



TALK OF THE TOWN

LUTON TOWN v COLCHESTER UNITED

MONDAY 26th DECEMBER 2016 | KICK OFF 3pm

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 16 | PRICE £3



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[WELCOME TO LUTON TOWN v COLCHESTER UNITED]

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW
Switchboard: 01582 411622
Ticket office: 01582 416976
info@lutontown.co.uk | www.lutontown.co.uk

CLUB OFFICIALS

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DIRECTORS: Paul Ballantyne, Bob Curson,
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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Made in Luton. Printed by Bartham Press.
Edited by Stuart Hammonds,
(stuart.hammonds@lutontown.co.uk)
assisted by Charlie Hanson
(charlie.hanson@lutontown.co.uk).
Design by Heather Ellis, Relish Design.
Photography by Gareth Owen.

Thanks to contributors: Roger Wash, Ed Smith,
Leigh Edwards, Andy Awford, Kevin Thoburn,
Kevin Harper, Nikki Baker, Bill Cole, Jon Burns
and the media department at Colchester
United.

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.

WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD



NATHAN JONES

The boss welcomes Colchester United
to Kenilworth Road



WELCOME COLCHESTER

All you need to know about the
boys from the Weston Homes
Community Stadium



HO-HO-HOSPITAL VISITS

The Hatters lads turn Santa to bring
cheer to children at the L&D and
Bedford Hospitals



BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATED!

All the action and reaction from the
2-0 win at Bloomfield Road

LOOK OUT FOR OUR RECENT SIGNING!

The recent addition to
the Luton Town club
shop is hidden some-
where in today's
Talk of the Town.
Can you find the
Hatters' 'Team Elf'?



Merry Christmas!

We hope Santa was kind to everyone
yesterday and that you are here in good
voice for what promises to be a cracker
of a game with Colchester this afternoon.
Don't forget we are back at Kenilworth
Road on New Year's Eve when we play
Barnet. Kick-off is 3pm #COYH

LET'S GET CONNECTED

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[MANAGER'S NOTES]

THE MANAGER NATHAN JONES



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the first of our two festive home games, against Colchester United.

I hope that everyone had a great day yesterday and that the celebrations haven't taken too much out of you to prevent you making it a real electric atmosphere inside this famous old ground today.

It's one of British football's great traditions that the family get out of the house on Boxing Day to get some fresh air, and if we have anyone new here today among what's expected to be our biggest crowd of the season so far, we hope to serve up a performance to entice you back.

Of course, we'll be here again on New Year's Eve for what is a relatively local derby against Barnet, but first comes a tough test against a Colchester side who have been in excellent form recently.

I'd like to welcome everybody from the Weston Homes Community Stadium – including supporters, directors, staff,

manager John McGreal and his squad – and wish you all a Merry Christmas. I hope you have a safe trip back to Essex this evening.

There has been a lot going on recently to show the spirit among the squad and positivity around the club in general, not least with contract extensions and new deals for Scott Cuthbert, Isaac Vassell and James Justin that you will read about elsewhere in today's programme.

On the Thursday before we went to Blackpool, the coaching staff and I served the players their Christmas dinner at Ely Way. The food prepared by David Romans and his catering team was superb as always, the players dished-out presents to them and some of the youth team entertained us with their singing – if you could call it that!

There was a real good atmosphere that travelled up the M6 with us the following day ahead of Saturday's game at Bloomfield Road, where we produced a wonderful away performance. Blackpool are a good side who had been in tremendous form at home, scoring four in each of their last three wins there. So to play as well as we did and keep a fourth consecutive league clean sheet on our travels, equalling a club

record set some 80 years ago, was a fantastic effort.

It set the players up perfectly for their own Christmas party, then some real hard work on the training ground – alongside visits to the two local hospitals' children's wards that they all undertook with their usual enthusiasm and understanding of the important role they play in the local community – in preparation for these two big games.

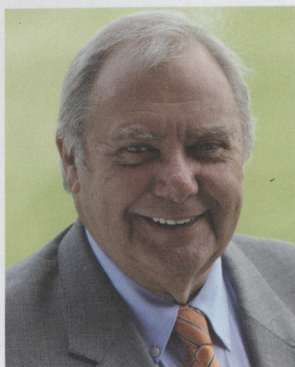
We have to make sure we stay in touch with the top three and this time of year is a key time when seasons can be made or broken. We want to make sure we come out of the Christmas period in a real positive shape, going into the New Year ready for what we believe will be a promotion push.

We'll need our brilliant supporters again as always this afternoon. Another 1,000-plus following on a 400-mile round trip last week was magnificent. I'd like to thank those who went for your unbelievable backing and wish everyone here today a Merry Christmas.

Enjoy the game.



Nathan Jones is sponsored by: Thompsons Accountants and Country Properties (Hitchin) 01462 452951



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON

Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road.

Our visitors today are Colchester United, and we welcome the officials, players and supporters from the U's. Relegated last year they are having a mixed season, however, we look forward to another competitive clash this afternoon.

We hope that you all had a good Christmas and wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

A number of us made the trip to Hillsborough to watch our U18s in the FA Youth Cup against Sheffield Wednesday a couple of weeks ago, and although we were well beaten, the scoreline flattered Wednesday. We created a lot of chances, but couldn't put them away on the day. We were encouraged by the performance although disappointed that we won't have the opportunity to see any more of this competition this year. Well done to everyone involved. They continue to do us proud.

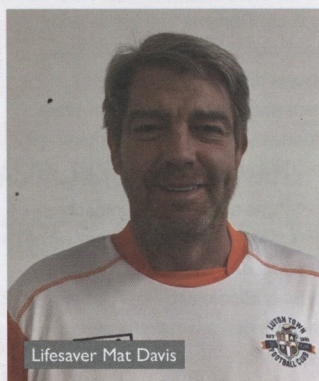
Last Saturday we went to Blackpool and saw another tremendous away performance culminating in an impressive victory.

Once again our away support was outstanding and everyone tells us what a difference it makes and how much it helps encourage us all.

Nearly 1,100 to Blackpool on the last full Saturday before Christmas is nothing short of amazing. As we've all said before, it's sometimes tough not being in amongst it, but it makes us all proud to see and hear the support.

HEARTWARMING

Whilst on the subject of our wonderful fans, on behalf of the board could I congratulate Mat Davis for helping to save the life of a stranger in a pub in Blackpool last week using CPR.



Football supporters are often on the wrong end of bad news stories and it was heartwarming to hear reports of his actions on our way home from

the game. He is, I gather, known to two of our directors, Stephen Browne and Bob Curson, having been at the same school.

Although we have a Board meeting every month, where possible, we have four main meetings a year which all directors make an extra effort to attend.

These quarterly meetings are in March, June, September and December, dates which coincide with having to make the more important decisions of the year. June, for example, is when the previous season can be reviewed and the coming year's budget be discussed and approved.

REVIEW

Last week we held our December quarterly. This meeting is planned for us to be able to take stock at the halfway stage of the season, to review financial targets and performance on and off the field.

The Board arranged to meet at the Brache to view progress made on our new training facility. We saw that the changing rooms were almost completed after some significant internal redesign, and are a different level to where we are now. The other



The players have been doing their bit for the local community by taking Christmas presents to local hospitals' children's wards

buildings, which will house offices, meeting rooms, a canteen, a gym, treatment rooms etc, has had major internal surgery and is not far from being ready to be fitted out.

The pitches are progressing well, but it's a shame we weren't able to start sooner as, obviously, the grass has stopped growing now. We are not yet sure when we will be able to move in, but it will be some time in the next few months.

IMPRESSED

We were all highly impressed with the facility and believe it will hugely improve the environment for the management, coaches and players.

After the walk round the training facilities we retired to our meeting room for the formal agenda.

Nathan was invited to present a status report and give us his thoughts and requirements for the rest of the season.

The transfer window opening in January is always a topic and there

was concern expressed that it can cause disruption of one kind or another, but we were reassured that none was anticipated and would be handled if it arose.

ENTHUSIASTIC

As you all know Nathan is an amazingly enthusiastic, positive manager and this meeting was just that.

He has a great staff and an excellent squad of players and believes that together we can go far. He has been at the Club for almost a year now and in his opinion the project is on track.

As a Board we are excited to have Nathan as our manager and believe that he is reestablishing our football identity.

After Nathan left the meeting, Gary updated us on progress with Planning, about which I'm sure you'll hear plenty in the coming weeks.

But I think it is worth mentioning here that with the purchases of Newlands Park and Power Court and the

ownership of the Brache, we are now a very significant land owner in Luton. We believe we can and we want to make a difference to not just the football club, but the town, and these deals are a step in that direction.

The meeting ended with Simon presenting his financial report, pointing out variances to the budget addressing concerns and reviewing the cash flows and any funding requirements.

"Believe and you will achieve"

Enjoy the game.

Come On You Hatters.



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Made for the explosive. Engineered for the attack.

GREATSCOTT

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

I'd like to start by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and welcoming you all to Kenilworth Road for this Sky Bet League Two game against Colchester United.

It may not be a local derby, as is often the case for holiday games, but Colchester are one of the clubs close to where I live in Essex and were in League One last season, so we know it'll be tough one.

Since we were last here, I've had an extra year added onto my contract after making my 50th league start for the club in the 1-1 draw with Carlisle, which I'm delighted about. It was something that was in my deal when I signed, but I never really thought about it until I was told it had been triggered last week.

Things have been going really well this year. We are up towards the top end of the league and pushing the top three, so I'm pleased that I'm going to be a part of all the good things happening for at least the next year and a half.

Isaac Vassell and James Justin have since signed new deals too, and it's

good to see the club doing all they can to secure such exciting young talent.

We've been on a really good run of form recently, losing just twice in our last 18 matches in all competitions after last week's win at Blackpool.

Bloomfield Road is a tough place to go and they'd only lost once at home all season, so for us to put in the sort of display that we did was excellent and we want to kick on now, especially over the Christmas period when the games come around fast.

Straight from Blackpool we went to Manchester airport to catch a flight to Dublin for our Christmas party, and to have 28 of us all on board and having a good time together shows what spirit we have.

You'll see from the picture below that we had some impressive Christmas jumpers on for the Sunday. Vass and Cooky's jumpers lit up, so they were impressive. Not so sure about

Greeny's 'JINGLE MY BELLS' number though!

You'll see me in the middle of the back row in an elf jumper and hat. My mum bought me them – she even got me boxers and socks to complete the outfit!

Back to today's game, and a plea for more Christmas cheer from yourselves in the stands. The noise levels against Carlisle were superb and to have more than a quarter of the crowd at Blackpool was unbelievable – although the constant singing made it seem like much, much more.

Same again today please, and we'll endeavour to give you the perfect Christmas gift of another massive three points!



NEW CONTRACTS FOR CHRISTMAS! TRIO SIGN EXTENDED DEALS TO STAY WITH THE HATTERS

It's been a busy time at Kenilworth Road since we were last here, with captain Scott Cuthbert, striker Isaac Vassell and teenage defender James Justin having their futures secured by the club with contract extensions.

First up ahead of the trip to Blackpool was 29-year-old Cuthbert, whose deal was automatically extended to the end of the 2017-18 season after making his 50th League start for the club in the 1-1 draw with Carlisle.

Manager Nathan Jones said: "Since I came to the club, Scott has been a leader on and off the pitch. He's taken on board everything I've wanted, he's embraced a new style of play and been a credit to himself.

"We are delighted that he's triggered a clause in his contract to tie him to the club for another year because he's a popular member of the squad, he brings stability to the back four and we've had an excellent defensive record with him there. He's now at an important stage of his career and we want him to keep improving and developing along with the team."

Next up was Vassell, who put pen to paper on a new contract that will also keep him at Kenilworth Road until the summer of 2018.

The 22-year-old was snapped up in July after chief recruitment officer Mick Harford had spotted him last season playing for National League South side Truro City, and persuaded manager Nathan Jones to take him on trial.

After impressing during pre-season training, the lightning-quick Cornishman signed a one-year deal which contained an option for the Hatters to extend it to the end of next season if he impressed further, which he has done in his eight starts and 15 substitute appearances.



"We are delighted with the progress Isaac has made," said Jones. "We gave him an opportunity and he's grabbed it with both hands. He's different to what we've got and he's hungry – that's why we've decided to take up the option and give him a new contract. Over the five months since he's been here he's done really well to impress us and grasp his chance.

"He's had a few peaks and troughs over that time, but overall he's proved to be a real asset and we are excited by him with what he brings to us."

Finally, 18-year-old homegrown product Justin penned a deal that keeps him at the club until the summer of 2019, with an option for the club to extend it for a further year.

Justin signed his first professional contract just over a year ago, and that was due to expire at the end of this season although the club did have an option for a further year. ▶▶

FIXTURE CHANGE

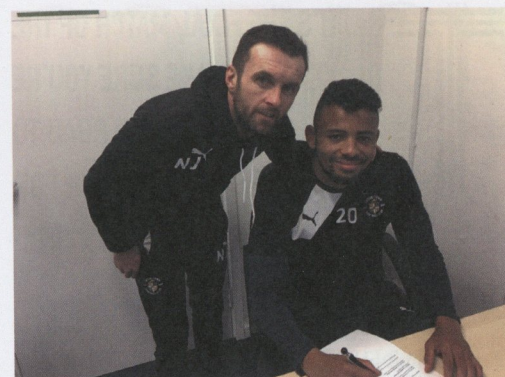
With the scheduled date of Saturday 7th January now taken up by our trip to Accrington Stanley in the Emirates FA Cup third round, the Sky Bet League Two fixture with Cheltenham Town at Kenilworth Road has been rearranged for Tuesday 31st January.

As usual for midweek league matches under the lights, the game against Gary Johnson's Robins will kick off at 7.45pm and tickets will be available at Category C prices.

THANK YOU!

A huge thanks to all you Hatters who helped raise over £1,500 for The Salvation Army (£535) and the Luton Town supporters' official partner charity, Autism Bedfordshire (£1,007.62) over the last two Saturday home games at Kenilworth Road.

Both charities have been in touch to express their gratitude.



"But since pre-season when he came into the first team, he's established himself one, within the group, and two, within the actual first eleven.

"We are very excited by James. He's a young player who's come through the ranks and that's what we are trying to promote here. We have always said there is a pathway for them and it's where talent and opportunity meet.

"We see him as predominantly a right-sided defender, but we were forced into a change in the Villa game and he proved he can do that job on the left too. It's great to have that versatility because he gives us options on both sides. Now he has to continue the development he has shown."



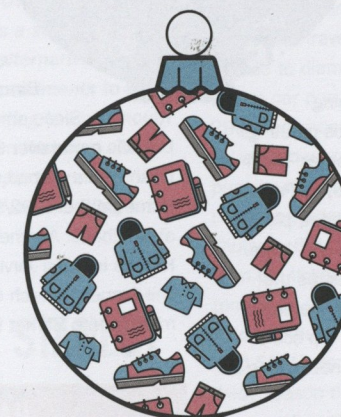
He made his senior debut as a substitute on the final day of last season against Exeter, but this term he has gone on to make 14 starts since his full debut against Aston Villa in the EFL Cup in August, looking equally adept on his natural right side of defence or the left, where he played as a wing-back in last Saturday's 2-0 win at Blackpool.

Jones was delighted to see the local boy commit his future to his hometown club, saying: "It's a reward for how well James has progressed. We had high hopes for him, hence the length of contract the club gave him before.



LEVEL TRUST THE CLUB'S CHARITY OF THE YEAR

On the last day of the Uniform Exchange, Frank arrived with his daughter's uniform. Sinead, his daughter, was struggling with mental health issues and had been eating for comfort. She had put on a lot of weight and could no longer fit into the new school uniform that Frank had bought her. Sinead was embarrassed so she wouldn't go to school. Frank was so distressed that he started to cry as he told us about Sinead. Tragically, we had put all the uniform into storage and so couldn't help. Jane, who served him, was heartbroken: "To turn someone away who cares as much as he does for his daughter was devastating."



The Club is running a competition to help us. Four people will win a VIP matchday for two on 11th February 2017. The prize includes a chance to watch the players warm up from the dug-outs, Directors' Box seats, a two-course meal and a chance to meet the Man of the Match. To enter 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. You must fill in your contact details and tick to say that you are happy for Level Trust to contact you to be considered for the competition.

For more information and T's and C's, visit www.leveltrust.org.

UP NEXT

BARNET

IT'S THE FINAL MATCH OF THE YEAR, SO MAKE SURE YOU'RE AT KENILWORTH ROAD TO CHEER ON THE TOWN FOR THE LAST TIME IN 2016!

FORMED: 1888 | NICKNAME: THE BEES | LAST SEASON: 15TH IN LEAGUE TWO | FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @BARNETFC | COLOURS: BLACK WITH AMBER STRIPE | GROUND: THE HIVE | MANAGER: ROSSI EAMES (CARETAKER)

WHO? A fairly regular side in League for the past 20 years, the Bees have had their spells in the Conference, most recently between 2013-15. They climbed out of Non-League in impressive style though, finishing top of the fifth tier as the goalscoring form of John Akinde fired Barnet back up to this level. They completed their first season back in League Two by finishing 15th last term, but that doesn't do justice to the fact they finished a full 28 points above 23rd place.

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

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE

Surprisingly, the sides will only be contesting their seventh match when they play this coming, Saturday. Town have won four of their previous meetings with the Bees, losing once and drawing the other. The first of those games came in December 6th 2008, as Paul McVeigh and Chris Martin got on the score sheet, plus a Michael Townsend own goal gave the Hatters a 3-1 win. Last season the sides got one over each other, as the Hatters won at Kenilworth Road, and the Bees defeated Town at the Hive. Cameron McGeehan is the top scorer for Town in the fixture with two goals, having netted one in each match last season.

IN CHARGE After Martin Allen's departure to National League side Eastleigh, Under-21 boss Rossi Eames has been put in charge on an interim basis. He is assisted by Henry Newman, the youth team manager.



Rossi Eames

PREVIOUS FORM The Bees' brilliant unbeaten run of eight games in the league came to an end when they suffered a 2-1 defeat at home to Stevenage. Before then, Barnet hadn't lost since a 4-1 thrashing at the hands of Paul Tisdale's Exeter City in mid-October. They kept four clean sheets in that run, defeating the likes of Plymouth Argyle, Yeovil Town and Wycombe Wanderers, all away from home. They take on Cheltenham Town at Whaddon Road this afternoon.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Former Bee, Olly Lee, made a total of 13 appearances for Barnet in 2010-11, before being signed by Birmingham City in the same season.

Since arriving at Kenilworth Road last season, Lee has made over 60 appearances for the Hatters. After finishing his second spell with Town, Brian Stein played for Barnet in the 1992/93 season, before finishing his career at St Albans. Another to join Barnet after finishing with the Hatters is Rossi Jarvis, who now plays for Lowestoft Town. The former Norwich City man joined Town in 2008, before moving onto Barnet in 2010, where he played for a year.

HATTERS V BEES

LUTON WINS: 4 | DRAWS: 1 | BARNET WINS: 1

LAST MEETING

BARNET 2-1 LUTON, 28TH MARCH 2016

GET YOUR TICKET



BARNET

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER | 3PM

Tickets for this category B home fixture are available from the ticket office in person, on the phone, or online now.



PORTSMOUTH

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER | 3PM

All remaining tickets are now on general sale for this fixture. Tickets will remain on sale until 3pm Friday 30th December. Prices: Adults: £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).

**If you are planning to travel to Portsmouth by train, Hatters fan and editor-in-chief of Business Travel News, Malcolm Ginsberg, contacted TOTT with the following advice: '2nd January 2017 is a strike day, so passengers are being advised to use alternative travel where possible. There may also be amendments to ticket restrictions on this day. If you're travelling to Portsmouth I'd advise using South West Trains from Waterloo. The Super Off Peak day return is the cheapest fare from around £32 from London, with an add-on including tube from stations into St Pancras.'*



ACCRINGTON STANLEY

EMIRATES FA CUP THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY | 3PM

All remaining tickets for this fixture are now available on general sale. Tickets will remain on sale until 3pm Friday 6th January. Prices for both seats and the terrace: Adults: £20, Seniors 64+: £15, Student (with ID): £15, Under

18s: £15, Under 12s: £10. Wheelchair and Carer tickets can be purchased directly from Accrington on 01254 356950.



CHESTERFIELD

CHECKMATE TROPHY - THIRD ROUND

TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY | 7:45PM

Tickets for this home fixture are now available at £5 for adults, whilst under 16s can get in free of charge.



CREWE ALEXANDRA

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY | 3PM

The Hatters have received an allocation of 1,680 stand tickets and seven pairs of disabled tickets for their trip to Crewe Alexandra. It is an all ticket fixture for Hatters supporters travelling to Gresty Road. These tickets are on sale to diamond season ticket holders now at two tickets per person until close of business on Thursday 29th December. They will then be available to season ticket holders on Friday 30th December at two tickets per person until close of business on Thursday 6th January. Any remaining tickets will go general sale online at 6pm on the Thursday 6th December and over the phone and in person from the ticket office from Friday 7th January. Tickets will remain on sale until 2pm on Friday 13th January.

Prices: Adults: £22, Seniors: £17, 12-16-year-olds: £10.50, Under 11s: £6.50, Disabled and Carer: £17. Away season ticket holders will be actioned on the 3rd January. One ticket will be allocated unless otherwise advised to ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk

SPEAKING

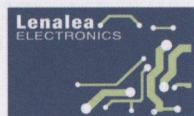
COMMERCIALLY

MATCH SPONSOR:
THE LOBSTER POT
COUNTY DONEGAL, IRELAND

Frequented by many holidaying Lutonians, including the King and Ward families, The Lobster Pot is situated on the glorious Co. Donegal coast at Burtonport, on the famous 'Wild Atlantic Way'.

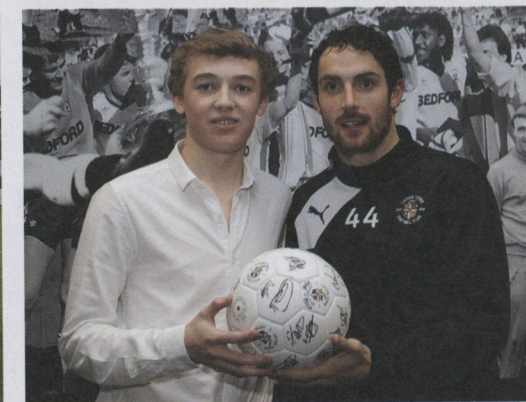
Listed as an 'Irish Pub of Distinction' and a recipient of The James Joyce Award, The Lobster Pot is renowned for its locally sourced dining menu, atmosphere and of course, 'the craic'.

You'll also find a proudly displayed Hatters shirt on the wall and the warmest of welcomes from owners Tim and Anne. www.lobsterpot.ie

MATCH BALL SPONSOR:
LENALEA ELECTRONICS LTD

Lenalea Electronics Ltd is a contract electronic assembler, which provides PCB assemblies to companies throughout the UK. Brian Morrison, who works

for Lenalea, is a lifelong Luton supporter who still supports the team he grew up closest to, despite having moved to Northern Ireland some 26 years ago. "I am so happy to bring my family here today to watch Luton play. As the match ball sponsor, we all hope that this will be a winning ball for Luton. Living in Armagh, I don't get over as often as I would like and it's great to be here to cheer the team on in person. Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year" – Brian Morrison, Lenalea Electronics Ltd. www.lenalea.com



TODAY'S MASCOTS:

MAX HERBERT

Age: 8
Hobbies: Football, football, football
Favourite Player: Jonathan Smith & Christian Walton
Who accompanies you to games: Dad and brother



KIAN REYNOLDS

Age: 7
Hobbies: Football
Favourite Player: Cameron McGeehan
Who accompanies you to games: Gavin Edmonds and Jayden Edmonds



JAYDEN EDMONDS

Age: 11 | Hobbies: Football | Favourite Player: Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu
Who accompanies you to games: Dad and Kian Reynolds

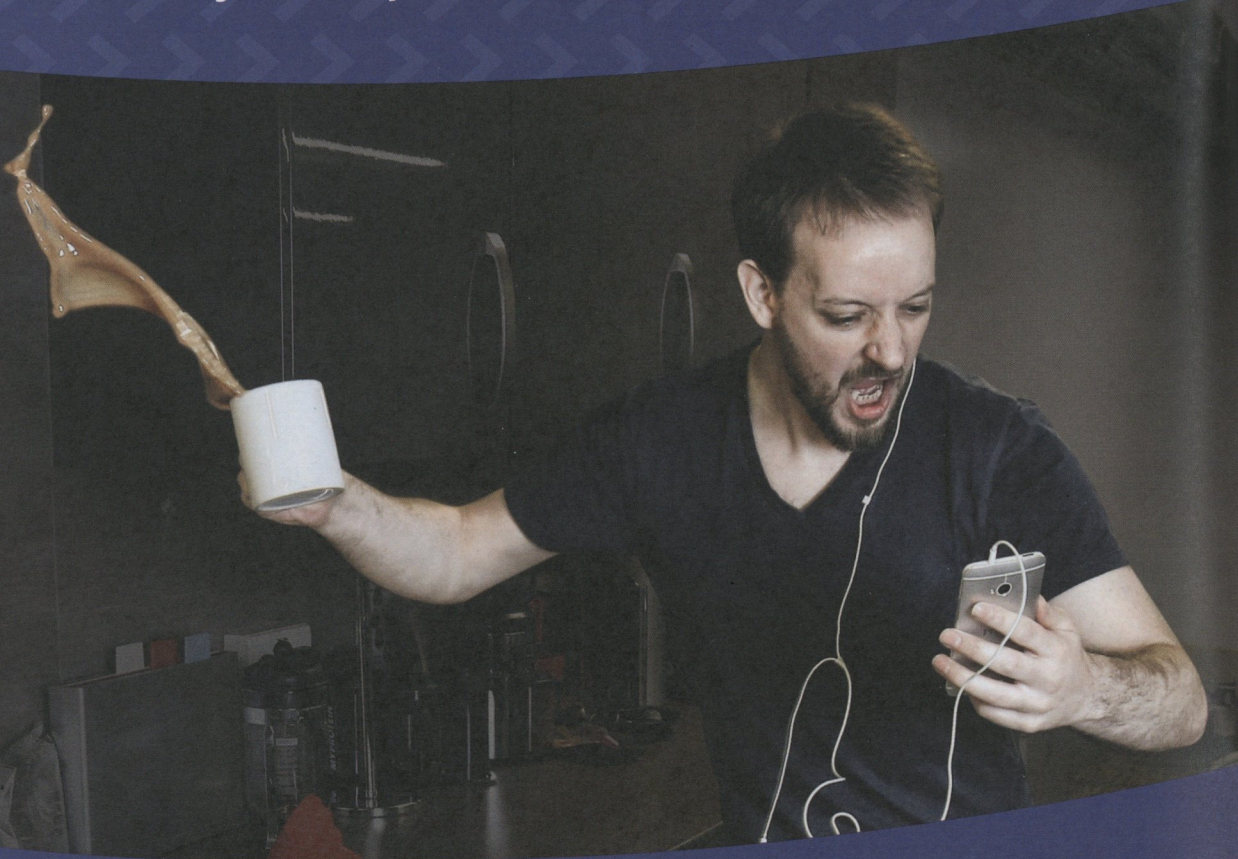


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H: HOME | A: AWAY | G: GLOVES



WELCOME COLCHESTER UNITED



Manager John McGreal

The Hatters would like to welcome this afternoon's visiting staff, players and fans of Colchester United to Kenilworth Road.

Playing for the first time in League Two since 1998, today's visitors are slowly settling into life in the fourth tier since their relegation from League One last term.

The U's were playing in the Championship as recently as 2008, but had been a comfortable third tier side since then, until they finished second bottom, ahead of Crewe Alexandra in the 2015/16 season.

Last season marked a period of managerial instability for the club, as no less than seven bosses patrolled the U's touchline. One of those is now the current manager, John McGreal.

The former Tranmere Rovers, Ipswich Town and Burnley defender took charge of Colchester for one match last season, before taking over the reins permanently this season, as he looks to take the U's straight back up at the first attempt.



Chris Porter

After a decent start to life in League Two, a ten match winless run cost Colchester as they slipped down the table, but wins over Crewe and Cheltenham, scoring seven in the process without reply, pushed McGreal's side within touching distance of the play-off places.

Former Oldham Athletic, Derby County and Sheffield United striker Chris Porter has been the man getting the goals this season for Colchester, having netted six times so far. He is already well on his way to beating his previous best return in a U's shirt, having scored seven goals in both of his previous two seasons with the club.

Partnering the 32-year-old in the front line is Non-League climber Kurtis Guthrie. The forward made a handful of appearances for Accrington Stanley, before dropping down to play for the likes of Southport, Welling United and Bath City. He helped Forest Green to the National League play-

off final last season, playing at Wembley in the 3-1 defeat to Grimsby, before signing for the U's in the summer.

Colchester may well need to rely on those a little more now, as at the other end of the field, defender and captain Luke Prosser picked up a season-ending injury in November. It was initially thought that he would only require a couple of weeks on the sidelines, but an operation ruled the player out until next term.

Boss McGreal added to his defensive ranks on Thursday by signing Jermaine Grandison on a contract until the end of the season after a successful trial.

The weekend before last saw Colchester United defeat Notts County 2-1 at the Weston Homes Community Stadium, on the same day the Hatters put two past Blackpool without reply. A Richard Duffy own goal in the

77th minute made sure that the three points went

the U's way after Elliot Hewitt had give the visitors the lead, before Kurtis Guthrie brought the tie level. The result moved Colchester up to 13th in the Sky Bet League Two table.

Town have played Colchester 24 times, the first of which was a 3-1 win at Kenilworth Road in January 1964 for the Hatters. Colchester have gone onto beat Town six times, whilst the sides have drawn nine times and the Hatters have won nine matches.

HATTERS V COLCHESTER

LUTON WINS: 9 | DRAWS: 9 | COLCHESTER WINS: 6

LAST MEETING

LUTON 1-0 COLCHESTER - 16TH DECEMBER 2008

TEAM PROFILE:

NICKNAME: THE U'S | GROUND: WESTON HOMES COMMUNITY STADIUM |
LAST SEASON: 23RD IN LEAGUE ONE | MANAGER: JOHN MCGREAL |
LAST LEAGUE MATCH: COLCHESTER 2-1 NOTTS COUNTY

MEET THE VISITORS

THE BOSS

JOHN MCGREAL

McGreal enjoyed a 17-year playing career with Tranmere Rovers, Ipswich Town and Burnley, playing over 400 games before hanging up his boots in 2007. He joined the U's in 2009 as a member of the coaching staff, working his way up to the role of head coach this summer.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

SAM WALKER

The stopper spent most of his youth career at Chelsea, before going out on loan to the likes of Barnet, Yeovil Town and Colchester. Signed permanently in 2014 for the U's.

IN DEFENCE

RICHARD BRINDLEY

A former Norwich City youth, Brindley has played across the Football League, including the Championship, where he made a handful of appearances with Rotherham United. He joined Colchester in 2015.

GEORGE ELOKOBI

A former Premier League regular with Wolverhampton Wanderers, the 30-year-old is another to make appearances for clubs across the Football League and was playing for National League side Braintree on loan as recently as November, before being recalled by McGreal.

TOM EASTMAN

A regular for the U's since he joined in 2011, Eastman has gone onto make over 200 appearances for Colchester. Previously with Ipswich Town.

FRANKIE KENT

The former U's youth captain, the 21-year-old is closing in on making 50 appearances overall for his side. He won the Young Player of the Year award last season.

ALEX WYNTER

The versatile defender began his career with Crystal Palace, before making loan moves to Eastbourne Borough, Sutton United and Portsmouth. Signed for the U's permanently in January 2015.

ACROSS THE MIDDLE

CRAIG SLATER

Formerly of Kilmarnock, the 22-year-old joined Colchester in the summer for an undisclosed fee. He made 85 appearances for Killie in his four-season spell there.

DREY WRIGHT

A pacey winger, Wright joined Colchester at youth level, progressing through the ranks before making his first team debut in the 2012-13 season.

TOM LAPSLIE

Another to progress through the ranks at Colchester, Lapslie made his first team debut in 2015.

OWEN GARVAN

A regular in the Championship for Ipswich Town and Crystal Palace between 2005 and 2013, Garvan joined the U's last season after leaving the Premier League Eagles.

DOUG LOFT

Loft celebrated his 30th birthday yesterday, with the former Gillingham captain counting Port Vale, Dagenham & Redbridge and Brighton amongst his previous clubs.

UP FRONT

KURTIS GUTHRIE

After scoring 12 goals last term for Forest Green Rovers, the 23-year-old has led the line for the U's since joining for an undisclosed fee in the summer. His former sides include Welling United and Bath City.

BRENNAN DICKENSON

A summer signing for the U's, Brennan started off in Non-League with Dorchester, before going onto play for the likes of Chesterfield, AFC Wimbledon and Northampton Town.

DENNY JOHNSTONE

A youth player with Celtic and Birmingham City, the 21-year-old has had loan spells with Macclesfield Town, Cheltenham Town and Burton Albion. He signed for the U's in the summer.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

WITH **JON BURNS**

Jon Burns, a Colchester United supporter of roughly 30 years and chairman of the Colchester United Supporters Association for about half that time, gives us his thoughts on what lies in store for his team this season in Sky Bet League Two and this afternoon on their visit to Kenilworth Road...

► THE SEASON AHEAD

After last season's relegation from the third tier, how do you think Colchester are settling into life in League Two?

Relegated teams often find it tough and the U's have been no different. A solid start, but injuries and a loss of form delivered another winless run that hurt the fans and players. From what I've seen so far from opposition teams, few have really impressed me so the U's could and should be very competitive in League Two.

We seem to have seen what the U's are really capable of in recent weeks as they put three past Cheltenham and four beyond Crewe. Who's your real creative force in the side?

A couple of clear the air moments, a change of tactics and a few returning players have been key to the U's recent success. Owen Garvan was like a new signing after his long lay-off and his impact in midfield makes the U's tick. A gifted player with so much time on the ball, he brings our attackers into the game with ease.

Which of John McGreal's summer signings have you been most impressed with so far?

Losing Luke Prosser for the rest of the season was very sad. A fantastic signing for his captaincy and defensive experience. Brennan Dickenson is a player that the U's desperately needed to balance the attack with his left foot, but the most impressive for me so far has been

Craig Slater. Stolen from over the border from Kilmarnock and quite some footballer. The U's are very lucky to have a player of his quality within the ranks.

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

Regular winner of Players' Player of the Season and a big fans' favourite, it was sad to see Gavin Massey leave for Orient in the summer. Not renowned for his tackling, but no one worked harder on the pitch for the U's up and down the left and right flanks. Perhaps the time was right for him, and when money was placed on the table, the U's weren't going to stand in the way of such a loyal servant.

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

I really thought that Owen Garvan would move away during the summer and that would have been devastating for the reasons that I've already mentioned. At the end of last season the U's had a surplus of keepers and I feared that Sam Walker would disappear. Delighted that didn't happen. A passionate, strong and committed glove man who returns the love that the U's fans give him.

► SEASONS PAST...

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

Like many of us, my dad took me to my first game at Layer Road. All I can remember is standing against the wall of Terrace 3 watching the blood and thunder of late 70s football. After a few years in the wilderness of Portman Road, I started back with the U's in my late teens and have been supporting them ever since. It's an addiction which has been developed by meeting so many good people at the U's and by standing with so

many more on the terraces. I would take live local football, whatever the level, over the Premier League on TV any day.

What do you love most about the Weston Homes Community Stadium? Or were you more of a Layer Road fan?

Layer Road was a brilliant place to watch football. Character and a sort of rustic charm. So close to the action too – you were almost part of the game! The U's had to move to survive and after too many years of stories, the council provided the WHCS for the

U's. My biggest regret is that we were relegated from the Championship the season before we moved in. The years since could have been so much different if we had fought harder in that relegation season.

Who's your favourite Colchester player of all time?

Lots to choose from, but my favourite player of all time is Mark Kinsella. One of the smartest and most talented footballers I've ever seen in a blue and white shirt. Free-kicks became goal certainties when 'Sheedy' was over the ball.

A true natural at the game, and I was delighted that he had a great international and domestic career.

What has been your favourite season following the U's?

It would have to be that first season in the Championship 2006/07. One of the best U's squads ever, Layer Road packed every game and many a big name club getting a right thrashing at the hands of Jamie Cureton and Co. They feared coming to our 'little' club and hated our tiny changing rooms. One of the happiest seasons that I can remember.

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

Roy McDonough for the beers and banter; Brian Owen for his endless and brilliant football stories; Mark Kinsella for obvious reasons; Alan White for security and laughs; and there in spirit, the late and great Dick Graham and Peter Wright. Mick Wadsworth could play guitar in the corner!



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▶ LUTON AND COLCHESTER

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

The last time we met
in the league was
also Boxing Day in
that famous first
Championship
season for the U's.
A festive 4-1 win
courtesy of Big Chris,
Richard Garcia and a
certain Kevin MacLeod –
5,500 fans packed into Layer
Road. This is the one U's v Hatters
clash that I remember well.

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

The U's are in form and playing well
with confidence. We've been keeping
a lot of clean sheets recently, and
if we bang in a few at the other
end then there's nothing to make

me think that our unbeaten run will
come to an end on Boxing Day. Am I
looking forward to sitting in the away
end? Not on your life I'm afraid – it's
dated and lacking in leg room.

May your new stadium be
soon in the making.



Craig Slater

Is there a level of
expectancy from
supporters for you
to go back up at
the first attempt?

Yes there is, but
after the reality check
of falling into the bottom
two, we are totally aware
that teams are not going to roll over
for us this season. There is a lot of
hard work expected from the players
between now and the end of the
season. Do that and the U's could
have a very pleasing end to the
season. One last thing – we may not
be great in numbers, but the U's fans
have the ability to be great in their
support of the club they love.

▶ QUICK-FIRE:

Terrace or seats? Terrace

Who are your rivals?

Southend United of course, and to
lesser degree, Ipswich Town. Not really
bothered with Wycombe Wanderers
any more

Predict your player of the season?

Craig Slater

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

Jamie Cureton – the most natural
goalscorer I've seen at the U's

**Most treasured Colchester piece of
memorabilia?**

Sorry, not really a collector

**What league will the U's be in next
season?**

My heart says League One, my head
says League Two

**Who will win promotion from League
Two this season?**

Plymouth and Portsmouth are bankers
for promotion this season. The play-
offs will remain up for grabs right up
until the end in my view

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

THE UNRECORDED

TERRY DYSON

One-time Colchester United winger Terry Dyson starred in Tottenham Hotspur's 1960-61 'double' success. The son of the famous jockey 'Ginger' Dyson, he joined Spurs from Scarborough in April 1955 and scored twice in their 1963 ECWC final triumph. He remained in the top-flight after joining Fulham in June 1965 and moved to Colchester in August 1968. Scoring four goals in 56 League games for the U's, he joined Guildford City in July 1970 and helped win promotion in 1970-71, repeating the feat with Wealdstone in 1973-74. He was later coach/manager of Dagenham, Wingate, Boreham Wood, Kingsbury and Ruislip.

RAY CRAWFORD

Former England international centre-forward Ray Crawford was leading marksman and 'Player of the Year' as Colchester beat Leeds United en route to the FA Cup sixth round in 1970-71. Initially with Portsmouth, he joined Ipswich Town in September 1958 and starred in their 1961-62 League Championship success. He had spells with Wolves, West Brom, Ipswich again, Charlton



and Kettering before moving to Layer Road in June 1970, netting 25 goals in 45 League outings for Colchester prior to joining Durban City. Later youth team coach at Brighton and Portsmouth, he is now a retired merchandiser living in Portsmouth.

ALLAN HUNTER

Former Northern Ireland international central defender Allan Hunter had a spell as Colchester United's player-manager. Initially with Coleraine, he helped win the Irish Cup before moving to Oldham Athletic in January 1967. He joined Blackburn Rovers for £30,000 in June 1969 and was ever-present in 1970-71, moving to Ipswich Town for £60,000 plus Bobby Bell in September 1971. Starring in their 1978 FA Cup final triumph, he was Colchester's player-boss from May 1982 until January 1983, making 19 League appearances, then assisted Mike Walker. He became a woodwork teacher at Belstead Special School.

KEVIN BEATTIE

Ex-England international central defender Kevin Beattie briefly played for Colchester United in 1982-83. He turned professional with Ipswich Town in July 1971 and was twice 'Player of the Year' and PFA 'Young Player of the Year' in 1973-74. Helping Ipswich to win the FA Cup in 1978, his top-flight career was halted by a knee injury. He reunited with Allan Hunter at Colchester in July 1982, playing four League games while at Layer Road. Also making an unsuccessful comeback bid with Middlesbrough, he then had spells with several Norwegian sides before Barnet and Clacton Town. He has since worked in the licensed trade.



STEWART HOUSTON

Former Scotland international left-back Stewart Houston ended his playing career with Colchester United. Initially with Port Glasgow, he joined Chelsea in August 1967 and gained top-flight experience, moving to Brentford in March 1972. He helped them clinch promotion that season, reuniting with Tommy Docherty at Manchester United in December 1973. Starring in their 1974-75 Second Division title triumph, he was an FA Cup finalist in 1976, then helped Sheffield United win the Fourth Division title in 1981-82. He joined Colchester in August 1983, netting five goals in 107 League games, before coaching and managed QPR.

TREVOR WHYMARK

Ex-England international striker Trevor Whymark briefly played for Colchester United in 1985-86. Initially with Diss Town, he moved to Ipswich Town in May 1969 and was top scorer four times. He missed their 1978 FA Cup final triumph through injury, joining Vancouver Whitecaps in February 1979. Featuring in that year's Soccer Bowl success, he played for Sparta Rotterdam and Derby County, moving to Grimsby Town in December 1980. He joined Southend United in January 1984, moving via Peterborough United to Colchester in October 1985. Making two League appearances, he became a sales rep for Buxted Poultry.

CRAIG FORREST

Colchester United's former loan goalkeeper Craig Forrest was ever-present in Ipswich Town's 1991-92 Second Division title triumph. Born in Vancouver, he turned professional with Ipswich in August 1985 and was loaned to Colchester in March 1988, making 11 League appearances. The Canadian international established himself as Ipswich's first-choice keeper the following season and was their 'Player of the Year' in 1994-95, moving to West Ham for £500,000 in July 1997. Capped 56 times by his country, he overcame testicular cancer and retired in May 2002. He has since become a match summariser on Canadian TV.

DAVE SWINDLEHURST

One-time Colchester United striker Dave Swindlehurst was Crystal Palace's top scorer in six successive seasons. Signing professional for Palace in January 1973, he starred as they were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1975-76, won promotion in 1976-77 and the Second Division title in 1978-79. He joined Derby County for £410,000 in

February 1980 and was leading marksman in 1980-81. Moving to West Ham in March 1983, then Sunderland, Anorthosis and Wimbledon, he joined Colchester in June 1988 and netted six goals in 12 League games. He managed Bromley, Haywards Heath and Chipstead while a sportsmaster in Croydon.

GEORGE BURLEY

Former Scotland international right-back George Burley had a spell as Colchester United's player-manager. Signing professional at Ipswich Town in June 1973, he starred in their 1978 FA Cup final success and joined Sunderland in September 1985. He moved to Gillingham in July 1988 and was ever-present in 1988-89. Moving to Motherwell in July 1989, he was player-boss of Ayr United, then Colchester United from June 1994 until rejoining Ipswich as manager in December 1994. Plotting their 2000 promotion success, he then managed Derby County, Hearts, Southampton, Scotland, Crystal Palace and Apollon Limassol.

TEDDY SHERINGHAM

Former England international striker Teddy Sheringham played for Colchester United during the 2007-08 campaign. Initially with Millwall, he was leading marksman as they won the Second Division title in 1987-88 and reached the Second Division play-offs in 1990-91. He joined Nottingham Forest for £2,000,000 in July 1991, then moved to Spurs for a similar fee in August 1992 and Manchester United for £3,500,000 in July 1997. Amassing numerous honours, he later played for Spurs again, Portsmouth and West Ham before joining Colchester in July 2007, netting three goals in 19 League games. He has since managed Stevenage.



PICTURE THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES



Action from the Town's clash at home to Manchester United on Boxing Day 1957, which finished 2-2 in front of a festive crowd of 26,478. The two sides had met at Old Trafford only 24 hours previously in a game that was to become the last time the Town played on Christmas Day.

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AS OTHERS SAW US

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

LUTON TOWN 2 MANCHESTER UNITED 1 | 21ST APRIL 1985

The Town's top-flight season of 1984/85 took a turn for the better just before Christmas when new chairman David Evans loosened the purse strings, and in quick succession several important signings were made to strengthen a side that looked odds-on for relegation.

Steve Foster, from Aston Villa, was the first to arrive, although he could not prevent the Town losing 3-1 at Arsenal on 1st December, but the following week the first win in two months was recorded when Aston Villa were seen off 1-0 at Kenilworth Road. New signing David Preece scored the all-important goal on his Luton debut after joining the club from Walsall.

Another new face greeted the supporters by the time the next game came around, with Mick Harford

being coaxed from Birmingham and matching Preece in scoring on his debut in a 2-2 draw at Leicester.

Despite all this, the Town were still in a perilous position after suffering half a season of poor results and with away defeats at Liverpool and Everton over the New Year threatening to undo the recent good work, a fourth new player was added to the squad in the shape of Peter Nicholas from Crystal Palace.

Perversely, a long run in the FA Cup, which eventually ended in semi-final

defeat against Everton at Villa Park, hindered progress in the league and by the end of March the Town were still in a relegation position. Two home victories in successive weeks against QPR and fellow strugglers Ipswich offered some breathing space, but a solitary goal defeat at Southampton opened up the gap yet again. By the time of the visit of Manchester United on 21st April, the Town had lifted themselves just above the relegation positions, though, following a 4-0 win at basement club

Harford takes some beating

DAVID PLEAT readily admits that he hated having to pay Birmingham £250,000 for powerful centre forward Mick Harford.

But yesterday in front of millions of TV viewers and with the delicious support of 10,320 fans the transfer fee looked like the bargain of the season.

Harford's impact eased Luton's annual relegation fears and ended Manchester United's yearly championship ambitions. His two goals against United took his total in the last six games to eight and were his first against the Old Trafford side. He said: 'I regard it as a great feat they're always a good side.'

Harford overshadowed the highly anticipated

Luton2
Man. United1

By COLIN GIBSON

forward who makes use of his weight.

Harford needed his bulk to head the last minute winner in a game which suggested United's thoughts have shifted from the title to the FA Cup Final.

After Steve Foster's thunderous free kick had hit the bar, Harford held off McGrath in a desperate goal-mouth struggle.

Harford had given Luton the

lead in the 68th minute from the penalty spot after Bailey had body checked Brian Stein. With Steve Foster controlling Hughes and Frank Stapleton and the tenacious Peter Nicholas curbing Norman Whiteside, Luton were never under any real pressure until after they scored. United put on immediate pressure and just three minutes after Harford's penalty, Whiteside claimed the equaliser.

After the disappointment of Harford's last-minute goal United boss Ron Atkinson refused to concede the title but admitted: 'Overall that was our least impressive performance for a long time.'

HARFORD GIVES LUTON LATE SURVIVAL TONIC

By MICHAEL CALVIN 84/85

Luton Town ... 2 Manchester United ... 1
MICK HARFORD, emerging as the key figure in Luton's resistance to relegation, emphasised the inevitability of Everton's accession to the title of League champions with a match-winning performance at

Stoke and a 3-1 home victory over Norwich immediately after the FA Cup semi-final.

Although an attractive fixture, the game against Manchester United was not one that Luton supporters looked forward to with relish due to the fact that the Town had yet to beat them in a Division One (now Premier League) clash at Kenilworth Road.

The game was to be televised live and the watching millions were no doubt hoping for a repeat of the previous season's meeting in front of the cameras when the Hatters capitulated to a rampant United, who won 5-0.

The clash had added spice as the Reds were hot on the heels of Everton at the top of the table, but it was the Town who made the early running and in the first half United's Gary Bailey was the busier of the two goalkeepers, making important stops to deny Preece and Brian Stein.

The Town surged forward in the second period and after Bailey did well to tip over a 30-yard effort from Nicholas, he was left hopelessly exposed in the 68th minute. Stein was sent clear by Foster and an attempted back-pass by Graeme Hogg fell short, leaving Bailey with no option but to up-end the striker.

Harford converted the penalty, but the goal stung United into life and only three minutes later they equalised when Norman Whiteside stabbed the ball home from close range with the Town players complaining that Les Sealey in the Luton goal had been fouled in the build up.

Instead of feeling sorry for themselves the Luton players attacked with a vengeance in search of the winner, and with only a minute to go Preece was brought down on the edge of the area by Bryan Robson. The resulting free-kick was hammered against the cross bar by Foster and with a dozen players waiting for the ball to drop, Harford launched himself over friend and foe to glance home the winner with his head.

There was hardly time for the re-start and with the dejected United players trudging off the pitch, Luton supporters savoured the moment of a first top flight win over the Reds as well as avenging the embarrassing defeat of the previous campaign.

The national press for once did not attempt to examine the shortcomings of Manchester United to the exclusion of a well-deserved Luton win.

Mick Harford naturally came in for praise. 'David Pleat readily admits that he hated having to pay Birmingham £250,000 for powerful centre-forward Mick Harford,' said Colin Gibson in the Daily Mail, 'but yesterday in front of millions of TV viewers, the transfer fee looked like the bargain of the season.'

Michael Calvin in the Daily Telegraph confirmed that 'Mick Harford is emerging as the key figure in Luton's resistance to relegation with a match-winning performance.' He also said that United manager Ron Atkinson 'could not offer a convincing case against the theory that Luton deserved an important victory.'

[ROGER WASH]

TOWN 1 : CARLISLE 1

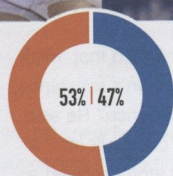


SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER | KENILWORTH ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 7,953 | AWAY: 380

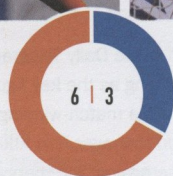
TOWN GOAL: HYLTON 10 | **CARLISLE GOAL:** KENNEDY 5

TOWN: WALTON, O'DONNELL, POTTS, MULLINS, CUTHBERT ©, SHEEHAN (GILLIEAD 62), REA, MCGEEHAN, HYLTON, VASSELL (COOK 90+5), MARRIOTT (MPANZU 67). **SUBS NOT USED:** SMITH, LEE, MCQUOID, KING (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** REA, MULLINS

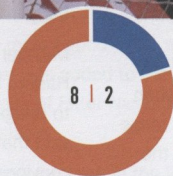
CARLISLE: GILLESPIE, GRAINGER © (GILLESPIEY 70), JOYCE, RAYNES, KENNEDY, JONES (LAMBE 34), WYKE, ADAMS, BRISLEY, S MILLER (DEVITT 81), T MILLER. **SUBS NOT USED:** ELLIS, ASAMOAH, MCQUEEN, CROCOMBE (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** BRISLEY, GILLESPIE | **RED CARD:** RAYNES



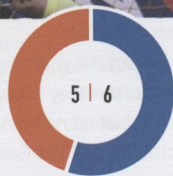
POSSESSION



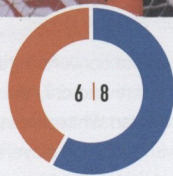
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



CORNERS



FOULS

STORY OF THE MATCH:

Danny Hylton scored his 14th goal of the season as the Hatters came from behind after conceding early for the third time in a week, but had to settle for a point against promotion rivals Carlisle at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters went toe-to-toe with the Cumbrians, who played the last eight minutes – plus ten added on at the end of normal time – with ten men after centre-half Michael Raynes was sent off for catching Hylton with his arm on the edge of the area.

The visitors took the lead in the fifth minute, as Shaun Miller powerfully headed Nicky Adams' cross at Christian Walton, who could only divert the ball into the feet of Jason Kennedy to fire home.

Hylton replied just five minutes later for Town as he controlled Jack Marriott's ball across the face of goal, swivelled around his marker Shaun Brisley and smashed home the equaliser.

Both sides pushed for the decisive goal, but neither could find it and with eight minutes of normal time remaining, Raynes was shown a straight red card for tangling with Hylton.

Walton made up for his early mistake with a match winning save in extra-time, denying Miller with his legs in the 95th minute as the visitors mounted a rare second-half counter-attack.

JONES: It's a decent point overall, but I felt we probably deserved all three



"I thought it was a good game. We reacted well to going a goal down very early to a threat we knew they would have, that's the disappointing thing for me.

"I felt we had the better chances over the 90 minutes. Jack Marriott had a chance, Scott Cuthbert had a chance, Isaac Vassell had a chance, Danny Hylton had a chance right at the end of the first half. I felt we should have won the game.

"It was a good game. Every time a top team has come here it has been a good advert for League Two, with Portsmouth and Doncaster and obviously Carlisle. They are good sides and it's a decent point overall, but I felt we probably deserved all three.

"There's no point us trying to contain teams. We want teams to try and contain us. We have stuttered a little bit when we've played recently in terms of shape, so we changed and we felt we were trying to be really positive.

"The thing that killed us is early on, we switched off and there's a little bit of an error and it's cost us."



POTTSY TAKES THE POSITIVES

CARLISLE POINT A GOOD ONE FOR RETURNING DAN

Hatters defender Dan Potts said he was just pleased to be back in the starting XI as he returned for the win over Swindon and the draw against Carlisle.

After being left out at Notts County at the end of October, Potts was made to bide his time as Alan Sheehan made a succession of starts in his place at left-back.

But in the first knock-out stage of the Checktrade Trophy against Swindon, he was brought in at centre-back as Town ran out 3-2 winners.

Potts proved himself to boss Nathan Jones, who decided to play the 22-year-old at left wing-back against Carlisle.

"I always enjoy it," said Potts

afterwards. "It was a big game to come back into. We are probably a little bit disappointed as a team we didn't get the three points.

"We did have the chances to win it. But if you can't win it, you don't want to lose it. In hindsight, we might look back and it might be a good point. We will take the positives from it and go from there.

"Of course, we want to win our home games, but we didn't lose and the gap between us and them hasn't got any bigger, and that's a good thing."

On making his first League start in seven weeks, Potts – who would unfortunately miss the next game at Blackpool through injury – added:

"It's been frustrating, but I'm just glad to be back out there and hopefully I can stay there. But that's definitely given me added drive for me to stay in there now.

I'll be giving my all, that's for sure."

Swapping from the centre of defence to the left side, Potts was up and down the flank in a 3-4-3 formation against

the Cumbrians, playing a role in Danny Hylton's equalising goal, which he said came as a result of his side's change in formation.

"It definitely tested my stamina, that's for sure!" smiled Potts. "Left wing-back's a bit different from centre-half, but I enjoy it wherever I play. I think I am fully capable of playing centre-half, I am fully capable of playing anywhere across the back, so wherever the manager wants me to play, I will play.

"With wing backs, it gives the opposition full-back a decision to make: do they come to you? Do they stay? The lad on this occasion has come towards me and I have been able to play it in behind him and to be fair to him, Jack Marriott has done well to squeeze the cross in and Hylts has finished it off nicely.

"They are the sorts of things we work on in training and it's nice to see them come to fruition on the pitch."

Asked about Hylton, who netted his ninth goal in 11 games, Potts smiled: "I play against him quite a lot in training and I enjoy it. I like playing against players like him.

"He's a nuisance and he does make you raise your game because he's always on the move, always active, always chasing things down."



HERE COMES JOHNNY...

...SINGING OLDIES ARE GOLDIES!

Hatters defender Johnny Mullins passed the 500 career appearance mark recently – but he insists that even though he's one of the most experienced players in the Town squad, he's got plenty of time left yet to add to that tally.

Mullins made it to the landmark when he went on as a sub against Accrington Stanley last month.

Speaking after the 1-1 draw with Carlisle – his 505th appearance in a career that has taken in Reading, Kidderminster, Mansfield, Stockport, Rotherham and Oxford – the 31-year-old said: "I'm always feeling old in this squad!"

"When I was growing up in football and made it to professional, it was always nice to have little goals and I always thought 500 appearances would be a nice one to get to.

"I have got there relatively young, so to speak, so hopefully I can go on and extend that. Individually it's nice, but the lads in the dressing room all help me through and make it easy for me."

His former Rotherham and Oxford team-mate, Danny Hylton, scored his ninth goal in 11 matches against Carlisle and has been in the best form of his career with 14 so far this term.

No-one knows Hylton better than Mullins, and from personal experience he says he hated playing against his room-mate on the one occasion he had to.

Mullins said: "I played against him once when I was at Rotherham. We were up against Aldershot in the FA

Cup. He scored a hat-trick against me! I wasn't marking him though, he was on the other side of the defence. He is a nuisance and a pain in the backside to play against.

"He is just a loveable rogue really – he really is! He is completely different off the pitch. He is such a lovely guy.

"He is the hardest working player I have ever played with. I am really pleased he is getting goals and he is reaping the rewards of his hard work. Hopefully there is plenty more to come from him."

The meeting between Town and the Cumbrians proved to be a bit of a thriller, as Nathan Jones' side pushed for a winner, whilst Carlisle looked dangerous on the counter-attack.

It finished as a draw, as Michael Raynes was sent off for catching Hylton with his arm, but it came as little surprise to Mullins, who reckons the forward is always getting in his opponents' faces.

"He is playing so well, he is always playing on the edge and it works," Mullins continued. "His impact on the game was huge. He has scored, someone got sent off, Danny always affects the game.

"He is constantly on the shoulder, winding people up. He is a nightmare to play against and one you would rather have on your team.

"It was a nice team goal against Carlisle – it doesn't just happen though. We work on that in training all week. If we get the ball to Danny in the box, nine out of ten times it goes in."



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HATTERS BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Hatters' squad took time out of their preparations for the festive programme last week to visit Bedford Hospital and the Luton & Dunstable.

The Town lads took gifts for the youngsters, many of whom will be spending their Christmas on the children's ward battling illness, including Town caps and scarves.

There were smiles throughout both hospitals as the boys chatted with patients, nurses and doctors, signing autographs and posing for pictures.

Top scorer Danny Hylton spoke on behalf of the squad when he said: "We are privileged as footballers to be able

to come to places like this and spend a bit of time trying to put a smile on a few kids' faces.

"It puts things into perspective. When I'm thinking of shouting at my kids, I'll remember the children I've seen in here today.

"You don't realise how lucky you are to have them spending Christmas at home until you have your eyes opened on visits like this."





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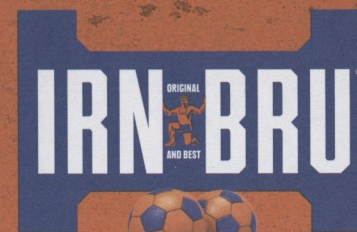


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BLACKPOOL 0 : TOWN 2



SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER | BLOOMFIELD ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 3,992 | AWAY 1,095

TOWN GOALS: MARRIOTT 31, MCGEEHAN 48

BLACKPOOL: SLOCOMBE, NOLAN (GNADUILLET 81), ALDRED, ROBERTSON, TAYLOR, POTTS, PUGH ©, PAYNE, PHILLISKIRK (OSAYI-SAMUEL 56), MATT (CULLEN 56), VASSELL. **SUBS NOT USED:** LYNESS, MCALISTER, AIMSON, REDSHAW.

TOWN: WALTON, O'DONNELL, CUTHBERT ©, MULLINS, JUSTIN, REA, MCGEEHAN (MPANZU 71), GILLIEAD (SMITH 83), LEE, HYLTON, MARRIOTT (VASSELL 75). **SUBS NOT USED:** COOK, SENIOR, MCQUOID, KING (GK).



STORY OF THE MATCH:

Forget Blackpool's famous illuminations, it was Nathan Jones' Luton Town side who lit up Bloomfield Road to send over 1,000 travelling Hatters into Christmas with a huge smile on their faces.

Jack Marriott scored after 31 minutes with a smart finish from close range, before midfielder Cameron McGeehan headed in three minutes after the restart for his tenth of the season and his side's second on the day to secure all the points.

Jones opted for his third different formation in as many games as his side set out in a 3-5-2 after the previous week's 3-4-3.

It proved too much for the hosts to be able to handle, as Danny Hylton picked out Marriott who burst through on goal, cut back on to his right foot and slotted the ball home from ten yards just after the half hour mark.

McGeehan doubled the lead shortly after the break, as he headed in James Justin's cross from the left, powering the ball beyond the outstretched Sam Slocombe.

The victory means Town have now only suffered one defeat in their last 13 league matches, as Jones' side look to mount a serious challenge for the top three.

JONES: We have one goal, and I believe we are going to achieve it.

"That's as good an away performance I have seen from anyone at this level.

"I thought we were majestic, I really do. I can't think of many adjectives to describe our performance but we were clinical. We were ruthless, we worked hard. We looked solid.

"They had one or two opportunities from distance on the counter attack, but apart from that we negated a side that hasn't lost in nine at home who score in threes and fours past people and taking teams apart.

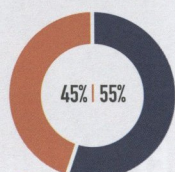
"Without being too disrespectful I thought we did that to them today. These are a good counter attacking side, but I feel we are the best. Once we got that opportunity, Jack took his chance clinically.

"We came out of the blocks in the second half and scored a great goal, and as away performances go, that was perfect.

"But I want to mention something. I did an interview on Thursday and was asked if it was important just to stay in the play-offs? Yes, if you want that. But that isn't our goal, so I don't want to be asked that question again.

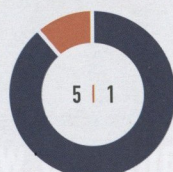
"It isn't just important to stay in the play-offs. We have one goal, and I believe we are going to achieve it. Our focus is up."

POSSESSION

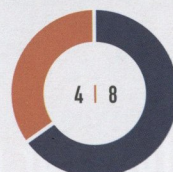


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SHOTS ON TARGET



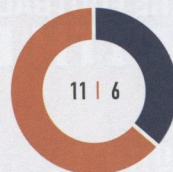
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[JACK MARRIOTT ON BLACKPOOL]

MARRIOTT MAKES BLACKPOOL

ROCK

**JACK'S BACK AMONG
THE GOALS AT
BLOOMFIELD ROAD**

After a spell on the bench, Town striker Jack Marriott has returned to form in fine style in recent weeks, scoring three goals in as many games to help the Hatters on the way up the league table and into the next round of the FA Cup.

His latest was a fine finish against Blackpool last Saturday in a 2-0 win at Bloomfield Road.

The view in Lancashire was that the Town put in the best away performance the Seasiders have seen at their home ground this season, with the Hatters' exploits something Marriott was particularly pleased with.

He said: "It feels really good. It was a complete away performance. To score two as a team and keep a clean sheet, the changing room is buzzing.

"We said at half-time we want to try and kill the game off, get an early goal and knock the wind out of them.

"We thought they would come out ready for a fight. But we have knocked them back and in the second half we were very dominant."

The goal has marked a bit of a comeback for Marriott, who although was playing well and creating opportunities for himself, hadn't found the net in nine appearances between the end of September and the beginning of December.

He returned to form in style, scoring twice in a 6-2 win over Solihull Moors in the second round of the FA Cup, a performance which has seen him in the starting XI ever since.

His goal came at an important time in the match against the Pool, as his cool finish following a smart

cut-back gave Town the lead and in turn brought an end to Marriott's barren spell in the League.

Marriott said: "Thanks for reminding me of that [not scoring since September]! It's always nice to score in the league. I knew I could do it, it was just a case of carrying on doing the right things.

"Thankfully it has gone in today and hopefully now I can push on. Initially I was going to go left footed for my goal today, it was on, but I saw the defender steaming in and I just cut back onto my right and luckily it's found the bottom right hand corner."

The game also saw Nathan Jones deploy a different formation for the third consecutive match, this time opting for a 3-5-2.

Marriott believes his team-mates are more than capable of dealing with the changes, as goals for the Hatters are coming from a number of different players.

"We are very flexible. We have got a strong squad that we can rotate and we can have different formations," Marriott continued. "It's good that Cameron has continued his goal scoring form, Hylls as we know has been on fire. It's nice to get back amongst it. Everyone is chipping in.

"Stephen O'Donnell scored two from right-back two weeks ago, so we have got goals in the team. It's just a case of continuing to score and winning the games."





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[JAMES JUSTIN ON BLACKPOOL]

JUSTIN IS JUST LOVING IT... RIGHT OR LEFT!

In his first full season as a pro, full-back James Justin has impressed on both sides of a Luton Town back four since making his debut on the left in the EFL Cup win over Aston Villa in August.

More comfortable on his natural right side, the 18-year-old homegrown product has shown a real maturity when defending in his 13 appearances before the trip to Blackpool last week.

But on his 14th start of the campaign at Bloomfield Road, Justin was asked to play as a left wing-back, with Stephen O'Donnell doing the same on the opposite flank, as manager Nathan Jones once again went for a system involving three centre-halves.

Justin created the second goal for Cameron McGeehan soon into the second half, and when asked about his latest more advance role afterwards, he said: "To be honest, I quite liked it coming inside and I can use my left as well, as I showed against Villa. But I get told to play wherever, and I just fill in there.

"I'm equally as comfortable on both sides. I prefer the right, but I can play the left because SODS is in great form as well.

"It's a world of difference because you don't have to worry about getting back as much. You still do have to defend, but you're more forward thinking so it's quite fun.

"I could have had a goal myself in the second half when Jack put a lovely ball across the box after a one-two with Hyts that I absolutely ballooned into the sky, but that happens. I get forward and just try to pick people out in the box, and thankfully Cameron was right there."

Blackpool had lost just once at home all season, back in August, so Justin knew what an important win it was to cement the Hatters in fifth spot and push the Seasiders back outside the play-off places.

"It's a great victory here because they've been in great form," he said. "We know about their danger because they've been climbing that table in the last five weeks, so we've done well to shut them out and score two ourselves.

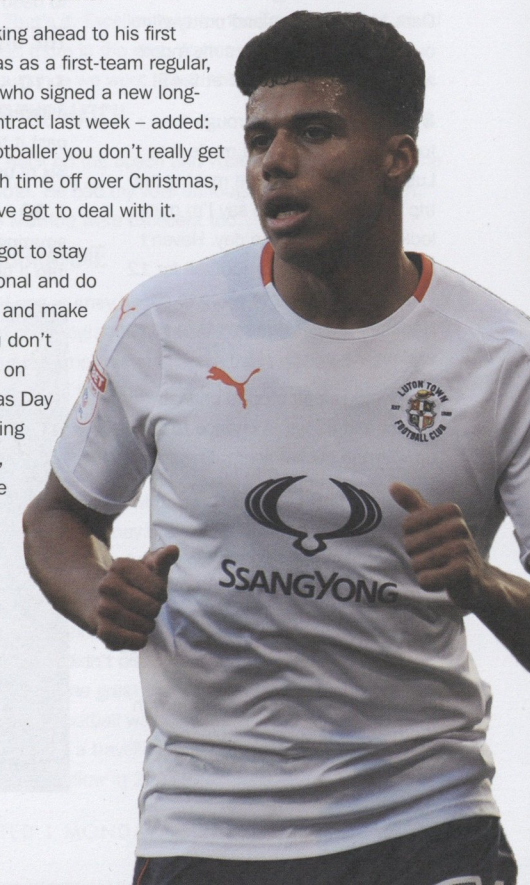
I feel it was one of our best performances of the season."

There were almost 1,100 Town fans making all the noise at a sparsely-populated Bloomfield Road, but Justin says the thousands of empty seats – with Blackpool fans boycotting games in protest against their owners – didn't affect the players other than the Hatters' songs inspiring them.

"Our fans travel in crazy numbers," he said. "The support just keeps on coming. All we can do is clap our hands to them, it's incredible."

And looking ahead to his first Christmas as a first-team regular, Justin – who signed a new long-term contract last week – added: "As a footballer you don't really get too much time off over Christmas, but you've got to deal with it.

"You've got to stay professional and do your job and make sure you don't over-eat on Christmas Day or anything like that, so you're ready to go on Boxing Day and against Barnet."



TRAVELLER'S TALES



TOWN FAN KEVIN HARPER TRAVELS TO BLOOMFIELD ROAD BY COACH AND A CHRISTMAS HORSE AND CARRIAGE TO SEE THE HATTERS LADS LIGHT UP BLACKPOOL...

THE JOURNEY

7.00am – Time to leave the house for the final away game of 2016. Dark, densely foggy and pretty glum outside...which matches my mood when the alarm went off at 5.45!

8.00 – We've been through the towns and villages and made it to Luton. Two coaches are making the trip up north. Have to say I'm quite looking forward to the day. Haven't been to Blackpool for football for 12 years and it is a great place to go. Hopefully we get there early to go and explore the place!

9.45 – Quick pit stop to change drivers and things. A chance to catch up with the cricket score. England going ok. Good signs for once!

11.25 – Apart from a bit of fog in the Midlands we've made good headway and stop off for 30 minutes at Charnock Richard services. Journey has been quite entertaining. My good friends Pam and Barry are on the coach, so had a good catch up with them and a quiz passed plenty of time too!

1.05pm – We've arrived in Blackpool. All parked up and with almost two hours to kick-off it is time to head down to the sea front!

THE GROUND

1.10 – The ground looks much different from the outside as we walk past it to get down to the sea front. Six of us make the walk in total.

1.20 – Down by the sea. View is amazing. Have to admit I've turned into a bit of a kid! We all agree to

take a walk down towards the tower.

1.55 – Touristy stuff done with plenty of photos taken! Time to head back towards the ground but still time to pop into a sweet shop for a stick of rock on the way!

2.00 – We walk past a load of parked horse and carriages done up in Christmas decorations. The lure of them prove too strong for myself, Pam and Barry when the woman in charge says she can take us back to



the ground! We soon pass the other three who decided to walk. I felt like I should feel guilty but that guilt goes when the pictures and incriminating evidence make their way onto Facebook! (And Talk of the Town, Kev! Thanks to Les Miller – Ed)

2.10 – Back at the ground after the ride back. Good fun although I'm not sure the long queue of traffic behind us agreed! Bit of a wait while the others get back so a chance to check the team news. Gilliead starts – the day gets better!

THE MATCH

2.25 – Inside the ground now where we meet up with 'Part Time Pete' and 'Judy'. Town fans, of which there are plenty judging by the numbers around the promenade, are in the stand behind the goal unlike last time we were at Bloomfield Road when we were down the side.

2.55 – Players come out. Town in white shirts. Weird watching a side in orange that isn't us! Decent crowd in the away end. Home ends largely empty although that is understandable with all going on up there.

3.14 – Quiet start to the afternoon but Christian Walton is called into action to tip a firm shot over the bar.

3.27 – After a couple of brilliant blocks from Scott Cuthbert, Walton is again called upon to make a brilliant save from Vassell (theirs not ours!) who was one on one with him. He makes another save almost immediately too.

3.31 – GOOOOOOOOOOAL!! Bit against the run of play but we'll take it! Shouts of handball as McGeehan intercepts a pass but it drops to Hylton, who runs at the defence. He slides Jack Marriott through and the striker makes no mistake. Get in!

3.46 – Fairly quiet end to the first half as the Town head in 1-0 up. Harsh on Blackpool but nice to see us ruthless when our chance came. Hopefully we can push on in the second half. Quick look at the scores at half-time and the sides above us are winning. Important second half coming up.

4.02 – Back underway. No changes to either side. Excellent noise in the away end since the goal. Sure that will continue!

4.05 – GOOOOOOOOOOAL!! What a start to the second half! The ball is worked out to Justin on the left. He crosses and McGeehan dives in to head home. Get in!

4.08 – The kitchen sink is getting thrown at Blackpool! Hylton and Marriott both go very close. Keep this up Town!



4.12 – On comes former Hatter Mark Cullen. Boomed by some of the travelling fans. Don't get that myself. Immediately it is nearly 3-0. Marriott goes close and the rebound falls to James Justin but he just misses. Close!

4.28 – Bit of a lull in proceedings on the pitch as the Town see this game out comfortably. No lull in the singing though. Really has been a superb atmosphere!

4.41 – Nearly 3-0 again. Lee fires from 25 yards out it clips the top of the net on the way over.

4.52 – That's it. Excellent win for the Town – 2-0 but could have been more in the end. Walton's early saves were pivotal but once we went ahead there was only one winner.

MAN OF THE MATCH

5.20 – Back on the coach and Walton gets the man of the match vote. He had my vote although I thought Cuthbert, Lee and Marriott were excellent too.

THE PROGRAMME

6.00 – Long journey home so there is plenty of time for a look at the programme. It cost £2 which is pretty cheap for a league game, but in fairness there wasn't a lot in it. Symptomatic of the whole day from a home perspective.

SUMMARY

9.45 – After a combination of a bit of a snooze with the early start catching up with me and a bit of sport watching on the iPad, the journey home has flown by and we are back in Amptill already. Fair play to the drivers for getting us back so quickly!

10.10 – Back home now. I was really looking forward to this day and it didn't disappoint. An excellent day in the company of some great friends. The time in Blackpool was good and the football was brilliant. A really fantastic way to end 2016 from a travelling point of view. Hopefully more of the same will follow in 2017!

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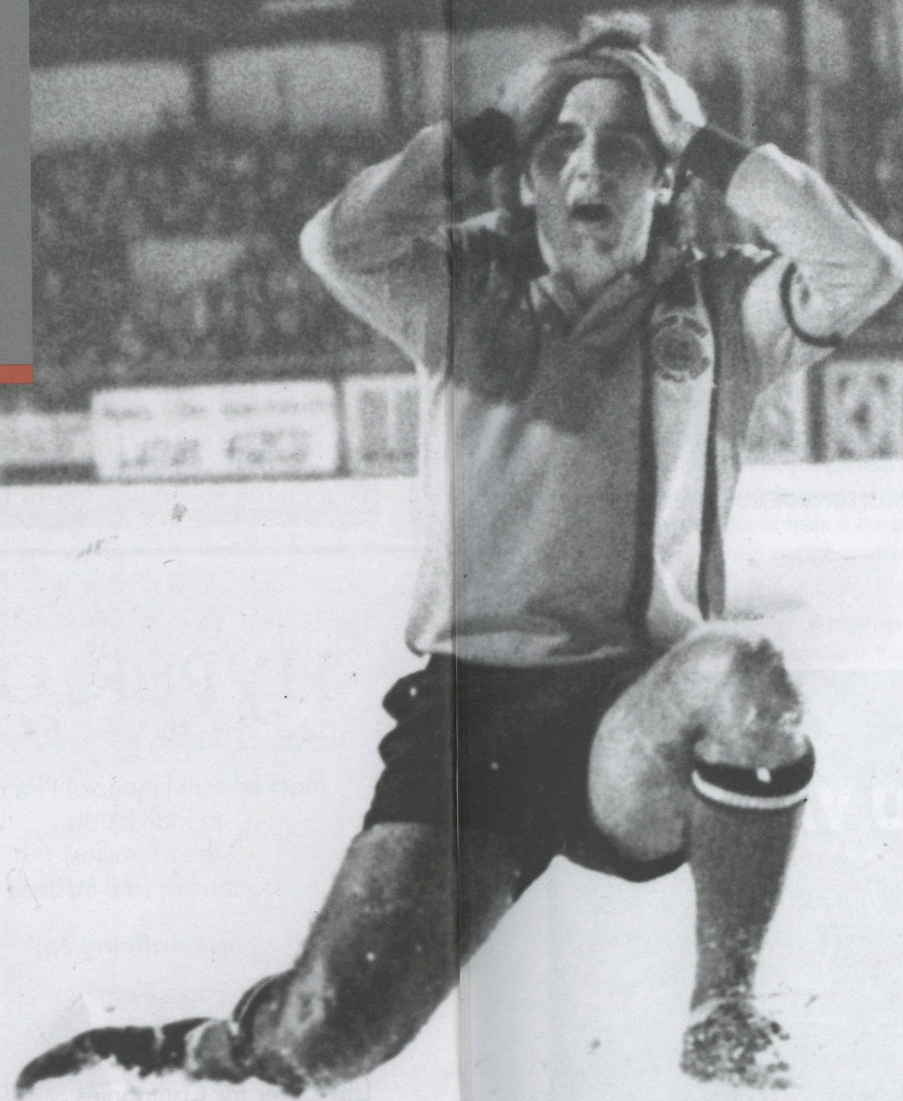


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CLUB HISTORIAN **ROGER WASH** DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES



Lil Fuccillo can't believe that he only scored one goal in the 4-0 rout of Chelsea at a snowy Kenilworth Road over the Christmas holiday in 1976.

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NEXT UP: STEVENAGE (H), SAT 7TH JAN, 11AM (ELY WAY)
 BARNET (A) TUE 10TH JAN, 12PM. (THE HIVE)

[TOWN U18S MATCH REPORT]

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 4 : TOWN 0

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER | HILLSBOROUGH | FA YOUTH CUP THIRD ROUND

WEDNESDAY GOALS: LONCHAR 40, 67, 88, PRESTON 44

TOWN: PARKER, BEAN, JONES, MEAD (SHAMALO 79), JAMES (BELGROVE 68), BAKINSON, COTTER, MURRAY (TOMLINSON 79), SNELUS, READ, HINDS. **SUBS NOT USED:** PANTER, SORUNKE. **YELLOW CARDS:** MEAD, READ **RED CARD:** BEAN



DRIVER:

Today was a good experience for them

"They have taken their goals well. Looking at it from an outside perspective, you get beat 4-0, get a red card and miss a penalty, it's easy to think we weren't at the races. But for most of the game we went toe-to-toe with them and the result is harsh on the lads.

"We came from behind in both cup games prior to this one, so to see that character in the players was brilliant and they learned a lot from those positions.

"Coming to Hillsborough today was a good experience for them, and we wish Wednesday all the best in the rest of the competition and for the rest of the season."

STORY OF THE MATCH:

A Jordan Lonchar hat-trick was more than enough to see off the Hatters Under-18s as Sheffield Wednesday progressed into the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup at Paul Driver's lads' expense at Hillsborough.

The hosts started off the brighter, controlling the tempo for the first ten minutes, but Town grew into the tie and nearly took the lead when Freddie Hinds pinched the ball on the edge of the Owls box. He tried to tee up George Murray, but his pass was intercepted.

Lonchar gave the hosts the lead with a close-range finish five minutes before half-time, and Fraser



Preston finished off a fantastic set-piece to make it 2-0 four minutes later, although replays show he was a yard offside.

Town came out fighting after the break and nearly hit back when Jack Snelus let fly from the edge of the box, but keeper Dan Wallis made the save.

Lonchar made it 3-0 with a header into the bottom left corner midway through the second half, before Harry Bean received his marching orders for two yellow cards in the space of a minute.

Lonchar grabbed his third of the day with a strong finish past Parker, before Snelus won a penalty late on, which he took, but Wallis guessed correctly and dived to his right to palm the ball away.

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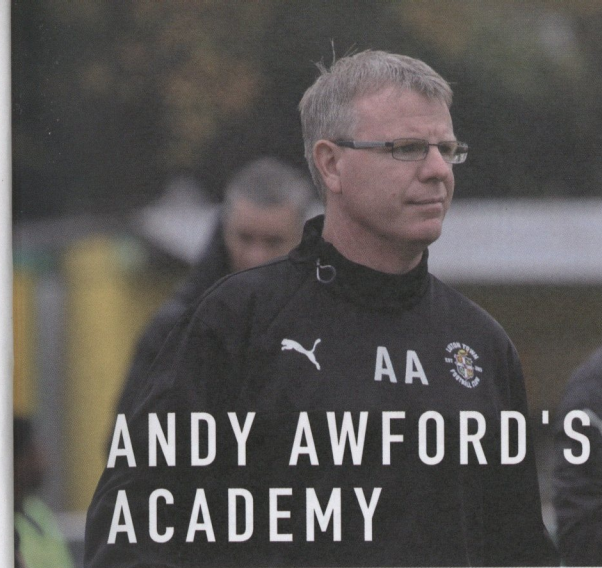
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ANDY AWFORD'S ACADEMY

UPDATE

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

U18S

You will have read on the previous page that unfortunately the youth team are out of this season's FA Youth Cup after going down 4-0 away at Sheffield Wednesday.

Sincere thanks to all the Hatters fans who travelled to support the lads, especially with the rather perplexing 1pm Friday kick-off time. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

The 4-0 scoreline did not, in my opinion, show a true reflection of the game and was rather harsh on the boys. With the score at 0-0 after 35 mins and us having the better early chances and looking solid defensively, to go in 2-0 down at half-time was somewhat frustrating.

The opening 20 minutes of the second half saw us play well and have the ascendancy, but unfortunately we did not take any of the numerous chances we created and got done on the counter attack to go 3-0 down.

The boys gave it a right go, but it was not our day and the difference in both boxes was there for everyone to see. On another day, who knows...

BEDS SENIOR CUP

A very young Development Squad recently travelled to Stotfold FC in the quarter-final of the Beds Senior Cup and I was delighted that we came out of it with a deserved 2-1 victory to progress to the semi-finals.

Goals from Zane Banton and Geo Craig saw us through against strong, physical opposition on an extremely heavy, uneven pitch. Due to the state of the pitch and the opposition's rather robust style, we had to adapt our game and therefore I must give enormous credit to the players for rising to the challenges they were presented with.

Again, the game provided our young players with a great learning curve and they will only benefit from the experience.

We now look forward to a semi-final in February against another local men's team that will no doubt throw up new challenges.

U15S

Our U15s played a friendly up at West Bromwich Albion last Tuesday. The opportunity to test our young players against higher-rated academy clubs (WBA are a category 1 academy) is something we always look to do as there are obvious benefits to this. The boys performed really well, returning with a 4-4 draw in a highly entertaining game.

Enjoy today's game.

COYH!

ANDY



LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

The holidays are a very busy time of the year for everyone and especially our first team squad who have three games in eight days to prepare for, along with trying to fit in all of the other traditional Christmas player duties including visits to local hospitals and charities etc.

So, we were particularly happy to welcome club captain Scott Cuthbert, Dan Potts and Olly Lee to our last men's disability football training session of the year at Inspire Sports Village in Stopsley a fortnight ago.

Both of our disability teams are currently training indoors during the league winter break, preparing with real dedication for the new season to begin in March next year.

It was great for Scott, Dan and Olly to watch the guys train with such dedication and enthusiasm, and it was also great for all of our disability footballers who got a real kick out of showing off their skills to our first team players.

Once training was over it was also time to hand out Christmas presents to everyone to finish off a training session that everyone would remember. It didn't end there, however, as Scott, Dan and Olly gave all of the players match tickets for the Carlisle game with the news that the new kit for next season would be presented at half-time by Ssangyong our shirt sponsors.

Not all of the players were able to make the game, but main board director and chairman of the Trust's trustee board, Bob Curson, was on hand to present the new kit along with a couple of staff members from Ssangyong, Bob and Darren.



It ensures that the teams will be flying the flag for the Hatters and wearing the badge with pride during next year's league fixtures and, of course, during the defence of their FA Peoples Cup trophy.

We run lots of both football and multi sports sessions during the week as part of our every player counts programme sponsored by the EFL Trust and Wembley national Stadium Trust, and if you know someone with a learning disability who you think might like to get involved then please give us a call at the community office on 01582 737568, or drop us an email at community@lutontown.co.uk



EFL TRUST AND KINDER SPORT U11 KIDS CUP

Congratulations to Hillborough Junior School, who beat St Joseph's Junior School 2-0 in our Bedfordshire Kids Cup Final here at Kenilworth Road during half-time at the Carlisle game.

Over 20 schools took part in our Bedfordshire tournament, with the two finalists providing a great game and hopefully strong winners in the rest of the competition.

The U11 Kids Cup is the biggest youth competition in the country, with every EFL Club entering teams via regional six-a-side competitions culminating in three finals across the EFL Play-Off weekends in May. All 72 Football League clubs are first split into three divisions, in line with our divisional status before being again split into two groups, north and south.

So our local winners, Hillborough Junior School, will progress as Luton Town FC into the Division Two South play-offs next month down at Portsmouth FC's training ground against other regional winners from Wolves, QPR, Swindon, MK Dons, Oxford, Plymouth, Stevenage and Reading. If successful, the boys could proceed to the regional North v South final with the eventual final to be played at Wembley Stadium before the Sky Bet League Two Play-Off Final at Wembley in May.

A couple of years ago Ramsey Manor School in Barton narrowly missed out on qualifying for the national semi-finals, so our best wishes go to Hillborough and let's hope they can make it through the regional qualifiers and get a step closer to Wembley Stadium!

MAN V FAT FOOTBALL – JOIN THE LEAGUE WHERE LOSERS WIN!

Calling all men! Do you want to lose weight? Do you love football? Why don't you join MAN V FAT and do both, with groups of like-minded men.

Be honest – hands up if you overdid it yesterday! Well, feel free for at least another week or so because we have teamed up with LiveWell Luton to run a Man v Fat League at Lea Manor Recreation Centre every Monday at 7.30pm, starting from 9th January.

MAN v FAT football is a 14-week league for any man who wants to lose weight. Games are decided on weight loss as well as results and you get 24/7 support to help you. You can join on your own, or with a mate or as a team and see how 95 per cent of MAN v FAT footballers lose weight and

get fitter. There are goals bonuses available for weight loss, and with an average weight loss over the 14 weeks of 22lbs, it is a proven and effective way to lose weight while playing with your mates. The leagues will be run by the club's Community Trust coaching staff and best of all, the whole programme is free.

To date we have over 75 players signed and registered to start in January so it promises to be a really popular event. To sign up simply visit www.manvfat.com/football or call 0845 1630042 or email football@manvfat.com. By the way ladies – we've not forgotten you and we'll be revealing our new female-only centres beginning next month in the Barnet programme on New Year's Eve!

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE – COYH!

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HATTERSLADIES

2016 YEAR REVIEW

It has been a mixed year for the ladies as we finished fourth in the league last season and won the Bedfordshire County Cup, before making a good start to the 2016/17 season and tailing off a little towards the end of 2016.

The year started with an FA Cup draw in January away to Southern Premier League side Brighton. The best performing side outside of the Super League outplayed the Town and comfortably beat us but it was a learning curve for the young Hatters side and an experience to take back to the league below.

Attention then turned to the County Cup, as we faced local side Icknield, beating them 10-0, before drawing Bedford in the semi-final. Some bad weather through January and February meant a lack of league action, and a 2-0 February semi-final win over Bedford saw us through to the final.

In the league, we were drifting between third and fourth, when we played runaway and unbeaten leaders Crystal Palace away. We twice led the Eagles, at one stage 3-1, but a ten-minute crumble allowed them back into the game and eventually we lost, which was one of the most disappointing results of the season.

With eight games to go, plus a final, it was a race to finish third, but a poor performance and loss against second-placed Gillingham and a 0-0 draw against mid-table Denham meant that MK Dons would probably nick third place.

We then went on to beat Cambridge 2-1 with ten men, which was an

excellent result, cementing fourth place meaning they couldn't finish above us, before finishing the season with a very youthful side, winning 2-0 away to Actonians.

In the Bedfordshire County Cup final we faced Offley & Stopsley ladies, where we went onto win in superb style, beating them 8-1, winning the cup for the first time in three years.

Over the Summer we rebuilt the squad, signed some very good young players including 16-year-olds Lucy Webster and Jodie Southby, and brought in one or two others including Dionne Manning from Spurs. We started the 2016/17 season brilliantly by holding title favourites Gillingham 1-1 at home, Manning scoring on her debut. We then beat Actonians and Lowestoft, meaning we were top of the league at the beginning of September, before losing our first game to Cambridge United.

We bounced back superbly from our first league defeat by beating MK Dons 2-1 at Kenilworth Road in September. A good League Cup run then saw us beat Plymouth Argyle away 4-2, where 16-year old striker Jodie Bellinger came on and scored a hat-trick, and we then knocked Stevenage out in the following round, winning 2-0.



The cup games were sandwiched with a couple of league games in November, one excellent 4-2 away win at second-placed AFC Wimbledon, as well as a 1-0 loss to Denham earlier in the month and a 1-1 draw with Stevenage at the end of the month.

In the FA Cup we started the run by beating AFC Sudbury 3-2, which was followed by a 6-1 win against Oxford City. We then drew Premier League South side Portsmouth at the beginning of December, who knocked us out by beating us 4-1.

We finished the year by being knocked out of the League Cup in the quarter-finals by Southern Premier League side Lewes, but overall it has been a good start to the season. The Town sit sixth in the league but with games in hand over teams above them.

Manager Nikki Baker said: "It has been disappointing to be knocked

out of two cups at the end of the year, but we can concentrate on the league now and retaining the County cup.

"In the league we have a couple of games in hand because of getting to the quarter-finals in the National League Cup, so if we win those we will climb a couple of places.

"We have thrown away a couple of silly games which cost us points.

"However, we have a very young side, sometimes there have been five 16-year-olds on the pitch, which is huge at this level. We are developing these girls and they have been outstanding.

"I am excited for the future of this club and where it can go. Our target now is to retain the county cup and to finish in the top four again for this season, then next season to go further."



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ON THIS DAY

On this day, 26th December 1951, the Hatters enjoyed their largest ever Boxing Day win (so far) when they beat West Ham Utd 6-1 at home in front of a huge crowd of 19,476. But that wasn't the only time the Town scored 6 on Boxing Day. They also beat Arsenal 6-3 in 1958. Let's hope for 6 of the best today too. #COYH



COLCHESTER UTD

Luton Town and Colchester United have met twice on Boxing Day before, once in 2003 (1-1) and once in 2006 (1-4) both with the Hatters travelling away from home on both occasions. Prior to 2008, Colchester played their home football at Layer Road, before playing their first game at the 'Weston Homes Community Stadium' in a friendly against Athletic Bilbao.

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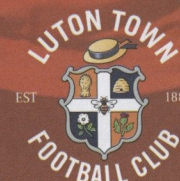


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SCOTT EXTENDS HIS STAY

Luton Town Football Club
Published by Stuart Hammonds 171 December 19 at 10:14am · 0
GREAT SCOTT NEWS! Captain Scott Cuthbert's 50th league start triggers contract extension to 2018 >> [#COYH](http://bit.ly/2hoathY)



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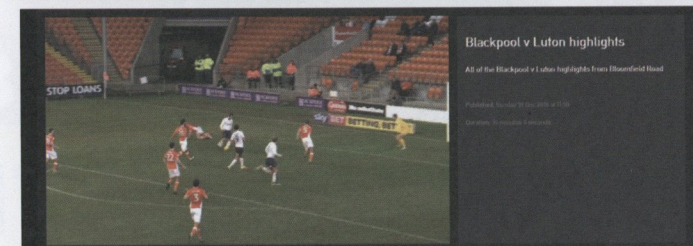
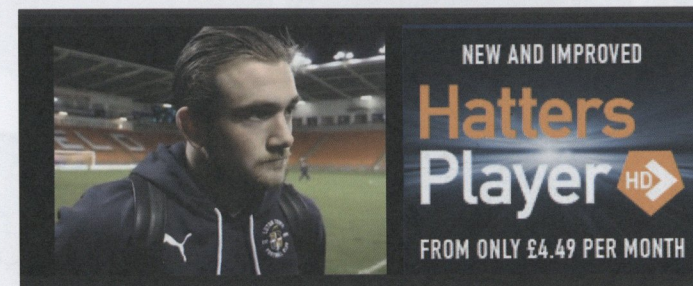
JOHNNY'S JUMPER!



GIVE BACK THE GAFFER!

Nathan disappears into the crowd

Luton Town FC
And whoever gaffernapped @cocowasp, can we have him back for Christmas please? We need him returned to Kenilworth Road for Colchester! #COYH



RAISING CASH FOR LEVEL TRUST

Christmas jumper auction at club charity's fundraiser

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All of these Christmas jumpers have raised an amazing £3,240 towards @LevelTrust's Uniform Exchange. Great effort! #COYH



GIVE US A TUNE, BEANO!

Harry Bean provides entertainment at Xmas lunch

Luton Town FC
And after lunch there was entertainment(?) from U18s @arthurread99 & Michael Shamalo...but they weren't a patch on @beano_774471 #COYH



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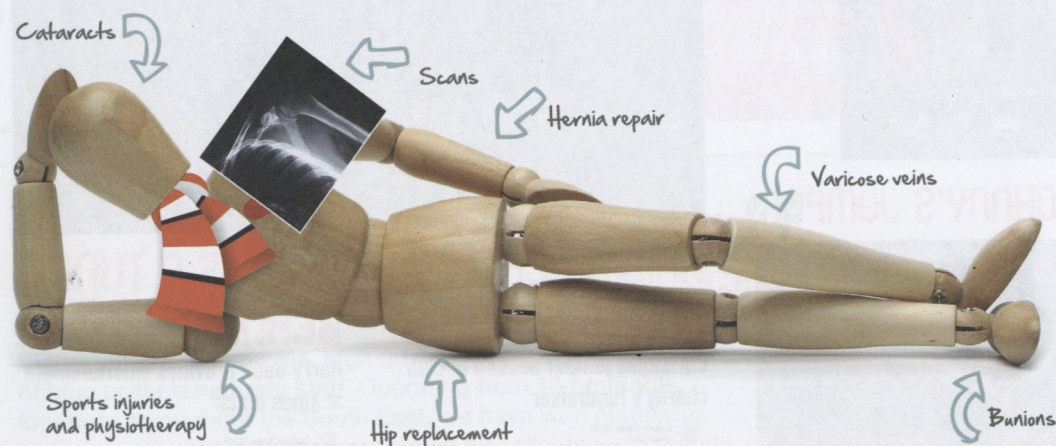
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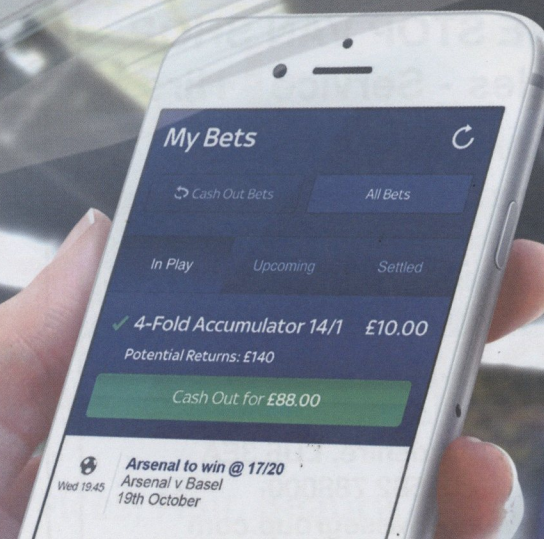
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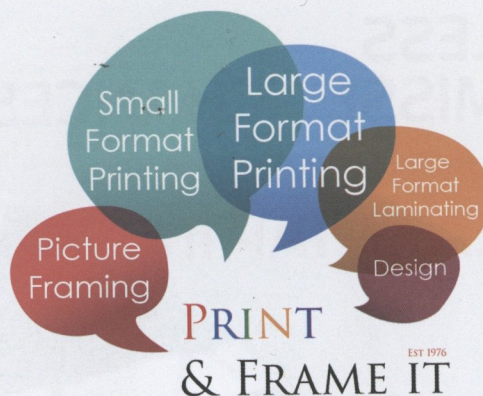


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Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle	W 3-0	9,761	1,019	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Wed 10	7.45pm	H	Aston Villa (EFL Cup 1)	W 3-1	7,412	1,487	-	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Yeovil Town	D 1-1	7,800	303	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 16	7.45pm	H	Newport County	W 2-1	7,058	115	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Stevenage	L 1-2	3,517	1,674	3	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 23	7.45pm	H	Leeds United (EFL Cup 2)	L 0-1	7,498	1,510	-	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United	W 3-0	5,606	1,690	2	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 30	7.45pm	A	Gillingham (EFL Trophy)	W 2-1	2,128	137	-	King Musonda Fawcett SMITH 1
SEPTEMBER								
Sat 3	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers	W 4-1	8,097	530	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	Grimsby Town	L 1-2	8,005	539	3	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Crawley Town	L 0-2	2,904	1,052	7	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 24	3.00pm	H	Doncaster Rovers	W 3-1	7,917	554	3	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 27	7.45pm	A	Hartlepool United	D 1-1	3,533	311	2	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
OCTOBER								
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town	D 1-1	3,660	923	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tues 4	7.30pm	H	West Brom (EFL Trophy)	W 2-0	1,441	89	-	King Musonda Fawcett SMITH 1
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Crewe Alexandra	D 1-1	7,716	254	5	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 15	3.00pm	A	Leyton Orient	W 2-1	5,471	1,341	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town	D 1-1	7,787	295	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	Notts. County	D 0-0	6,313	2,033	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
NOVEMBER								
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Exeter City (FAC1)	W 3-1	2,972	310	-	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 8	7.30pm	H	Millwall (EFL Trophy)	L 1-3	2,251	370	-	King Musonda Fawcett SMITH 1
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley	W 1-0	8,008	101	5	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Morecambe	W 2-0	1,507	520	4	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 22	7.45pm	H	Portsmouth	L 1-3	8,808	975	5	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Exeter City	D 0-0	3,823	634	5	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
DECEMBER								
Sat 3	3.00pm	H	Solihull Moors (FAC2)	W 6-2	3,512	635	-	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tues 6	7.45pm	A	Swindon Town (EFL Trophy)	W 3-2	1,692	134	-	King Musonda Fawcett SMITH 1
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	Carlisle United	D 1-1	7,953	380	5	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Blackpool	W 2-0	3,992	1,095	5	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Colchester United					
Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Barnet					
JANUARY								
Mon 2	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth					
Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley (FAC3)					
Tue 10	7.45pm	H	Chesterfield (EFL Trophy)					
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	Crewe Alexandra					
Sat 21	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers					
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United					
Tue 31	7.45pm	H	Cheltenham Town					
FEBRUARY								
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Grimsby Town					
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Crawley Town					
Tue 14	7.45pm	H	Hartlepool United					
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Doncaster Rovers					
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Plymouth Argyle					
Tue 28	7.45pm	A	Newport County					
MARCH								
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Yeovil Town					
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Stevenage					
Tue 14	7.45pm	A	Carlisle United					
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Exeter City					
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Colchester United					
APRIL								
Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Blackpool					
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Barnet					
Fri 14	3.00pm	H	Leyton Orient					
Mon 17	3.00pm	A	Mansfield Town					
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Notts. County					
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley					
MAY								
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Morecambe					

TODAY'S LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES

Cheltenham v Barnet	Mansfield Town v Morecambe
Crewe Alexandra v Carlisle United	Newport County v Portsmouth
Grimsby Town v Accrington Stanley	Notts County v Doncaster Rovers
Hartlepool United v Blackpool	Plymouth Argyle v Wycombe
Leyton Orient v Crawley Town	Stevenage v Cambridge United
Luton Town v Colchester United	Yeovil Town v Exeter City

LAST WEEK'S LEAGUE 2 RESULTS

Accrington 0-1 Plymouth	Crawley Town 3-1 Newport County
Barnet 1-2 Stevenage	Doncaster Rovers 1-0 Grimsby Town
Blackpool 0-2 Luton	Exeter City 2-0 Mansfield Town
Cambridge 2-1 Crewe Alexandra	Morecambe 1-2 Cheltenham Town
Carlisle 2-1 Yeovil	Portsmouth 0-0 Hartlepool United
Colchester 2-1 Notts County	Wycombe 1-0 Leyton Orient

WHO, WHEN AND WHERE THE HATTERS ARE PLAYING THIS SEASON

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

SUBS

McGeehan	Cook •	HYLTON 1	MARRIOTT 1 •	SMITH 1 •	Lee •	Gray •	Justin	Vassell	McQuoid	King	Famewo
McGEEHAN 1	GRAY 1 •	Hylton	Marriott •	Smith •	Cuthbert •	Cook	Vassell	McQuoid	King	Justin	Justin
McGEEHAN 2 •	Ruddock •	Hylton	Marriott •	Gray •	Smith •	Vassell •	McQuoid •	Smith	McQuoid	King	Famewo
McGeehan	Cook •	Hylton	Marriott •	Famewo •	Vassell •	McQuoid •	Gray	Smith	McQuoid	King	Justin
McGEEHAN 1 •	Cook	Hylton	Marriott •	Cook •	Mpanzu •	Vassell •	Cuthbert	Gray	McQuoid	King	Justin
McGeehan	Gray •	HYLTON 1	MARRIOTT 1 •	Cuthbert •	Smith •	Vassell •	McQuoid	Gray	McQuoid	King	Justin
McGeehan	Cook	HYLTON 1	McQuoid •	Atkinson •	Tomlinson •	Gooch	Read	Hinds	Bean	Snelus	
McGeehan	Cook •	HYLTON 3 •	Marriott •	Smith •	Vassell •	Famewo •	Gray	Gilliead	King	Justin	
McGeehan	Cook	Hylton •	Marriott •	REA 1 •	Vassell •	Gilliead •	Cuthbert	Gray	Mpanzu	King	
McGeehan	Cook	Vassell	McQuoid	Hylton	Marriott	Gilliead •	O'Donnell	Smith	McQuoid	Musonda	King
McGEEHAN 2 •	Cook •	Hylton	MARRIOTT 1	Sheehan •	Cook •	O'Donnell	Smith	McQuoid	Musonda	King	
McGeehan	Gilliead •	Mpanzu	Marriott	Vassell •	Cook •	O'Donnell	Smith	McQuoid	Musonda	King	
McGeehan	Cook	HYLTON 1	Marriott •	Smith •	Gilliead •	O'Donnell	Gray	McQuoid	Famewo	King	
Smith	GILLIEAD 1 •	McQuoid •	Banton •	Vassell •	Hinds •	Snelus •	Cotter	Read	Atkinson	Gooch	
McGeehan	Mpanzu •	HYLTON 1	Marriott •	Gilliead •	Rea •	McQuoid •	O'Donnell	Smith	Vassell	King	
McGEEHAN 1 •	Gilliead •	HYLTON 1	Marriott	Smith •	Mullins •	Gray	Mpanzu	Banton	Vassell	King	
McGeehan	Gilliead •	Cook •	Marriott	Mpanzu •	Vassell •	Lee •	Smith	Mullins	Mackail-Smith	King	
McGeehan	Gilliead •	Hylton	Marriott	Lee •	Mpanzu •	Vassell •	Potts	Smith	Gray	King	
McGeehan	Cook •	HYLTON 2	Gilliead •	Smith •	Mackail-Smith •	O'Donnell •	Gray	Potts	Vassell	King	
Smith	McQuoid	Mackail-Smith •	Vassell	Banton •	Hinds •	Snelus •	O'Donnell	Cotter	Bean	Gooch	
McGEEHAN 1	Gilliead •	Hylton	Marriott •	Vassell •	Smith •	O'Donnell	Gray	McQuoid	Mackail-Smith	King	
McGeehan	Gilliead •	HYLTON 1	Vassell •	Cook •	Marriott •	O'Donnell	Gray	McQuoid	Mackail-Smith	King	
McGeehan	Mullins	Hylton	Vassell •	Mpanzu •	Gilliead •	Marriott •	O'Donnell	Smith	Mackail-Smith	King	
McGeehan	Gilliead •	HYLTON 1 •	MARRIOTT 2	O'DONNELL 2 •	Potts •	Vassell •	Smith	Mpanzu	Lee	King	
Smith	Gray •	VASSELL 1	MCQUOID 2 •	Mackail-Smith •	Bakinson •	Tomlinson	Banton	Cotter	Snelus	Gooch	
McGeehan	Vassell •	HYLTON 1	Marriott •	Mpanzu •	Mpanzu •	Cook •	Smith	Lee	McQuoid	King	
McGEEHAN 1 •	Gilliead •	Hylton	MARRIOTT 1 •	Mpanzu •	Vassell •	Smith •	Cook	Senior	McQuoid	King	

LEAGUE TABLE 2016/17

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Plymouth Argyle	21	14	2	5	32	21	11	44
2	Carlisle United	21	11	9	1	40	25	15	42
3	Doncaster Rovers	21	13	3	5	43	30	13	42
4	Portsmouth	21	10	5	6	33	20	13	35
5	LUTON TOWN	21	9	8	4	31	19	12	35
6	Wycombe Wanderers	21	10	4	7	26	22	4	34
7	Cambridge United	21	9	4	8	28	24	4	31
8	Blackpool	21	8	6	7	35	24	11	30
9	Stevenage	21	9	3	9	32	32	0	30
10	Barnet	21	7	9	5	29	29	0	30
11	Crawley Town	21	8	5	8	26	33	-7	29
12	Yeovil Town	21	8	4	9	25	26	-1	28
13	Colchester United	21	7	6	8	29	27	2	27
14	Grimsby Town	21	7	5	9	27	27	0	26
15	Exeter City	21	8	2	11	25	26	-1	26
16	Crewe Alexandra	21	6	8	7	23	29	-6	26
17	Mansfield Town	21	6	8	7	21	27	-6	26
18	Hartlepool United	21	5	8	8	28	37	-9	23
19	Morecambe	20	7	2	11	24	38	-14	23
20	Notts County	21	6	4	11	25	36	-11	22
21	Leyton Orient	21	6	3	12	22	27	-5	21
22	Accrington Stanley	21	5	6	10	20	27	-7	21
23	Cheltenham Town	21	4	9	8	23	32	-9	21
24	Newport County AFC	20	4	5	11	23	32	-9	17

PLAYER STATS 2016/17

	THIS SEASON										LFC			
	LEAGUE				CUP				TOTAL		DISP		CAREER TOT	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS				
Alex Atkinson	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	
Tyreeq Bakinson	0	(0)	0	3	(1)	0	3	(1)	0	0	0	5	0	
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	1	0	13	0	
Jordan Cook	15	(3)	1	2	(1)	0	17	(4)	1	3	1	21	1	
Kavan Cotter	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0	
Scott Cuthbert	15	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	17	(2)	0	3	0	59	0	
Akin Fawcett	1	(2)	0	3	(0)	0	4	(2)	0	1	0	6	0	
Alex Gilliead	8	(7)	0	3	(0)	1	11	(7)	1	2	0	18	1	
Jake Gray	4	(5)	0	6	(0)	2	10	(5)	2	0	0	15	2	
Danny Green	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	30	6	
Freddie Hinds	0	(0)	0	0	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	0	0	2	0	
Danny Hyldon	18	(1)	11	4	(0)	3	22	(1)	14	8	1	23	14	
Nanny Justin	0	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	14	(0)	0	0	0	15	0	
James Justyn	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0	0	4	0	
Craig King	15	(3)	0	4	(0)	0	19	(3)	0	7	0	61	3	
Oilly Lee	0	(1)	0	1	(2)	0	1	(3)	0	1	0	38	4	
Craig Mackail-Smith	17	(4)	4	3	(0)	2	20	(4)	6	1	0	68	22	
Jack Marriott	21	(0)	9	4	(0)	1	25	(0)	10	5	0	103	30	
Cameron McGeehan	1	(2)	0	4	(0)	2	5	(2)	2	2	0	42	7	
Josh McQuoid	12	(6)	0	3	(1)	0	15	(7)	0	3	1	88	5	
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	14	(2)	0	3	(0)	1	17	(2)	1	1	1	19	1	
Johnny Mullins	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	4	(0)	1	0	0	7	1	
Frankie Musonda	13	(0)	1	4	(2)	2	17	(2)	3	1	0	52	4	
Stephen O'Donnell	15	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	17	(1)	0	3	1	34	0	
Dan Potts	13	(2)	1	4	(0)	1	17	(2)	2	4	0	29	2	
Glen Rea	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	
Arthur Read	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	3	0	
Jack Senior	13	(1)	1	2	(0)	0	15	(1)	1	3	0	36	2	
Alan Sheehan	1	(9)	1	5	(2)	1	6	(11)	2	2	0	158	11	
Jonathan Smith	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	
Jack Snelus	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	
Connor Tomlinson	5	(11)	1	3	(4)	1	8	(15)	2	0	0	23	2	
Isaac Vassell	21	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	25	(0)	0	0	0	25	0	
Christian Walton														

[BILL COLE]

HOLD THE BACKPAGE

WITH **BILL COLE**
PRESS LOUNGE MATCHDAY HOST



It's sad that the published statistics on games that you see in newspapers and online are no longer provided live on the telephone by former professional footballers.

It has deprived those of us fortunate enough to frequent the Press box on match days of the chance to meet and get to know some we idolised in past times.

First in line, Brian Stein, a wonderful player, two goals in a Wembley final and up there for my money with Mick Harford as the best-ever striker for the Hatters, Brian was a regular stats provider for several years when the PFA insisted that ex-pros did them. Often he gave us an insight as to the cause of match situations rather than the effect.

Always ready to oblige with a photo or autograph, Brian is a real gentleman and is sorely missed in this season's Press box.

What we do see are former players, often from visiting clubs who unexpectedly pop up working in the media. One such, a few months ago, was Alvin Martin whom many of my generation will remember from his days as a big 'forthright' central defender for West Ham and England. He had a try at management at Southend and is now a pundit for Talksport.

Here to get some background on our opponents that he was due to subsequently cover for the radio station and unlike when commentating, he came along on his own.

Now, there aren't that many in the press corps these days who saw him play in the 1970s and 80s, and he was only too pleased to talk football with someone who did about the many battles the Town used to have with the Hammers in the old days. "We never had much success here," he told me.

His principle nemesis, he revealed, apart from the incomparable Ricky Hill, was none other than the aforementioned Brian Stein. "I just couldn't cope with Steiny," he said. "He was good in the air for a little bloke but heading the ball was what I was paid for, so I had a bit of luck there.

"Where you had to be on your toes was to stop the ball getting to him because you simply couldn't knock him off the ball if he went on one of his silky runs – his ball control was so good. And you couldn't shepherd

him away to one side either because he could finish just as well with both feet.

"But Ricky Hill had a brilliant eye for a quick pass and Brian was usually his target. They were a deadly pair that exposed many a First Division defence all too often – including ours". As he said they didn't much like to come to the Kenny. "We had more luck back at Upton Park though," he added.

At the Carlisle game we entertained Chris Lumsdon, one of their legends, working for BBC Radio Cumbria. He won promotion to the Premier League with Sunderland before joining Carlisle, when they were on a roll and paying big money in the mid-2000s.

Chris wasn't very complimentary about the present Hatters team after their clash with the Cumbrian side. "Luton won't get promotion," he said. "They play too much academic football and are too lightweight," he declared.

Time will tell, of course, and Town have the talent to prove him wrong!

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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 Sam Walker
- 2 Richard Brindle
- 3 Matthew Briggs
- 4 Tom Lapslie
- 5 Luke Prosser
- 6 Frankie Kent
- 7 Drey Wright
- 8 Doug Loft
- 9 Chris Porter
- 10 Sammie Szmodics
- 11 Brennan Dickenson
- 12 Kane Vincent
- 14 Alex Wynter
- 15 George Elokobi
- 16 Femi Akinwande
- 17 Denny Johnstone
- 18 Tom Eastman
- 19 Macauley Bonne
- 20 Courtney Senior
- 21 Dion Sembie
- 22 Owen Garvan
- 23 Michael O'Donoghue
- 24 Craig Slater
- 25 Dillon Barnes
- 27 Jack Curtis
- 28 Kurtis Guthrie
- 30 Lloyd Doyley
- 31 Tarique Fosu
- 32 Glen Kamara
- 33 Lewis Kinsella
- 34 Jermaine Grandison
- 35 Cameron James
- 41 Louis Dunne



MATCH OFFICIALS

GAVIN WARD

ROBERT MASSEY-ELLIS

IAN DUDLEY

4 RAVEL CHEOSIAUA