



TALK OF THE TOWN

LUTON TOWN v BARNET

SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2016 | KICK OFF 3pm

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 17 | PRICE £3



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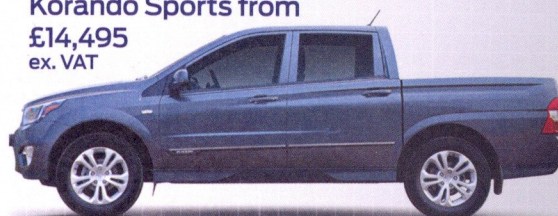
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[WELCOME TO LUTON TOWN v BARNET]

WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

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ASSISTANT MANAGER: PAUL HART
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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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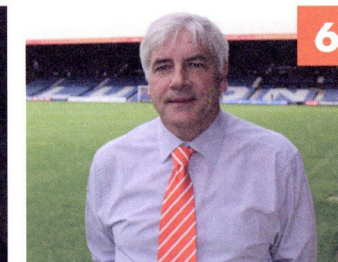
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Thoughts, feedback and announcements are welcome by post, phone or email #COYH
The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.



NATHAN JONES

The boss welcomes Barnet and reflects on a "brilliant 2016"



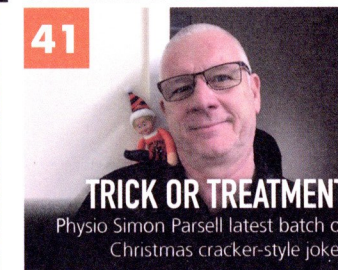
FROM THE BOARDROOM

With finance director Simon Gibb



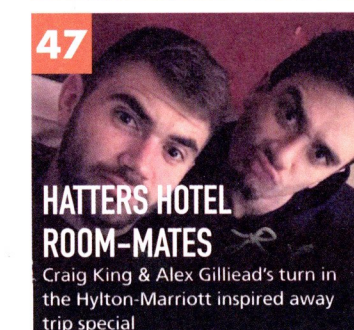
WELCOME BARNET

All you need to know about the boys from The Hive



TRICK OR TREAT

Physio Simon Parsell latest batch of Christmas cracker-style jokes



**HATTERS HOTEL
ROOM-MATES**

Craig King & Alex Gilliead's turn in the Hylton-Marriott inspired away trip special

Happy New Year!

All at Kenilworth Road would like to thank Luton Town fans for the fantastic support you have shown in 2016... and wish everyone health, happiness and fun following the Hatters in 2017!

LET'S GET CONNECTED

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THE MANAGER NATHAN JONES



[MANAGER'S NOTES]

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the final time in 2016 for today's Sky Bet League Two game against Barnet.

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

You will have known from my interviews afterwards that I was so disappointed with the Boxing Day defeat to Colchester, more than anything by the fact that we had over 9,000 packed in here at Kenilworth Road for the first time this season and we couldn't give you the three points such backing deserves.

It's been a really upbeat week since though, because the bigger picture tells us all that Luton Town is a club going places in 2017. We have made great strides in the 12 months since I took over, and there will be even more to come in the next year.

There are so many positives when you cast your mind back to this time last year. With 22 games of last season gone – the same number of league matches we've played up to today – the team were 13th in League Two with 29 points. When I took over on 6th January, we were 15th with the same points from 25 games.

With more than half the season to go, we currently have 35 points and sit fifth – having only dropped below that placing once all season – with our eyes firmly on the automatic promotion spots. That is our goal.

We have the best defence in League Two and the third highest scorer in the division in Danny Hylton. We boast one of the top goalscoring midfielders in Cameron McGeehan, and have been trusted by two top Championship clubs to aid the development of young England internationals in Alex Gilliead and Christian Walton.

We have recently secured two of our most promising young players – one scouted from Non-League by a club legend still doing the business for the Hatters, Mick Harford, and the other produced by our renowned academy – on long-term contracts. More will follow.

We are looking forward to an FA Cup third round tie, and our young players have been the talk of the country for what they've done in taking the club to the third round of the Checkatrade Trophy.

It's been a brilliant first year for me and I've thoroughly enjoyed it.

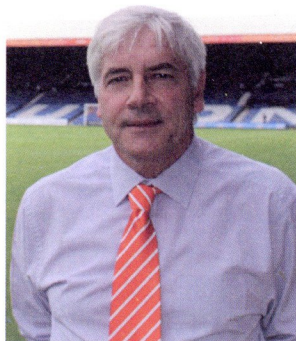
I would like to thank you, the supporters, for your fantastic backing that makes myself and the players feel proud to wear your badge every time we walk out in front of you.

I'd like to thank the board and our chief executive, Gary Sweet, for the support I've had in being able to build an excellent squad, to assemble what I consider to be the best staff in the league, for creating an infrastructure at the club that supports us in every way, and for building some wonderful training facilities that we'll be able to use in the New Year at The Brache.

Good news will hopefully follow on Newlands Park and Power Court in the coming weeks, too.

In my view, 2016 has seen real progress for Luton Town, so let's see it out with a bang this afternoon then kick off what promises to be an exciting 2017 with a mouth-watering away trip to promotion rivals Portsmouth on Monday.

Together we are stronger, so please raise the roof today, enjoy the game and have a very happy New Year!



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH FINANCE DIRECTOR SIMON GIBB

Hello and welcome to Kenilworth Road for our final game of 2016. As always, it is good to have you here as your support is much appreciated.

First of all I would like to welcome the players, supporters and board from our neighbours at Barnet. They arrive today on a high, on the back of a good win away at Cheltenham last time out and are now just outside the play-off places. They, like us, also have a strong away record. We will have to be at our best to break them down today.

After a set-back on Boxing Day against Colchester United we will want to bounce back strongly today and remind our nearest challengers in League Two that we intend to be in the promotion hunt at the end of the season. I know the lads will be up for it, so please get behind them with all your New Year cheer and let's make sure we end a good year on a high.

REFLECT

Given it is the last game of 2016 we should perhaps reflect on how far we have come since this time last year. At that point we had just changed our manager after a poor run of results, and Nathan Jones was still to join. We had also just announced our plans to build a fantastic new stadium at our preferred location of Power Court.

Nathan has brought new life to the playing side of the club, introducing a new style of play to existing and new squad members, which has led to us being very difficult to beat, with the best defensive record in League Two and resulting in us being in a strong position of fifth at this stage of the season.

STATISTICS

For those who follow statistics the EFL this week issued figures showing that of teams in fifth at this stage of the season, 30 per cent go on to achieve automatic promotion whilst 70 per cent finish in either the automatic or play-off positions. If you believe the statistics, this suggests we are in a great position to push on for promotion and have an exciting second half of the season to come!

Youth development of the club has continued to reap rewards, supported by the manager and board keen to see younger players pushing for first team places. Our successful progress in the Checkatrade Trophy, with some of our quality youngsters playing a key part, is testament to our club philosophy and I hope many of you will come along to support them

again in the next round at home to Chesterfield on Tuesday 10th January.

From a financial perspective the club is in good shape and we are very grateful for the continued significant investment from our investors, which has enabled us to pursue our exciting, longer term plans. As well as using these funds to secure the Power Court and Newlands Park sites this year, we have also made a significant investment in new training facilities at The Brache.

PROGRESS

These facilities will be a major improvement on our existing training ground at Ely Way, and importantly can be further developed into full Premier League quality in due course. These investments are all part of our planned steady progress towards a financially sustainable football club, with top quality facilities for all users with the capability of holding its own at the top levels of our game.

We have continued with our quest for a new stadium and submitted our planning applications for both Power Court, but also the equally important retail and office development at Newlands Park by Junction 10 of the



M1, the latter which is essential in order to enable us to create sufficient funds to build a quality new stadium along with new, top-class facilities for the town, in and around the Power Court location.

Following the public consultation the people of Luton have given our plans overwhelming public support with 10,796 positive responses submitted, and only 33 objectors. We are extremely grateful for your support.

FUTURE

Planning permission for such a major rejuvenation project is more complicated, however, than just public opinion as the impact, environmentally and economically, on the town and its existing and future residents, the fit to the Local Plan and any impact on surrounding locations, must be considered by the local council as well as potentially the Secretary of State, before a decision can be finalised. We as a board, however, remain very confident that

our exciting plans, which we know will add enormous value economically and culturally to Luton as a town, will be passed in due course.

As with any clubs in the EFL lower divisions, we have to run to tight budgets and have to exist with a relatively tight squad and restricted wage bill.

BALANCE

This in turn means we have to work hard to try to strengthen the quality and balance of the squad within sensible financial parameters. Our philosophy as a board, which is supported by the manager, is to continue to gradually strengthen, at the right price, the quality and depth of our squad within the existing financial parameters wherever possible, whilst having the financial resources available to take up one-off exceptional player opportunities if they arise, adjust for major injuries and to protect our squad from other club interest where we feel we need to.

With potentially a good second half of the season ahead and your continued excellent support, we can continue to improve our financial health and in turn reinvest those returns in our future both in our facilities and of course a stronger team.

LOYALTY

Today is our final match of the year so I would like to thank each and every one of you for your unwavering loyalty over the past year. We have had a good year in which much progress has been made both on and off the field. I look forward to seeing the old ground full today to the rafters with happy Hatters toasting a healthy and prosperous New Year.

I would like to finish by wishing all of you and our club a very successful 2017!

EVOSPEED SL

Made for the explosive. Engineered for the attack.

[SCOTT CUTHBERT]

GREATSCOTT

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what was already set to be a big game in our fight for promotion, but has now turned into a massive match with Barnet just two points behind us as they hunt down the play-off places.

It is good that we are back here so soon after the disappointment of losing to that late sucker punch against Colchester on Boxing Day. It gives us the perfect opportunity to put it behind us and end 2016 on a high.

Of course, we wanted to do that with six points over the Christmas break to build on the decent run of form

we'd been on, especially having gone away to Blackpool – who are top seven challengers – and doing so well against them in our previous game.

The manager showed his faith in the team that produced such a convincing win up there by naming the same starting line-up for Colchester, so we were massively disappointed that we lost that game. We weren't at our best for large parts, but we never felt under pressure.

CHANCES

We felt we'd had the better chances in the game and if anyone was going to take all three points up to the goal, it was going to be us.

What we were disappointed with as a team was that we switched off at a set piece at the edge of the box, and their boy reacted first and put it in the bottom corner.

We work on that and as defenders we pride ourselves on keeping clean sheets, which we've done a lot of recently.

There are still so many positives though. We stayed fifth in the table, so are still right in the pack. We may have lost a little bit of ground on some of the teams above us, but there are plenty of games to play – today's game brings us to the halfway point of the league programme and

we believe we'll be much stronger as we go on.

In this league, the games come thick and fast and we were in for training on Tuesday and focussing solely on Barnet, who have been on a good run of form.

PRESSURE

We are up against a team who have recently lost their manager but are doing OK in the league, and we need the three points to keep them at arm's length behind us, while putting pressure on the top three before we head to Portsmouth on Monday.

It was such a shame that we had our biggest crowd of the season here on Boxing Day and couldn't give you the points. The fans' support is massive and we need you to get behind us again today, as you always do, so we can pick up a positive result.

We want to finish 2016 with a real flourish and go into 2017 primed for promotion push, so let me wish everyone here a happy New Year – and let's make it one for us all to remember!




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Call: 01582 569569 to speak our Student Services team

Drop in at an Open Event:
www.barnfield.ac.uk/events

IWantToBe



LET'S GET QUIZICAL!

Fancy testing your Town knowledge? The Luton Town Supporters' Trust are hosting a quiz night to test your Hatters brain power!

The event is taking place on Thursday 19th January in the Eric Morecambe Lounge, where there will also be a raffle, with all proceeds from that going to the charity, Autism Bedfordshire.

Tickets are now available from the ticket office in person, or over the phone on 01582 416976, priced at £5 per person with teams needing to be sized between six and eight people.

Hot food can be ordered when purchasing tickets, and will be served from 6pm with the quiz starting at 7.30pm.

JAMES IS A KING FOR A MONTH

Youth team striker James Verney has joined Southern League Premier Division side Kings Langley on loan for a month.

Academy manager Andy Awford sees this as a decent chance for the 18-year-old to gain some experience, having recently returned to full fitness.

"James has been out injured for a little while, but now he's back fit and this is a great opportunity for him to go and play men's football," said Awford. "The experience will stand him in good stead."



DEVELOPMENT SQUAD DRAW DUNSTABLE

The Hatters' development squad have drawn Dunstable Town in the semi-finals of the Bedfordshire FA Senior Cup.

Andy Awford's side successfully navigated themselves past tough opposition in Barton Rovers and

Stotfold to reach this stage of the competition.

The match against the Blues will kick-off at 7:45pm on Tuesday 7th February.

Adult tickets are priced at £10, with concession tickets priced at £5.

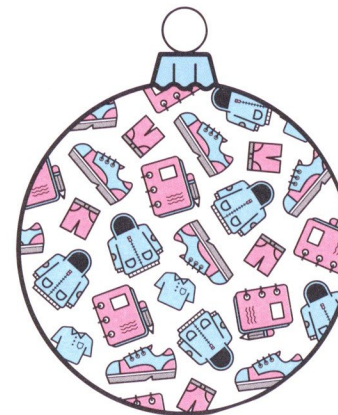
LEVEL TRUST THE CLUB'S CHARITY OF THE YEAR

New Year's Eve is a great time to stop and reflect on the year gone by and dream about the year ahead. Level Trust, your club's charity, are really proud of what we have achieved this year.

We have provided 1,500 shoe gift cards, 430 coat gift cards and 650 learning packs to children struggling financially across Luton.

One achievement we are most proud of is our Uniform Exchange pilot that, in just 11 weeks, provided 500 items of uniform to 190 children.

As we look forward to next year we are hoping to raise the funds to set this project up permanently.



The club is running a competition to help us. Four people will win a VIP match day 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 LFTC16 £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

PORTSMOUTH

THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD THE FIGHT FOR AN AUTOMATIC PROMOTION SPOT IS UP FOR GRABS, AS TOWN TAKE ON POMPEY FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS SEASON.

FORMED: 1898 | NICKNAME: POMPEY | LAST SEASON: 6TH IN LEAGUE TWO | FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @OFFICIALPOMPEY | COLOURS: BLUE AND WHITE | GROUND: FRATTON PARK | MANAGER: PAUL COOK

WHO? Now in their third season in the fourth tier of English football, Portsmouth are one of Town's promotion rivals this season. Pompey came close to returning to League One last season as they made the play-offs, but were knocked out at the semi-final stage by Plymouth Argyle. The club came into existence at the end of the 19th century and have won the First Division and the FA Cup twice, the 2008 Wembley win over Cardiff City their most recent honour.

TICKETS: Tickets for Monday's match are still on sale until after today's game. Prices are on the opposite page.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? Yes, and a fair few times in fact – 80 to be precise. Town have come out on top in 33 of those fixtures, their biggest win against Pompey being a 5-1 victory in November 1908 as Herbert Moody netted four times. Portsmouth won this season's reverse fixture 3-1 at Kenilworth Road, making that their 32nd victory over the Hatters. The other 15 matches have been draws.

IN CHARGE Paul Cook took over the reins at the end of the 2014/15 season as the club parted company with current Town academy manager Andy Awford. The former Wigan Athletic, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Burnley midfielder is now in his fifth managerial role, having been in charge at the likes of Accrington Stanley, Sligo Rovers and Chesterfield. He guided Pompey to the play-offs last season in his first term in charge, and is looking to go one step better this year.

PREVIOUS FORM Since their win over the Hatters on 22nd November, Pompey have won two, drawn one and lost one of their four league matches. They went down 2-1 at home to Stevenage in the game immediately after their trip to Bedfordshire, but followed it up with a 1-0 win at Grimsby, a goalless draw at home to Hartlepool and a 3-2 Boxing Day win at Newport County. The Hampshire club found themselves 2-0 down with almost an hour gone at Rodney Parade, but goals from former Exiles midfielder Danny Rose, Enda Stevens and an 87th-minute winner from Kal Naismith ensured they took maximum points back over the Severn Bridge.



KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Currently in the Portsmouth ranks is former Town utility man Drew Talbot, who signed for Pompey in the summer. The 30-year-old made 63 appearances for the Hatters, scoring five goals in his two seasons at the club between 2007-09. Former players of both sides include ex-England international Steve Foster, who made exactly 100 appearances more than Talbot for the Town. Foster began his professional career with Pompey, before moving onto Brighton & Hove Albion and then joining the Kenilworth Road outfit in 1984. Matt Taylor, now at Northampton Town, has represented both clubs, as well as former Town loanee Jayden Stockley, who is now with Aberdeen after going out on loan ten times from his previous parent club, Bournemouth. Hatters assistant boss Paul Hart managed Pompey in the Premier League.

GET YOUR TICKET



PORTSMOUTH

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER | 3PM

All remaining tickets for the trip to Fratton Park are on general sale from the ticket office until 30 minutes after the final whistle today. **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).



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

CHECKATRADE 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 now available to season ticket holders, at two tickets per person, until close of business on Thursday 6th January. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale online at 6pm on the Thursday 6th January 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



WYCOMBE WANDERERS

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

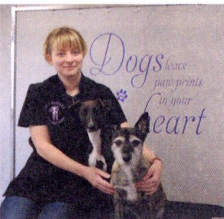
SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY | 3PM

We have received our first allocation of 800 stand tickets for our trip to Wycombe Wanderers on the 21 January 2017. This fixture is all-ticket for Luton Town supporters. Tickets are on sale to diamond season ticket holders at 2 tickets per person until close of business today, Saturday 31st December. They will then be available to season ticket holders on Tuesday 3rd January at 1 ticket per person until close of business on Wednesday 11th January. Any remaining tickets will go general sale online at 6pm on the Wednesday 11th January and over the phone and in person from the Ticket Office as of Thursday 12th January. Tickets will remain on sale until 2pm Friday 20th January.

Prices: Adult: £20, Seniors (60 and over): £17, Young Adults (19-25): £15, Juniors (8-18): £11, Under 8: Free, Ambulant Disabled: Normal price with a Carer free of charge with Medium Rate DLA or above. Wheelchair tickets can be purchased from Wycombe Wanderers direct on 01494 441118. Away season ticket holders will be actioned on 3rd January. One ticket will be allocated unless otherwise advised to ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk

SPEAKING COMMERCIALLY

MATCH SPONSOR: JACK RUFFLES



Jack Ruffles is owned and run by Paula, an award-winning dog groomer based in Houghton Regis, qualified Level 2 City and Guilds. Now working towards an ICMG. Jack Ruffles is a purpose-built grooming suite which boasts a deluxe bathing area, grooming table and comfortable bespoke dog pens where they can relax before and after their grooming session. If you would like to book your dog in for a groom please either find us on Facebook, or email Paula@Jack-Ruffles.co.uk or phone 07972 237982.

MATCH BALL SPONSOR: JKEANE EXHIBITION SERVICES



JKeane Exhibition Services was formed in Oct 2013. It is a successful family business providing labour to the exhibition industry with the construction and dismantling of exhibition stands nationwide and in Europe. By ensuring and taking pride in the fact that we are providing a quality service, has enabled its success and expansion. In turn this has enabled our company to benefit the local community by providing more employment opportunities too. Much of the family business' success to date is due to my son Matt and our loyal and hardworking employees' dedication and enthusiasm.

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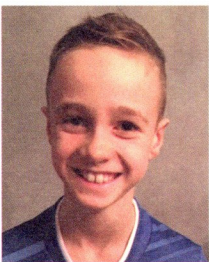
TODAY'S MASCOTS:



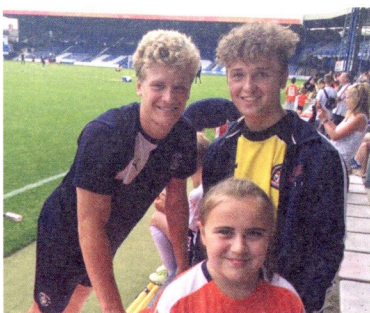
DARRAGH ELY
Age: 9
Favourite Player: Danny Hylton



HARRISON DOUGLAS
Age: 6
Favourite Player: Jack Marriott



ASHTON NEALE
Age: 10
Favourite Player: All of them!



MADISON BORINO
Age: 10 | Favourite Player: Danny Hylton
CONNOR BORINO
Age: 16 | Favourite Player: Cameron McGeehan

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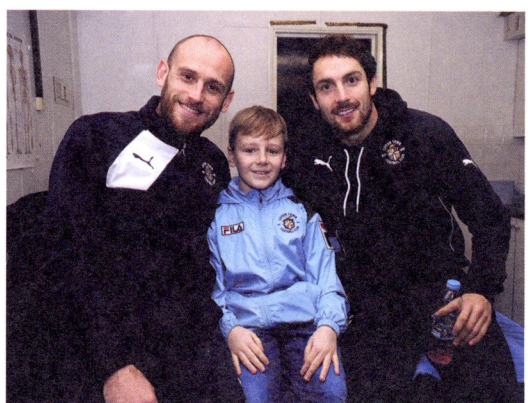
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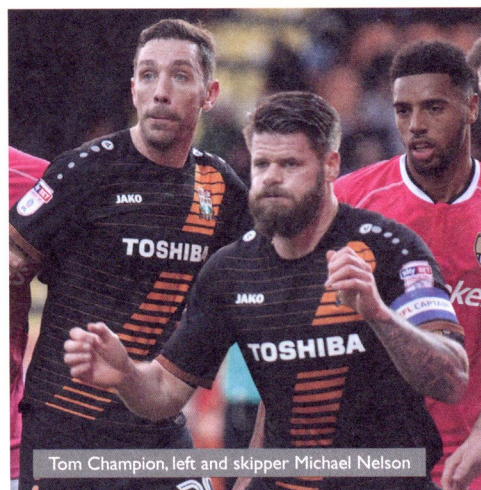
WELCOME BARNET

The Hatters would like to extend a warm welcome to today's visiting staff, players and fans of Barnet to Kenilworth Road.

Now in their second season back in League Two after dropping out of the Football League three years ago, Barnet have climbed the table in recent weeks and are now sat just outside the play-offs. 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.

Now managed by Rossi Eames and assisted by Henry Newman after the departure of Martin Allen at the beginning of the month, the side continued on their good run of form of five unbeaten and three successive wins before losing to Darren Sarll's Stevenage a week before Christmas.

The Bees have struggled at the Hive, winning three, drawing five and losing three. However, away from home they have been in excellent form and on Boxing Day they won 2-1 against Cheltenham at Whaddon Road, making it six matches unbeaten on the road, four of which have been victories.



Tom Champion, left and skipper Michael Nelson



Manager Rossi Eames

Former boss Allen recently returned to The Hive to sign Sam Togwell, Gavin Hoyte and James Russell for Eastleigh, with centre-half Bondz N'Gala having already switched to the National League outfit just before the manager moved south.

It's difficult to even begin to talk about today's visitors without mentioning one player in particular. Leading the line is the league's top scorer, 18-goal John Akinde. The forward has been the club's main man for the past three seasons since joining from Alfreton Town.

The former Bristol City, Crawley Town and Portsmouth striker's goals helped fire the side out of the National League and into the fourth tier, as well as maintain their place in the division last term. His goal record speaks for itself, having scored 75 times since he joined the club two-and-a-half seasons ago.

Bira Dembele has also proved an important force not only in defence, but going forward also. The former France Under-21 international has scored three goals this season, two of which have proved of great value. He scored an equaliser in their match against Notts County, and in the game before that he netted the first goal in the 2-0 win against leaders Plymouth.

Surprisingly, the sides will only be contesting their seventh match today. Town have won four of their previous meetings with the Bees, losing once and drawing the other. The first of those games came on 6th December 2008, as Paul McVeigh and Chris Martin strikes, plus a Michael Townsend own goal, gave the Hatters a 3-1 win.

HATTERS V BARNET

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

LAST MEETING

BARNET 2-1 LUTON TOWN - 28TH MARCH 2016

TEAM PROFILE:

NICKNAME: THE BEES | GROUND: THE HIVE | LAST SEASON: 15TH IN LEAGUE TWO |
MANAGER: ROSSI EAMES | LAST LEAGUE MATCH: CHELTENHAM 1-2 BARNET

MEET THE VISITORS

THE BOSS

ROSSI EAMES

Following the departure of Martin Allen, who left for Eastleigh a month ago, Under-21 coach Rossi Eames has been put in charge of the first team. He is assisted by youth team boss, Henry Newman.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

JAMIE STEPHENS

The former Liverpool youth player joined the Bees in 2015 from Newport and has been a fairly regular face in the side since. The 23-year-old made 33 appearances last season.

IN DEFENCE

BIRA DEMBELE

As a young player, the 28-year-old trained as an electrician before becoming a professional footballer with Stade Rennes. He played for Stevenage between 2014-15, departing for the Bees at the end of that season.

ELLIOT JOHNSON

The 22-year-old joined the Bees from Norwich City five years ago, and has now made over 150 appearances for the north Londoners.

MICHAEL NELSON

The vastly experienced defender counts Barnet as the ninth professional football club he has

represented, others including Norwich, Hartlepool and Hibernian.

MAURO VILHETE

Born in Portugal, the 23-year-old joined Barnet's youth set-up in 2009 and has gone onto make over 100 appearances. He has also had loan spells with Boreham Wood.

HARRY TAYLOR

The 19-year-old was part of the Chelsea youth team until 2012, when he departed for Barnet. He has had loan spells with Hampton & Richmond Borough and Staines Town.

ACROSS THE MIDDLE

LUKE GAMBIN

The winger joined Barnet in 2010 after leaving AFC Wimbledon. The Malta international made his first professional appearance for the Bees back in April 2012.

TOM CHAMPION

In his second spell with the Bees, the 30-year-old re-joined last season after he made his debut for the club back in 2004/05. His former sides include Cambridge United, Bishop's Cleeve and Dartford.

CURTIS WESTON

Now in his fifth season with the Bees, Weston has made over 180 appearances for the club. He is the youngest ever player to make an appearance in an FA Cup final when he came on in the 2006 final for

Millwall against Manchester United at 17 years and 119 days.

RYAN WATSON

Left Leicester City, for whom he made just one appearance during a three-year spell, after they had won the Premier League title. His former sides include Wigan, Northampton and Accrington.

JAMAL CAMPBELL-RYCE

The Jamaica international started his career with Charlton Athletic, before going onto play for the likes of Leyton Orient, Sheffield United and Barnsley.

UP FRONT

JOHN AKINDE

He is the Bees' top scorer this season and is fighting it out with Omar Bogle for number one spot in the League Two Golden Boot race, with 18 goals so far. The 27-year-old's former sides include Bristol City, Alfreton and Ebbsfleet.

ALEX NICHOLLS

After playing for Walsall for seven years, where he made over 200 appearances, Nicholls has gone onto play for Burton Albion, Northampton Town and Exeter City.

JEAN-LOUIS AKPA AKPRO

The Frenchman began his career with Toulouse, before moving to England when he signed for Grimsby Town. He has gone onto play for Rochdale, Bury and Tranmere.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

WITH **WILL EVANS**

Will Evans, a Barnet supporter of 20 years (and the club's former Press Officer), 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

You've been back in League Two for a couple of seasons now after succeeding ourselves as Conference champions. Are you settled back among the country's top 92 club now? I would say so. We finished 15th last season and were never really in danger of being relegated (or promoted for that matter!). With the off the field revenue being generated at The Hive, the club will now be looking to push on and challenge for the play-offs over the coming seasons.

You've been in and around the play-off places in recent weeks. Was there any expectation of that before a ball was kicked this season?

I think there was; the general consensus would probably have been that we were an outside bet for the play-offs this season. Saying that, most supporters would probably be happy with a top half finish. As long as we finish higher than last season, at least the club will be going in the right direction.

How much of a shock was it to see Martin Allen leave at the end of November to drop back down to that level with Eastleigh?

It seems to be common knowledge that Eastleigh have an awful lot of money to spend at the moment, so it didn't come as a great surprise to me. Martin Allen previously left Barnet for Brentford and Notts County, so loyalty isn't something he's renowned for! Personally I don't blame him – football clubs aren't particularly loyal to managers when they're struggling, and the fans would have been calling for his head after a few bad results. Eastleigh must have given him a big pay rise and he'd have been mad to turn it down.

How impressed have you been with the job Rossi Eames has done since being placed in charge?

It's still early days in Rossi's tenure, so I'll reserve judgement until we've played a few more matches. He has done very well with the youth team in the past and is an exceptionally nice bloke, so I wish him all the best while he's in the hot-seat.

Which of Allen's summer signings has impressed most so far this season?

One of the criticisms of Allen's tenure was his failure to significantly improve the squad after promotion to the Football League. The players he signed while we were in the Conference were excellent, but very few of our recent additions have really stood out.



Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro

Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro has looked like a good impact sub on occasion though, and Jamal Campbell-Ryce is an excellent player when fit.

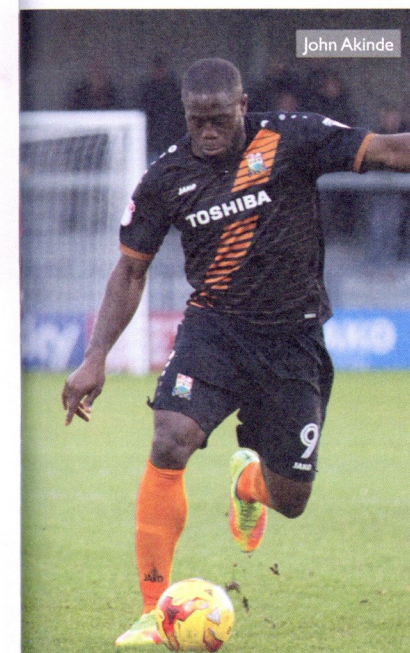
Which player were you most disappointed to see leave in the summer?

Andy Yiadom left for Barnsley on a free transfer and has certainly been missed. The former Bees' captain was a first class right-back or winger and seems to be doing really well up at Oakwell this year.



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

This is one that I don't think a single Barnet fan will disagree with – getting John Akinde to sign a new three-year contract was a masterstroke by the club. He's one of the best players to pull on a Barnet shirt in recent years.



John Akinde

► SEASONS PAST...

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

I'm a fourth generation Barnet supporter – my great-Grandfather and my Grandad started watching Barnet in the 1920s, but I went to my first game with my Dad in 1996. It was a pre-season friendly against Queens Park Rangers, and we lost to a Hoops side just relegated from the Premier League. I was absolutely captivated by the whole event though, and couldn't wait to go back to Underhill for a competitive fixture. We went again soon after; this time the Bees beat Hartlepool United 1-0. I've been addicted to Barnet ever since!

This is your fourth season at The Hive – does it feel like home yet?

It does feel like home now, but I do miss the atmosphere of Underhill's East Terrace. Even though The Hive lacks the character of our former ground, there's no doubt

that the facility allows us to have a significantly higher playing budget.

Who's your favourite Barnet player of all-time?

I used to love watching Darren Currie when he played for the Bees. He was like a lower league David Beckham – fantastic at crosses and set pieces.

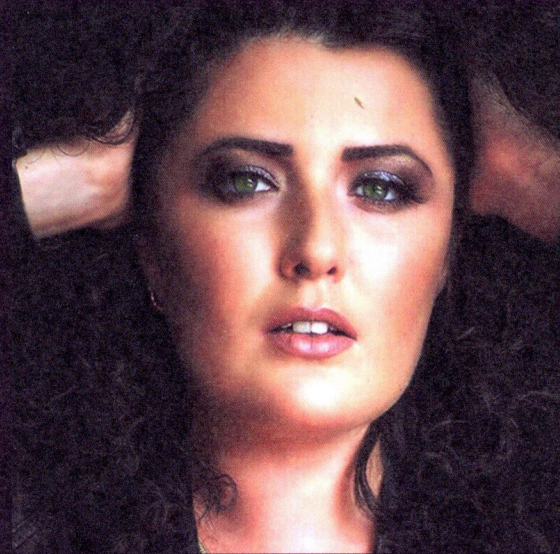
Which is your favourite season following the Bees and why?

1997-98 I think. I was my first full season watching Barnet and everything seemed so exciting. We ended up coming seventh in Division Three and losing in the play-off semi-finals to Colchester United. Sadly (along with the 1999-2000 season), that's the highest we've ever finished while I've been watching the Bees!

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

Giuliano Grazioli, Jimmy Greaves, Lester Finch, Edgar Davids and Barry Fry.

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► LUTON AND BARNET...

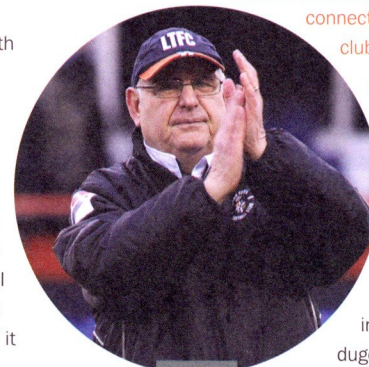
What are your best and worst
memories of Barnet v Luton clashes?
Do any games in particular stand
out?

I was living out in South
Korea when Barnet
played Luton on New
Year's Day in 2014.
I'd just got married
and was watching the
game with my Dad on
a laptop. The rain was
absolutely torrential – I
think the match would
have been called off if it
hadn't been on TV!

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

I was in the Press box last time
we visited Kenilworth Road, so I'm
looking forward to checking out the
away end this time. Luton look good
this season, so I'd be pretty happy
with a draw today.

Of our current squads, only our
midfielder Olly Lee has played for
both Barnet and the Hatters in recent
years. Who's been your favourite
player or manager with a
connection to both
clubs?



John Still

It has to be
John Still –
an excellent
manager
who came
in for some
ridiculous
criticism while
in the Barnet
dugout. He took
us to the fourth tier
play-offs twice in three full seasons,
but was unpopular with some fans
because of his direct style of football.

Who should we fear most in a Barnet
shirt this afternoon?

John Akinde is undoubtedly the
danger man, but Jamie Stephens
(last season's Player of the Year) is
an excellent goalkeeper too.

► QUICK-FIRE:

Terrace or seats? Terrace

Who are your rivals?

Stevenage

Favourite all-time manager?

John Still

Predict your player of the season?

John Akinde

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

Jason Puncheon

Most treasured Barnet piece of
memorabilia?

I've got a collection of programmes
from Barnet's greatest matches – it's
taken a long time to put together!

What league will Barnet be in next
season?

League Two (after coming seventh
and losing in the play-offs)

Who will win promotion from League
Two?

Plymouth Argyle, Portsmouth, Carlisle
United and Doncaster Rovers.

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

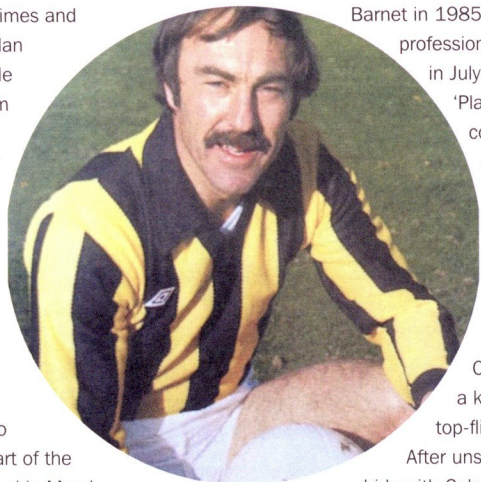
THE UNREVEALED

BOB MCNAB

One-time Barnet left-back Bob McNab was an influential figure in Arsenal's 1970-71 'Double' success. Signing professional for hometown club Huddersfield in April 1962, he was ever-present in their 1965-66 promotion near-miss and moved to Arsenal for £50,000 in October 1966. The England international played in two consecutive League Cup finals, then helped the Gunners win the Fairs Cup in 1970 and was an FA Cup finalist again in 1972. He joined Wolves in July 1975 and returned from a spell with San Antonio to play for Barnet. Later coached Vancouver Whitecaps, he now has several business interests in California.

JIMMY GREAVES

Former England international striker Jimmy Greaves was capped 57 times before joining Barnet. Starting with Chelsea, he was top scorer four times and moved to AC Milan in June 1961. He joined Tottenham Hotspur five months later for £99,999 and was leading marksman as they won the FA Cup in 1962 and 1967, as well as the ECWC in 1963. Moving to West Ham as part of the Martin Peters deal in March 1970, he later had a spell with Chelmsford City prior to joining Barnet in July 1977. He was their top scorer and 'Player of the Year' in 1977-78. Later a TV soccer pundit, he has since worked in corporate hospitality.



MARTIN CHIVERS

Ex-England international striker Martin Chivers was capped 24 times before joining Barnet. He turned professional with Southampton in September 1962 and was top scorer in their 1965-66 promotion success. Moving to Tottenham Hotspur for £125,000 in January 1968, he helped win the League Cup twice and UEFA Cup in 1972. He joined Servette in July 1976, then Norwich and Brighton, before becoming Dorchester's player-manager. Following a spell with Norwegian side Vard, he joined Barnet in October 1982 and made seven Conference appearances. He later ran the Brookman's Park Hotel in Potters Bar for 18 years.

KEVIN BEATTIE

Former England international central defender Kevin Beattie briefly played for Barnet in 1985-86. He turned professional with Ipswich Town in July 1971 and was their 'Player of the Year' in two consecutive seasons and PFA 'Young Player of the Year' in 1973-74. He formed an excellent partnership with Allan Hunter and helped Ipswich to win the FA Cup in 1978 before a knee injury halted his top-flight playing career. After unsuccessful comeback bids with Colchester United and Middlesbrough, he had spells with several Norwegian sides, then Barnet and Clacton Town. He has since worked in the licensed trade.



DION DUBLIN

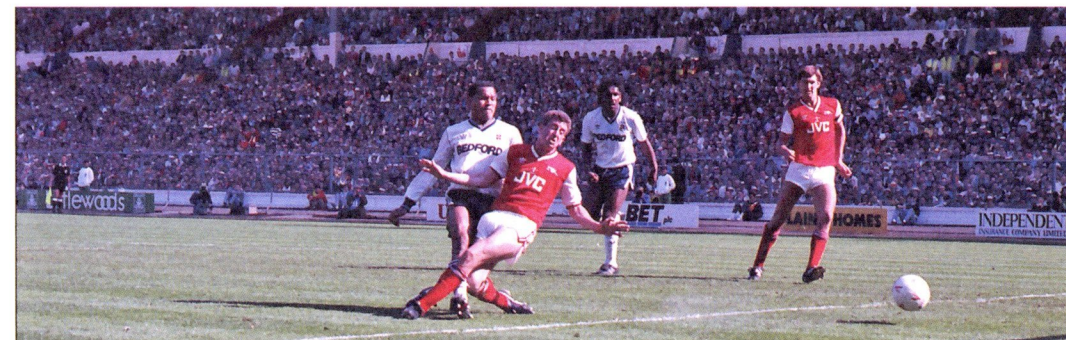
Barnet's former loan striker Dion Dublin was capped four times by England. Initially with Oakham United, he moved via Norwich City to Cambridge United in August 1988. He was loaned to Barnet in December 1988, featuring as a substitute in that month's 2-1 victory at Stafford Rangers. Top scorer in Cambridge's rise under John Beck, he joined Manchester United in August 1992, then Coventry City for £2,000,000 in September 1994. He was leading marksman four times and joined Aston Villa for £5,750,000 in November 1998. An FA Cup finalist in 2000, then had spells playing for Leicester City, Celtic and Norwich again.

MARK LAWRENSON

Former Republic of Ireland international central defender Mark Lawrenson had a spell with Barnet in 1988-89. He turned professional with Preston in August 1974 and was ever-present 'Player of the Year' in 1976-77. Moving to Brighton in July 1977, he was 'Player of the Year' when they won promotion to the top-flight in 1978-79 and joined Liverpool for a record £900,000 in August 1981, amassing a vast collection of honours while at Anfield. Briefly joining Barnet in February 1989, between managing Oxford United and Peterborough, he played two Conference games for the Bees. He is now an analyst on 'Match of the Day'.

BRIAN STEIN

Our own Luton legend Brian Stein featured in Barnet's 1992-93 promotion campaign. Initially with Edgware Town, he joined the Hatters in October 1977 and was leading marksman in our 1981-82 Second Division title triumph. Also starring as the Town were twice FA Cup semi-finalists, he scored twice in our 1988 Littlewoods Cup final success (pictured below) and joined Caen in July 1988. He moved via Annecy back to Luton in July 1991 and joined Barnet in August 1992. Scoring eight goals in 40 League outings while at Underhill, he later came back to Kenilworth Road as a coach. His older brother Eddie gave Barnet lengthy service.



BRIAN MARWOOD

Former England international winger Brian Marwood played for Barnet in 1993-94. Signing professional for Hull City in February 1978, he was leading marksman in their 1982-83 promotion triumph and moved to Sheffield Wednesday for £115,000 in August 1984. He joined Arsenal for £600,000 in March 1988 and starred in their 1988-89 League Championship success, moving to Sheffield United for £350,000 in September 1990. Joining Swindon Town in March 1993, he helped clinch promotion and joined Barnet in August 1993, making 23 League appearances. He became the PFA chairman, since working in the media.

MAIK TAYLOR

Goalkeeper Maik Taylor gained 88 Northern Ireland caps after leaving Barnet. Previously at Farnborough Town, he moved to Barnet in June 1995 and missed just one match in 1995-96, making 70 Third Division appearances while at Underhill before being sold to Southampton for £500,000 in January 1997. He joined Fulham for £800,000 in November 1997 and was an important figure as they won the Second Division title in 1998-99 and First Division title in 2000-01. Joining Birmingham City for £1,500,000 in August 2003, he helped regain top-flight status at the first attempt in 2006-07, then finished his playing career with Millwall.

TONY COTTEE

Former England international striker Tony Cottey had a spell as Barnet's player-manager. He turned professional with West Ham in September 1982 and was leading marksman four times. Voted 'Hammer of the Year' as they were third in the top-flight in 1985-86, he was twice ever-present and joined Everton for £2,500,000 in August 1988. Rejoining West Ham in September 1994, he then played for Malaysian side Selangor, Leicester City and Norwich City. He was Barnet's player-boss from November 2000 until May 2001, scoring nine goals in 16 League games, then had a spell with Millwall, since working in the media.



PICTURE THE PAST

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

Clive Goodyear scores the only goal of the game against Watford at Kenilworth Road on 27th December 1982. This top-flight clash was watched by a crowd of 21,145, who were delighted to hear Hornets boss Graham Taylor moan afterwards: "Luton seem to have the Indian sign over us."

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O'Rourke saves the Town from relegation in 1963/64 by netting the winner against Watford in the final home game. He finished up with 22 goals from 23 starts.

AS OTHERS SAW US

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

BRENTFORD 2 LUTON TOWN 6 | 8TH FEBRUARY 1964

The Town were relegated to Division Three (now League One) in 1963, the first time they had been at that level for 26 years. It had been only a short time since they were an established top flight side and appearing in the FA Cup final, but with a team made up of over-the-hill veterans and other clubs' cast-offs, the glory years seemed far away.

There was one ace up the Hatters' sleeve though. Signed from Chester in October 1962, Ron Davies had scored 21 goals in only 29 Division Two (now Championship) League games in a poor Luton side, becoming a firm crowd favourite along the way.

Only three games into the 1963/64 campaign, though, the news that all Town supporters had been dreading was announced with Davies being sold for a pitiful £35,000 to Norwich, who had been chasing him

relentlessly since he netted six times against them the previous season.

The Hatters were obviously weaker with the sale of Davies and the goal scoring completely dried up. The mantle of leading the attack was placed firmly on the shoulders of 33-year-old Gordon Turner, who was surrounded by some pretty ordinary players.

By the time Christmas 1963 approached, the Town were struggling at the bottom of the table with a

grand total of four wins to their credit and a succession of heavy defeats, particularly at home, behind them.

A forward from Northampton, Ray Smith, had been signed for £5,000, but he lasted only a few anonymous games before disappearing off to Non-League football, while another forward, brought to Kenilworth Road just before Christmas, caused barely a ripple of enthusiasm amongst the, by now, highly cynical Luton fans.



John O'Rourke was 18 when he came to Luton having become surplus to requirements at Chelsea where Tommy Docherty was blessed with plenty of forward cover. Another cast-off we all thought, especially as O'Rourke had previously been discarded by Arsenal as well.

The striker made his debut in a 2-1 home win over Reading and immediately caught the eye with his youthful enthusiasm and no little skill, and by the time of his first goal, in a 3-1 home victory over Colchester in January 1964, he had won over the fans.

Although the Town had started to pick up a few home points, the away record was dire without a victory on opposition soil since October 1962. It was therefore understandable that only a handful of Luton supporters made their way to Griffin Park to see the still bottom of the table Town take on a Bees side that was hovering around mid-table.

The customary away defeat looked on the cards as early as the 11th minute when Brentford winger Mark Lazarus raced from his own half to set up an easy chance for Billy McAdams – a lead that was comfortably held until the interval.

Whatever was said at half-time should have been bottled and sold as what happened in the first 21 minutes of the second period created a new Luton hero, and made a complete mockery of the Town's lowly position.

On 46 minutes, winger Harry Walden equalised for the Town with a simple tap in before O'Rourke took over, scoring four goals – including a seven minute hat-trick – to turn the game on its head.

Lazarus had knocked in a consolation for Brentford in amongst O'Rourke's devastating spell, but Walden put the game beyond any doubt just before the end with his second, and the Town's sixth.

Brentford complained about an injury to goalkeeper Chick Brodie, but as the score was 4-2 in the Hatters' favour when he left the field, it hardly mattered.

O'Rourke proved a revelation that season as his 22 goals from 23 games proved, with the Town escaping relegation at the death following a run of nine games without defeat at the end of the campaign.

Tommy Docherty was left to rue his decision to let O'Rourke go, while the Town fans would never again moan about cast-offs...not for a couple of years anyway!

David Wilson in the Sunday Express confirmed that 'John O'Rourke, an 18-year-old Chelsea reject had the small but happy band of Luton supporters chanting a 'Glory, Glory' theme.'

The Daily Telegraph scribe said: 'It was an astonishing performance from struggling bottom club Luton who became the last of the Third Division clubs to get an away win this season.'

Eric Pugh (Chiltern in the Luton News) could be quite withering in his criticism of the Town at times, but even he strayed towards hyperbole in his match report. There again, watching the Hatters at that time could be depressing so any chink of light at the end of the tunnel was naturally met with wild enthusiasm even by the normally measured Chiltern.

TOWN 0 : COLCHESTER 1



MONDAY 26TH DECEMBER | KENILWORTH ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 9,164 | AWAY: 490

COLCHESTER GOAL: SLATER 83

TOWN: WALTON, O'DONNELL, REA, CUTHBERT ©, MULLINS, JUSTIN, LEE (COOK 87), MCGEEHAN, GILLIEAD (MPANZU 81), HYLTON, MARRIOTT (VASSELL 66). **SUBS NOT USED:** SMITH, GRAY, SENIOR, GOOCH (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** HYLTON, JUSTIN.

COLCHESTER: WALKER, BRINDLEY, LAPSLIE ©, KENT, DICKINSON, ELOKOBI, JOHNSTONE (PORTER 81), EASTMAN, GARVAN, SLATER, (WRIGHT 88), GUTHRIE. **SUBS NOT USED:** VINCENT-YOUNG, WYNTER, DOYLEY, FOSU, BARNES. | **YELLOW CARDS:** ELOKOBI, EASTMAN.

STORY OF THE MATCH:

The Hatters suffered a Boxing Day defeat as Craig Slater struck an 83rd-minute knockout blow to send Colchester home with all three points, and the biggest Kenilworth Road crowd of the season with major disappointment.

It was a devastating blow for manager Nathan Jones and a Town side who, following a stop-start first half, had the better chances after the interval and had looked the more likely to break the deadlock with Danny Hylton and Johnny Mullins spurning great opportunities.

Man-of-the-match Scott Cuthbert's clearing header from inside his own half looked to have created a real opening seven minutes after the break when the ball flew over the U's defence and into the path of Hylton, who outmuscled defender Frankie Kent on the edge of the box but couldn't beat onrushing keeper Sam Walker.

Then, in the 68th minute, Alex Gilliead whipped in a corner from the right and the ball fell to Mullins, who connected sweetly with a half-volley from six yards, but it flew over the bar.

But seven minutes from time, Colchester midfielder Slater capitalised on a half-cleared corner to smash the ball home from just inside the box and nick a win for the U's that moved them to within five points of the fifth-placed Hatters.



JONES: No matter what side we play, everyone has to go out and perform

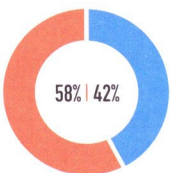
"I am distraught, I am devastated if I am being honest. I never felt we were in any danger whatsoever throughout the game and then we have gone to sleep on a set play, second phase and they have gone home with the three points.

"Credit to them, they are in decent form, but I never felt we were under any pressure whatsoever. We missed a great chance with Johnny Mullins, we had a lot of good situations and controlled most of the game.

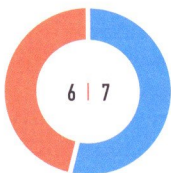
"No matter what side we play, everyone has to go out and perform and today I didn't feel we were under any pressure. We looked solid and we defended well, we have just gone to sleep in the second phase and they have scored.

"Apart from the Owen Garvan chance, they haven't had an opportunity, so it's disappointing from our point of view.

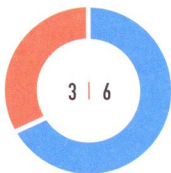
"It has been a real positive year, but we aren't quite turning those performances into points and that has been the disappointing thing."



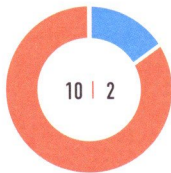
POSSESSION



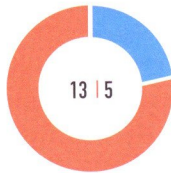
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



CORNERS



FOULS



GILLY'S GOAL...

...IS TO GO UP WITH TOWN!

Midfielder Alex Gilliead echoed manager Nathan Jones' disappointment at losing to a late Colchester goal on Boxing Day – but then spoke of his determination to help the Hatters towards the ultimate goal of promotion.

The Newcastle man's loan is due to expire on 7th January, but boss Jones has spoken in recent weeks of talks having already begun to try to extend the England Under-20 international's stay at Kenilworth Road.

As usual, Gilliead had probed for an opening against Colchester and had seen a smart shot on the turn saved by U's keeper Sam Walker, but was left "devastated" by Craig Slater's winner just two minutes after he'd been substituted.

DEVASTATED

"Obviously everyone's devastated in the changing room," said the 20-year-old. "It's their second corner of the game, the ball's fell to their lad on the edge of the box and it was a good strike, but we should have had someone on him to stop it.

"Both teams started a little bit slow and wanted to see what the other was about in the first half. There wasn't much passing or anything going on, a lot of keep ball, not really going anywhere.

"Then I thought second half, the game was a bit more open. We got at them a lot more, put a lot of balls into the box and just couldn't get on the end of them.

"On the pitch with the lads, we all thought it was going all right second

half and chances wise, we had the better of them.

"But it was one of those games where one goal was going to win it and unfortunately it wasn't for us today."

RUN

The defeat was only the third the Hatters had suffered in all competitions since mid-September, and Gilliead wants to get back on a good run in the final game of 2016.

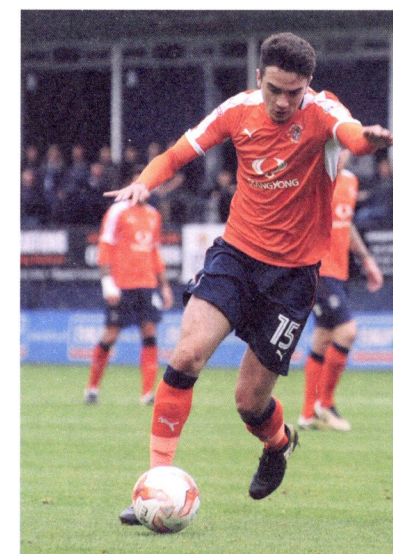
"We'll have a debrief on today's game, work on it and see what we can do to break down teams throughout the week," he said.

"Barnet aren't too far off the play-offs. They're doing well this season, so we've got to be wary of their threat, but we'll do whatever the manager and staff have got us doing, and I'm sure they'll prepare us right for Barnet and the game afterwards at Portsmouth.

CONCENTRATE

"We're not bothered about anyone else or other results. We know how many points we are away, but we just need to concentrate on us.

"Our group of players are sure that by the end of the season, we'll be all right – we'll be right up there and go up."

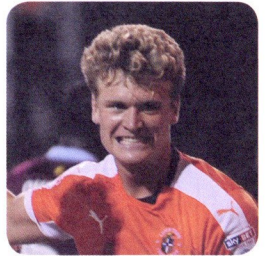


"I'm learning all the time and developing as a player."

Asked whether he would like his loan to be extended to be part of that, Gilliead – who has started eight of the last ten league games – said: "Yes, I'm here and I'm playing, I'm starting most weeks.

"I love it. I get on with all the lads, get on with all the staff, I'm learning all the time and developing as a player, so I don't see why not."

CAMERON: THIS IS MY BIG DEAL



This article was written by CHRIS DUNLAVY ahead of our game with Colchester, and appeared in The Football League Paper on Tuesday...

Luton's Cameron McGeehan may have left his Christmas shopping until the last minute – but when it came to his career, the Luton midfielder wasn't prepared to hang around.

A teenage starlet at Chelsea and Norwich, McGeehan watched in dismay as promising talents like Josh McEachran disappeared into a development black hole.

Unwilling to risk a similar fate and emboldened by a Conference-winning loan spell at Luton, the straight-A student had no hesitation in ditching his cushy life for a permanent deal at ramshackle Kenilworth Road.

Eighteen months on, the 21-year-old is the Hatters' reigning player of the year with 33 goals in 109 career games for the Hatters and Cambridge, plus an EFL young player of the month award on the mantelpiece.

"I saw so many people stagnating, their careers going nowhere," says McGeehan, speaking to the FLP from a packed shopping centre in the midst of a last-minute pressie dash.

"Me and my dad had a lot of discussions about it and we also spoke to a few older players, like Josh. At Norwich it was Nathan Redmond and Bradley Johnson, who started at Arsenal. All of them said 'Don't even think about it – get out, play football and you won't regret it'.

"Now I'm sitting here on 100-plus senior games and I've learned so much more than I would have in an Under-21 side. They were completely right.

"I look at boys who signed big deals at Chelsea and think 'Yeah, if I'd done that, I could be rich now'. But my game is richer. My experience is richer. I'm loving life, meeting new people. I'm a main player at a massive club.

"A lot of these lads, they've spent that money by 22. Then they move to a League Two club, have to completely adjust their life and it's a shock to the system.

"It's also about respect. You see 18 or 19-year-olds driving round in Range Rovers and the senior players look at them and think 'You've not earned that, you've done nothing in the game'. That stuff should be for the top boys who've earned their stripes in a high pressure industry.

ACHIEVEMENTS

"Maybe it's easy for me to say because I'm from a comfortable background. I accept that I've been privileged. But, for me, football is about achievements, not about money."

McGeehan's ten goals this term have fired Nathan Jones' Hatters into promotion contention, with a top-three place a distinct possibility.

And having worked with the cream of continental coaching at Cobham, McGeehan says his manager deserves to be ranked alongside any of them.

"We're lucky to have him," says the midfielder. "He's a top level coach who nearly got the Brighton job before Chris Hughton. He should be working a lot, lot higher.

"He's really sharp, really clever. His work ethic is incredible – I think he's at work from seven in the morning to eight or nine at night most days.

"When I think of all the people I've worked with in my career, he's right up there. I guess it's similar to me. He's come down to get experience and a reputation. Hopefully we can both work our way back up."

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CENTRE SPOT

Let's end the year on a high with one of the photos of the season so far...
Cameron McGeehan celebrates his second goal in the 3-1 September win over Doncaster

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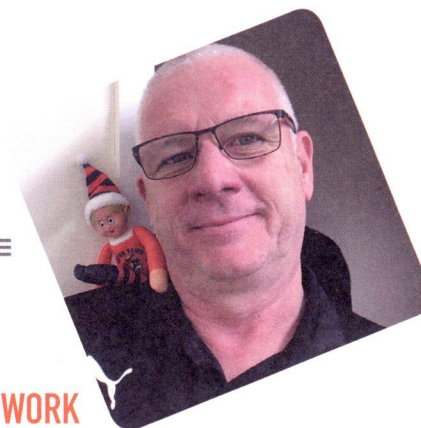


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[SIMON PARSELL]

TRICK OR TREATMENT

A HUMOROUS INSIGHT TO PHYSIO SIMON PARSELL'S WORK



I trust everybody had a great Christmas and you got those presents you wanted.

I was disappointed I bought the wife a new chair, but she wouldn't plug it in. However she did supply useful information. Santa is a man. Her reason? No woman would be seen in the same outfit year after year.

I hope you have sorted out your New Year's resolutions. Mine tend to go in one ear and out the other. Most people resolve to start jogging, but I find that makes the ice fall out the glass.

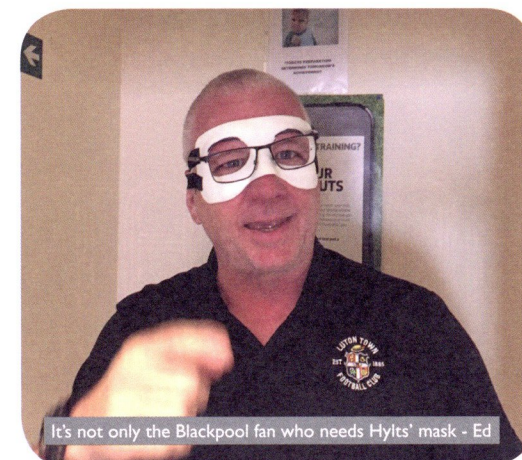
Paul Driver will start his annual 100-day non drinking policy which then allows him to hit the Adnam's bitter in the summer. Why not enjoy it all year long?

I did make a resolution once, but never again will I take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night. Let's hope our strikers aren't like David Blaine and spend 40 days in a box and do nothing. So whatever your resolution is, good luck!

Injury wise we are looking good (this is written before Colchester). This is such an important period to keep everyone fit with three games in quick succession. Sheez has recovered from his groin strain and Pottsy has joined him back after he collided knees with Jack Senior, causing a ligament sprain.

Green Dog is back running after his recent surgery, but I will be glad to see the back of him. One, because it will mean he is fit, and secondly, I won't have to listen to another story about drop crotch jogging bottoms available at Ballers.

It was a great performance at Blackpool and caused one Blackpool fan to make a rude comment about Hylts' mask. Luckily, as sharp as he is the box, Danny replied: "With a face like that I would get a mask!" Never mess with Hylton.



After Mully's most recent quotation, we have some new contenders. Our esteemed masseur Dazzler came out with "You can't judge a book by its colour". Interesting.

But then whilst talking about Scotty being hit on the head a few times recently and getting carried off, SODS threw in: "He goes down more times than Anthony Joshua."

As far as I am aware, I don't think Joshua has been knocked down. Worst of it all, he tried argue away by saying: "I know that. What I meant was, Scott is so hard he doesn't go down."

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support during the year and hopefully together we can achieve our goal of promotion. Enjoy a great evening and have a tremendous 2017.

COYH.



The Hatters take to the Wardown Park pitch in 1950 to face their Luton Town Cricket Club counterparts. The front four are (left to right): Ralph Hann (trainer), Bernard Streten, Jim Wilson and Syd Owen

HOWZAT HATTERS

When the Town's stars swapped football for cricket in their summer break

By Don Rolt (Luton Town and Bedfordshire CCC)

Back in the 1950s and early 60s, Luton Town Football Club had a close relationship with the Luton Town Cricket Club, who played at Wardown Park on a ground which many considered to be one of the finest in southern England.

One event which took place towards the end of each cricket season was a cricketers versus footballers match in aid of charity.

The footballers would raise a team as part of their pre-season training and play a Luton Town XI. The game was always played in a light-hearted manner and attracted large crowds of football and cricket supporters alike.

In addition to these events, several footballers took the red ball game rather more seriously and regularly appeared for the Town and Bedfordshire teams.

Among these was **JOE PAYNE** (77 Appearances, 87 Goals), who was a fast bowler and hard-hitting batsman of some note. On one occasion he scored 46 in 12

minutes, hitting Ian Bedford, the Middlesex captain and spin bowler for four sixes. Joe, better known for his goal scoring feats, also played for Bedfordshire in the Minor Counties.



Another was **GORDON TURNER** (450 Appearances, 276 Goals), who was a right arm 'slinger' of some pace and a forceful batsman. On one occasion Gordon was batting and was well set for a big score. Unfortunately, he was also booked to present

awards at an end of season soccer function at Vauxhall Motors. However, rather than miss out on a big score, he carried on batting until the game was won and then proceeded straight to the presentation, still in his whites!

Gordon teamed up with **WALLY SHANKS** (276 Games, 6 Goals), another Hatters favourite to run a sports shop, Shanks and Turner, which was located on the Dunstable Road retail park opposite Hazlebury Crescent. Gordon and Wally became firm favourites with local sportsmen and supplied sports equipment to all the local teams.

SYD OWEN (423 Appearances, 3 Goals) also played, and as you can imagine, was more of a Geoffrey Boycott-type batsman than an Ian Botham. Syd played with a straight bat and just like his centre-half activities, nothing went past him. Syd also bowled medium pace and on one occasion in a match against the MCC, he was bowling to Bill Edrich, the England number three batsman, and a wicket before lunch would have put the Town in strong position. Syd sent down one of his 'floaters' and Bill, who had never faced the Luton Town stopper before, was completely beaten and could only get a leading edge and loop the ball gently back



Joe Payne, pictured here, fourth from the left

[DON ROLT ON THE HATTERS CRICKETERS]

to Syd. Unfortunately Syd, who had been dealing with high balls through the middle all his life, got both hands to it but after some juggling, finally dropped it. This led to some hilarity in the crowd and some wag yelled, "Try heading it next time Syd!"



TERRY KELLY (149 Games, 1 Goal) was the centre-half who always stood in for Syd Owen and made many appearances in the Town colours. It has been said that whenever Terry played, the Hatters never lost. He was in the same mould as Syd, very strong in the air and a formidable tackler. Terry was

also a very good cricketer, a prolific batsman who played for both Luton Town and Bedfordshire.

Another Hatters regular to play cricket at Minor Counties level was South African **ROY DAVIES** (169 Appearances, 28 Goals), a right winger with a terrific shot. Roy was a very useful cricketer and a bowler of some pace. At a benefit game for Denis Brookes, the Northamptonshire opening batsman, Roy was asked to open the bowling for the works side. These games were supposed to be just exhibition games with the Northants batsmen scoring heavily and the works side just there to make up the numbers. However, Roy was having none of that and after two overs he effectively ended the entertainment by removing the cream of the Northants batting. Off a short run up he was deceptively fast and removed the first four batsmen with the total score still in single figures. Obviously this was not in the script and so to prolong proceedings a little longer for the large crowd, Roy was removed from the attack.

Unlike today when we seem to have football 24/7, the football season started in September and ended after the FA Cup Final. Footballers were then able to have a good summer break and enjoy other sporting activities.

Can you imagine today's professional footballers giving up their very short break and risking injury to spend time on the cricket ground at Wardown Park?

Those were the days!

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THE TOWN'S HEAD OF SPORTS SCIENCE, JARED ROBERTS-SMITH, GIVES US AN INSIGHT INTO HIS WORK WITH THE HATTERS LADS...



Afternoon Kenilworth Faithful!

It's been another busy Christmas period here at LTFC and a while since I have been able to get a column done, so hopefully I can fill this page with the last bit of festive joy for you fans!

With regards to the professional side of things on the pitch, the column has to follow the usual trend in reporting how well the boys have been doing with regards to training, gym work and all the other elements that are so vital to doing the business on a match day.

Everyone was gutted we couldn't top Christmas off in the right way on Boxing Day, but our focus has quickly switched to our two games in three days, which will be really physically demanding on the squad. Our emphasis will be heavily on recovery with all of our usual strategies being employed the moment the lads step off the pitch after our game against Barnet today.

The new training ground is now taking shape and I have put together my late Christmas wish list for the new large gym space we will be fortunate enough to move into. Some of the new equipment includes – Med balls, dumbbells, a load of resistance bands and some fancy new soft plyometric boxes.

It will be great to move into a new facility with an improved gym space, and hopefully we can further develop and enhance our already excellent strength and conditioning strategies and practices off the back of this, which will continue to benefit the guys in training and on a match day.

With regards to injuries, it's been a good festive period thus far and we have managed to clear out slight injuries such as Potts and Sheehan, who have worked really hard to get back in time to be available for the New Year fixtures.

The test will be over the next three days and hopefully we come through in a good place ready for the FA Cup fixture against Accrington away...a nice close fixture to start off the New Year!

Moving on to the more jovial side of things, those of you who follow us on social media would have seen the Christmas dinner snaps which was an excellent distraction from the hard work at the training ground. We as staff served the boys, and I think a few were disappointed when dinners served by Kev Dearden and Pete Booker turned up a few pigs in blankets short.

Dinner was followed by some Christmas songs from the youth

team...poor efforts from Arthur Read and Michael Shamola, and then a really lively rendition of 'Hylton's on fire' from the boy that is Glen 'Razor' Rea – great effort!



Those of you who follow Simon Parsell on Twitter would have seen my forfeit for forgetting the gaffer's Secret Santa present. I had to do the warm-up on Christmas Eve in my own present – 'a naughty elf costume' gratefully received from Mr Dearden. It got a big cheer from the boys and I then had to outrun Mullins and Vassell who tried to take me down... no chance!!!

That's me done for 2016 and hopefully we can finish off with a big result today. Happy New Year to all you Hatters and we go again in 2017.

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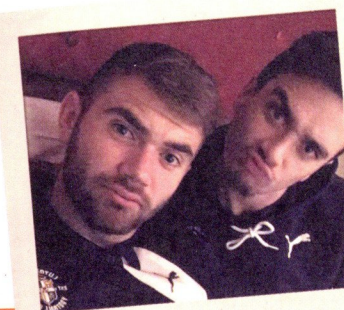


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[ROOM-MATES]

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Craig & Alex

NAMES: CRAIG KING & ALEX GILLIEAD | **POSITION:**
GOALKEEPER/WINDOW & MIDFIELDER/DOOR | **AGES:** BOTH 20

How long have you known each other?

CK: Too long.

AG: Shut up. Since I came, four months?

When did you first room together?

CK: Notts?

AG: It was, it was Notts County. I was with Vass, then I was with Hylts and then I was with you.

What's the best thing about rooming together?

CK: He is always out the room so I get some peace and quiet!

AG: I'm always out the room but we do watch Graham Norton. It's quite a chilled room.

CK: We love Stone Cold Steve Austin as well.

What's your roomie's worst habit?

AG: Waking up in the middle of the night and saying stupid things – I can't repeat them!

CK: When I am about to get to sleep, he will come into the room and be so loud...he'll just long my life out!

Who makes the tea?

CK: I always make the tea, but he never has it.

AG: I don't drink tea.

CK: I always offer though. I have one before bed and one in the morning.

First up in the morning?

CK: We are proper late sleepers.

AG: We put alarms on so we can get breakfast, but when they go off, we just switch them off.

Who decides when to turn the light out at night?

CK: I normally try to go to sleep earlier, so Al just turns it off when he wants.

Who's the tidiest?

AG: In the bathroom, towels are chucked everywhere. But most of our stuff just stays in our bags.

Who takes the longest to get ready?

CK: Al.

AG: Yeah but I take something like ten minutes and you take five, so it's not long. The other day I woke up at 11 and we were both downstairs for quarter past.

CK: And we both had a shower and got changed in that time.

What's most likely to be on the TV?

TOGETHER: Graham Norton.

CK: Or Stone Cold Steve Austin.

What's his show called on Dave?

AG: Broken Skull Challenge.

Games console or TV?

CK: TV usually.

AG: Friday night TV's decent.

Any other in-room activities?

AG: We just chill.

CK: We just have this mutual understanding about being chilled.

Who would you rather room with?

CK: No-one, I'm happy.

AG: Me too.

Who would you least like to room with?

AG: I reckon any of them would be alright. But if I had to say someone, it would probably be Glen, Hylts, Mulls – obviously because they are all big kids.

CK: I can't think of anyone. You don't know what they are like until you are with them. I've roomed with Vass and he was alright, just watching films. Christian was a bit more on it, a bit more strict.

Who is most likely to gatecrash your room?

AG: We have had a few.

CK: Pelly, Cam or Hylts and Mulls.

AG: Hylts is big for coming in and messing your room up.

CK: He came in the other day and put every item on the bed – a lamp, chair, kettle!

And who do you lock the door to?

AG: If you see Hylts and Mulls knocking on the door, just don't open it. There'd be glass of water leaning on the door. They are the only two who do stuff like that.

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

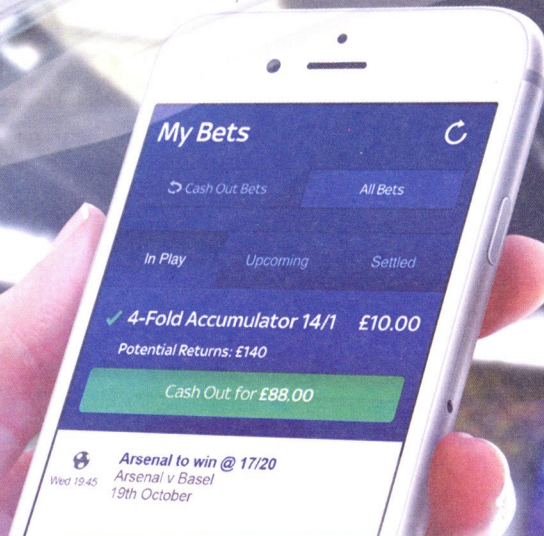
AG: Ten!

CK: Yeah, ten!

(ED: "Not sure you can get a ten-star hotel". Goalkeeper coach Kevin Dearden chips in: "Don't know about ten stars but he needs a medal putting up with him, Gilly does!")

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We are currently expanding our successful 'Happy To Help' (H2H) team, and looking to recruit some additional volunteers for home matchdays.

This role includes working in pairs to greet fans coming to the ground, and helping with any questions that fans may have. The Happy To Help team members meet up at the ground for 1.30pm on Saturdays (and 6.30pm for evening games).

You will be carrying out valuable work in helping to create a positive experience for fans, first-time visitors, and also families on behalf of Luton Town Football Club. Every volunteer receives a free match ticket (and there are some extra benefits after you have worked at more than 15 games in a season).

So come on... join the H2Hers!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION FORM: PLEASE GO TO WWW.LUTONTOWN.CO.UK
(FANS' TAB AND THEN FANS ZONE SECTION) OR EMAIL JOHN MILLER,
SUPPORTERS' LIAISON OFFICER (JOHN.MILLER@LUTONTOWN.CO.UK)

Please note : This is not a stewarding position, and volunteers will not be asked to undertake any stewarding responsibilities

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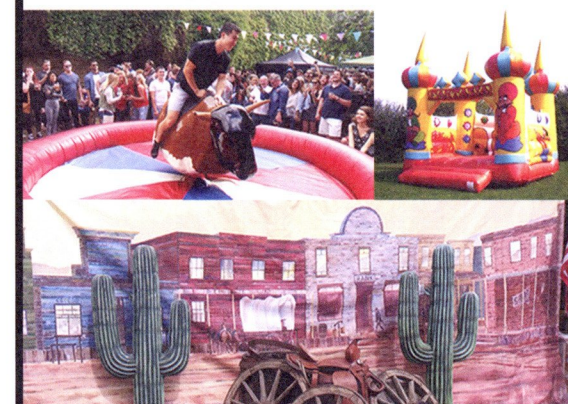
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THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

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

Sheila Ginger, Sylvia Worby and Jean Punter arrive at Manchester Central station ready for fourth round FA Cup tie at City in January 1953. They were well rewarded for their efforts following a 1-1 draw, with the Hatters winning 5-1 in the replay.

THE BIG INTERVIEW

This interview with Hatters Player commentator Simon Pitts was written by 12-year-old Town fan **ALEX OAKHILL** earlier this season and was published on his online blog, which can be found at www.oakhillsundaysport.wordpress.com.

Keep up the fine work in 2017 Alex!



How did you get into commentating?

I saw an advert in the programme in 1997 and they wanted a commentator for partially sighted fans as they had just got a grant which meant those fans could listen to commentary inside the stadium. I had already done some presenting on Student and Hospital radio and saw this as a way of getting to go to games regularly and do some commentary.

Did you play much football when you were younger?

I did until the age of 13 and as I was wearing glasses by then, it got harder to play. Under the age of 13 though I played a lot of games for the school, for my club team and I think I played in just about every position possible.

Over the years, who's the best Luton player you've seen play?

When I was younger my favourite player was Brian Stein, so he'll always be up there. I remember when Paul Walsh got sold and that was the first

really good player I saw leave the club. More recently, the Frenchman Jean-Louis Valois will always be remembered, but it's difficult to pick one as there's been so many great players over the years.

What's been your most memorable match?

There's several to choose from all for different reasons. There's three that stand out for me. The Keith Keane goal against Oxford is one. Not just because of the goal but because people who didn't really know about my commentary before the game certainly did afterwards! Commentating on the play-off final at Wembley was special. We lost

but Andre Gray scored, so I've commentated on a Luton goal at Wembley. Finally, the FA Cup match against Norwich. I was living on the Suffolk-Norfolk border at the time quite close to Norwich, so I had some friends that were Norwich fans and to beat a Premier League team as a Non-League team is very memorable.



What's the strangest thing you've seen while commentating?

There's been a few strange mascots at games, one or two strange free-kick routines – but I think it's probably when the guttering above the Oak Road End fell down after a Keith Keane shot and the game had to be stopped for a few minutes while someone climbed up a ladder and pulled it down! Also, I went to Chesterfield once and we could only see half the pitch due to fog. We scored and we didn't even know we had until all the players came running back down the other end. We celebrated about 30 seconds after the ball had gone in!

You talk a lot with the players and staff so have you noticed anything different about successful teams?

It's noticeable that some of the players are more experienced and some of the younger players are less used to doing interviews. In terms of management there's very different styles. For example, under John Still we got promoted from Non-League and under Nathan Jones we've also had some success, yet they are very different characters. I don't think success is dependent on the style of a manager or team.

What's the hardest part about commentating?

The long, wet midweek trips when we're getting thrashed are always hard. I remember one match against Newport when we lost 5-2 and it was so cold, we were awful and you begin to think to yourself 'If it wasn't for those listening, I'd rather be elsewhere'. I really appreciate the support I get though and that's what gets you through those games.

Who's the best pundit you've commentated with?

I've had a few ex-players with me. Paul Benson was very good. When he was out injured he did a couple of games with me. I also had Stuart Fleetwood with me for a game, and the way he celebrated us scoring was great. I'd probably have to go with Claude Gnapka though, just because

it was Claude! He sat with me on my 300th game for Diverse FM at York, so that was very special for me.

What's your normal matchday routine?

I normally do the preparation for a game on Thursday and/or Friday and then the last bit on Saturday morning. Then I travel to the game and if it's at home I'm responsible for the team sheets, so I need to get those in, printed and distributed. Then I set up all the equipment and check we're going through okay on Hatters Player, and then the match itself.

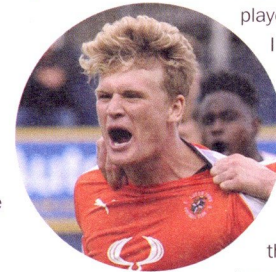
Do you think Nathan Jones is the man to get Luton promoted?

Yes!

Who is the best young player coming through the ranks at the moment?

I'm a big fan of Cameron McGeehan and I really do rate him as a player, and Jack Marriott

I also rate. Younger than that, some of the youth team and development team, there's too many to name! It's really good they are coming through and great we have that quality.



And finally, where do you think Luton will finish this season?

I don't think it's going to be easy because there are some really good teams in League Two, but I think we have the potential for top three.

Big thanks to Simon for taking the time to do the interview.

SIMON PITTS IS CURRENTLY COMMENTATOR FOR LUTON TOWN'S HATTERS PLAYER STREAM AND HAS BEEN COMMENTATING ON LUTON SINCE 1997.

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6 CIARAN GORDON-STEARNS  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	7 FREDDIE HINDS  H: Jacqui Peacock A: Bobbers Travel	8 JACK JAMES  H: M J Sites Services Ltd A: Les & Sue Miller – Miller & Company	9 CIAREN JONES  H: Groundcare Machinery Services Ltd A: AVAILABLE
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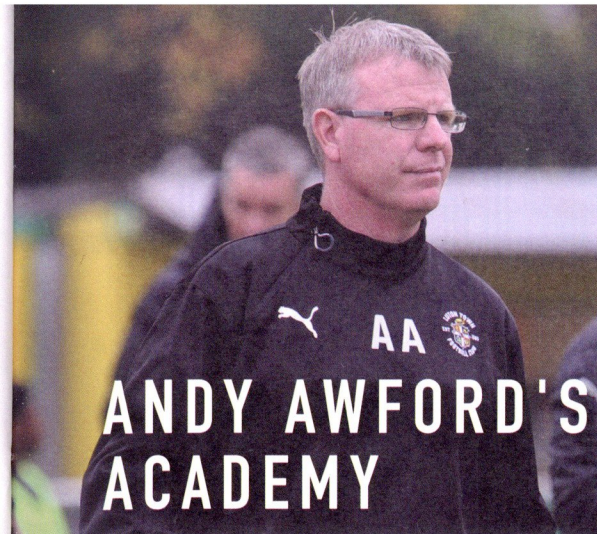


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ANDY AWFORD'S ACADEMY

UPDATE

Welcome to today's game against Barnet. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to New Year celebrations and the start of what will be a fantastic year for the club.

First and foremost, you will have probably seen on the Town website that Youth Development Phase Coach for the Under-15/16s, Joe Deeney, has departed to become assistant manager to Mark Jones at National League South side Oxford City.

Joe has been embroidered in the club having been here for 24 years as a young player and a coach. Nearly a quarter of a century at one club is some record, and I know his decision was a very difficult one to make because of his ties with Luton Town, but he goes with our blessing.

He'll always be welcome here because he's one of us, but I understand the lure of being involved in first-team football somewhere. On behalf of the club, I'd like to thank him for his years of service.



Joe Deeney

Here's to a great 2017!

COYH!

ANDY

[ACADEMY UPDATE]

Joe told the club website: "I've been at Luton since I was nine, so it's been a real tough week coming to the decision to leave.

"I've had offers before but they've never felt right. This one really appeals though because I've known Mark a long time and he's given me the chance to get involved at first team level.

"I'll still be involved with Luton through the pre-academy and the college scheme at Cedars, but as much as I'd have loved to have combined it all with Oxford, National League South is demanding and I don't want to work with watered-down quality in the academy.

"There are some real good people at Kenilworth Road and it's been a massive part of my life, so I'm going to miss it. But if I don't take the opportunity, I'll never know what it's like."

We thank Joe for all his hard work and dedication that has helped this academy flourish.

YOUTH TEAM WIN OVER CHARLTON

The youth team put in an impressive performance with a great 2-0 win away at Charlton Athletic on Saturday 17th December to finish 2016 on a high. Connor Tomlinson got both goals late on, that was just reward for his hard work and endeavour on the day.

The game provided a really great opportunity for us to test ourselves against a higher rated category academy. We decided to give our U16s minutes in this match and really stretch them in all areas of their development and they certainly did not let anyone down. Well done to them all.

Thank you all for your fantastic support towards the Academy as we look to push some more players up into the first team in the future.

LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

Another great year at the Trust which has seen further growth in both personnel and a big growth in the number of varied football and non-football projects we deliver to our local community.

As a registered charity our role is to represent the club in the wider community using the power of football to be at the heart of our community. We rely on raising our own funds through both our coaching activities and grant funding from the EFL, Premier League and PFA with support from the club and our main sponsor, easyjet.

Additional partnerships with Active Luton, Luton Adult Learning, The Princes Trust, Luton Airport's Youth Community Fund, Laureus Foundation and Streetgames has enabled us to both expand our existing activities and begin lots of new and exciting projects.

As you can see from our 'super' infographic, we now provide over 70 free PE lessons every week to over 2,000 local school children as part of the Premier League School Sport project and easyjet Free Schools Visit Project.

STRENGTHENING

Our girls-only coaching continues to increase the number of girls taking part in football and we opened our first ever girls' Player Development Centre as part of a five-year strategy of strengthening our links with Luton Town Ladies FC and offering girls the same opportunity as boys to be involved with the Hatters.

Our growing involvement in Disability Football continues to prove hugely rewarding for both staff and participants and as well as our two men's teams, the Hatters and Boaters, we also now coach weekly sessions at almost all of the special educational needs schools in Luton and Bedfordshire thanks to support from the Wembley National Stadium Trust.

Our Talent Identification Centres also continue to perform well with almost 600 recruited boys in the system, and with boys trialling and playing for the academy into double figures already this season.

We've also increased our football tournaments this year with the Hatters Cup involving 1,200 youngsters playing at Kenilworth Road in May, as well as also involving hundreds of additional youngsters in the national Kinder+Sport Girls and Kids cup.

We also have our Integration Cup for boys from Marsh Farm, Farley Hill and Lewsey Farm at the stadium, which forms an important part of our social project PL KICKS on these estates, and this season we played our first official game against QPR up at Lea Manor.

SUCCESSFUL

Our second airport-funded project has also been successful in establishing youth football teams in High Town for the first time in years, with teams ready to start playing in 2017 leagues next year.

Luton Adult Learning are also helping us to find and train 36 new community coaches to deliver our projects with two courses in 2017 for both men and women.

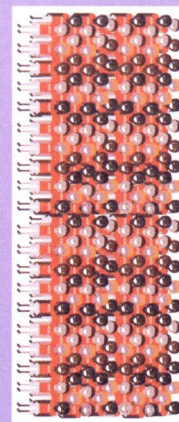
The Trust's work was also recognised by Bedfordshire Police at the annual community cohesion awards, and more recently the Trust were voted winners in the leisure and culture section at the Luton Best awards.

In addition, our social impact contribution was valued at a value to the local community of £2.5million by Substance, who are the leading experts in the social impact sector. It's all great feedback on the work we are involved in.

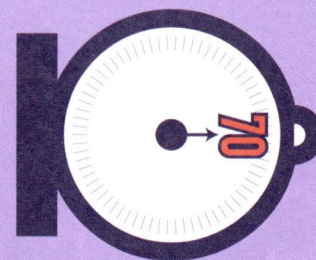
We look forward to keeping everyone updated and engaged through these pages during 2017 on all of our existing and new projects as we look to both promote Luton Town Football Club to new supporters, and also use the power of football to effect and improve the lives of as many members of our community as we can.



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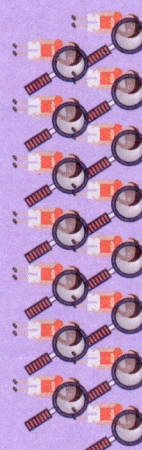
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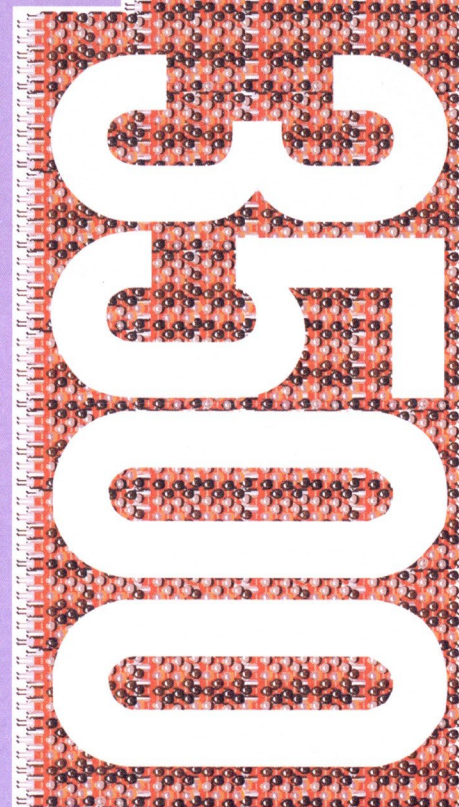
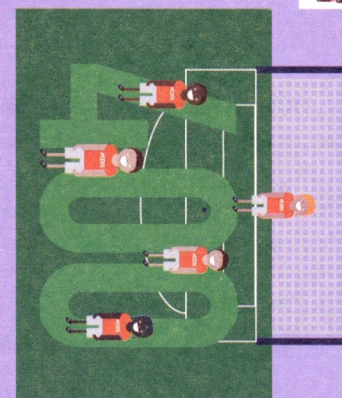
OUR 12 GIRLS AND WOMENS WEEKLY CENTRES NOW REACH OVER 140 PLAYERS

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OUR 15 TALENT IDENTIFICATION CENTRES REACH OVER 350 YOUNG PLAYERS WEEKLY

OUR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMES REACH OVER 400 CHILDREN EACH WEEK





HATTERSLADIES

MICK MCCONKEY GIVES US A GUIDE TO NIKKI BAKER'S 2016/17 SQUAD

JODIE BELLINGER – Striker who came through the youth set-up and is playing in her first season in senior football. Has already shown that she is more than capable by scoring a hat-trick against Plymouth and two against AFC Wimbledon.

ERICA BYRON – Right sided midfielder who came through local youth football and is in her second full season in senior football. Last season's young player of the year.

ZARA CARROLL – Experienced central midfielder in her fifth season with the club. Dead ball specialist formerly with Bedford.

RACHEL CARTER – Captain and central defender in her second spell with the club having come through our youth set-up. After leaving university she had a short spell with Peterborough before rejoining the Town two seasons ago after overcoming a serious knee injury.

JESS DEVOTTI – Experienced keeper in her first season with the club. Formerly with Barnet.

NICOLA HENMAN – Another player who came through our youth set-up. Nicola is a combative midfielder who is also in her second spell with the club having rejoined last season.

SHANICE JIMINEZ – Yet another player who graduated through our youth set-up. Another strong combative midfielder who scores her fair share of goals.

RACHEL KOSKY – Rachel is an experienced central defender having been with the club since U11s. Started off as a striker but now firmly established in the back four.

DIONNE MANNING – Pre-season signing previously with Spurs. An experienced striker who scored on her debut against Gillingham on the opening day of the season, but then suffered a serious knee injury in the cup at Plymouth.

JESS MCKAY – Another player who came through our youth set-up. Player of the season last year, Jess has played in

almost every position. Scorer of some spectacular goals, none more so than the one she scored against MK Dons at Kenilworth Road back in September.

JEMMA MOORE – A central defender and one of a group of talented youngsters in the first team squad. Recently joined the club from Tottenham.

SHANNON PRATT – A defensive midfielder who also came through our youth set-up. Unfortunately she suffered a serious injury earlier in the season, but should be back in contention early in the new year.

MOLLIE ROBINSON – Mollie is in her first season in the first team having come through the Development Squad. A tenacious left-back, she has made the step up into first team football seamlessly.

JOANNE RUTHERFORD – A vastly experienced striker in her second season with the club. Previously had spells with Watford, Liverpool and Royston Town. Though not a prolific goalscorer she has come up with some vital goals.

LUCY TAPE – Midfielder who has recently made the step up from the Development Squad.

JODIE SOUTHBY – In her first season with the club having joined from local youth football. A right-sided midfielder who shone in pre-season, but had to wait for an opportunity. Marked her debut against Enfield Town with a goal in a 5-0 win.

LUCY WEBSTER – Another player in her first season with the club, plucked from local youth football. Without any doubt the find of the season. A stylish right-back who can also play further forward and has shown maturity beyond her tender years.

REBECCA WILSON-KANE – A mercurial striker who can be a real game changer. This was perfectly demonstrated in the recent cup match against Stevenage when she came off the bench to set up both goals as the Town won 2-0. The club's longest serving player.



WOMEN AND GIRLS FOOTBALL – SOCCERCISE NEW FOR 2017 !!

As promised ladies, here are the details of our new female-only footie sessions starting in a couple of weeks. We've got soccer circuits at Fliwick and 5-a-side at Inspire Sports Village and Lea Manor Rec in Luton. It's all part of our PL Girls programme aimed at getting more girls and women into football.

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8.15pm-9.15pm studio
Starting Monday 9th January 2017

INSPIRE SPORTS VILLAGE

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Starting Monday 9th January 2017

LEA MANOR RECREATION CENTRE

7-00pm-8.00pm sportshall
starting Thursday 12th January 2017

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE. COYH!

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SPOT THE BALL

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WISHING ALL OUR JUNIOR HATTERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ON THIS DAY

Luton have played 16 fixtures on New Year's Eve - with only four of those ending up as wins for the Hatters. The best of these was back in 1921, when 7680 people turned out to watch Simms score a hat-trick. Butcher a brace, and Bassett and Higginbotham a goal each, helping the Town to thump Gillingham 7-0 at Kenilworth Road.



NUMBER SEARCH

As it's New Year's Eve, we've hidden twenty 2017s in the grid on the right. Can you find them all? The 2017s are hidden forwards, backwards and diagonally too! Good luck

2	0	1	7	3	7	1	0	2	4	2	5
3	5	9	8	7	0	2	0	1	7	0	8
2	7	1	0	2	1	1	5	6	7	1	7
3	2	5	7	6	7	0	2	3	4	7	1
6	7	1	0	2	6	0	2	4	3	8	0
2	2	2	2	2	1	2	0	1	7	4	2
2	2	0	1	7	3	4	2	0	1	7	7
0	3	2	4	7	8	9	6	5	1	2	3
1	5	5	0	2	7	2	3	0	4	2	7
7	7	7	4	1	0	1	2	5	6	0	1
9	5	8	6	1	7	2	0	4	5	1	0
5	2	6	7	4	1	1	0	2	0	7	2



BARNET FC

The Hatters have only played the Bees 6 times competitively - with the first of these meetings just a few years ago in 2008. Luton have won four of the matches to Barnet's one, and one draw. The two teams met on New Year's Day back in January 2014, where Andre Gray and Paul Benson helped the Town to a 2-1 win on their way to promotion back to the Football League

SEND US YOUR PICS

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

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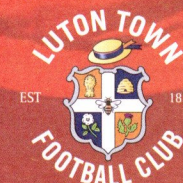


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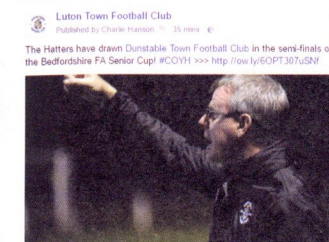
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HATTERSONLINE

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SEMI-FINAL AT CREASEY PARK



Luton Town Football Club
Published by Charlie Harrison · 35 mins · 6
The Hatters have drawn Dunstable Town Football Club in the semi-finals of the Bedfordshire FA Senior Cup! #COYH >>> <http://low.ly/60PT307uSN/>

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



BIG MICK V BILLY WHITEHURST ON TALKSPORT

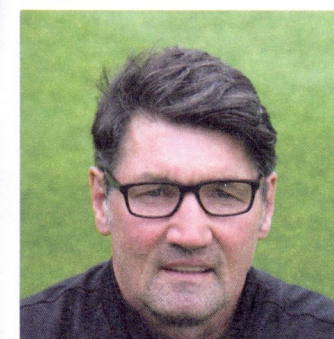
Hatters' Harford hardman memories aplenty



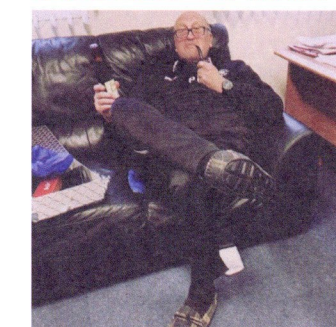
Yesterday they were comparing the hardmen of English football and our own @Mickharford was discussed alongside Billy Whitehurst #COYH



We reckon Big Mick would've dealt with Jaws & Whitehurst though...so let's have your best @Mickharford hardman memories Hatters fans! #COYH



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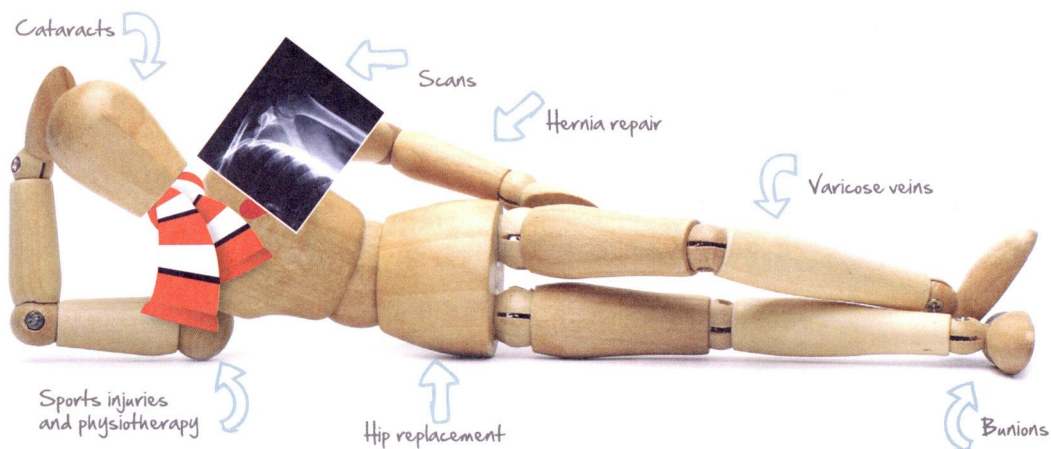
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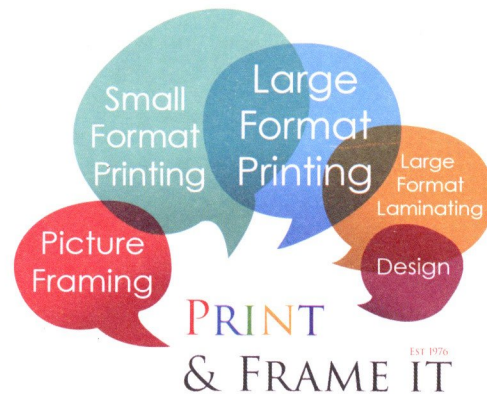


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LEAGUELOOK

[LEAGUE TWO ROUND-UP]

THIS WEEKEND'S LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES:

YESTERDAY:

Cheltenham Town v Wycombe W Wanderers
Hartlepool United v Morecambe
Yeovil Town v Portsmouth

TODAY:

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

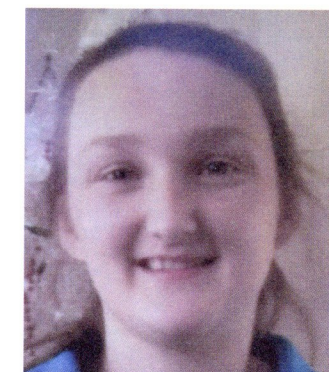
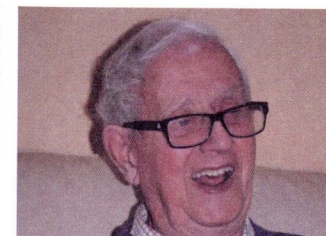
BOXING DAY'S LEAGUE 2 RESULTS:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

All at Kenilworth Road would like to wish a very happy birthday to two Luton Town fans celebrating extra special milestones in the week before Christmas.

Firstly, **JIM FULLER** celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday 23rd December – the second Hatter to do so this season, as far as we know, following Roy Wightman reaching his century in August. Congratulations Jim!



We would also like to congratulate Oak Road End season ticket holder

REBECCA MALLET – described by dad Mark as a “Mad Hatters fan” – on celebrating her 18th on Sunday 18th December.

And a warm welcome today to **ANDY DUCAT**, who was involved with setting up the LTFC Study Centre at Ely Way, before returning to New Zealand six years ago. He is here on a short holiday and Sally Gaskell got in touch to “wish Andy and Kelz a lovely holiday and a Happy New Year”.

Let's hope the lads can give you all the perfect gift of three points today!

FIXTURESPILE-UP

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
AUGUST								
Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle	W 3-0	9,761	1,019	1	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Wed 10	7.45pm	H	Aston Villa (EFL Cup 1)	W 3-1	7,412	1,487	-	Walton O'Donnell Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Yeovil Town	D 1-1	7,800	303	1	Walton O'DONNELL 1 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 Cotter MUSONDA 1 Famewo Justin Bakinson 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 Justin Mullins Cuthbert Potts Rea Mpanzu
Tue 27	7.45pm	A	Hartlepool United	D 1-1	3,533	311	2	Walton Justin SHEEHAN 1 Famewo Potts Lee
OCTOBER								
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town	D 1-1	3,660	923	4	Walton Justin Cuthbert Sheehan Potts Lee Mpanzu
Tues 4	7.30pm	H	West Brom (EFL Trophy)	W 2-0	1,441	89	-	King O'Donnell Musonda Famewo Senior Bakinson GRAY 1
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Crewe Alexandra	D 1-1	7,716	254	5	Walton Justin Cuthbert Sheehan Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 15	3.00pm	A	Leyton Orient	W 2-1	5,471	1,341	4	Walton O'Donnell Cuthbert Sheehan Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town	D 1-1	7,787	295	4	Walton O'Donnell Cuthbert Sheehan Potts Rea Mpanzu
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	Notts. County	D 0-0	6,313	2,033	4	Walton O'Donnell Cuthbert Sheehan Mullins Rea
NOVEMBER								
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Exeter City (FAC1)	W 3-1	2,972	310	-	Walton Justin Cuthbert Sheehan REA 1 Lee Mpanzu
Tue 8	7.30pm	H	Millwall (EFL Trophy)	L 1-3	2,251	370	-	King O'Donnell Musonda Famewo Senior Bakinson GRAY 1
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley	W 1-0	8,008	101	5	Walton Justin Cuthbert Sheehan Rea Lee Mpanzu
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Morecambe	W 2-0	1,507	520	4	Walton Justin Mullins Sheehan Rea Lee Mpanzu
Tue 22	7.45pm	H	Portsmouth	L 1-3	8,808	975	5	Walton Justin Mullins Sheehan Rea Lee Mpanzu
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Exeter City	D 0-0	3,823	634	5	Walton Justin Cuthbert Sheehan Rea Lee Mpanzu
DECEMBER								
Sat 3	3.00pm	H	Solihull Moors (FAC2)	W 6-2	3,512	635	-	Walton Justin Cuthbert Sheehan Rea MULLINS 1 Cook
Tues 6	7.45pm	A	Swindon Town (EFL Trophy)	W 3-2	1,692	134	-	King Justin Musonda Senior Potts Lee Mpanzu
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	Carlisle United	D 1-1	7,953	380	5	Walton O'Donnell Cuthbert Sheehan Potts Rea Mullins
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Blackpool	W 2-0	3,992	1,095	5	Walton O'Donnell Cuthbert Mullins Rea Justin
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Colchester United	L 0-1	9,164	490	5	Walton O'Donnell Cuthbert Mullins Rea Justin
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	5.30pm	H	Morecambe					



WHO, WHEN AND WHERE THE HATTERS ARE PLAYING THIS SEASON

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

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

LEAGUE TABLE 2016/17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Doncaster Rovers	22	14	3	5	44	30	14	45
2 Plymouth Argyle	22	14	3	5	35	24	11	45
3 Carlisle United	22	11	10	1	41	26	15	43
4 Portsmouth	22	11	5	6	36	22	14	38
5 LUTON TOWN	22	9	8	5	31	20	11	35
6 Wycombe Wanderers	22	10	5	7	29	25	4	35
7 Cambridge United	22	10	4	8	30	25	5	34
8 Blackpool	22	9	6	7	36	24	12	33
9 Barnet	22	8	9	5	31	30	1	33
10 Colchester United	22	8	6	8	30	27	3	30
11 Stevenage	22	9	3	10	33	34	-1	30
12 Grimsby Town	22	8	5	9	29	27	2	29
13 Yeovil Town	22	8	5	9	25	26	-1	29
14 Crawley Town	22	8	5	9	28	36	-8	29
15 Exeter City	22	8	3	11	25	26	-1	27
16 Crewe Alexandra	22	6	9	7	24	30	-6	27
17 Mansfield Town	22	6	8	8	21	28	-7	26
18 Morecambe	21	8	2	11	25	38	-13	26
19 Leyton Orient	22	7	3	12	25	29	-4	24
20 Hartlepool United	22	5	8	9	28	38	-10	23
21 Notts County	22	6	4	12	25	37	-12	22
22 Accrington Stanley	22	5	6	11	20	29	-9	21
23 Cheltenham Town	22	4	9	9	24	34	-10	21
24 Newport County AFC	21	4	5	12	25	35	-10	17

PLAYER STATS 2016/17

	THIS SEASON												LTC	
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISIP		CAREER TOT		Y	R		
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS				
Alex Atkinson	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0			
Tyreeq Bakinson	0	(0)	0	3	(1)	0	3	(1)	0	0	5	0		
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	1	0	13	0	
Jordan Cook	15	(4)	1	2	(1)	0	17	(5)	1	3	1	22	1	
Kavan Cotter	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0	
Scott Cuthbert	16	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	18	(2)	0	3	0	60	0	
Akin Famewo	1	(2)	0	3	(0)	0	4	(2)	0	1	0	6	0	
Alex Gilliead	9	(7)	0	3	(0)	1	12	(7)	1	2	0	19	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 Hylton	19	(1)	11	4	(0)	3	23	(1)	14	9	1	24	14	
James Justin	10	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	15	(0)	0	1	0	16	0	
Craig King	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0	0	4	0	
Ollie Lee	16	(3)	0	4	(0)	0	20	(3)	0	7	0	62	3	
Craig Mackail-Smith	0	(1)	0	1	(2)	0	1	(3)	0	1	0	38	4	
Jack Marriott	18	(4)	4	3	(0)	2	21	(4)	6	1	0	69	22	
Cameron McGeehan	22	(0)	9	4	(0)	1	26	(0)	10	5	0	104	30	
Josh McQuoid	1	(2)	0	4	(0)	2	5	(2)	2	2	0	42	7	
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	12	(7)	0	3	(1)	0	15	(8)	0	3	1	89	5	
Johnny Mullins	15	(2)	0	3	(0)	1	18	(2)	1	1	0	20	0	
Frankie Musonda	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	4	(0)	1	0	0	7	1	
Stephen O'Donnell	14	(0)	1	4	(2)	2	18	(2)	3	1	0	53	4	
Dan Potts	15	(0)	2	1	(1)	0	17	(1)	0	3	1	34	0	
Glen Rea	14	(2)	1	4	(0)	1	18	(2)	2	4	0	30	2	
Arthur Read	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	
Jack Senior	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	3	0	
Alan Sheehan	13	(1)	1	2	(0)	0	15	(1)	1	3	0	36	2	
Jonathan Smith	1	(9)	1	5	(2)	1	6	(11)	2	2	0	158	11	
Jack Snelus	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	
Connor Tomlinson	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	
Isaac Vassell	5	(12)	1	3	(4)	1	8	(16)	2	0	0	24	2	
Christian Walton	22	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	26	(0)	0	0	0	26	0	

[MATT WRIGHT]

HOLD THE BACKPAGE

WITH MATT WRIGHT
FORMER LUTON ON SUNDAY SPORTS EDITOR



As some of you may be aware, there's been a bit of change in the local media this month, with the closure of Luton on Sunday.

Thankfully for the town, the subsequent expansion of Bedfordshire on Sunday means the coverage of Luton won't be decreasing, unlike in Milton Keynes or Northampton, which are both now served by just one newspaper.

But LoS' demise does mean the end of my time as sports editor, with the decision being made that BoS will not be having a dedicated sports writer on its staff.

Don't worry, I'm not going to use my final column to bemoan this brutal time for the local press. The real shame is my departure comes just when things are about to get interesting at Kenilworth Road.

EXPECTATIONS

When I took up my position in September last year, I had my own expectations that Luton Town would be challenging for their second promotion in three seasons despite an iffy start to the campaign.

As we know, that's not how it turned out, with an initial uplift in results only temporary before things well and truly fizzled out under John Still.

Looking back, there was too much for Nathan Jones to do in order to salvage the season, but with the turn of the year just ahead of us, there are plenty of reasons to get excited this time, not least because the team are in a position to challenge at the top.

CUT-THROAT

League Two is a cut-throat division and, although we'd all like to have seen more of those draws become victories, Luton have kept themselves well away from the mayhem that is mid-table.

Of the players brought in by Jones in the summer, Danny Hylton has obviously been the stand-out with his goalscoring abilities being something Hatters fans can rely on.

At the other end, goals aren't being leaked with the annoying regularity of a year ago and the defensive lapses that did for the previous regime have become increasingly rare under the current one.

This is a solid foundation you feel really has started on the training ground, which has had a much more focused feel about it this season

whenever I've visited for pre-match press conferences.

During my time with the paper, I became more aware of the young talent that is coming through the club. This has been the main success story and the youngsters' progression has left the future looking bright.

Back in the present, Luton still have interests in three competitions – not too many clubs at this level can boast that at this stage of the season.

REWARD

Accrington away wasn't the draw anyone wanted in the third round of the FA Cup, but it's certainly winnable and who knows what the reward might be if the Hatters get through that.

What lies ahead is something I'll be an interested spectator of. Being from Bedford, I've always kept an eye on Town's results and after covering them week in week out for 15 months, it's a keener interest now.

Best of luck!

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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 Jamie Stephens
- 2 James Pearson
- 3 Elliott Johnson
- 4 Bira Dembele
- 6 Michael Nelson
- 7 Ryan Watson
- 8 Curtis Weston
- 9 John Akinde
- 10 Michael Gash
- 11 Luke Gambin
- 12 Josh Vickers
- 13 Jamal Campbell-Ryce
- 15 Alie Sesay
- 16 Harry Taylor
- 17 Sam Muggleton
- 18 Nana Kyei
- 19 Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro
- 20 Tom Champion
- 21 Shaun Batt
- 22 Ben Tomlinson
- 23 Alex Nicholls
- 25 Fumnaya Shomotun
- 26 Thomas Day
- 27 Wesley Fonguck
- 28 Jack Taylor
- 29 Shane Cojocarel
- 30 Justin Amaluzor
- 31 Kai McKenzie-Lyle
- 32 Mauro Vilhete
- 33 Joe Payne
- 34 Ephron Mason-Clark
- 35 Dwight Pascal
- 36 Rio Connell
- 37 Tyler Brown
- 38 Tobi Coker

MATCH OFFICIALS

 **TIM ROBINSON**

 **MATT FOLEY**

 **ADAM CRYSELL**

 **TREVOR KETTLE**

