a fine season last year and was awarded with the supporter's young player of the year prize.

TOM PARKES

Experienced centre-half Tom arrived at Rovers in February 2011, originally on-loan from Leicester. Signed permanently in 2012 and is closing in on 150 appearances for the club.

THE MEN IN THE MIDDLE

LEE MANSELL

Former Hatters academy graduate Lee spent eight years with Torquay prior to signing for Rovers in June 2014. Scored the winning penalty in last season's Play-Off penalty shootout win over Grimsby.

CHRIS LINES

Midfielder who is back for a second spell at the Memorial Stadium. Came through the ranks in 2006 before moves to Sheffield Wednesday and Port Vale before returning to Rovers in March this year.

JEFFREY MONAKANA

Former Arsenal trainee who arrived on a one-month loan from Brighton this month. His career has seen him spent time out on loan at Colchester, Crawley, Aberdeen, Mansfield and Carlisle.

CRISTIAN MONTANO

Columbian-born Cristian signed for the Pirates this summer having returned to his homeland after a spell in the UK which saw him begin at West Ham and also play for Oldham.

STUART SINCLAIR

Like Mansell, Stuart came through the Hatters academy, however he did not make a first team appearance. After spells in non-league he joined Rovers from Salisbury last summer.

UP FRONT

BILLY BODIN

Summer arrival Billy came through the youth ranks at Swindon, going on to make his debut as a teenager. He left the County Ground for Torquay before then joining Northampton.

JERMAINE EASTER

Welsh international forward Easter arrived at the Memorial Stadium in January. The experienced striker has enjoyed a nomadic career with 13 other clubs.

ELLIS HARRISON

Harrison came through the youth ranks at the Mem and made his debut in League 1 in April 2011. An extended run in the side last term saw him score at Wembley in last season's Play-Off final.

MATTY TAYLOR

Last season's leading goalscorer with 18 goals, Taylor joined Rovers from Forest Green in his first campaign at the club. Began his career as a youngster with Oxford.





From the OAK ROAD

Bristol Rovers are back! After just one season of Conference football, the Pirates made an instant return to the Football League thanks to a dramatic Play-Off final win over Grimsby. Now in among the 92 again, Rovers fan Ken Barnes believes there could be more success at the Memorial Stadium again this season

THE SEASON AHEAD...

 After returning from Conference at the first time of asking what are supporters' expectation back in League 2 this season?

 There's a great deal of optimism around the Memorial Stadium at the moment and I think everyone is expecting a top seven place at the very least. However, most sides will be saying the same thing and it will need another couple of weeks for everything to settle down.

 Like ourselves you've experienced playing in the Conference. What was it like to begin with and what are the things you'll miss and not miss now that you're back in the Football League?

 At the beginning it was horrendous. We took one point from our opening three games and seemed set for a difficult season. That we returned to the Football League after one season is down to manager Darrell Clarke. He told players and fans to embrace the league, and we did. I think it's the most friendly league we have ever played in and we will miss that, though playing in front of less than 1,000 fans on a Tuesday night definitely won't be missed!



 Rovers didn't get off to the best of starts in the Conference last season. Did you think that you could be in the Conference for longer than one season? What changed and at which moment did you think promotion could be a realistic possibility?

 There was a fear that we would be there for longer, but as already said Darrell Clarke turned things around quite spectacularly. Beating Gateshead at home just before Christmas was, in my opinion, a huge turning point.

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

 Watch out for Stuart Sinclair. The man runs on Duracell and, after being released by yourselves as a youngster, has had to wait a long time to achieve his ambition of playing in the Football League.



 Darrell Clarke took charge at the back end of the 2013/14 campaign which ended in relegation. Tell us about the job he's done at the Memorial Stadium. He must be held in high regard after last season's success?



 He's really turned things around and become a firm favourite with the supporters.

It's not been easy for him as he was, initially, seen as the man who was in charge when we were relegated out of the league – even though he had only been in charge for eight games. He's a very talented and switched on manager, he is, in my opinion, destined for a big future in the game.

SEASONS PAST...

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

 My grandfather took me to my first game, against Burnley in 1981 at Eastville. The atmosphere was amazing and I've missed very few games since then.

 We've already touched on Wembley last season. What are your memories of this game? Is this up there in your all-time favourite Rovers match?

 It was the most tense match I've ever watched and there was so much riding on the final penalty, so it wasn't, in all honesty, that enjoyable.

 For enjoyment I don't think I can beat the 2007 League 2 Play-Off final when we beat Shrewsbury at Wembley.

 Give us your all-time Rovers XI

Nigel Martyn
Dave Pritchard
Trevor Challis
Andy Tillson
Steve Elliott
Mark Walters
Ian Holloway
Vitalijs Astafjevs
Stuart Campbell
Rickie Lambert
Marcus Stewart

LUTON AND ROVERS

 What are your best and worst memories of Rovers versus Luton clashes?

 Best is the 4-1 win for Rovers at Kenilworth Road in February 2000 when Jason Roberts and Jamie Cureton both scored twice. The worst came at the Memorial Stadium in December 2007 when you had three players sent off and still managed a 1-1 draw.

 What do you expect from today's game? What's your

prediction? Are you looking forward to the lack of leg room in the away end?

 I expect a close encounter that could end all square. As for leg room, we are back in the League... who cares?

QUICKFIRE

Terrace or Seats? Seats

Bristol City or Swindon? Swindon

Ian Holloway or Rickie Lambert? Lambert

Eastville or the Mem? Twerton Park!

Guess your player of the season
Stuart Sinclair

Play-Off win of 2007 or Play-Off win of 2015? 2007

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

Most treasured Pirates piece of memorabilia? Articles of Association Bristol Eastville Rovers 1897

What league will Rovers be in next season? League 1

Who will win promotion from League 2? Portsmouth, Rovers, Luton and Wycombe



COVER STORY

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

LUTON TOWN 12 BRISTOL ROVERS 0

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION
THREE (SOUTH) 13th APRIL 1936.

Over Easter 1936 the Hatters had the normal three games to play. On Good Friday they had earned a creditable point at Bristol Rovers and the following day had drawn at home to Millwall but at the cost of centre-forward Bill Boyd through injury.

The Town now had a crisis in the lead up to the return game with Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday as they had no centre-forward with Jack Ball and now Bill Boyd unable to take part.

Without a manager since the previous October, following the departure of Harold Wightman, a deputation of directors and coaches were left to pick the team and someone, and to this day no-one is sure who, suggested that 22-year-old reserve half-back Joe Payne be given a chance up front.

Bolsover-born Payne, who had seen time as a coalminer as a teenager, had been recommended to the Town by an exiled Lutonian two years before, but his few league opportunities had either been at full-back or wing-half.

In everyone's eyes it looked as if Payne would not make the grade and he had recently been loaned out to the club's nursery side Biggleswade Town, where he did not exactly pull up trees.

Reporting for duty at Kenilworth Road for the Easter Monday clash with the Pirates, Payne was as surprised as anyone to be thrown the number nine shirt and he immediately regarded it as a make or break game, especially as the retained list was shortly to be announced.

A respectable crowd of 14,296 (although 10 times this figure claim to have been there!) turned out on an unseasonably icy cold day, and with sleet lashing into their faces the fans

probably had difficulty in recognising the 'new' centre-forward with Boyd being named in the programme.

Rovers were not going particularly well at the time, and the Town were expected to win comfortably, but in the first 20 minutes the two sides were evenly matched, although Payne showed willingness to get stuck in, as to be expected, but nothing more.

The breakthrough came on 23 minutes when Payne latched on to a long ball and gave John Ellis in the Rovers goal no chance, and it was followed up with number two shortly



A grainy newspaper photo shows Payne netting one of his 10 goals.



afterwards when Fred Roberts was quickest to react to a parry from Ellis to a George Stephenson shot. Payne was now beginning to enjoy himself and scored twice more before half-time, taking advantage of further clever play from Roberts and Stephenson.

The interval dressing room chat was centred around Payne and it was jokingly suggested that he could beat the record of Tranmere's Bunny Bell who had scored nine goals in a 13-4 thrashing of Oldham the previous year. Sensing that Payne was having one of those afternoons where nothing could go wrong, the experienced Stephenson, Roberts and George Martin decided to make sure he saw plenty of the ball in the second half. The ploy certainly worked with Payne scoring from a Stephenson centre after 49 minutes, a Rich centre after 55 minutes and then a disputed effort two minutes later. Payne had headed towards goal

and Martin bundled the ball and the goalkeeper into the net. The referee had, however, ruled that the ball had already crossed the line and awarded the goal to Payne. (This writer's grandfather always maintained that Martin scored the goal but, there again, referees are always right!).

Stephenson then set up further goals for Payne on 65, 76 and 84 minutes before the new number nine, with the crowd baying for more, took his personal tally to 10 when he took a wild swing at the ball whilst sitting in the area and succeeded in deflecting it past a wrong footed Ellis.

Martin completed the scoring in the final minute to make it an incredible 12-0 win for the Town, a scoreline which surely will never be beaten. Many years later, Payne recalled the game with difficulty. "They told me to go out and get two or three goals if I could, but did not tell me what to do afterwards so I

just carried on," he said. "Time blurs the memory but I recall the Rovers goalkeeper making as many good saves as the goals he let in."

"The chances kept on coming my way and after the first five, I had that much confidence I was beginning to think I could do it with my eyes shut, especially after that freak of them all when I fell over on my backside to fool everybody - but the ball still went in."

As a sign of the times, Payne picked up a win bonus of £2 to add to his £4 weekly pay, and in the days of a strict maximum wage the club had to apply to the Football League for a special dispensation to give him the match ball as a souvenir. Only one representative from the London press was there that afternoon but news of the amazing scoreline soon filtered through to the football world and one of the first of many telegrams of congratulation received by Payne was from Bunny Bell.

THE PROGRAMME



The Town's 16-page programme of the time stood comparison with the best in the country and provided plenty of reading material as well as some quaint adverts.

As this was the second home game in three days the Club Notes are a little sparse, merely providing details of the Rovers squad and pointing out that stand tickets for the forthcoming

clash with Coventry were selling fast.

The Bobbers Stand Club had enjoyed a games evening at Market Hill Conservative Club but after sessions of dominoes, darts, whist, cribbage, billiards and snooker had lost 20-14. The Bobbers were particularly poor at billiards and dominoes but mustard at darts!

You could buy a new raincoat at Lacey's for 21/- (£1.05), rent a radio from Snowden's for 2/6 (12p) a week, buy a suit from John Bright's for 57/6 (£2.87) and earn 3.5 per cent interest on your hard-earned with the Luton and Midlands Building Society.

Oh, and Leonard Henry – the favourite BBC comedian – was appearing at the Grand Theatre.

DEFINING MOMENTS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS EIGHT KEY MATCHES AND MOMENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED BRISTOL ROVERS' POST-WAR ERA

1953 ROVERS CLINCH TITLE

Geoff Bradford grabbed a hat-trick as Bristol Rovers clinched the Third Division (South) title with a 3-1 win at home to Newport County on 25th April 1953. Bert Tann's side took a fifth-minute lead as Bradford scored from close range. Newport levelled against the run of play on 30 minutes as Bob Anderson dropped Jackie Wharton's centre and George Beattie hammered the ball home. Rovers quickly regained the lead as Bradford headed in Jackie Pitt's free-kick. Josser Watling struck a post early in the second half, then Cliff Birch replaced the injured Harry Fearnley in goal. Bradford completed his treble from Petherbridge's cross.

1956 BUSBY BABES HAMMERED

Regarded as Bristol Rovers' finest hour, Bert Tann's side hammered First Division leaders Manchester United 4-0 in the FA Cup third round watched by 35,872 at Eastville Stadium on 7th January 1956. Rovers made a sensational start when Alfie Biggs fired them ahead with an opportunist goal on ten minutes. The 'Busby Babes' were stunned and Rovers doubled their lead before the interval when Barrie Meyer netted at the second attempt. Biggs made it three in the second half and England international Geoff Bradford completed the rout with a late penalty after Roger Byrne handled. It was the Cup shock of the season.

1972 OLD TRAFFORD TRIUMPH

Bristol Rovers defeated Manchester United 2-1 in a League Cup third round replay at Old Trafford on 11th October 1972. United had avoided defeat at Eastville Stadium with a late Willie Morgan equaliser eight

days earlier. Don Megson's side were undaunted by their star-studded opponents including George Best and Bobby Charlton, taking the lead on 30 minutes when John Rudge headed in Lindsay Parsons' corner. Dick Sheppard saved Best's 65th minute penalty but Sammy McIlroy headed United level after 80 minutes. Rovers regained the lead just four minutes later when Bruce Bannister nodded in Kenny Stephens' corner.

1973 CLOUGH'S BRIGHTON ROCKED

The 'Smash & Grab' partnership of Alan Warboys and Bruce Bannister ran riot as Bristol Rovers stormed to an 8-2 Third Division win at Brian Clough's Brighton on 1st December 1973. Leaders Rovers, unbeaten for 23 games, went ahead through Bannister on four minutes. Gordon Fearnley doubled their lead before Peter O'Sullivan reduced the deficit but two further goals by Bannister and another from Warboys made it 5-1 by the interval. Warboys scored three more times in the



The successful Rovers side of 1990



The Pirates celebrate their Play-Off win of 2007

second half before Ronnie Howell netted a late second goal for Brighton. It remains Rovers' record away victory and they won promotion that season.

1986 ROVERS MOVE TO BATH

In May 1986, to save the club an annual cost of £30,000 plus expenses to hire Eastville Stadium, the Bristol Rovers directors decided to leave the club's spiritual home. A groundsharing scheme was agreed with Bath City whereby Rovers rented Twerton Park for an annual fee of £20,000 plus a percentage of gate receipts. It was an integral part of Rovers' immediate survival but their identity was questioned, support down 25 per cent on the previous season and financial hardships continued. The first home League game at Twerton Park was a 1-0 win over Bolton Wanderers. The club was destined to return to Bristol 10 years later.

1990 ROVERS WIN TITLE DECIDER

Bristol Rovers faced rivals Bristol City in a Third Division title decider watched by a then record 9,831 at Twerton Park on 2nd May 1990. If Rovers won to preserve their unbeaten home record, promotion to the Second Division would be assured, but defeat would hand the championship to City. On a night of high drama, a glorious two-goal display from Devon White, one in each half, and a late Ian Holloway penalty clinched promotion for Gerry Francis' side with a 3-0 victory. Rovers made certain of the title with a 3-0 win

at Blackpool three days later and skipper Vaughan Jones lifted the trophy at his testimonial match.

1990 WEMBLEY FINALISTS

Bristol Rovers made their first-ever visit to Wembley Stadium in the Leyland DAF Cup final on 20th May 1990. Gerry Francis' side had drawn with Torquay United, then beaten Exeter City, Gillingham, Brentford, Walsall and Notts County en route to facing Tranmere Rovers in the final. Bristol Rovers were denied early on by a fine double save by Eric Nixon and Third Division rivals Tranmere took the lead with a spectacular goal from Ian Muir after ten minutes. Devon White equalised with a shot high into the net on 51 minutes but Jim Steel's 73rd minute header gave Tranmere a 2-1 victory despite late pressure by Bristol Rovers.

2007 PLAY-OFF FINAL WINNERS

Paul Trollope plotted Bristol Rovers' 2006/07 League Two play-off final triumph. They won only two of their opening ten League games but gradually climbed the table and six wins in an unbeaten eight-match end to the season enabled them to qualify for the play-offs in sixth position. Rovers beat Lincoln City 7-4 on aggregate in the semi-finals, then Shrewsbury Town 3-1 with two goals by Richard Walker plus another from Sammy Igoe in the final at Wembley Stadium on 26th May 2007. They also played in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final at the Millennium Stadium that season but lost 3-2 to Doncaster Rovers after extra-time.

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Numbers GAME

ROVERS AND THE HATTERS IN NUMBERS

8 The Hatters make their visit to the Memorial Stadium on 2nd January for what will be their first trip to face Rovers in Bristol since **Boxing Day 2007**. That particular afternoon the Town picked up a 1-1 draw despite finishing the match with just eight men. Chris Coyne, Steve Robinson and Anthony Grant were all dismissed - the first two in the first half - but the Hatters came back to steal a point.

12 Bristol Rovers have won 12 times against the Hatters on Bedfordshire soil and have won on three of their last five visits, with victories in 2007, 2000 and in 1999.

15 Between 1923 and 1936 the Hatters were not beaten by Bristol Rovers in 15 matches played at Kenilworth Road. The Town won 10 of those, including the 12-0 win in 1936. It wasn't until an FA Cup in 1951 that Rovers would win again here.

30,654

The biggest attendance to watch a Luton versus Bristol Rovers game came back at the Pirates' old Eastville ground in October 1954. In a Second Division (now Championship) meeting, Rovers won 3-2.

12-0

As you will have read already the Hatters' biggest ever Football League victory came against Bristol Rovers back in 1936.



10

Joe Payne scored 10 times in that game. Not only is that a Luton record for a player scoring the most goals in a match, it is also a Football League record.

DID YOU KNOW?

Both clubs spent a short time playing in the Western League in the early 1900s, with the Hatters winning one and drawing the other in the two meetings at this level.

HEAD 2 HEAD

121 PLAYED

46 LUTON WINS

8 DRAWS

45 BRISTOL ROVERS WINS

196 LUTON GOALS SCORED

179 ROVERS GOALS SCORED

1900 YEAR OF FIRST MEETING

Rovers beat the Hatters 1-0 on 10th November that year in what was the Town's 241st match.



BRISTOL ROVERS TROPHY CABINET

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE SOUTH: 1953

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE: 1990

WATNEY CUP: 1972

Rovers have also won two Play-Off finals to win promotion, in 2007 from League 2 and last season from the Conference.

Luke Wilkinson heads home the Hatters' opening goal on Saturday

TOWN 2 2 OXFORD UNITED



10	CORNERS	10
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
6	SHOTS WIDE	4
10	FOULS	10
3	OFFSIDES	3

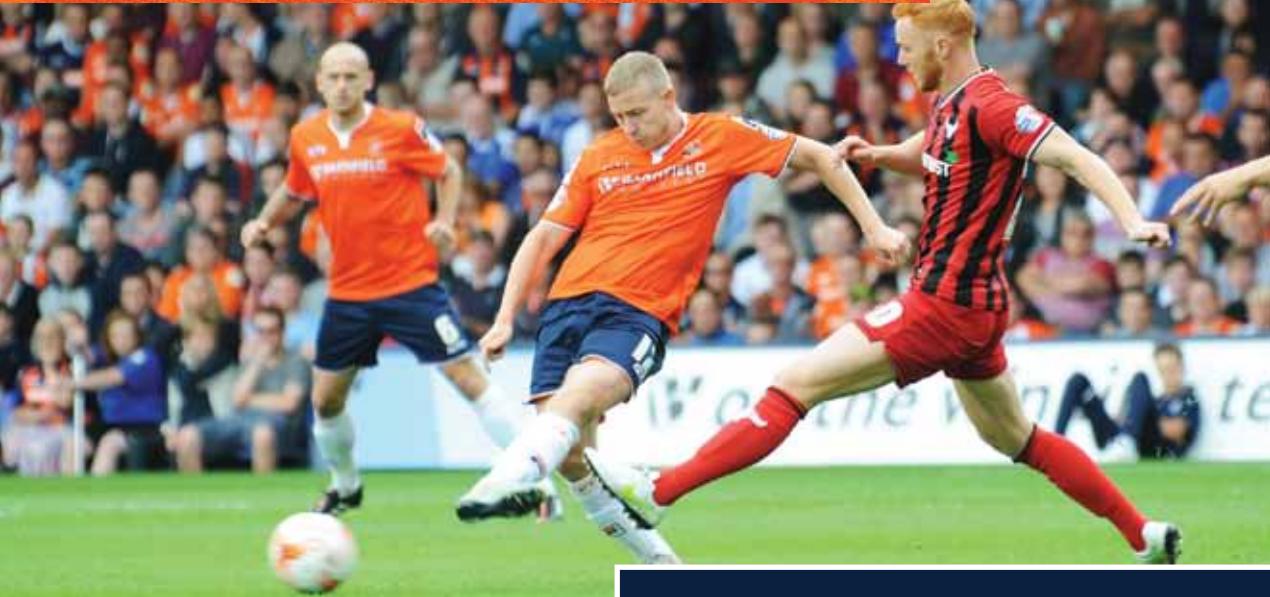
ATTENDANCE 8,877
781 Oxford



STILL SAID:

“I’m a little bit disappointed but that’s football. I felt we dealt with everything they had, and we can’t do anything about a deflection. They took a chance on losing three, just like we would.

Craig Mackail-Smith was onside with his goal without a doubt, but in the end it doesn’t matter. Players are still fighting for their places. We had a decent performance today and I feel disappointed we didn’t take all three points, but I think we will be disappointed again in the future but that’s football.”



WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters let a two-goal lead slip in the final seven minutes as they were held to a 2-2 draw with Oxford United at Kenilworth Road.

The Town looked set to collect all three points in their first home league match of the campaign as goals from Luke Wilkinson and Cameron McGeehan put John Still's side in control. Wilkinson nodded home Paddy McCourt's corner just before half-time and McGeehan doubled the lead in the second half with a cool left-foot finish.

But on 83 minutes the visitors halved the deficit when Kemar Roofe struck, and just when it looked as though the Hatters had done enough, substitute Patrick Hoban poked home from close range at the end of stoppage time to stun the Town and the points were shared.





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REACTION

MIXED AFTERNOON FOR MIDFIELDER McGEEHAN

It was elation to frustration for Town midfielder Cameron McGeehan on Saturday. The 20-year-old had seemingly put the Hatters on their way to victory when scoring his seventh goal in Luton colours to make it 2-0 against Oxford.

However, after the former Norwich man spurned a decent chance to seal victory, the visitors completed the comeback to earn a point with a goal in injury time to leave the Town and McGeehan feeling as though they'd lost.

"It was nice to score, especially my first goal since arriving permanently, but goals don't mean as much when you don't win," the youngster told Hatters Player.

"It feels like a defeat but we're still finding our feet. We battered them in the first half but we should have taken our chances – me included.

LEARN

"The early signs of a top season is good, though. We'll learn from the mistakes we made and take that into the next game.

"Of course I'm disappointed I didn't score at the end. The keeper came out well to narrow the angle and I just over-cooked it. I was gutted especially as they went up the other end and scored.

"But Oxford are one of the favourites and we took them apart at times. I think their first goal was just lucky, a deflection, and that gave them confidence.

"It's frustrating but we know there's more to come and that we'll get better as the season goes on."



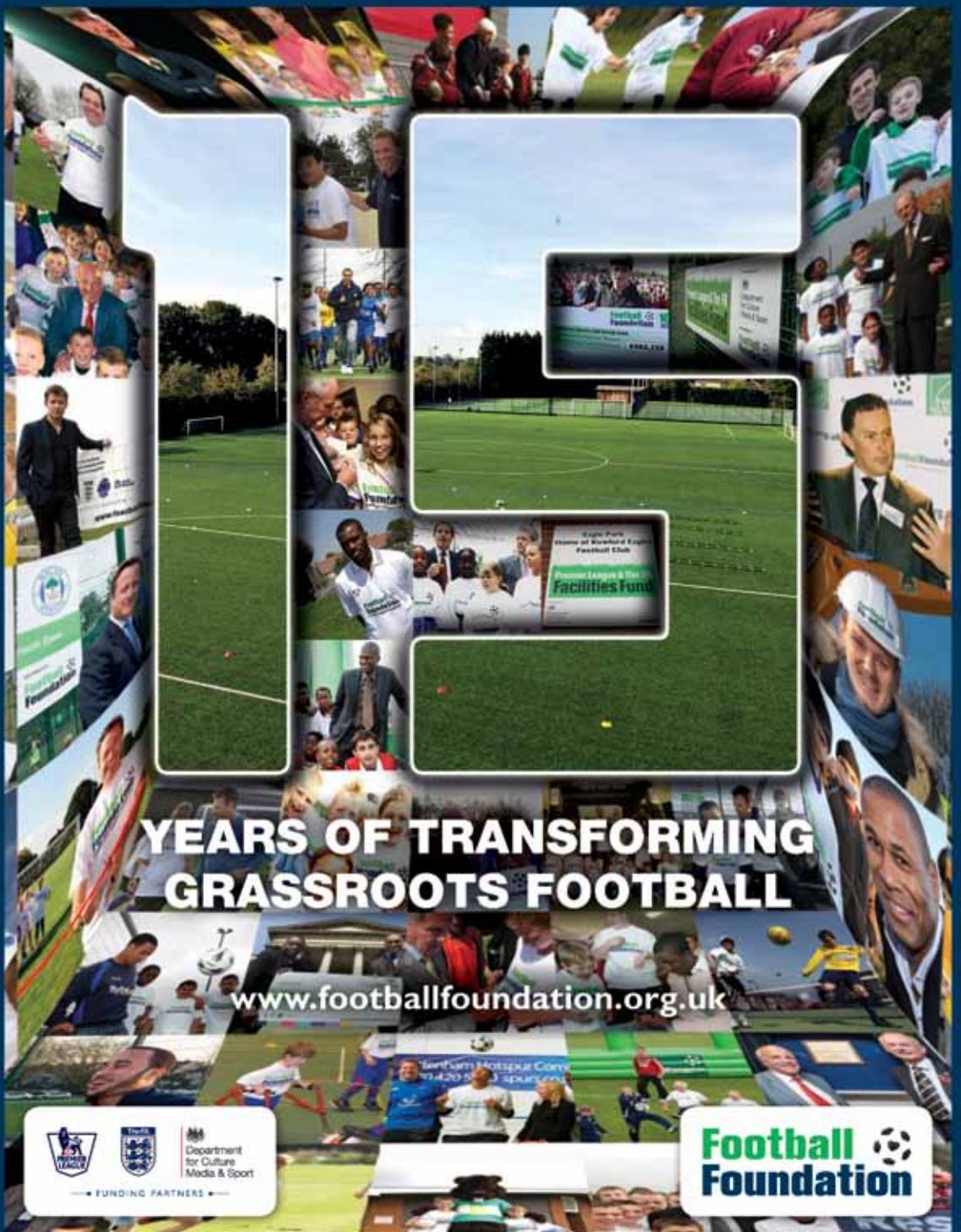
McGEEHAN GOAL THREAT

After scoring three goals in his debut loan spell for the Town on the way to helping the Hatters to the Conference title, McGeehan then scored three goals in four league games on-loan at Cambridge last season. He returned for another loan spell at Kenilworth Road last season and scored in the 3-2 home defeat to Morecambe.

And McGeehan is aiming to learn as much as he can from all of his new team-mates, especially those with more experience.

"All the players that have come in are top quality," said the former Norwich youth team captain. "All of them have added quality and we have a nice blend of youth and experience which is key to any team's success.

"As a young player it's important to learn off these players, and that's good for me as a player trying to forge a career and as a club going forward for the future."



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REACTION

NO WORRIES FOR WILKINSON DESPITE OXFORD LATE SHOW

There was no getting away from the heartache of Oxford's last-minute equaliser on Saturday but defender Luke Wilkinson isn't concerned that the Town are still waiting for their first win of the season in League 2.

For starters, the Hatters have only played two games, and with 11 new faces arriving at Kenilworth Road over the summer, Wilkinson – who put the Town in front against United – knows it won't be long until the team find the winning thread.

"It's very disappointing to have got ourselves two goals up and not win," said the centre-half who nodded home Paddy McCourt's corner to give the Town the lead two minutes before the break. "We've just got to get ourselves ready for Tuesday."

"Oxford will be feeling like they've won and to us it feels like a defeat but we've got to remember we've only played three games, we've not lost, we've drawn twice and beaten Bristol City."



"It's early days, we shouldn't need to be disappointed at this stage of the season and we'll be pushing to try and get that first win against Bristol Rovers. I'm not worried at all. You can see the quality in the team. The manager has said it takes eight games or so to see how things are going to pan out. I have every confidence that we'll be fine this year."

"It's just another test of character. We needed a late equaliser at Accrington and now we have to bounce back from this little setback. We'll learn from it, move on and go again on Tuesday."

Wilkinson made his 50th appearance for the Town in last Tuesday's 3-1 win over Bristol City and the defender, who was named man-of-the-match on Saturday, is relishing the competition for places following the manager's recruitment in the summer.

"Personally I like the competition," Wilkinson told Hatters Player. "It keeps you on your toes. You know if you have a bad game you're not going to be in the team in the next match. You have to play well every game and perhaps last year myself and Macca [Stephen McNulty] got a little bit complacent because nobody was really pushing us. We knew we were going to play whenever we were available."

WILKO'S GOAL THREAT

Luke Wilkinson's reputation as a goal-scoring centre-half has been well documented. His goal on Saturday was his 11th career goal in just 104 starts in the Football League. He scored six times for Dagenham in 2012/13 and then scored four times in his debut season with the Town last term.

"This season it's different though, the manager's brought in lots of quality players so the onus is on those who have the shirt to play well to keep their place."

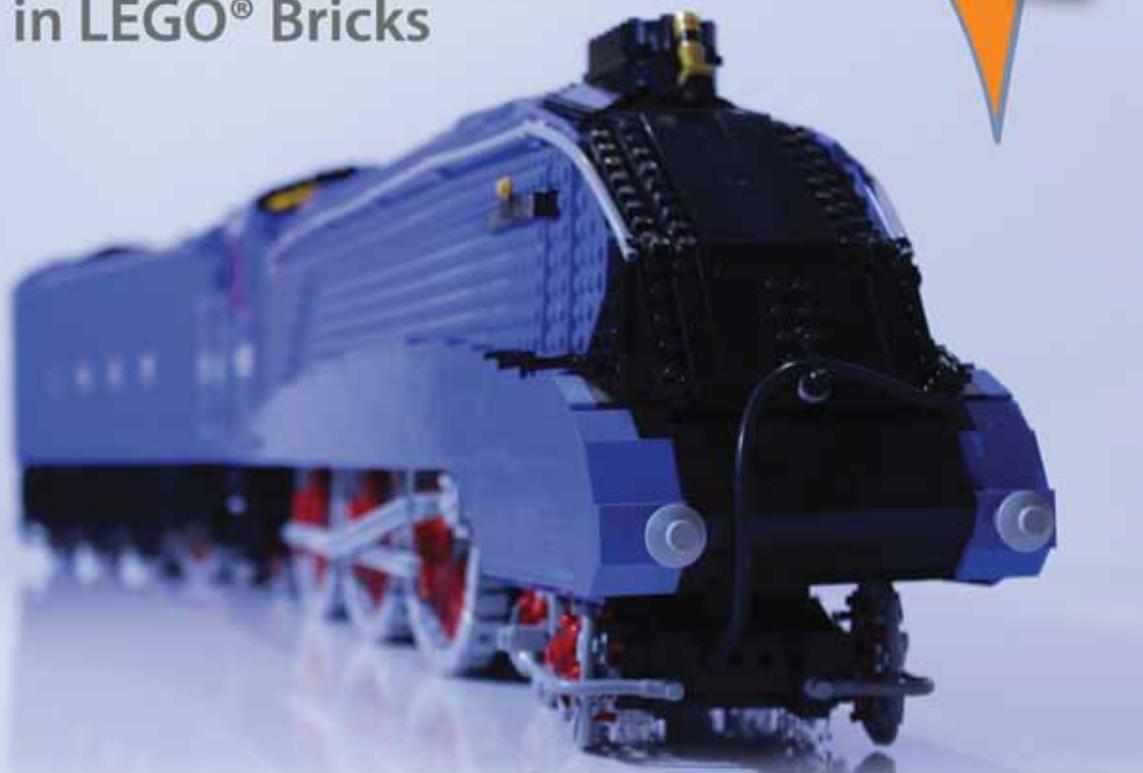
His goal against United was his fifth for the Town overall and fourth at Kenilworth Road – all of which have been scored at the Oak Road end. And while scoring goals isn't Wilkinson's primary job for the Hatters, his ability from set-pieces is just one part of the Town's overall threat.

"We've got a goal threat all over the pitch," says the former Dagenham man. "Up front we've got goals in us, the widemen, the midfielders – Cameron showed today – and at the back too – there's goals everywhere – it's just at the back we need to work on a bit. That said the system we're playing is solid. We do a lot of work on it. Yes we've conceded twice but their first goal took a massive deflection and sometimes in football you just can't do anything when something like that happens."

"It got them back in the game and unfortunately we couldn't see it out but we'll be aiming for three points on Tuesday don't you worry about that."

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REACTION

OXFORD DRAW HARD TO TAKE FOR CUTHBERT

Town defender Scott Cuthbert conceded that Saturday's 2-2 draw with Oxford was "disappointing", after conceding two late goals and earning just one point from their first home league game.

The Hatters had looked comfortable with a 2-0 advantage 10 minutes from time, but the visitors recovered to share the spoils at Kenilworth Road – a bitter pill to swallow for Cuthbert.

"I thought we started fantastically, right on the front foot and caused Oxford a lot of problems and, to be honest, they never really looked like troubling us," the defender told Hatters Player.

"They got that unfortunate first goal with the deflection and then that last minute goal is a real sucker punch and a hard one to take."

IMPRESSED

Like the Hatters, Oxford had also picked up a point from their opening League 2 fixture, but impressed with a thumping Capital One Cup over Brentford midweek, with Cuthbert earmarking their credentials after the game.

"They [Oxford] were always going to have a spell – they're a good team and have recruited well over the summer with some very good players who make life difficult for the defenders.

"We handled it well, and there's not a lot you can say about the first goal. We got a block in but it hits his arm and goes in. There's not a lot you can do about that, but at the end of the day we've dropped two points and it's a bit of a gut-

wrencher in the way it happened so late on, but we'll stay positive and go again on Tuesday."

Cuthbert was making his home debut for the Town against the U's, with John Still opting to play three centre-halves as the 28-year-old was joined by Stephen McNulty and Luke Wilkinson in defence.

FANTASTIC

"I'm surrounded by good players at Luton," said the Scotland B international. "I noticed as soon as I came in the door how good Macca [McNulty] and Wilko [Wilkinson] were, and it's great playing with Macca's experience in the middle of the three. He's commanding and he talks constantly, while Wilko's strong in the air and got himself a goal and he was fantastic as well. I'm enjoying my football, whether that's at centre back or full back I don't care, if I'm playing in a team as good as this then I'm happy."

The Hatters have famously been involved with plenty of late goals in recent years, with Keith Keane's winner against the same opposition in February 2010 still fresh on the mind of the fans, and Cuthbert is keen for a repeat later in the season.

"You've got to build from the back, and we're looking strong," he said. "We're disappointed with the goals, naturally, but it's a long season and we still have 44 league



games to go and there'll be lots of twists and turns to come, and hopefully we'll be on the other side and scoring a few last-minute winners ourselves to get our own back.

"We always want to be keeping clean sheets, but these things happen and we've got to take the positives from the performance. The good thing about this league is that the games come thick and fast with Bristol Rovers on Tuesday night, and hopefully we can get the crowd behind us again to get three points."

From the BOARDROOM



AFTER OUR PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY AGAINST WALSHALL, WE SAT DOWN WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE GARY SWEET TO TALK RELOCATION PLANS, THE SHIRT SPONSORSHIP PARTNERSHIP WITH BARNFIELD COLLEGE, SQUAD ADDITIONS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS SENT IN FROM SUPPORTERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

Q: We have announced a new sponsor in Barnfield this season. Can you give us some background on the new shirt and new sponsor?

GS: With the shirt for this season, we've taken what supporters have asked for on-board, which was to keep the shirt on a two-year cycle. Unfortunately we had the issue of EasyJet not continuing as shirt sponsor gracefully in the spring, so we've had to replace the sponsors' brand, but we kept the main shirt the same.

It also gives us the opportunity to replace the second shirt, I also think that it will be a big hit in the shops.

The Barnfield shirt sponsorship is an interesting one because it gives us an opportunity to forge links with a local community organisation.

They're an institution that go back for as long as I can remember in the town, so they are very keen to get involved.

It also enables us to forge links with our academy. This will give the academy a boost with the educational programmes, so we are delighted to have them on board. I've got to say, we really wanted to keep things local.

Q. What's the latest you can tell us on the new stadium?

GS: There is an awful lot going on behind the scenes – as everyone expects me to say, but there is a lot of activity and we are making good progress. I did promise the supporters and the broader community that we would be making an announcement at some point over this period.

I can tell you we will be making a statement as soon as possible into the new season, and those announcements will be quite

exciting. We're embarking on a project which will be a very sizeable one. This is not something that will be fixed within a year – we're talking about a five-to-six-year project so the timing of any announcement is not going to make a difference to the end date, that all remains the same.

Q. We were also asked about the aspirations of 2020 and where they might see themselves in the year 2020. How would you answer that question?

GS: It was always our target to have the Club back to what should be its rightful position in the league, that's the reason we gave ourselves that period of time. It was always our intention to have a football club that is financially stable, which is one of the original mandates of 2020. Another original mandate was how we manage the youth and the community sections of our clubs.



Well I think in some ways we are hitting those targets or surpassing them, certainly in our community areas. So there is a whole raft of things we maintain as a full mandate and a list of objectives we have been following as corner stones of our belief when we set the company up.

That doesn't change and one of the fundamental parts to that was relocation so the intention by 2020 is that we will be in a new stadium.

Q. It's been a very busy transfer period in the off season with 11 signings coming in, including the Craig Mackail-Smith

signing, how does that kind of activity impact on the club?

GS: Well think about Ryan Hall, this is the first time people are going to be able to see him properly after a good pre-season. He had a list of unfortunate illnesses and mild injuries towards the end of last season when we recruited him.

The same can be said for Pelly Ruddock as well, these are like two new signings for us. But with the other signings, we've intentionally pushed the boat out to try and attract players from further up the leagues or who show the potential of playing further up the divisions.

We've signed players who were

willing to drop down to League 2 to Luton Town who could easily equip themselves in League 1 so as a stable, well embedded team, they could help push us further than League 1 and get us into the Championship. It's a real long term process.

Craig Mackail-Smith tops it off, it's more than the icing on a cake for us. It was a long time coming, and we all know that. But it was all very carefully planned and we were patient with it and that's how we actually got him in the end.

With Craig and I don't want to miss out on the other 10 new players but every single one of them will play their part this season.

Turn to page 65 for a Q&A with Craig Mackail-Smith

CENTRE SPOT

Scott Cuthbert, Cameron McGeehan and Craig Mackail-Smith congratulate Luke Wilkinson after his header put the Town in front against Oxford on Saturday



PICTURE the PAST

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

Ray Whittaker goes up to challenge for the ball with Doug Hillard of Rovers during the 4-2 home win at Kenilworth Road in March 1964. A hat-trick from new goalscoring hero John O'Rourke set up the victory, the first of six from the last eight games which secured safety from relegation from Division Three (now League 1).



THE CAMERA never LIES

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



Ex-England international striker Derek Kevan wheels away in delight after putting the Town ahead in an FA Cup second round clash at Eastville in January 1967. Kevan was to score again before the interval but Rovers tuned the game around by scoring three in the second half, leaving one 14-year-old schoolboy devastated.

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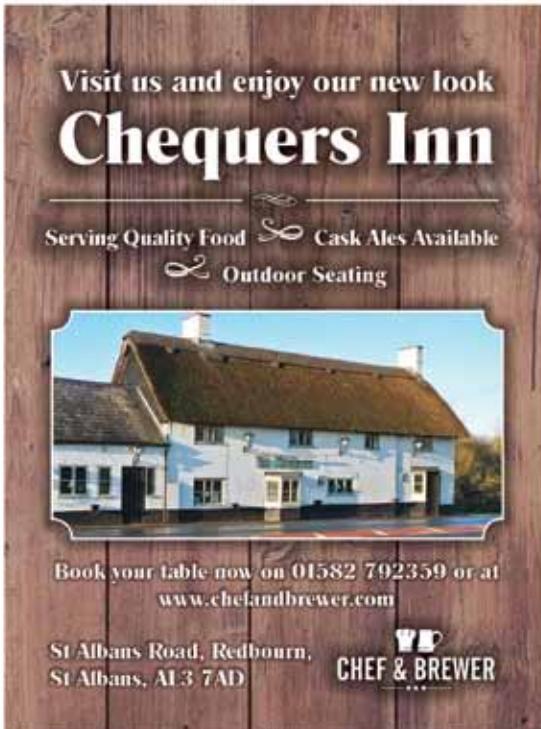
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PICTURE the PAST

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



Bob Hatton (centre) nets one of his hat-trick goals during the 3-1 home win over Rovers in October 1979.



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Families FIRST

OVER THE SUMMER WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON A NUMBER OF WAYS OF MAKING YOUR VISITS TO KENILWORTH ROAD EVEN MORE ENJOYABLE FOR FAMILIES. FROM FREE FACE PAINTS TO HAPPY HARRY LUNCHES, WE'VE GOT IT COVERED. HERE'S OUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW AROUND KENILWORTH ROAD THIS SEASON.

HERE TO HELP VOLUNTEERS

Back at the start of the summer, we put a call out to fans to join our new team of 'Here to Help' volunteers. We were delighted with the response, and we're excited to be able to introduce our team for 2015/16.

Wearing their easily visible light blue tabards, the Here to Help team are there to listen to your ideas, show you the way and do what they can to make your visit to Kenilworth Road as enjoyable as possible. If you're interested in joining the team please do get in touch.

FAMILY ZONE

This season we're offering a special area especially for children and families, to help pass the time for our younger supporters on a matchday. The family area, which

will be situated in front of the Kenilworth Road end, was open for our first League game of the season on Saturday where youngsters had their faces painted absolutely FREE!

Happy Harry will be there to welcome you, and pose for photos, and you really never know who else might make an appearance over the course of the season!

As the season progresses, we're looking at adding other activities too, so watch this space.

HAPPY HARRY'S POST BOX

Happy Harry loves to hear from our junior fans. We've placed a letterbox on the wall of the shed in the family area, and also in the main stand concourse by the kiosk.



So if you'd like to write to Harry, pop your letters into an envelope addressed to Happy Harry, Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Road, Luton, and post them in our orange letterboxes. We'll post the best letters on our website and social media sites, and your letter might even make the programme!



HAPPY HARRY'S LUNCH BAG

We've also introduced a new lunch bag for the youngsters, which includes a sandwich, drink, sweets, crisps, a jaffa cake bar and a piece of fruit. It's a great way of getting some healthier snacks for your family, in a Happy Harry bag. All you have to do is pre-book your bag online, or at the Here to Help Hut for the next game, then pick it up when you get to the ground.

PRE-ORDER YOUR BAG AND YOU COULD BE WATCHING THE WARM-UP IN THE DUG OUT!

It doesn't matter how long you've been coming to Kenilworth Road unless you've been a player or a manager you've never sat in the dugout. But this season, four lucky people for each game will get to sit in the manager's seat and watch the players warm up. Just pre-order a Happy Harry lunch bag, we'll automatically enter your name into a draw to watch the warm up from the dug out at the next game. Simple!



130TH YEAR PROGRAMME COLLECTION

It's our 130th anniversary this season, and to mark this anniversary we're looking back through the years at our programme designs. Each home programme this season will feature a different cover design, based on a programme from yesteryear. We're also planning on putting together a special collectors set of perfect bound programmes in a presentation box. This will be a strictly limited edition set, so keep your eyes peeled...

Anything larger than that, please contact us, so we can advise on the regulations. There's lots of other information in our fans zone on this website too.

FAN GUIDES

You may have already seen our fan guide's dotted around the stadium and around town. Make sure you take one to give to friends who've never been to the Kenny. They'll get 50 per cent off their first home game, plus there's loads of useful info for new fans about what to do and what to expect in the ground.

We're looking forward to keep welcoming back to Kenilworth Road again and again this season for a fantastic afternoon (or evening!) of fun and football.

Come on you Hatters!

If you have feedback about any of our activities this season please email info@lutontown.co.uk



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Luton **LADIES**

The Town Ladies got off to a flying start to their league season with an excellent 3-0 victory over old adversaries Enfield Town on Sunday.

With five players making their Town debuts it was a much changed squad from that which finished in fourth place last season.

Luton attacked from the start and put the Enfield defence under pressure without a serious attempt on goal until the eighth minute when Jo Rutherford controlled the ball 20 yards out before striking a powerful shot that flew into the top corner of the net to give the Hatters the lead.

Enfield responded well forcing a succession of dangerous corners but a resolute and well organised defence repelled the danger with a couple of efforts flew wide. Tash Fensome and Abbie Luby both came close to adding to the lead but their efforts were narrowly off target.

DANGEROUS

The Hatters continued to look the more dangerous side although Enfield continued to probe. A bouncing ball provided the away side with an opportunity but Rachel Evans was very quick off her line to block the effort with a flying save.

Town were then very grateful to centre-back Rachel Carter who chased a seemingly lost cause hooking the ball away from under the crossbar when an equaliser



looked certain. That proved the turning point of the game and minutes later Rachel Kosky brought the ball out of defence finding Rutherford who slipped a sublime pass into the path of Fensome who rounded the keeper and fired home to make it 2-0.

With Enfield pushing forward the Town changed things to bring the threat from out wide and in the 80th minute Fensome was again set free outpacing her marker before again going around the keeper finishing neatly from an acute angle.

A delighted Nikki Baker said: "It was a really pleasing performance from a squad still getting to know each other.

"The most pleasing aspect was the performances of the debutants combining with the established players and there is a real buzz amongst the group as Enfield are always a tough proposition. We closed the game out well without losing our attacking threat which is not an easy thing to achieve."

The even more youthful development squad racked up 11

FA Women's Premier League

South East Division One

AUGUST

16 Enfield Town (H) W 3-0
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)

goals without reply at Bishop's Stortford with all but one goal coming from 16-year-old debutants. Morgan Patterson led the way with four goals, Phoebe Brown scored a hat trick, Alisha Bhatti notched a brace and Kezia Hassell was also on the scoresheet. Skipper Jodie McClelland completed the scoring.

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

Luton Town in the COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

Tonight we take our third and final look at the Community Trust close season activities and we're starting with our walking football tournament held down at Venue360 for gentlemen of a certain vintage!

Walking Football

Back in June we had a request from the Football League Trust to see if we could host a regional walking football tournament for men over the age of 50. We agreed, but had one problem – we didn't have a team! However, thanks to press officer Andrew Barringer we put a call out to our supporters via the club website and within a couple of days had almost 30 players all eager to relive their playing days and have a shot at pulling on the famous Hatters shirt.

In the end we finished with three teams on the day, which was a fantastic effort, who competed with teams from Stevenage, AFC Wimbledon, Norwich City and Northampton Town who all brought down a couple of teams which meant on the day we had over 60 men taking part. The big prize on the day was not 'walking' away injury free, but progressing to a national Football League finals day at the FA's St George's Park.

So with the mantra 'it's the taking part that counts' the various teams all took to the pro-zones down at Venue360 and began what turned out to be a serious competition with a couple of teams certainly looking to progress! The gents representing the Hatters didn't let us down, with two of our teams making the semi-finals with wins over Stevenage and Northampton. Unfortunately both lost in semi-final matches to Norwich City and AFC Wimbledon, who ran out eventual competition winners progressing to St George's Park.

The biggest winners on the day were of course all of the competitors who took part and, as well as lots of great banter during the afternoon, we had great feedback from those who took part. Arthur Mason tweeted: "Had a fantastic afternoon – great to meet new guys and make the semi," and Paul Moriarty agreed, tweeting: "Hope we can all get to meet up again."

Well that is the plan, and as soon as everyone is back from holiday we will be contacting everyone who took part to maybe look at this being a regular event – so watch this space!

Adult Disability Multi-Sports day

Staying with the adult theme, we also held a multi-sports and mini football tournament up at Stockwood Athletics track last month, for adults with learning disabilities, which was a great day out and included a fair number of our players from the Hatters and Boaters LTFC disability team.

The day was part of the No Limits programme which looks to offer sporting opportunities to adults with disabilities and the event also linked in with the Golden Legacy weekend event celebrating the London Olympic sports legacy. There were lots of sports available on the day including golf, tennis and adapted



League Women and Girls football festival before the FA Women's Cup Final.

Overall, 20 teams took part on the day and the Barnfield girls were drawn in a group along with Spurs, Aldershot Town, West Brom and Blackpool. First up was Premier League Tottenham Hotspur and a great 1-0 victory followed by another victory 3-0 against Aldershot. There was a bit of a setback against a strong WBA team in a 1-0 defeat but the girls rallied well to beat Blackpool 3-1 to finish second in the group and qualify for the knockouts. They were then unlucky to come up against a very strong Brighton team meant an exit at the quarter-final stage but all in all it was a great effort to make the last eight.

It was then onto the FA Women's Cup Final next door to Wembley Stadium itself to watch Chelsea Women defeat Notts County Women. It was at half-time that the FA announced a major further investment in the Women and Girls game by extending the Female Football Development (FFD) programme into a third year. This is a fund that will directly benefit all female players over the age of 14 in Luton and Bedfordshire through our involvement in the programme, and we will be promoting all of our venues and activities early next month once all of our schools and colleges return from their summer break.

It's an exciting time for the female game and we are delighted as a Trust and Club to be involved in growing the game and bringing it to lots of new participants – both casual and for those looking for a regular game.



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ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH UNDER-18S MANAGER PAUL DRIVER

This evening's notes are look-back at our pre-season – which was an excellent one, with the boys returning in good shape physically having got a good mix of rest and work to tick things over without returning fatigued.



After two weeks of training, we played a friendly against Southend and used a few Under-16 players to give us two complete teams and get everyone 45

minutes on the pitch. We came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 courtesy of an own goal and a Michael Shamola strike. Next up the boys got an hour each in a 2-0 defeat to Barnet before we went to play AFC Kempston's senior side coming away with a very creditable 0-0 draw.

Any concerns I had about where our goals would come from were blown away as we hit four in each of the next three games - two friendlies and our first competitive league game. Firstly, we came from 2-0 down (again) to win 4-2 against Portsmouth (much to the delight of Andy Awfod!) with

strikes from Geo Craig, Alex Atkinson, Kavan Cotter and James Verney, then defeated a Barking College academy side 4-0 thanks to goals from James Justin, George Murray and two from Geo Craig.

Our first league game against last year's South East Champions, Barnet saw us complete a 4-0 victory thanks to goals from Geo, Jack Snelus, Freddie Hinds and James.

We reduced the amount of our own pre-season games as compared to previous seasons as we knew that our players would be getting involved in a number of the development squad's pre-season matches, and 12 different players from the youth team took part in at least one of these.

The highlights for us being Alex Atkinson's 30-yard strike at Thurrock and George Murray's late winner at Dunstable Town.

Our defenders also did well in these games where minutes on the pitch against a good level of senior players are a great experience for our young lads.

YOUTH ALLIANCE FIXTURES

AUGUST

- Sat Aug 8 Barnet H W 4-0**
Sat Aug 15 Peterborough United A W 3-1
- 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 PROFILE



JACK SNELUS

Name: **Jack Snelus**

Date of birth: **5/7/1999**

Birthplace:

Milton Keynes

Position: **Central attacking midfielder**

Year joined Luton: **2007**



WHY DID YOU JOIN LUTON TOWN?

Because I wanted to be a footballer!

WHAT WAS THE BEST BIT OF ADVICE WHEN GROWING UP?

Always give 100 per cent and never give up.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL SO FAR?

Winning the Cordial Cup and getting my scholarship in the summer.

WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A KID?

Arsenal

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU PRETEND TO BE IN THE PLAYGROUND?

Ronaldinho

WHAT OTHER SPORTS ARE YOU GOOD AT?

Badminton

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT?

PE

WHO IS YOUR MOST TALENTED TEAM-MATE?

Kavan Cotter

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

Steve McNulty

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB APART FROM BEING A FOOTBALLER?

Motorcross rider

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TYPE OF MUSIC?

Hip hop

WHAT'S YOUR AMBITION FOR THIS SEASON?

Do well in the FA Youth Cup

WHAT THE COACH SAYS

Under-18s boss Paul Driver on Jack:

"Jack's a first year scholar who has been with us at Luton Town for eight years. He hails from Milton Keynes, and I remember when he came here. He's an unassuming lad and goes about his business quietly."

"Technically he's one of the best players in the group, he's got good quick feet and is capable of scoring spectacular goals – as shown by his 30-yard strike against Barnet in our opening game of the season."

"It's funny that he should score such a great goal in the first match because scoring goals was something we said to him that we needed more from. He's a creator rather than a scorer but if he can chip in with more goals then he should do well over the next two seasons."

"As a first year his character will soon emerge and if he can carry on finishing to the standard against Barnet, and imposing himself on the play more in the final third then we've got a player on our hands."

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YOUTH UPDATE

The Town Under-18s made it two wins from two in the Youth Alliance with a 3-1 victory away to Peterborough United on Saturday morning.

James Verney directed James Justin's cross home after 10 minutes to give Paul Driver's side the lead.

Posh levelled with a fine effort from the edge of the box on 40 minutes but a minute before half-time Cameron McJannet's free-kick found the top corner to restore the Town's lead.

The Hatters began the second half on fire with Alex Atkinson,

Kavan Cotter and Jack Snelus all going close - the latter striking a shot from 40 yards against the crossbar.

But the Town continued to push for a third goal and on 70 minutes they made the game safe when Justin was fouled in the box and Atkinson converted the resultant penalty.

A delighted Driver said: "It was an excellent all-round display.

"If you had offered me six points from six and a plus-six goal difference after two games I would



Cameron McJannet thundered home a 25-yard free-kick against Peterborough

have bit your arm off.

"We were better with the ball this week and our defending was too."

Town: Gooch, Bean, McJannet, Musonda, McGhan-George, Justin, Cotter, Atkinson, Snelus (sub Famewo 78), Verney (sub Shamola 82), Murray. Subs not used: Jones, Le Fleur, Mead.

The Hatters youth team were in action at home to AFC Wimbledon this afternoon. Check out our official website for a full match report.

YOUTH KIT SPONSORS 2015/16 season



ALEX ATKINSON
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



GEO CRAIG
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



EKENE AMADI
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



LIAM GOOCH
H: Paul Bacon
A: AVAILABLE



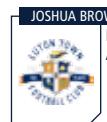
FRANKIE MUSONDA
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



TYREEQ BAKINSON
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



HARRY BEAN
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



JOSHUA BROWN
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



KAVAN COTTER
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



AKINLOLU FAMEWO
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



FREDRICK HINDS
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



JAMES JUSTIN
H: AVAILABLE
A: Bobbers Travel



CAMERON MCJANNET
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



GEORG MURRAY
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



JACK SNELUS
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



JAMES VERNEY
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE



KYRAN MCGHAN-GEORGE
H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

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Q&A

WITH... CRAIG MACKAIL-SMITH

Hatters fan Martin Daniels caught up with new Town striker Craig Mackail-Smith who gives the lowdown on family, football, friends and fatherhood.

Martin Daniels: John Still was obviously a huge influence in your decision to move to Luton Town, was there anything else that swayed your decision?

Craig Mackail-Smith: The directors and investors at the club have a great vision of where they want the club to be in the next few years as well as infrastructure changes and

it's great to be a part of a club that is forward thinking. The players that were signed too gave me a good indication of what the club wants to achieve.

MD: What have been your initial impressions of the club as a whole?

CMS: I have enjoyed myself at the club so far. It is still pretty early days but the players, staff and fans have been fantastic and hopefully we have a great journey ahead of us this season and in the future.

MD: You suffered quite a serious injury at Brighton which resulted in a lack of playing time when you returned. Having always been a regular starter in your career, you must have found that very frustrating. Did it just make you even more determined to get back to your best?

CMS: Yes, definitely. It has been a long time since I have played regular football and I am working so hard to get back to my best as I don't want people saying to me that I'm not the player I used to be. That motivates me to work harder so that doesn't become the case.

MD: Moving to a new club, in what was described as a 'trial,' how did you initially fit in with the squad? Did the likes of Scott Griffiths and Paul Benson, who you played with at Dagenham, help at all?

CMS: It helps having people at the club you know, it makes the settling in process that much easier. Having Benno, Scotty, Mark Tyler and Paddy at the club, it was an easy transition, plus I know the staff very well too.

MD: Having progressed up the leagues throughout your career through transfers and promotions, how do you feel about playing in League 2 again?

CMS: It's going to take a little getting used to again. The Championship is based on many teams who like to get the ball down and pass it about. League 2 is a little more direct but once I get on that pitch it won't matter the division, I will give my all to score, perform well and win games.

MD: Since you signed, I've been racking my brain to think of a more well-established player that Luton have signed in my lifetime. With yourself and some of the other players coming in this summer, do you see it as a real signal of intent from the club?



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CMS: Definitely, the club has brought in some very talented players and the squad is very strong and I would be disappointed if we didn't get promoted this season. It will be tough as a few other teams have bought well over the summer but I feel we have a good blend of youth, experience and talent.

MD: Having played for Scotland seven times, including in a friendly against the World and European champions Spain, was there any particular highlight from your international career and do you harbour any hopes of playing for them again?



CMS: Playing against Brazil on my debut and in the Euro Qualifiers against Spain were amazing experiences and to score for Scotland as well was a great feeling. I would love to represent Scotland again. I feel I am capable of getting back in the squad but I have to concentrate on putting performances in for Luton and that will follow.

MD: Scotland are doing extremely well in the European qualifiers, what do you make of their current squad and with just four matches to play, do you think they can qualify?

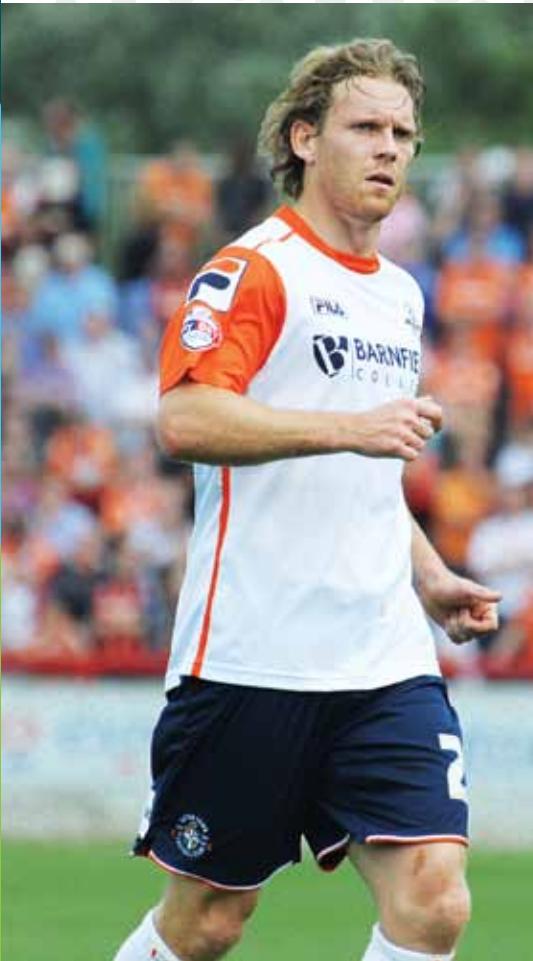
CMS: The squad looks very strong and I have been very impressed by the performances that they have put in so far. I am really hoping they can finish the group off strong and get a place at next year's Euros as an appearance at a major tournament is long overdue.

MD: How have you found becoming a father and how much of a difference to your career do you think it's made?

CMS: I love every minute of it. She motivates me to do the best I can for her and at a time when I was at my lowest after rupturing my Achilles, she came into the world and gave that drive and belief that I would come back from the injury.

MD: I'm sure you firmly believe you still have plenty left to give in your playing career, but have you made any steps to the next stage of your career or given it any thought?

CMS: I haven't made any steps just yet. I had looked into coaching or personal training but I want to give my full focus to football for the next few years and then look at the next step in my life.



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JUNIOR HATTERS

PLAYER PROFILE

LUKE WILKINSON

DATE OF BIRTH: 29TH SEPTEMBER 1990

FROM: WELLS, SOMERSET

HEIGHT: 6FT 2"

POSITION: DEFENDER

LUKE WILKINSON'S CAREER BEGAN AT THE BRISTOL CITY IN THEIR YOUTH TEAM, THEN ON SIGNING FOR DAGENHAM IN 2010, HE MADE 65 APPEARANCES, SCORING 6 GOALS. LUKE SIGNED FOR THE HATTERS IN 2014. HE WAS DELIGHTED TO BE NAMED MAN OF THE MATCH FOR SATURDAY'S GAME VS OXFORD



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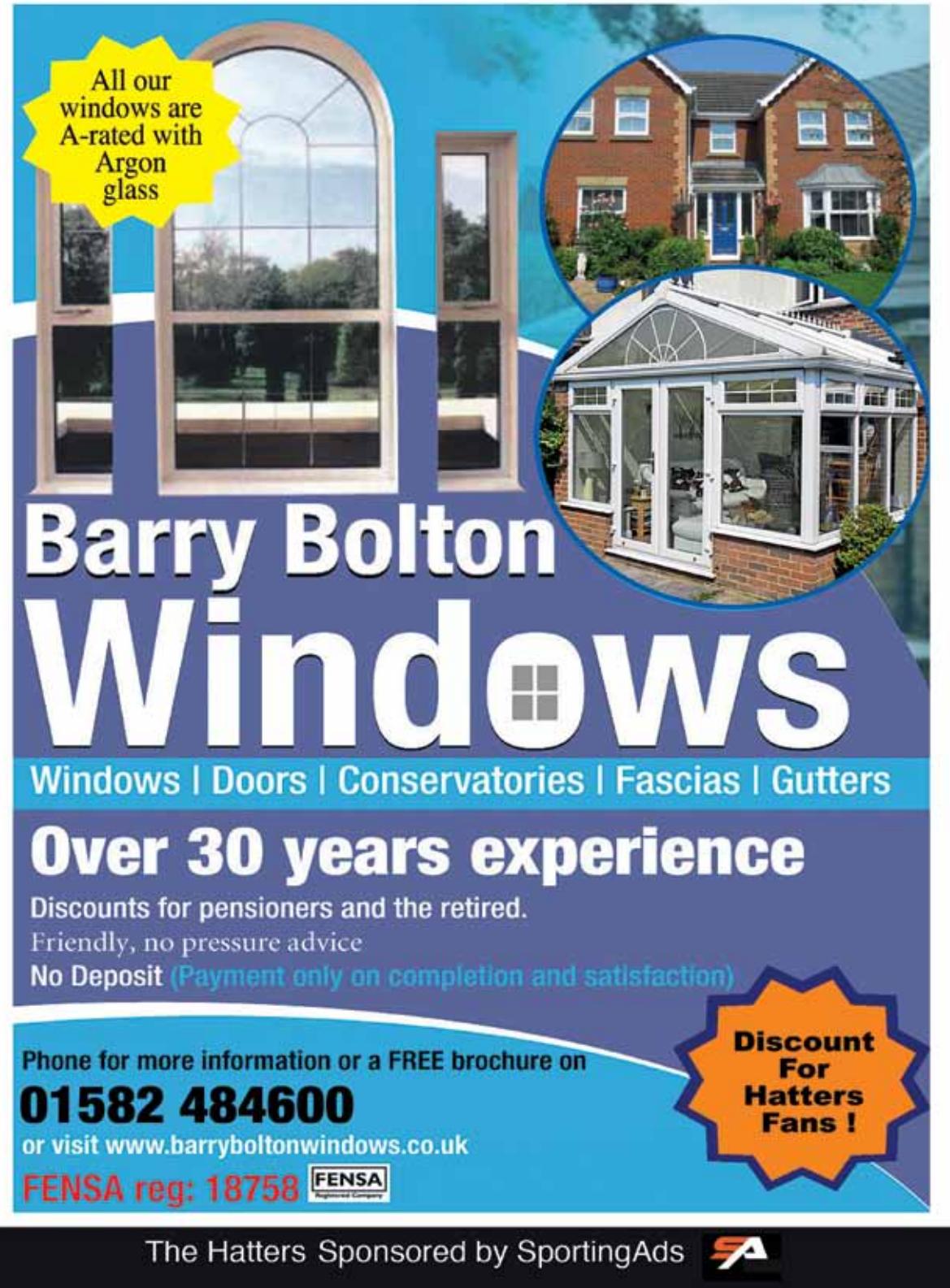


BRISTOL ROVERS

Today's match will be the 121st meeting of the two teams, the first of which was all the way back in 1900 when Luton lost 1-0 away from home. Our last game against The Pirates on Boxing day 2007 - which was a 1-1 draw. But will they be 'walking the plank' today?



FACT FILE



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A WORD FROM The Football League Paper

BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Signed by Aston Villa, the powerful winger scored three goals in 38 appearances and was in the team that humbled the Busby Babes to lift the FA Cup in 1957. Yet just a year later - aged only 22 - injury forced him to call it a day.

REUBEN NOBLE LAZARUS - BARNESLEY

Geldard's record was finally broken when Noble-Lazarus appeared as an 84th-minute substitute in a League Cup game against Ipswich in 2008.

It was a stunning debut for a lad not yet in possession of his GCSE results. Naturally, great things are expected. But while starting young certainly didn't hurt the likes of Wayne Rooney or James Milner, others struggled to live up to the hype.

ALBERT GELDARD BRADFORD PARK AVENUE

An amateur magician who fought in World War II, Geldard made his Avenue debut against Millwall at the Den in September 1928, aged just 15 years and 158 days - a record that stood for 80 years.

And it was no false dawn. A prodigious winger (or outside right in those days), his pace and famed crossing ability were the source of many a Dixie Dean goal for Everton and he was part of the Toffees side that won the 1933 FA Cup. At one stage, Geldard was even keeping Stanley Matthews out of the England team!

KEN ROBERTS WREXHAM

Bizarrely, Roberts matched Geldard's record to the very day when he turned out for Wrexham in 1951 - against Bradford Park Avenue. Sadly, he couldn't equal his progress.



Andy Awford in action during his playing days for Portsmouth

forced to retire, aged 28, in 2000. He has since managed the club. [And now of course he's here at Kenilworth Road]

MATTHEW BRIGGS FULHAM

Holder of the record for youngest-ever Premier League player, Briggs was 16 years and 65 days old when he turned out for the Cottagers against West Brom in 2007.

Subsequently loaned out to all and sundry, the left-back is now attempting a fresh start at Colchester after failing to make an impression at Fulham and Millwall.

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LEAGUE LOOK

It's still very, very early days in the League 2 season but try telling that to the five teams that hold 100 per cent records after two matches so far this campaign.

Top of the pile on goal difference are last season's losing Play-Off finalists Wycombe who backed up a 3-0 opening day win over York with a comfortable 2-0 win over Barnet at the weekend.

Leyton Orient, relegated from League 1 at the end of last season, have also started with two successive wins, with Saturday's victory at Dagenham & Redbridge coming a week after their triumph over Barnet.

FAVOURITES

Bookies' favourites Portsmouth beat Dagenham last weekend and followed that up with a 2-1 win at Plymouth on Saturday – although both goals in the victory at Home Park came from the penalty spot.

Another dark horse for promotion this season, Northampton, also hold a perfect record. Their win at Bristol Rovers on the opening day was followed by a 3-0 win over Exeter this weekend.

Hartlepool are a side on the up after their survival act last season and Pools have begun much better this time round with two wins from two matches.

On Saturday they came from a goal down to clinch a late 2-1 win at York.

Three of the teams mentioned above – Dagenham, Barnet and York – have lost both of their matches so far, as have Yeovil, the Hatters' opponents on Saturday. The Glovers lost at Exeter on the opening day before going down at home to Bristol Rovers at the weekend.

Crawley, Newport, Stevenage and Accrington all have one point from their opening two matches with Newport and Stevenage drawing 2-2 against each other on Saturday.

STRUGGLE

Results that stood out over the weekend included Mansfield's 2-0 win at Notts County. The Stags, tipped for a season of struggle, saw off a County side expected to go well this term after making 17 new signings.

Elsewhere, Carlisle striker Jabo Ibhere netted a hat-trick but his side could not pick up all three points as they drew 4-4 at home to Cambridge, with United's new striker

TONIGHT'S FIXTURES

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



Gareth Ainsworth's Wycombe lead League 2 after two matches

Barry Corr taking his tally to four for the season after another brace.

AFC Wimbledon picked up their first points of the season with a 2-1 win at Crawley, as did Morecambe thanks to a 1-0 win over Accrington.

In the matches tonight, leaders Wycombe make the long trip to Morecambe – but if you think that's a long journey spare a thought for Carlisle supporters who face an 800-mile round-trip to Plymouth on a Tuesday night.

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

OUR 130TH YEAR

MEET THE REEF

TREVOR KETTI

Rutland-based whistler Trevor makes his second return to Kenilworth Road this month, having already taken charge of our friendly against Brentford. The experienced referee oversaw his first Football League game here since the 3-3 draw at home to Bradford in January 2009 during our minus-30 League 2. Last season Trevor took charge of 22 matches, in which he showed just one red card. In his two games so far this season he has shown 10 yellow cards. Please give a warm welcome to Trevor and his fellow officials this evening.



LUTON TOWN

1885-PRESENT DAY

THE FULL RECORD

PLAYED: 5265

WON: 2101

DRAWN: 1281

LOST: 1883

GOALS SCORED : **8361**

GOALS CONCEDED: 7579

LEAGUE TABLE 2015/16

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

PLAYER STATS 2015/16

	THIS SEASON										LTC	
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISIP		CAREER TO			
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS		
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	6	0		
Paul Benson	1	(1)	0	(0)	1	2	(1)	1	0	0	65	21
Scott Cuthbert	2	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	3
Nathan Doyle	2	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	34
Danny Green	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	1	0
Scott Griffiths	2	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	94
Luke Guttridge	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	63
Ryan Hall	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
Alex Lawless	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	172
Craig Mackail-Smith	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2
Jack Marriott	0	(2)	0	1	(0)	2	1	(2)	2	0	0	3
Paddy McCourt	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2
Cameron McGeehan	1	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	2	(0)	1	0	0	35
Steve McNulty	2	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	116
Josh McQuoid	1	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	0	0	2
Mark O'Brien	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1
Stephen O'Donnell	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2
Magnus Okuonghae	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
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	0	(2)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(2)	0	0	0	45
Jonathan Smith	1	(1)	1	0	(0)	0	1	(1)	1	0	0	102
Mark Tyler	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	268
Luke Wilkinson	2	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	3	(0)	1	0	0	51

HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH
SIMON PITTS



There are always highs and lows in football, and the opening two games of the League campaign have already given us both the euphoria and disappointment of injury time goals!

Highs and lows also happen off the pitch as well and it was very disappointing to hear the news a few weeks ago that Diverse FM was no longer able to continue coverage of the Luton matches due to the financial costs involved.

I had six very enjoyable years joining a great group of volunteers who brought you the Luton Town Show.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the experience and opportunity of commentating on the Hatters' matches, and for a while I'd feared that dream might be coming to an end. I am therefore so thankful to the numerous fans that made contact directly, or posted their support for my commentary on social media sites.

The low of no longer commentating for Diverse FM was turned into a high for me personally, and it would seem Luton fans around the world, when the club confirmed last week that I would be continuing to provide the Hatters Player commentary.

Looking back on those six years there are two obvious and notable matches that will always be remembered. By real coincidence these two highlights happened to combine on Saturday for the visit of Oxford United, when JJ O'Donnell was alongside me for Hatters Player coverage of the match.

Fans around the world will certainly remember the fantastic night of 9th February 2010 when the Hatters beat Oxford 2-1 with injury time goals from George "he does like Tuesday nights" Pilkington and Keith "he's scored direct from the corner" Keane. The YouTube clip of my commentary has now passed 15,000 views, and to think without Diverse FM the only people that would have heard those words that night would have been those watching on the in-house TV coverage around the ground!

I'm often asked about the favourite games I've commentated on, and the Oxford match is certainly right up there. Having the opportunity to commentate at Wembley in 2012, and being able to celebrate a goal, courtesy of Andre Gray, was an obvious highlight too, albeit the result took a long time to recover from!

Don't forget you can hear all the action and the goal celebrations tonight and throughout the season on Hatters Player via www.lutontown.co.uk or on your mobile device using the FLi player app.

Simon is the official commentator for Hatters Player for Town games home and away this season



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TEAM SHEET



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



BRISTOL ROVERS

- 1 Steve Mildenhall
- 2 Daniel Leadbitter
- 3 Lee Brown
- 4 Tom Lockyer
- 5 Mark McChrystal
- 6 Tom Parkes
- 7 Lee Mansell
- 8 Ollie Clarke
- 9 Ellis Harrison
- 10 Matty Taylor
- 11 Jake Gosling
- 14 Chris Lines
- 15 James Clarke
- 16 Nathan Blissett
- 17 Jermaine Easter
- 18 Dominic Thomas
- 19 Danny Greenslade
- 20 Jamie Lucas
- 21 Cristian Montano
- 22 Kieran Preston
- 23 Billy Bodin
- 24 Stuart Sinclair
- 25 Will Puddy
- 26 Tyler Lytle
- 27 Ryan Broom
- 28 Jay Malpas
- 29 Jeffrey Monakana

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS



Trevor Kettle



John Law



Paul Howard



Alan Dale