



TALK OF THE TOWN

LUTON TOWN v PORTSMOUTH

TUESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2016 | KICK OFF 7.45pm

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 13 | PRICE £3



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[WELCOME TO LUTON TOWN v PORTSMOUTH]

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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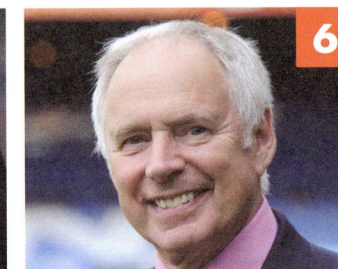
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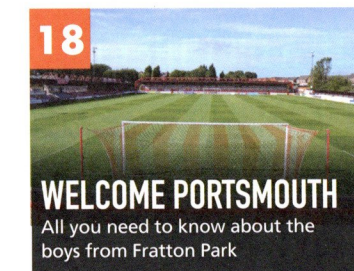
WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD



NATHAN JONES
The boss welcomes Portsmouth
to Kenilworth Road



FROM THE BOARDROOM
With Hatters chairman Nick Owen



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Dagenham beaten in seven-goal
FA Youth Cup thriller

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THE MANAGER NATHAN JONES



[MANAGER'S NOTES]

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this Sky Bet League Two fixture against Portsmouth.

I would like to welcome everybody from our visitors – supporters, directors, staff, manager Paul Cook and his squad – and I hope they have a safe trip back to the south coast after the game.

Since we were last here ten days ago for the Accrington Stanley match, it's been another terrific period for the club – if we ignore the ludicrous £15,000 Checkatrade Trophy fine that our opponents tonight were hit with, too.

Even our stance on that has been well received across the football world, and last Thursday night the 408 who came to watch the Under-18s beat Dagenham & Redbridge in the FA Youth Cup saw again why we believe so much in giving our young players a platform to perform.

GUTS

They didn't play as well as we would have liked overall, but the character and guts they showed to keep coming back to win 4-3 in extra-time spoke volumes for the work Paul Driver, Andy Awford and the coaches do with them.

It will be another massive part of the learning curve for the youngsters to

play on one of the traditional theatres of English football at Hillsborough in the next round on 9th December, six days after we host Solihull Moors in the second round of the FA Cup following their replay win over Yeovil last Tuesday.

In the Accrington game, it took a little while for us to get going but I've got to thank you, the fans, for your patience as we continued to probe for the opening that finally came with 15 minutes to go.

WONDERFUL

I've got to reserve a special mention for those who sat for six hours on the road up to Morecambe on Saturday, missing the first half after the accident that closed the M6. It was an unbelievable effort from you to give the team your wonderful backing, making up more than a third of the overall attendance.

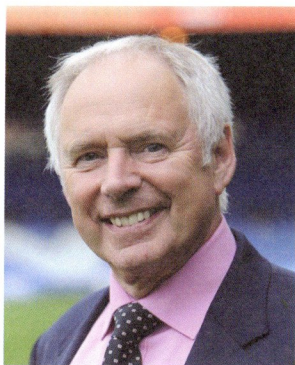
You missed a completely different start to the game at Exeter, when we didn't get out of the blocks as quickly as we'd like. At Morecambe we were on the front foot, moved the ball well on a difficult surface and took the game to a side who are struggling a bit at home, but remain a good team.

It was the most complete performance since I took over and it emphasised once again the depth of squad we have gathered here, making a few changes to the team but maintaining the unbeaten run and keeping a third successive clean sheet in the league.

It was the most complete performance since I took over.

I said on Saturday that we have the best fans in the league. There is a real togetherness now at this forward-thinking club and we'll need that unity again this evening when I know that Kenilworth Road will be rocking under the lights.

Enjoy what we hope will be another memorable game.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN

Good evening and a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for this tasty Sky Bet League Two fixture against Portsmouth.

A special welcome to our friends from Fratton Park who, like us, have experienced some distinctly rocky times in recent years, but their results this season, like ours, are giving them genuine hope of far better things to come.

We swapped places in the league at the weekend after they drew at Cheltenham and we managed a terrific win at Morecambe. More about that later.

Tonight is a special occasion for our popular Academy and Development Manager Andy Awford who must have the name Pompey tattooed across his heart – just under the word Hatters, of course!

He's actually spent more than half his life with Portsmouth, as a player, coach, scout or manager. Eleven years on the pitch and 13 in various off field capacities, including a spell as manager. He will happily admit that at the end of this season he wants to see Luton top and Portsmouth second!

In his time at Portsmouth, he either played with or worked with some great Luton favourites, including Paul Walsh, Ray Daniel, Gary Waddock

and Matt Taylor. He actually watched Matt countless times in our colours before our exciting left-back was lured down to the south coast for a highly successful spell there.

One quirky little fact about Andy: he was and still is the youngest player ever to appear in the FA Cup. He was still a schoolboy, in year 11, when he turned out for his hometown club Worcester City against Boreham Wood, aged 15 years and 88 days – roughly.

He joined us with a glowing reputation and you only have to look at what's happening with our youth and development to see why. Something the whole club is proud of.

Which brings me to the controversy of the last week or so. The Checktrade Trophy.

As the whole football world in this country now knows, we were fined a total of £15,000 by the English Football League for making sweeping changes to our line-up for the matches against Gillingham, West Bromwich Albion and Millwall in the Checktrade Trophy.

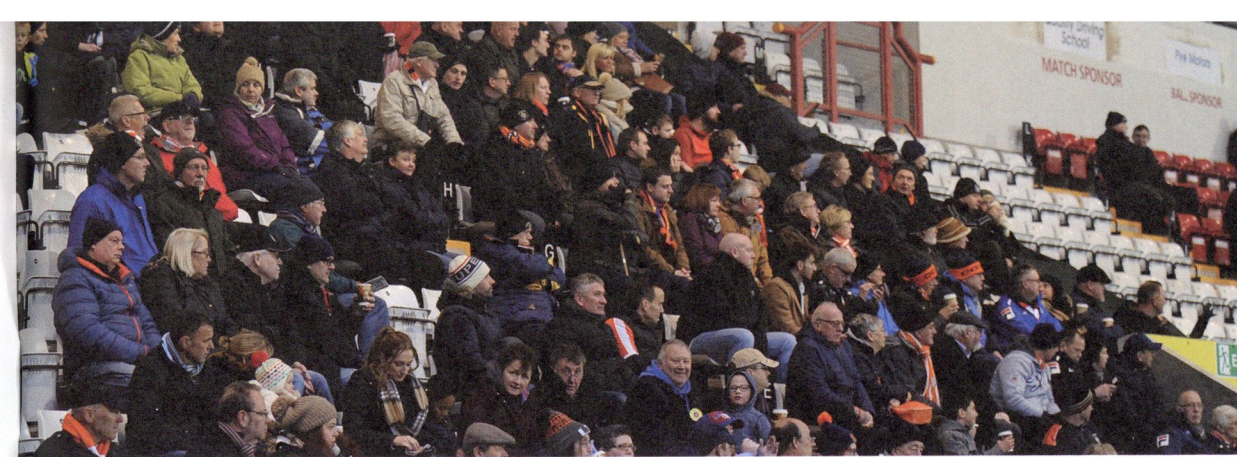
Our superb displays and results in all three matches rather prove

the point that we weren't fielding vastly weakened teams. In fact, in a tournament geared to help Premier League and Championship sides blood their youngsters, we have proved how much phenomenal talent we have at Kenilworth Road just bursting to make the breakthrough. A number of those youngsters have already featured in our league side this season and last. Don't we have the right also to develop our young players for the good of the English game?

Interesting to note too that our last match in the Checktrade – against Millwall – pulled in an attendance of 2,251 which was the second highest of all the last round of matches. We are not exactly devaluing the competition, are we?

The EFL decision has been pilloried from all sides – both in the press and by supporters of rival football clubs, including Watford, Stevenage and Cambridge! Our club statement, expressing our unequivocal views on the situation and our explanation, was retweeted almost a thousand times. Unheard of!

We understand that rules are rules and we have broken them, but do we deserve the full penalty of £5,000



a match? Surely not, given the circumstances. I was interested to hear the much-respected Sky Sports presenter Jeff Stelling describe our fine on television as 'absolute lunacy'.

And what will Nathan do in future rounds? The prize money goes up, but the maximum amount a club can be fined stays the same. I have little doubt that he'll be minded to continue giving our highly talented youngsters the chance to prove how far they can go, given that we are currently battling on three fronts – the League, the FA Cup and the Checktrade. We have a squad for a reason and our younger players have proved they are good enough.

Meanwhile, our crowd for the sensational FA Youth Cup match against Dagenham the other night attracted a crowd of over 400. That's more than a handful of Checktrade games the week before!

I'm sure the 408 are glad they made the effort! For our lads to come from behind twice and finally squeeze home 4-3 after extra time speaks volumes for their character. Congratulations to Jack Snelus, in particular, for his scintillating hat-trick, all of his goals thumped home from outside the box. But well done to the overall squad on duty last Thursday and now for Sheffield Wednesday!

Our last home game in League Two was a nail-biter, wasn't it? It was

mighty hard work trying to break down Accrington Stanley and they must have been furious with themselves for letting it slip so late in the game, particularly after an exhilarating display from their goalkeeper Elliot Parish who'd kept them in it with some breathtaking saves.

In the end it was a beautifully worked goal, finished off by Cameron McGeehan, that landed us all three points to keep us well in touch with the top.

Something that really struck me on the day was the way the fans kept their patience with a sometimes frustrating game, and every now and then weighed in with some serious chanting to gee the side along. I know it helps the players no end.

Portsmouth will be a real challenge this evening as well and this meeting takes me back to my first season as a Luton fan when I watched us beat them 3-1 on a sunny April evening back in 1959. Even now, I can still clearly see our cunning inside forward George Cummins chipping one home with his left foot from the angle of the box at the Oak Road end. As a very young and impressionable supporter, I wondered at his skill, confidence and cheek and, as I've said, the memory has always stuck with me. It was my first real appreciation of the finer points of the game, subtlety and finesse.

Home fans will be hoping for something similar this evening as our good run continues after that excellent performance at Morecambe on Saturday. I was delighted for Isaac Vassell scoring for the first time – he really has looked a handful when he's come on in recent matches and who knows what he can achieve now that he's scored his all-important first goal?

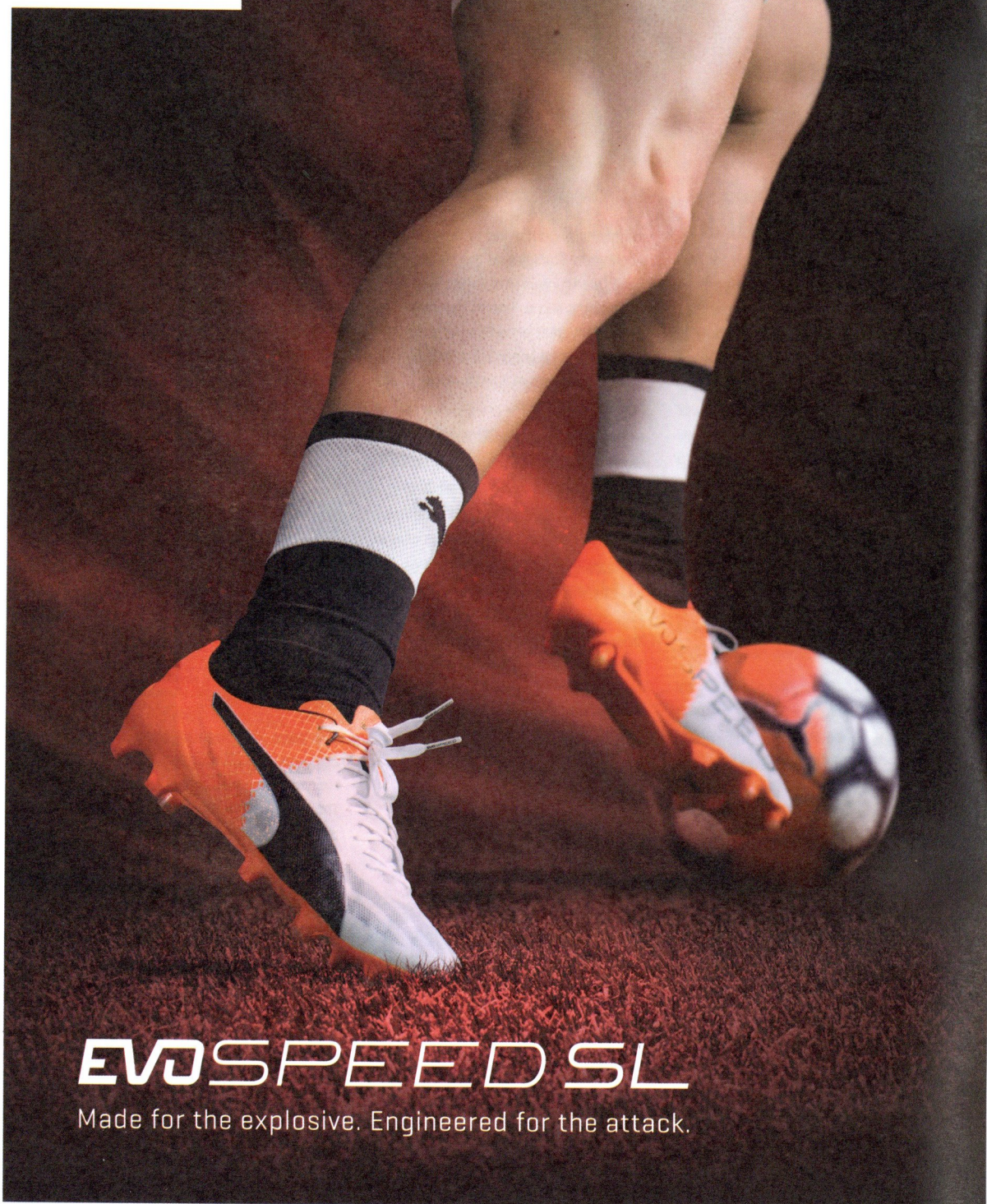
Yet again a word of appreciation for our fans at the weekend. More than 500, a brilliant turnout, had a horrendous trip via one of the worst stretches of motorway in the country and many only arrived at the ground towards the end of the first half. Thank goodness they were rewarded with another three points.

One point of information before I sign off. The Evening with Mick Harford which was scheduled for last Thursday here at Kenilworth Road and postponed because of the FA Youth Cup match, will now take place this Thursday, ie a couple of evenings from now. Do come along if you can and have a chat with the player voted the fans' favourite of all time.

Enjoy the game this evening and please cheer our wonderful side to the rafters.

Bye for now,

Nick Owen



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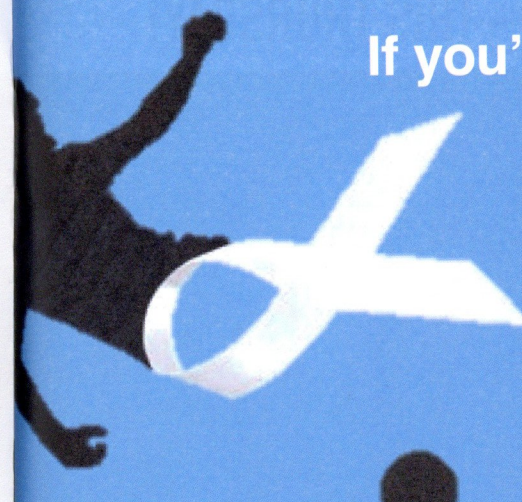
Be your family's hero

Luton Town Football Club, together with Bedfordshire Police, is helping to raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse.

It can happen to anyone and it has a huge impact on children.

Let's show abuse the red card

If you're worried about someone,
call us on 101.



BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE
Protecting People and Fighting Crime
Together

GOOCHIE GOES TO HITCHIN ON LOAN

Teenage goalkeeper Liam Gooch last week joined the Hatters' Non-League neighbours Hitchin Town on a one-month youth loan.

The Stotfold-based keeper, who turns 19 on Friday, made his debut in competitive senior football for the Canaries in their Evo-Stik League Southern Premier Division game against Kettering Town on Saturday, keeping a clean sheet in the goalless draw.

Gooch starred in last season's Under-18s team that reached the FA Youth Cup quarter-finals and won the Football League Youth Alliance league and cup double.

Having signed his first professional contract in June, he featured as a second-half substitute in three senior pre-season friendlies and has played in youth games this term while alternating with 20-year-old Craig King in development matches, as well as being selected on the bench for Checkatrade Trophy ties.

Town goalkeeper coach Kevin Dearden hopes the young stopper can benefit from game time at a Step

3 club in the same way that King did at the same age last season, when he spent time on loan at Ryman Premier club Met Police and National League South side Bishop's Stortford.

"Liam's played in development games having come from the youth team, and men's football is the next step," said Dearden.

"Hitchin is a good club. We've got a good relationship with them through the football club and with Mark Burke, their manager, and this is the next step of his progression. Hopefully he'll go there and do well.

"It's tough for a first-year pro, but our aim has always been to try and get him out into men's football because it stood Kingy in good stead with Met Police and Stortford. It's good for their development."

All at Kenilworth Road wish Liam the best of luck in his time at Top Field, which will initially run to Saturday 17th December.



EVENING WITH MICK HARFORD – THIS THURSDAY!

Due to last week's FA Youth Cup tie against Dagenham & Redbridge being staged at Kenilworth Road, the Luton Town Supporters' Trust's evening with Mick Harford had to be postponed.

It will now be held this Thursday, 24th November, in the Eric Morecambe Lounge with doors opening at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

The event, in which Hatters legend Big Mick will be speaking about his career and taking part in a Q&A session, is open to all.

Tickets are £5 and on sale from the Ticket Office or by calling 01582 416976.



HATTERS FAN IS A TRUE OLYMPIC HERO

We are delighted to welcome Hatters supporter Liam Irons, who starred for Team GB in the summer Paralympics, to tonight's game.

The 25-year-old, who suffers from cerebral palsy, represented Team GB's Paralympic seven-a-side football team in Rio in the summer as they came up against the likes of Brazil and Argentina.

He was a regular in GB's side during the competition, but at the turn of the year he didn't even know it existed!

"I only got introduced to the GB team about eight months ago, so leading up to the Paralympic games I didn't really know much about it," Liam told Talk of The Town.

"I got invited down to a couple of training camps, there was a squad of about 35 people, and I made it down to the final 14. I managed to get into the starting team, so I was well chuffed.

"I played in every game which I wasn't sure I was going to do. Because I played at the back I didn't get on the scoresheet or anything, but I was just over the moon to play every game."

Since returning from South America, Liam – who turned out for Spartan

South Midlands side The 61FC last season – has joined Tring Athletic.

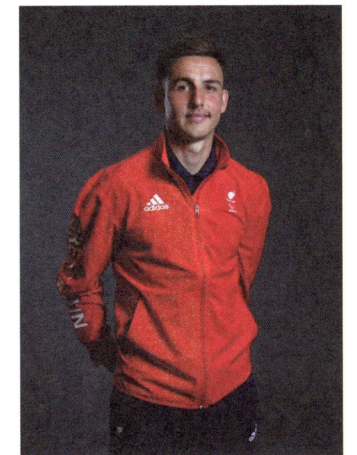
In Brazil he played in victories over Ireland and Argentina, as well as defeats to Brazil and Ukraine, as Team GB made it into the top six.

"It was really, really good! We finished fifth, which is the highest a Great Britain side has ever finished in seven-a-side football at the Paralympics," Irons said.

"We could have done a bit better if the groups were in our favour a little more. We had Brazil and Ukraine, who finished third and first. In other years when we have played those two teams, we've been slaughtered, so we showed that we have improved."

The former Town season ticket holder had to give up supporting the Hatters home and away when he started playing football regularly, but he's been keeping an eye on some of the current crop of talent coming through at Kenilworth Road and he thinks Town have a couple of future stars in their squad.

He said: "I had a season ticket at Kenilworth Road for three years when

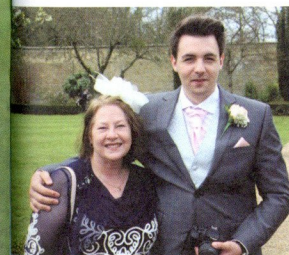


they were in the Championship, but I had to give it up because I started playing football on a Saturday. I used to love going down there on a Saturday and Tuesday night.

IMPRESSED

"Like every other Luton fan I have been really impressed by Cameron McGeehan, he is a really good player. Jack Marriott is another one who catches the eye. I'm hoping Nathan Jones is going to get us back up to the heights we've enjoyed before, starting with a successful season this year."

HAPPY 18TH STEVEN DAY!



Steven Day has been coming to Kenilworth Road since he was five, and we received this message for his coming of age...

Happy 18th Birthday Steven, I am so proud of you and the fine young man you have grown up to be. Lots of love from Auntie Allison and of course your sister Rebecca, who comes to the games with us xx

LIFE BEGINS AT 40 FOR RICKY!

For Ricky Goodman (named after Ricky Hill!), congratulations on your recent marriage to Louise – a very happy day for all. We would also like to wish you many, many happy returns on your 40th birthday today! All our love, Nan and all the family.

UPnEXT

EXETER CITY

FORMED: 1904 | NICKNAME: THE GRECIANS | LAST SEASON: 14TH LEAGUE TWO
FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @OFFICIALECF | COLOURS: RED & WHITE STRIPES
GROUND: ST JAMES PARK | MANAGER: PAUL TISDALE

WHO? Once again, Town fans take the trip from London Paddington down to Exeter St Davids and onto St James Park Station, or alternatively the three-and-a-half-hour drive. The Grecians dropped down from League One into the fourth tier at the end of the 2012 season and have remained here ever since. The club have an interesting history, having gone on a tour of South America in 1914, becoming the official club partner of Fluminense. They have been at their home of St James Park since 1908, which can hold around 8,500 spectators.

TICKETS Check out prices on the opposite page.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? Well, yes. Just under two weeks ago the Hatters contested their 64th meeting, beating the Grecians for the 34th time. Danny Hylton scored twice from spot-kicks, with a Glen Rea far-post finish sandwiched in between. Exeter have been triumphant over the Hatters 17 times, and the sides have drawn on 13 occasions.

IN CHARGE Paul Tisdale is the longest serving manager in the EFL, only beaten by Arsene Wenger if you include the Premier League. The Frenchman has ten years on Tisdale's record at the helm, but the Grecians boss is five years ahead of third-placed Jim Bentley at Morecambe. The former Southampton and Yeovil Town midfielder took over at St James Park in 2006 and has overseen two promotions – from the Conference to League One through two

IT SEEMS LIKE ETERNITY SINCE
WE LAST PLAYED, DOESN'T IT?
THE HATTERS TRAVEL TO DEVON
FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A
FORTNIGHT, HAVING BEATEN THEM
3-1 IN THE FA CUP LAST TIME OUT.



consecutive promotions in 2008 and '09 – and one relegation, back down to League Two in 2012.

PREVIOUS FORM

The Grecians have struggled to get going this season, as they now sit in the relegation zone.

There have been flashes of

brilliance though and a reminder of what Exeter are capable of, with a 4-1 away win over Barnet and a 3-0 win against Morecambe away last month. They suffered an incredibly frustrating defeat on Saturday, having been leading Carlisle United 2-1 at Brunton Park, but were pinned back in the 89th minute by Shaun Miller, before Charlie Wyke's scored a late winner for the home side, sending the Grecians down to bottom spot. Tonight Tisdale's side face Leyton Orient at Brisbane Road.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU Now at Macclesfield Town, George Pilkington went on loan to Exeter City from Everton in 2002, making 12 appearances for the Grecians. After his release by the Toffees, he joined Port Vale, before a four-season spell with the Hatters between 2008-12. He made 172 appearances in total for Town, scoring 12 goals.

GET YOUR TICKET



EXETER CITY

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER | 3PM

The Hatters have received an initial allocation of 350 seats and 200 Terrace tickets for their League Two match against Exeter City. More terrace tickets are available on request. Any remaining tickets are now on general sale until 3pm on Friday. **Prices:** Seats: Adults: £22 (£23 on the day), Concession (63 plus or Student with NUS Card): £20 (£21), Under 18: £9.50 (£10). Terrace: Adults: £16 (£17), Concession (63 plus or Student with NUS Card): £12 (£13), Under 18: £4.50 (£5). Wheelchair tickets are priced at £20 (in advance) with a carer free of charge. Ambulant disabled tickets are available at age related prices with a carer free of charge.



SOLIHULL MOORS

EMIRATES FA CUP SECOND ROUND

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER | 3PM

Tickets are now available for our home FA Cup fixture against Solihull Moors. All areas of the ground will be open and reserved seating will apply. Season Ticket holders have until Friday 25th November to book their own season ticket seat, season ticket holders can book tickets from the Ticket Office in person, by phone or by a call back service to ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk (please supply your contact number). All other seats are available on general sale via phone in person and online. From 6pm Friday 25th November all seats will be released for general sale, at this time these seats can also be purchased online. Automatic Cup Authorisation forms will be processed by Monday 21st November. (Please be aware if you have had a new card since completing this form you will need to advise the Ticket Office of the new Card details.) **Prices:** Adults £16, Concessions (65 plus) £12, Young Adults (Under 22): £12, Golden Seniors (75 plus): £8, Youths (Under 18) £5, Under 10's: £1



SWINDON TOWN

CHECKATRADE TROPHY ROUND TWO

TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER | 7.45PM

A sales plan for this match will be released in due course, but ticket prices for the tie at the County Ground are: Adult: £10, Concession: £5, Under-18: £2, Under-11: Free of charge.



CARLISLE

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER | 3PM

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

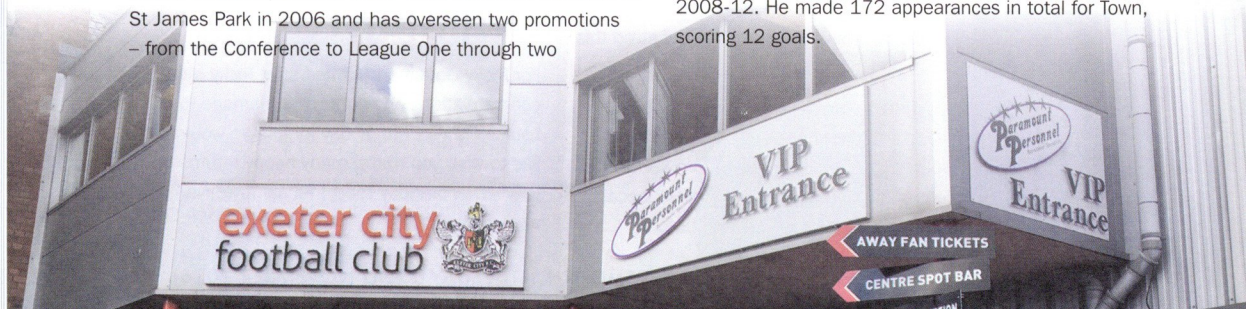


BLACKPOOL

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER | 3PM

The Hatters have received an initial allocation of 1,030 tickets and nine pairs of wheelchair spaces for their match against Blackpool. More tickets are available on request. Season Ticket holders will be able to purchase two tickets per person from now until close of business on Saturday 26th November. Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale from the Ticket Office from Monday 28th November until 2pm on Friday 16th December. Subject to availability, tickets will be available on cash turnstiles on the day, with no price increase. **Prices:** Adults: £22, Senior (60 plus): £18, Under 19: £10, Under 11: (with adult/senior): Free of charge. Disabled/Carer tickets are available at relevant price band with a Carer free of Charge.



SPEAKING

COMMERCIALLY

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THE ADVANCE GROUP

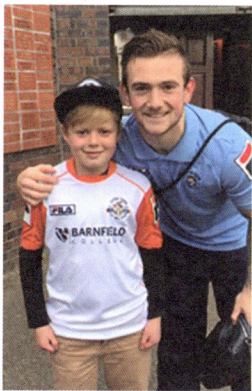
ADVANCE GROUP  The Advance Group, based in Dunstable, is a UK leader in kitchen

design, supply, installation and aftercare. Established in 1981 the company employs 75 staff and provides catering equipment, cooking and operations solutions to commercial kitchens across a range of key sectors including hotels, leisure, care facilities, restaurants/bars and pubs. Starting life predominantly as an engineering company the business has evolved over the years to become more focused on a comprehensive range of commercial kitchen solutions and now counts many leading dining brands among its clients including Pizza Hut, The Restaurant Group, Carluccios, Jamie's Italian and Drake & Morgan.

TODAY'S MASCOTS:

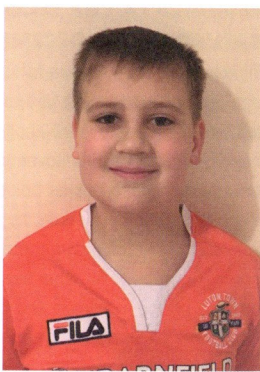
JAMES WHITEHEAD

Age: 12
Favourite Player: Jack Marriott
School Attended: Aylesbury Grammar School
Attends games with: My Dad Alistair, my Uncle Steve, my cousin Alice and our friend Bob Whitehead.
Hobbies: Playing football for Wing Raiders, playing the drums and playing cricket for Dinton.



JOSEPH HARLEY

Age: 9 (today!)
Favourite Player: Cameron McGeehan
School Attended: Quinton House School
Attends games with: Grandad John, Dad and Uncle Michael
Hobbies: Loves playing on X Box and watching Doctor Who



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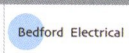

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9 DANNY HYLTON H: Emma Banks A: The Mad Hatter	10 JORDAN COOK H: Ian Corkett & Linda Thomas A: Richard Tilley	11 DANNY GREEN H: Emma Sanders A: AVAILABLE	12 CRAIG MACKAIL-SMITH H: Mark Warne A: Tom
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18 ZANE BANTON H: AVAILABLE A: Kelly Knight	19 OLLY LEE H: Whosh A: AVAILABLE	20 ISAAC VASSELL H: Marston Vale Properties A: AVAILABLE	21 JACK SENIOR H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE
23 JOSH McQUOID H: Peter and Linda Little A: AVAILABLE	27 TYREEQ BAKINSON H: Mad Hatter A: Neil Ehrenzweig	31 CRAIG KING H: AVAILABLE G: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	36 JAMES JUSTIN H: Freed (Veneers Ltd) A: Bobbers Travel
37 FRANKIE MUSONDA H: Football262 A: AVAILABLE	38 ALEX ATKINSON H: Whosh A: AVAILABLE	39 AKIN FAMEWO H: Bobbers Travel A: Ian Jones	42 LIAM GOOCH H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE
44 ALAN SHEEHAN H: Sarah A: AVAILABLE	M NATHAN JONES H: Thompsons Accountants A: Country Properties	AM PAUL HART H: Doug Knight A: Colne Consulting Ltd	C JOAQUIN GOMEZ H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE
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KEY
H: HOME | A: AWAY | G: GLOVES



WELCOME PORTSMOUTH

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the traveling Portsmouth players, staff and fans for what will surely be a chilly evening at Kenilworth Road.

For the Hatters' second consecutive home match, they take on a side who made the play-offs last season, and in Portsmouth they face a team who seem to be going head-to-head in the table.

A victory against Accrington Stanley just over a week ago should have secured Town's place in at least fourth, were it not for Paul Cook's side's 4-0 thrashing of Mansfield, which bumped the Hatters down into fifth and lifted the south coast side up a spot to fourth.

Last season Portsmouth's path to the play-off final was still on course as they were facing extra-time in their second semi-final match against Plymouth with 90 minutes gone. But Argyle had other ideas, as Peter Hartley netted a 91st-minute winner to knock Paul Cook's side out.

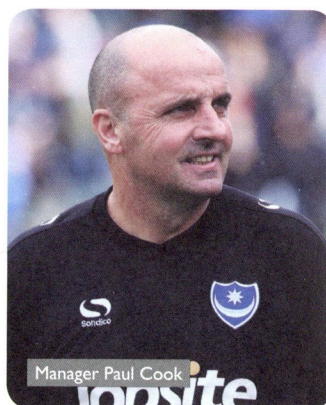
The knock-on effect seems to have been minimal, as Portsmouth appear to have the appetite for another promotion push after last term's disappointment.

Cook's side have the joint second best scoring record in the Sky Bet League Two with 27 goals – alongside Carlisle United – and have the second tightest defence having only conceded 16 goals, a figure bettered only by table toppers Plymouth Argyle.

The Pompey boss joined at the end of 2014/15 season having parted company with League One



Conor Chaplin



Manager Paul Cook

Chesterfield, taking over from Andy Awford – now, of course, the Hatters' academy and player development manager.

Ex-Accrington manager Cook led the club to a sixth-place finish in his first season and it's fair to say there is a level of expectation from outside Fratton Park for them to do just as well this season.

Midfielder Gary Roberts has been leading the way with goals, but a player who catches the eye is 19-year-old Conor Chaplin. Having already netted five goals this term, as well as his 11 goals last season, the teenager looks set for big things in the game.

Pompey pinched a point at Cheltenham on Saturday, having gone 1-0 down from a Daniel O'Shaughnessy effort just after the hour mark. Michael Smith then tapped in with eight minutes of normal time left to secure Cook's side a point, but it saw them slip to fifth in League Two, overtaken by the Hatters who moved two points clear in fourth.

The Hatters and Pompey have contested a total of 79 matches, with Town having the edge with 33 wins to the visitor's 31. They have drawn 15 times. However, Portsmouth's recent record against the Kenilworth Road outfit has been fantastic, having won three of their last five and drawing the other two. Last season Pompey beat the Hatters 2-1 here at the Kenny, and played out a stalemate at Fratton Park.

HATTERS V POMPEY

LUTON WINS: 33 | DRAWS: 15 | POMPEY WINS: 31

LAST MEETING

PORTSMOUTH 0-0 LUTON – 28TH DECEMBER 2015

TEAM PROFILE:

NICKNAME: POMPEY | GROUND: FRATTON PARK | LAST SEASON: 6TH LEAGUE TWO |
MANAGER: PAUL COOK | LAST LEAGUE MATCH: CHELTENHAM TOWN 1-1 PORTSMOUTH

MEET THE VISITORS

THE BOSS

PAUL COOK

The former Premier League midfielder left his managerial role at League One Chesterfield in May 2015 to take over the reins at Fratton Park. He has also managed Southport, Sligo Rovers and Accrington Stanley.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

DAVID FORDE

On loan from Millwall for the season, Forde has made over 300 appearances for the Lions and has been the number one at Fratton Park since his arrival in the summer.

IN DEFENCE

ENDA STEVENS

The Irishman made his full league debut in English football for Aston Villa in a 3-2 loss against Manchester United in the Premier League in 2012, after joining from Shamrock Rovers. He joined Portsmouth in 2015 after his contract expired with the Midlands club.

MATT CLARKE

After originally joining Pompey on loan last season from Ipswich, the 20-year-old made the move permanent in the summer.



TOM DAVIES

The former Accrington defender arrived at Pompey in the summer after being a regular for Stanley last season. His former sides include FC United of Manchester and Fleetwood Town.

CHRISTIAN BURGESS

The former Peterborough man joined Portsmouth in the summer of 2015 on a three-year-deal and has been a fixture in the side since he put pen to paper. The 25-year-old has also played Middlesbrough and Hartlepool United.

DANNY ROSE

The former Oxford United, Northampton Town and Aldershot man joined Portsmouth in the last transfer window after helping both the U's and Cobblers to promotion from League Two last season.

ACROSS THE MIDDLE

CARL BAKER

The 33-year-old won promotion with MK Dons and was a regular in the side that was relegated from the Championship last season. He joined Pompey in July on a two-year deal.

MICHAEL DOYLE

The Portsmouth captain, Doyle has one Republic of Ireland cap to his name which he won in 2006. He made over 200 appearances for Sheffield United before joining Pompey in 2015.

MILAN LALKOVIC

After coming through the ranks at Chelsea, Lalkovic had spells with

Barnsley and Walsall, as well as a season with Czech side Mlada Boleslav, before joining Portsmouth in the summer after leaving the Saddlers.

GARY ROBERTS

The 32-year-old joined Portsmouth in the summer of 2015 from Chesterfield. The winger has played in all three tiers of the EFL, representing the likes of Ipswich and Huddersfield Town, since winning promotion from the Conference with Accrington ten years ago.

KYLE BENNETT

Bennett left Doncaster and joined Pompey in the summer of 2015 after four years with Rovers. His other former sides include Crawley and Bury.

UP FRONT

CONNOR CHAPLIN

The 19-year-old came through the youth system at Portsmouth and is now a regular in the first team, having netted 11 goals last season.

CURTIS MAIN

The former Middlesbrough, Doncaster and Oldham striker joined Portsmouth in the summer from Donny. He made his senior debut at the age of 15 for Darlington.

NOEL HUNT

A former Premier League striker with Reading, the 32-year-old joined after a spell with Southend. He has also played for Leeds and Ipswich.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

WITH ROY GREGORY

Roy Gregory, a Pompey supporter of 53 years and chairman of the Portsmouth FC Supporters' Club, gives us his thoughts on what lies in store for his team this season in Sky Bet League Two and this afternoon on their visit to Kenilworth Road...

► THE SEASON AHEAD

Since your dramatic fall from the Premier League, there's been a level of expectation for you to be promoted from this division for a couple of seasons. Why is this your year?

We have spent two years building a team to get us out of this league, after missing out in play-offs last year I feel we have strengthened the squad and are better equipped to face the challenge.

Pompey's form has been up and down so far this season, but you're still very much within touching distance of the automatic promotion spots. What do you put this down to? We have changed the way we play. Away from home last season, we tended to dominate the ball for long periods, often scoring on the break. We then struggled to break teams down at Fratton Park. We now press much harder at home, but are susceptible to concede.

Which of Paul Cook's summer signings have you been most impressed with so far?

The goalkeeper, David Forde, came from Millwall on a season-long loan and he offers greater confidence catching crosses and organising his defence, an area that cost us last season. Also, Carl Baker adds experience, speed and guile – and he's contributed half-a-dozen goals so far this season already, which is great for an attacking midfielder.

Which player were you most disappointed to see leave in the summer?

Ben Davies, a classy attacking right-back who signed for newly-promoted Grimsby. He's not yet been replaced.

There must be a couple you are really pleased you kept hold of. Who were you most pleased to see stay?

Definitely teenage striker Conor Chaplin – a homegrown talent who I feel will go far in the future... hopefully with Pompey!

► SEASONS PAST...

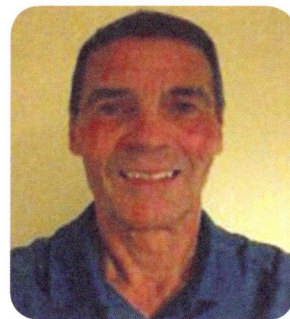
Tell us about you. Why do you support Portsmouth? Where did it all begin? What was your first game? What do you remember about it?

If you live in Hampshire there is only one team – Pompey! My first game was against Southampton in 1963, which we won 2-0 with goals from Ron Saunders and Brian Lewis. The atmosphere at a packed Fratton Park was electric and I've been hooked from that day on.

What do you love most about Fratton Park?

It is an old ground steeped with history and holds great memories of bygone years. When rocking, the atmosphere is electric, often acting as a 12th man which can be intimidating to the opposition and is probably unequalled for a ground that size.

Who's your favourite Portsmouth player of all time?



There have been far too many over the seasons to mention them all, but most recently I would say Nwankwo Kanu. He had everything...other than speed!

What has been your favourite season following Portsmouth?

There have been many: winning promotion to Premiership, winning the FA Cup. But for me, 'The Great Escape' of the 2005/06 season to

keep us in top-flight against all the odds was fantastic. It was a complete emotional rollercoaster, of which the Pompey crowd played a big part.

If you could invite five former Pompey players and managers to a dinner party, who would they be?

Former managers Jim Smith and Harry Redknapp, along with ex-players David James, Micky Quinn and Paul Merson.

► LUTON AND PORTSMOUTH...

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

Probably the 2-0 win at Fratton Park in 2015. We scored two goals, but had to defend gallantly to keep a strong Luton side from scoring.

What do you expect from today's game? What's your prediction? Are you looking forward to sitting in the away end?

Hope to get three points, with a Pompey win by a one-goal margin. It should be a great atmosphere!

Who is going to make the difference in Portsmouth's promotion push this season?

Our winger Gary Roberts, who has seven goals to his name already this term.

► QUICK-FIRE:

Terrace or seats? Terrace

Who are your rivals? Southampton

Predict your player of the season? Christian Burgess

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

Kanu, he would unlock defences with ease

Most treasured Pompey piece of memorabilia?

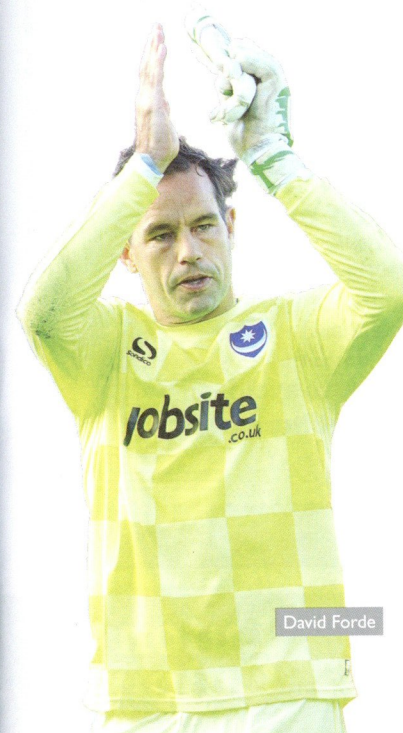
FA Cup final Programme

What league will Portsmouth be in next season?

League One

Who will win promotion from League Two this season?

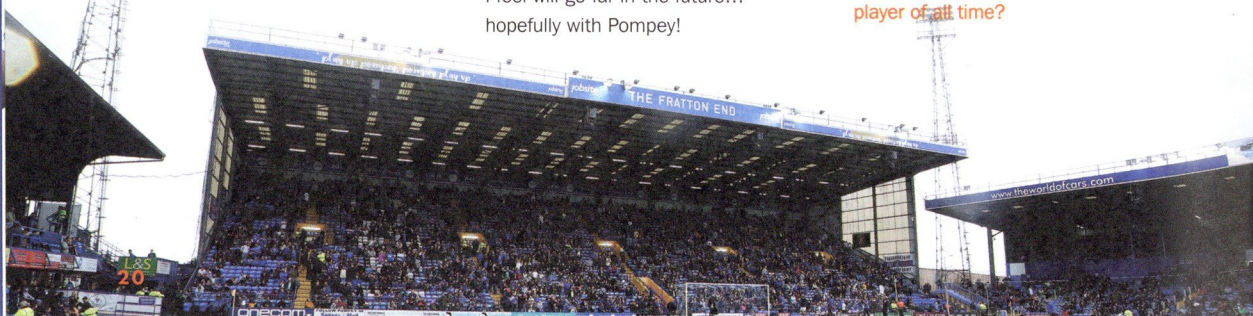
Automatic Plymouth, Doncaster and, Portsmouth. Luton via play-offs



David Forde



Gary Roberts



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[LEIGH EDWARDS ON PORTSMOUTH]

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES TEN BIG-NAME PORTSMOUTH PLAYERS NOT USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLUB

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JOHN ATYEO

Forward John Atyeo was capped six times by England after leaving Portsmouth. Initially with Westbury United, he played as an amateur in Portsmouth's 3-3 draw at home to Charlton Athletic in November 1950. He also appeared in Pompey's 1-1 draw with Arsenal four months later. Moving to Bristol City in June 1951, he was ever-present and top scorer in their 1954-55 Third Division (South) title triumph and also a key figure in their 1964-65 promotion success. He set City's goalscoring and appearance records before hanging up his boots in May 1966. Later a maths teacher at a Warminster school, he died in June 1993.

DEREK DOUGAN

Northern Ireland international striker Derek Dougan gained the first of his 43 caps while at Portsmouth. Initially with Distillery, he joined Pompey in August 1957 and scored nine times in 33 League games prior to joining Blackburn Rovers in March 1959. 'The Doog' was an FA Cup finalist in 1960, then had spells with Aston Villa, Peterborough United and Leicester City before moving to Wolves in March 1967. He became chairman of the PFA and was a UEFA Cup finalist in 1972, then helped win the League Cup in 1974. Later Kettering Town's player-boss, he rejoined Wolves as chief executive. He died in June 2007.



GEORGE GRAHAM

Scotland international George Graham was capped 13 times before joining Portsmouth. Initially with Aston Villa, he was a League Cup finalist in 1963 and joined Chelsea in July 1964. He helped win the League Cup in 1965 and moved to Arsenal in September 1966. Featuring in two League Cup finals, the 1970 Fairs Cup triumph, 1970-71 'Double' success and 1972 FA Cup final, he joined Manchester United in December 1972. Moving to Pompey in exchange for Ron Davies in November 1974, he netted five goals in 61 League games, then played for Crystal Palace before managerial success with Millwall, Arsenal, Leeds and Spurs.



CHRIS LAWLER

Former England international right-back Chris Lawler helped Portsmouth beat top-flight Birmingham City in the 1975-76 FA Cup third round. Signing professional for Liverpool in October 1960, he starred as Bill Shankly's side won the League Championship three times, the FA Cup in 1965 and UEFA Cup in 1973. He was also an FA Cup finalist in 1971 and gained four caps before reuniting with Ian St John at Fratton Park in October 1975. Making 36 League appearances for Pompey, he joined Stockport County in August 1977, then played for Bangor City. He later rejoined Liverpool as a coach and assisted Larry Lloyd at Wigan.



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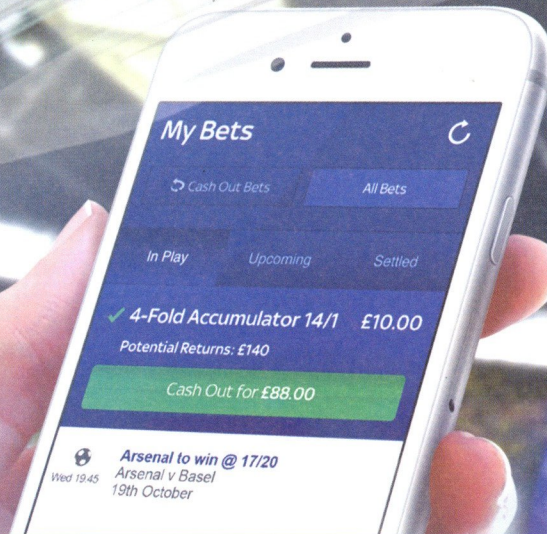
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[LEIGH EDWARDS ON PORTSMOUTH]



GERRY FRANCIS

Ex-England international midfielder Gerry Francis briefly played for Portsmouth in 1984-85. He began with QPR, starring as they won promotion in 1972-73 and were League Championship runners-up in 1975-76. He became captain of club and country, joining Crystal Palace in July 1979, then QPR again before spells at Coventry City, Exeter City, Cardiff City and Swansea City. Moving to Pompey in November 1984, he played three League games, joining Bristol Rovers in September 1985. He returned to Rovers as manager, plotting their 1989-90 Third Division title triumph, then managed QPR, Spurs and Rovers again.

MICK CHANNON



Former England international striker Mick Channon was capped 46 times before joining Portsmouth. He was Southampton's top scorer seven times and ever-present as they won the FA Cup in 1976, moving to Manchester City for £300,000 in July 1977. Rejoining Saints for £200,000 in September 1979, he set their goalscoring record, then had brief spells at Newcastle United and Bristol Rovers before joining Norwich City in December 1982. He starred in their 1985 League Cup final triumph and reunited with Alan Ball at Pompey in August 1985. Netting six goals in 34 League games, he is now a successful racehorse trainer.

DAVE BEASANT

Ex-England international goalkeeper Dave Beasant had two spells with Portsmouth in 2001-02. Initially with Edgware, he joined Wimbledon in August 1979 and was ever-present throughout their meteoric rise. He skippered their 1988 FA Cup success, saving a penalty in the Wembley final, moving to Newcastle United for £850,000 in June 1988. Later with Chelsea, Southampton and Nottingham Forest, he joined Pompey in August 2001. He returned from a period at Spurs to make 27 League appearances overall prior to joining Bradford City in September 2002, then Wigan and Brighton, becoming a goalkeeping coach.

LEE SHARPE

Ex-England international winger Lee Sharpe had a loan spell at Portsmouth in 2000-01. A former Torquay United trainee, he featured as they reached the Fourth Division play-off final in 1987-88 and joined Manchester United in May 1988. He helped win the ECWC in 1991, the League Cup in 1992 and Premier League title on three occasions. Capped eight times, he moved to Leeds United for £4,500,000 in August 1996, then Bradford City. He was loaned to Pompey in February 2001, making 17 League appearances while at Fratton Park. Later with Exeter City, he has become a TV football pundit and after-dinner speaker.

TEDDY SHERINGHAM



Ex-England international striker Teddy Sheringham played for Portsmouth during the 2003-04 campaign. Initially with Millwall, he was leading marksman as they won the Second Division title in 1987-88 and reached the Second Division play-offs in 1990-91. He joined Nottingham Forest for £2,000,000 in July 1991, then moved to Spurs for a similar fee in August 1992 and Manchester United for £3,500,000 in July 1997. Amassing numerous honours, he later played for Spurs again before joining Pompey in July 2003. He scored nine times in 32 Premier League games, moving to West Ham in July 2004, then Colchester United.

ANDY COLE

Former England international striker Andy Cole was capped 15 times before joining Portsmouth. He began with Arsenal and joined Bristol City in March 1992. Top scorer in 1992-93, he was sold to Newcastle for £1,750,000 in March 1993. He joined Manchester United for a record £7,000,000 in January 1995 and amassed numerous honours prior to joining Blackburn Rovers in December 2001. A League Cup winner that season, he played for Fulham and Manchester City, moving to Pompey in August 2006. Scoring three goals in 18 Premier League games, he later had spells with Sunderland, Burnley and Nottingham Forest.

PICTURE THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN **ROGER WASH** DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES



Syd Owen heads clear during the Town's 0-0 draw at Fratton Park, Portsmouth in November 1955 watched by Jim Pemberton (centre) and Wally Shanks. The top-flight clash was witnessed by a crowd of 27,758 – the highest for a fixture between the sides



Alan Garner (6) heads home the Town's second goal against Portsmouth

AS OTHERS SAW US

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

LUTON TOWN 3 PORTSMOUTH 3 | 15TH SEPTEMBER 1973

Luton manager Harry Haslam was probably pleased to say goodbye to season 1972/73. After his players had promised so much we had ended up with nothing due, in the main, to an appalling run of injuries which affected the side at vital times.

With everyone now fit only two signings were made by Haslam over the summer of 1973; Peter Cruse on a free transfer from Arsenal and Tom Finney from Crusaders for the sum of £13,000 – and it was the former who won a first-team call-up for the opening game at Nottingham Forest.

A fair number of Luton supporters made their way up the M1 spurred on by the normal close season hype, but they were rewarded with a shocking display as Forest won 4-0 without needing to break sweat.

Losing we could accept, but the performance was lacking in

enthusiasm and as we trudged away from Nottingham talk was not of promotion from Division Two (now the Championship), but of a long, hard winter ahead.

Although Harry Haslam gave the outside impression of being everyone's favourite uncle, he could be a tyrant if the situation dictated and it would have been interesting to be a fly on the wall in the dressing room afterwards and to be present at the training ground over the next week.

Only 7,231 turned up at Kenilworth Road to see the visit of Carlisle the

following Saturday, but whatever had been said by Haslam seemed to have worked as the players put on an amazing display going in at the interval 6-0 up! Tom Finney, replacing Cruse in the forward line, became an instant hero by netting two against a side we had never beaten before.

Finney scored again in the 3-1 victory at Bristol City and was on target as we returned to Nottingham for a midweek game against newly-promoted County and fought hard for a point in a 1-1 draw.

By now the press were beginning to take notice and the combination of

Tom Finney strikes again

by PHILIP OSBORNE

Luton 3 Portsmouth 3

leave things as they were," Haslam explained.

TOM FINNEY reaffirmed his rich promise by salvaging a point for Luton with his fifth goal in four games. But manager Harry Haslam revealed afterwards that his brilliant Irish discovery was in danger of being withdrawn before his 75th-minute equaliser. "He had faded badly and we were struggling. If anyone had come off it would have been Finney. But I decided to

Portsmouth still seeking their first win could justifiably claim that once again their reward did not match their efforts. Apart from two brief spells in either half they were in command, with the abrasive Bobby Kellard dominating the midfield. And it was learned afterwards

that 'keeper Ron Tilsed had broken his right arm five minutes before the Finney equaliser but bravely stayed on. The big consolation for Portsmouth were signs that their costly close-season buys look like justifying their fees. Ron Davies headed his first League goal for his new club and Peter Mariello, close-dribbling down both flanks, was a constant menace.

Phil Roberts also produced a sound show, blocking Luton's left flank for most of the game. Kellard shot Pompey into a 17th-minute lead, but Bobby Thomson equalised in the 3th minute.

Two minutes later Luton went ahead when Alan Garner headed in a John Aston corner, and Portsmouth deservedly drew level in the 56th minute – after a remarkable scene involving Kellard and skipper Alan Stephenson.



a goal a game and an irresistible name earmarked Tom Finney for closer scrutiny.

Luton supporters also turned out in numbers for the visit of Portsmouth to Kenilworth Road in the next game, pushing the attendance up to 11,552.

Pompey had not started the season particularly well despite some big money buys, with two draws and two defeats the reward for a loyal crowd of supporters that was still averaging 20,000 for home games. We welcomed back old boys Ron Davies, by then nearing the end of a great career, and Brian Lewis, who had been a Kenilworth Road favourite as the Town took Division Three (now League One) by storm in 1968/69.

The Hatters were quickest out of the blocks but it was Pompey who took the lead in the 17th minute when the experience Bobby Kellard curled a shot past Graham Horn in the Luton goal.

EXQUISITE

We stormed back, however, and levelled on 33 minutes when skipper and full-back Bobby Thomson hit a rare and exquisite volley, surprising both the Portsmouth defence and the Luton faithful.

We went in front when Alan Garner headed home a Jim Ryan corner a couple of minutes later, and the players went in at half-time feeling that the storm had been weathered.

Unfortunately, Garner gifted an equaliser to Pompey early in the second period when he handled in the area with ex-Hatter Lewis scoring from the spot. Disaster followed when Davies, beating Luton centre-half John Faulkner for just about the only time that afternoon, headed Pompey in front and it then took an amazing goal-line diving header from defender Don Shanks to prevent the scoreline having an embarrassing, and unfair, look to it.

[ROGER WASH]

That 'save' gave Luton hope and as Portsmouth sat back to protect their lead it was left to that man Finney who, anxious to maintain his scoring run, stabbed home the Town's third goal after 75 minutes.

The Town pressed for the winner and attempted to put pressure on the injured Pompey goalkeeper Ron Tilsed (it was later revealed that he had played the last

20 minutes with a broken arm), but a goal would not come so both sides had to settle for a point.

Haslam later admitted that he was about to bring off Finney shortly before he equalised as he thought the player had faded badly, and was struggling.

"We stormed back"

Reg Betts in the Portsmouth 'News' thought Luton could have scored three goals in the opening five minutes but that a draw was the right result! He also thought that the match was over-competitive and needed firmer control by the referee.

The national press majored on Finney with the Sunday Mirror correspondent reckoning he was the bargain of the season compared to the four players Pompey had signed for £200,000.

Philip Osborne in the Sunday Express said much the same and called Finney a 'brilliant Irish discovery'.

FINNEY FOILS THE POMPEY BATTLERS

BY REG BETTS

LUTON 3, POMPEY 3

Pompey still seek their first League win — after sharing six goals at Luton in a hectic struggle, which had sufficient goalmouth drama to pack half a dozen matches — and two bookings.

For Ron Davies and Brian Graham Horn, Luton's In the 64th minute Pompey at

THE GOALS

17min. . . KELLARD
33min. . . Thomson
35min. . . Garner
56min. LEWIS (pen.)
64min. . . DAVIES
75min. . . Finney

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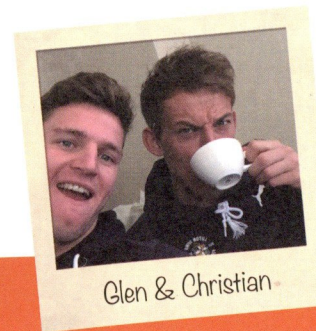


*IRI data MAT 26.03.16



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HATTERS HOTEL ROOM=MATES



Glen & Christian

NAMES: GLEN REA & CHRISTIAN WALTON | **POSITION:** DEFENDER OR MIDFIELDER/NEAREST THE DOOR, GOALKEEPER/WINDOW | **AGES:** 22 & 21

How long have you known each other?

CW: Since I first signed at Brighton at 17, so it'll be four years in February.

GR: Literally the first day he was there, I took him under my wing.

When did you first room together?

CW: Bristol City away in the Brighton Under-21s. It was probably March 2013.

GR: How do you remember that?!

CW: I've got a good memory!

What's the best thing about rooming together?

GR: There's never an awkward silence, we're just good pals.

CW: We live together as well, so it's just easy.

What's your roomie's worst habit?

CW: Putting the air con on all the time. The room's got to be freezing cold.

GR: He snores, and I try to wake him up by throwing the pillow at him, but it doesn't normally work.

Who makes the tea?

GR: In the hotel we don't often drink it, but we share the tea-making duties at home.

First up in the morning?

CW: Me – I'm sharp. Not early, just right on my alarm I get straight up sharpish.

GR: He's the organiser in our relationship. Gets me up.

Who decides when to turn the light out at night?

CW: That's me too. About quarter-past ten, half-ten.

Sit on your phone for a bit.

GR: And we can't have any lights on. Even the TV standby light annoys us. I had to put my jumper at the bottom of the door recently to stop the light coming in from the corridor.

Who's the tidiest?

GR: Him. He's so organised to be fair. I'm not dirty though.

CW: I'm just average. Consistent.

Unpack or live out of your bag?

CW: I unpack my tracksuit ready for the next day, get clean boxers out and socks. All folded up so I know it's all there.

GR: I leave it in the bag and just get it out in the morning.

Who takes the longest to get ready?

CW: Probably equal timing. I'll always get in the shower first.

GR: He puts a bit of grease on his barnet and that holds us up a bit. I'm just au naturel.

What's most likely to be on the TV?

BOTH: Football!

CW: On a Friday night it'll be the live game.

GR: Or if there's no football, we'll get some on Sky Go.

CW: It'll be 'I'm a Celebrity' now though.

Games console or TV?

CW: TV. There's a few of the lads who bring games consoles, but we don't.

Any other in-room activities?

CW: I always bring my speaker and we'll have a tune on.

GR: He starts dancing round the room!

Who would you rather room with?

BOTH: No-one. We're happy with each other!

GR: Although you did pie me off at Exeter.

CW: I like my own room, if I can.

GR: I went with Sheez. He's my boy as well.

Who would you least like to room with?

CW: People slate Mulls but I think that'd be quite entertaining.

GR: I just don't like snorers, so whoever snores.

CW: But you room with me...

GR: Yeah, but I can put up with that.

Who is most likely to gatecrash your room?

CW: No-one now the season has started, but pre-season there was a few culprits.

GR: Mulls and Hylts are the jokers.

And who do you lock the door to?

GR: Hylts and Mulls, just for their track record.

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

CW: Four-and-a-half, he's just got to get rid of the morning breath!

(GR laughs uncontrollably!)

CW: What? I can't handle your morning breath.

GR: And I can't handle your snoring! Four-and-a-half for him as well.

TOWN 1 : ACCRINGTON 0

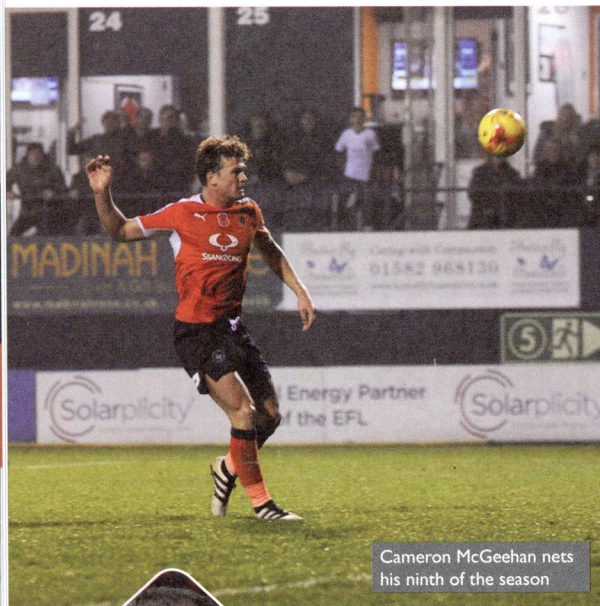


SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER | KENILWORTH ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 8,008 | AWAY: 101

TOWN GOAL: MCGEEHAN 75

TOWN: WALTON, JUSTIN, CUTHBERT, REA, SHEEHAN, LEE (MULLINS 90+2), MCGEEHAN, COOK, GILLIEAD (SMITH 87), HYLTON, MARRIOTT (VASSELL 66). **SUBS NOT USED:** O'DONNELL, GRAY, MACKAIL-SMITH, KING (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** COOK, MCGEEHAN

STANLEY: : PARISH, PEARSON, HUGHES, BECKLES, CLARKE, BROWN, GORNELL, MCCONVILLE, BOCO, LACEY (TAYLOR-FLETCHER 82), CONNEELY. **SUBS NOT USED:** DAVIES, HEWITT, OGLE, SKYES, HERY, CHAPMAN (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** PARISH, CLARK.



Cameron McGeehan nets his ninth of the season



JONES: I am proud to be manager of my club today. I am really proud of how we kept playing

"It shows how far we have come. Accrington came here last season and won 2-0 and I don't think we believed we could beat teams in the top three or four then, but this result is a massive one.

"They [Accrington] sat in and they weren't their usual self, for what they normally play. Again, another team change for us.

"It wasn't fluent in the first half, the crowd started getting a bit edgy. But they stayed with us, fair play to them and we gave them a second half performance and it should have been a lot more.

"I am proud to be manager of my club today. I am really proud of how we kept playing, we didn't launch it, we don't go how other teams go. We stuck to our principles and showed a level of character that was absolutely brilliant.

"I'd like to single out two players, one is Scott Cuthbert. His first half performance was as bad as I've seen, but second half he led and he was my captain and I am proud of him.

"Second is Christian Walton who put in a match winning save right at the end, and that's why he is the best keeper in this league bar none."



STORY OF THE MATCH:

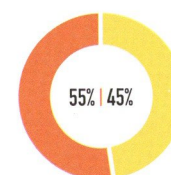
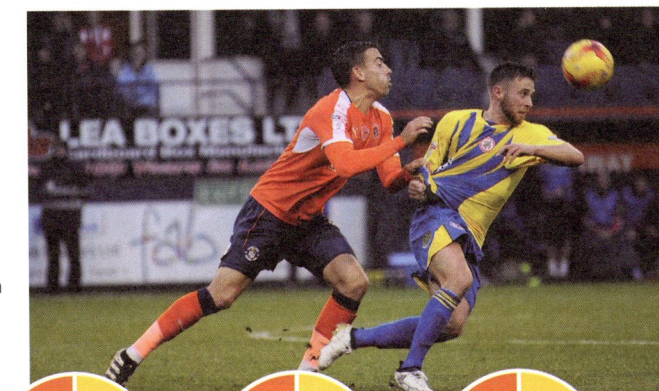
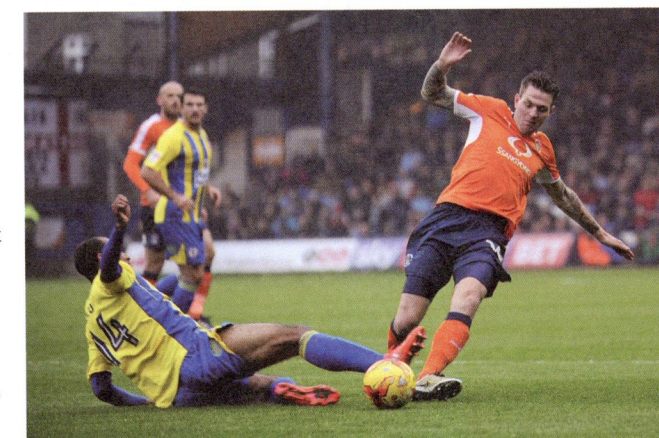
Cameron McGeehan struck his ninth goal of the season late on to sink Accrington Stanley on an afternoon of patience and persistence at Kenilworth Road, making it eight games unbeaten in the league for Nathan Jones' side.

The midfielder's 75th-minute strike took him back to within one of top scorer Danny Hylton, whose brace at Exeter in the FA Cup gave the striker some breathing space between himself and the 21-year-old.

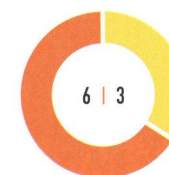
It was an unusual set-up from John Coleman's side, who usually play open, attacking football, instead opting for a more defensive outlook, as they looked to frustrate the Hatters.

Town controlled the game for long periods, but were unable to beat the inspired Elliott Parish in the visitors' net until the final quarter-of-an-hour.

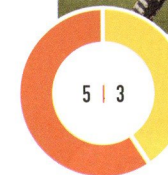
Substitute Isaac Vassell latched onto a knock-down from Hylton and played the ball wide to Jordan Cook, waiting on the right edge of the penalty area. Cook – who would soon be sent off for two yellow cards in quick succession – delivered a first time cross which was met by McGeehan eight yards from goal, and his strike looped into the top left corner to secure the win for Jones' team.



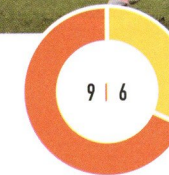
POSSESSION



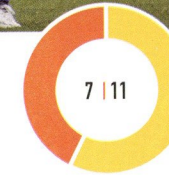
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SHOTS WIDE



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[CAMERON MCGEEHAN ON ACCRINGTON]

MCGEEHAN MARKS REMEMBRANCE WITH A WINNER

Notching his ninth of the season against Accrington Stanley meant Cameron McGeehan was only a goal behind Danny Hylton in the Hatters' top scorers' chart this season, but on the day of remembrance, the 21-year-old said football took a backseat.

The Hatters and Accrington paid their respects with a minute's silence and the playing of The Last Post before kick-off. McGeehan had also been at Luton General Cemetery two days earlier on behalf of the club to place a wreath on the war memorial there.

It was there he learned about the seven Luton Town players who had lost their lives fighting in World Wars One and Two.

Ernest Dodd, Frank Gilder, Arthur Wileman, Charles Clark, Charles Ladd, James Gillespie and Joe Coen were killed in action, something McGeehan was touched by, as he marked the match against Accrington at Kenilworth Road with a winner in the 75th minute.

When he scored, he ran in front of the Kenilworth Road Stand, kissing the poppy on his shirt.

He said: "I kissed the poppy just to show how much it means to us. It was lovely to score, especially on a day like today where football took a back step and it was about remembering the people that fell for us during the war. It was special to score on a day like today."

PERSPECTIVE

"I think as always Luton have been a credit to themselves. You hear stories about seven Luton Town players who fell during the war and that touches you. That could have been any one of us. But by the grace of God we are here, it makes you think about things and puts it into perspective."

The former Norwich City midfielder moved back to within a goal of leading scorer Hylton with his strike against John Coleman's side, which McGeehan says helps fuel a friendly rivalry between himself and the ex-Oxford United striker.

It not only helps challenge the two of them to go one better than the other, but McGeehan thinks the fact they talk to each other about the pressures of scoring goals helps lift any weight on their shoulders.



It was special to score
on a day like today.

"Me and Hylts talk about it a lot," he added. "It's a tough thing to do, to keep scoring and to try and be consistent with it. But I am doing well with it and I have just got to keep going at the moment."

"It's healthy to talk about it, to talk about how you're really feeling when it comes to it, because there's a lot of pressure. People expect you to score every week, so if you don't score people say 'He's not playing very well' – and Hylts is a striker which means there is even more pressure!"

"It's strength of mind and I have just got to keep going with it and keep pushing Hylts every week."

"He said to me today, 'Any chance you can give me a breather?', because he keeps scoring and I keep catching him up. It's good to have that little fun rivalry."

MORECAMBE 0 : TOWN 2



SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER | THE GLOBE ARENA | ATTENDANCE: 1,507 | AWAY 520

MORECAMBE: ROCHE, MCGOWAN, EDWARDS, WINNARD, MURPHY (TURNER 71), MOLYNEUX, ELLISON (MULLIN 71), WHITMORE, JENNINGS, STOCKTON (MASSANKA 82), ROSE. **SUBS NOT USED:** NIZIC, WAKEFIELD, CONLAN, DUNN. | **YELLOW CARD:** ROSE | **RED CARD:** WHITMORE

TOWN: WALTON, JUSTIN, MULLINS, REA, SHEEHAN, LEE, MCGEEHAN, MPANZU (SMITH 83), GILLIEAD (GRAY 86), VASSELL (MARRIOTT 80), HYLTON. **SUBS NOT USED:** O'DONNELL, MACKAIL-SMITH, MCQUOID, KING (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** SMITH, HYLTON



STORY OF THE MATCH:

On a filthy day by the Lancashire coast, Danny Hylton hit his 11th goal of the season and Isaac Vassell his first – and his debut goal in professional football – to extend the Town's unbeaten run in the league to nine matches.

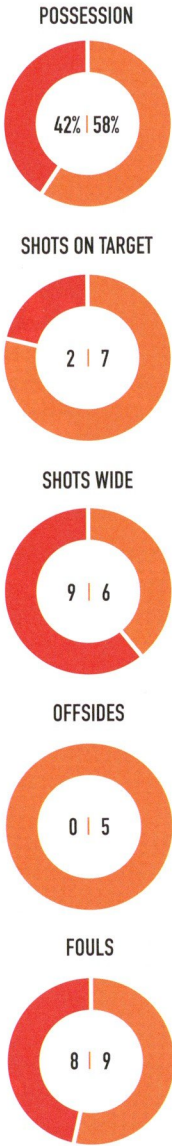
Roared on by 520 travelling fans, many who didn't make it to the Globe Arena until well after kick-off following traffic problems on the M6, the Hatters dominated their hosts to leapfrog Portsmouth, who could only draw with Cheltenham, into fourth spot.

There was a third successive clean sheet in the league to please manager Nathan Jones, who was without captain Scott Cuthbert, through

illness, and midfielder Jordan Cook, who was suspended.

The Town set off at a blistering pace and dominated the Shrimps from the first whistle, home keeper Barry Roche denying Hylton several times before he finally beat him with a curling shot from outside the area in the 26th minute.

Vassell, who had come into the side for Jack Marriott to make his second league start for the Town, had the much simpler task of heading in from close range on the hour, after James Justin's shot had proved too hot for Roche to hold as the Hatters tore through Morecambe almost at will.



Isaac Vassell nets the second goal



JONES:
Today was an outstanding away performance



"I think it was a complete performance today – as good as I have had since I became a manager in terms of complete, and I thought were excellent.

"We defended fantastically well. We had a tireless work rate. We had a real cutting edge about us. The only thing that was lacking was a ruthless streak because we should have scored more.

"We took it to them, we moved it quickly and I thought we were excellent. I can wax lyrical about a lot of stuff, but today was an outstanding away performance.

"Isaac's performance merited something today, and I'm glad he's got off the mark because it'll give him a little lift. He was excellent today. He's an animal up there with his pace and his power. He leads the line. When Jack and Danny play up there together, Danny is the sole focal point and Jack is the one who gets off the back of people.

"With both of them up there, we've got two focal points so they both can work together. It took a little bit of the onus off Danny and I thought he was excellent."

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TRADEMARK HYLTON AFTERNOON

ANOTHER GOAL AND ANOTHER YELLOW FOR DANNY AT MORECAMBE

After Cameron McGeehan moved back to within a goal of him at the top of the Town scoring charts the previous week, Danny Hylton turned in his usual all-action performance at Morecambe on Saturday to net his 11th of the season – and sixth in his last seven matches.

The 27-year-old was at the heart of every Hatters attack, netting an exquisite right-footed curler from outside the box in the 26th minute – then collecting what is equally becoming a trademark, his eighth yellow card of the campaign, in injury-time.

Boss Nathan Jones was unhappy and told him so on the pitch, but was equally passionate in talking about his hitman once again as “the best striker in the league”.

Hylton couldn't describe his goal, saying: “You know what, you're asking me, and I can't really remember it. I can't remember the build-up to it. I just remember having it on the left -side of the box, shooting and it going in. I honestly can't remember much more about it.”

The gaffer could. “It was a good bit of movement before it, we worked it into good areas on a few occasions and it fell to Danny, and it's a fantastic strike,” said Jones.

“It was the only way we were going to score because their keeper was in inspired form in the first half, so to beat him from that distance was a real good strike.”

On the yellow, for a foul on Morecambe left-back James Jennings as he slid in to stop him playing it down the line midway inside the hosts' half, Hylton said: “I've tried to cut out the silly ones and not get involved, and I don't think I did.

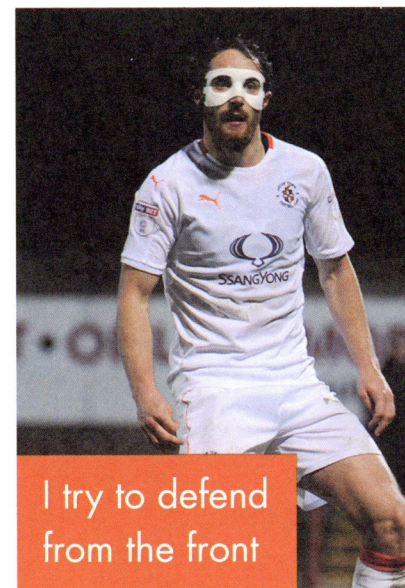
“Maybe there is a case to say ‘Don't try and tackle the lad in the 93rd minute when we're 2-0 up’. But I don't know...the defender had the ball. They were attacking, I tried to tackle him and I catch him a little bit.

“I probably should have just let him attack, but it but I don't want to look like I'm lazy or not giving effort for my team. I try to defend from the front.”

As did Vassell, who netted his first goal in professional football for the Town's second, nodding in from almost on the line after Morecambe keeper Barry Roche pushed James Justin's shot up onto the bar.

“Credit to Vassy,” said Hylton. “As the gaffer said, he's an animal. He's so strong, so quick, so powerful. You could see today that at times, he just looks like he can run away from people with ease.

“We found out we were playing together on Thursday and said to



I try to defend
from the front

each other, ‘Listen, if we run around and work hard, get ready for a fight, get ready for a battle, the rest will come’. We did that today.

“It's nice to score a shot from outside the area, but that doesn't count any more than a two-yard or a one-yard tap-in. Sometimes they are the better ones. It's a real striker's instinct to react to the goalie's save, and he got his reward.”

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[ISAAC VASSELL ON MORECAMBE]

ISAAC'S ANIMAL MAGIC SHOW!

VASSELL OFF THE MARK WITH FIRST GOAL AS A PRO

Making only his second league start of the season, Isaac Vassell – the man manager Nathan Jones describes as “an animal” – scored his first goal in professional football in the 2-0 win over Morecambe on Saturday.

After Danny Hylton had given Town the lead after 26 minutes, Vassell doubled it in the second half, heading in from a yard out after Shrimps keeper Barry Roche could only deflect James Justin's shot onto the crossbar.

Unsurprisingly, the 22-year-old was overjoyed with his goal – his first since joining the Hatters in the summer.

He said: “I am delighted to get my first goal for the club, hopefully there will be more to come! I couldn't quite believe it.

“James Justin fired it at the keeper and it was too hot to handle, the keeper has pushed it onto the crossbar and I have tapped it in from there.

“The other week I said I would take any goal and it just fell to me at the right time. I know Cameron was sniffing for the goal just behind me, I think he nearly pushed me in the goal!”

It highlights the remarkable rebirth of Vassell in the professional game, who was playing for National League South side Truro City last season.



The forward began his career at Plymouth Argyle before being released in 2014, but was brought to the Hatters' attention by chief recruitment officer Mick Harford.

“No offence to Truro or anything like that, it's just a different standard of football,” Vassell said. “When I come to Luton, I know I am focussed every day. Not to say I wasn't focused at Truro, it's just that you don't have to worry about it all that much because you are only training once or twice a week.”

Playing for Town is something Vassell is loving at the moment and being a

part of a side pushing for promotion is a great place to learn, especially from Danny Hylton.

Vassell continued: “He is a great role model to have to look at his game and kind of mould yourself around it. Eleven goals already is brilliant.

“We have had a few draws but we have still got that winning feeling about us. We go into games with confidence that we are going to win the games. We never go into games with any negative force. We go into the game thinking we are going to win this game comfortably.”

His performance on Saturday earned a lot plaudits, particularly from his manager, who referred to his striker as an “animal.”

Vassell said: “It's always good to hear. My pace and my power are the main parts of my game really and it is good to see that is coming across to the gaffer.

“You can't take it in too much though. You don't want to get ahead of yourself. If I get a compliment I try and take it on board and try and make the gaffer say more to me.”

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[KEVIN HARPER]

TRAVELLER'S TALES



HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER ENJOYS SEEING THE TOWN'S WIN AT MORECAMBE'S GLOBE ARENA. WELL, MOST OF IT ANYWAY AFTER THE SUPPORTERS' COACHES WERE DELAYED ON THE M6...

THE JOURNEY

7.30am – After an unwanted 6.30am alarm and a quick cup of coffee it was time to leave the house to head off for the coach to Morecambe.

8.38 – After getting on the coach at Ampthill we've gone through the villages to Luton. Two coaches with everyone on and off we go on the long journey!

11.20 – Eeek. We've got a problem! After a 30 minute stop at Norton Canes we're back on the M6 only to hit the mother of all traffic jams at Stoke. Quick search of twitter suggests there has been a diesel leak a few miles up. Not good.

12.30pm – Gone next to nowhere for over an hour. Quickly the prospect of missing kick off is growing.

1.35 – Finally on the move again. Sat nav suggests an ETA of 3.25pm. Definitely not good.

3.00 – Game about to begin and we're still 25 minutes away. Disaster! Gives me a very rare opportunity to sample Simon Pitts' commentary on the phone until we get there.

THE MATCH

3.26 – We pull up at the Globe Arena. Gary Sweet had organised for us all to receive a hot drink voucher as we got off but I skipped that to get in quicker. Literally as I go through the turnstiles there is a huge cheer. Was too close for it to be a Morecambe cheer. I get in to find it isn't. Luton score. Danny Hylton – 1-0!

3.30 – Nearly a second immediately! Hylton shoots from outside the area but the keeper palms it away.

3.39 – Morecambe nearly level it up but Walton makes a similar save to the one the Morecambe keeper made earlier. Solid stuff from our stopper.

3.46 – Half-time. We lead 1-0. Morecambe had a few glimpses just before HT but we kept them out. Time to get some food!

4.02 – Fed and watered and it is back into the stands for the second half. Isaac Vassell immediately does good work down the left but nobody gets on the cross.

4.17 – Town have looked really good in the second half and a deserved second goal arrives. Justin thumps a shot from

the right. The keeper pushes it onto the bar and Vassell sprints in to nod home for his first Town goal. Brilliant for him.

4.42 – We are seeing this out nicely and could have scored again through Hylton or Vassell. Morecambe go down to ten men. The number 16 flies into a horror tackle on McGeehan, amazingly plays on and clatters Lee halfway up his leg. Not sure which he was sent off for but off he goes. Could've had two reds!

4.52 – Full-time. Completely deserved win, one of the best I've seen from us for a while. Get in!

MAN OF THE MATCH

5.10 – Back on the coach where the Andy Murray tennis match is getting lots of attention but it is man of the match time. Vassell gets my vote and the overall one. He was a menace throughout and got a deserved goal. Excellent stuff.

SUMMARY

10.35 – That was an eventful day! Thankfully the journey home was much better than the one there. The hour of the game I saw we were excellent and now time to catch what I missed on the highlights! What a day!



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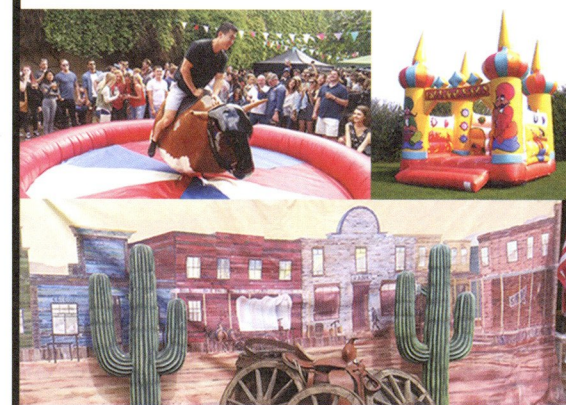
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CLUB HISTORIAN **ROGER WASH** DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

Not the best of conditions for a game of football as the Town take on Portsmouth at Kenilworth Road in February 1994. Ceri Hughes, who was on the scoresheet in the 4-1 win for the Hatters, goes for goal.



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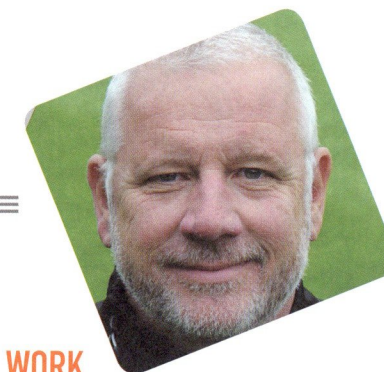
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[SIMON PARSELL]

TRICK OR TREATMENT

A HUMOROUS INSIGHT TO PHYSIO SIMON PARSELL'S WORK



You just cannot beat a night game at Kenilworth Road. There is just something about the atmosphere and tonight we entertain Portsmouth, fancied for promotion, in what should be a cracking game. So, as they say Lights, Camera and Action.

Talking of going into action, I was enjoying a cup of tea at Exeter when I was summoned to see Johnny Mullins. Now there's bad luck and extremely bad luck. As Cameron stood on Mully's foot and dislocated his toe. I've never seen a big strong centre-half go so wobbly when we put the toe back in joint. That's what happens when you want to watch.

Whilst on the subject of watching, we sent our physio intern Dan to witness a knee operation on a youth team player. When we had the call to say your young Luton man is in the recovery room, I didn't expect it to be Dan. Knee surgery doesn't suit everyone.

Nonetheless, a great experience as we try to do our best with the interns who have placements with us from Herts and Beds Universities. We are really pleased to have the relationship, plus they provide you with those moments. As one told me, he was interested in marathons. I replied that you can't beat a good education in the long run.

Danny Green has suffered an unfortunate set back and looks set for further surgery to stimulate bone growth in his leg. Doyley is making good progress after rupturing his Achilles. He is now back jogging and doing some ball work, but we have to monitor his progress very carefully. Mark O'Brien is back with us having suffered a freak thigh injury at Southport. An injury that both myself and our Consultant Surgeon had not seen before.

There's been a bit of romance around the training ground with romantic dinners for girlfriends' birthdays and wedding plans for Stephen O'Donnell. My advice was love is blind, but marriage is a real eye opener. As usual, Kingy is dealing with the world's problems – such as 'What came first, the chicken or the egg?' Help!!

In the game against Millwall, time really did stand still after Jack Senior's shot hit the clock above Oak Road, causing it to stop. The shot was going that high I'm surprised an easyJet pilot didn't report the ball going past the cockpit.

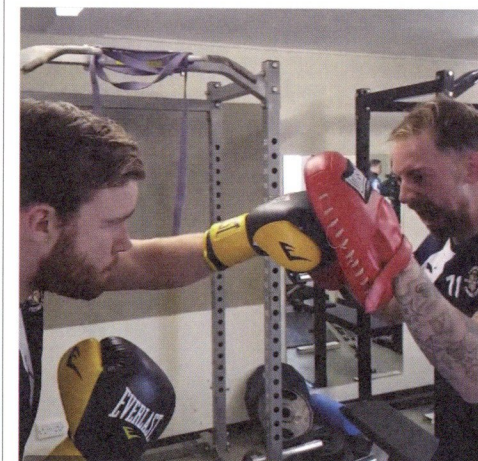
Enjoy the game and as you always do, get behind the lads. COYH



Simon Parsell
@fizzio58

Mark O'Brien and Danny Green doing the mannequin thing while boxing in the gym

Camera. Action @LutonTown
@dannygren_7



LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

EWINNING WALKING FOOTBALLERS!

It was great to welcome a true Luton legend onto the pitch at our last home game as former Hatter Kingsley Black presented our over 50s mens walking football teams with the Beds FA 'Advanced' and 'Intermediate' Cups following their recent successful exploits in the Bedfordshire tournament.

Kingsley pulled on the jersey for the Hatters over 120 times and most of our 'veteran' walking footballers reckon they saw most of his home appearances back in the day.

Our walking football sessions have grown in popularity over the last year with new players joining every week, and while most of the guys are season ticket holders it is not a pre-requisite to joining the group. The rules are simple, the same as five-a-side, if you can cast your memory back that far, except if you run, you concede a free-kick – so no danger there then!

The group runs every Wednesday evening 6-7pm on the astro turf pro zones at the back of V360 (next to the old astro pitch), and newcomers are always welcome. Don't worry if you haven't pulled a shirt on for 20 years or you are think you might lack a bit of confidence – everybody's in the same boat, just looking for a bit of a run out (sorry walk out) and a social.

Last year we held the EFL regional walking football tournament at V360 and the turnout was great, with three teams competing for the Hatters against teams from other local professional clubs including Northampton, Stevenage and Norwich.

With our weekly sessions going from strength to strength, we are now are beginning to enter similar tournaments on a regular basis. If you've not tried it before and think what's the point, then

believe us when we say that last year's tournament was extremely competitive at all levels.

If you want further information simply call the community office on 01582 737568 or email us on community@lutontown.co.uk

The cost of each session is £5.00 and you can simply pay and play with no commitment to play regularly – you can miss a week or two and play whenever you feel up to it. We're a friendly bunch – why not come down and join us!

EFL KINDER SPORT+ GIRLS U13 CUP

Congratulations to Queensbury High School in Dunstable who have made the regional final in the EFL Kinder Sport+ Girls U13 Cup. The girls played out their final at half-time during our last home game, against last season's winning finalists, Challney Girls School from Luton, and ended up winning 3-0 with two late goals making the game look a lot easier than it was.

If successful in the East Anglian regionals, the Queensbury girls could proceed to the regional North v South final with the eventual final to be played at Wembley Stadium before the Sky Bet League Two Play-Off Final at Wembley in May.



SKILLS PERFORMANCE CENTRES – TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME:

TERM TWO – NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY

This week we start term two of our Skills Performance Centre talent identification programme, which feeds into our youth development structure. We have 12 regional football development centres, with three in Luton, open to all youngsters aged from school year two up to year 11.

The Skills coaching centres offer a nine-week programme ending with a trial match for everyone. Successful boys then progress onto our centre of excellence and pre-academy development centres, with eventual pathways into our youth academy. The centres are open to all abilities and below we have listed all of our weekly centres.

WHAT ARE SKILLS PERFORMANCE CENTRES ALL ABOUT?

The successful 'Skills' Development Programme is now in its ninth year of operation. The purpose of these centres are to provide high quality coaching for up and coming footballers.

Whether you are an ambitious player wanting to progress towards becoming a professional, or a newcomer, wanting to develop the basics, the Skills Programme has something to offer you.

To date over 70 players have been signed into our development programme through the Skills programme, which has proved our most successful recruitment tool in the past.

The cost is £45 per term, which includes nine practical sessions and one assessment. In addition to the trial match, players will receive a report on their personal development during the nine-week programme.

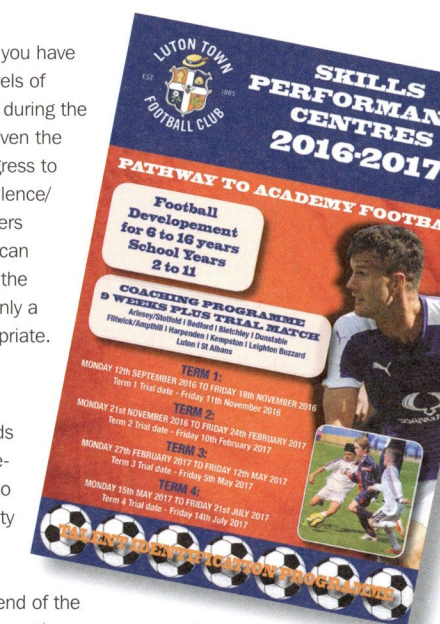
Before then, the girls now proceed to the regional finals representing Luton Town FC to play the winning schools from Charlton Athletic, Stevenage, Dagenham, Leyton Orient, Millwall, Southend and Gillingham football clubs.

We wish them all the very best of luck in their attempt to reach Wembley and thank them for representing the Hatters in this year's competition.

If your coach feels you have shown the right levels of ability and attitude during the term, you will be given the opportunity to progress to the Centre of Excellence/Pre-Academy. Players who display talent can be moved through the programme after only a few weeks if appropriate.

All players receive a written player assessment towards the end of the nine-week term. You also have the opportunity to discuss the assessment with your coach at the end of the term as part of our continuous assessment process.

Our weekly centres run in Arlesey, Bedford, Dunstable, Flitwick/Ampthill, Harpenden, Kempston, Leighton Buzzard, Luton (3), Milton Keynes and St Albans, and if you would like further information on the programme starting next week simply ring the Community Trust office on 01582 737568 or email us at tips@lutontown.co.uk





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[TOWN U18S MATCH REPORT]

TOWN U18S 4 : DAGENHAM 3

THURSDAY 17TH NOVEMBER | KENILWORTH ROAD | FA YOUTH CUP SECOND ROUND | ATT: 408

TOWN GOALS: SNELUS 9, 111, 113, READ 81 | **DAGENHAM GOALS:** FLORENCE 40, 45, 105

TOWN: PARKER, BEAN, JAMES, BAKINSON, MEAD, JONES (SORUNKE 104), COTTER ©, MURRAY (SHAMALO 68), HINDS (TOMLINSON 91), READ. **SUBS NOT USED:** BELGROVE, TODD (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** JONES



DRIVER:

You've got to
give them credit

"It was quite a rollercoaster, wasn't it? If I'm Micah Hyde, their coach, I'm thinking that they are really unlucky to lose. We weren't at our best individually or collectively, and they deserved their first-half lead.

"But for desire and passion and commitment and everything to get back in it first half, and then get knocked down, and they get back in it again, you've got to give them credit. We got the win out of it and that's why cups are different from the league."

STORY OF THE MATCH:

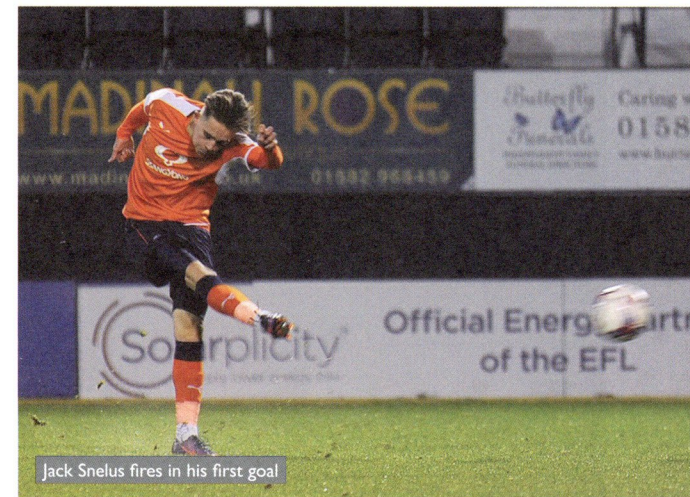
Jack Snelus bagged a stunning hat-trick as the Hatters twice hit back from a goal down to beat Dagenham & Redbridge and book an FA Youth Cup third round trip to Sheffield Wednesday.

Arthur Read netted the Town's other goal – an 81st-minute leveller that took this end-to-end second round tie into the extra-time – as Paul Driver's lads struggled to overcome a team they'd already beaten 10-2 and 4-0 in the league this season.

The Daggers were a threat all night and had a hat-trick hero of their own in Dylan Florence.

But just as they had in the previous round at Barnet, the young Hatters showed the spirit required to bounce back from going behind twice, after attacking midfielder Snelus had initially given them a ninth-minute lead with a superb curler from outside the box.

Florence beat Under-16s keeper Tiernan Parker with a close-range double late in the first half to give the



Jack Snelus fires in his first goal

Daggers an interval lead, but Read drilled a low shot inside the visiting goalie's near post to level with nine minutes of normal time remaining.

Florence struck again in time added on at the end of the first period of extra-time, but Snelus produced another game-saver, in off the foot of a post from the edge of the box in the 111th minute, and then the winner – a superb 25-yard effort into the top corner two minutes later.

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ANDY AWFORD'S ACADEMY

UPDATE

Good evening everyone and welcome to tonight's game versus Portsmouth.

U18S

Well done to the youth team who have progressed to the third round of the FA Youth Cup after beating Dagenham & Redbridge at Kenilworth Road last Thursday evening.

A fantastic hat-trick from Jack Snelus and a strike from Arthur Read now gives us an away trip to Hillsborough to face Sheffield Wednesday in a couple of weeks' time.

Unfortunately we made harder work of it than we would have liked, eventually winning 4-3 after extra-time. The boys deserve credit for progressing and showing character to recover from being 2-1 down and 3-2 down, however the overall performance was way below the standards we expect and demand from our young players. They know that themselves and we will all look to improve between now and the next round, when we travel to Hillsborough on Friday 9th December for a 1pm kick-off.

AKIN FAMEWO

Congratulations to Akin Famewo who was recently selected by the LFE (League Football Education) for the LFE '11'

Award. This monthly award is recognition for both on and off the pitch excellence, and all apprentices from across the country are considered before the final 11 are decided. Well done Akin, keep up the good work.

SCHOOLBOY TOURS

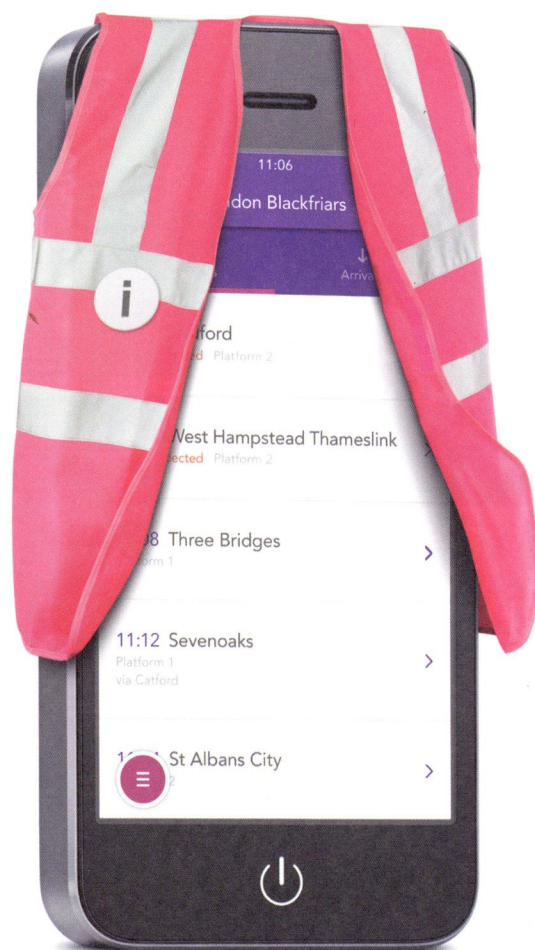
We try and provide all of our schoolboy teams (Under 9-Under 14s) with at least one overseas tour per season as we believe that they gain great experience from these events playing against different styles, cultures and formations.

Our Under-11s and 12s will tour Germany before Christmas and take in tournaments that will see us go up against the likes of Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich, whilst we also have tours planned to France and Spain in the new year.

Enjoy tonight's game.
COYH!!
ANDY

NEXT DEV SQUAD FIXTURE: TUE 29TH NOV – MK DONS (H – VENUE & KICK-OFF TBC)

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HATTERSLADIES

OXFORD HIT FOR SIX

Town started this Women's FA Cup first round tie well, pressing high up the pitch as Oxford City Ladies tried to play out from the back with limited success.

Rebecca Kane and Jo Rutherford chased down the back four time and again, winning the ball back high up the field.

The first chance of the game came in the 15th minute as Shanice Jiminez delivered a superb cross which was met by skipper Rachel Carter, but it was headed powerfully over the bar.

The opening Town goal finally arrived in the 29th minute when Jess McKay outpaced her marker down the flank crossing the ball into Kane, who set the ball into Rutherford's path and she slotted the ball neatly underneath the keeper.

A second goal followed three minutes later as Kane went on a mazy run into the box following a neat through ball from Jiminez, and was hauled to the ground by the goalkeeper. Zara Carroll stepped up to blast the resulting penalty home.

The next ten minutes saw the Town go on the rampage, as Kane flicked a header in at the near post from a Rutherford corner on 33 minutes, and then chipped the goalkeeper from 25 yards to score her second two minutes later.

The Hatters really turned up the heat and Jiminez surged down the wing before striking her powerful shot high into the net at the near post for the fifth.

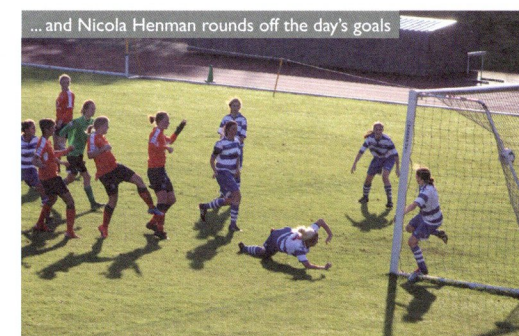
A lapse in concentration in the 42nd minute saw Oxford pull a goal back, but it was barely two minutes before the Town restored their five-goal cushion after a Kane corner found Henman to smash home the loose ball giving Luton an incredible 6-1 interval lead.

The second half was a non-descript affair with Oxford limiting any further damage, but there were chances at both ends.

Kane was through on goal but was unable to net her hat-trick, lifting the ball high and wide. And McKay was twice unable to convert chances, hitting the side netting.



Jo Rutherford puts away the first goal of the match...



...and Nicola Henman rounds off the day's goals

Lucy Tape was unlucky not to add a seventh cracking her shot narrowly over the crossbar, while the visitors' best effort brought a fine save from Jess Devoti, who did superbly well to back pedal and claw the ball out from under her crossbar for a corner.

Hatters manager Baker said she was thrilled with the result, saying: "We are very happy to be in the next round of the FA Cup. To destroy a side with a six-goal blast in 15 minutes is superb, and there was no coming back for them."

The Town now host top-flight side Portsmouth in the next round on 4th December.

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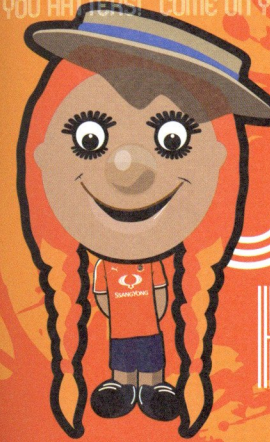
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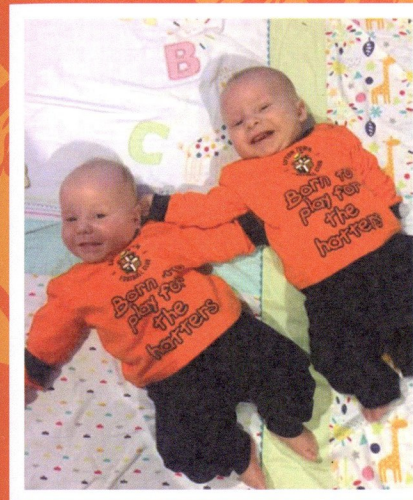
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JUNIOR HATTERS



DOUBLE TROUBLE

Thanks to Grandma Pearl Blanking, who sent through this photo of her twin grandsons Noah and Jack Blanking. Noah and Jack's Dad and Grandad are both lifelong Hatters fans, so Pearl couldn't resist getting them matching shirts. Congratulations to all the Blanking family on the arrival of the lads in May - possibly our youngest twin supporters!

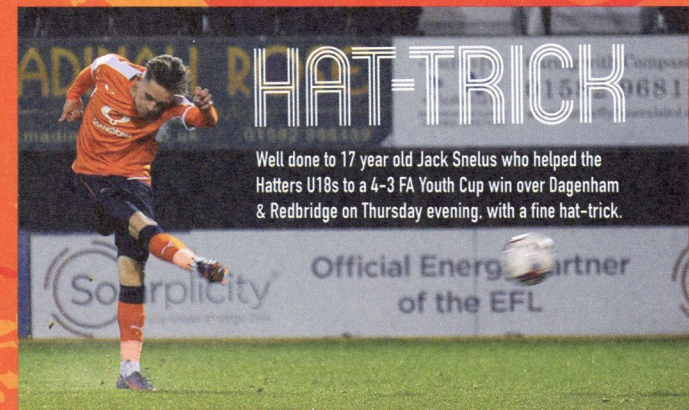
SEND US YOUR PICS

Want to see your face in print? Send us your Junior Hatters pics and you could appear on this page! Email info@lutontown.co.uk



FACT FILE

Luton Town have played Portsmouth a total of 44 times in their history. The first meeting between the two teams was during the 1920/21 season which ended in a 2-2 draw. Since then the Hatters have gone on to win 21 matches to Pompey's 14 with 13 draws. Our last meeting was in December 2015 - a goalless draw.



HAT-TRICK

Well done to 17 year old Jack Snelus who helped the Hatters U18s to a 4-3 FA Youth Cup win over Dagenham & Redbridge on Thursday evening, with a fine hat-trick.



PORTSMOUTH FC

Portsmouth Football Club are nicknamed "Pompey", a name which it shares with the city of Portsmouth and its historic naval base. "Pompey" is thought most likely to originate from the nautical abbreviation of "Portsmouth Point" to the shorter "Po'm. P." in ships logbooks.

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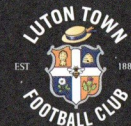
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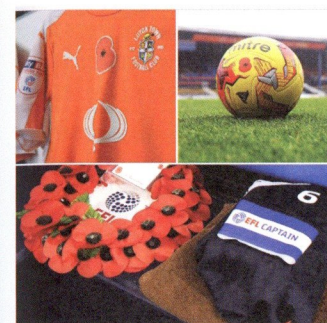
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HATTERSONLINE

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Hatters' matchday tributes



View Insights

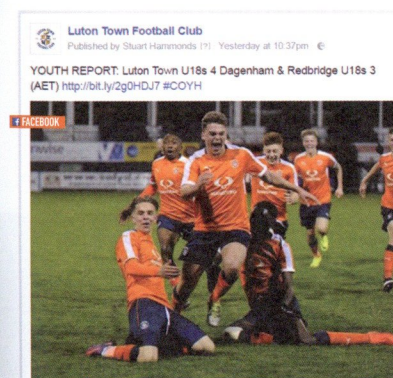
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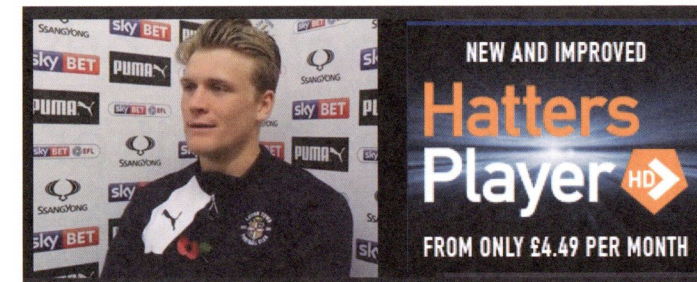
withthegods, jackkjames and 461 others
Itfc_official LEST WE FORGET: There will be a minute's silence and playing of The Last Post before kick-off today as part of our Remembrance Weekend events #COYH

JACK'S FLASH...

...in the FA Youth Cup as Snelus bags a hat-trick!



MCGEEHAN'S MESSAGE



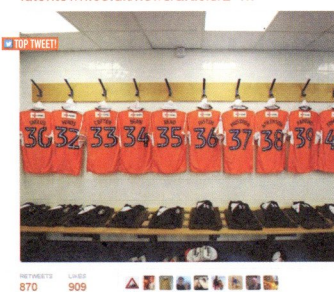
Cameron scores winner v Accy then tells how club trip to Luton General Cemetery inspired him to kiss the poppy



FINE TIME

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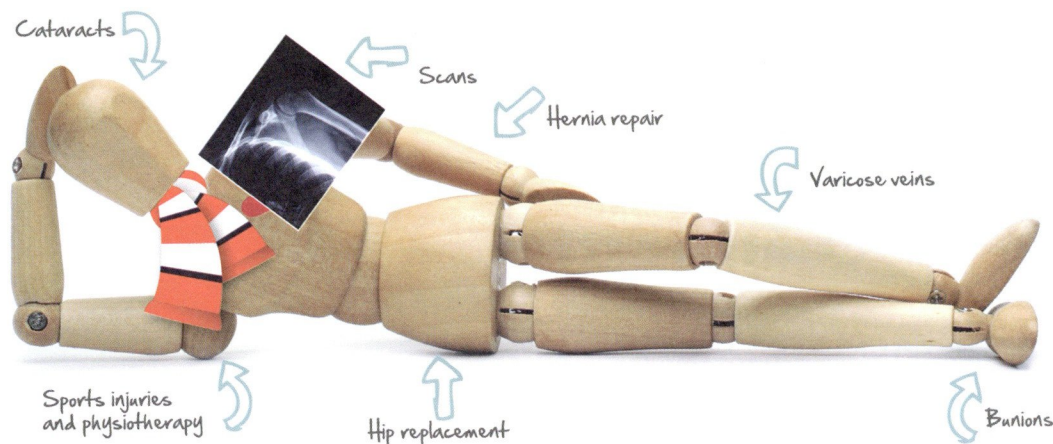
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LATE TACKLE

CHRIS DUNLAVY

HOFFENHEIM COACH JULIAN NAGELSMANN HAS BEEN DUBBED 'BABY MOURINHO' AFTER A REMARKABLE TEN-MONTH STINT IN CHARGE OF THE BUNDESLIGA OUTFIT.

Just 28 when he took over in February, the former defender was written off as an ill-advised publicity stunt who stood little chance of bridging a seven-point gap to safety.

Yet not only did Nagelsmann secure Hoffenheim's top-flight status, the German minnows now sit third behind Bayern Munich and Leipzig and are unbeaten in ten games.

Nagelsmann is proving the critics wrong – yet he is far from the only young whippersnapper to show that age is no barrier to success.

JOHN RODGAARD – TB TVØROYRI

TB – or Tvøroyrar Bóltfelag to give them their full title – are the oldest club in the Faroe Islands, the frozen Danish colony famous for almost embarrassing Scotland in 2004.

In 1977, TB needed a new manager and, with a population of just 40,000, options were thin on the ground. Luckily, they had the perfect man already in their ranks.

Midfielder John Rodgaard may have been just 22, but he was already International Chess Master and renowned political debater.

Within a year, TB were champions. Rodgaard, meanwhile would go on to draw with the great Boris Spasski at the 1984 Thessaloniki Olympiad and play over 200 matches for the Faroes.

JAMES PHILLIPS – ROMSEY TOWN

Phillips made history in August 2015 when, aged 22, he became the youngest manager in the history of the FA Cup.

Inspired by playing Football Manager, the former goalkeeper earned his first coaching badge at 16 and by the time of his appointment had also collected FA Level One and Two badges.

Sadly, they counted for little at a cash-strapped club rebuilding after relegation. After a bright start, Phillips was dismissed with Romsey bottom of the Wessex League amid a run of one win from 15 games.

BOB HOUGHTON – MALMO

An average player, Houghton was an exceptional coach who, alongside great friend Roy Hodgson, was schooled by FA technical director Allen Wade.

Manager at Maidstone by 23, he joined Swedish side Malmö in 1974 and, aged 26, immediately won the first of three consecutive top-flight titles.

In 1979, the man known in Sweden as 'English Bob' very nearly won the ultimate prize, leading Malmö to the European Cup final where they lost to Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest. It remains the first and only time a Swedish side has ever reached the final.

Houghton has since managed in Greece, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the USA, China, Uzbekistan and, most recently, led the Indian national team.

ATTILIO LOMBARDO – CRYSTAL PALACE

At one stage in early 1998, 'The Bald Eagle' was simultaneously player-manager of Crystal Palace and a full international for Italy.

Signed in the summer of 1997 and an instant hit at Selhurst Park, the winger was just 32 when new Palace owner Mark Goldberg named him manager – with Swedish sumo Tomas Brolin as his interpreter.

Alas, a combination of Lombardo's managerial ineptitude and an injury to his star player (himself), saw the Eagles tumble from tenth to last and relegation. Still, he remains the youngest manager in Premier League history.

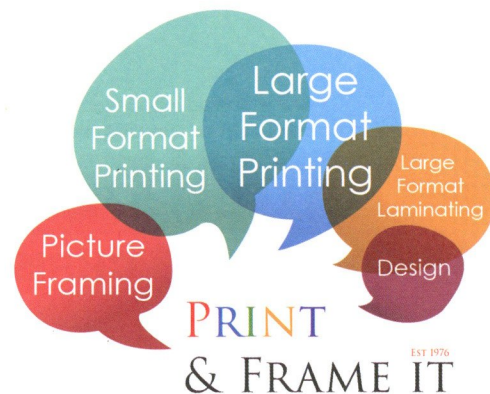


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[LEAGUE TWO ROUND-UP]

LEAGUELOOK

BY JOE BALL

**While the Hatters were winning at Morecambe on Saturday,
League Two promotion chasers Carlisle left it late to win 3-2 at home to Exeter.**

The Cumbrian side went behind in the first minute and were heading for defeat before two late goals saw them make it just one defeat in 17 matches. Shaun Miller got an 89th-minute equaliser before Charlie Wyke grabbed a dramatic winner seven minutes into added-time.

Paul Tisdale's Exeter – our opponents on Saturday – now sit bottom of the table after three defeats in four games.

The Grecians' fellow strugglers Colchester were also the victims of late goals, as Francois Zoko and Tavhon Campbell helped Yeovil come from behind to put them one spot off the play-off places. Kurtis Guthrie had given United the lead but Yeovil's turnaround made it six matches unbeaten.

League leaders Plymouth Argyle slipped to a 3-0 defeat at home to Grimsby. Two goals from Omar Bogle and one from Danny Collins ended Argyle's 14-match unbeaten run, with their lead at the top cut to just four points with Carlisle's win.

Doncaster left it late to seal all three points against Hartlepool. Liam Mandeville's last-minute strike – after John Marquis had given them a lead – keeps the Yorkshire side in third.

Michael Smith's late goal rescued a point for tonight's opponents Portsmouth at Cheltenham. The hosts took the lead thanks to Daniel O'Shaughnessy, but Smith levelled it with eight minutes remaining. One point separates Cheltenham from the bottom two, whilst Pompey sit in fifth.

Newport moved off the bottom of the table with a comfortable 3-0 win away at Notts County; Sean Rigg, Rhys Healy and Josh Sheehan on target as Graham Westley's side move out the relegation zone.

Leyton Orient's struggles continued as they were recorded a seventh straight defeat at home. Jamille Matt and Tom Aldred gave Blackpool a 2-1 win as they move into the play-offs, while Orient drop to 20th.

Wycombe claimed their first league away win since February as Aaron Pierre's late goal handed them a 2-1 victory over Cambridge. The hosts were heading for a draw when George Maris drew them level after Paul Hayes opened the scoring for Wycombe, but Pierre stole the points five minutes into added time.

Stevenage made it three away league wins on the bounce as they beat Accrington 1-0 thanks to a Matt Godden strike. That win means Darren Sarll's side rise to 13th, three points of the top seven.

Mansfield eased past Crawley with a 3-1 win at the One Call stadium. Three goals in ten second half minutes – a double from Chris Clements and one from Pat Hoban – saw Steve Evans get off to a winning start as the new Mansfield boss against his former club.

A 0-0 draw against Crewe saw Barnet extend their unbeaten league run to five games. The north Londoners had chances to win it but had to settle for a point which keeps them in mid-table. Crewe stay just outside the top seven.

TONIGHT'S LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

Cheltenham v Colchester
Crewe v Morecambe
Grimsby v Carlisle
Hartlepool v Accrington
Leyton Orient v Exeter
Luton v Portsmouth

Mansfield v Blackpool
Newport v Wycombe
Notts County v Cambridge
Plymouth v Barnet
Yeovil v Crawley

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Accrington 0-1 Stevenage
Barnet 0-0 Crewe
Cambridge 1-3 Wycombe
Carlisle 3-2 Exeter
Cheltenham 1-1 Portsmouth
Doncaster 2-1 Hartlepool

Leyton Orient 1-2 Blackpool
Mansfield 3-1 Crawley
Morecambe 0-2 Luton
Notts County 0-3 Newport
Plymouth 0-3 Grimsby
Yeovil 2-1 Colchester

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FIXTURESPILE-UP

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
AUGUST								
Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle	W 3-0	9,761	1,019	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Wed 10	7.45pm	H	Aston Villa (EFL Cup 1)	W 3-1	7,412	1,487	-	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Yeovil Town	D 1-1	7,800	303	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 16	7.45pm	H	Newport County	W 2-1	7,058	115	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Stevenage	L 1-2	3,517	1,674	3	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 23	7.45pm	H	Leeds United (EFL Cup 2)	L 0-1	7,498	1,510	-	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United	W 3-0	5,606	1,690	2	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 30	7.45pm	A	Gillingham (EFL Trophy)	W 2-1	2,128	137	-	King Cotter MUSONDA 1 SHEEHAN 1
SEPTEMBER								
Sat 3	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers	W 4-1	8,097	530	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	Grimsby Town	L 1-2	8,005	539	3	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Crawley Town	L 0-2	2,904	1,052	7	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 24	3.00pm	H	Doncaster Rovers	W 3-1	7,917	554	3	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 27	7.45pm	A	Hartlepool United	D 1-1	3,533	311	2	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
OCTOBER								
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town	D 1-1	3,660	923	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tues 4	7.30pm	H	West Brom (EFL Trophy)	W 2-0	1,441	89	-	King O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Crewe Alexandra	D 1-1	7,716	254	5	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 15	3.00pm	A	Leyton Orient	W 2-1	5,471	1341	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town	D 1-1	7,787	295	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	Notts. County	D 0-0	6,313	2,033	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
NOVEMBER								
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Exeter City (FAC1)	W 3-1	2,972	310	-	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 8	7.30pm	H	Millwall (EFL Trophy)	L 1-3	2,251	370	-	King O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley	W 1-0	8,008	101	5	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Morecambe	W 2-0	1,507	520	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 22	7.45pm	H	Portsmouth					
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Exeter City					
DECEMBER								
Sat 3	3.00pm	H	Yeovil/Solihull (FAC2) (TBC)					
Tues 6	7.30pm	A	Swindon Town (EFL Trophy)					
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					
JANUARY								
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					
FEBRUARY								
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	7.45pm	A	Newport County					
MARCH								
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					
APRIL								
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					
MAY								
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	HYLTON 1	MARRIOTT 1	SMITH 1	Lee	Gray	Justin	Vassell	McQuoid
McGEEHAN 1	GRAY 1	Hylton	Marriott	Smith	Cuthbert	Cook	Vassell	McQuoid	King
McGEEHAN 2	Ruddock	Hylton	Marriott	Gray	Smith	Vassell	McQuoid	King	Famewo
McGeehan	Cook	Hylton	Marriott	Famewo	Vassell	Smith	Gray	McQuoid	Justin
McGEEHAN 1	Cook	Hylton	Marriott	Mpanzu	Vassell	McQuoid	Smith	King	Famewo
McGeehan	Gray	Hylton	Marriott	Cook	Mpanzu	Vassell	Cuthbert	McQuoid	Justin
McGeehan	Cook	HYLTON 1	MARRIOTT 1	Cuthbert	Smith	Vassell	Gray	McQuoid	Justin
Gray	Banton	Vassell	McQuoid	Atkinson	Tomlinson	Gooch	Read	Hinds	Snelus
McGeehan	COOK 1	HYLTON 3	Marriott	Smith	Vassell	Famewo	Gray	Gilliead	Justin
McGeehan	Cook	Hylton	Marriott	REA 1	Marriott	Gilliead	Cuthbert	Cuthbert	King
McGeehan	Cook	Vassell	McQuoid	Hylton	Marriott	Gilliead	Gray	Gray	Mpanzu
McGEEHAN 2	Cook	HYLTON 1	MARRIOTT 1	Sheehan	Gray	Gilliead	O'Donnell	Smith	King
McGeehan	Gilliead	Mpanzu	Marriott	Vassell	Cook	O'Donnell	Smith	McQuoid	King
McGeehan	Cook	HYLTON 1	Marriott	Smith	Gilliead	O'Donnell	Gray	McQuoid	Famewo
Smith	GILLIEAD 1	McQuoid	Banton	Vassell	Hinds	Snelus	Cotter	Read	King
McGeehan	Mpanzu	HYLTON 1	Marriott	Gilliead	Rea	McQuoid	O'Donnell	Smith	King
McGEEHAN 1	Gilliead	HYLTON 1	Marriott	Smith	Mullins	Gray	Mpanzu	Banton	King
McGeehan	Gilliead	Cook	Marriott	Mpanzu	Vassell	Lee	Smith	Mullins	King
McGeehan	Gilliead	Hylton	Marriott	Lee	Mpanzu	Vassell	Potts	Smith	Gray
McGeehan	Cook	HYLTON 2	Gilliead	Smith	Mackail-Smith	O'Donnell	Gray	Potts	King
Smith	McQuoid	Mackail-Smith	Vassell	Banton	Hinds	Read	Snelus	Cotter	Gooch
McGEEHAN 1	Gilliead	Hylton	Marriott	Vassell	Smith	Mullins	O'Donnell	Gray	King
McGeehan	Gilliead	Hylton	Vassell	Marriott	Smith	Gray	O'Donnell	McQuoid	King

LEAGUE TABLE 2016/17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Plymouth Argyle	17	12	2	3	28	17	11	38
2 Carlisle United	17	9	7	1	30	19	11	34
3 Doncaster Rovers	17	10	3	4	35	24	11	33
4 LUTON TOWN	17	8	6	3	27	15	12	30
5 Portsmouth	17	8	4	5	28	17	11	28
6 Grimsby Town	17	7	4	6	23	20	3	25
7 Blackpool	17	6	6	5	29	20	9	24
8 Yeovil Town	17	7	3	7	18	22	-4	24
9 Crewe Alexandra	17	5	8	4	20	20	0	23
10 Wycombe Wanderers	17	6	4	7	20	22	-2	22
11 Mansfield Town	17	5	7	5	18	20	-2	22
12 Notts County	17	6	4	7	22	28	-6	22
13 Stevenage	16	6	3	7	23	24	-1	21
14 Barnet	17	4	9	4	22	25	-3	21
15 Accrington Stanley	17	5	5	7	19	22	-3	20
16 Crawley Town	17	5	5	7	18	25	-7	20
17 Morecambe	17	6	2	9	20	33	-13	20
18 Hartlepool United	17	4	7	6	26	30	-4	19
19 Cambridge United	17	5	4	8	17	22	-5	19
20 Leyton Orient	17	5	3	9	20	22	-2	18
21 Cheltenham Town	17	3	9	5	19	22	-3	18
22 Newport County AFC	16	4	5	7	21	22	-1	17
23 Colchester United	17	4	5	8	20	26	-6	17
24 Exeter City	17	5	1	11	19	25	-6	16

PLAYER STATS 2016/17

	THIS SEASON										CAREER TOT	
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISIP		Y		R	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS	Y	GLS
Alex Atkinson	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tyreeq Bakinson	0	(0)	0	(3)	0	(3)	0	0	0	0	4	0
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	0	1	0	13	0
Jordan Cook	14	(1)	1	(1)	0	(1)	15	(2)	1	2	1	17
Kavan Cotter	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	1	(0)	0	0	0	1
Scott Cuthbert	12	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)	13	(2)	0	1	0	55
Akin Famewo	1	(2)	0	(3)	0	(3)	4	(2)	0	1	0	6
Alex Gilliead	6	(5)	0	(2)	0	(2)	1	(5)	1	1	0	13
Jake Gray	4	(5)	0	(5)	0	(5)	9	(5)	2	0	0	14
Danny Green	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	0	30
Freddie Hinds	0	(0)	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	0	0	2
Danny Hylton	14	(1)	9	(3)	0	(3)	17	(1)	11	8	1	18
James Justin	6	(0)	0	(3)	0	(3)	9	(0)	0	0	0	10
Craig King	0	(0)	0	(3)	0	(3)	3	(0)	0	0	0	3
Oilly Lee	12	(3)	0	(3)	0	(3)	15	(3)	0	6	0	57
Craig Mackail-Smith	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	1	(1)	0	1	0	36
Jack Marriott	15	(2)	3	(2)	0	(2)	17	(2)	3	1	0	63
Cameron McGeehan	17	(0)	8	(3)	0	(3)	20	(0)	9	4	0	98
Josh McQuoid	1	(2)	0	(3)	0	(3)	4	(2)	0	1	0	41
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	11	(3)	0	(2)	0	(2)	13	(4)	0	2	1	83
Johnny Mullins	10	(2)	0	(2)	0	(2)	12	(2)	0	0	1	14
Frankie Musonda	0	(0)	0	(3)	0	(3)	3	(0)	1	0	0	6
Stephen O'Donnell	11	(0)	1	(4)	0	(4)	15	(1)	1	1	0	49
Dan Potts	14	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	15	(0)	0	3	1	31
Glen Rea	9	(2)	1	(3)	0	(3)	12	(2)	2	2	0	24
Arthur Read	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	0	1
Jack Senior	0	(0)	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	(0)	0	0	0	2
Alan Sheehan	10	(1)	1	(0)	0	(0)	11	(1)	1	2	0	32
Jonathan Smith	1	(8)	1	(4)	(2)	(1)	5	(10)	2	2	0	156
Jack Snelus	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	0	1
Connor Tomlinson	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	0	1
Isaac Vassell	2	(10)	1	(2)	0	(2)	4	(13)	1	0	0	17
Christian Walton	17	(0)	0	(3)	0	(3)	20	(0)	0	0	0	20

HOLD THE BACKPAGE

WITH JAMES CUNLIFFE
LUTON ON SUNDAY HATTERS REPORTER

'All football clubs are equal, but some football clubs more equal than others... especially in the Checkatrade Trophy.' No stranger to prophetic prose, that was actually George Orwell's first draft of his famously quoted literary line.

It wasn't of course but, this is 2016 – the year that facts, sense and reasoned arguments got run over by a sloganeering bus.

As well as the many bewildering circumstances that society has now elected itself into, it's clear we're also living in the post-logic Football League land of Let's-Make-It-Up-As-We-Go-Along. Fans up and down the land have voted with their feet on Trophy matters and I can't blame them.

Of course, after slapping Luton and tonight's opponents Portsmouth with maximum £15,000 fines for breaching rule 7.3 on team selections, the governing body have used the 'rules are rules' defence. The counter argument is that those directives were already dripping in Doublethink the moment they were dreamt up because they only applied to clubs from League One and Two.

It's commendable that the Football League followed Whitney Houston's lead and began by believing that the children are our future; teach them

well and let them lead they way.

It's just that somewhere along the line they seemed to get confused, thinking that the kids of Premier League were any of their concern.

There's only one thing that prevents the Premier League play-grounders progressing to big school. Money. They're rolling in it so won't risk youth. Well, quite frankly, that's their privilege and curse. Tiny violins at the ready.

Luton – who, in the not too distant past, had their academy funding stripped after the powers that be sentenced them to Football League exile – have shown that there's only one way to develop your youngsters. Play them.

I've covered all three post-Paint-Pot Trophy games this term and Town's trust in their teenagers has been a hugely worthwhile experiment, a giant leap forward for Hatters homegrown kind and an investment in their own future. They certainly haven't, as the EFL's farcical ruling last week suggested, fielded an understrength



side because they qualified for the knockout stages with a group game to spare.

So I fully support Luton's anti-authoritarian act of non-compliance. I take it as a welcome exhibition of punk rock spirit in this, the 40th anniversary year of that riotous explosion. Anarchy in the EFL.

Anyway, it's not really about the money, is it? It's the principle because, if you ignore for a moment the double-standard Orwellian hypocrisy of it all, you arrive at the fiscally-challenged halfwittedness of setting the player selection punishments (£5,000 a pop) lower than the prize pots (£10,000 per victory). Whichever you look at, Luton are quids in.

And, just as an aside, who needs elaborate money extraction schemes when the powers that be can just sit back and watch Danny Hylton rack up the yellow card fines?

Just stay out of trouble tonight, eh Danny. A winning goal will be more than enough.

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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
- 15 Alex Gilliead
- 16 Glen Rea
- 17 Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu
- 18 Zane Banton
- 19 Olly Lee
- 20 Isaac Vassell
- 21 Jack Senior
- 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 David Forde
- 2 Tom Davies
- 3 Enda Stevens
- 4 Danny Rose
- 5 Matt Clarke
- 6 Christian Burgess
- 7 Carl Baker
- 8 Michael Doyle
- 9 Michael Smith
- 10 Milan Lalkovic
- 11 Gary Roberts
- 13 Liam O'Brien
- 14 Curtis Main
- 15 Dominic Hyam
- 16 Jack Whatmough
- 19 Conor Chaplin
- 20 Noel Hunt
- 21 Adam Buxton
- 22 Kal Naismith
- 23 Kyle Bennett
- 24 Amine Linganzi
- 25 Drew Talbot
- 26 Gareth Evans
- 33 Ben Close

MATCH OFFICIALS

- DAVID COOTE
- MICHAEL GEORGE
- NIGEL LUGG
- ROB LEWIS

