



TALK OF THE TOWn

LUTON TOWN v CARLISLE UNITED

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 2016 | KICK OFF 3pm

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 15 | PRICE £3

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[WELCOME TO LUTON TOWN v CARLISLE UNITED]

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD
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Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW
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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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Thoughts, feedback and announcements are welcome by post, phone or email #COYH

The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.

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SIX OF THE BEST

All the action and reaction from the 6-2 FA Cup win over Solihull Moors

LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEW SIGNING!

The latest addition to the Luton Town club shop is hidden somewhere in today's Talk of the Town. Can you find the Hatters' 'Elf On The Shelf'?



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www.lutontown.co.uk

Merry Christmas!

As this is our last programme until we host Colchester United on 26th December, all at Kenilworth Road would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you again for the 3pm kick-off on Boxing Day! #COYH



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THE MANAGER NATHAN JONES



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this Sky Bet League Two fixture against Carlisle United.

I would like to welcome everybody from our visitors – including supporters, directors, staff, manager Keith Curle and his squad – and I hope they have a safe trip back north to Cumbria this evening.

After a bit of respite from league action with two excellent wins in cup competitions over the past week, we now enter a period of four games before the end of 2016 predominantly against sides in the promotion and play-off mix alongside ourselves.

Carlisle have been in impressive form so far this season, so they will provide another stern test for us this afternoon. Then we travel to eighth-placed Blackpool next week before the festive fixtures with Colchester and Barnet here at Kenilworth Road take us to the halfway point of our league campaign.

So December is a big month, and we want to come out of it heading into the trip to Portsmouth on 2nd January and FA Cup third round weekend in good shape. We are happy with where we are, having lost only two games in our last 16 in all competitions and currently fighting on three fronts. We believe we will only get stronger in the new year.

Last Saturday against Solihull, we were nothing like our usual selves in the first half and should have gone in 3-0 down. Luckily it was only two, and once we got the early goal in the second half we saw the real Luton Town hit six. I don't think it is unfair to say the scoreline flattered Solihull in the end, as we could have had even more.

Monday night's draw presented us with familiar opponents in Accrington. It will be the second time we've made a long journey to face a fellow League Two club, but we'll settle for the same outcome we had at Exeter in round one and, of course, when we beat Stanley here last month.

Everyone wants a romantic draw with one of the big guns – an Arsenal, a Manchester United, City or Chelsea – at some stage. It'll be a tough game, but we see this as a good opportunity to progress to the fourth round, where we'll stand an even greater chance of landing a plum tie.

On Tuesday at Swindon we produced another terrific Checkatrade Trophy performance to win 3-2 and book a third round tie with Chesterfield. It's the fourth time we've beaten higher-level opposition this season – fifth if

we include Brighton in pre-season – and Chesterfield will be another similar test.

We will only get stronger in the new year

We pressed Swindon and took the game to them, and several players got important minutes as part of a very strong team on the night. We had a real freshness about us and again showed the character to come from behind, so it's been an excellent few days.

Finally, as these are my last notes before Boxing Day, I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you back here with Kenilworth Road packed to the rafters for the Colchester game.

First comes this afternoon though, when the players will need your wonderful support as ever. Please get behind them and enjoy the game.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE GARY SWEET

Good afternoon and welcome to the final home game before Christmas. It's been a very significant week for the club, with major news about Power Court emerging.

More of that later, but first of all we'd like to offer a warm welcome to the John Nixon and his officials, Keith Curle and his players and, most importantly, the supporters of Carlisle United after their 466-mile round trip from Cumbria. We hope they return home safely but far less successful than after last season's eventful midweek fixture!

On the pitch, we've seen another terrific performance in the Checkatrade Trophy, with a thrilling 3-2 win at the County Ground, Swindon. It was a great game to watch and further evidence of the strength and depth of our squad.

As we go to print, we hear that we'll be hosting Chesterfield in the next round of this cup. We'll approach the Spireites game the same way as we have previous ties – with Nathan Jones having the freedom to select our team however he wants, putting out a strong team which also provides the opportunity to give game time to younger players.

We believe they will develop faster and better with minutes on the pitch in meaningful fixtures. That's what the revised format of this competition

was said to be all about – and we are immensely proud that Nathan's teams have already proved to be victors against three teams from higher divisions.

The future is bright, the future is orange!

OWNERSHIP

That brings me neatly to the big news of the week, off the pitch. We are delighted to announce that we have confirmed exchange of ownership of the Power Court site with British Land. By the time you read this contracts will have been completed. The deal is an outright freehold purchase of British Land's property at the planned location for our new ground.

Owning the land doesn't mean that planning permission has been granted yet, of course – that process is currently subject to the continued scrutiny by development control and our continued provision of technical clarification.

Owning both key sites does, however, provide more clarity over any delivery and viability issues they may have. In contrast to some plans, we have both the ownership of the land and

the finances required in place to turn drawings and projections into reality.

It's pertinent to mention that the level of detail contained in our applications means we all need to be patient while a robust assessment is made in isolation. Realistically, we don't expect to know the outcome until February or later.

Nonetheless, purchasing Power Court land is a major, major step forward and takes the amount of land in our control to over 70 acres. That includes the Newlands Park site at Junction 10 and The Brache, our new training ground location, which is on a long-term lease with a purchase option in our favour.

AMBITION

All of this represents a massive investment which shows the level of ambition that the 2020 directors have for our football club. The sum committed so far is the equivalent of over 30 years' worth of season ticket sales at current levels!

The stupendous generosity of the club's key stakeholders – those directors – and the hard work, dedication and diligence of the team working on this complex project



aren't the only factors in bringing our vision for the future of LTFC to life though. You and every fan have an essential part to play. We've already seen an unprecedented level of emails and letters to LBC in favour of our plans – nearly 11,000 of you have made your voices heard (with less than 1% objecting): please don't underestimate the importance of such fantastic support.

FUTURE

It's not just vital in proving how much the club means for the whole future of the town, it's what drives us on in all areas.

We won promotion back to the League in a season when the club, players and supporters were all galvanised together. In the second half of that season the stands were rocking and the intensity of your support was quite incredible, home and away. Let's make the second half of this season the same.

Nathan has often said how amazed he is at the noise he hears from you, the numbers and the passion. In a highly competitive league small

margins make a big difference and the lift your vocal support and positivity give to the team can often carry them over the line. Our home record so far isn't anything like as good as we want and need it to be – but you can help the team change that by singing and chanting your hearts out for 90 minutes (and injury time!) even when things aren't entirely going our way.

Those large numbers of you who follow the team away have certainly witnessed that, and the effect it can have.

What chance did Plymouth, Cambridge or Leyton Orient stand, for instance, with our fantastic fans in full flow from the first minute to the last! You should have seen and heard the noise on those occasions from our vantage point in the directors' box – truly amazing.

BELOVED

We all love it when the whole beloved Kenilworth Road really gets going – it's a unique place with an atmosphere you won't find anywhere else, so let's make the most of

it and let that team know they're special too. It does wonders for their confidence, and not just the young players!

So here's to a noisy afternoon and hopefully three points as an early Christmas present. With great progress towards the new stadium and the team handily placed for the turn of the year, 'this is our town, this is our time'.

Finally, I'd like to offer you best wishes for a happy Christmas on behalf of everyone at the club, from the boardroom to the backroom staff, Nathan, his management staff and all of the players. Come on you rip-roaring Hatters!

Gary



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Made for the explosive. Engineered for the attack.

[SCOTT CUTHBERT]

GREAT SCOTT

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what promises to be one of the biggest games of the season so far in Sky Bet League Two as we take on Carlisle United this afternoon.

They are coming thick and fast at the moment after hosting Portsmouth a couple of weeks ago, and these are the kind of games you want to be involved in.

Carlisle have impressed everyone with the start to the season they had. We know ourselves as one of the bigger teams in the league that to go unbeaten for as long as they did is a really good feat, but we've watched them and we know what they are about. We played against them last year and we know their strengths, so it'll be a very tough game.

One advantage they had over us here last season was Alex Gilliead. Our fans have seen for themselves how good he is and we are certainly delighted that he's now on our side rather than theirs, that's for sure.

We've had two fantastic wins in the past week to send us into this afternoon's game in good form.

I've never played in a comeback win quite like the Solihull Moors one. We went on all week about not letting them have a good start and get something to hold on to, and they score within five minutes.

As the gaffer has said in the press, that first half was not acceptable. They players knew it and there were some frank discussions in the dressing room at half-time while we waited for the manager to come in and do his team talk.

Thankfully we came out and were outstanding in the second half. Everything just clicked and it was a combination of us being excellent and Solihull tiring a little bit and running out of steam, but we are certainly delighted we are in the third round.

I watched Lincoln beating Oldham, and also Curzon Ashton get to within ten minutes of the final whistle leading AFC Wimbledon 3-0, but then lose it 4-3. We thought we'd got the comeback of the weekend award, but it's amazing what the FA Cup can do.



Two lads I'm delighted for are Stephen O'Donnell and Josh McQuoid. I room with SODS on away trips and it's hard to keep him quiet at the best of times, but when he scores two goals there is no chance. I'll have my ear phones on in Blackpool for two days, that's for sure!

Josh hasn't had as much playing time as he'd have wanted this season, but every time he's played he's been excellent, he's been working really hard in training and his attitude is different class. It paid off with his two goals in the 3-2 Checkatrade Trophy win at Swindon on Tuesday.

It shows the strength in depth that we have in our squad, with the young players coming through and more experienced ones who need 90 minutes, but even against League One sides, can still pick out positive results.

We'll hopefully have another one of those to add to the collection this afternoon. Please show us your great support, as always, and enjoy the game.

2020 DEVELOPMENTS ACQUIRES POWER COURT FROM BRITISH LAND



2020 Developments (Luton) Ltd, the property arm of Luton Town Football Club, last week agreed terms with British Land PLC to purchase its freehold interests in land known as Power Court at the heart of Luton town centre.

The acquisition forms part of 2020 Developments' wider development plans in Luton including Power Court, the derelict site of a former power station, acquired by British Land in 2011.

Contracts have been exchanged between the two parties, with existing 2020 shareholders funding the purchase as an advance to facilitate development proposals forming 2020's wider plans for the Football Club's stadium relocation and helping with the Town's regeneration.

This event takes control within the group to over 70 acres of prime, strategic land so far, making Luton Town Football Club an influential stakeholder in Luton's future progression.

ACCRINGTON AWAY IN THE FA CUP THIRD ROUND

The Hatters have been handed a trip to face fellow Sky Bet League Two side Accrington Stanley in the Emirates FA Cup second round, with the game scheduled to be played on Saturday 7th January at 3.00pm.

Liverpool legend Steven Gerrard and former Arsenal striker Ian Wright pulled the balls out of the silk bag at London's BT Tower last Monday, with the draw screened live on BBC2 and BT Sport.

Town fans had to wait until the penultimate tie was drawn to discover which club we will be facing, and date, kick-off time and ticket details will be confirmed in the coming days.

Manager Nathan Jones said: "Without being too disrespectful in terms of the Cup, you'd like to have drawn

Luton Town Football Club and 2020 Developments Chief Executive Gary Sweet said: "I am so pleased to be able to confirm this key deal for the Football Club and the town as a whole. It is a milestone achievement in the history of both.

"We have held positive discussions with British Land for a long time now and our relationship has always been productive, fair and always professional.

"I'd like to thank British Land and all parties involved for their co-operation and their belief in our vision for Luton. We see this as vital for the regeneration of an historic part of Luton town centre.

"I am sure that supporters will recognise the commitment made by the board to resolutely reposition Luton Town Football Club and keenly help revitalise the town."

ALEX HEADS TO HANWELL

Midfielder Alex Atkinson has joined Evo-Stik League Southern Division One Central club Hanwell Town on a one-month youth loan.

The arrangement will see the 18-year-old play for the north-west London side until 31st December, when his contract with Luton Town will expire.

Atkinson joined the Hatters at Under-15s having previously played for Fulham and Wycombe as a schoolboy, and was a member of last season's hugely successful youth team that won the Football League Youth Alliance double and reached the FA Youth Cup quarter-finals.

Having signed his first professional contract in July, he made his senior debut as a substitute in the 2-1 Checkatrade Trophy win at Gillingham in August.

Manager Nathan Jones told lutontown.co.uk: "Alex is a terrific footballer and has been great to have around the building, but unfortunately he picked up an injury in pre-season and never really got going like some of the other young players.

OPPORTUNITY

"It's been frustrating for him having to wait for a chance, and this is a good opportunity for him to go and play some games at a club local to where he lives, then build a career from there.

"He's had a fantastic grounding here with Andy Awford and Paul Driver in the academy, and I hope the time he's had being around the



experienced senior pros over recent months will stand him in good stead.

"Playing games in senior Non-League football will be good for him and we all wish him the best of luck at Hanwell Town, and for the rest of his career."

Those sentiments are echoed by all at Kenilworth Road. Good luck Alex with Hanwell and beyond!

LEVEL TRUST

Level Trust are LTFC's Club charity of the year. This means your Club put special effort into raising our profile, fundraising for us and even providing us with volunteers.

The picture shows Charlie Hanson, one of your guys at the club, helping us to pack down our Uniform Exchange. This helped us provide free school uniform to 190 struggling children in Luton over just 11 weeks. Sadly, we had to put the Uniform Exchange



into hibernation as we don't currently have the funding to run it permanently.

Our partnership with the Club means that we know this closure won't be forever. This December, the Club are running a competition to raise money to help us re-open the Uniform Exchange for the long term. Four people will win a VIP match day for two on the 11th of February 2017.

To enter, all you need to do is text



LTFC16 £3 to 70070. The text will cost you your standard network rate plus £3 will be deducted from your bill and sent as a donation to Level Trust. To be entered into the competition you must then fill in your contact details and tick to say that you are happy for Level Trust to contact you. Without this, we will not be able to contact you if you win. We cannot claim gift aid with your donation because it is part of a competition.

For more details about what your donation will help us do and for T's and C's check out www.leveltrust.org.

UP NEXT

BLACKPOOL

FORMED: 1887 | NICKNAME: THE TANGERINES, THE SEASIDERS | LAST SEASON: 22ND LEAGUE ONE | FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @BLACKPOOLFC | COLOURS: ORANGE SHIRT, WHITE SHORTS GROUND: BLOOMFIELD ROAD | MANAGER: GARY BOWYER

WHO? After their one season spell in the Premier League back in the 2010/11 season, the Seasiders sat in the Championship for three seasons, but two consecutive relegations since then has seen them fall into the fourth tier. Now with their seventh manager since Ian Holloway left in 2012, former Blackburn Rovers boss Gary Bowyer is at the helm. He seems to be taking Blackpool back in the right direction, as they currently sit just outside the play-off places by one point. The last time the Tangerines were playing at this level was back in 2001, when former England international Steve McMahon guided them to promotion via the play-offs.

TICKETS: All the ticket information for this match is on the opposite page.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? This will be the 50th time the Hatters have faced Blackpool, with the last meeting between the two ending in a 1-0 win for the Town back in April 2005. Steve Howard netted the only goal in that game, which made it four wins on the trot for the Town against the Seasiders.

That was the Hatters' 21st win over Blackpool, whilst the Tangerines have won 16, and the sides have contested 12 draws. Town's biggest win over the Seasiders came in March 1978, when Alan West, Ron Fletcher, Phil Boersma and Lil Fuccillo all scored in a 4-0 thrashing.



Mark Cullen

IT'S THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF BLACKPOOL NEXT SATURDAY, WHEN WE HOPE THE HATTERS WILL ILLUMINATE THE GOLDEN MILE...

IN CHARGE Son of Ian Bowyer, the former Manchester City and Nottingham Forest midfielder, Gary took his first full-time League management role at Blackburn Rovers in 2013 during a period of instability in the club, successfully keeping the Ewood Park outfit in the Championship, where they remain now. A former defender, he made a name for himself at Hereford United, before moving onto Nottingham Forest and finishing his career at Rotherham United.

PREVIOUS FORM Bowyer's side are in fine form at the moment, having won four of their last six League Two matches. The Seasiders have also found a rich vein of scoring form, firing four past both Newport County and Notts County in that run, meaning they now have the second-best goal difference in the division. On top of that, wins over Brackley Town and Kidderminster Harriers have seen the Tangerines progress to the third round of the Emirates FA Cup, drawing Barnsley at home in the next stage of the competition.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU Former Premier League striker and ex-Hatter Mark Cullen now leads the line for the Tangerines, after departing for Bloomfield Road last summer to play in League One. The striker netted nine goals last term and was their top goal scorer, but it couldn't stop his side slipping down into the fourth tier.

HATTERS V BLACKPOOL
LUTON WINS: 21 | DRAWS: 12 | BLACKPOOL WINS: 16
LAST MEETING
LUTON 1-0 BLACKPOOL, 2ND APRIL 2005

GET YOUR TICKET



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.



PORTSMOUTH

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER | 3PM

We can now advise that we have received an initial allocation of 1,623 tickets for our trip to Portsmouth. Tickets are now available to Season Ticket holders at two per person until close of business on today. Any remaining tickets will go general sale online at 6pm today, and over the phone and in person from the Ticket Office as of Monday 12th December. Tickets will remain on sale until 3pm Friday 30th December. **Prices:** Adult: £20, Senior 62+: £15, Unaccompanied U18: £10, Accompanied U18 with a full paying adult/senior: £5, Wheelchair and Carer: £12, Ambulant disabled: £12 Ambulant disabled Junior: £10, Carers (require to be on highest rate of DLA).



ACCRINGTON STANLEY

EMIRATES FA CUP THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY | 3PM

A sales plan for tickets will be announced in due course. Keep checking www.lutontown.co.uk and the club's social media channels in the coming days for details of how to obtain your ticket for the trip to the Wham Stadium.



COLCHESTER UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

MONDAY 26TH DECEMBER | 3PM

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

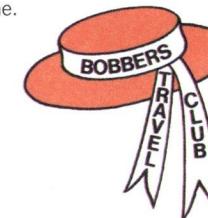


BARNET

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER | 3PM

Tickets are now available from the ticket office and online for this category B game.



FARES AND DEPARTURE TIMES

DATE	MATCH	ADULT	CONC.	TIME
Sat 17 Dec	Blackpool	£30	£27	8.00
Mon 2 Jan	Portsmouth	£23	£20	10.30
Sat 14 Jan	Crewe Alexandra	£23	£20	10.30
Sat 21 Jan	Wycombe Wanderers	£18	£16	12.30

For Bobbers Travel Club bookings: 01234 856542

SPEAKING COMMERCIALLY

MATCH SPONSOR: QUEENSBURY OLD BOYS

Today's match sponsors are lifelong friends and Luton supporters, originally school friends from Dunstable but now all living out of the area. Gerry McGrath, Andrew McGrath, Graham Taylor, Stephen Taylor, Matt Hall and John Collings attend games home and away whenever possible and always enjoy coming together once a season as match sponsors.

They would like to wish Nathan Jones and the team every success in gaining promotion this season!

TODAY'S MASCOTS:



MARC HILTON

Age: 32 | Favourite Player: Danny Hylton

LEWIS HILTON

Age: 7 | Favourite Player: Jack Marriott

EMILY HILTON

Age: 4

Favourite Player: Cameron McGeehan



CALLUM MCSKIMMING

Age: 22

Favourite Player: James Justin



KEVIN MCSKIMMING

Age: 32

Favourite Player: Danny Hylton

HAYDEN MCSKIMMING

Age: 3

Favourite Player: Cameron McGeehan



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 H: AVAILABLE A: Kelly Knight	 H: Whosh A: AVAILABLE	 H: Marston Vale Properties A: AVAILABLE	 H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE
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 H: Football262 A: AVAILABLE	 H: Whosh A: AVAILABLE	 H: Bobbers Travel A: Ian Jones	 H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE
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KEY
H: HOME | A: AWAY | G: GLOVES



WELCOME CARLISLE UNITED

The Hatters would like to extend a warm welcome to the staff, players and fans of today's visitors Carlisle United.

Having only suffered one loss in the league so far this season, it is easy to see why Carlisle have been top of the table in recent weeks, and currently sit second.

However, they did suffer their first home defeat of the season last weekend, as they were knocked out of the Emirates FA Cup by League One side Rochdale. Goals from Steven Davies and Nathaniel Mendez-Laing secured the visiting side's place in the third round of the competition.

Keith Curle's men suffered their first defeat of the season in mid-November, unexpectedly falling to a 2-0 loss away at basement side Newport County. Since then in the league it has been business as usual for the Cumbrians, who are unbeaten in three matches with a possible seven points from nine available.

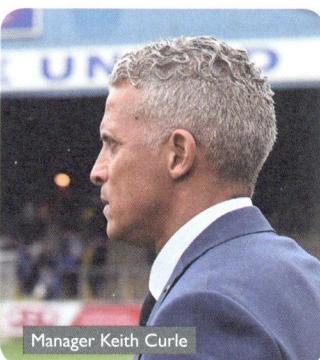
Their form this term has been a bit of a bolt from the blue, having not gone more than five games unbeaten in 2016 until the start of this term.

The goalscoring form of Charlie Wyke, Jason Kennedy and Jabo Ibehre have helped fire United up the table and maintain their place in the automatic promotion spots.

Wyke in particular has impressed in recent weeks, netting a hat-trick against Mansfield in a 5-2 win and more importantly for his side, scoring a last-gasp winner against Exeter City after the Cumbrians came from behind late on, taking his tally up to 10 strikes for the season.



HATTERS V CARLISLE
LUTON WINS: 11 | DRAWS: 5 | CARLISLE WINS: 10
LAST MEETING
CARLISLE 1-2 LUTON TOWN – 19TH APRIL 2016



Managed by former England international Curle since 2014, the club have shocked many with their form this season, having finished 20th and tenth in League Two since they were relegated from League One in 2014.



The 53-year-old began his managerial career at Mansfield Town, originally in a player-manager capacity in 2002, but gave up playing a season later to concentrate fully on the management role. Since then he has gone onto take the helm at Chester City, Notts County and Torquay United.

Together with leaders Doncaster, Carlisle have a superior goal difference to the rest of the league, on plus 14, but the Cumbrians miss out on top spot as leading scorers by five, with Rovers edging them with 42 goals this season in League Two.

Their defensive record is pretty strong as well, having only conceded 23 goals in 19 matches, the tightest record at the moment is currently held by the Hatters, who have only let in 18 so far.

The Hatters have faced the Cumbrians 26 times in total, defeating them 11 occasions. The sides have drawn five times, and Carlisle have been victorious in ten.

TEAM PROFILE:

NICKNAME: THE CUMBRIANS, UNITED, THE BLUES | GROUND: BRUNTON PARK | LAST SEASON: 10TH LEAGUE TWO | MANAGER: KEITH CURLE | LAST LEAGUE MATCH: CARLISLE 5-2 MANSFIELD

MEET THE VISITORS

include Scunthorpe, Northampton and Leyton Orient.

NICKY ADAMS

The former Bury, Rochdale and Leicester City midfielder won promotion with Northampton Town last season, before joining the Cumbrians in the summer on a two-year deal.

REGGIE LAMB

The Bermuda international has played for some interesting clubs during his career, turning out for MLS side Toronto FC and Nykopings BIS in Sweden. He joined the Cumbrians in June from Mansfield.

UP FRONT

CHARLIE WYKE

Carlisle's top scorer this season with ten goals to his name, Wyke joined for a nominal fee in January 2015. He started his career with Middlesbrough, enjoying multiple loan spells at clubs including Kettering Town and AFC Wimbledon.

JABO IBEHRE

After making nearly 250 appearances for Leyton Orient in an eight-year spell, Ibehre has played for MK Dons, Oldham and Barnsley. He joined Carlisle in 2015.

SHAUN MILLER

Another experienced forward, Miller started his career with Crewe Alexandra, scoring 43 goals in just over 175 appearances for the Railways. His former sides include Shrewsbury Town, Sheffield United and Morecambe.

THE BOSS

KEITH CURLE

The former England international took the reins at Brunton Park in 2014 just after they'd suffered relegation from League One. He has also managed the likes of Torquay United, Chester City and Mansfield Town.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

MARK GILLESPIE

The keeper came through the youth ranks at Brunton Park and became the club's longest serving player when he was offered a new contract at the end of the 2014/15 season, taking him into a sixth year with the Blues.

IN DEFENCE

DANNY GRAINGER

The Penrith-born captain enjoyed spells with Gretna, Brechin, Dundee United, St Johnstone, Hearts and St Mirren during his 12-year stay in Scotland, before signing for the Cumbrians in 2014.

MICHAEL RAYNES

Raynes started his career with Stockport County where he made over 150 appearances in his six-year stay, before going onto play for Scunthorpe, Rotherham, Oxford United and Mansfield.

SHAUN BRISLEY

United signed defender Brisley on a two-year deal in the summer from Peterborough. His former sides

FROM THE OAK ROAD

WITH JOANNE MERRIE

Joanne Merrie, a Carlisle United supporter of three decades, gives us her thoughts on what lies in store for her team this season in Sky Bet League Two and this afternoon on their visit to Kenilworth Road...

► THE SEASON AHEAD

You've been back in League Two for a couple of seasons now after relegation, finishing 20th and tenth. Safe to say you'd be happy to maintain the same level of improvement this year, as you currently are?

Absolutely, Keith Curle has brought in the players he feels can do that. We've had a few poor seasons but things are definitely on the up.

How good was it to hear 'still the EFL's only unbeaten side, Carlisle United' for so long at the start of the season?

It was quite an achievement and certainly had other teams sitting up and taking notice. The squad this year has a close bond and this is definitely helping.

Were the expectation levels around Brunton Park set for a promotion push this season before a ball was kicked?

They are every season for me. I don't believe you can ever go into a season not wanting promotion, and I don't

believe Keith Curle would think any different.

Which of Keith Curle's summer signings have you been most impressed with so far?

Most of his summer signings are doing well, but Nicky Adams is the standout performer. His assist record is one of the best in the country and he has helped in the development of current players.

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

Derek Asamoah, but luckily he is now back. It's never nice to see the released list and there are always players on there that you think should be staying. You just have to trust the manager's decision.

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

I'm happy with the full squad. The transformation of some of the players this season has given the squad extra strength.

► SEASONS PAST...

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

I've supported Carlisle for around 30 years and have been a season ticket holder for 25 seasons. My first match at Brunton Park was a charity match, and my mum took me along. She used to go when she was younger and then after the charity game we started going to Carlisle matches. I remember John Holliday playing for Carlisle at the time. John grew up in the same village as me so it was a bit weird seeing someone you grew up with playing on the pitch.

What do you love most about Brunton Park?

Over the years there has been some close friendships made. We've had our season tickets in the same seats, so you become close to those around you who have also been in that stand for numerous years. We've also witnessed some important matches



at Brunton Park which are talked about all the time.

Who's your favourite Carlisle United player of all-time?

Over the years we have had a few players who you'd never thought would play for our team. I remember the day Michael Bridges signed. I was working in Leeds at the time and had read he had signed. I had to call my parents to check it was 'the' Michael Bridges.

Which is your favourite season following the Cumbrians and why? 2005/06 – after the enjoyment of promotion out of the Conference, going on to win the league the following season was brilliant. Add into that an appearance at Wembley. Not many teams at our level could enjoy that.

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



Derek Asamoah

Sean McDaid, Jason Price, Michael Bridges, Danny Cadamarteri and Greg Abbott.

► LUTON AND CARLISLE...

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

Last season's game down here at Kenilworth Road. I don't think anyone expected the comeback from 3-1 down to win 4-3. It certainly made the journey home a happier one.

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

I expect the game to be a tough test for both sides. It is important we get back to winning ways after our FA Cup exit. I predict a close game, but I think we'll edge it. Luton 2 Carlisle 3. The away end is certainly old school. There aren't many grounds where you are walking out the stands and you look onto people's houses!

Of our current squad, Jordan Cook and Alex Gilliead have both enjoyed loan spells with yourselves. Whether it's Jordan, Alex or anyone else, who's been your favourite former player with a Luton connection?

Both Jordan and Alex did well at Carlisle, and I'd welcome both of them back into the Carlisle squad.

► Who should we fear most in a blue shirt this afternoon?

I'd say the fans. We're a passionate bunch and enjoy being part of the team. On the pitch either Nicky Adams or Charlie Wyke.

► QUICK-FIRE:

Terrace or seats? Seats
Who are your rivals?

All other League Two teams
Favourite all-time manager?

Keith Curle is fast becoming my favourite
Predict your player of the season?

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

Michael Bridges

Most treasured Carlisle piece of memorabilia?

My dog Billy – named after Chris Billy
What league will Carlisle be in next season

League One

Who will win promotion from League Two?

Carlisle, Doncaster, Plymouth, Luton.



Imagine living in a world where people seem to be speaking a different language, no one understands you, you don't know what's going to happen next, and you are anxious and frightened but can't tell anyone how you feel.

Luckily for you, this is just imagination.
For someone with autism, this is everyday life.

Autism Bedfordshire is a local independent charity whose aim is to improve the quality of life for people with autism and their families in Bedfordshire. We are delighted to have been chosen as the Luton Town Supporters Charity of the Year this season.

Please help us to continue to enhance the lives of people with autism in the county and text **AUTB12 £2 to 70070** to donate £2 to Autism Bedfordshire.



Autism Bedfordshire is a registered charity number: 1100722

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

STAN BOWLES

Colourful striker Stan Bowles was capped five times by England after leaving Carlisle United. Initially with Manchester City, he had spells with Bury and Crewe Alexandra before moving to Brunton Park in October 1972 and was Carlisle's leading marksman in 1971-72. He netted 12 goals in 33 League games prior to joining QPR for a then record £112,000 in September 1972 and starred in their 1972-73 promotion success and 1975-76 League Championship near-miss. Later with Nottingham Forest, Orient and Brentford, he has since helped his sister in the London rag trade and written his book 'Stan the Man'.

BOBBY MONCUR

Former Scotland international central defender Bobby Moncur had a spell as Carlisle United's player-manager. He turned professional with Newcastle United in April 1962, helping to win the FA Youth Cup, then regain top-flight status in 1964-65. Skippering them to Fairs Cup glory in 1969 and the FA Cup final in 1974, he for £275,000 in April 1982. After a spell with Manchester United, he joined Newcastle United in September 1983 and helped them win promotion in 1983-84. He later starred for Liverpool, Everton, Newcastle again, Bolton Wanderers, Manchester City, Fulham and Hartlepool United. Currently on Newcastle's coaching staff.



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[LEIGH EDWARDS ON CARLISLE]

IAN BISHOP

Midfielder Ian Bishop gained England B international recognition after leaving Carlisle United. Initially with Everton, he moved to Carlisle in October 1984, netting 14 goals in 132 League games before joining AFC Bournemouth in July 1988. He helped them to reach the FA Cup fifth round in 1988-89, moving to Manchester City in a deal involving Paul Moulden in August 1989. Joining West Ham four months later, he twice helped win promotion and rejoined Manchester City in March 1998, then Miami Fusion, Rochdale, Burscough, Radcliffe Borough and New Orleans Shell Shockers. He is now a youth coach in Florida.

DEAN HOLDSWORTH

England B international striker Dean Holdsworth had a loan spell at Carlisle United in 1987-88. Initially at Watford with his twin brother David, he was loaned to Carlisle in February 1988 and scored once in four League games. He joined Brentford in September 1989 and was top scorer in their 1991-92 Third Division title triumph. 'Deano' moved to Wimbledon for £720,000 in July 1992 and starred as they were FA Cup and League Cup semi-finalists in 1996-97, then played for Bolton Wanderers, Coventry, Rushden & Diamonds, Wimbledon again and Derby County. He has managed Newport County, Aldershot and Chelmsford City.

RORY DELAP

Rory Delap was capped nine times by the Republic of Ireland after leaving Carlisle United. He turned professional at Brunton Park in July 1994, starring in Carlisle's 1996-97 promotion and Auto Windscreens Shield 'double' triumph. He netted seven goals in 65 League games before joining Derby County for £500,000 in February 1998. Sold to Southampton for £3,000,000 in July 2001, he helped reach the FA Cup final in 2003 and moved via Sunderland to Stoke City in October 2006. He starred with his long throws as they won promotion in 2007-08 and were FA Cup finalists in 2011, then finished with Burton Albion.

CLIVE ALLEN

Ex-England international striker Clive Allen briefly played for Carlisle United in 1995-96. A son of former QPR favourite Les Allen, he netted a hat-trick on his full League debut for QPR against Coventry in April 1979. He was leading marksman in 1979-80 and joined Arsenal in June 1980. Following Terry Venables from Crystal Palace back to QPR

in June 1981, he starred as they were FA Cup finalists in 1982 and Second Division champions in 1982-83. He joined Spurs in August 1984, then Bordeaux, Manchester City, Chelsea, West Ham, Millwall and Carlisle United in September 1995, making three League appearances.

MATT JANSEN

England Youth international striker Matt Jansen featured in Carlisle United's 1996-97 promotion and Auto Windscreens Shield 'double' triumph. Born locally, he turned professional at Brunton Park in January 1996 and netted ten goals in 42 League games for Carlisle before being sold to Crystal Palace for a club record £1,500,000 in February 1998. He gained England U-21 international recognition and joined Blackburn Rovers for £4,100,000 in January 1999, scoring in their 2002 League Cup final success. He recovered from a serious head injury in a motor accident and later played for Bolton Wanderers. Now managing Chorley.

IAN HARTE

Republic of Ireland international left-back Ian Harte was capped 64 times before joining Carlisle United. He turned professional with Leeds United in December 1995 and helped win the FA Youth Cup in 1997. Playing alongside his uncle, Gary Kelly, he featured as they were European Cup semi-finalists in 2001. He joined Spanish side Levante in July 2004, then had spells with Sunderland and Blackpool before joining Carlisle in March 2009. Scoring 19 goals in 52 League games, he joined Reading in August 2010 and helped win the Championship title in 2012-13, then repeated the feat with AFC Bournemouth in 2014-15.

PASCAL CHIMBONDA

Ex-French international right-back Pascal Chimbonda played for Carlisle United in 2013-14. Initially with Le Havre and Bastia in his native country, he joined Wigan Athletic in July 2005, starring as they finished tenth in the Premier League and were League Cup finalists in 2006. He moved to Tottenham Hotspur in August 2006 and helped win the League Cup in 2008. Sold to Sunderland for £3,000,000 in July 2008, he rejoined Spurs for a similar fee in January 2009, then played for QPR and Doncaster Rovers before joining Carlisle in October 2013. He made 26 League appearances, moving to Arles-Avignon in October 2014.

PICTURE THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES



Ron Fletcher (left) and Jimmy Husband watch the flight of the ball during the Town's 5-0 win over Carlisle at Kenilworth Road in March 1977. This victory made it 11 wins and one draw from 12 games shooting the Hatters up the Division Two (now Championship) table. Sadly, the amazing run was to end a week later in a 1-0 defeat at Southampton.

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Unsung hero Don Givens is about to thank Malcolm Macdonald for the assist after netting the Town's second goal at Hillsborough. Jim Ryan adds his congratulations.

AS OTHERS SAW US

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

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1 LUTON TOWN 5 | 10TH OCTOBER 1970

If ever one game can make a player, then Malcolm Macdonald can look back to Hillsborough, Sheffield on 10th October 1970 as his coming of age.

Despite finishing as leading goalscorer the previous season as the Town fought their way out of Division Three (now League One), Macdonald was not particularly well known outside Luton and the south-east.

Although a few more eyebrows were being raised as he found scoring just as easy in the higher league, it took a televised game to make the country sit up and take notice.

Wednesday had just been relegated from the top flight and had not started the campaign particularly well, struggling in the lower half of the table. The Hatters, on the other

hand, had been unbeaten for a month and were stringing together a run of wins.

The game opened promisingly with the Town starting off full of commitment, and it came as no real surprise when Macdonald picked up a through pass from close season signing from Arsenal, David Court, and with the Wednesday players conveniently forgetting that he was strong on his left foot, rocketed a shot past Owls goalkeeper Peter Grummitt from the edge of the box.

The Town continued to take the game to Wednesday and effectively

killed the contest with two goals in a minute shortly before half-time.

Firstly, Macdonald picked up another through ball from Court and centred to the unmarked Don Givens, who was able to pick his spot with ease.

With the referee just about to blow for the interval, Macdonald, again in acres of space on the left, ran on to another through ball to smash his shot into the roof of the net.

Wednesday came out in the second half to be greeted by a slow handclap, and it was not long before the Town rubbed salt into the wounds by scoring a fourth when full-back



John Ryan pushed yet another through ball into the path of Givens, who drew Grummitt before placing a delicate shot into the net.

There was a brief rally from the Owls shortly afterwards, culminating in Jackie Sinclair pulling a goal back, but the final say went to Macdonald. With eight minutes to go he latched on to the inevitable through ball, leaving the defence chasing in his wake before his hat-trick goal flew past the mesmerised Grummitt.

With the game being televised the following day, the national newspapers suddenly wanted to know all about Malcolm Macdonald and the Luton team. Overnight the Town were no longer unknown quantities, which made the anticipated promotion fight all the more difficult.

The trip to Hillsborough had been seen in the minds of most Luton supporters, including me, as an excursion to the big time considering that the Town had visited outposts like Barrow less than 12 months previously. Wednesday had a state of the art (for the time) electronic scoreboard, a legacy of Hillsborough being chosen as a venue for the 1966 World Cup, which had been placed on top of the massive 'Kop'. If only mobile phones had been around in 1970 we could have recorded '9,11,9,11,9' (the Luton scorers) as shown on the scoreboard, a memory that has stuck with me as well as our esteemed chairman Nick Owen, who was also present.

For once, both the local and national press were in agreement about the quality of the Town's football and how we deserved the comprehensive victory.

Tony Pritchett in the Sheffield Star, even though an Owls fan, purred with delight at some of the Town's moves and regretted that the home side had been unable to put on a display for the four pre-war Wednesday players who were in attendance as guests of the club.

It was all about Malcolm Macdonald as far as the national press was concerned. 'He wasted little time in showing Hillsborough why manager Alec Stock rates him in the £100,000 class', said Harold Martin of the People, while Roy Bentley in the Daily

Mirror reported: 'Mac the Knife showed he can cut up a defence by more than mere speed and shooting.'

Ken Waite of the News of the World enthused: 'Wednesday were shot to pieces by the slickest goalscoring machine since Jimmy Greaves went out of style.'

The last word went to Hatters director Eric Morecambe, who said: 'It was a knockout performance and I can see us winning the League, the Cup and the Grand National as well!'

"Shot to pieces by the slickest goalscoring machine"

**Mac hits
wonder
hat-trick**

By HAROLD MARTIN
Sheff. Wed 1 Luton 5

LUTON'S Malcolm Macdonald wasted little time showing Hillsborough why manager Alex Stock rates him in the £100,000 class.

After 15 minutes the Division Two top-scorer weaved his way between two defenders to unleash

**A dream
hat-trick
for Mal**

By ROY BENTLEY
Sheff. W. 1, Luton 5

THE few thousand Sheffield people who made up the tiny groups scattered here and there in the massive, superbly built Hillsborough stadium shouted abuse at general manager Eric Taylor and team boss Danny Williams. And at the end, when safely tucked away in the dressing-room, angry season ticket holders vented

**Artistry
of Luton
makes it
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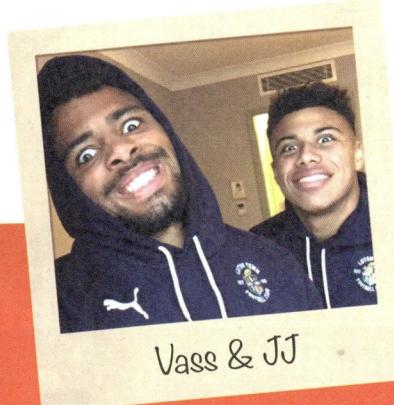
by FRANK HEYWOOD
Sheffield Wed 1 Luton 5
A CLASSIC hat-trick from the lethal left foot of Malcolm MacDonald took Luton to the decisive win their superior skill and

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[ROOM-MATES]

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



HATTERS HOTEL ROOM-MATES

NAMES: JAMES JUSTIN & ISAAC VASSELL | **POSITION:** RIGHT-BACK/ WINDOW & STRIKER/DOOR **JJ** – I'M ALWAYS NEAR THE WINDOW BECAUSE VASSY KEEPS US SAFE IF SOMEONE COMES THROUGH THE DOOR! **IV** – I DEAL WITH THEM! IT'S JUST A THING FROM HOME. WHEN I'M WITH MY GIRLFRIEND, I LIKE TO BE NEAR THE DOOR. I LOOK AFTER JJ THE SAME. | **AGES:** 18 & 23

How long have you known each other?

IV: From day one when I came in on trial, JJ helped me out with lifts and helped me move into my place.

When did you first room together?

JJ: The first time at Exeter. Usually I'm with Frankie Musonda or Zane Banton, but they didn't come.

What's the best thing about rooming together?

IV: Similar personalities, similar tastes in music – predominantly R&B, but anything really.

JJ: We like a little dance as well.

What's your roomie's worst habit?

IV: Worst snorer ever – and he strays into my bed as well during the night. A leg will just appear over the gap!

JJ: Talking in his sleep. I'm talking back, but he's not actually awake.

Who makes the tea?

IV: If I'm making a coffee, I'll ask JJ. But he doesn't really drink it.

First up in the morning?

IV: JJ all the time.

Who decides when to turn the light out at night?

JJ: Vass.

IV: He'll say 'I'm going to sleep now', and within five minutes he's gone.

Who's the tidiest?

IV: Definitely JJ, I just chuck my stuff wherever. Only there for a night so might as well make the most of it.

JJ: I'm not OCD though.

Unpack or live out of your bag?

JJ: I'm a bit of both, but we don't really have much to unpack.

IV: It's just get your tracksuit out, chuck it on the chair, get your wash bag out.

Who takes the longest to get ready?

JJ: Probably about the same, but we get ready at different times.

IV: We don't pride ourselves on our appearance so there's no personal grooming going on, we just get up, get showered and get ready for the day.

Who is most likely to be on the TV?

IV: Grand Designs, but if ever there's football on, we'll watch that first.

JJ: I'm a Celeb has been on recently. Family Guy as well.

Games console or TV?

JJ: I like to play Football Manager.

IV: I'm more of a telly man.

Any other in-room activities?

JJ: We are due a fight.

IV: Yeah, a little rumble – but nothing that gets out of hand!

Who would you rather room with?

IV: No-one.

JJ: No-one, but...

IV: What do you mean, but?

JJ: There are three that are nine-out-of-tens – Zane, Frankie and Vassy.

Who would you least like to room with?

IV: I don't think there is anyone I don't get along with.

JJ: Same here, but I think Hylts would be psycho in a room – just wouldn't let you sleep and just act like a child!

Who is most likely to gatecrash your room?

JJ: Jack Senior, but he's welcome. He just comes in to chill with the lads.

IV: Jake Gray comes in sometimes.

And who do you lock the door to?

JJ: You don't want Hylts and Mulls in there.

IV: Pelly will come in and play pranks as well, chucking seeds around and making his 'Brerr' noise!

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

IV: Five – easy!

JJ: I'll go five as well.

TOWN 6 : SOLIHULL MOORS 2

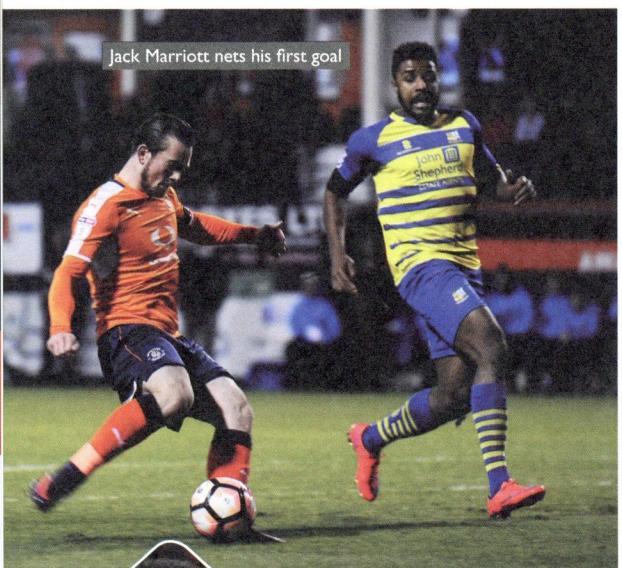


SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER | KENILWORTH ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 3,512 | AWAY: 635

TOWN GOALS: HYLTON 51, MULLINS 54, O'DONNELL 60, 90,
MARRIOTT 63, 90+2 | **SOLIHULL GOALS:** OSBORNE 5, 35

TOWN: WALTON, JUSTIN (O'DONNELL 46), CUTHBERT, MULLINS, SHEEHAN, REA, COOK, MCGEEHAN,
GILLIEAD (POTTS 76), HYLTON (VASSELL 82), MARRIOTT. SUBS NOT USED: SMITH, MPANZU, LEE, KING (GK)
| YELLOW CARDS: MCGEEHAN, CUTHBERT, COOK

SOLIHULL: LEWIS, MUROMBEDZI, FRANKLIN (MORRIS 72), DALY, GOUGH, ASANTE, BYRNE, JONES
(KNIGHTS 83), FAGBOLA, OSBORNE, STERLING (WHITE 82). SUBS NOT USED: SUBS NOT USED: KOUÉ,
DIELNA, ACTON (GK) | YELLOW CARDS: FRANKLIN, MUROMBEDZI, OSBORNE.



JONES: Normally I quite like going mental now and again, but I didn't have to at half-time.

"I don't want to use heavy words, but the first half was not a performance I want to be associated with."

"To be fair, Solihull changed and we couldn't handle it. I felt we were poor. Our intensity, the way we pressed, our man for man dominance was so, so poor. It was probably as bad a performance as we have had."

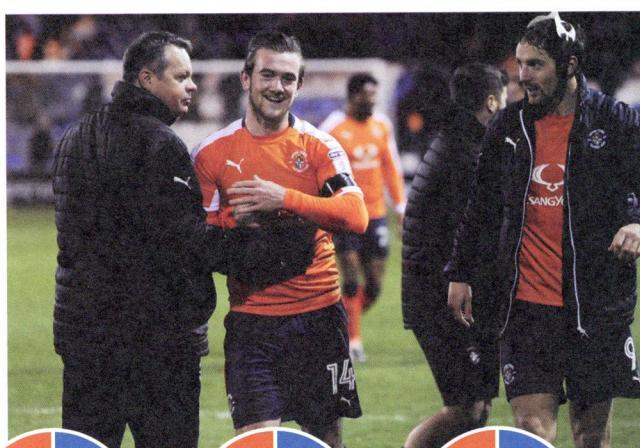
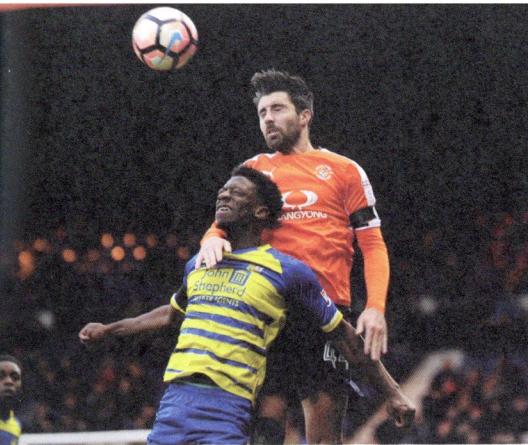
"Second half we were absolutely scintillating. It was a performance we could be proud of."

"Normally I quite like going mental now and again, but I didn't have to at half-time. It was more a case of here we

are, if we want to do it we have got to get the first goal and get it quickly and however long it takes us to get the second, then we will try and go on and win the game."

"I have been on the other end of stuff, when you're the underdog and you take the lead and you think 'can we hold onto this?' And then when they get a goal back your belief goes a little bit, and then when they get a second, your belief goes totally."

"Then we went three, four, five and then six. I don't think that flattered us if I am honest, we were just clinical."



STORY OF THE MATCH:

The Hatters survived an FA Cup scare to book their place in the third round, coming from two goals down to sink Solihull Moors with six of their second-half best!

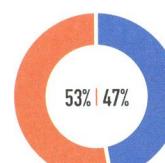
The National League visitors led 2-0 at half-time and one of the major upsets of this year's competition looked on the cards, as Jamey Osborne netted both goals to punish a disjointed Town side.

But Nathan Jones' men came out after the break a completely different team, and within nine minutes of the restart they were level with strikes from Danny Hylton and Johnny Mullins, before substitute Stephen O'Donnell marked his 50th appearance for the club with a double and Jack Marriott followed suit.

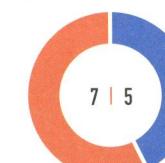
Osborne struck in the fifth and 35th minutes to put the part-timers in dreamland as the Town struggled to create any first-half openings.

But Marriott clipped a beautiful ball over the top for Hylton to net his 13th goal of the season on 51 minutes, and by the 54th, Mullins had his first in a Town shirt to even things up.

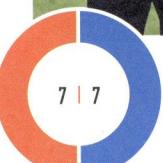
Marriott then created another for O'Donnell to put the Hatters in front on the hour, before the striker got in on the act himself on 63 minutes to make it four. The pair then grabbed a second goal each with time almost up to make the final score 6-2.



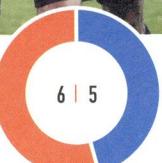
POSSESSION



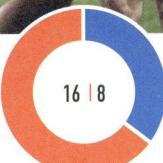
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[STEPHEN O'DONNELL AND JOHNNY MULLINS ON SOLIHULL]

SODS

STEPHEN OUR DOUBLE SENSATION!

Two defenders contributed three goals last week as Town put six past Solihull in the Emirates FA Cup, with Stephen O'Donnell claiming he should become a striker after netting a brace!

The right-back came on as a half-time sub for the Hatters at 2-0 down, and helped them on their way to victory by getting on the scoresheet twice.

He said: "I should be a striker! Two goals in 45 minutes, I will take that. Thankfully I managed to come on and make a positive input in the game and we managed to go on and win.

"I am delighted with the result, with the performance in the second half and we are in the next round, so hopefully we get a nice draw.

"I thought Johnny Mullins' goal was probably the best of them, I am not going to lie. It was nice to get the couple of goals and when you score a couple when you come on as a sub, it's always a nice feeling."

With the game at 2-1 to the visitors, Mullins brought things level after Danny Hylton had pulled a goal back for the Hatters.

That was Mullins' first goal for the club since he arrived from Oxford United in the summer, but he was just pleased to see the Hatters run out victorious after what was a slow opening 45 minutes for his side.

Mullins said: "Hylts rolled it to me on the edge of the box and I have just stuck my leg out and gave it a kick and it went in! I am thankful to get the goal at a time when we wanted a quick reply in the second half.

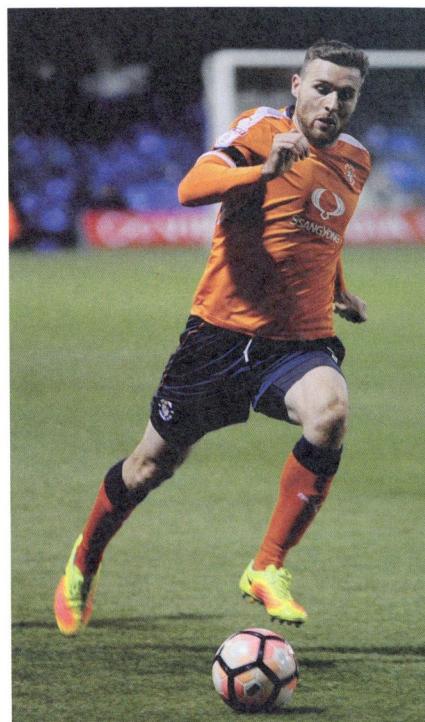
BRILLIANT

"Obviously Hylts did that quite early, to get the second was quite good and we went on from there really. We were brilliant second half, there's no denying that, but it should never have been at that stage of needing to produce that.

"We had to produce that in the second half, because the first half was so inept. They are the only word I can use for it.

"We will look at the first half, it was not something we want to associate with ourselves with. But we are in the hat, we got through."

O'Donnell and Jack Marriott have been on the bench for a couple of weeks before the game, but the pair's performances last Saturday will have done their credit in Nathan Jones' books no harm according to Mullins, who was impressed by his team-mates' performances.



"When you score a couple when you come on as a sub, it's always a nice feeling"

"SODS has done really well," he added. "The gaffer is always on about people that come off the bench, they are game changers. He has come on and he was excellent today.

"I thought Jack Marriott did well, he got in with the goals. In the second half he was excellent. He has scored two today and we are all hopeful going into an important period he can really kick on now and bag a few more."



CAMERON'S 100 NOT OUT

MCGEEHAN'S MAGIC NUMBERS

29 goals in his 100 appearances (101 including last week's game v Solihull)

27 games in which he has scored those goals

4 he has scored the only goal of the game four times

8 the biggest proportion of his goals have come from inside the six-yard box

6 have come from the penalty spot and another half-a-dozen have been headers

45 of his first 100 appearances were in games won

90 of his first 100 appearances were starts, 10 as sub

From making his senior debut in the Conference title-winning season as an 18-year-old on loan from Norwich City, to clocking up his 100th appearance in the goalless draw at Exeter recently, it's been some ride for Cameron McGeehan at Luton Town. Here, in his own words, the defensive midfielder-turned-goalscoring machine selects his top five highlights from his Hatters career so far...

JANUARY 2014 – Getting told 'You're off to Luton', getting in my car and driving down, not knowing what to expect at a completely new club and experience

The Norwich academy manager Ricky Martin pulled me around December and said potentially Luton might want me, and I thought 'Ledge'. I was looking on Google, seeing that they were doing really well in the Conference, although Cambridge were top.

Then we got towards the end of January and he rang me to say 'Get in your car, you're going to Luton for a month'. I was buzzing.

At the time, I'd won the Youth Cup the season before and I was captain of the Under-21s, but I was desperate to get out on loan.



I downloaded the LinkedIn app and I was messaging anyone I could find on there, like the Port Vale assistant-manager and the gaffer at Crawley Town, sending them my CV. I was trying everything I could to get my foot in the door somewhere.

Nothing was coming up, but eventually Jeff Wood – who was the goalie coach at Luton but had been at Norwich when Paul Lambert was there – orchestrated it all for me to come here.

I got in my car, drove down and stayed in the Chiltern Hotel. Ryan Inniss was here on loan as well, and that helps, because it's quite daunting going to meet new people. It was the first time I'd ever done it, and I didn't know what to expect.

25th JANUARY 2014 – The first roar from the crowd when I made a big tackle in the first five minutes of my debut against Nuneaton

Luton was a massive club in the Conference, so it was quite daunting. Luke Guttridge helped me loads. In my first game against Nuneaton, for example, I was sitting in the changing room and I didn't really know what the script was in terms of how many fans would be there.



I said to him 'What are we talking? What's this game going to be like?'

Gutts said, 'Just get out there, do what you do, and you'll be fine'. I went out and it was amazing. I couldn't believe how big a club and stadium it was.

At Norwich I was more of a holding midfielder, a bit more defensive. I just thought to myself, the Conference is going to be hard, real tough, it's going to be physical, so let's make a mark and leave a tackle in on someone and get the fans behind me straight away.

I ended up over on the touchline on the Main Stand side, and the fans all erupted at that and it gave me that adrenaline rush to get me through the game. We won 3-0 with an Andre Gray hat-trick.

15th FEBRUARY 2014 – Breaking my elbow in my third game against Hereford, but making the decision to play on through the pain for the next few weeks

We won 7-0 at Kenilworth Road – Andre scored another hat-trick – but I came off with a bad elbow, I couldn't carry on.

Me and my dad went to Kingston Hospital afterwards to get it X-rayed, but I didn't want to go back to Norwich and sit in the Under-21s again.

There was quite a big crack in the bone, but I made the decision to stay at Luton and crack on – if you excuse the pun – and played with it for six to eight weeks. I'd strap it up for every game, and it was OK.

We were winning games and I just wanted to be part of things. We won my first six games at the club, scoring 25 goals and conceding just one in the process, so it was a good time and I didn't want to miss out.

We just started flying, overtook Cambridge and broke away that month.





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APRIL 2014 – Winning the Conference, all the pitch invasions and the crowd singing “We want you to stay, we want you to stay, Cameron McGeehan, we want you to stay” crowd used to sing.

I was doing all right, but I wasn't getting fans singing about me. They weren't raving about me.

Then in that last month of the season, I started scoring a few important goals to help seal the promotion and they just started singing 'We want you to stay, we want you to stay'. It was the first time I'd ever had fans singing my name, so it was lovely.

The pitch invasions away from home, at home – it was pretty cool for someone like me, who was young. Everyone was saying to me 'Make sure you enjoy it, because you don't get many of these in your career'. It was great.

We won without playing, as Cambridge lost on the Tuesday before we went to Welling, so that was the pitch invasion that sticks in my mind. The fans were taking selfies with us and all sorts.

31st JANUARY 2015 – Playing for Cambridge against Luton, then re-signing and all the goals that I've scored since...

We had Manchester United on the Tuesday in an FA Cup replay at Old Trafford, and we were playing at Luton on the Saturday.

We were 3-0 down at half-time, but I was just flying around, trying to tackle people because I was more excited for the Luton game than I was for the Man United game.

Doyley and Smudge were giving it to me – not banter, but harsh talk. I enjoyed it and it was a real good contest, great atmosphere.

I got a great ovation at the end from all the fans, which was really nice. I wanted to come back. They were singing 'McGeehan is a Hatter, McGeehan is a Hatter, na, nah, na, na'. I enjoyed that!

I soon rejoined and it's been good ever since. I should have had a few more goals, but there's been some nice ones in there...the Stoke one was nice against a top team, scoring against Wycombe last season was technically my best, and Aston Villa this year. Hopefully there'll be many more to come.



SWINDON 2 : TOWN 3

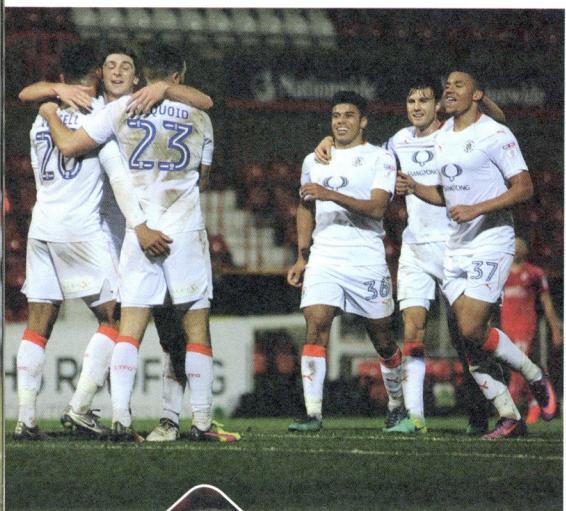


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SWINDON GOALS: NORRIS 6, IANDOLO 63 | **TOWN GOALS:** MCQUOID 8, 19, VASSELL 69

SWINDON: HENRY, ORMONDE-OTTEWILL (IANDOLO 46), THOMAS, RODGERS (YOUNG 46), GODDARD, SHARPE, EVANS, FURLONG, DELFOUNESO, NORRIS (HYLTON 46). SUBS NOT USED: OULDIDGE, GUNNER, TWINE, VIGOUROUX (GK)

TOWN: KING, JUSTIN, MUSONDA, POTTS, SENIOR, LEE, MPANZU, SMITH, GRAY (BAKINSON 95), VASSELL, MCQUOID (MACKAIL-SMITH 74). SUBS NOT USED: GOOCH (GK), BANTON, COTTER, SNELUS, TOMLINSON | YELLOW CARD: MCQUOID



JONES: I thought we were excellent

"It was a thoroughly enjoyable game – a real good football match. Both sides played with an energy, a tempo and a desire to play the right way.

"I felt it was pretty even in terms of build-up, but we had the better chances and probably could have won by more, although 3-2 was a fair result.

"I'm delighted for Josh, genuinely delighted for him because he's trained at a real, real good level and he's deserved probably more than I've given him so far this year. I'm delighted that he got his goal. It was a shame he couldn't get

another one, but him and Isaac were a danger all night.

"Isaac should have had more himself, but it was great for him to get his goal and he's really finding his feet. They were a real threat tonight.

"We put out the team that we think can win the game. We've got three big games in a week and we've assembled a squad and we need to use them, and I thought we were excellent.

"That was a very strong side that we played tonight. You could put that side in League Two comfortably, without a problem."



STORY OF THE MATCH:

Nathan Jones' young Hatters made further progress in the Checkatrade Trophy on Tuesday night, registering a fourth win over higher-level opposition this season with a 3-2 victory over Sky Bet League One side Swindon Town at the County Ground.

Josh McQuoid netted his first goals of the season – a pair of them – and Isaac Vassell the winner as the Town recovered from conceding an early goal to deservedly win an entertaining game in Wiltshire.

The hosts took a fifth-minute lead when a fine through ball found its way between James Justin and Frankie Musonda, and Luke Norris stroked it home from 12 yards.

But the Town hit back almost immediately with McQuoid tapping in from close range when home keeper Will Henry was unable to hold onto a curling shot from Vassell.

The ex-Bournemouth man double his tally for the night, and the season, when he fired in a beauty from just inside the area with his right foot on 19 minutes.

Swindon made all three substitutions at half-time and one of them, Ellis Iandolo, levelled things up on 63 minutes.

But Vassell, who had been a threat to the Robins defence all night alongside McQuoid, got the goal his performance deserved six minutes later when he raced down the right, cut back inside on his left foot and slotted the ball past Henry for what proved to be the winner.



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DOUBLE TOP FINISH FOR HITMAN MCQUOID

Josh McQuoid proved the man in the right place at the right time to net his first goal of the season at Swindon on Tuesday night – then soon added a beauty to double his tally for the night and the campaign.

The 26-year-old tapped in from close range to equalise after Robins keeper Will Henry spilled strike partner Isaac Vassell's sixth-minute shot, then 13 minutes later he bent in a terrific effort from 15 yards to give the Hatters the lead.

Starting appearances have been hard to come by for the ex-Bournemouth man, with only one in League Two to supplement his four in the Checkatrade Trophy this term.

Afterwards, McQuoid said: "It was just good to get the game time really. I was obviously struggling a bit in the second half with the fitness, but good to get the two goals. I've been due a goal.

NICE

"The first one came from Vass, and it was nice to get a tap in just to get me going. You take those all day, they're the ones you want.

"The second one was good pressing from everyone and I slotted it away nicely. I can't remember how it fell to me, I think we caught them on the press. It came to me, I had a touch to the side and just whipped it in.

"I was always shooting from there. As soon as I got it, I just squared the centre-half up and curled it round him."

McQuoid felt he should have had an opportunity to complete his hat-trick in the second half when penalty claims were waved away by referee Roger East, shortly before he was substituted for Craig Mackail-Smith in the 74th minute.

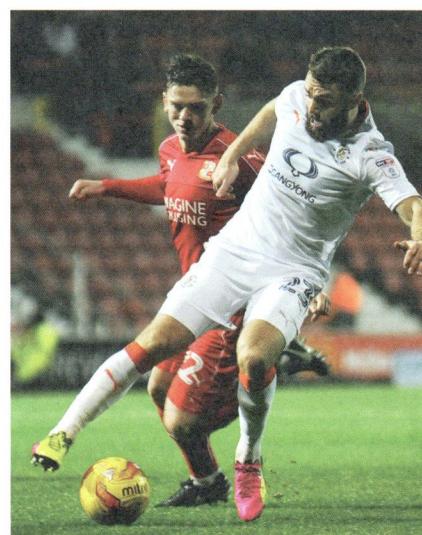
He said: "I thought I should have had a penalty so I was a bit disappointed I didn't get that. I felt he just clipped the back of my heel, I went down. I'll have to have a look at it again on the bus, but I thought it was a definite penalty.

"I'll take two goals though. Obviously I didn't have any for this season before, so two will do me for today."

The Northern Ireland international and Vassell proved a real threat to the Swindon defence all night at the County Ground, linking up well to create several other excellent chances – in particularly for Vassell.

McQuoid added: "I enjoyed playing with Vass. We are both similar players, we both like to run behind. Maybe I drop a little bit deeper and he's obviously got good pace, but we caused them some problems when we were playing up there together.

"It's good to get the chances, and then you are just counting on us to put at least one away each, and that's what we did. We had a fair



I had a touch to the side and just whipped it in

few chances, but it's about creating them as well and being in the right positions. It was good."

On taking his chance to remind manager Nathan Jones of his determination to be part of the Town's striking options, McQuoid added: "It's up to the manager, but I'll just keep working hard and just do what I can do."



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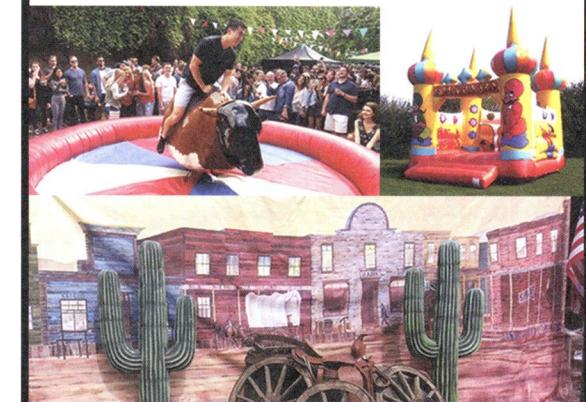
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TRAVELLER'S TALES



HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER ENDURES A GOALLESS AFTERNOON IN EXETER, BUT WEST COUNTRY CIDER, A SURPRISE COACH VISITOR AND A RETURN JOURNEY SNOOZE HELP A LONG DAY PASS QUICKER...

THE JOURNEY

7.25am – After another wake up alarm in what seemed like the middle of the night, it was another early start for a second Saturday in a row as I left the house to go and pick up the coach at Ampthill.

7.50 – Everyone who is boarding at Ampthill is on. It is a misty and cold morning. Hopefully the day livens up a bit at some point!

8.35 – A solitary coach is near enough completely full and off to Exeter we go. I didn't detect much enthusiasm. Not sure whether that was because of the disappointment against Portsmouth, the early start or the long journey ahead of us!

10.30 – After making good ground we stop for a short while at Leigh Delamare services. A good chance to catch some breakfast and build up

for the remainder of the day. Also a chance to search about what is going on in the cricket. Bad move that one!

11.05 – Back on the road for the remainder of the trip to Exeter. Nothing doing in the cricket so I stick the radio on through my phone. Absolute 80s. Perfect way to pass the rest of the journey!

1.10pm – We arrive in Exeter. It has warmed up a bit since we left Luton. Some delightful local chap comes on the coach and welcomes us to Exeter and promptly tells us all that Burnley are beating Man City 1-0 in the early game. With Andre Gray not playing that didn't really interest me!

THE GROUND

1.20 – I quite like Exeter's ground and one of the reasons why is they have a nice bar which welcomes away fans. With over an hour and a



half to kill our group decides to head in. A nice pint of cider goes down very well!

2.10 – After finishing the cider it is time to go into the ground. Takes a bit longer than usual due to a heavy search on the way in. After grabbing a bite to eat and something to drink it is up to find our seats in the stand. Team news is in. Alex Gilliead on the bench which disappoints me as he's a player I really like watching.

THE MATCH

3.02 – The game is underway. Town are in the purple kit. Scott Cuthbert is back in the side and captains it. Jordan Cook is also recalled. Pelly-Ruddock and Gilliead the men to make way.

3.48 – Half-time. I'd have loved to have gone through plenty of the first half but quite simply, literally nothing happened. Hard to remember watching a more boring 45 minutes of football. As D:Ream once said 'Things can only get better', and that is very much the case here. I hope.

4.04 – We're back underway. No changes to either side surprisingly. Town are kicking towards the 600 or so fans who've made the 400+ mile round trip.

4.15 – HOLD THE BACK PAGES! There has been a shot on goal! Isaac Vassell does brilliantly down the Town left and gets in behind the full back. His cut back finds Oly Lee but the keeper makes the save.

4.20 – First sub for the Town. Not Gilliead but Pelly instead. Hopefully he can inject some life into this match. It certainly needs it!

4.22 – Jordan Cook is fouled on the edge of the box. Direct free-kick for us. Alan Sheehan stands over it and hits it well but the keeper's save would have been for the cameras, were there any around. As it was he'll probably wish he'd just caught it!

4.30 – Ooof! We survive a scare as a ball breaks on the edge of our box and is belted at goal. It pings the crossbar and flies over. Shortly after that Alex Gilliead finally comes on.

4.52 – Full-time. 0-0. If ever a game deserved to finish 0-0 that was it. If the Portsmouth game was a great advert for League Two, this was exactly the opposite. Dire stuff. One to forget.

MAN OF THE MATCH

5.05 – Back on the coach but before we get a chance to set off we have a surprise visitor. On comes Town boss Nathan Jones to thank us for our



support which was a nice touch. He goes off claiming the point will be a good one. Can't say I'm convinced!

5.10 – Time to vote for the man of the match. Scott Cuthbert (above) emphatically gets my vote and wins the overall one too. He was brilliant from start to finish. We've had plenty of problems with Reuben Reid in the past but Cuthbert had him under control all match.

THE PROGRAMME

5.20 – Chance for a quick look at the programme. If you went to the FA Cup game and got a programme from that match there isn't too much difference with this one. Although with only three weeks between the two games you would expect that.

SUMMARY

7.15 – A good first half of the journey back gets us to the services for a quick stretch of the legs and

whatever else. Hopefully the rest of the path back is as smooth.

9.20 – We're back in Luton offloading most of the passengers. The early start caught up with me so I dropped off into a snooze on the way back which made the journey go even quicker!

9.50 – We get to Ampthill which is where I get off the coach, pretty much as I got on it – dark, frosty and pretty chilly. A sure sign we've reached winter!

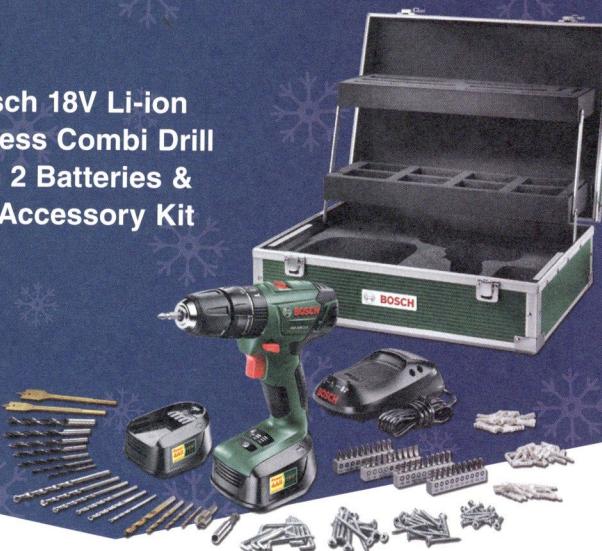
10.15 – Back home now. Not the best of days really. An early start, long journey, fairly awful match – all not great but at least we didn't lose I guess, which was one positive. Only Doncaster and Carlisle above us won so we're still in the mix. I get home in time for Match of the Day but after the day it was, I don't think I can do any more football. An early night looks much the better option!

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TRAVELLER'S TALES

IN HIS SECOND DISPATCH OF THIS WEEK'S PROGRAMME, TOWN FAN KEVIN HARPER MADE THE MISTY MIDWEEK JOURNEY TO SWINDON TO CHECK OUT THE CHECKATRADE TROPHY BOYS...

THE JOURNEY

2.50pm – Time to pick up the coach at Ampthill for the latest game in the EFL Trophy. It has been a few years since I went to Swindon so it is nice to be going somewhere different.

3.30 – All picked up in Luton and off we go on a grizzly late afternoon and evening. Hopefully the M25 and M4 is kind to us!

5.45 – Indeed it was! Absolutely no traffic issues so we've made it down to Wiltshire with plenty of time to spare.

THE GROUND

6.00 – As we've plenty of time to kill I head down to the players entrance when the team coach arrives. Strong set of players come off it, one or two whom I was surprised to see!

6.30 – To kill a bit more time I wander around and get something to eat from a burger van and then it is into the ground for the game.

THE MATCH

7.45 – We're underway. The Town have made ten changes from Saturday's starting line-up, but with Pelly-Ruddock, Olly Lee and Dan Potts starting the team is stronger than previous ones in this competition.



7.50 – Ouch. Swindon lead with their first attack. A ball is played inside Justin and Norris curls a lovely finish past King.

7.53 – That lead didn't last long! Isaac Vassell goes on a powerful run from the halfway line and shoots from 18 yards. The keeper spills it and Josh McQuoid can't miss. He doesn't. 1-1!

8.04 – A good game this. Chances have come and gone at both ends but a horror pass from the Swindon left-back falls to McQuoid who takes it into the box and unleashes a screamer into the corner. 2-1 Town!

8.31 – Half-time – 2-1 Town but we could have had a couple more. Really good performance so far!

8.46 – Back underway. Swindon make three changes straight away. Town unchanged.

9.04 – Wow. Swindon are level with a wonder strike! Iandolo, one of the half-time subs, lets fly from 30 yards out and King has no chance. Can't do much about that!

9.07 – Not for the first time the Town score soon after Swindon. Justin plays a lovely ball through for Vassell, who cuts inside the defender into the box and rolls the Town ahead!

9.35 – Full-time. 3-2 win! A well-deserved 3-2 win too. If anything we could have won it by a bigger margin but we're through which is good.

MAN OF THE MATCH

9.45 – Back on the coach where it is time to decide the man of the match. Special mentions go to Isaac Vassell and Jack Senior who were excellent on the night, but Josh McQuoid was every bit as good and scored the important goals so it went to him.

SUMMARY

9.50 – Quick look at the programme that only cost £1, which in itself suggests it wasn't going to be anything special. It wasn't. I feel sorry for the bloke who thought Danny Hylton would be our 'danger man' though!

11.45 – Back in Luton after a bit of a detour for a section of the M4 being shut. Those things are much better after a win!

12.45am – Back home after a really enjoyable evening. Always good to watch the Town play well and we certainly did here. Good night all round!



THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES



A black cat does not prove to be a lucky omen as the Town go down 3-1 to Burnley at Kenilworth Road in March 1947. This Division Two (now Championship) clash against the eventually promoted Clarets was watched by a crowd of 18,462.

LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

HATTERS TRUST VOTED LUTON'S BEST 2016

Luton Town FC Community Trust staff attended the prestigious Luton's Best Awards 2016 last week to receive an award recognising community achievement having won in the Leisure and Culture category.

The Love Luton event held at Luton Hoo recognised the Trust's work over the last year which has seen the numbers of participants rise to over 3,000 every week in the community projects operated by the Trust.

From free schools PE coaching to regional talent identification development centres for young players, from promoting the women's and girls' game to running adult disability football teams, the award recognised the wide range of projects that have made an impact on the leisure and cultural community landscape in Luton.

Head of Trust, Kevin Thoburn, commented: "The award recognises

all of the hard work our growing team of dedicated coaches and educational staff have put in this year and just how much the Trust has grown in the last couple of years. It's a recognition of how important the people of Luton feel about the position our football club occupies right at the heart of the many local communities that, combined, make Luton the great place it is today."

IS YOUR MATE OFF HIS GAME? 'GO LEAD, GO STRESS FREE' ADULT COURSES AVAILABLE

Did you know that every year one in four of us will experience a mental health problem? It may feel like the last thing you want to talk about, but the fact is that feeling stressed out is pretty common – it's bottling it up that causes the problem!

The Hatters Trust have teamed up with Luton Adult Learning to come up with courses that we hope will help people better self-manage their mental health symptoms. What are the symptoms? Pretty common you'll find – poor sleeping patterns, mood swings, difficulty in finding and keeping work, and generally finding it stressful just dealing with everyday life, and perhaps even becoming more isolated, are all sure signs of mental health problems.

Our 'Go Lead, Go Stress Free' courses are six-week sports courses

specifically designed to support adults in how to develop and use leadership skills in day-to-day situations.

Football, Learning and Sports courses involve playing and relaxing through a combination of five-a-sides and classroom based subjects such as communication, what is a leader, working with others, as well as putting it all into practise through improvising techniques.

Put simply, imagine what Nathan Jones has to go through during a game, and imagine how he copes with all of that stress and how he manages to deal with everything that happens unexpectedly during the game, and how he puts into practice his strategies to deal with the unexpected events in this afternoon's game – coping with life and stress is very similar.



If this is sounding familiar, then our courses could be for you. Give us a call at the community offices on 01582 737568 or email community@lutontown.co.uk for further information. Courses will be running from next month.



ZAK MEETS ENGLAND MANAGER GARETH SOUTHGATE

Little did Trust employee Zak Tafader know when he met Gareth Southgate back in August at Kenilworth Road that he would be literally rubbing shoulders with the new England manager.

Gareth was running the rule over a number of England U21 internationals including our own Christian Walton at the game against

Aston Villa in the EFL Cup, and took time out to say hello to Zak who not only works in the Trust offices each day, but also plays for our adult disability team during the season.

Everyone at the Trust (and the Club) would like to congratulate Gareth on his recent full-time appointment and wish him all the best in his new role.



HOME ALONE HATTER THIS CHRISTMAS?

There are almost 80,000 households in Luton and did you know that almost a quarter of them are occupied by a single person. Out of a total population of 200,000 it means that ten per cent, or 20,000 'home aloners', live in the town with almost 7,000 of them over the age of 65.

Of course, many will choose to live alone but many will not and may not have family close by, or indeed have no family at all. So if you feel alone, you aren't – there are 20,000 of you. Imagine that as a home gate today!

At Luton Town FC we don't want any of our supporters to be 'home alone' this Christmas, and if you are reading this (or know of anyone) and you will be on your own this Christmas and would like a bit of company with your turkey, then we have listed below three of our local churches who will be providing lunch on the 25th December for anyone on their own.

Hope Church Centre – please contact Sarah Hibbard on sarah.hopechurch@gmail.com

St Martin de Porres Church – please contact Mary on 01582 754850 or 07866 989254

High Town Methodist Church – please contact Maureen on 01582 547228 or 07931 609064 or by email on Maureen.drummond@luton.gov.uk

All three offer lots of fun, laughter, good company and the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Some are offering free

transport and some asking for a small donation of £5.00 for lunch. If you're not sure which to attend start with a call or an email to Maureen Drummond at the Town Hall.

Don't forget we also have a social club here at the Stadium every Wednesday between 10am and midday if you feel like a bit of company. Please give Kay a call at the community office if you would like to come along on 01582 737568. Everyone welcome for cakes and dominoes!

Merry Christmas



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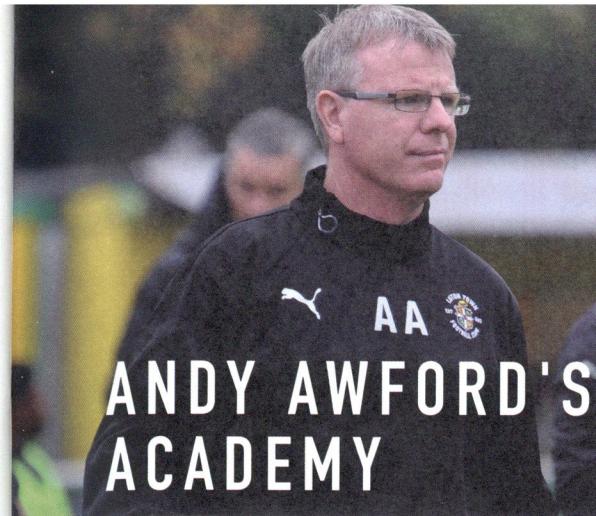
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[ACADEMY UPDATE]



UPDATE

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's game versus Carlisle United.

YOUTH TEAM

These notes were written a couple of days before the U18s travelled away to Sheffield Wednesday yesterday, for their FA Youth Cup third round tie and therefore I cannot update you on the game. However, I am sure by now you will have seen or heard the result.

I've no doubt that whatever the outcome, the boys will be a lot richer for the experience of playing at such a historical stadium as Hillsborough and will have learnt a great deal from the experience.

I can inform you though, that we prepared in fine style for the Youth Cup game, with a 4-0 home victory against Gillingham last weekend. Jack Snelus bagged another hat-trick and a strike from Freddie Hinds would have certainly given the players a nice boost of confidence going into the Sheffield Wednesday game.

U11S TOUR

Our U11s are fresh back from a recent tour to Frankfurt in Germany. During the four-day tournament our boys went up against the likes of Wolfsburg, Besiktas, Mainz 05 and Frankfurt.

NEXT DEV SQUAD FIXTURE: TUE 13TH DEC – STOTFOLD (A) – 7.45PM KICK-OFF, ROKER PARK
(ADMISSION: £6 ADULTS & £3 CONCESSIONS)

The staff, headed by our Lead Foundation Coach, Ross O'Kane, were delighted with the way the boys played and conducted themselves. They all enjoyed the whole event immensely, which unfortunately saw us pipped to the trophy by FC Köln after a thrilling final.

However, the overall experience was fantastic and the staff and players can be very proud of their performance. Well done to everyone.

BEDFORDSHIRE SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP

Following our 3-0 win away at Barton Rovers in the previous round, we were drawn away to Stotfold in the quarter-final of the Bedfordshire Senior Challenge Cup.

This game will be played next week on Tuesday, December 13th at the Spartan South Midland League Premier Division club's Roker Park ground.

It would be great to get a few Hatters fans along to support our youngsters as we look to progress to the Semi Final.

Admission prices are £6 for adults and £3 for concessions, and kick-off is 7.45pm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

With this being the last Academy programme notes before Christmas I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone at The Academy, to wish all the Hatters fans a very Merry Christmas and thank you once again for your fantastic support.

See you all on Boxing Day.

COYH!!

ANDY

HATTERS LADIES

TOWN PICK UP POINTS IN THE LEAGUE, BUT EXIT THE FA CUP TO A STRONG PORTSMOUTH SIDE FROM LEAGUE ABOVE.

In the past two league games the Hatters have picked up four points, superbly beating AFC Wimbledon 4-2 at their own ground and grinding out a 1-1 draw with bottom of the table Stevenage.

This weekend we hosted Southern Premier League side Portsmouth in the Women's FA Cup, where they were just too strong for the Town and it ended 4-1 to the away side.

At AFC Wimbledon, 16-year-old striker Jodie Bellinger scored a brace as Town had to fend off Wimbledon twice to win 4-2. Bellinger and Shaneice Jiminez had given Town the lead on two occasions in the first half but Wimbledon, who are second in the league, pegged back both times. The Hatters held their nerves and two second half goals in three minutes from Jess McKay and Bellinger killed the game off.

It took just two minutes for Town to score and it was Bellinger who latched on to a long ball and fired over the

goalkeeper's head from 18 yards to make it 1-0.

Some sloppy defending then allowed the home side to get back into the game from a poorly cleared corner, but the Town reacted immediately and in a moment of class from Jiminez, she struck the ball superbly from long range into the top right corner which left the keeper with no hope and it was advantage to the Hatters before the break.

In the second period, Town started off the brightest of the two as both McKay and Rutherford came close at goal but after seven minutes, Wimbledon, at the other end of the field, were controversially awarded a penalty for what was deemed to be a push in the box and they were on levels terms for a second time.



Town kept fighting and their determination paid off when McKay scored her fifth goal of the season to make it 3-2 with just 20 minutes to go.

As soon as McKay started to dribble towards goal, it was no surprise when she blasted the ball into the bottom left corner from 20 yards to add to her phenomenal long range goal collection this season.

Bellinger put the game to bed just three minutes later as she smashed the ball into the back of the net from the edge of the 18-yard box.

A week later the Hatters travelled to Stevenage, who we had beaten three weeks earlier in the League Cup.

The Town looked a constant threat but failed to open the scoring in the first half.

With 15 minutes to go the game came alive and a ball over the top wasn't dealt with, allowing the Stevenage striker in on goal and she rounded the Luton keeper Jess Devoti and slotted into the bottom corner.

CLEVER

Minutes later however, Henman found herself with some space in the box and some clever footwork saw her hacked to the floor and the ref point to the spot.

Carroll then stepped up and smashed the ball home to equalise. Carroll then had a great chance to get the winner from ten yards out, but her effort flew over the bar.

She was then controversially shown a red card for a tackle on the halfway line, and the Hatters finished the game with ten men and one point.

Last weekend we welcomed Portsmouth from the league above in the Women's FA Cup. A win would see us into the second round after already defeating AFC Sudbury and Oxford City in preliminary rounds.

In the first five minutes the Town had chances to get a shot off through Henman and Rutherford, but the ball just got away from them.

Portsmouth went 1-0 up after 15 minutes and a penalty was then harshly awarded as Devoti looked to have won the ball, and the away side went in 2-0 up at the break.

An excellent finish on 70 minutes saw Pompey go 3-0 up and another defensive error gave them another shot on goal that harshly sent them 4-0 up.



Erica Byron then looked to have pulled one back straight from a corner, but the assistant referee didn't deem the ball to go over the line, and then Rutherford had a shot well saved.

From the resulting corner, Henman won the ball and finished well into the bottom corner to deservedly pull a goal back for the Town. This wasn't enough though and Pompey went through into the second round.

SUPERB

Manager Nikki Baker said: "Over the past three games there have been loads of positives. At AFC Wimbledon we were superb and completely deserved the win. We scored four fantastic goals.

"At Stevenage our performance was low tempo and we know that, we were disappointed with a point.

"Last week against Pompey we knew we were the underdogs, but we had several chances. If we could have been a little more clinical in front of goal and tightened up on our defensive errors, the who knows."

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CREST TEST

ON THIS DAY

On this day, 10th December back in 1927, Luton Town whacked Norwich City for 6, with a famous home win against the Canaries in the FA Cup. 10,750 people saw Reid score a hat trick, with Woods, Yardley and Dennis all helping to add to the Town's total.



CARLISLE UNITED

Carlisle United return to Kenilworth Road this afternoon, who will be the 27th time the two teams have met. Our last encounter was at the back-end of last season, with the Hatters taking all three points, with a 2-1 win. Josh McQuoid and Joe Pigott were on the scoresheet for the Town. Let's hope for another win this afternoon! Come on you Hatters!

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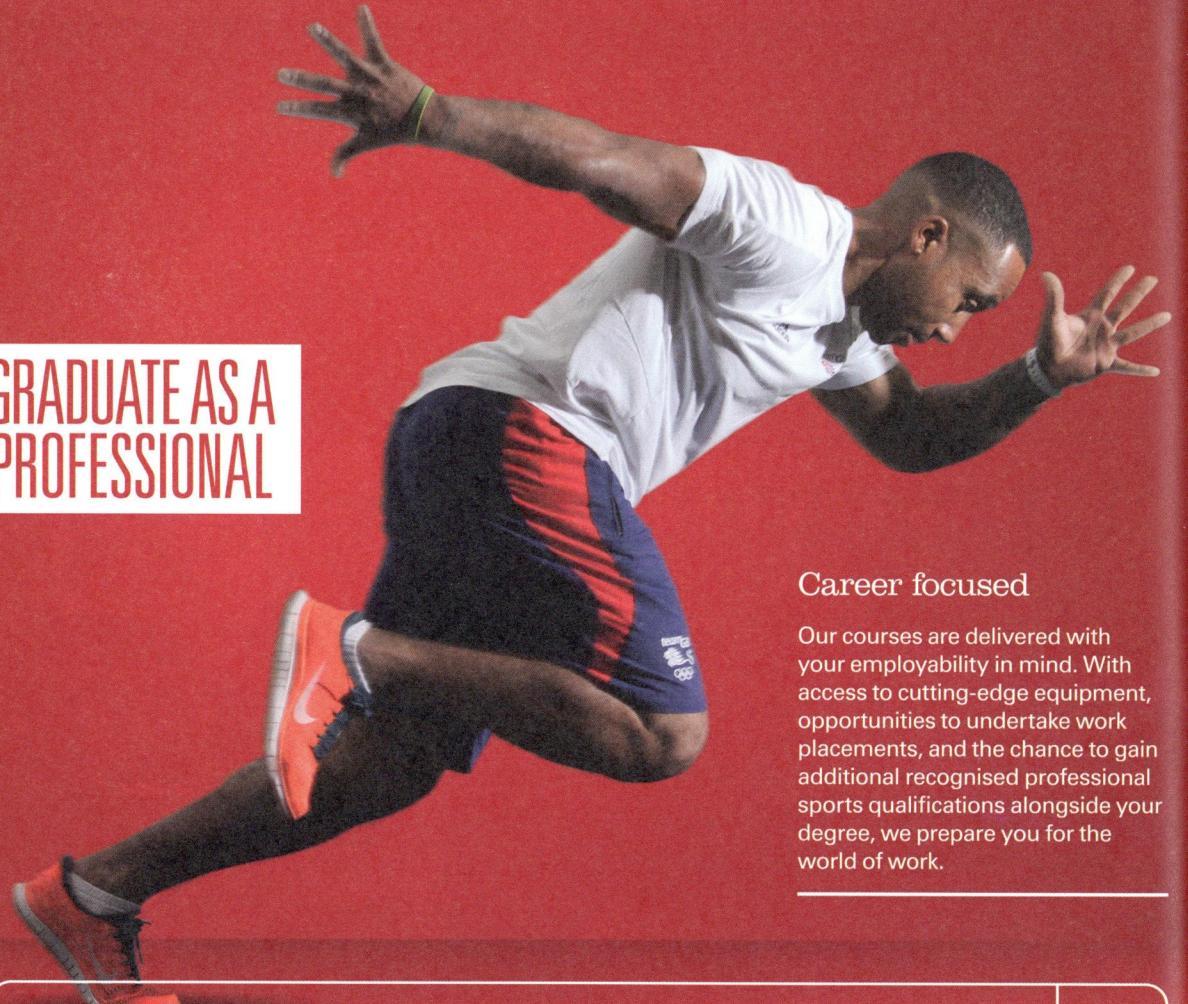
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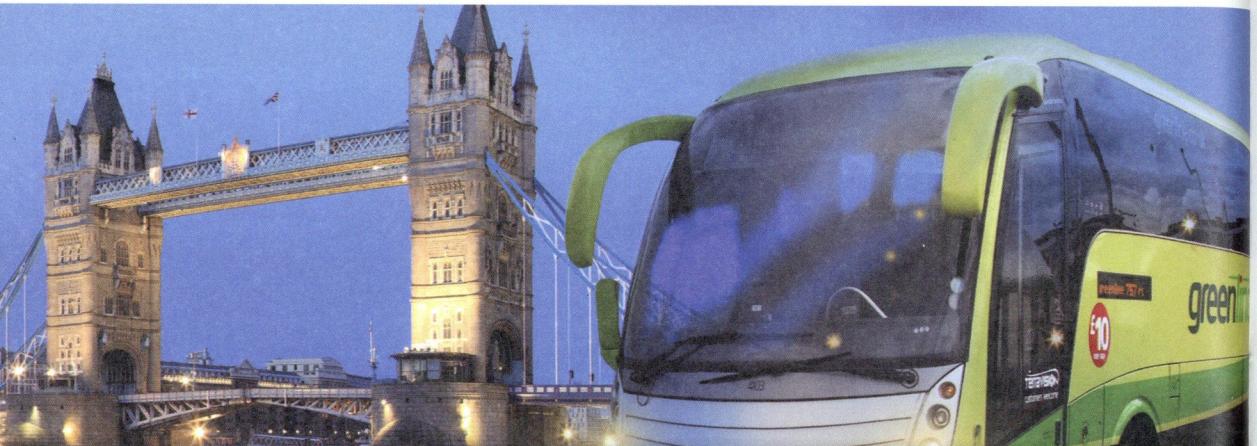
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PLAYER HD: LUTON TOWN v SOLIHULL MOORS
The Hatters' six second half goals in the come-from-behind Emirates FA Cup second round victory over Solihull Moors

Published: Sunday 2 Dec 2012 at 10:12
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WE WANT MOOR! Hatters hit six past Solihull

 Luton Town FC

Game. Set. Match. Marriott makes it 6-2 to the Hatters, what a second half from the Town!
#COYH #EmiratesACup

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Isaac nets the winner at Swindon

 Luton Town FC

GOAL!! 3-2 to the Town - Vassell finally has the goal his performance deserves, cutting in from the right and slotting past Henry #COYH

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LATE TACKLE

CHRIS DUNLAVY

NEWCASTLE MAY HAVE SLIPPED TO A THIRD STRAIGHT DEFEAT AT NOTTINGHAM FOREST LAST WEEK, BUT THE MAGS STILL HAD PLENTY TO BE PROUD OFF.

Reduced to nine men for the entire second-half, they saved two penalties, led 1-0 until just short of the hour and ultimately came within four minutes of snatching an incredible point.

In the end, they were undone by an own goal from Forest old boy Jamaal Lascelles in what Reds boss Philippe Montanier dubbed a "crazy game".

So, in tribute to Rafa Benitez' battlers, here are a few other sides who made light of a numerical disadvantage.

ARSENAL 1-2 BARCELONA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL, 2006

Though not quite the fearsome force of later years, Barca's Ronaldinho-powered 2006 side were no mugs and went into the showpiece event as firm favourites.

So when Gunners keeper Jens Lehmann was dismissed for bringing down Samuel Eto'o just 18 minutes in, the fat lady started to limber up.

Yet Arsenal came mighty close to rewriting the script. Having seized a shock lead through Sol Campbell's first-half header and led until 14 minutes from time, the English side were just starting to believe when Barca brought on Henrik Larsson.

Two crosses in four minutes from the veteran Swede yielded two goals for Barca and agony for Arsene Wenger.

ST MIRREN 0-1 RANGERS

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL, 2010

Rangers might have started favourites but that status was long gone by the midpoint of the second half.

Red cards for Kevin Thomson (for a high tackle on namesake Steven) and Danny Wilson left the Gers facing wave after wave of attacks as the Buddies sensed a first-ever League Cup triumph.

Alas, in their determination to break down Ranger's barricades, St Mirren left their own back door wide open.

Steven Naismith scampered through and, with just six minutes remaining, crossed for Kenny Miller to power home. Shellshocked and ragged, the Saints never came close to a leveller.

ITALY

WORLD CUP 1994

Italy are always a tough nut to crack and never was that truer than under the management of arch-strategist Arrigo Sacchi.

During their run to the final of USA '94, the Azzuri twice had men sent off – once in the 21st minute of a vital group game against Norway and the second whilst trailing 1-0 to Nigeria in the last 16. They won both, though their luck did eventually run out in the final.

ARGENTINA 0-1 CAMEROON

WORLD CUP GROUP MATCH, 1990

Before 1990, no team had ever won a World Cup match with depleted numbers. Debutants Cameroon changed all that through a mix of daring, blind luck and outright brutality.

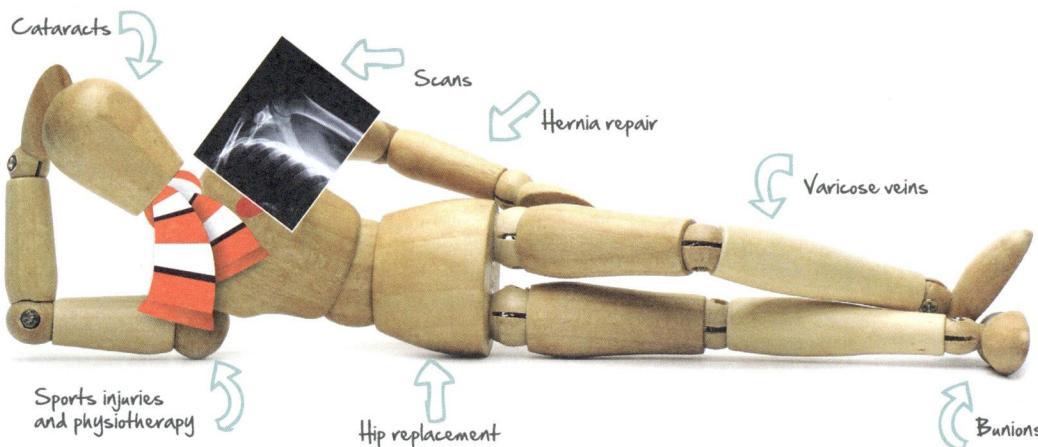
An opening game beset with niggly fouls and escalating violence saw Andre Kana-Biyik bizarrely dismissed for an innocuous trip on Claudio Caniggia. Three minutes later - to universal disbelief - his brother Omam headed home to stun the defending champions.

Benjamin Massing then picked up a second yellow card for what appeared an attempt to kick Claudio Caniggia to death, but even Maradona couldn't save Argentina from the worst embarrassment in their history.



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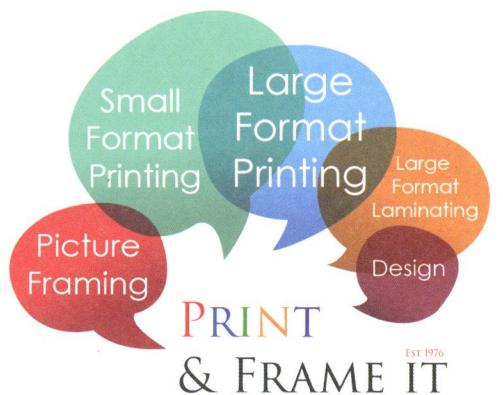


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[SIMON PARSELL]

TRICK OR TREATMENT

A HUMOROUS INSIGHT TO PHYSIO SIMON PARSELL'S WORK



Well, it's been an eventful time with the fixtures in the league, then a rollercoaster of an FA Cup tie against Solihull Moors and a great win at Swindon Town.

Stepping up against Solihull was star finisher Lionel O'Donnell with a brace. Not only does he score, but SODS is now the official PFA representative for the players. This involves attending meetings and dealing with post. So it was a pleasure to help when asked to post a letter for him.

Official PFA business. The interesting thing was when we checked the address, he had posted the letter to himself. At least he had followed the instructions and posted it to the address at the top of the page!

The injury front remains the same with Danny Green, Nathan Doyle and Mark O'Brien. They continue to improve but their injuries require time.

But sometimes you get an injury that you just didn't expect, like when I was asked for a plaster for a cut on the skin by Craig King.

"How did that happen?" I asked. "I tripped over my bed playing darts," was the response. But the good news is Kingy has now enrolled in a darts team. Can't see the point myself.

On the subject of our teenage goalkeeper, he has made it be known in recent weeks that he feels he should have his own column in the programme.

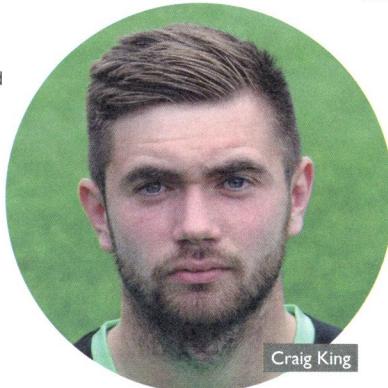
We were on the way home on the M4 on Tuesday night when the topic of conversation turned to glazing. "How do you spell seal, as in window seal?" asked Craig. "Is it like the animal?"

We were going past Reading at the time, but it's Spelling that clearly passed Kingy by. I can't see him taking my space in Talk of the Town in the January window.

We have spent a few hours on the road recently, apart from watching a DVD, a bit of Champ Manager or a game of cards, the time killing options are limited...so enter Hylls, Mully and Sheez with a music selection covering all eras. Even a choice of Little Mix by Isaac. Hylls' vocal remix of Shout Out To My Ex is different. When U2 came on, I asked "Why did Bono fall off the stage?" Clearly he was too close to the edge!

Next week it's off to Blackpool and then begins a busy Christmas period and the arrival of Santa Claus, so I hope everyone has a great Christmas and puts their hand in a stocking and gets a nice surprise.

But I leave you with Johnny Mullins' quote of the week: "If you can't smile, then smile." You work it out.



Craig King



Johnny Mullins

FIXTURES PILE UP

WHO, WHEN AND WHERE THE HATTERS ARE PLAYING THIS SEASON

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

HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH ALAN ADAIR

HATTERS FAN AND AUTHOR OF '1, 2, 3, 4, 5 – FIVE DECADES OF DEVOTION TO LUTON TOWN FC'

Last week's FA Cup second round tie against Solihull Moors was a landmark for me as it marked the 50th anniversary of my very first Luton Town game, and I wanted to share some of the information of that momentous night in my lifetime.

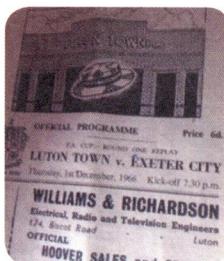
In my 2012-13 published book, I wrote of my five decades following the Hatters – but 1st December, 1966, and another FA Cup tie – this one a first round replay – will always live long in the memory.

This is what I wrote of the life-changing night when Exeter City – ironically the side we beat at the same stage of this season's competition – came to Kenilworth Road and goals from Bruce Rioch and David Pleat earned the Town a 2-0 win in front of a crowd of 7,079.

'In the winter of 1966 on 1st December, my Dad asked me if I wanted to go and watch a REAL game of football after having been so excited watched the World Cup that summer.

From the moment we arrived at the Kenilworth Road ground my life was about to begin in earnest.

It was a Thursday night and the match was between Luton v Exeter City in



the FA Cup 1st Round Replay. We arrived at the ground and went up the stairs into the Main Wing Stand into our seats. I was mesmerised at the amount of people there and the noise. I could smell pipe smoke, Bovril, onions. The boy sitting next to us had a huge rattle.

When the game started I had already worked out that Luton were in white shirts and black shorts, because of those colour scarves many fans were wearing.

Then when we scored, the noise was deafening to my eight years old ears, but I wasn't scared at all – I absolutely loved it! Although I can't remember the details of the goals scored, we won 2-0.

Dad bought me a programme (pictured left) and I was studying some of the names – Bruce Rioch, Alan Slough, Graham French and a player who attracted my attention the most on the night, a little man on the left wing called Ray Whittaker.

For the record, the crowd that night was 7,079 – but to me it sounded like 70 000!

When the match finished and on our way home, my Dad knew I didn't need to be asked again for it was I who pleaded: 'Please Dad, when can we go again?'

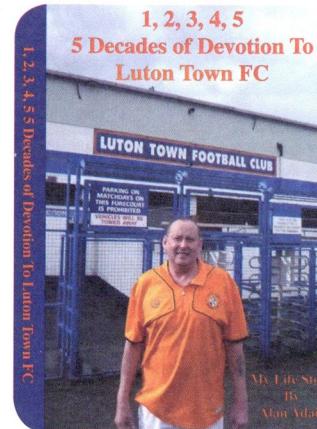
It turned out to be 26 days later as a Christmas present from Santa, for the Boxing Day game against Tranmere. We won 2-0 that day in the fog, too.

Last Saturday's game against Solihull in that same FA Cup competition was my 1,749th LTFC game and the 1,136th at Kenilworth Road.

The 1,749 Luton games I have seen are made up of 741 Hatters wins, 462 draws and 545 Town defeats. I've seen us play on 161 different grounds old and new and win at 100 of them.

Hopefully in the New Year I will increase those figures to make 163 and 107 at Colchester and Doncaster!

COYH



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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 Mark Gillespie
- 2 David Atkinson
- 3 Danny Grainger
- 4 Luke Joyce
- 5 Michael Raynes
- 6 Mark Ellis
- 7 Jason Kennedy
- 8 Mike Jones
- 9 Charlie Wyke
- 10 Nicky Adams
- 11 Derek Asamoah
- 12 Macaulay Gillesphey
- 14 Jabo Ibehre
- 15 Shaun Brisley
- 16 Russell Penn
- 17 Jamie Devitt
- 18 Joe McKee
- 19 Reggie Lambe
- 20 Shaun Miller
- 21 Patrick Brough
- 22 Max Crocombe
- 23 Tom Miller
- 24 Cameron Salkeld
- 25 Jordan Holt

MATCH OFFICIALS

- ⌚ MARK HEYWOOD
- ⌚ DAVID PLOWRIGHT
- ⌚ NICHOLAS COOPER
- ⌚ GARRY MASKELL