

# TALK OF THE TOWN

LUTON TOWN v ASTON VILLA

WEDNESDAY 10th AUGUST 2016 | KICK OFF 7.45pm

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 1 | PRICE £3



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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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[MANAGER'S NOTES]

# THE MANAGER NATHAN JONES

Good evening and welcome to Kenilworth Road for the first time this season for this EFL Cup First Round tie against Aston Villa.

I would like to welcome everybody from our visitors; their supporters, directors and officials, and especially new manager Roberto Di Matteo, his staff and players.

I have a few friends in the Villa squad, with Tommy Elphick having come through the ranks at Brighton when I was a player there, and Joe Bennett and Gary Gardner having played for the Seagulls on loan when I was assistant-manager.

I picked both Joe and Gary during my time in caretaker charge at the Amex in 2014-15, and they are good players and people, so it will be good to catch up with them tonight.

On Saturday we travelled to Plymouth for our opening game of the Sky Bet League Two season and we came away with all three points from a fantastic team performance.

After a positive start to the season it will be good to test ourselves against one of the favourites for the Championship title, and a very recent ex-Premier League side.

It's our first competitive home game this season and we all know what a fantastic atmosphere this ground can produce under the lights. It is the start of a run of three important home games with Yeovil coming up on Saturday and Newport County next Tuesday.

## IMMENSE

Our fans always get behind us. They make a lot of noise, which is something our new signing Jake Gray alluded to from playing against us at Kenilworth Road last season. They were absolutely immense at Plymouth though, and they will be so important to our season.

Plymouth was an excellent performance where we thoroughly deserved the three points. It was important to get off the mark early. We overcame the loss of Alan Sheehan to a calf injury just before kick-off, but we were able to replace him with someone like Scott Cuthbert, who was outstanding. It shows what quality we have in our smaller, elite squad.

Plymouth was an excellent performance where we thoroughly deserved the three points.

I'd like to thank every member of staff in our club for their contribution over the summer as the work has not just been done in the team, we have managed to make strides in almost every area. Long may that continue.

Enjoy the game.



# FROM THE BOARDROOM

## WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE GARY SWEET

Good evening one and all and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for today's home seasonal opener versus Aston Villa for this exciting Round 1 League Cup tie.

We warmly welcome Roberto Di Matteo, his players, staff and, most importantly, the 1,500 supporters who have made the 170-mile round trip from Villa Park this evening.

Whilst it's a pleasure to host a Club of Villa's stature and credentials, having won this competition five times, we won't be fazed by the event.

Indeed, having won this competition ourselves, having experienced some surprising cup success against Premier League and Championship sides relatively recently and having a better head-to-head record against Villa, there's no reason why we shouldn't enter tonight's game with a degree of poise.

### COMPOSURE

Our composure should certainly be inspired up by the performance and result from our first league match of the season at Plymouth on Saturday. And what a performance that was!

It may only be 1/46th of the league season gone but we were incredibly proud of the manner and character of our superb 3-0 victory, which created a new record as the best away start to a league season.

It wasn't an easy game, by any means, against a side who I believe will be challengers again at the end of the season.

With so many changes made each summer it's always encouraging to see such impressive displays from our four debutants (five including Jake Gray's cameo), who all looked encouragingly like they had known their team-mates much longer than they actually have.

It was a real delight to see our 1,100 travelling supporters take the long drive home happy despite the endurance of the slow and painful 500-mile round trip. Thank you everyone who made the journey – you were in great voice and did the Club proud.

Even before Saturday, we were more than happy with the quality of players Nathan and Mick have recruited this summer and have complete faith in the new coaching team's ability to build a team that brings success this season and beyond.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the board to formally warmly welcome our new additions to Luton Town since last term? Joining

Nathan's staff are Paul Hart, Joaquin Gomez and Jared Roberts-Smith.

Joining two familiar faces after successful loan periods in Alan Sheehan and Glen Rea, we have six new contract players in Christian Walton, Jonny Mullins, Danny Hylton, Jordan Cook, Isaac Vassell and Jake Gray. Welcome to all. I'd also like to proudly congratulate Frankie, Akin, James, Alex, Tyreeq and Liam on their first pro contracts – well done!

Another performance we can be proud of at the weekend was to hear about our Under-18s team, which contained a number of new additions from the younger age-group, hammering Dagenham & Redbridge 10-2 away from home in their first match of the season.

I jokingly enquired as to how we conceded two goals against Non-League opposition, only for my enquiry to be treated seriously and to be reassured that Andy and Paul were unhappy that we did, raising it as an issue that was 'discussed' with the team somewhat sternly.

Naturally, we're all thrilled at the potential prospects of our young players having had the pleasure of



Work underway at our new training ground site, The Brache

seeing their progress last season. David Wilkinson will discuss the joys of our youth progress more in Saturday's programme as we look to develop this area even further but, personally, this season comes with more anticipation than any other because of the inclusion of so many academy players.

## ► A first-class, pristine training camp

One very exciting development that will greatly improve the potential for our first team, our development teams and our young academy players is the investment and commitment we have made in securing a new training ground site at The Brache in Luton; most of the former Vauxhall Recreation Ground site.

### AMBITIONS

The core foundations of the footballers' home environment is vital to any football team's success and this restructure will raise our ambitions significantly. Over the next couple of years, we fully intend to turn The Brache into a first-class, pristine training camp which will consist of three drained and irrigated

grass pitches, a new FIFA 2 Star artificial grass surface, specialist technical areas all supported by renovations made to the existing buildings to create a players' gym, refurbished changing rooms, a players' canteen and a classroom or two.

By day, these new facilities will be enjoyed by our first team squad, development squad and our under 18s squad with our lower age groups using the same facilities in the evenings. This ultimately means we will soon have a single nucleus for the coaching of every one of our age-groups from 7 to 37. Having one environment will help us further develop our footballing aspirations through the cultural education of our discipline, behaviour, style, character and intellect of our players, young and not so young.

Our pitch construction contractors are already on site as you read this, meaning we should be able to move in by the end of the calendar year, weather permitting.

During the contract negotiations we were disappointed to note that a number of sports and hobby clubs have been or will be displaced by the current tenants, Venue 360.



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# EVO TOUCH

Made for the creative. Engineered for playmaking.



Whilst it isn't strictly our contractual duty to look out for their welfare, we accept that we have a moral duty to do all we can to accommodate their needs, if at all possible even temporarily, or provide some helpful assistance to ensure that they can continue with as little disruption as possible.

If there's a theme to these programme notes this evening, the buzzword is 'development'. From the development of raw young talent, through the sure and steady development of our standing in the football pyramid, to the development of new training facilities that will help deliver those ambitions.

### DELIVERED

It is with great pleasure that we have been able to fulfil our biggest development commitment we gave you at the beginning of last season. I promised we would have a planning application submitted by the start of this season, and I'm thrilled to be able to confirm that we have delivered that promise.

Last week we submitted two planning applications to Luton Borough Council, one for Newlands Park and one for Power Court.

Naturally, given the scale of our intended developments, it's a little challenging to provide full details

of what is included within those applications in this column, but clearly the key element is a fantastic new stadium in the heart of the town centre in tandem with a mixed-use gateway development at Junction 10 of the M1; two schemes that will, literally, change the face of our town for good.

A huge number of you – 4,000 people to be more accurate – visited one of our public consultation exhibitions at three venues in town back in May where our models and plans were revealed to the public. Gratifyingly, the vast majority of visitors – whether supporters or residents – were unwaveringly supportive of both schemes and supportive of both the stadium and non-stadium allocations.

So, what happens now?

Firstly, the Council's Planning Office needs to validate our application which may take another week or two. Once validated the Council will then upload our application to their planning portal where the public will be able to view the numerous and various plans, reports and assessments. At this stage you will be able to make your opinions heard to the Council remembering that public opinion will form a major component of their consideration. Be assured that once we have clarity from the Council

on the specifics of their consultation exercise we will share this with you.

We'll eventually hear the outcome of the Council's decision at the end of this calendar year or perhaps early 2017. Assuming our application is successful without any major obstacles, we should be on target to build and move into a new stadium by the start of the 2020/2021 season.

These applications are substantial in scale and even though we think we've thought of everything, objections will always come forward. It's normally human nature to shout louder to stop an event one doesn't want to occur – as those of you who marched against a move to MK in 1982 will testify.

### MILESTONE

This milestone is equally as important – probably more so – to the future of Luton Town's ambitions and even survival so it is vital that you make your voices heard once the Council consult the public.

Meanwhile, maybe we can exercise our vocal chords, get behind the team in front of the TV cameras and spur our lads onto victory.

Come On You Hatters!



# LATEST NEWS

## NEW SPONSOR AND KIT

All at Kenilworth Road would like to welcome our new sponsors, SsangYong Motor UK Ltd, and kit suppliers Puma to Luton Town.

In late June we announced an initial two-year sponsorship partnership, with an option for a further two, with SsangYong – a firm that has been based in Luton for 13 years and is the licenced distributor of the SsangYong brand in the UK.

It has a network of 60 dealers and will be opening a brand new showroom at their recently expanded Luton headquarters to coincide with the announcement of the link-up with the football club.

The agreement with Puma sees the Town become one of 26 professional British football clubs wearing the German sportswear company's kit.



"It's fantastic to have a global brand like SsangYong on board along with an established name in sportswear suppliers in Puma," said Hatters chief executive Gary Sweet at the launch on 24th June.

While SsangYong Motor UK Ltd's CEO Paul Williams added: "We have a mainly Luton based workforce and as such we



are delighted to work in partnership with both the football club and the town as we continue to grow."

Finance Director Ian Anderson is one of several Town fans among that workforce, and speaking at SsangYong's Airport Executive Park base, he said: "It's fantastically exciting, both on a personal level as a long-time supporter, born and bred in Luton, and as the finance director of SsangYong, to see the brand out there on the shirt."

Looking ahead to the new season for Nathan Jones and the team, and tonight's EFL Cup First Round game, Anderson added: "First things first, it'll be great to beat Aston Villa. We couldn't have asked for better in terms of a tie in the cup.

"Then hopefully it'll be automatic promotion this year, because we saw the strides that Nathan made in the second half of the season, but he'd inherited that squad. He's now added some quality players and hopefully we can go on from strength to strength in the coming year."

NICEIC and ELECSA continue as back of shirt sponsors on the orange home and white away strip respectively, while the third kit for 2016-17 is purple – the same colour as Luton Borough Council's new branding with the Hatters delighted to donate the back of shirt sponsorship space to the Love Luton campaign.

*\*To view the special video we produced to promote the partnership, featuring three SsangYong Tivoli cars wrapped in the colours to match our new kits and driven through the town by new defender Johnny Mullins, midfielder Cameron McGeehan and striker Jack Marriott, visit the Luton Town YouTube channel and search for 'The Luton Job'*





## OUR NEW CLUB CHARITY OF THE YEAR

Later in August, the Hatters will be officially launching the season-long partnership with Level Trust as our new club charity of the year. Here's why...

What do you do when your trainers wear out? Go online to buy a new pair? Pop down the shops?

Did you know that in Luton 27% of children live under the poverty line. If their school shoes break or they grow out of them, it is not as simple as going out to buy another pair. So what do they do? Borrow a friend's? Keep wearing them, potentially causing long-term damage to their feet? Stop going to school altogether?

There is another answer. Level Trust is a local charity who give free school shoes to kids in Luton who need them.

Kids like seven-year-old Amy. Amy said she hated school. She didn't have any school shoes and had to wear an old pair of boots instead. She didn't like looking different from her friends.

Level Trust gave Amy a brand new pair of school shoes. She was so happy with them that she stopped saying she didn't want to go to school and became much more confident with her group of friends.

Level Trust is LTFC's charity this year. To find out more about your Club's Charity visit us at [www.leveltrust.org](http://www.leveltrust.org)

## THE CHECKATRADE TROPHY

The revamped EFL Trophy has received much coverage in the close season, with the introduction of 16 EPPP Category 1 Academy teams to a 64-team group stage.

There will be much more written and said about the competition the Hatters famously won in 2009 when it was known as the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, but with space limited in this edition, we'll stick to the basics.

The competition for League One and Two clubs – plus the youngsters of ten Premier League clubs and six from the Championship, after several of the country's biggest sides rejected the invitation to enter – will now be known as the Checkatrade Trophy.

**Checkatrade  
TROPHY**



The Hatters were drawn in a group with Millwall and Gillingham from the division above, and West Bromwich Albion's academy team.

We will travel to Kent to face the Gills on Tuesday 30th August, with West Brom and Millwall visiting Kenilworth Road on Tuesday 4th October and Tuesday 8th November respectively.

# UPNEXT

## YEOVIL TOWN

FORMED: 1895 | NICKNAME: THE GLOVERS | LAST SEASON: 19TH IN LEAGUE 2

FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @YTFC | COLOURS: GREEN AND WHITE HOOPS

GROUND: HUISH PARK | MANAGER: DARREN WAY

**WHO?** Formed 121 years ago as Yeovil Casuals, the club now known as Yeovil Town play at Huish Park in the Somerset town. Current manager Darren Way was an important cog in their midfield in 2002-03 when the Grovers won promotion from Non-League football, where they had a reputation as the FA Cup's greatest giantkillers after knocking out 20 League clubs and reaching the First Round Proper on no less than 49 occasions. They won the League Two title in 2004-05 and then promotion to the Championship in 2012-13 as League One play-off winners. Two successive relegations led them back to the bottom tier for last season, but they managed to secure a 14th season as a Football League club.

**TICKETS:** Fancy coming to the game? Tickets for the match against the Grovers are now on sale at the ticket office at Category C prices, details of which can be found on the opposite page.

**HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?** Saturday's game will be the sixth time the clubs have met. The Hatters triumphed 4-1 at Kenilworth Road in the first, a League Cup tie in 2003. We drew 0-0 at Huish Park in the 2007-08 League One campaign before winning 1-0 here later in the season. Last term the Grovers came back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 in Somerset, before a 1-1 draw here in February when Alan Sheehan cancelled out Liam Walsh's opener for Yeovil. Overall, it's Hatters 2 Grovers 1, with two draws.

**IN CHARGE.** Darren Way replaced Paul Sturrock on New Year's Eve last year and the 36-year-old managed to keep the Grovers up comfortably in a successful fight against relegation. The Plymouth-born former midfielder made

The busy start to the season here at Kenilworth Road continues on Saturday when the Hatters welcome Yeovil Town for the first home league game of the season



Darren Way

over 250 appearances for the Grovers in three spells, helping them win the Conference, the FA Trophy and League Two. A road traffic accident ended his career in 2008, and since then Way has been coach, scout, assistant-manager and now manager at Huish Park. Penned a three-year contract towards the end of last season.

**PREVIOUS FORM.** The Grovers lost just six of 24 matches to the end of last season after Way was appointed permanently. They were bottom of the table when he was appointed as interim boss in December, but guaranteed their status with four games to spare. They opened up the current campaign on Saturday with a home win over Notts County and last night travelled to Walsall in the EFL Cup First Round.

**KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU.** Both sides have a man in the camp who will need no introduction to the opposing fans. Alex Lawless joined the Grovers after his summer departure from the Town. Alex was part of the squad that helped us regain our League status in 2013-14 and will no doubt be given a rousing reception by the Kenilworth Road faithful in acknowledgment of his 203 appearances over five-and-a-half years. He joins another ex-Hatter, Alex Lacey, at the Somerset club. Our manager Nathan Jones, of course, is the main link from the current Town camp with the 43-year-old having played over 200 times for the Grovers. Summer signing Jordan Cook had a loan spell in the West Country in 2013 when he was a Charlton player.

# GET YOUR TICKET

HOME TICKET PRICES FOR THE 2016/17 SEASON			
	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C
Adult	£23	£20	£18
Young Adult (18-21)	£18	£15	£13
Senior (65+)	£18	£15	£13
Golden Senior (75+)	£15	£12	£10
Youth (10-17)	£11	£8	£6
Acc. Junior (U10)	£8	£5	£3



**YEOVIL TOWN**

**SKY BET LEAGUE TWO**

**SATURDAY 13th AUGUST 2016 | 3pm**

Tickets are now on sale at Category C prices and are available from the Ticket Office or online.



**NEWPORT COUNTY**

**SKY BET LEAGUE TWO**

**TUESDAY 16th AUGUST 2016 | 7.45pm**

Tickets are now on sale at Category C prices and are available from the Ticket Office or online.



**STEVENAGE**

**SKY BET LEAGUE TWO**

**SATURDAY 20th AUGUST 2016 | 3pm**

We will receive an allocation of 1388 South Stand tickets and 515 tickets for families in the West Stand for this fixture. From Thursday 4th August until close of business on Wednesday 10th August, tickets will be available to Diamond Season Ticket holders at one ticket per Season

Ticket Holder. Tickets can be purchased in person or via phone from the Ticket Office. From Thursday 11th August until close of business on Tuesday 16th August, Season Tickets holders will be able to purchase one ticket each in person or by phone. From Wednesday 17th August, subject to availability, tickets will be available on general sale. At this time tickets will also be available on line.

One Ticket in the South Stand will be processed for Away Season holders on Friday 5th August unless advised otherwise. **Prices:** Adults £24, Concessions £21, Under 22s £16, Under 16s £12, Under 12s £10, Concessions are Over 60, Full time Students, UB40 holders, ambulant disabled and members of the armed forces/emergency services. Proof of these is required when purchasing tickets. Wheelchair tickets need to be booked in advance from Stevenage on 01438 223223 ( x 62)



**CAMBRIDGE UNITED**

**SKY BET LEAGUE TWO**

**SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 2016 | 3pm**

We have received an allocation of 1433 South Stand tickets plus 10 wheelchair spaces. From Friday 5th August until close of business on Wednesday 10th August tickets will be available to Diamond Season Ticket holders at one ticket per Season Ticket Holder. Tickets can be purchased in person or via phone from the Ticket Office.

From Thursday 11th August until close of business on Monday 22th August Season Tickets holders will be able to purchase one ticket each in person or by phone.

From Tuesday 23rd August, subject to availability, tickets will be available on general sale. At this time tickets will also be available on line. One Ticket in the South Stand will be processed for Away Season Ticket holders on Thursday 11th August unless advised otherwise. **Prices:** Adults £20, Concessions £15, Under 18s £10, Under 5s FOC, Concessions are 64-plus, Full time Students, Young Adults 18-21. Proof of these is required when purchasing tickets. Wheelchair tickets £15, Carer free of charge.

# SPEAKING

# COMMERCIALLY

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Midbrass are patentees whose innovative designs bring time and money savings across the industry. The company also boasts their own in-house test laboratory, which continues to see them as market leaders in the supply of Valves and Fittings solutions.

## TODAY'S MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming EIGHT mascots to Kenilworth Road this evening for the first home game of the 2016-17 campaign. They are...

Finley Danes – Age 5

Oliver Parker – Age 9

Calum Hollands – Age 6

Michael Gallagher – Age 6

Reece Kenyon – Age 7

Cillian Gallagher – Age 9

Joseph Hardy – Age 5

Tristian Martin – Age 7

## MATCH BALL SPONSOR THE SPORTY-BARREL

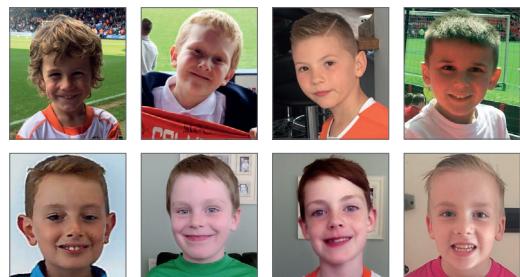


The Sporty-Barrel is made up of ten people who drink in Stopsley's two favourite pubs, The Sportsman and The Barrels.

The Sportsman was saved from closure two years ago by four local businessmen and woman Kim Terry, Mark Byrne, Chris Batten and Brian Talbot putting money from their own pockets to refurbish and clean the pub up back to its original family atmosphere.

The Barrels has seen a huge investment this year, with a total refurbishment and new management.

Today both pubs have come together to sponsor the match ball – Mark Byrne, Adam Freeman, Kim Terry, Chris Batton, Cliff Large, Ade Perry, Keith Norris, Malcolm Campbell & John Reilly.



### EXECUTIVE BOX HOLDERS





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# CATCH ALL THE GOALS FROM THE SKY BET EFL



## Every Saturday, 9pm on Channel 5

Watch the best of the action from the Sky Bet Championship on Football on 5: The Championship at 9pm, followed by every goal from Sky Bet League One and League Two on Football on 5: Goal Rush from 10pm.



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2016/17

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31 CRAIG KING	36 JAMES JUSTIN	37 FRANKIE MUSONDA	38 ALEX ATKINSON
H: AVAILABLE G: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	H: Freed (Veneers Ltd) A: Bobbers Travel	H: Sports 262 A: AVAILABLE	H: Whosh A: AVAILABLE
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[TOWN v ASTON VILLA | WEDNESDAY 10th AUGUST 2016] 17

[WELCOME ASTON VILLA]



# WELCOME ASTON VILLA

BY SAM BERESFORD

It gives us great pleasure to welcome everyone associated with Aston Villa for this EFL Cup first round tie at Kenilworth Road.

Aston Villa are five time winners of the League Cup and will be hoping to overcome fellow former winners tonight to stand any chance of replicating this success again in 2016-17.

Tonight's game will be Roberto Di Matteo's first cup game in charge of the Midlands club and he will be looking to get a winning start in Bedfordshire. They will be hoping to better last year's fourth round departure at the hands of then fellow Premier league side Southampton.

Villa are the only relegated side to be joining the competition at this stage, with Norwich City and Newcastle United both entering the fray in the second round due to their positioning above Villa in last season's top-flight table.

The last campaign was a disappointment for everyone associated with Villa, highlighted by their relegation on 16th April after a 1-0 loss to Manchester United. They also held the record for the longest run of consecutive losses (11) and the longest winless run (19).

Their top goal scorer in the league was Jordan Ayew with six goals, therefore, it was no surprise that they had the lowest goals tally in the league (27). This was added to the worst defence in the league conceding 76 goals and finishing with a goal difference of minus 49.

Villa have been one of the most consistent teams at top-flight level since the Premier League started.

This is portrayed by it being their first relegation from the top tier of English football since the 1986-87 season, which is a very impressive record.

However, there has been a new found optimism at Villa Park with the takeover of Di Matteo and the retention of a number of key, Premier League calibre players.

So far the new management team have been enjoying their time at the club, with the best results of preseason being an 8-0 away win over Austrian Side Grazer AK, a 1-0 win over French side FC Nantes and a 3-0 success at Cambridge United. They have also drawn 1-1 at League One new-boys Bristol Rovers and lost 3-1 at home to Middlesbrough, who passed them on their way up to the Premier League. Villa are one of the bookies' favourites for promotion back to the top-flight and it will be a shock if they are not at least in the play offs come the end of the season, despite losing at Sheffield Wednesday in their opening game.

The last meeting between the two sides came at Villa Park on 2nd October 2002, also in the League Cup. Villa were the victors on this occasion, running away with a 3-0 win after a Dion Dublin brace secured their passage into the third round. The last win for Luton over Villa came in 1992 with a 2-0 home success, Brian Stein and midfielder Mark Pemberton on the scoresheet. Overall, Luton have won 18 games, Aston Villa have won 15 and there have been 5 draws.



Gary Gardner



Roberto Di Matteo

## HATTERS v VILLA

Luton wins: 28

Draws: 5

Villa wins: 15

# TEAM PROFILE:

NICKNAME: THE VILLA, VILLANS | GROUND: VILLA PARK | LAST SEASON: 20TH PREMIER LEAGUE  
 MANAGER: ROBERTO DI MATTEO | LAST MEETING: ASTON VILLA 3 : 0 LUTON [02/10/02]

# MEET THE VISITORS

## THE BOSS

### ROBERTO DI MATTEO

Former Chelsea midfielder who took the reins this summer. At 46, the ex-Italian international has managed West Brom, MK Dons and, most famously, Chelsea to FA Cup and Champions League glory. Has also bossed German club FC Schalke 04.

## BETWEEN THE STICKS

### PIERLUIGI GOLLINI

Italian Under-21 keeper signed from Hellas Verona. The 21-year-old spent most of his youth at Fiorentina, then moved to Manchester United in 2012 before returned to Serie A two years later without making a senior appearance.

## IN DEFENCE

### ALAN HUTTON

Right-back who joined Villa from Tottenham five years ago, but was sent out on loan three times by ex-boss Paul Lambert. The 31-year-old Scottish international turned things around and is now one of their most important players.

### TOMMY ELPHICK

Centre-half, 28, who was Di Matteo's first signing as manager, from Bournemouth. Began his career at hometown club Brighton, but moved to the Cherries in 2012 and skippered them to back-to-back promotions from League One to the Premier League.

### NATHAN BAKER

Whole-hearted centre-half who could also have had a career in rugby, but chose football and emerged through Villa's academy to win England Under-21 honours. Spent last season out on loan in the Championship with Bristol City.

### ALY CISSOKHO

French defender who was sent on a season-long loan to Porto by Tim Sherwood, but was recalled by Remi Garde and went onto make 20 appearances. Former clubs include Gueugnon, Vitoria, Porto, Valencia and Liverpool.

## ACROSS THE MIDDLE

### ASHLEY WESTWOOD

A product of Crewe's successful academy, the midfielder joined Villa in the summer of 2012 and has well over 100 appearances to his name. Now 26, he was one of Villa's most consistent players during 2015-16.

### GARY GARDNER

Academy graduate who has been with Villa since he was seven, making his first team debut in 2011. Injuries have limited the 24-year-old to just 18 appearances, but he has been on loan at Brighton and Nottingham Forest.

### AARON TSHIBOLA

Strong, dynamic 21-year-old midfielder who signed on a four-year contract this summer from Reading,

where he emerged through the youth system. Has spent time on loan at Hartlepool in League Two.

### JACK GREALISH

Local lad who broke through in 2014-15, playing in the FA Cup final a year after spending a season on loan at Notts County. The England Under-21 star's great great grandfather, Billy Garraty, earned one England cap and won the 1905 FA Cup with Villa.

## UP FRONT

### JORDAN AYEW

Signed for Villa last summer and finished the season as top scorer with seven goals. The 24-year-old started out at Marseille and then played for Lorient before his switch to England. Younger brother of Swansea's Andre Ayew.

### RUDY GESTEDE

Striker who played for FC Metz and AS Cannes in his native France before moving to Cardiff and helping the Bluebirds win promotion to the Premier League in 2011. Joined Villa last summer after a prolific spell at Blackburn.

### ROSS MCCORMACK

Striker, 29, who became Villa's fourth signing of the summer last week in a reported £12m move from Fulham, where the Scottish international scored 42 times in 97 starts. Has also played for Rangers and Leeds.



# FROM THE OAK ROAD WITH DAN BARDELL



Dan Bardell, an Aston Villa season ticket holder for 23 years and co-presenter for "The Villa View" YouTube channel and weekly blogger for the Birmingham Mail, gives us his thoughts on what lies in store for his team this season in the Championship and tonight at Kenilworth Road...

## ► THE SEASON AHEAD

After relegation last season, what are the expectations at Villa Park at the start of the season?

Expectations are always high amongst the Villa faithful, but being in the Championship is a real reality check for us. There will be those that expect us to bounce straight back, but if I was offered 6th right now, I would absolutely take it.

It's the first time Villa have been out of the top flight for 29 years and the last time you bounced back at the first attempt. Is history about to repeat itself?

I'd love to say yes, and there are similarities with Villa now and then but the Championship is a difficult beast. Obviously we start as one of the favourites but I feel like we are

just as likely to struggle as we are to go straight back up.

What do you think to the appointment of a Champions League-winning manager in Roberto Di Matteo?

More important to us is that he has experienced promotion with our rivals West Brom. It's great to have a manager that's won the big one, and I'm sure it's one of the reasons Tony Xia wanted him. It makes him very marketable. I'm very impressed we have Steve Clarke alongside him.

Which of your new signings are you most looking forward to seeing?

Tommy Elphick. He knows what's required at this level and won't let standards drop. I'm looking forward to seeing him as we have lacked a proper leader for a while now.

How did it feel for Villa supporters to see Stiliyan Petrov pull on the club's shirt again in pre-season after his battle with leukaemia?

It puts the football into perspective. The man quite simply doesn't know what the word "impossible" means. He's an inspiration and seeing him in a Villa shirt again was pretty emotional. I'm disappointed he didn't get a playing contract, but you have to trust the manager.

This is the earliest you've been in the League Cup for a while but like ourselves, you're past winners. Is success in this year's competition a possibility?

Probably not. Promotion is the main aim, it has to be. In all fairness coming up against you boys will be a test for us – a real welcome to life in the Football League.

## ► SEASONS PAST

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

My dad is now in his 52nd consecutive season of going to Villa Park. The moment I showed even a hint of interest at seven or eight I was taken down and bought a season ticket. My first game was Ipswich in 1993. Dean Saunders scored an absolute worldie and we won 2-0. I remember standing on a milk crate in the Holte End with my dad and his mates.

### **What do you love so much about Villa Park?**

It's my home. I've lived in London for nine years, but I've still been at Villa Park every other week. The tradition, the atmosphere – I just love the place. And the fact it's something I do with my dad makes it special to me.

### **Who's your favourite Aston Villa player of all time?**

Easy! Ian Taylor is my hero. He literally lived his and every Villa fan's dream. When he played you knew how much Villa meant to him. I miss seeing him kiss the badge when he scored, you knew he meant it. He's still involved with the club now as he embodies everything that is great about Aston Villa FC.

### **Which is your favourite season following the Villans and why?**

The 1995-96 season when we finished 4th and won the League Cup. That was the first season I witnessed a really good Aston Villa side the whole way through a season. Brian Little had Bosnich, McGrath, Southgate, Townsend, Taylor and Yorke. I had that season followed by Euro 96 and I was hooked!



Dan's favourite all-time manager, John Gregory

**If you could invite five former Villa players or managers to a dinner party, who would they be?**

Ian Taylor, Paul McGrath, John Gregory, Olof Mellberg and Thomas Hitzlsperger as he's my mate and I'm still in touch with him. I'd have to ask my Dad too!

### **► LUTON AND VILLA...**

**What are your best and worst memories of Villa v Luton clashes?**

Think I've only seen one, when we beat you 3-0 in the League Cup in October 2002 under Graham Taylor. We had a poor side back then so I have probably erased that season from my memory!

**What do you expect from tonight's game? What's your prediction?**

I know it won't be easy, and obviously it's been picked for TV as Sky will know there is the chance of an upset. Head on the chopping block, I'll go for a nervy 2-1 win for Villa. Extra-time wouldn't surprise me. If we don't play our better players, we could come unstuck. If we lose I will be avoiding the only Luton fan I know at work – Tom Spicer – who I am sure will come and find me!

## ► QUICK-FIRE:

**Terrace or seats?**

Terrace

**Who are your rivals?**

Birmingham

**Favourite all-time manager?**

John Gregory

**Guess your player of the season**

Jack Grealish

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

Gareth Barry

**Most treasured piece of Villa memorabilia?**

My signed shirt I got on my wedding day

**What league will you be in next season?**

The Premier League

**Who will win the Championship?**

Sheffield Wednesday

**Who will win the EFL Cup?**

Liverpool

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# FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES FIVE BIG-NAME ASTON VILLA PLAYERS NOT USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLUB



## GEORGE GRAHAM

Scotland international George Graham was capped 12 times after leaving Aston Villa. He turned professional at Villa Park in December 1961 and was appeared in the 1963 League Cup final. Scoring twice in eight League games, he joined Chelsea in July 1964. Graham moved to Arsenal in exchange for Tommy Baldwin in September 1966 and starred in their 1970 Fairs Cup final triumph and 1970-71 'Double' success. Sold to Manchester United for £120,000 in 1972, he later played for Portsmouth and Crystal Palace before managing Millwall, Arsenal, Leeds and Spurs.

## MIKE PEJIC

Former England international left-back Mike Pejic was capped four times before joining Villa. Signing pro for Stoke City in January 1968, he starred as they were twice FA Cup semi-finalists and League Cup winners in 1972. He joined Everton in February 1977 and moved to Villa in September 1979, making ten First Division appearances until a persistent groin injury curtailed his career. Later managing Northwich Victoria and Leek Town, he coached Port Vale and Kuwait before having a spell in charge of Chester City.

## FRANK McAVENNIE

Scotland international Frank McAvennie had a brief spell at Villa in 1992-93. He starred for St Mirren before joining West Ham in June 1985 and was top scorer as they were third in the top-flight in 1985-86. Moving to Celtic in 1987, he scored twice in their 1988 Scottish Cup win and rejoined West Ham in 1989. He helped win promotion in 1990-91, moving to Villa in August 1992 and making three substitute

appearances in the Premier League. Later with Celtic again, he was loaned to Swindon prior to rejoining St Mirren. His colourful life story is titled 'Scoring – An Expert's Guide'.

## JOHN FASHANU

Striker John Fashanu was capped twice by England before joining Villa. Initially at Norwich with his older brother Justin, he joined Lincoln City for £15,000 in 1983 and was sold to Millwall for £55,000 in November 1984. He starred in their 1984-85 promotion success and FA Cup run, then joined Wimbledon for £125,000 in 1986 and was an important figure in their FA Cup triumph two years later. Moving to Aston Villa for £1,350,000 in 1994, he netted three goals in 13 Premier League outings while before a knee injury ended his career. He has since been a TV presenter and businessman.

## PETER SCHMEICHEL

Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel played for Villa in 2001-02. Initially with Hvidovre, he starred for Brondby in successive Danish League title wins. He moved to Manchester United in 1991 and starred in Denmark's 1992 European Championship success. Amassing many honours with United, including their 1998-99 Premier League title, FA Cup and European Cup 'treble' triumph, he joined Sporting Lisbon in June 1999, then Aston Villa in July 2001. He made 29 Premier League appearances before joining Manchester City in April 2002. His son Kasper plays for Leicester City.





# AS OTHERS SAW US

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS AT PAST GAMES FROM THE EYES OF THE OPPONITION AND THE 'NEUTRAL' NATIONAL PRESS...

## ASTON VILLA 0 LUTON TOWN 2 | FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP ROUND 4 | 8TH NOVEMBER 1978

The Town had never previously survived beyond Round Four of the League Cup and after they were drawn away to mighty Aston Villa in 1978-79 most pundits felt that the modest record was likely to stay intact.

Top flight Villa had disposed of Sheffield Wednesday and Crystal Palace in the earlier rounds and had won the competition three times already in its short existence. Manager Ron Saunders hoped to win the pre-match psychological war by announcing that he would be fielding his strongest side for the first time that season.

Villa's much-vaunted full strength side was disrupted in the 12th minute when Andy Gray hobbled off with damaged ankle ligaments following a hard but fair tackle from Town's Mal Donaghy.

Villa reshuffled, but it soon became apparent that the Second Division (now Championship) Town had gained the upper hand.

### DOMINANT

Villa, in fact, had not won at home for ten weeks and anxiety began to spread through their side, and the crowd of 32,737, the longer the game went on. Saunders was a disciple of the long ball game, which was meat and drink to Chris Turner and Donaghy at the heart of the Luton defence. The Town became ever more dominant and

Villa goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer had to save smartly from Turner while the wily Bob Hatton had the ball in the net but was flagged for offside.

The goal that Luton were increasingly threatening to score came on 66 minutes, when Lil Fuccillo threaded a delightful ball through to Hatton, who took it in his stride and fired a fierce shot into the top corner of the net. Brian Stein added a second in the final minute when he found himself unmarked in front of goal, tapping in a cross from David Moss to seal a famous victory.

SOCCER... LEAGUE CUP FOURTH ROUND

# GLAD HATTERS

JOHN  
KEITH  
REPORTS:  
A. VILLA 0  
LUTON 2

## Bob sparks Luton shock

SHOOTIN' bootin' Luton last night claimed their place in the little-club line-up for the League Cup quarter-finals.

The Hatters' K.O. of Villa leaves only Forest, Leeds, and Manchester City of the First Division big-shots definitely through to the last eight.

Villa had star striker Andy Gray carried off with damaged knee ligaments after only nine minutes.

It was sheer grit by Luton as Villa, without a home win since 10th August, struggled to find any rhythm.

It was Bob Hatton, who built a reputation as a striker with arch-rivals Birmingham, who was instrumental towards defeat in a competition they have won three times.

Only eight minutes after sending his side into injury time, Rimmer only to be ruled off after being struck with a spectacular goal.

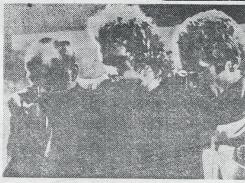
### Penetrating

He ran on to a penetrating through ball from Lil Fuccillo in the 78th minute, ran just inside the area unleashed a shot which left Rimmer helpless.

The tackle on Gray, after going down in the centre circle from a tackle by Mal Donagh, was the last straw for Villa, and the news that he will be a player for a week or probably longer a month is gloomy both for them and for the other clubs in Portugal in three weeks.

Donagh, who had been due to deal with a header from Chris Turner and five minutes later to have a shot of his own a whisker away from conceding an equaliser when he diverted a Fuccillo free-kick.

Luton's determination



Limping out... Gray helped off



Heading up... Stein beats Gidman

## Confident

### QUOTES

LUTON manager David Pleat took his first away victory and was very pleased. It was a good occasion and a nice way to start the new season to show what they can do.

"It was not a bad time to play in, not the way we wanted to, but we had the game went on the right occasion and we to win it."

"He is one of sooner veterans, skipper always does a good an job for us."



Villa manager Saunders could barely spit out a word of congratulation after the game when he said, "We were bloody awful and have no excuses. Luton worked tremendously hard, and good luck to them."

"I cannot make any excuses because we played in bits and pieces and the Luton keeper had little to do."

In the main the national press was less than praising of the Town due to the tackle by Mal Donagh on Scottish

'Shootin' bootin'  
Luton last night  
claimed their  
place in the little-  
club line-up for  
the League Cup  
quarter-finals'

international forward Andy Gray. 'A tackle from behind' said John Moxley from the Daily Telegraph while Norman Fox of The Times, 'Twice before he was injured (Gray) was threatened by the heavy and aggressive tackling of Donagh while the third tackle he never saw coming.'

As those who saw him play will confirm, Mal Donagh was a not a dirty player, the tackle on Gray was perfectly fair (I was there) and Luton manager David Pleat would never order his players to go out to maim the opposition.

### CREDIT

Full marks therefore to the Daily Mail and their scribe John Keith who gave the giant killing performance the credit it deserved with a back page report headed 'Glad Hatters,' before going on to say 'Shootin' bootin' Luton last night claimed their place in the little-club line-up for the League Cup quarter-finals. The Hatters' K.O. of Villa leaves only Forest, Leeds and Manchester City of the First Division big shots definitely through to the last eight.'

We lost at Leeds in the next round!

GRAY HURT  
AND OUT

GO VILLA  
9-1-78

By JOHN MOXLEY

Aston Villa... 0 Luton... 2  
SECOND DIVISION Luton reached the quarter-finals of the League Cup in assured fashion at Villa Park last night. Second-half goals from Hatton and Stein made it a bleak night for Villa, who had striker Andy Gray who had

injury after a ninth-minute

Gray, tackled from behind by Donagh, went down clutching his right knee, and was eventually taken to hospital with suspected damaged knee ligaments.

There was consolation for Villa in the industry of Cowans, their substitute, and the aggression shown off the mark was evident as the Midlanders built up sustained pressure.

Yet it was not a happy half for Villa, who also had Little and Gidman treated for injuries in bruising 45 minutes.

### Luton pleased

At half-time, Luton could be well pleased at still being level 0-0, but Villa's greatest need was to produce far more positive possession from midfield.

Luton might have had a penalty in the fifth minute of the second half when Moss was barged off the ball by Donagh, but the referee gave an indirect free-kick for obstruction.

Three minutes later, Luton were denied again, when Rimmer reached a powerful header by Turner and five minutes after, Hatton had the ball in the net, but the score was swallowed.

Villa finally cracked in the 66th minute. Fuccillo charged down a ball from Cowans, went through the middle and Hatton, in full flight, met the pass to score in the top right-hand corner. In the dying seconds, Stein again capitalised on defensive errors to put the matter beyond doubt.

Aston Villa: Gidman; Gidman, Williams, McNaught, Mortimer, Clark, Little, Gray, Deegan, Gregory, Gidman. Luton:—Aleksei Price, Atzwood, Hill, Turner, Dorothy, Moss, Fuccillo, Stein, Hatton, Amon, Shanks.

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PROUD TO PRINT THE LUTON TOWN MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

# PRE-SEASON

## PAKSI FC 0 : TOWN 0

SATURDAY 9TH JULY | GLOBALL FOOTBALL PARK

**STARTING LINE-UP:** WALTON, O'DONNELL, MUSONDA, SHEEHAN, FAMEWO, REA, BAKINSON, MPANZU, ATKINSON, MARRIOTT, HYLTON. **SECOND HALF LINE-UP:** KING, JUSTIN, MUSONDA, MULLINS, POTTS, LEE, ATKINSON, SMITH, MCGEEHAN, BANTON, MCQUOID.



► The Hatters' preparations began with a friendly at the end of a week-long training camp at Hungary's national football centre in Telski, near Budapest.

Nathan Jones used 20 players in total, with new signing Jordan Cook and captain Scott Cuthbert, who had a slight hamstring strain, the only two not to feature in a goalless draw with Paksi FC, who finished seventh in their top division last season.

Jones said: "They were a very good possession-based side and we'd worked a lot on our defensive shape, pressing and our intensity. There were a few chances and we had the better of them. They had one or two late on, but it was a real good exercise."



## BEDFORD TOWN 0 : TOWN 9

SATURDAY 16TH JULY | THE EYRIE | ATTENDANCE: 812

**STARTING LINE-UP:** WALTON, JUSTIN, MULLINS, SHEEHAN, POTTS, LEE, MPANZU, MCGEEHAN, COOK, MCQUOID, HYLTON.

**SECOND HALF:** WALTON (GOOCH 60), O'DONNELL, MUSONDA, FAMEWO, KINSELLA, BANTON, SMITH, REA, BAKINSON, MARRIOTT (ATKINSON 75), VASSELL.



► On the weekend of the Bedford River Festival, the floodgates opened at the Eyrie as the Hatters hit nine – with Jack Marriott bagging an 11-minute hat-trick.

Jones fielded 23 players, with trialists Isaac Vassell and Lewis Kinsella appearing up front and at left-back in the second half.

Dan Potts headed the first on five minutes, then the Hatters hit eight in a devastating 36-minute spell either side of half-time – Josh McQuoid, Cameron McGeehan and Danny Hylton, with a penalty, netting before the break, before Zane Banton added a fifth and then the Jack in the Box show began.

The in-form hitman even created the other goal, turned into his own net by Bedford defender Lee Hawkes.





## BOREHAM WOOD 1 : TOWN 0

TUESDAY 19TH JULY | MEADOW PARK

**TOWN LINE-UP:** WALTON (GOOCH 63), O'DONNELL (JUSTIN 63), MULLINS (MUSONDA 63), SHEEHAN (MCJANNETT 63), POTTS (FAMEWO 46), REA (LEE 57), MPANZU (LEE 57), MCGEEHAN (BAKINSON 63), COOK (BANTON 63), MCQUOID (ATKINSON 74), HYLTON (VASSELL 57).

► On the hottest day of the year, the Hatters continued the warm-up with a tough test at National League side Boreham Wood.

Kudus Oyenuga's 21st-minute goal was the first the Town had conceded this summer, but the response to falling behind was good and Nathan Jones' side created several good opportunities to level.

Cameron McGeehan and Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu both went close before half-time, while Josh McQuoid headed over late on from a great cross from youth team left-back Cameron McJannett.

The Town finished the game with last season's entire youth team back five, and Jones said: "We knew it would be a good work-out, and it's more about that than the result at the minute."

## TOWN 2 : BRIGHTON 1

SATURDAY 23RD JULY | KENILWORTH ROAD

ATTENDANCE: 2,372 (193 FROM BRIGHTON)

**TOWN LINE-UP:** WALTON, O'DONNELL (MUSONDA 82), MULLINS (CUTHBERT 62), SHEEHAN (FAMEWO 73), POTTS (MCJANNETT 86), LEE (REA 65), SMITH, MCGEEHAN (BANTON 62), MPANZU (BAKINSON 78), HYLTON (MCQUOID 62), MARRIOTT (ATKINSON 82). UNUSED SUBS: KING (GK)

► Fresh from signing a new three-year contract in the midweek, Jack Marriott fired a double as the Hatters recorded a 2-1 win over manager Nathan Jones' former club Brighton.

The 21-year-old striker missed the previous game at Boreham Wood through illness, but he netted his first goal after just 25 seconds of the game against the team who finished third in

the Sky Bet Championship last term. Albion captain Lewis Dunk equalised just before half-time, but Marriott struck again after a short corner routine involving Alan Sheehan and Stephen O'Donnell shortly before the hour. Skipper Scott Cuthbert came on soon after for his first taste of action in the pre-season campaign as the Town turned in a fine performance and result.



# WOKING 1 : TOWN 1

TUESDAY 26TH JULY | KINGFIELD | ATTENDANCE: 547

**TOWN LINE UP:** KING (GOOCH 75), MUSONDA, CUTHBERT (JUSTIN 63), FAMEWO, MCJANNETT, REA (LEE 63), BANTON, BAKINSON (MPANZU 67), COOK, MCQUOID (MCGEEHAN 67), VASSELL (HINDS 75)

► A young Hatters side were pegged back to a 1-1 draw by National League Woking after Josh McQuoid had given the Town a first-half lead from the penalty spot after being brought down himself.

Managed Nathan Jones made 11 changes to the team that started the win over Brighton, giving captain Scott Cuthbert a chance to give his first start of pre-season after nursing a hamstring strain through the first three weeks.

Isaac Vassell, making his first start after signing a permanent contract, looked lively alongside McQuoid and brought a fine save out of home keeper Michael Poke.

The Cards equalised in the 65th minute through Charlie Carter, but McQuoid and Akin Famewo both had good opportunities to seal a Town win in an entertaining encounter.



# TOWN 0 : WALSALL 1

SATURDAY 30TH JULY | KENILWORTH ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 1,651 (87 FROM WALSALL)

**TOWN LINE-UP:** WALTON, O'DONNELL, MULLINS (CUTHBERT 77), SHEEHAN, POTTS, LEE (REA 67), MPANZU, MCGEEHAN (BANTON 83), COOK (VASSELL 83), HYLTON (MCQUOID 77), MARRIOTT (SMITH 62). SUBS: JUSTIN, FAMEWO, MCJANNETT, BAKINSON, KING (GK)

► The Hatters' sixth and final friendly of the pre-season campaign ended exactly the same way as 12 months ago – a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Sky Bet League One club Walsall.

Manager Nathan Jones could take many positives from how the Town dominated possession for long periods and, in the first half especially, created several goalscoring opportunities in what proved another tough fitness test ahead of the 2016-17 opener at Plymouth.

But ultimately, Simeon Jackson's goal 22 seconds into the second half settled the game.

"I was disappointed with how we reacted to going a goal behind," said Jones. "But we wanted to test ourselves and I don't think we came out second best in any department to a League One side."



# PLYMOUTH 0 : TOWN 3



SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST | HOME PARK | ATTENDANCE: 9,761 | AWAY: 1,094

**PLYMOUTH:** MCCORMICK, MILLER, SONGO'O, BRADLEY, SAWYER, IJAHIA (JERVIS 64), CAREY, THRELKELD, DONALDSON (FOX 76), SPENCER, GOODWILLIE (SLEW 76). SUBS: SMITH, PURRINGTON, ROONEY, DOREL (GK) | YELLOW CARD: MILLER

**TOWN:** WALTON, O'DONNELL, MULLINS, CUTHBERT, POTTS; REA, MPANZU (GRAY 90+7), MCGEEHAN, COOK (SMITH 88); HYLTON, MARRIOTT (LEE 90+2). SUBS: GRAY, JUSTIN, VASSELL, MCQUOID, KING (GK) YELLOW CARDS: HYLTON, MPANZU, POTTS, MCGEEHAN | RED CARD: POTTS



## STORY OF THE MATCH:

A debut goal from Danny Hylton, another from Jack Marriott and an injury-time third from substitute Jonathan Smith got the Town off to a flyer at Plymouth on Saturday.

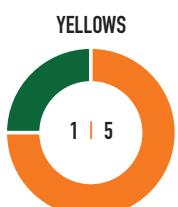
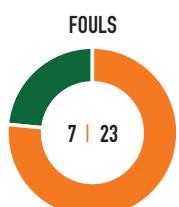
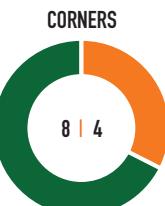
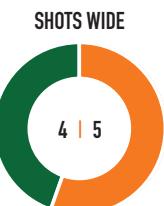
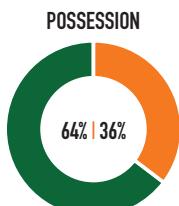
Not even the loss of central defender Alan Sheehan seconds before kick-off to a calf injury could affect Nathan Jones' focus, as captain Scott Cuthbert climbed off the bench, pulled on the armband and led by example against last year's beaten play-off finalists.

He wasn't alone. Debutant goalkeeper Christian Walton took command of his area, Johnny Mullins – also making his Town bow – was immense alongside Cuthbert while the other Town first-timer, Jordan Cook, was excellent in midfield.

After weathering an early Argyle storm, the Hatters created by far the better chances and Hylton snaffled the first on 50 minutes, lashing home from six yards after Marriott had just failed to connect with Stephen O'Donnell's cross, and the ball fell kindly into the ex-Oxford man's path.



Cameron McGeehan set livewire Marriott away on 69 minutes to slot the second low past home keeper Luke McCormick, then Smith grabbed the third six minutes into time added on after Dan Potts had been shown a late red card for a second booking.



**JONES:**

**We had a cutting edge about us.**

"I am delighted. It's a very difficult place to come to, especially with Plymouth being losing play-off finalists last season. They will be up there in a good position again because they've got good players, a good manager and good structure.

"It was a fantastic victory – a dream come true really, as you can imagine, us coming away on the opening day of the season and winning 3-0 at one of our promotion rivals. I'm so pleased for everyone.

"We had to contend with a few little hiccups early on. We defended well, and to be fair to Plymouth, they came right out of the blocks. But I thought it was an excellent away performance.

"It shows the quality we have that we can lose Alan like we did and a replacement like Scott Cuthbert can come in and he was immense, absolutely immense.

"Plymouth started very well and put us under a lot of pressure. They showed us a lot of respect because they changed shape to match us up. But I thought we had a cutting edge about us.

"We had the better chances and thoroughly deserved the win. I'm very pleased with the performance, the work-rate and of course, the result."



# GREAT SCOTT'S 'MENTAL' AFTERNOON

Scott Cuthbert enjoyed one of the more bizarre afternoons of his career at Plymouth on Saturday.

Not selected in the starting XI, the captain was summoned from the bench seconds before kick-off when Alan Sheehan – who was wearing the armband – pulled up with a calf injury.

The 29-year-old went on, headed straight for the captains' coin toss, then produced what boss Nathan Jones described as an "immense captain's performance" as the Hatters weathered an early storm to triumph 3-0.

Cuthbert said: "I was warming up with the lads and Sheehan just said to me 'I'm struggling a little bit with my calf, keep yourself warm'. I've literally just put my bum on the bench and then got the call to go on, and it's all a whirlwind.

"Before you know it, you're on the pitch playing. It's certainly something that's never happened to me before. It was mental!

## ► Brilliant to have in your team

"In a strange way, it's maybe a bit better that way. You just go on there and you're

doing things off instinct. Certainly your legs feel it after 15 minutes because you don't do as intense a warm-up as you do if you're starting. But in terms of the match, I felt it was all right. I got one header in early on, and a clearance. That settles you down and you can grow into the game. That's what happened luckily."

Cuthbert was full of praise for his team-mates – especially Jonathan Smith, who scored the third goal in injury-time, and Danny Hylton, who made that one having scored the first while giving the Plymouth centre-halves a torrid afternoon.

"We know we've got goals in the team with Danny and Jack Marriott, Jordan Cook, Pelly-Ruddock, Cameron McGeehan – the list goes on," said the Scot. "We know if we can stay resolute and strong at the back, we can win games."



"We came in at half-time thinking 'Alright, it's nil-nil, we'd probably had the better clear cut chances and it came from us playing out from the back a little bit'.

"We just thought we had to settle ourselves down a little bit, let them play their game and focus on our game. We did that in the second half.

## FIREPOWER

"Hylts and Jack caused them all kinds of trouble all day. We've got the firepower, we got a goal and another one. Luckily we nicked another with Smudge. It's fantastic for Smudge because he's really disappointed he's not starting the season. He's been outstanding since the first day and I'm delighted for him to get a goal."

On Hylton, he added: "He's so positive, so bubbly on and off the pitch, there were no worries about him not scoring. He was outstanding today. I can tell from playing against him in training every day he's an absolute nuisance – elbows flying everywhere, strong as anything, tackles everywhere. Certainly a nightmare to play against, but brilliant to have in your team."

STRIKER SAYS TOWN  
GAVE THE PERFECT  
AWAY PERFORMANCE

[DANNY HYLTON ON PLYMOUTH]

# REACTION

Striker Danny Hylton described the win at Plymouth as the “perfect away performance” – and thanked the 1,000-plus travelling fans who sang his name after netting on his debut.

The 27-year-old summer signing from Oxford collected a yellow card at Home Park, but crucially a goal on his competitive bow for the Hatters and an assist for Jonathan Smith’s third as he turned in an all-action display alongside his Hatters Hotel chain partner, Jack Marriott.

“You couldn’t have asked for a better start to the season,” said Hylton. “They probably see themselves as one of the best teams in the league so, yes, we managed to test ourselves and see where we’re at.



“I feel that, on our day, we can beat anyone in this league. We work hard on the gaffer’s style and the way he wants us to play, and today it came together. I think it was a perfect away performance.

“We knew that we would have to deal with their pressure. They put a lot of balls in the box and they’re a big team, and once they did that we knew that we could hit them on the counter attack. Once we got good possession, we could open them up.”

## OUTSTANDING

Skipper Scott Cuthbert described the travelling Hatters support as “different class”, adding: “Their singing at the end was outstanding. On behalf of the boys, we are absolutely delighted to send them away with a smile on their faces so they can enjoy the weekend.”

One of the songs belted out from the away end was about ‘Super Danny Hylton’, and the striker said: “Fair play to all of them that have travelled this long way. I said a couple of weeks back that we’re going to need them through the season in tough away games, tough times in games and tough times in the season, they can really push us through games. Certainly they did that today.”

“I did hear the song. It gives you a lift and gives you that extra five per

cent when you’re tired. I appreciate that and it was a good feeling. I had that song at Aldershot and Oxford and it’s always nice. I appreciate the fans singing it.”

We knew that  
we would have  
to deal with  
their pressure

Hylton linked up superbly with Marriott at Home Park, setting his strike partner in the clear within seconds of the start of the second half. Cameron McGeehan did the same to set the 21-year-old up for Town’s second goal, racing through and finishing past Luke McCormick.

## GOALSCORER

Hylton added: “It’s what Jack does, he’s a goalscorer and when he gets a chance at goal you never think he’s going to miss and he didn’t today.

“He’s a pleasure to play with but whether it’s myself, Jack, Vass [Isaac Vassell], Zane [Banton] or Josh McQuoid, we’ve got some great forwards here. Whoever plays, everyone will do the business.”



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# HOW THE HATTERS LINE UP

Hatters boss Nathan Jones has had a busy summer reshaping his squad, declaring at eight new signings after announcing Crystal Palace midfielder Jake Gray as the "last piece of the jigsaw" before the official team photo was taken last week.

The 20-year-old who spent most of last season on loan at Hartlepool followed Alan Sheehan and Glen Rea – who have been signed permanently after loan spells last term – Danny Hylton, Johnny Mullins, Christian Walton, Jordan Cook and Isaac Vassell into Kenilworth Road.

"I'm really pleased with the squad," Jones told [lutontown.co.uk](http://lutontown.co.uk). "We've recruited a lot of variation. We really feel we've added value to the squad, and we're really pleased to have that. Jake is the last piece of the jigsaw."

The Town boss has also freshened up his backroom team, with Jared Roberts-Smith arriving at the start of pre-season as head of sports science, while Joaquin Gomez arrived at the end of July as Charlton-bound Kevin Nugent's replacement as first-team coach.

"We really feel we've added value to the squad."

Nathan's assistant is the vastly experienced Paul Hart with Kevin Dearden still goalkeeper coach, Simon Parsell the physio, Peter Booker as performance analyst, Mick Harford as chief recruitment officer and Darren Cook doubling up as kit man and masseur.

Over the next eight pages, we put you in the picture – with that squad photo as the centre spread – on who will represent the Town in 2016-17 in squad number order...



Nathan Jones



Paul Hart



Joaquin Gomez



Jared Roberts-Smith



## 1 : CHRISTIAN WALTON



**GOALKEEPER.** Young England keeper who came through the ranks at Plymouth Argyle, making the bench for the first-team three days after his 16th birthday, before Brighton swooped for him as a 17-year-old in February 2013. Made his Seagulls debut at Tottenham in a Capital One Cup

tie in August 2014 and went onto make three Championship appearances before being loaned to Bury and Plymouth last term. Capped by England at Under-19 and 20 level, Walton was called up to the Under-21 squad by Gareth Southgate and will hope to gain further international honours during his season-long loan at Kenilworth Road.

## 2 : STEPHEN O'DONNELL



**DEFENDER.** The 24-year-old arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2015 from Partick Thistle, who he'd helped win promotion to the Scottish Premiership and reach the final of the Scottish Challenge Cup during 2012-13, earning himself

a place in the PFA Scotland First Division Team of the Year. O'Donnell started his career as a youngster at Celtic and has also played for the Scotland Under-21s, earning a fine reputation as a marauding right-back with a real eye for goal. Made 33 appearances – all of them starts – in his debut campaign with the Hatters.

## 3 : DAN POTTS



**DEFENDER.** Another new face at Kenilworth Road last summer, Potts is also a full-back but operates on the left-hand flank. The 22-year-old joined the Hatters from West Ham United, where he made 13 appearances after being handed his debut in a Championship win over Barnsley in

December 2011. Whilst with the Hammers he also represented the USA at Under-20 level in 2011, before being selected for England Under-18, 19 and 20s. Potts gained valuable Football League experience on loan at Colchester and Portsmouth before agreeing a two-year deal with the Town. Appeared 15 times last term.

## 4 : JONATHAN SMITH



**MIDFIELDER.** With a never-say-die attitude and exhaustive work-rate, former Forest Green Rovers midfielder Smith has become a firm favourite with Town fans since his arrival from York City in 2011 and is now the longest serving senior member of

the squad. Part of the team that won the Conference title in 2013-14, the Preston-born player – who began his career at Morecambe and won League Two with Swindon – fought back from a broken leg sustained on Boxing Day 2013 and has now made almost 150 appearances for the club. Smith signed a three-year contract last summer after being voted the Hatters' player of the year by his team-mates for the 2014-15 campaign.

## 5 : JOHNNY MULLINS



**DEFENDER.** Experienced centre-half who started out at Reading, but left in 2006 without adding to the 50 appearances he'd made during two lengthy loans with Kidderminster. Mullins then spent two years at both Mansfield and Stockport before

joining Rotherham in the summer of 2010. He helped the Millers win promotion to League One in 2012-13, but left to sign for Oxford the following summer after a loan spell. Mullins made 51 appearances last season, including leading the U's out at Wembley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final, as Oxford sealed promotion from League Two, before joining the Hatters with team-mate Danny Hylton.

## 6 : SCOTT CUTHBERT



**DEFENDER.** Capable of playing at either centre-half or right-back, Cuthbert signed for the Hatters last summer having spent two years at Leyton Orient. He helped the O's reach the League One play-off final the season before last, and prior to

that his influential performances enabled Swindon to do the same. He has been capped at B level for Scotland and, like Stephen O'Donnell, also came through the youth ranks at Celtic. Made 40 appearances in his first season at Kenilworth Road, and took over the captaincy when Steve McNulty left for Tranmere last October.

## 7 : JAKE GRAY



**MIDFIELDER.** Attacking midfielder who became the Town's eighth summer signing when he joined on a two-year contract from Premier League club Crystal Palace on 1st August. The Eagles had signed him from Wycombe Wanderers in 2012 when the

Chairboys closed their academy. Gray made his Palace debut in a League Cup tie against Walsall in 2014 and then gained League experience on loan at Cheltenham, where he made his debut against the Hatters in January 2015, and Hartlepool United. The Aylesbury-born player scored six times in 30 starts and three sub appearances for the League Two club last season.

## 8 : CAMERON McGEEHAN



**MIDFIELDER.** The Hatters were finally able to lure McGeehan to Kenilworth Road on a permanent contract last summer after he previously enjoyed two spells on-loan from Norwich City. In the first, the central midfielder played a key role in the Conference title

campaign of 2013-14, before rejoining again during our first

season back in League Two after being on loan at Cambridge United. In his first permanent campaign with the Hatters, McGeehan netted 13 times to finish second top scorer behind Jack Marriott, with whom he shared the young player of the year award. The 21-year-old originally came through the ranks at Chelsea and has caps for Northern Ireland at Under-17, 19 and 21 level.

## 9 : DANNY HYLTON



**STRIKER.** London-born forward who joined the Town this summer alongside Oxford United team-mate Johnny Mullins, after the pair had helped the U's to promotion to League One and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final. Hylton started his career with

Aldershot Town, where he made over 200 appearances in the Conference and League Two before joining Rotherham United in 2013. He played just one game for the then-League One club, however, and was loaned out to Bury and AFC Wimbledon prior to his move to Oxford two years ago. While at the Kassam Stadium Hylton hit 30 goals in 84 starts, but turned down the offer of a new contract in order to pen a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road.

## 10 : JORDAN COOK



**FORWARD.** Former Sunderland youngster Cook flew out to Hungary to join the Hatters squad at their pre-season training camp, where he penned a two-year contract having turned down the offer of a new deal at Walsall. The 26-year-old began

his career in the Premier League, making his Black Cats debut as a substitute against Manchester United on Boxing Day 2010. He gained experience on loan at Darlington, Walsall and Carlisle, before heading south to sign for Charlton Athletic in 2012. Cook first worked with Town boss Nathan Jones at The Valley, and after spending two years at Walsall in League One, he jumped at the chance to be reunited with his old Addicks coach this summer.



# LUTON TOWN 2016/17



BACK ROW (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): Johnny Mullins, Tyreeq Bakinson, Stephen O'Donnell, Akin Famewo, Glen Rea, Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, Frankie Musonda, Alex Atkinson, Isaac Vassell, Zane Banton.

MIDDLE: Peter Booker (Performance Analyst), Kevin Dearden (Goalkeeper Coach), Jared Roberts-Smith (Head of Sport Science), Craig Mackail-Smith, Jake Gray, Danny Green, Olly Lee, Liam Gooch, Christian Walton, Craig King.

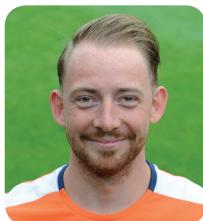


Jordan Cook, James Justin, Jonathan Smith, Danny Hylton, Mick Harford (Chief Recruitment Officer), Simon Parsell (Physiotherapist), Dr Paul Dealey (Club Doctor), Darren Cook (Kitman/Masseur).

FRONT: Cameron McGeehan, Dan Potts, Scott Cuthbert, Paul Hart (Assistant-Manager), Nathan Jones (Manager), Joaquin Gomez (First-Team Coach), Alan Sheehan, Jack Marriott, Josh McQuoid.



## 11 : DANNY GREEN



**MIDFIELDER.** Right-sided attacking midfielder Green signed for the Hatters last summer and scored six times in 28 appearances before suffering a broken leg at Northampton in the penultimate game of his first season. Former Hatters boss John Still had

originally plucked Green from Non-League club Bishop's Stortford while at Dagenham & Redbridge, and the winger went onto help the Daggers win the League Two play-offs in 2010. After 27 goals for the east Londoners, he moved to Charlton Athletic, where he won promotion from League One to the Championship. Joined the Hatters after a season with MK Dons.

## 12 : CRAIG MACKAIL-SMITH



**STRIKER.** Prolific goalscorer

Mackail-Smith put pen to paper at Kenilworth Road a week before the start of last season. Having started his career in Non-League with St Albans City and Arlesey Town, he came to prominence at Dagenham in 2006-07 before a

move to Peterborough. He scored 99 goals in 212 games for Posh, twice helping them win promotion. A big money move to Brighton followed in 2011 and he scored 10 goals in his debut season at the Amex and 11 in the next before two injury-affected campaigns. Made 34 appearances in his first season with the Town.

## 14 : JACK MARRIOTT



**STRIKER.** Talented young forward who moved to Kenilworth Road last summer after spending six years at Ipswich Town, where he came through the academy.

Marratt played twice for Ipswich in the Football League, but gained experience on loan at Colchester,

Gillingham and Carlisle, as well as in three spells at Conference club Woking, where he impressed in matches against the Hatters. After a bright start to his Luton career, Marriott signed a two-year contract extension before August was out and his goalscoring form continued throughout 2015-16, with 16 in 25 starts in all competitions earning him our supporters' player of the year award. Rewarded with a new three-year deal in late July.

## 16 : GLEN REA



**MIDFIELDER.** Highly-rated Republic of Ireland Under-21 international who can operate as a holding midfielder or centre-half. Rea joined the Hatters on loan from Championship club Brighton & Hove Albion last March, making ten appearances,

and signed permanently in June. The Sussex-born player had made his debut for Albion last August in the Capital One Cup against Southend, who he went on to join on loan for a three-month spell before his temporary stint at Kenilworth Road. Opted to rejoin the Hatters in June and be reunited with Nathan Jones, who he worked under at Brighton, ahead of interest from the Shrimpers.

## 17 : PELLY-RUDDOCK MPANZU



**MIDFIELDER.** Former West Ham United academy graduate Mpanzu is hoping to stay fighting fit for 2016-17 after an injury-disrupted couple of years. The direct, pacey youngster was an instant hit when signed on-loan by then-boss John Still from the Hammers midway

through the Conference title winning campaign of 2013-14, scoring a memorable goal in a crucial come-from-behind win at Dartford. Versatile to play in central defence, midfield or on the wing, Pelly is a real crowd favourite and will be hoping to build on the run of games he put together towards the end of last season.

## 18 : ZANE BANTON



**STRIKER.** Another Town academy graduate, 20-year-old forward Banton first came onto the scene during the Hatters' Conference title-winning campaign, making his first team bow in a 4-0 win at Woking. He was soon snapped up on a professional contract and

continued to impress in his appearances in the FA Trophy. Spent time out on loan with Biggleswade Town and Hemel Hempstead to further his footballing education and has nine senior Town appearances to his name going into 2016-17.

## 19 : OLLY LEE



**MIDFIELDER.** Central midfielder Lee joined the club on an initial short-term deal in August 2015. The brother of ex-Hatters loanee Elliot Lee, Olly started on the books of West Ham. He had two loan spells at Dagenham & Redbridge under former Hatters

boss John Still, who brought him to Kenilworth Road, and one at Gillingham before signing for Barnet for 2012-13. He joined Birmingham City before the season was out, but was released by the Championship side in 2015 after a spell on loan in League Two with Plymouth. Made 37 appearances in his first campaign with the Town.

## 20 : ISAAC VASSELL



**STRIKER.** Former Plymouth Argyle forward who became manager Nathan Jones' seventh signing of the close season when he penned a one-year deal at the end of a successful fortnight on trial in July. The 22-year-old is a cousin of former England international

Darius Vassell, and for the past two seasons has combined life working on a building site with playing part-time for Truro City following his release by the Pilgrims in 2014. Vassell helped his hometown club win promotion from the Southern Premier Division and then qualify for the National League South play-offs in his two years at Treyew Road.

## 23 : JOSH McQUOID



**STRIKER.** Attacker Josh arrived at Kenilworth Road last summer having spent the previous three years at Premier League-bound Bournemouth. That was the forward's second spell at the Dean Court club either side of a spell at Millwall. During his time at the

New Den, McQuoid was capped at international level by Northern Ireland. Capable of playing on the flanks or in a central role he has also spent time on loan in League One with Peterborough and Coventry during 2014-15. The 26-year-old hit five goals in 33 appearances in his first season with the Town.

## 27 : TYREEQ BAKINSON



**MIDFIELDER.** Leggy teenage midfielder who was another member of last season's successful youth team to be offered professional terms. The 17-year-old joined the Town as an Under-10 and only signed a

full-time scholarship in the summer of 2015. By March he had been offered a three-and-a-half year pro deal, and he made his senior debut as a substitute in the 4-1 win over Exeter on the final day of last season.

## 31 : CRAIG KING



**GOALKEEPER.** Teenage stopper King signed his first professional contract last summer having impressed with his performances in the youth and reserve teams during 2014-15. With Mark Tyler injured, King deputised on the substitutes' bench in a number of

Football League matches that year, and to aid his development, the young keeper was sent on loan to Ryman Premier side Met Police last season. He made 23 appearances between August and mid-January before returning to Kenilworth Road to feature in the matchday squad several times, with a one-year option on his Hatters deal being exercised by the Town in May.





## 36 : JAMES JUSTIN

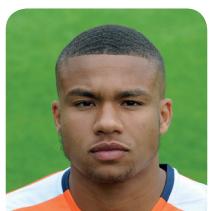


### DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER.

Luton-born defender able to play at right-back or in central midfield, James signed a professional contract with the club at the same time as youth team colleague Frankie Musonda last November. First joined the

Hatters in 2005 and along with Frankie, won the Aarau Masters as an Under-11, beating Bayern Munich in the final. Made his senior debut as a substitute against Exeter on the final day of last season.

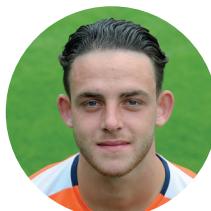
## 37 : FRANKIE MUSONDA



**DEFENDER.** Centre-half and captain of last season's hugely successful youth team that won the Under-18s' Football League Youth Alliance league and cup double, as well as reaching the quarter-finals of the FA Youth Cup.

The 18-year-old penned his first professional contract with the Hatters in November 2015, making his debut as a substitute at Mansfield the following January, having joined the club's centre of excellence in 2006.

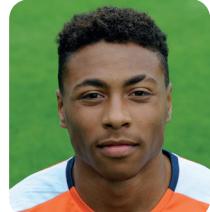
## 38 : ALEX ATKINSON



**MIDFIELDER.** Elegant midfielder who joined the club as an Under-15 after previously playing for Fulham and Wycombe Wanderers as a schoolboy. The 18-year-old is another member of Andy Awford and Paul Driver's successful youth team to be

handed a professional contract after winning the Under-18s' Football League Youth Alliance league and cup double in 2015-16, as well as reaching the quarter-finals of the FA Youth Cup.

## 39 : AKIN FAMEWO



**DEFENDER.** Strong left-sided player equally comfortable at centre-half or left-back, Famewo joined the Hatters at Under-10s and signed his first professional contract at the start of the second year of his scholarship in July, having tasted his first senior

match action on the pre-season tour to Hungary. Another who starred in last season's Under-18 double winning side.

## 42 : LIAM GOOCH



**GOALKEEPER.** Stotfold-based Gooch signed Academy forms in 2012 and was the man between the sticks during the Under-18s' double-winning campaign of 2015-16, starring during the run to the FA Youth Cup quarter-finals. The 18-year-old stopper

has earned a reputation as a penalty-saving expert and gained his first taste of senior action during the pre-season campaign after penning his professional contract in June.

## 44 : ALAN SHEEHAN



**DEFENDER.** Cultured defender Sheehan joined the Hatters on loan from Bradford City last January, becoming Nathan Jones' first signing after taking over as manager. The Irishman made 20 appearances and captained the team for the final seven matches

after Scott Cuthbert suffered a season-ending injury at Stevenage in early April. The left-footer can operate at either full-back or in central defence, and has made over 300 appearances in his career so far with the majority coming during two spells with Notts County. Sheehan also counts Leeds United and Swindon Town among his former employers, as well as loans with Mansfield, Crewe, Oldham and Peterborough United, after starting out at Leicester City.

# HATTERS HOTEL

# ROOM=MATES

INSPIRED BY OUR SQUAD LIST NOW FEATURING MARRIOTT AND HYLTON,  
WE GO BEHIND THE SCENES ON THE TOWN'S AWAY TRIPS TO BRING YOU...



How long have you known each other?

**BOTH:** Too long!

**DP:** It's got to be ten years now – a long time.

When did you first room together?

**OL:** In Hungary and it was a real eye-opener. Never again!

What's the best thing about rooming together?

**DP:** Nothing! No, he's quite quiet, that's the best thing about it.

**OL:** He had his laptop out there so we watched Love Island together.

What's your roomie's worst habit?

**DP:** Snoring.

**OL:** Selfish. He never shares his deodorant, shower gel, anything. Selfish room-mate.

Who makes the tea?

**DP:** There wasn't a kettle in Hungary, and Olly doesn't like tea.

**OL:** We didn't drink any, did we? It would be you though.

**NAMES:** OLLY LEE & DAN POTTS | **POSITION:** MIDFIELD/ WINDOW, LEFTBACK/DOOR | **AGES:** 25 AND 22

First up in the morning?

**OL:** Me. He's not a morning person.

**DP:** Put it this way – the alarm was at 8.30am and he was blinds open and dressed by 8.31!

**OL:** Ready to go for the day, aren't we?

Who decides when to turn the light out at night?

**DP:** Me. I'm in control. I have the remote, the light switch – everything.

**OL:** No chance! I'm easy going, I'm an easy room-mate. The light's always off by half-ten, 11pm. Early birds.

Who's the tidiest?

**OL:** Me, he's the messiest guy in the world.

Unpack or live out of your bag?

**OL:** Lived out of the bag.

**DP:** Re-packed at the last minute.

Who takes the longest to get ready?

**DP:** We're both pretty quick.

**OL:** We're both good looking after about five minutes, aren't we?

What's most likely to be on the TV?

**OL:** Love Island and Game of Thrones.

**DP:** We were struggling with the Hungarian TV. It wasn't the best, so it was my laptop.

Games console or TV?

**OL:** He told me he was going to

bring his games console, but he didn't, so he wasn't in my good books from the off.

Who would you rather room with?

**OL:** I'll stay with my roomie. We're Essex boys and we stick together.

**DP:** Anyone else!

Who would you least like to room with?

**OL:** Probably Pelly-Ruddock – he sleeps for about an hour a night.

**DP:** Glen Rea – he was next door and all you could hear was his music, relentless. Twenty-four seven.

Most likely to gatecrash your room?

**OL:** Scotty Cuthbert. He's a hanger-on. He loves to be in the banter with us, but he's not ready for it.

And who do you lock the door to?

**OL:** We tried to keep Glen out, and SODS (Stephen O'Donnell) – you don't want him in your room. He'll be talking for hours and hours.

**DP:** There's a few to be fair. We could be here all day.

Finally, if your roomie was a hotel, how many stars would you rate him?

**OL:** One.

**DP:** I'll be realistic – I'll give him three.

**OL:** I'm a good room-mate, you're terrible. Selfish, lazy.

**DP:** I'll take that.

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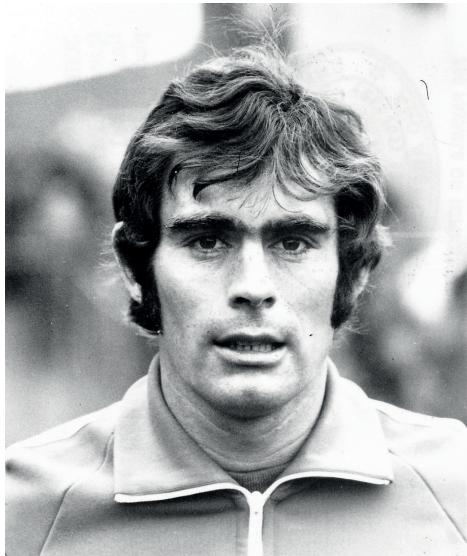
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# JOHN O'ROURKE

## 11/2/1945 – 7/7/2016

Everyone at Kenilworth Road was saddened to learn of the death of John O'Rourke, who had an amazing scoring record for the Hatters in the 1960s, on 7th July. Club historian Roger Wash pays tribute to the Luton Town fans' favourite...



After starring for England at both schools and youth international level, John seemed to have lost his way after failing to gain a first team spot at either Arsenal or Chelsea so reluctantly accepted an offer to move to Luton in December 1963.

John became a teenage sensation at Kenilworth Road banging in 22 goals in only 23 appearances in 1963-64 to save the Town from seemingly certain relegation to Division Four (now League Two). This incredible goal haul included four at Brentford in a 6-2 win – the Town's first victory on the road for 16 months.

Badly injured on the opening day of the following campaign, at Brentford, he made only 21 appearances as the Town, badly missing his goalscoring prowess, sunk to the football basement.

Not the tallest of players, John was a brilliant header of the ball and he was back to his best in 1965-66, netting 32 times as the Hatters narrowly failed to win promotion at the first attempt.

Inevitably, bigger clubs came calling and a £20,000 fee took him to Middlesbrough where his goals helped the Teesiders to immediate promotion.

John then did the same for Ipswich, and played for Coventry in their only European season. After finishing his League career with Bournemouth, John stayed in the area and became a newsagent in Highcliffe.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

## BRETT WEBB

We were also shocked to learn of the death of supporter Brett Webb, who died tragically in his sleep on Sunday 24th July at the age of 21.

"The whole Luton Town family would like to pay its respects to a loyal supporter who has lost his life at such a tragically young age," said chief executive Gary Sweet. "Brett and his family are well-known to myself and the club, they are Luton Town through and through."

A Crowdfunding page was set up to raise money for a flag in Brett's memory to hang at Kenilworth Road.

Sweet added: "We wholeheartedly support the fundraising efforts and will find room to give it due prominence at Kenilworth Road, where Brett spent so much time supporting the Hatters. We send our condolences to all who knew and loved him."





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# TRICK OR TREATMENT

## A HUMOROUS INSIGHT TO PHYSIO SIMON PARSELL'S WORK



Good evening and welcome to a new column giving you an insight as to what happens behind the scenes in the treatment room. Hopefully along the way we will update you with player progress and maybe a few snippets about the lads.

We currently deal with things ranging from strained leg hairs, broken nails to ruptured Achilles tendons and broken legs. Conversations range from politics, football, obviously very attractive models, films and 'What shall I do after football?' The latest suggestion covered the world of security and the possibility of a company providing body guards for security personnel. I didn't say the ideas were always good.

Currently we have Craig Mackail-Smith with us recovering from a complicated fracture to his leg. The operation went well to repair it but it was a shock when he came back in four kilos lighter and his flowing locks had gone. Now that is an operation. He is currently working very hard to regain fitness but we cannot put an exact date on things. Hopefully his next visit to the consultant will give him the all clear to push on further.

Danny Green is making good progress following his leg break at Northampton. I visited him at home to start his rehabilitation in the summer and made a new friend straight away. Ralph, his dog, was very helpful showing great interest when I was working with Danny, but made the mistake of putting my head a bit too close and felt a set of teeth on the end of my nose. Some would say it was a big target.



Nathan Doyle ruptured his Achilles tendon in pre-season and is in the very early stages of his rehabilitation.

We have had a good pre-season with a very structured programme and it has paid dividends. Going to Hungary was fantastic, as it provided us with great facilities and gave us access to equipment we would not normally get access to.

It's been great working with Jared and Daz the Masseur. Got to be careful of him though,

he can rub people up the wrong way. We reached the first day of the season with a clean bill of health and that's a big plus.

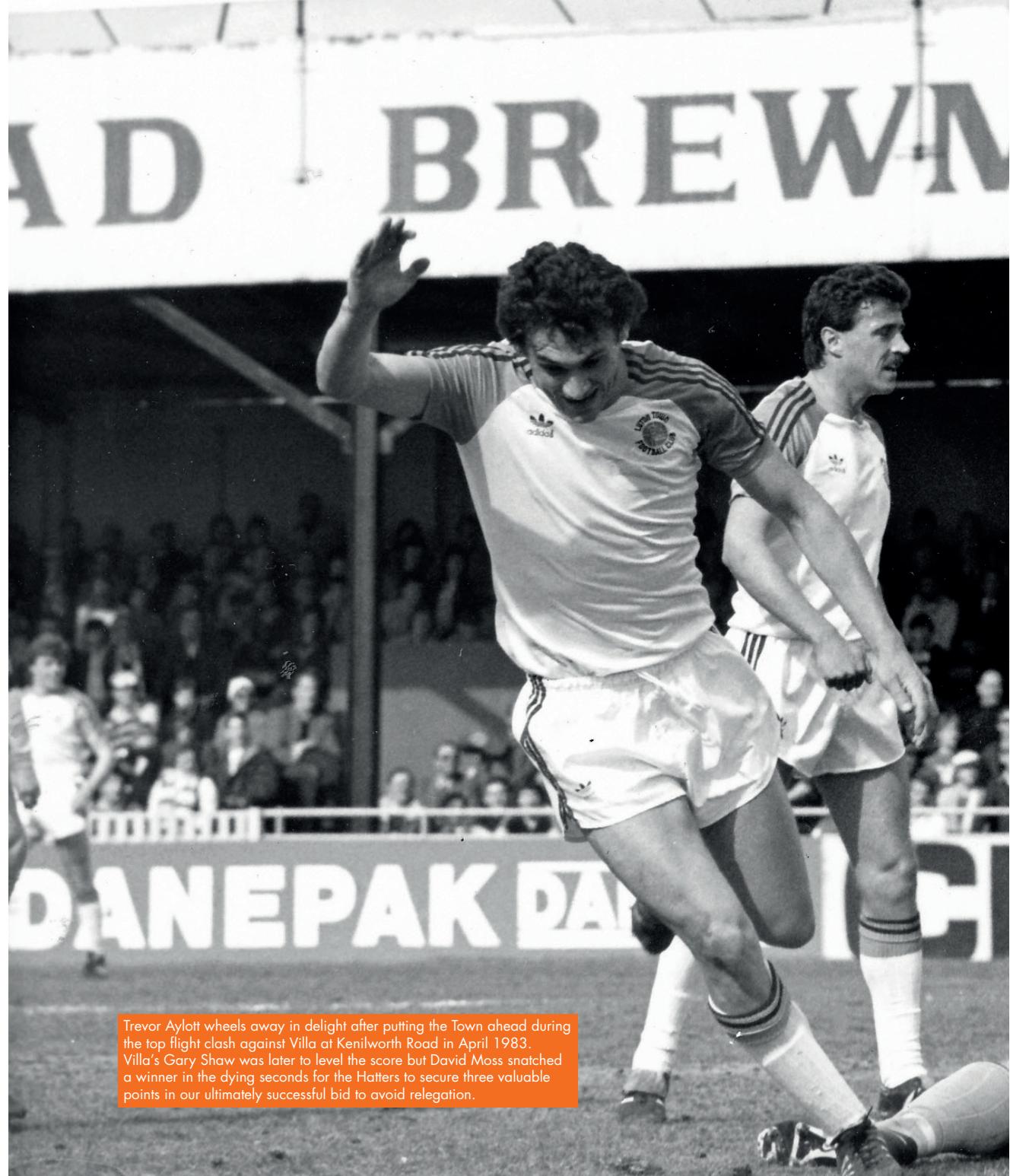
During the pre-season the lads have been encouraged to look at nutrition and a competition was held amongst themselves to produce the best recipes. Whilst not Michelin Star quality, there were some fine attempts from up and coming chefs like Stephen O'Donnell, Cameron McGeehan and BBQ tips from Jack Marriott. However a member of staff entered what he ate into a fitness app and it just sent an ambulance to his house.

Finally, I would like to say thank you again to Sue and Bobbers Travel for their continued support of the medical department and put them on stand-by... I will be attempting to loosen the purse strings again in the near future!

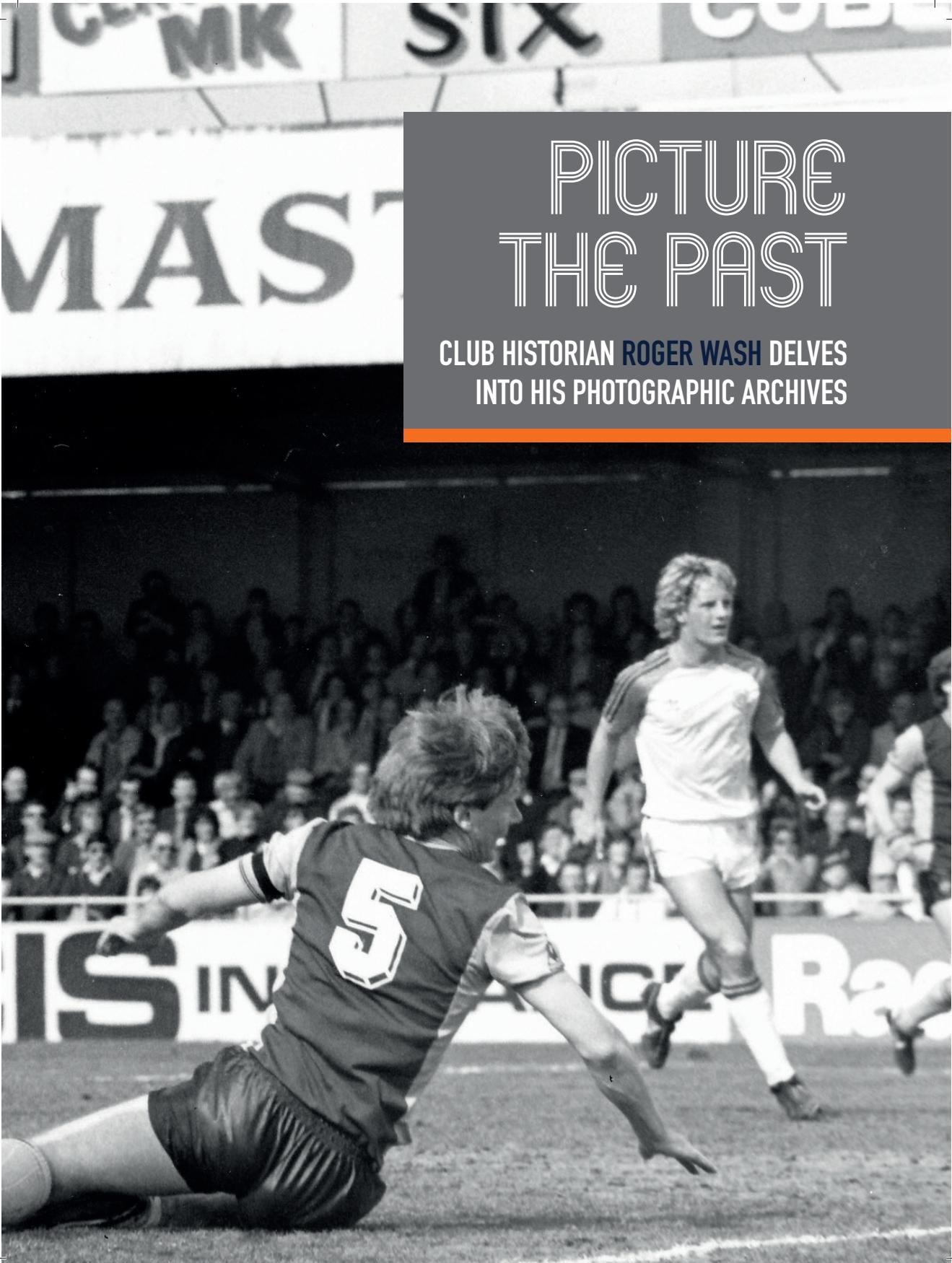
# LD

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CRAY CASH



Trevor Aylott wheels away in delight after putting the Town ahead during the top flight clash against Villa at Kenilworth Road in April 1983. Villa's Gary Shaw was later to level the score but David Moss snatched a winner in the dying seconds for the Hatters to secure three valuable points in our ultimately successful bid to avoid relegation.



# PICTURE THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES  
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

# THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES  
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

Luton skipper George Stephenson shakes hands with his Villa counterpart Charlie Phillips before the Town's first home game back in Division Two (now the Championship) in September 1937. A then record crowd of 25,349 turned up at the newly refurbished Kenilworth Road to see the Town win 3-2.







# LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

Welcome to the new season. For supporters it's easy to mark the end of one season and the start of another at first team level as the last fixture marks the end of one season and new ones mark the start of a new one. Here at the Community Trust they just merge into one as the summer months mark our busiest time of year!

In fact, looking back over the last three months with the amount of activities we are now engaged in as a Trust, it's nice to just sit down and watch a game of football. The pitch looks great – all the more remarkable when you take into account the amount of use the 'old girl' gets once the first team have finished with it in May.

The Club always extend the season by donating the stadium to the Community Trust for three days in May, during which over 1,800 boys, girls and adults enjoy the experience of a lifetime by stepping onto the hallowed 'Kenny turf'. So well done Dickie and Rog again for giving us a fantastic pitch in no time at all and thanks for letting us 'batter' it before you dig it up each year at the end of May!

So how do you get 1,800 people playing football on the pitch in three

days? Well 1,500 are the boys and girls who take part in the annual Hatters Cup competition, this year sponsored by Thurlow Nunn Vauxhall Dealership. The Hatters Cup, in its ninth year, is now established as the largest stadium youth football tournament in the south of England and is in fact six separate tournaments ranging from U6s to U12s played over two days – we start early and finish late!

I'm sure there are lots of you reading this who have been involved in committees at grass-roots level and have organised tournaments, so you will know how much work goes into the event before it takes place. To give you an idea how popular this tournament is we have already had several enquiries for next May, which is great, and the tournament is always full by January. But we are not quite ready to start on 2017 yet as we work

out with the Club our end of season dates and possible Wembley play-offs etc.

The Hatters Cup involves all of the Community Trust staff who run the tournament, man the car parks and turnstiles, as well as catering who run the food outlets and stewards who patrol the stadium and the club's ground and stadium maintenance staff. Over 50 people in total all make a contribution in making the weekend a success for everyone.

Most of important of all, of course, are the 1,800 boys and girls who take part, all of them entering the pitch down the famous tunnel before their lap of honour around the stadium to great applause from proud parents and family members. This year over 2,500 spectators attended over the weekend. It creates a great atmosphere and it's fantastic to see so many local children on the pitch

with massive smiles – lots of present and future Hatters fans!

It's then down to the serious business of the competition itself and that is when our recruitment staff perk up and show an interest! Yes, the Hatters Cup is a great community event for everyone, but it is also a great recruitment tool for our youth development system especially with the younger age groups.

Of course U6, U7 and U8 age groups are non-competitive (try telling that to a seven-year-old!) and so results are not recorded, but everyone goes home with a medal while the U9s to U12s play to a knock-out quarter-final then semi-final before we arrive at our final with a tournament winner and runner-up.

The competition is keen and very often is decided on penalty shoot-outs at the knockout stage – such is

the competitive nature of the games. This year's finalists in the respective age groups were:

Under 9s: **Woburn & Wavendon Lions and Knebworth Youth**

Under 10s: **Harpenden Colts and Flitwick Eagles**

Under 11s: **Wing Raiders and Bedford Town Youth**

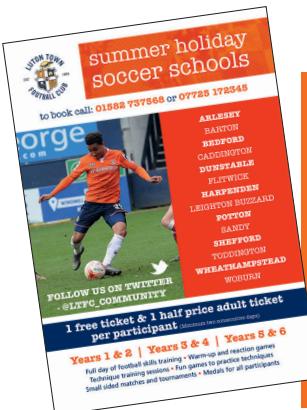
Under 12s: **Bushmead Rovers and Breachwood Tigers**

Well done to all of the teams who made the final and good luck to 30 plus boys who were 'scouted' over the weekend and are currently going through their trial period in our youth development system. Let's hope we have unearthed a diamond in there!



**Thurlow Nunn** >

Thanks again to our sponsor Thurlow Nunn for their sponsorship and watch this space for details of the 2017 Hatters Cup competition.



### SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS 2015 – SKILLS CAMPS, ELITE CAMPS, GOALIES AND GIRLS ONLY CAMPS!

While we look back at all of the community trust summer activities in the first couple of programmes of the season, don't forget we have our very popular summer soccer camps running across Luton and Bedfordshire during the summer holidays. We have a range of camps for all abilities and also Girls only camps for the first time this summer. All courses cost from £10.00 per day which is unbeatable value for football-mad youngsters. You can get full details by ringing the community office on 01582 737568 or 07725 172345 or email for our brochure at [soccerschools@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:soccerschools@lutontown.co.uk)



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# LOYAL SUPPORTER SEES LAST GAME

Terry Oliver – a loyal supporter since the early 1960s – passed away on Saturday 16th April, but not before insisting he came to Kenilworth Road to see the victory over Dagenham & Redbridge the Tuesday before he died.

Terry had heart disease for some years and had recovered well from a stroke, but on the Thursday after the 1-0 win he was re-admitted to Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

London-born Terry was a Spurs fan from a boy, but watched Luton in an FA Cup semi-final against Norwich at White Hart Lane in 1959 and soon became a regular at Kenilworth Road after relocating to Caddington with his wife Pam in 1961.

In time, his children Sue, Steve and Jill all attended regularly, too. This would extend to two of his grandchildren – Josie and Rob – also becoming season ticket holders and mascots!

The 1974-75 season in the First Division saw Terry and Pam take up residence in the Main Stand as season ticket

holders and they've resided in Block B pretty much ever since.

He interrupted his 60th birthday in Kent to take all his family to Wembley for the FA Cup semi versus Chelsea, although the most difficult 'away' game for him proved to be at the Etihad against Wimbledon. The John

Still inspired promotion season with such free flowing football made up for it though...

Mal Donaghy was Terry's top player of all-time, and his family say they are looking forward to the 2016-17 season "when Terry will be looking down from on high – without a hint of a girder or the TV gantry obstructing his view!"



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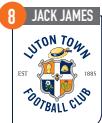
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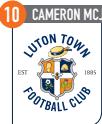
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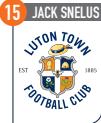
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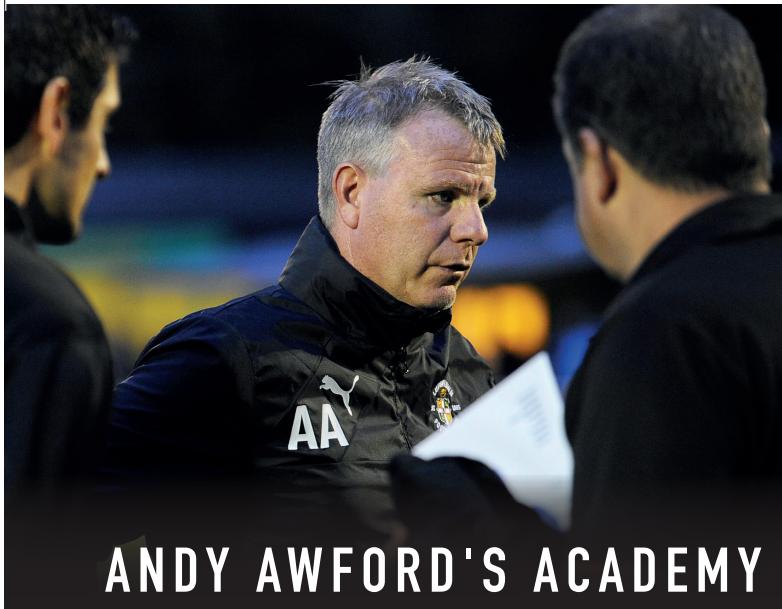
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## ANDY AWFORD'S ACADEMY

# UPDATE

Good evening everyone and welcome to tonight's game versus Aston Villa. The Academy have had a busy few months during the off season as we look to enhance and improve the high standards that we set last season.

## STAFF UPDATE

I would like to congratulate Jordan McCann who has been appointed as Academy Head of Coaching. This is a new role for the Academy and one that I feel will improve our current structure. I would also like to congratulate James Townsend who has been promoted to Lead Youth Development Phase (U12-U16s) coach. Good luck to them both in their new roles, which I am sure will give us a stronger staffing model for future years to come.

We are also well into the process of employing more part-time and voluntary staff in the areas of recruitment, sports science and performance analysis.

Our strong links with the University of Bedfordshire have allowed us to provide some of their top students an opportunity to come in and work within the Academy, and we wish all the new recruits the very best of luck.

## APPRENTICES

We have signed eight new apprentices for the upcoming season. Michael Shamalo, Arthur Read, Ciaran Gordon-Stern, Jack James, Joe Meade, Ciaren Jones, Scott Belgrave and Kitan Sorunke all signed on the dotted line and we wish them all the very best as they start their two-year apprenticeship with the Academy.

## [ACADEMY UPDATE]

## EDUCATION

I was delighted to hear that all six of our second year Apprentices from last season passed their Education Programme that forms a vital part of the scheme. Well done to them all for their achievements and they now have sufficient UCAS points should they wish to pursue an academic pathway at some point in the future.

## FIXTURES

Pre-season has seen us partake in fixtures for all the Academy age groups (U9s-U18s) as we build up for another exciting season. The U18s got their league campaign underway on Saturday away at Dagenham & Redbridge, whilst the U16s played a friendly fixture at home to Tottenham Hotspur. As always, we will try and win as many games as possible, but the emphasis and priority will always be on development as we try and push more players up towards the first team squad.

## AKIN FAMEWO



Finally, I would like to say a huge well done to Akin Famewo on behalf of us all at the Academy as he signed his first professional

contract, whilst still a youth team player, a few weeks ago. This was fully deserved as Akin had shown good progress and a huge desire to improve last season. Having joined the club as an eight-year-old, he will be looking for a testimonial next season! Well done Akin!

Enjoy the game. COYH!!

ANDY

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# HATTERS LADIES

TOWN GIVE NUNEATON  
A HEAVY BEATING AND  
HOLD FOREST

A week after drawing 1-1 with Nottingham Forest, on Sunday 31st July the Town beat Northern Premier League side Nuneaton Town 6-1 with a very convincing and attacking performance.

It didn't take long for Town to take the lead as 16-year-old Lucy Webster, making her second start for the first team, played the ball into Zara Carroll, who combined excellently with Shanice Jiminez and Nicola Henman to find Jo Rutherford, who fired across the keeper into the bottom corner.

Shortly after that, Rutherford doubled her tally, and the Town's lead. Then midway through the half, Erica Byron – with her first touch after coming on – made it three with a thunderous effort into the top corner from 20 yards.

After a goalmouth scramble involving both Rutherford and Jess McKay, Byron soon added her second of the game, finishing smartly underneath the keeper into the bottom corner.

Just before half time, Henman took advantage of another scramble in front of goal to make it 5-0 at the interval.

Nuneaton started the brighter after the break and had the Hatters on the back foot for the first 15 minutes. Eventually they pulled a goal back with a good move and finish past Jess Devoti, making her second appearance between the sticks for the first team.



Jo Rutherford nets hers and Town's second against Nuneaton

But the Town found their flow again and after Rutherford went close to claiming her hat-trick, Jiminez beat her player for pace and strength and smashed the ball into the top corner for 6-1. Delighted manager Nikki Baker said: "It has been really good to get some more minutes into the girls. We played some really good football and kept our shape well over both of the games so far this pre-season.

"I have especially been impressed with the younger players coming into the first team. Sixteen-year-old Lucy Webster and Jodie Southby have settled into the squad well and are so composed on the ball.

"Also Mollie Robinson has improved so much and after only making two first team appearances last season and will be a much more regular

player in the side. Jess Devoti coming into the squad has been really encouraging with her experience behind the back four.

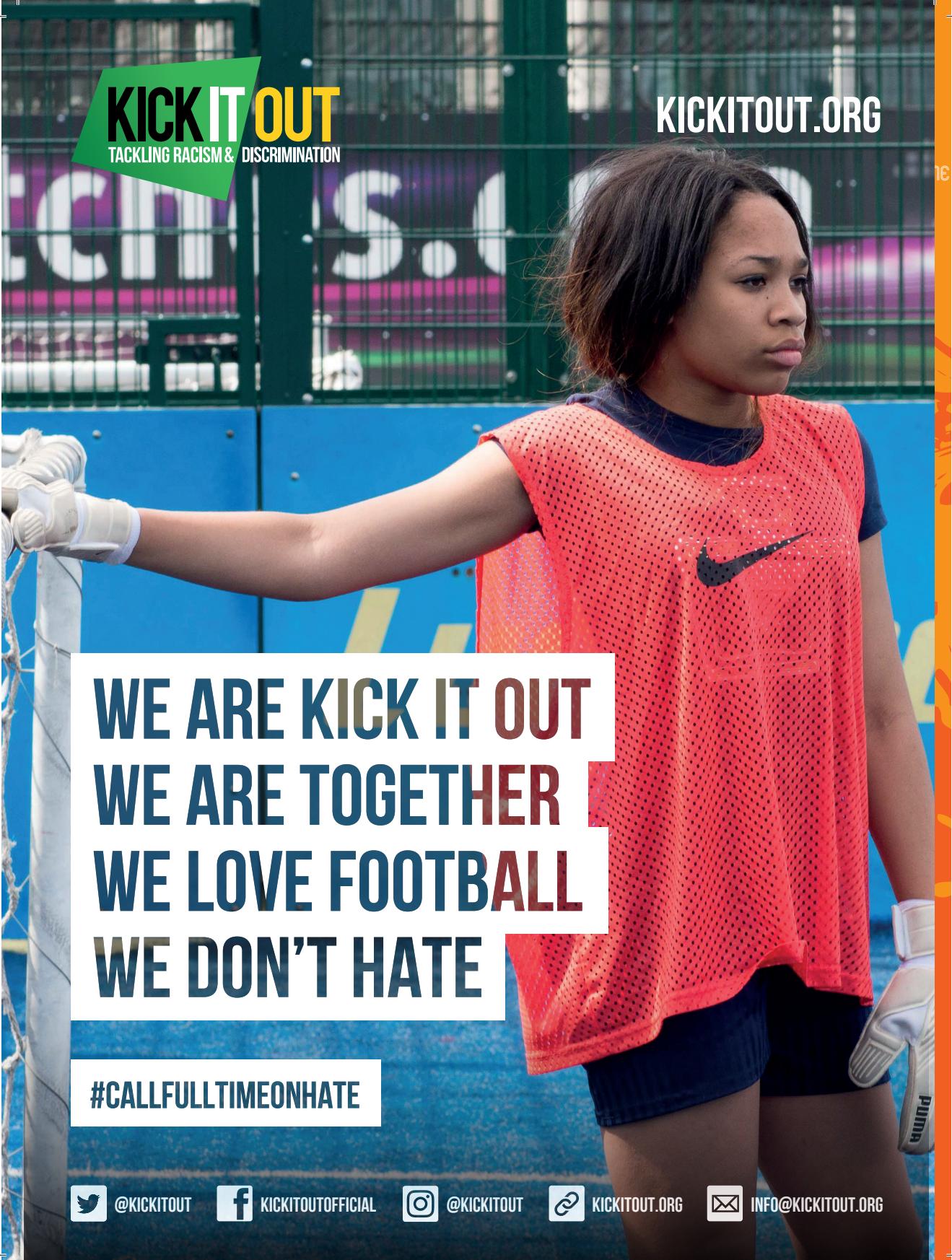
"Going forward we have looked really good on the ball and goals have come from all over. We look fitter and better than last season and also have more new signings to still add to the side after holidays and injuries.

"I don't think Nottingham Forest or Nuneaton who both play in the Northern Premier League above us, expected us to play as well as we did. We were unlucky not to beat Forest and we fully deserved the battering we gave to Nuneaton. We had 13 shots on target and 3 off target just in the first half and a clean sheet.

"We now play Charlton from the league above, and then Offley. I can't wait for the season to get going."

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H	Y	L	T	O	N	L	S
F	L	P	S	K	N	T	E
Q	Y	A	R	G	E	O	L
S	H	E	E	H	A	N	L
G	O	M	E	Z	A	E	R



## DID YOU KNOW...

2016-17 will be Villa's first season outside of the premier league since it began!

Villa manager Roberto Di Matteo won the FA Cup and the Champions League with Chelsea in 2012, just a year after winning promotion with West Brom in 2011

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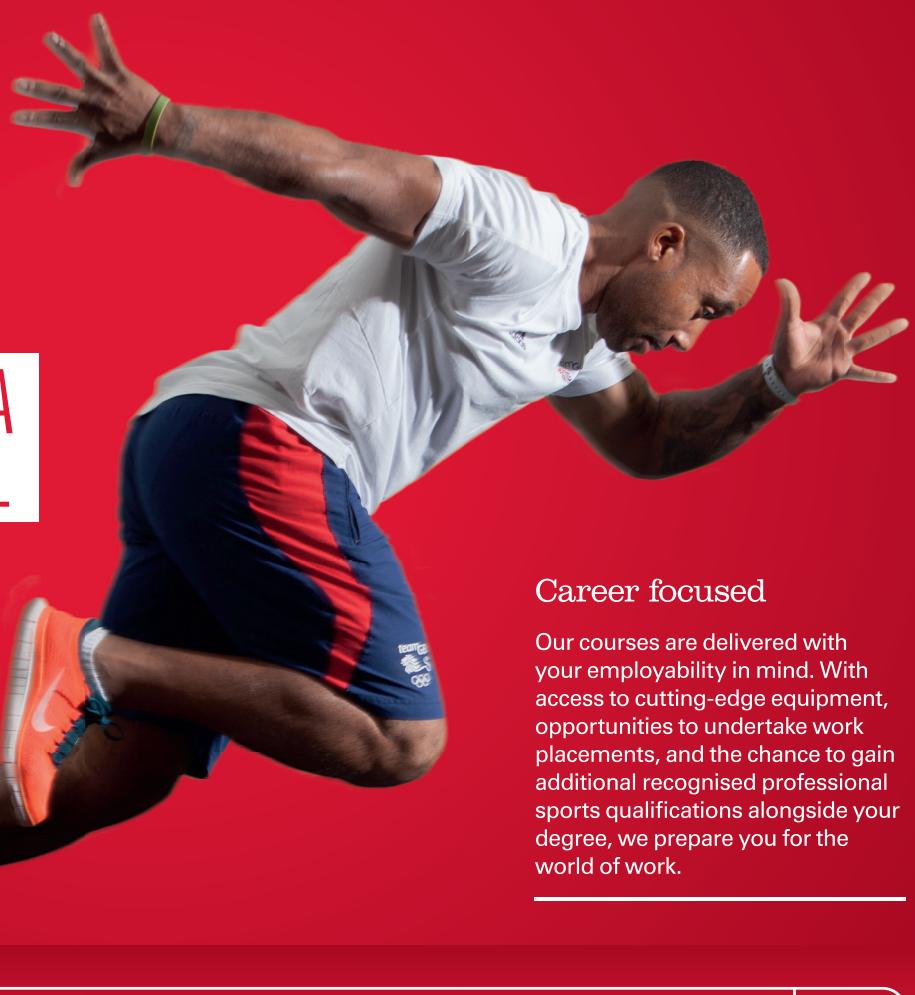
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# HATTERS ONLINE

A ROUNDUP OF THE BEST ONLINE CONTENT FROM TWITTER, FACEBOOK, THE WEBSITE, INSTAGRAM, HATTERS PLAYER, YOUTUBE AND MORE



## TOP TWEETS

We receive hundreds of tweets every week. Here are a few of the best. Tweet us @lutontown #COYH

Jared @JaredRS22 - Aug 6  
I'd heard about them... Then I heard them for myself... Outstanding all you #hatters followers! 🎉⚽

Luton Town FC @LutonTown  
Thanks to all the 1,000-plus Hatters who travelled. Safe journey back to all #COYH

4 20 1 71 \*\*\*

TOP TWEET

Phil Hill @Hatterphil - 16h  
@LutonTown Dad and kids happy with the new kits



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 \*\*\*

TOP TWEET

Mike Hyde LTFC @jazzanovabat - Aug 7  
We love you Luton, we do! @LutonTown #COYH



1 2 3 4 5 6 \*\*\*

TOP TWEET

## FACEBOOK

Club historian Roger Wash joined representatives from the other EFL clubs to help celebrate the opening of the new season at Fulham's Craven Cottage ground.



Full gallery from our 3-0 victory right here >> <http://mobile.lutontown.co.uk/> ... /gallery-plymouth-0-luton-3... #COYH



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Saturday 6 Aug 2016 at 23:57

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**#COYH**



## It's our great privilege to be able to support Luton Town Football Club in the 2016-17 season.



I'd like to take this chance to introduce myself and Spire Harpenden Hospital. Of course, Harpenden was home to one of the Hatters' most avid fans and its most lively promoters – Eric Morecombe!

If you don't know us at Spire, we treat everything from minor aches and pains and sports injuries to major surgery of all types. We have an on-site physiotherapy service, including a hydrotherapy pool. Our imaging and scans at the hospital are performed with state of the art equipment. We have private en-suite rooms, where you will receive first class care from our dedicated nurses, support staff and specialist consultants.

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We're just off the M1, only 20 minutes away from Kenny Road. The hospital is surrounded by the peaceful countryside and our car park is free for you and your visitors.

The only thing that remains for me to say is... **COYH!!**

*Julia Salmon*

Julia  
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## LATE TACKLE

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL HAVE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN MANAGERS WHEN THE SEASON KICKS OFF TODAY.

Rafa Benitez, Philippe Montanier, Slavisa Jokanovic - chuck in the Irish, Welsh and Scots and the homegrown boys are seriously outnumbered.

Question is, does exoticness lead to excellence? Can the invaders clean up at the top? Here's how some of the forebears got on.

### ROBERTO DI MATTEO - WEST BROM

You can see why Aston Villa plumped for the soft-spoken Italian. Seven years ago, he took over a relegated West Brom side and led them to second place in the Championship behind Newcastle. A repeat of that feat would do very nicely.

Sacked just ten months later, Di Matteo then stunned everyone by winning the Champions League in caretaker charge of Chelsea, placing him alongside Brian Clough as the only manager to win a second-tier title and the continent's greatest prize within 24 months. For Villa, that may be a little too much to hope for.

### LUIGI DE CANIO - QPR

When De Canio arrived at Loftus Road in 2008, he'd already pitched up everywhere from Savoia to Siena, racking up clubs like an Italian Neil Warnock.

Though essentially a patsy to the whims of owner Flavio Briatore, De Canio's determination to get the ball down and play won plenty of admirers.

Even a limp 14th place finish didn't dampen enthusiasm. Alas, back in Italy Signora De Canio was missing her husband and, after just one season, he departed to rescue his marriage.

### JEAN TIGANA - FULHAM

Replacing the England-bound Kevin Keegan proved a tough task for the Cottagers, with neither Roy Evans nor Paul Bracewell able to turn Mo Al-Fayed's wonga into wins.

Tigana, who had previously led Monaco to the semi-finals of the Champions League, changed all that, winning the first 11 games of the 2000-01 season and clinching the title with a monster 101 points.

His reward was to be sacked three years later and sued for blowing £12m on Steve Marlet. God knows what Al-Fayed would have done to Kenny Dalglish for signing Andy Carroll.

### MARINUS DIJKHUIZEN - BRENTFORD

Oh dear, oh dear. Dijkhuizen turned up to interview armed with a fine presentation and a track record of success in the Dutch second tier. Brentford's number crunchers had even compiled a graph showing that his Excelsior side created more chances than anyone in the division. Unfortunately for owner Matthew Benham, not all of his research was so thorough.

"One of the big mistakes we made is that we got quite far down the line and were pretty committed and then we got a very bad reference," he said. "We discounted it because it didn't agree with our views - it was classic confirmation bias."

Sure enough, Dijkhuizen was about as popular at Griffin Park as a fire in a submarine. Two wins from nine games later, he was a goner.

### HENNING BERG - BLACKBURN

In the autumn of 2012, Henning Berg used his role as a pundit on Norwegian TV to stick the boot in on Blackburn's Indian owners.

"There are no real managers with credibility who would accept a job like that," he said. Barely a month later, Rovers' title-winning defender had accepted a three-year deal to manage the club.

Turns out he was right, at least in a sense. Berg won just one of his ten games in charge and was sacked after 57 days.



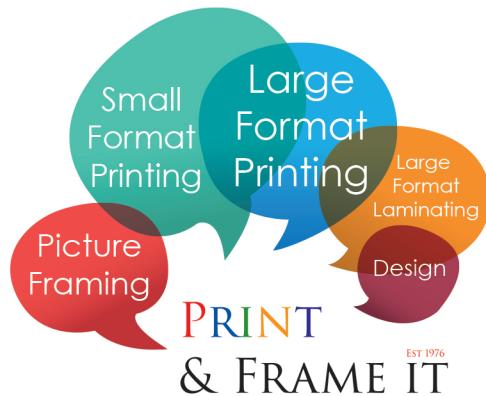
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# FIXTURES PILE-UP

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
<b>AUGUST</b>								
Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle	W 3-0	9,761	1,094	1	Walton
Wed 10	7.45pm	H	Aston Villa (EFL Cup 1)					O'Donnell
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Yeovil Town					Mullins
Tue 16	7.45pm	H	Newport County					Cuthbert
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Stevenage					Potts
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United					Rea
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>								
Sat 3	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers					Mpanzu ▲
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	Grimsby Town					
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Crawley Town					
Sat 24	3.00pm	H	Doncaster Rovers					
Tue 27	7.45pm	A	Hartlepool United					
<b>OCTOBER</b>								
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town					
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Crewe Alexandra					
Sat 15	3.00pm	A	Leyton Orient					
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town					
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	Notts. County					
<b>NOVEMBER</b>								
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley					
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Morecambe					
Tue 22	7.45pm	H	Portsmouth					
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Exeter City					
<b>DECEMBER</b>								
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	Carlisle United					
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Blackpool					
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Colchester United					
Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Barnet					
<b>JANUARY</b>								
Mon 2	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth					
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Cheltenham Town					
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	Crewe Alexandra					
Sat 21	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers					
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United					
<b>FEBRUARY</b>								
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Grimsby Town					
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Crawley Town					
Tue 14	7.45pm	H	Hartlepool United					
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Doncaster Rovers					
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Plymouth Argyle					
Tue 28		A	Newport County					
<b>MARCH</b>								
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Yeovil Town					
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Stevenage					
Tue 14	7.45pm	A	Carlisle United					
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Exeter City					
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Colchester United					
<b>APRIL</b>								
Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Blackpool					
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Barnet					
Fri 14	3.00pm	H	Leyton Orient					
Mon 17	3.00pm	A	Mansfield Town					
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Notts. County					
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley					
<b>MAY</b>								
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Morecambe					



# WHO, WHEN AND WHERE THE HATTERS ARE PLAYING THIS SEASON

KEY: • First Substitute | • Second Substitute | ▲ Third Substitute | ■ Sent off | GOALSCORER

## SUBS

McGeehan COOK 1 • HYLTON 1 MARRIOTT 1 • Smith • Lee • Gray ▲ Justin Vassell McQuoid King



## MEET THE REF: GAVIN WARD

Tonight sees Gavin Ward take charge of his first Luton match in almost a year. Gavin last refereed Luton in our 2-1 defeat away at Crawley in which he issued five yellow cards, including four to Luton players. Gavin, part of the National Group of referees, heads to Kenilworth Road from Surrey this evening after taking charge of Oxford's League One opener at home to Chesterfield.

Gavin gave three yellow cards in the 1-1 draw at the weekend and last season took charge of 34 games, awarding 107 yellow cards and producing just one red.

### LEAGUE TABLE 2016/17

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

### PLAYER STATS 2016/17

	THIS SEASON						LFC CAREER TOT	
	LEAGUE APPS	LEAGUE GLS	CUP APPS	CUP GLS	TOTAL APPS	TOTAL GLS	DISIP.	APP. GLS
Tyreeq Bakinson	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	1 0 0
Zane Banton	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	10 0
Jordan Cook	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	1 0
Scott Cuthbert	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	41 0
Jake Gray	0 (1) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (1) 0	0 (1) 0	0 0 0	1 0
Danny Green	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	30 6
Danny Hylton	1 (0) 1	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 1	0 (0) 1	1 0 0	1 1
James Justin	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	1 0
Olly Lee	0 (1) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (1) 0	0 (1) 0	0 0 0	40 3
Craig Mackail-Smith	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	34 4
Jack Marriott	1 (0) 1	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 1	0 (0) 1	0 0 0	45 17
Cameron McGeehan	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 0 0	79 20
Josh McQuoid	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	35 5
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 0 0	67 5
Johnny Mullins	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	1 0
Frankie Musonda	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	3 0
Stephen O'Donnell	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	34 1
Dan Potts	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 1 0	17 0
Glen Rea	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	11 0
Alan Sheehan	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	20 1
Jonathan Smith	0 (1) 1	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (1) 1	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	142 10
Isaac Vassell	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	0 0
Christian Walton	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 0 0	1 0

# HOLD THE BACKPAGE

## WITH SIMON PITTS

Well we're back and the 2016/17 season has officially started after a few weeks of training and pre-season friendlies. Most fans will appreciate that the results don't really matter in those matches, it's all about the performances and the players getting some much needed match time.

Goals galore at Bedford and a superb victory over Championship Brighton were certainly the highlights from the build up to the start of the season and showed what the squad are capable of under the leadership of Nathan Jones.

New signings appear to have settled in well and I'll take this opportunity to welcome Jordan Cook, Jake Gray, Danny Hylton, Johnny Mullins, Isaac Vassell and Christian Walton to the Club. It's also only appropriate to say welcome back to Glen Rea and Alan Sheehan who have joined permanently after successful loan spells at the end of last season. We've also seen additions to the backroom staff as well to support the manager, so welcome to Jared Roberts-Smith and Joaquin Gomez.

Congratulations to the young players that have been rewarded with professional contracts for their performances in last season's very successful U18 team, namely Alex Atkinson, Akin Famewo and Liam Gooch. They join Tyreeq Bakinson, James Justin and Frankie Musonda who signed professional contracts last season.

Post and pre-season have also seen a change with the kits, regarding both the manufacturer and sponsorship, with Puma returning and SsangYong Motor Group becoming involved with the Club.

There are so many reasons to be positive as this season starts, a quality management team, players joining from the leagues above our current standings, young players coming through and then of course the new stadium and training ground plans.

### POSITIVITY

This positivity certainly continued on the pitch too as the Hatters had a record breaking opening day away win at Plymouth on Saturday.

We welcome Aston Villa to Kenilworth Road tonight for this EFL Cup 1st Round match, and of course also a return for the SKY cameras almost a year since their last visit for the 2nd round match against Stoke in the same competition.

The Hatters had beaten a Championship side, Bristol City, in the first round last season and will



therefore be looking for history to repeat itself tonight. Jack Marriott opened his account, following a transfer from Ipswich, with two goals on his full debut for the Club and then went on to net a total of 16 goals last term.

Cameron McGeehan netted a late equaliser against Premier League Stoke before the Hatters cruelly went out of the competition courtesy of a sudden death penalty shoot-out.

It's over 24 years since the Hatters last hosted Villa in a competitive match, back on 25th April 1992. Brian Stein and Mark Pemberton netted in a 2-0 win, in what was Luton's last home match in the top flight. I wonder how many of the 11,178 in attendance that day, like me, are also here tonight.

A cup-tie under the floodlights, against higher league opposition and with the TV cameras here, what a great way to start the 2016/17 season at Kenilworth Road!

Enjoy the match, give the lads all your support and here's hoping that the forthcoming season is a successful one on and off the pitch!

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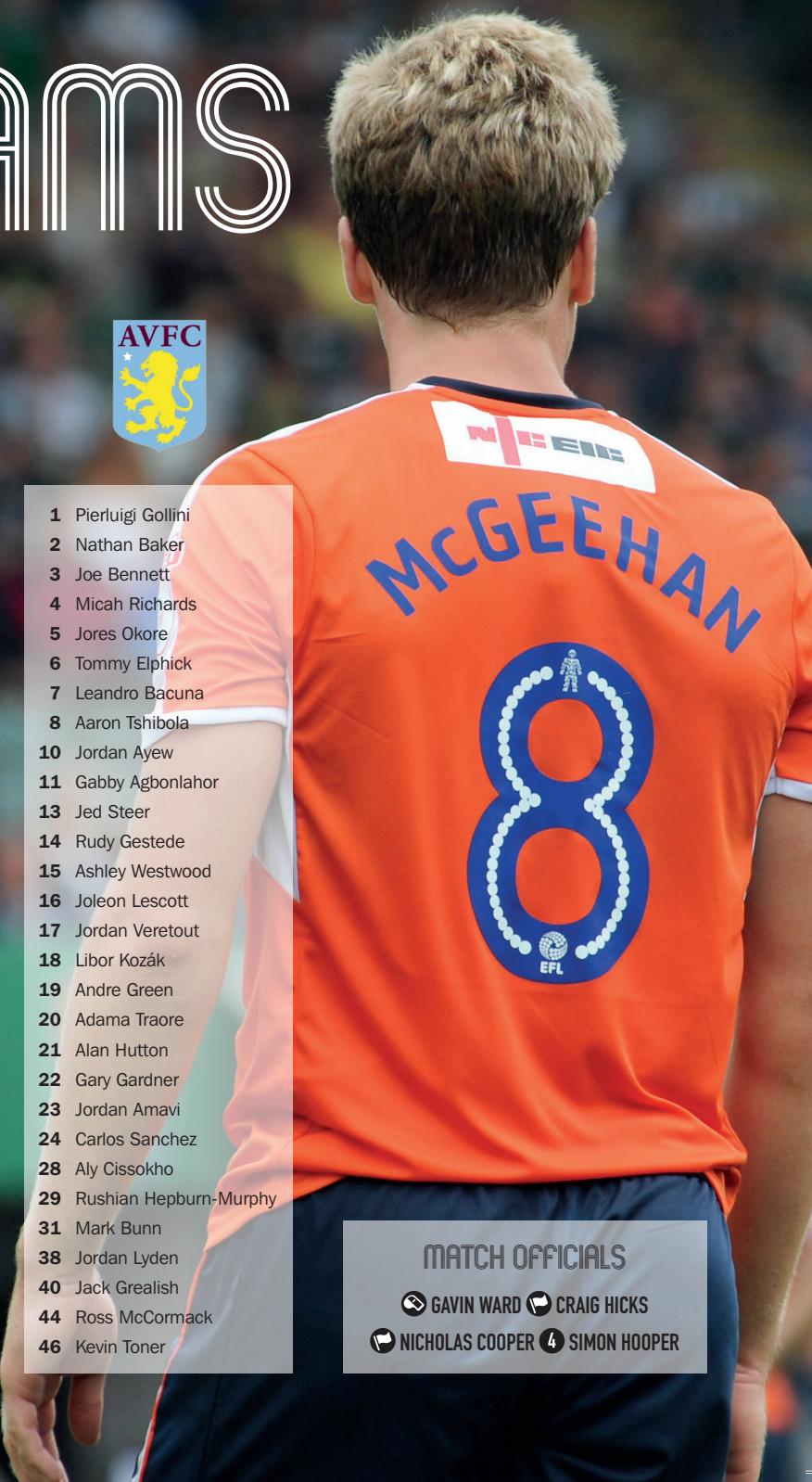
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# TEAMS



- 1** Christian Walton
- 2** Stephen O'Donnell
- 3** Dan Potts
- 4** Jonathan Smith
- 5** Johnny Mullins
- 6** Scott Cuthbert
- 7** Jake Gray
- 8** Cameron McGeehan
- 9** Danny Hylton
- 10** Jordan Cook
- 11** Danny Green
- 12** Craig Mackail-Smith
- 14** Jack Marriott
- 16** Glen Rea
- 17** Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu
- 18** Zane Banton
- 19** Olly Lee
- 20** Isaac Vassell
- 23** Josh McQuoid
- 27** Tyreeq Bakinson
- 31** Craig King
- 36** James Justin
- 37** Frankie Musonda
- 38** Alex Atkinson
- 39** Akin Famewo
- 42** Liam Gooch
- 44** Alan Sheehan

- 1** Pierluigi Gollini
- 2** Nathan Baker
- 3** Joe Bennett
- 4** Micah Richards
- 5** Jores Okore
- 6** Tommy Elphick
- 7** Leandro Bacuna
- 8** Aaron Tshibola
- 10** Jordan Ayew
- 11** Gabby Agbonlahor
- 13** Jed Steer
- 14** Rudy Gestede
- 15** Ashley Westwood
- 16** Joleon Lescott
- 17** Jordan Veretout
- 18** Libor Kozák
- 19** Andre Green
- 20** Adama Traore
- 21** Alan Hutton
- 22** Gary Gardner
- 23** Jordan Amavi
- 24** Carlos Sanchez
- 28** Aly Cissokho
- 29** Rushian Hepburn-Murphy
- 31** Mark Bunn
- 38** Jordan Lyden
- 40** Jack Grealish
- 44** Ross McCormack
- 46** Kevin Toner



## MATCH OFFICIALS

- GAVIN WARD**
- CRAIG HICKS**
- NICHOLAS COOPER**
- SIMON HOOPER**