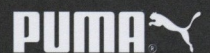


TALK OF THE TOWN

LUTON TOWN v CAMBRIDGE UNITED

SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2017 | KICK OFF 3pm

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 20 | PRICE £3



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[WELCOME TO LUTON TOWN v CAMBRIDGE UNITED]

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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The views in this programme are those of the
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editor and/or Luton Town.

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[MANAGER'S NOTES]

THE MANAGER NATHAN JONES



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the first of a series of home games after spending most of the year so far touring the country in the league and FA Cup.

We were here a couple of weeks ago for the visit of Chesterfield in the Checkatrade Trophy, and we should have hosted my old club Yeovil Town last Tuesday in the quarter-finals, although that one unfortunately fell victim to a frozen pitch.

But this is the first Sky Bet League Two game of what we hope will be a memorable 2017, so I would like to welcome all of our wonderful supporters back home, as well as our visitors from Cambridge.

That goes to the supporters, directors, officials, manager Shaun Derry, his staff and players, who we know will present us with another big test as they have been one of the form teams in the division in recent months.

After the disappointment of losing at Portsmouth and Accrington Stanley, we've collected four big points from our last two league games on the road.

Crewe could prove to be a real key moment in the season, coming from behind the way we did with ten men to win 2-1.

And the form Wycombe were in before last Saturday's game, there would have been many who would have taken a point from our trip to Adams Park.

I was really disappointed not to take all three, however, because we were comfortable at 1-0 when we were once again reduced to ten men.

PROUD

I was proud of how our players had stood up to the physical threat from Wycombe and we were still looking dangerous and creating chances despite being a man down.

In those past two games we have given debuts to our two new signings, Lawson D'Ath and Luke Gambin, and both have quickly settled in. I know Lawson from his loan spell with me at Yeovil a few years ago and he's been on my radar ever since.

Luke has done really well against us for Barnet, scoring down there last season and causing us problems when we beat them here on New Year's Eve.

Both will bring more depth to the squad and real quality to our midfield, especially after losing Cameron McGeehan to a broken leg for the rest of the season.

I thank chief executive Gary Sweet and the board for backing me to bring them in on long-term contracts, as well as the extended deal Danny Hylton signed in between their arrivals.

Finally, I know the travelling you've had to do so far this month will have cost a small fortune, and so soon after Christmas it was an unbelievable effort to have over 1,500 at Portsmouth, nearly 500 at Accrington, 1,000 at Crewe and 1,800 at Wycombe, so a massive thank you from us all.

Today kicks off a run of five home games in our next six, so please get behind the lads and get this great old ground rocking for the next few weeks and beyond.

Enjoy the game.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR MIKE HERRICK

Firstly, a very warm welcome to the supporters, players, staff and directors of Cambridge United – a club against whom we always have a closely fought game.

The two sides are separated by very little at the moment so I'm sure today's match, played out before a big crowd, will be no different. At least no-one should have far to travel home afterwards (apart from those who live a long way away to start with!)

Today sees us back at Kenilworth Road for the first time in 2017, having seemingly travelled the length and breadth of the country in the last few weeks.

We ended the year on a positive note at home to Barnet, but only two days later we were dismayed to lose the services of Cameron McGeehan. His reaction to his injury and his outlook is extremely positive, however, and we look forward to seeing him gradually work his way back to full fitness.

We then had two performances which could be likened to 'chalk and cheese'. A rather lacklustre display

in the cup at a foggy Accrington was followed by a very determined and uplifting effort to win at Crewe.

We continued in this vein against Wycombe last week, but for reasons which were difficult to accept, we were denied the victory that had looked likely for much of the game.

One positive aspect is that of the eight times this season that we have finished a game with fewer than when we started, we have won six times, drawn one and lost only once. Last week, though, is now water under the bridge and we shall move forward today with equal effort and determination.

It is unfortunate how postponements and rearrangements can unbalance the fixture list and after the glut of away games there now follows a run of five home games out of the next six, and we are aware that this will stretch resources for many supporters.

The big attendances for last two home games were greatly appreciated by all at the club and we hope that the '3 for 2' offer covering the next three league games against Cheltenham, Crawley and Hartlepool will ease the burden for those who pay on the gate. Season Ticket holders will be able to bring a friend to any or all of these three games for £10 each.

Hopefully this will make it a little easier for supporters to take in all these matches and keep attendances high as we move towards the important run-in.

On the playing side we welcome two new recruits in Lawson D'Ath from Northampton and Luke Gambin from Barnet, who made their debuts for us against Crewe and Wycombe respectively. We have followed their progress for some time and we are extremely pleased to have now been able to strengthen our squad in this way.

They have both bought into the ethos at Luton and are keen to play their part in helping us to achieve our ambitions.

One further item of news is that we have just signed with a contractor for the provision of a 3G pitch at our new training ground at the Brache, which will replace the current old-style artificial surface Arena pitch (pictured below), the same as we used to have here at Kenilworth Road.

It will be a real boost for Andy Awford and the Academy staff to have our own facility – a proper base which

they can call home after spending so long having to hire pitches all over the place. It's no less than they deserve and another instance of the club continuing to move forward and develop its links to the community of which we are proud to be a part.

And so on to today's game. Cheer loud and cheer long, but above all enjoy the occasion.

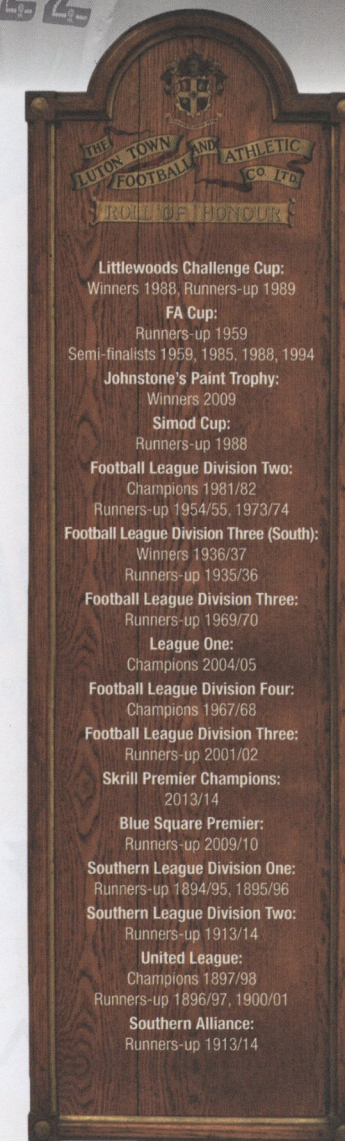
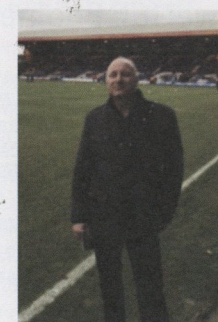
Mike

DIAMOND PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Scott Cuthbert has won the Diamond Player of the Month Award for December. The Town skipper polled 54% of the vote and beat Danny Hylton into second place, with Cameron McGeehan the other player to receive votes this month.

We would like to thank all Diamond Season Ticket holders that voted. One lucky Diamond Season Ticket holder who voted for Scott will present the trophy to him after today's game, having been drawn from a hat. They will receive two tickets for Corporate Hospitality in the Eric Morecambe Suite (Adult Winner) or a Diamond Mascot Package (Junior winner).

One Town fan who will be happy with the choice is Andy Skolsky, who is celebrating his 50th birthday today. Andy (pictured above) is a season ticket holder in the main stand with the Woburn Sands Hatters, and his favourite player is the Hatters captain. Have a great day Andy!



Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA Cup:
Runners-up 1959
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup:
Runners-up 1988

Football League Division Two:
Champions 1981/82
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Football League Division Three (South):
Winners 1936/37
Runners-up 1935/36

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One:
Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Skrill Premier Champions:
2013/14

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:
Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

United League:
Champions 1897/98

Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

Southern Alliance:
Runners-up 1913/14



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[SCOTT CUTHBERT]

GREATSCOTT

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what seems like the first time in ages for a game we know will be a tough test against Cambridge United, who have been one of Sky Bet League Two's form sides since we beat them at their place back in August.

There's a lot to catch up on, so I'll start with wishing Cameron McGeehan well in his recovery from the broken leg he suffered at Portsmouth.

It was a shame for Cam. He's so young and ambitious and wanted to be a big part of what we are doing this season. But he's a strong lad,

he's positive, he's confident in his own ability and I'm sure he'll recover well and come back stronger.

Lawson D'Ath and Luke Gambin have come in and they've been great. They are both good lads and they've added to the squad again. Lawson hasn't played much football over the last three or four months, so he'll take a while to get up to speed.

But Luke came in on Saturday against a big, strong physical Wycombe side and although you can see from the size of him, he isn't the biggest, but he put himself about and he was going into tackles and headers when he had to, and he's got real ability on the ball as well. They are two positive signings to push the club forward.

On the pitch, after having an indifferent period over Christmas and New Year where it was stop-start results-wise, it was really important to get the win against a dangerous Crewe side, with a new manager. It took us back up among the play-off pack and in a position where we're not far off the automatic places, which is where we want to be.

With Wycombe last Saturday, you know what you're going to get. They are big, strong, experienced, and they've been here and done it before.

Looking back it could be a very big point because they are in unbelievable form, unbeaten in 15, but we went there, played some great stuff and we probably should have come away with the three points.

As for my first goal in 65 appearances for the club, you'll have seen from the celebrations that I got carried away, slipping as I ran over to celebrate with the 1,800 fans behind the goal! I thought I managed to see it out a little bit by slide tackling the advertising boards, but I watched it back and Luke falls on his backside as well, so the boys haven't really given me too much of a hard time over it.

It's certainly about time I scored, and hopefully it'll be the first of many. One in this big game this afternoon would be most welcome...as is your fantastic support. Wherever we go, you're there in your numbers. On behalf of the lads, thank you for the money you've spent and miles you've covered. Now we're back home please get behind us as always.

Enjoy the game.



WELCOME TO LAWSON AND LUKE!

D'ATH AND GAMBIN ARRIVE, WHILE O'BRIEN AND MCQUOID CHECK OUT

Since we were last at home against Barnet on New Year's Eve, we've seen a couple of new signings check into Kenilworth Road and two players leave for pastures new as the January transfer window slid open.

First to sign on Friday 6th January ahead of the FA Cup trip to Accrington was attacking midfielder Lawson D'Ath, who arrived on an 18-month contract to the end of June 2018 – with the club having the option to extend it for a further year – from Sky Bet League One side Northampton Town.



Lawson D'Ath

D'Ath had been at Sixfields for a couple of seasons and played a major role in the Cobblers' League Two championship success last term, including scoring their second goal in a 4-3 win here at Kenilworth Road.

The Witney-born midfielder came through the youth ranks at Reading before being released in 2014, but actually made his League debut on loan at Yeovil Town while Hatters boss Nathan Jones was Glovers' player and assistant-manager in 2012.

"I'm delighted to be here," he told lutontown.co.uk after signing. "As soon as I heard that Luton were interested, this is where I wanted to come. I made my mind up pretty quickly.

"I know the gaffer from playing with him at Yeovil, so I know all about the way he works, and I'm really looking forward to it. It's a big club as well, but working with the gaffer was a big factor and the size of the club was important. I'm really happy."

That wasn't the only loan spell D'Ath enjoyed while he was a Reading player, also gaining experience with Cheltenham, Exeter and Dagenham & Redbridge before moving to Sixfields, where he scored nine times in 35 starts and 11 substitute appearances in his first season, then four in 30

starts and 16 sub run-outs during last year's title triumph.

On his ambitions for his time at Kenilworth Road, D'Ath – who made his Town debut in the 2-1 win at Crewe – added: "I was delighted to get that promotion last year and it was good to be a part of it, but now that's gone and we move on to try and get promoted here.

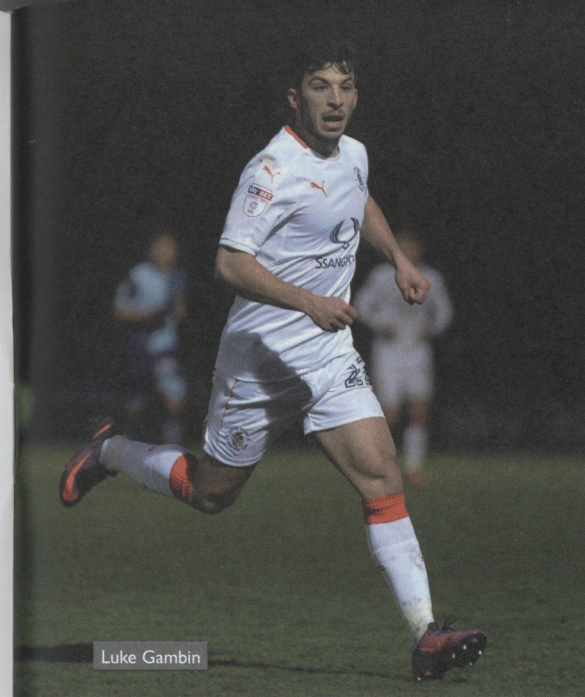
"Obviously we are sitting well in the table and we need to kick on and try to get that automatic promotion spot like the gaffer said. Hopefully we can do it."

The other new-boy is Luke Gambin, for whom the Town paid an undisclosed fee to League Two rivals Barnet.

The 23-year-old has signed a deal to the end of 2018-19, with the Hatters having the option to extend it for a further year.

Malta international Gambin made the last of his 136 appearances for his only club against the Hatters at Kenilworth Road in our 3-1 win on New Year's Eve, but he too has previous for netting against the Town, scoring in our 2-1 defeat at the Hive last Easter.

The left-footed attacking midfielder made his Luton debut in last week's



Luke Gambin

1-1 draw at Wycombe, and says he can't wait to run out in front of the Hatters' passionate support.

"It feels brilliant to be here," said Gambin. "I'm really excited for the new challenge and I'm looking forward to it.

AND HYLTON STAY IS EXTENDED!

In among the comings and goings was the great news that top scorer Danny Hylton had signed a contract extension to keep him at Kenilworth Road until the end of the 2018-19 season – a deal manager Nathan Jones describes as "like making a new signing".

The 27-year-old hitman has settled comfortably into life in Bedfordshire since his summer move from Oxford United, netting 14 goals before Christmas to become an instant cult hero with the Town fans.

The original contract the ex-Aldershot and Rotherham striker signed was for two years, but Jones was keen to secure his services for an extra season at least – with the potential to extend it further to 2020.

Hylton was delighted to put pen to paper and focus on gaining a second successive promotion from Sky Bet League Two after last term's success with Oxford.

"I was more than happy to sign an extension when it was put in front of me as I like the team, the gaffer, the fans and the club – and it's a club I think is going to kick on, so hopefully I can be a big part of that," said the Londoner.

The size of the club, the fans, the manager and the quality in the team all made the decision an easy one. I'm excited by it.

"Of course, it's a challenge. You want to play in front of big crowds, and obviously when you're winning it's great for the fans to get behind you, you get a real push to drive the team on, so I'll enjoy it. I can't wait."

Departing the Kenny are defender Mark O'Brien, who had his contract terminated by mutual consent to allow him to sign for Newport County, and forward Josh McQuoid, who has joined Stevenage until the end of the season.

On the 27-year-old's loan switch to our Hertfordshire neighbours, boss Jones said: "Josh came to see me a while back and we spoke. He's been first class in everything he's done, a real good member of the squad. I just haven't been able to give him the amount of time that he probably requires at this stage of his career.

"It suited all parties. It's a local one so Josh doesn't have to move, he gets game time for them, plus we don't end up having a player who is stagnating. It was an agreement we had that we've both stuck to, so we wish him all the best."



"The main thing when you're playing football is to feel settled somewhere and enjoy where you are. I am settled here, so hopefully I can continue to put in some good performances and contribute towards our ultimate goal of promotion."

UP NEXT

CHELTENHAM TOWN

TOWN WILL FACE CHELTENHAM
FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS
SEASON AFTER THEY DREW 1-1
IN THE REVERSE FIXTURE AT
WHADDON ROAD.

FORMED: 1887 | NICKNAME: THE ROBINS | LAST SEASON: 1ST IN NATIONAL LEAGUE | FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @CTFCOFFICIAL | COLOURS: RED AND WHITE STRIPES | GROUND: WHADDON ROAD | MANAGER: GARY JOHNSON

WHO? Relegated from League Two in 2014-15, Cheltenham bounced back from the National League at the first attempt last season – the first club to achieve the feat as champions since Darlington in 1989-90. The Robins finished on 101 points and a club record goal difference of plus-57, with strikers Danny Wright and Dan Holman scoring 22 and 16 respectively to help them romp home 12 points clear of second-placed Forest Green Rovers. It was the second time Cheltenham have won promotion from Non-League having first been crowned Conference champs in 1998-99.

TICKETS Ticket prices for this fixture are on the opposite page, but there is also a special 3-for-2 offer for fans (see advert on page four).

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE This is the second time the Hatters will meet Cheltenham this season, after the 1-1 draw at Whaddon Road earlier on in the season. The match will be remembered by Town fans for Danny Hylton's fantastic individual effort, as he nutmegged a defender, before rounding the keeper and firing into the net in front of the travelling support. The sides have met a total of ten times, contesting five draws with the Hatters winning three and Cheltenham two.

IN CHARGE Ex-Peterborough United, Northampton Town and Yeovil Town boss Gary Johnson (above) has been in charge at Whaddon Road since March 2015, where he oversaw the last few games of the Robins' relegation from League Two and then immediate return to the division.



One of the 61-year-old's greatest achievements was guiding the Glovers to the Championship via the League One play-offs, at one point going on a run of eight consecutive League One wins.

PREVIOUS FORM: After a poor run of form in which the Robins went ten games without a win in the league, a 3-0 victory over Accrington Stanley alleviated some pressure off the shoulders of manager Johnson, as his side narrowly avoided falling into the relegation zone. Last Saturday, however, they suffered a seventh defeat in their last nine league matches at the hands of second-placed Plymouth, who won 2-1 at Whaddon Road.

KNOWING ME KNOWING YOU

The Hatters and the Robins have had a number of players represent both teams over the years. Town's Jake Gray and new signing Lawson D'Ath have both had short loan spells with Cheltenham in 2015 and 2012 respectively, whilst Asa Hall – who has been with Cheltenham since 2014 – made 89 appearances for the Town, scoring 16 goals. Amari Morgan-Smith made 48 appearances for Town, netting 18 times in a two season spell between 2010-12. He is currently loaned out from Cheltenham to National League side York City. Paul Benson had a short loan spell with the Robins from parent club Swindon Town, before going on to join the Hatters, whilst Ryan Inniss had a loan spell with both clubs, making three appearances for Town, scoring once.

GET YOUR TICKET



CHELTHENHAM
TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

TUESDAY 31ST JANUARY | 7:45PM

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



GRIMSBY TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY | 3PM

All remaining tickets are now on general sale and will remain that way until 2pm on Friday 3rd February.

Prices: Adult: £18, Seniors (65 and over): £11, Young Adults (15-18): £11, Accompanied Under-15: £5, Unaccompanied Under 15: £7, Student (with valid NUS card): £11, Ambulant Disabled: £18 with a Carer Free of Charge (higher rate DLA). One ticket will be allocated unless otherwise advised to ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk



YEOVIL TOWN

CHECKATRADE TROPHY

TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY | 7:45PM

Tickets for this fixture are priced at £5 for adults and free for under-16s, who have to obtain their ticket in advance of the game, as they will not be available on cash turnstiles.



CRAWLEY TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY | 3PM

Tickets for this category C fixture are now available from the ticket office.



HARTLEPOOL UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY | 7:45PM

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



DONCASTER ROVERS

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

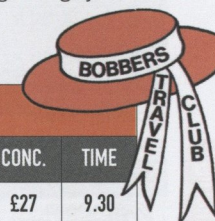
SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY | 3PM

We have received our first allocation of 858 stand tickets for our trip to Doncaster Rovers on Saturday 18th February. These tickets are now on sale to diamond season ticket holders at two per person until close of business on Wednesday 18th January. Tickets are available to season ticket holders at two per person until close of business on Wednesday 25th January. Any remaining tickets will go general sale on Thursday 26th January from the Ticket Office in person or via phone and also online. They will remain on sale until 2pm on Friday 17th February.

Prices: Adult: £20, Seniors (60 and over): £16, Young Adults (17-20): £12, Junior (12-16): £8, Junior 11 years & Under: £5. Junior tickets can be purchased at £5 for under-17s and £2 for under-12s if fans wish to join the FREE Doncaster Rovers Away squad membership scheme. Application forms must be completed in full. Ambulant Disabled will be charged their relevant age category with a helper FOC.

FARES AND DEPARTURE TIMES

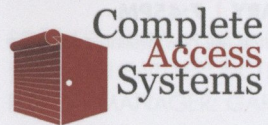
DATE	MATCH	ADULT	CONC.	TIME
Sat 4 Feb	Grimsby Town	£26	£27	9.30
Sat 18 Feb	Doncaster Rovers	£23	£20	10.00



For Bobbers Travel Club bookings: 01234 856542

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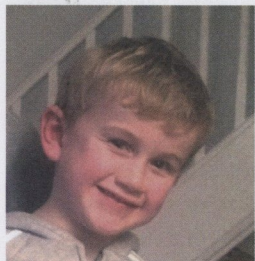
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TODAY'S MASCOTS:



GETHIN LEWIS

Age: 6

Favourite Player:
Jonathan Smith



THOMAS LEWIS

Age: 8

Favourite Player:
Jack Marriott



EWAN MCGRATH

Age: 11

Favourite Player: Cameron
McGeehan & Dan Potts



WOODY THOMPSON

Age: 9

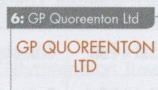
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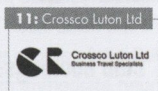
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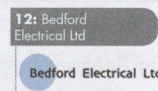
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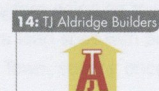
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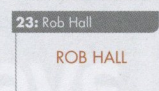
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KEY

H: HOME | A: AWAY | G: GLOVES



WELCOME CAMBRIDGE UNITED

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the staff, players and fans of this afternoon's visitors to Kenilworth Road, Cambridge United.

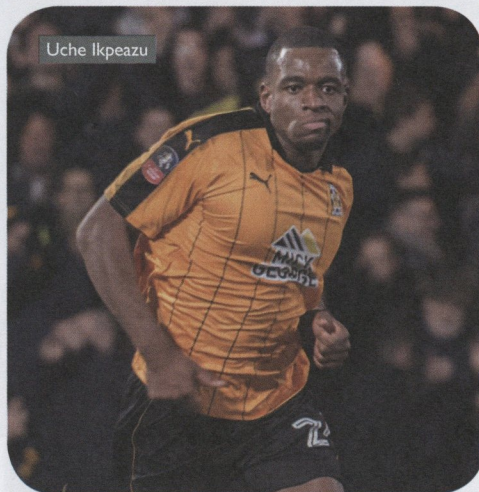
Now in their third season back in League Two after promotion from the National League alongside the Hatters, United have mounted a decent play-off push this season under former Notts County boss, Shaun Derry.

A nine-year spell in the top tier of Non-League football saw the U's twice finish runners-up as Scott Rendell's goals helped them reach the play-off semi-finals two years on the spin, but on both occasions they failed to gain promotion.

They put it right though in 2014 as another second-placed finish saw them beat Gateshead 2-1 at Wembley to gain entry back into the Football League.

After a slow start to the season for the U's, Shaun Derry's side are now on the rise, with today's match an important battle between two sides gunning for the top positions in the Sky Bet League Two.

With Uche Ikepeazu a handful up front and Luke Berry finding the goal regularly from midfield, United have found a nice balance forming throughout the side.



Uche Ikepeazu



Manager Shaun Derry

Berry is earmarked as one of the best players in the division and two seasons ago earned a big move to then League One side, Barnsley. However, after a season at Oakwell, he returned to the Cambs Glass Stadium and was the side's top scorer last season.

Derry's team didn't win any of their opening eight League Two matches this term – including a 3-0 home loss to the Hatters – but a huge turnaround in form saw them win 11 of 17 league games, shooting them up into the play-off places.

A home defeat to Mansfield last weekend brought that fantastic run to halt though. Leon Legge's own goal cancelled out George Maris' early strike, before Krystian Pearce and Shaquille Coulthirst scored for the Stags to give them an away win over the U's.

That result leaves United tenth, but only a point off seventh-placed Colchester on 40 points as well as having a game in hand.

Cambridge have added to their ranks this transfer window with the additions of Paul Lewis from Macclesfield Town, Jake Carroll from Hartlepool United and Scott Wharton from Blackburn Rovers.

Lewis notched six goals in 21 appearances this season for the National League Silkmen, whilst Carroll had made 25 appearances for the Monkey Hangers so far this term. Wharton joined on loan from Rovers to fill the gap left by the injured Tom Dallison and Josh Coulson in defence.

HATTERS V CAMBRIDGE

LUTON WINS: 14 | DRAWS: 15 | CAMBRIDGE WINS: 9

LAST MEETING

CAMBRIDGE 0-3 LUTON – 27TH AUGUST 2016

TEAM PROFILE:

NICKNAME: UNITED, THE U'S | GROUND: THE CAMBS GLASS STADIUM | LAST SEASON: 9TH IN LEAGUE TWO | MANAGER: SHAUN DERRY | LAST LEAGUE MATCH: CAMBRIDGE 1-3 MANSFIELD

MEET THE VISITORS

THE BOSS

SHAUN DERRY

After his spell as manager of boyhood club Notts County ended in March 2015, the former QPR and Crystal Palace midfielder took charge of Cambridge in November of that year.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

WILL NORRIS

The 23-year-old is now in his fifth season with the U's, having joined from Royston Town in 2012. Had a loan spell with National League side Braintree Town last season.

IN DEFENCE

GREG TAYLOR

The former Northampton Town man arrived at the Cambs Glass Stadium in 2013 after a season with the Hatters in which he made 43 appearances, scoring once.

LEON LEGGE

After starting his career in Non-League with Hailsham Town and Lewes, the 31-year-old has gone onto play for the likes of Brentford and Gillingham, before signing for Cambridge in 2015.

MARK ROBERTS

The ex-Crewe Alexandra, Stevenage and Fleetwood defender joined the U's at the same time as Legge and has since gone on to make over 50 appearances.

JAKE CARROLL

A recent signing from Hartlepool for an undisclosed fee, the 25-year-old made 74 appearances for Pools, signing a two-and-a-half year deal with his new team.

SCOTT WHARTON

The 19-year-old joined the U's last week on loan for the rest of the season from Blackburn Rovers, for whom he has made four appearances.

ACROSS THE MIDDLE

JAMES DUNNE

Since the 27-year-old was released as a youngster by Arsenal, he has gone onto play for the likes of Exeter City, Stevenage and Portsmouth. He joined United a year ago.

PIERO MINGOIA

A part of the successful Accrington Stanley side that reached the play-offs last season, Mingoia is a tricky midfielder who has been a regular in Shaun Derry's side this term.

LUKE BERRY

Berry is a goalscoring midfielder who has notched an impressive 15 goals so far this season. Now in his second stint at Cambridge after a season at Barnsley, the 24-year-old is closing in on 250 appearances for the U's.

PAUL LEWIS

The U's paid an undisclosed fee this month to sign the 22-year-old on a two-and-a-half year deal from Macclesfield, where he had spent his entire career so far, scoring 16 goals in 94 league games.

HARRISON DUNK

The 27-year-old winger has been at the Cambs Glass Stadium for almost six years having joined from Bromley.

UP FRONT

UCHE IKPEAZU

After his release from Watford in the summer, the 21-year-old has been in impressive form for Derry's side with his physical presence creating real problems for his opponents.

JOE PIGOTT

The former Charlton striker enjoyed a loan spell with the Hatters last season, scoring four times, including a fantastic long-range effort against Exeter. The 23-year-old joined United on a one year deal in the summer.

BEN WILLIAMSON

The ex-Gillingham forward joined Cambridge initially on loan before making the move permanent in the summer, and has made over 30 appearances for them so far this term.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

WITH **ANDREW BENNETT**

Andrew Bennett, a Cambridge United supporter of 47 years, gives us his thoughts on what lies in store for his team this season in Sky Bet League Two and this afternoon on their visit to Kenilworth Road...

► THE SEASON AHEAD

After starting so slowly, and seeing the U's at the bottom of the table for the first few weeks of the season, what or who has been the main reason behind the fantastic turnaround?

For me the number one reason is Uche Ikpeazu, of whom more later. In addition, Luke Berry has blossomed since being relieved of the weight of captaincy, new-boy Brad Halliday is the best right-back in the division and Mark Roberts is enjoying an Indian summer as half of an impregnable central defence pairing with Leon Legge.

Cambridge have been on a brilliant unbeaten run recently, which has seen you shoot up the table and into the play-off picture. Do you think you can maintain this momentum?

The only barrier to United's play-off ambitions is a rather thin squad in which certain players are all but irreplaceable. Shaun Derry has begun to address this problem but at the time of writing there is little to no adequate cover for key positions, particularly up front. The starting eleven has been playing some great stuff, though.

Uche Ikpeazu signed on a short-term deal at the start of the season for you and has proved a great asset, how important has he been for you?

Big Uche is the single most important signing this season, not just for his great strength, pace and deceptive skill, but because the whole team has been built around him, with Berry playing off him as a number 10. His attitude and influence have also been inspirational, and he is still only 21 years old. Plus, the other "strikers" in the squad have not been able to hit the proverbial cow's behind with a stringed instrument of any kind.

This is Shaun Derry's first full term in charge at the Cambs Glass Stadium. What about him has impressed you?

Shaun looked like a dead man walking when United were bottom of the table in September, but to his credit he remained positive and dignified and with the board's backing has shown that he can build an entertaining and successful side. He speaks simply but well and comes across as a proper football man.

Who have you been most impressed by so far this season for United?

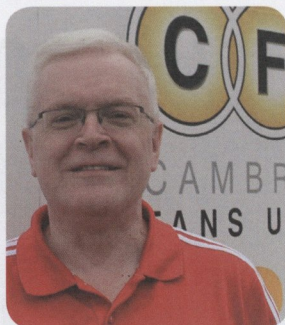
I have already mentioned some of our key players above, but plaudits must also go to James Dunne, the industrious heart of the side in midfield, goalkeeper Will Norris, who has resolved what was a real problem position last season, and Piero Mingoia, the best crosser of a ball this club has had for decades.

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

I can't say I was particularly devastated by the departure of any one player last year. Ryan Donaldson will always be an Abbey legend for his winning free-kick in 2014's Conference play-off final, but he had lost his way at United long before he left for Plymouth.

There must be a couple you are really pleased you kept hold of – who were you most pleased to see stay with the U's?

Will Norris looks to have a great future in the game, with several Championship clubs sniffing around him, and I am glad that popular local boy Josh Coulson stayed on for his testimonial season, even though it has already been ended by injury.



► SEASONS PAST...

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

United are my local team and my dad first took me to see them for a 3-0 Southern League defeat of Gloucester City on 13 April 1970. I was hooked immediately, although my memories of that time are hazy now, just flashes of huge stands (well they seemed huge), the noise of the crowd and an overwhelming smell of onions and cigarette smoke. It hasn't changed much, apart from the smoke.

What do you love most about the Cambs Glass Stadium?

Its intimacy, character and sense of history. Basically it feels like home in a way that a shiny new tin box attached to a JD Sports outlet on the outskirts of town never could.

Who's your favourite Cambridge United player of all time?

Dion Dublin. A prince among men, a true inspiration and he still mentions the club whenever he gets the chance. And now he's a media polymath too.

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

1991-92, when we lost in the play-offs for the inaugural Premier League. For much of that season we looked unbeatable and were the talk of the country, but in the end John Beck's inflexibility worked against them.

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

Bill Leivers, John Beck, Dave Kitson, Dion Dublin, Alan Biley.

► LUTON AND CAMBRIDGE

Town's and Cambridge's last match ended with a 3-0 win for the Hatters, how different is your team now compared to then?

About half of the faces will have changed, but the main difference will be in their confidence and attitude. In that respect the entire XI will be unrecognisable.

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

I usually fear the worst and hope for the best, and I would expect a

score draw, say 1-1. Sadly work will keep me away from the match but I won't miss your away end with its leg room which is only adequate for pygmies....!

Who should the Hatters defence be most wary of in this afternoon's match?

Uche Ikpeazu. You might have gathered by now that he's really rather dangerous.

► QUICK-FIRE:

Terrace or seats? Terrace, always.

Who are your rivals? Peterborough, with Luton as temporary stand-ins.

Predict your player of the season? Uche Ikpeazu.

If you could bring one player from the past back in the Cambridge team, who would it be? Dion Dublin.

Most treasured United piece of memorabilia?

A Cambs League Division III winner's medal from 1921-22, the club's first season of competitive football.

What league will Cambridge United be in next season?

League Two. I don't want to get my hopes up too much.

Who will be promoted from Sky Bet League Two this season?

Doncaster, Plymouth, Carlisle and Portsmouth.

*The first volume of Andrew's five-part history of the club, 'Newmarket Road Roughs,' was published last November, and his match reports appear on the Facebook site of 100 Years of Coconuts, the history arm of the club's fans' trust.

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[LEIGH EDWARDS ON CAMBRIDGE]

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

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WILF MANNION



Former England international inside-forward Wilf Mannion was capped 26 times before joining Cambridge United. Initially with South Bank, he joined Middlesbrough

in September 1936 and helped Boro finish in the top five in two consecutive seasons. The 'Golden Boy' was leading marksman in 1952-53, moving to Hull City in December 1954. He had a brief spell with Poole Town prior to joining Cambridge United in August 1956, netting 16 goals in 56 Eastern Counties League games while at Abbey Stadium. Later playing for King's Lynn, Haverhill Rovers and Earlestown, he resided back on Teesside until his death in April 2000.

IAN HUTCHINSON

Striker Ian Hutchinson gained England Under-23 honours after leaving Cambridge United. Rejected by Nottingham Forest and Derby County, the former Rolls Royce apprentice played for Burton Albion before moving to Cambridge United in February 1968. He netted six goals in 16 Southern League games while at Abbey Stadium prior to joining Chelsea in July 1968. Noted for his long throws, he starred as they won the FA Cup in 1970, but a series of injuries wrecked a potentially great career. Later a licensee, he became steward at the Royal British Legion Club in Isleworth and died after a long illness in September 2002.

BRENDAN BATSON



Stylish right-back Brendan Batson starred in Cambridge United's 1976-77 Fourth Division title triumph. Signing professional for Arsenal in June 1971,

he gained top-flight experience before moving to Abbey Stadium in January 1974. He also featured in Cambridge's 1977-78 promotion success and netted six goals in 162 League games before following Ron Atkinson to West Brom in February 1978. The England B international featured in three UEFA Cup campaigns and when a knee injury ended his playing career he became PFA deputy chief executive. He then rejoined West Brom for a spell as chief executive.

MICK LEACH

One-time Cambridge United midfielder Mick Leach helped QPR to win promotion in two consecutive seasons. He turned professional with Rangers in February 1964 and scored on his League debut a year later. A promotion winner again in 1972-73, he was an experienced figure as they were League Championship runners-up in 1975-76 and had a testimonial match against Red Star Belgrade. He moved via a spell with Detroit Express to Cambridge United in September 1978 and scored once in 19 League games while at Abbey stadium. Later player-manager of Leatherhead and Dulwich Hamlet, he died in January 1992.



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ANDY SINTON

Skilful winger Andy Sinton was capped 12 times by England after leaving Cambridge United. He was Cambridge's youngest-ever League player at 16 years 228 days in November 1982, and starred in a struggling side, netting 13 goals in 93 League games while at Abbey Stadium before moving to Brentford in December 1985. He joined QPR in March 1989 and followed Trevor Francis to Sheffield Wednesday for £2.75m in August 1993. Moving to Tottenham Hotspur in January 1996, he featured in their 1999 League Cup final success, then played for Wolves and Burton. He has managed Fleet and Telford United.

DAVID MOYES

Former Cambridge United central defender David Moyes has become a successful manager. Initially with Celtic, he joined Cambridge in October 1983 and scored once in 79 League games, moving to Bristol City in October 1985. He featured in two Freight Rover Trophy finals and joined Shrewsbury in October 1987. Ever-present in 1989-90, he then played for Dunfermline and Hamilton, moving to Preston in September 1993. Starring in their 1995-96 Third Division title triumph, he became manager in January 1998 and plotted further promotion, since managing Everton, Manchester United, Real Sociedad and Sunderland.

MIKE FLANAGAN

Ex-England Youth striker Mike Flanagan ended his League career with Cambridge United. A former Spurs junior, he turned professional with Charlton Athletic in August 1971 and starred alongside Derek Hales in their 1974-75 promotion success. He was twice top scorer prior to joining Crystal Palace in August 1979 and followed Terry Venables to QPR in December 1980, featuring in the 1982 FA Cup final. Rejoining Charlton in January 1984, he helped return to the top-flight in 1985-86 and moved to Cambridge United in September 1986. He netted three goals in nine League games, since holding coaching and managerial posts.

DION DUBLIN

Striker Dion Dublin was capped four times by England after leaving Cambridge United. Initially with Oakham United, he had a spell with Norwich City before moving to Cambridge in August 1988. He was top scorer in their meteoric rise under John Beck and netted 52 goals in 156 League games before sold to Manchester United for £1m in August 1992. Moving to Coventry City for £2m in September 1994, he joined Aston Villa for £5.75m in

[LEIGH EDWARDS ON CAMBRIDGE]



November 1998. He featured in the 2000 FA Cup final, then played for Leicester, Celtic and Norwich again. Now a TV co-presenter of 'Homes under the Hammer'.

CLIVE WILSON

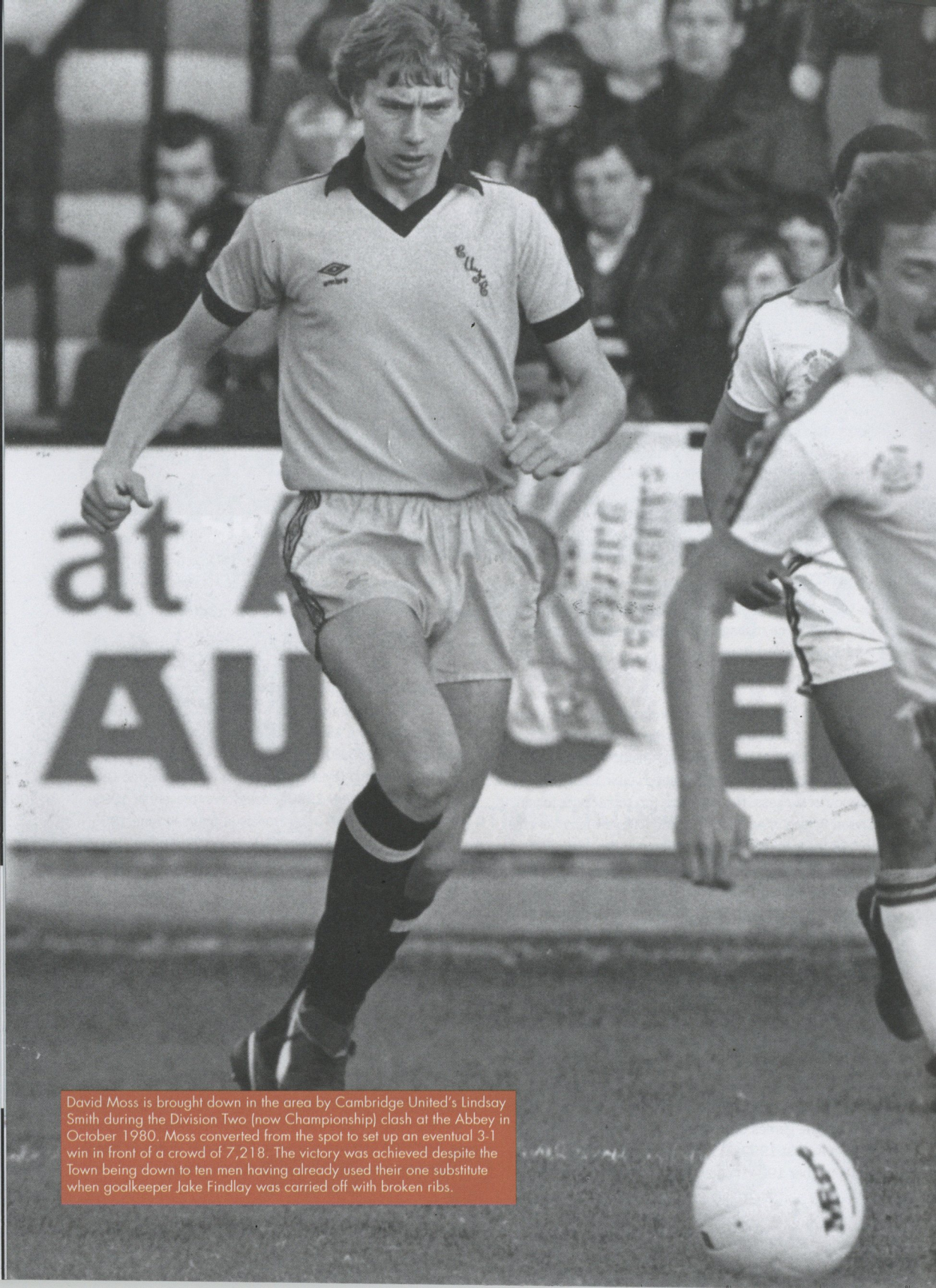
One-time Cambridge United left-back Clive Wilson starred as QPR finished fifth in the Premier League in 1992-93. He turned professional with Manchester City in December 1979, helping them regain top-flight status in 1984-85 and playing in the 1986 Full Members Cup final. Joining Chelsea for £250,000 in May 1987, he featured in their 1988-89 Second Division title triumph and moved to QPR for £450,000 in July 1990. He was ever-present in 1993-94 and reunited with Gerry Francis at Spurs in June 1995. Moving to Cambridge United in August 1999, he made 27 League appearances, then played for Wingate & Finchley.

IWAN ROBERTS

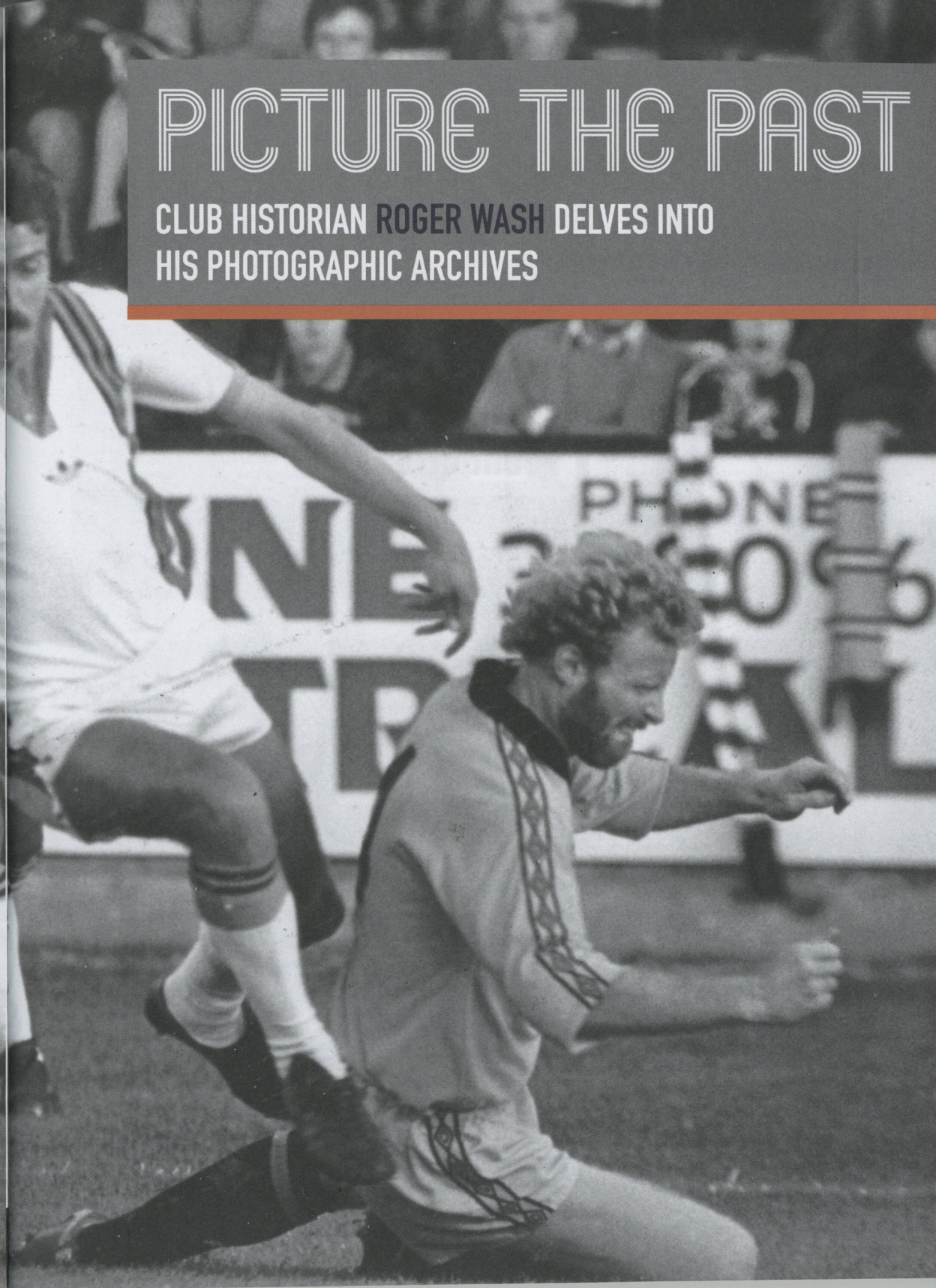
Former Welsh international striker Iwan Roberts had a loan spell at Cambridge United in 2004-05. Initially with Watford, he joined Huddersfield Town in August 1990 and was leading scorer three times, moving to Leicester City in November 1993. He was top scorer in their 1993-94 and 1995-96 promotion campaigns, reuniting with Mark McGhee at Wolves in July 1996. Sold to Norwich City for £900,000 in July 1997, he was top scorer three times and helped them win the First Division title in 2003-04. He joined Gillingham in July 2004 and was loaned to Cambridge United in March 2005, netting three goals in 11 League games.

PICTURE THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO
HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES



David Moss is brought down in the area by Cambridge United's Lindsay Smith during the Division Two (now Championship) clash at the Abbey in October 1980. Moss converted from the spot to set up an eventual 3-1 win in front of a crowd of 7,218. The victory was achieved despite the Town being down to ten men having already used their one substitute when goalkeeper Jake Findlay was carried off with broken ribs.



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Self-destruction complete as U's gift Hatters lifeline

AS OTHERS SAW US

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

CAMBRIDGE UNITED 3 LUTON TOWN 4 | 26TH SEPTEMBER 2009 | BLUE SQUARE PREMIER

The Town kicked off the 2009/10 campaign in uncharted territory. Relegated from the Football League in acrimonious circumstances, we could either feel sorry for ourselves or fight to get back at the first attempt.

There were many comings and goings on the playing side over the summer and by the time of the opening day fixture at newly promoted AFC Wimbledon, enthusiasm was high amongst the supporters and although the subsequent 1-1 draw was perhaps not the start we wanted, all was well following a 4-1 win over Mansfield in our first home game three days later.

In truth that hammering of the Stags proved to be the only real bright spot in the early part of the season as although more wins were picked up, we were less than convincing as we

struggled to come to terms with our new environment.

Our first defeat came at table toppers Oxford on 8th September, but two weeks later came a miserable 3-0 reversal at Wrexham which manager Mick Harford described as the 'worst performance in Luton Town's history'. We had one effort on target throughout the 90 minutes and that came from central defender George Pilkington, leading to Wrexham manager Dean Saunders claiming afterwards that his side could have netted ten.

There was little time to dust down the players as next up was a trip to Cambridge to take on a United side we had not crossed swords with for points since March 2001. Despite our less than scintillating form, we took 1,784 supporters to the Abbey swelling the crowd to a best of season 4,870.

Surprisingly, given the poor performance earlier in the week, there was only one change to the starting line-up with Jake Howells being preferred to Tom Craddock as Harford reverted to a 4-4-2 formation.

CAMBRIDGE UTD 3
 P11 20, Hatter pen 33, 09

COMEBACK KIDS MAKE MICK PROUD

WE'VE DONE IT: Luton players celebrate their amazing victory

By Stuart Hammonds

Luton had started in a style their manager would have liked, mixing pace-challenges and adopting a shoot on sight policy. It was against the run of play that the home side went ahead, Mark Swalesy teasing up Courtney Pitt for a near-post finish. The Hatters continued to probe, but were undone again when Alan

THE NLP STAR MATCH

Luton Town's under-fire players produced one of THE great comebacks to see off Cambridge in a seven-goal thriller and ease the pressure on manager Mick Harford. The Kenilworth Road boss had described the 3-0 midweek defeat at Wrexham as the worst performance

[ROGER WASH]

"One of THE great comebacks"

HATTERS SHOW THEY HAVE THE RIGHT STUFF

IS THIS the game that turns Luton Town's season and sends them back into the League at the first time of asking? In times of adversity, a manager looks for

THE VERDICT

to get at home support on the Habbins terrace.



The Town were quite bright in the opening exchanges, but it was the home side who took the lead on 20 minutes when ex-Hatter Courtney Pitt on the Cambridge wing was teed up on the edge of the box to squeeze his shot past Mark Tyler in the Luton goal.

Ten minutes later referee Bobby Madley made an awful decision when gifting the hosts a penalty for a non-existent foul by Alan White on United's Anthony Tonkin. The Town's Liam Hatch was booked for arguing with the official before Chris Holroyd netted from the spot. Cambridge were now two up with their only two efforts on target.

Worse was to follow with Hatch dismissed just before the interval for a harsh second yellow card after sliding in to Paul Carden, and with it, seemingly all hopes were lost for saving the game.



Rossi Jarvis curls home the equaliser

GALVANISING

Whatever was said at the interval obviously had a galvanising effect on the ten men of Luton as within three minutes of the re-start, a goal had been pulled back when White's header from a Rossi Jarvis corner was pushed off the line by United keeper Danny Potter, only for Kevin Gallen to scramble the ball home.

Claude Gnaka, who had been given a torrid time by Pitt, was fortunate to escape a second yellow for a poor tackle, but he was swiftly hooked off by Harford as he was a red card waiting to happen.

On the hour mark, Jarvis drove forward from midfield and, after exchanging passes with Gallen, curled a sublime strike into the top corner. This was quickly followed by Howells' first goal for the club when he was first to the ball after Potter could not hold a shot from Gallen.

Sadly, the lead lasted only six minutes before Dan Gleeson fired in a cross that was eventually converted by Holroyd.

The referee then took centre stage again when, with 16 minutes left, he spotted a shirt pull on White in the area following a corner, with Gallen sending Potter the wrong way from the spot.

Despite a treble United substitution, the Town managed to hang on for a famous victory against the odds.

United boss Martin Ling made much mileage of the failure of the referee to dismiss Gnaka when the score was 2-1, and this decision was highlighted by Aaron Mason in the Cambridge News.

Mason did say though that wastefulness by the Town in the first half prevented them from being ahead at the interval, and that Ling's side had shot themselves spectacularly in the foot with a mad 20 minutes at the start of the second period.

Stuart Hammonds (no doubt pulling rank to attend this local game) in The Non-League Paper confirmed that 'Luton Town's under-fire players produced one of THE great comebacks to see off Cambridge.'

TOWN 3 : BARNET 1

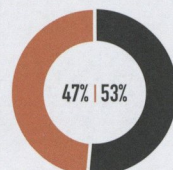
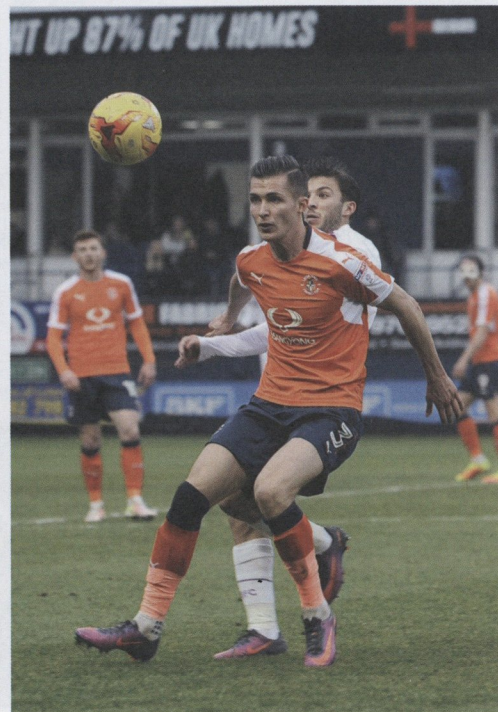


SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER | KENILWORTH ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 8,262 | AWAY: 494

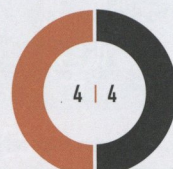
TOWN GOALS: SHEEHAN 31, MCGEEHAN 49, GILLIEAD 56 | **BARNET GOAL:** DEMBELE 38

TOWN: WALTON, O'DONNELL, MULLINS, CUTHBERT (C), SHEEHAN (JUSTIN 63), POTTS (GILLIEAD 28), REA, SMITH, MCGEEHAN (LEE 87), COOK, HYLTON. **SUBS NOT USED:** GRAY, MARRIOTT, MCQUOID, KING (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** MCGEEHAN, WALTON, REA, GILLIEAD.

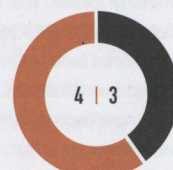
BARNET: STEPHENS, VILHETE, DEMBELE, NELSON (C), JOHNSON, WESTON, J TAYLOR, CAMPBELL-RYCE (AKPA AKPRO 53), AKINDE, GAMBIN (MUGGLETON 73), NICHOLLS (KYEI 68). **SUBS NOT USED:** VICKERS, H TAYLOR, SESAY, WATSON | **YELLOW CARDS:** DEMBELE, MUGGLETON



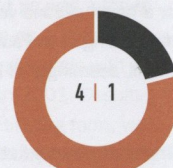
POSSESSION



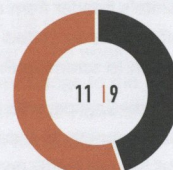
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



OFFSIDES



FOULS

STORY OF THE MATCH:

The Hatters ended 2016 on a real high after a convincing victory over play-off hopefuls Barnet.

Goals from Alan Sheehan, Cameron McGeehan and Alex Gilliead secured the win with efforts of real quality in front of another big Kenilworth Road crowd.

Sheehan bagged his second of the season – another set-piece – as he curled a free-kick from 25 yards into the top left corner in emphatic fashion, before Bira Dembele levelled

the score before the break with a far post tap in from the edge of the six yard area.

McGeehan made it 15 goals in 2016 with an acrobatic finish from inside the box four minutes after the restart, restoring the Town's lead. Alex Gilliead then wrapped up the three points with a clever finish from the edge of the box into the bottom right of Jamie Stephen's goal just seven minutes later, rewarding the Hatters with the well-deserved three points.



JONES: They deserved the win and I am very pleased.

"I am really pleased because it was a difficult first 45 minutes and Barnet played well.

"They are a good side and to be fair, they have got some really good players, some physical players, some technical players.

"We stuttered a little bit. We started very well actually and maybe could have taken the lead in the first 15 minutes, we were really on the front foot and then it's quite an even game.

"We've got a goal from a wonderful free-kick. They scored from a little bit of second phase, so at half-time it was

probably a fair result. In the second half, we asked them to come out and lift the tempo a little bit and they did that.

"They deserved the win and I am very pleased.

"We made changes not because of the defeat to Colchester, but because of the squad we have and the close proximity of three games, plus Accrington after that. We made changes to freshen up the team to give us a real impetus.

"We have got a hungry group that wants to prove that they can play, and that was the case today."

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PORTSMOUTH 1 : TOWN 0



MONDAY 2ND JANUARY | FRATTTON PARK | ATTENDANCE: 17,402 | AWAY: 17,402

PORTSMOUTH GOAL: BURGESS 31

POMPEY: FORDE, STEVENS, ROSE (LINGANZI 84), CLARKE, BURGESS, BAKER (HUNT 80), DOYLE (C), SMITH, NAISMITH, BENNETT (ROBERTS 68), EVANS. **SUBS NOT USED:** O'BRIEN (GK), LALKOVIC, WHATMOUGH, CHAPLIN. | **YELLOW CARDS:** FORDE, STEVENS

TOWN: WALTON, O'DONNELL, CUTHBERT, MULLINS, JUSTIN, REA, SMITH, MCGEEHAN (MPANZU 20), GILLIEAD (LEE 54), COOK (VASSELL 54), HYLTON. **SUBS NOT USED:** MARRIOTT, SENIOR, MCQUOID, KING (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** MCGEEHAN, SMITH, VASSELL, MPANZU



STORY OF THE MATCH:

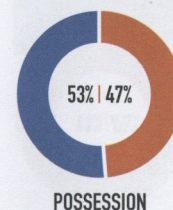
The Hatters suffered their first away defeat in ten matches in all competitions at Portsmouth, as 2017 got off to the worst possible start with 11-goal midfielder Cameron McGeehan suffering a broken leg at Fratton Park.

The 21-year-old went to challenge Pompey captain Michael Doyle and got his foot caught in the turf with 13 minutes gone.

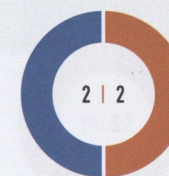
He was stretchered off seven minutes later and just after the half-hour, the hosts took the lead when Christian

Burgess powered home a header from a corner on the right, with Town unable to reply, despite dominating a second half in which Danny Hylton went closest to scoring with a chip that came back off the bar.

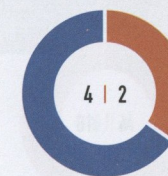
"I thought we were poor first half, we lacked bravery," said manager Nathan Jones. "You know when you come here you have got to be brave. You don't come here and try and sit back and contain anyone. Second half was a totally different affair and I thought we were excellent."



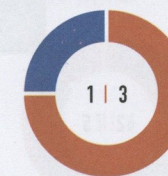
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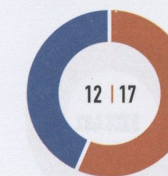
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



OFFSIDES



FOULS

ACCRINGTON 2 : TOWN 1



SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY | FA CUP R2 | WHAM STADIUM | ATTENDANCE: 1,717 | AWAY: 482

STANLEY GOALS: MCCONVILLE 45+1, BECKLES 57 | **TOWN GOAL:** GRAY: 54

STANLEY: CHAPMAN, PEARSON, BECKLES, HUGHES, DONACIEN, O'SULLIVAN (CLARK 72), BROWN, CONNEELY, MCCONVILLE, KEE, EDWARDS (BOCO 86). **SUBS NOT USED:** DAVIES, GORNELL, MCCARTAN, RODGERS, PARISH.

TOWN: WALTON, JUSTIN, REA, CUTHBERT (O'DONNELL 40), MULLINS, SHEEHAN, LEE (MARRIOTT 51), SMITH (MPANZU 58), GRAY, MCQUOID, VASSELL. **SUBS NOT USED:** COOK, SENIOR, D'ATH, KING (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** SMITH, REA | **RED CARD:** REA

STORY OF THE MATCH:

The Hatters went crashing out of the Emirates FA Cup as Sky Bet League Two rivals Accrington Stanley progressed to the fourth round with a 2-1 win over Nathan Jones' side.

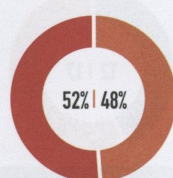
Jake Gray's third goal of the season early on in the second half had dragged the Town back into the match after Sean McConville had fired the hosts in front in first-half injury time.

But Omar Beckles glanced in a winner three minutes later, and although Jones' men had several chances to draw level before Glen Rea's injury-time dismissal for a second yellow card, it was Stanley who progressed into the next stage of the competition.

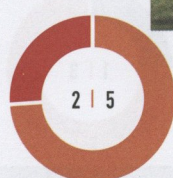
Jones said: "I feel we should have got something from the game, but we went out with a bit of a whimper. We got in two or three times, we had a couple of one-one chances. But we didn't really show like a top club at this level that we really wanted to win it."



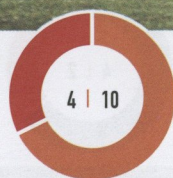
Jake Gray nets the Town goal



POSSESSION



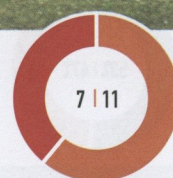
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



OFFSIDES



FOULS

TOWN 4 : CHESTERFIELD 0



TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY | CHECKATRADE TROPHY ROUND THREE | ATTENDANCE: 1,655 | AWAY: 152

TOWN GOALS: : MACKAIL-SMITH 23, MARRIOTT 25, 51, VASSELL 86

TOWN: WALTON, O'DONNELL, MUSONDA, REA, SENIOR, MPANZU, SMITH ©, GRAY (LEE 62), COOK, MARRIOTT (VASSELL 77), MACKAIL-SMITH (BANTON 77). **SUBS NOT USED:** MULLINS, BAKINSON, KING (GK), COTTER.

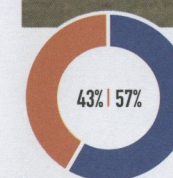
CHESTERFIELD: ALLINSON, HIRD ©, EVATT, GARDNER (MITCHELL 75), O'NEIL, DIMAIO, SIMONS (DENNIS 56), O'SHEA, MAGUIRE, ARIYIBI (NOLAN 56), BEESLEY. **SUBS NOT USED:** PARKIN (GK), MARTINEZ, DALY, GERMAN. | **YELLOW CARD:** MAGUIRE.



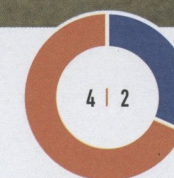
Craig Mackail-Smith nets the opener from the spot



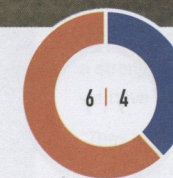
Jack Marriott fires in the third goal



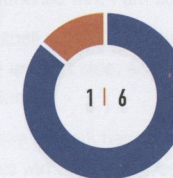
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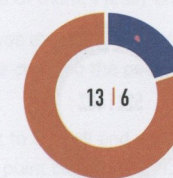
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



CORNERS



FOULS

STORY OF THE MATCH:

The Hatters moved to within two rounds of Wembley after turning in a four-midable performance to knock yet another higher-level side out of the Checkatrade Trophy.

Chesterfield might be involved in a League One relegation battle and were without a permanent manager following the sacking of former Town hero Danny Wilson two days before the game, but the Hatters showed no mercy.

Craig Mackail-Smith netted his first goal in almost 11 months from the penalty spot after being fouled when latching onto a Jack Marriott throughball.

Marriott then scored twice, one either side of half-time, before substitute Isaac Vassell bagged an emphatic fourth just before the end to send the Spireites the same way as Gillingham, West Brom and Swindon, as the Town booked a place in the quarter-finals.

Manager Nathan Jones said: "It was wonderful, a bit more like us. After the weekend at Accrington when we weren't really at it, that was a team that was right at it. From the word go we really went for the jugular."

CREWE ALEXANDRA 1 : TOWN 2



SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY | GREYSTY ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 4,368 | AWAY: 995

CREWE GOAL: LOWE 28 | **TOWN GOALS:** MARRIOTT 45, GRAY 69

CREWE: GARRATT, TURTON, GUTHRIE, RAY, BAKAYOGO (SAUNDERS 76), KIWOMYA, JONES, HOLLANDS (WINTLE 85), COOPER, KIRK (DAGNALL 65), LOWE. **SUBS NOT USED:** RICHARDS (GK), NUGENT, UDOH, AINLEY. | **YELLOW CARDS:** HOLLANDS, TURTON

TOWN: WALTON, JUSTIN, CUTHBERT ©, MULLINS, SHEEHAN, MPANZU, GRAY, D'ATH (SENIOR 56), COOK (SMITH 56), HYLTON, MARRIOTT (VASSELL 86). **SUBS NOT USED:** O'DONNELL, MACKAIL-SMITH, LEE, KING (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** COOK, SHEEHAN | **RED CARD:** SHEEHAN

STORY OF THE MATCH:

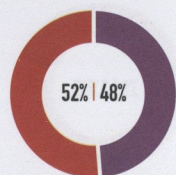
The Hatters moved back up into the Sky Bet League Two play-off places with a monumental come-from-behind win at Crewe Alexandra after playing all but eight minutes of the second half with ten men after defender Alan Sheehan was sent off.

Jack Marriott cancelled out Ryan Lowe's opener on the stroke of half-time for his ninth goal of the season, before midfielder Jake Gray scored his fourth – one in each competition the Hatters have competed in – to seal three points after Sheehan's 53rd-minute dismissal.

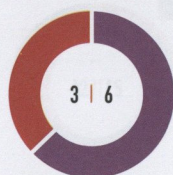
Boss Jones described the victory as "massive" in terms of the current campaign – and in historical terms it was too, his side recording what is only the club's second win in 11 attempts at Greysty Road, the other coming in 2002.

Lowe smartly curled home Alex Kiwomya's through ball after 28 minutes to give the hosts the lead, but Marriott continued his recent scoring form as his powerful effort squirmed under home keeper Ben Garratt to bring the game level.

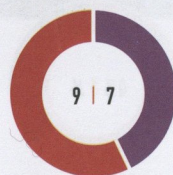
Sheehan was shown his second yellow for a late challenge on Kiwomya, before Jake Gray converted Danny Hylton's cross from close range to give the Hatters an unlikely lead and eventual victory, after surviving a late barrage of crosses into the Town box with some sterling defensive performances.



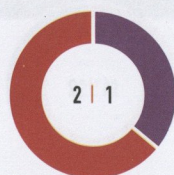
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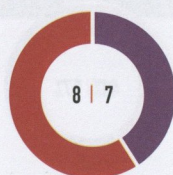
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



OFFSIDES



FOULS



Jack Marriott hits the Town's equaliser



JONES:

It was a wonderful, wonderful performance



"Superb, honestly superb. I say this quite a lot, I am so proud of them.

"We were brave again. We kept two up top because we wanted to win the game.

"We felt we were good enough to win the game, even with ten, and I thought we were outstanding to a man.

"From our goalkeeper, with late punches – brave; our two centre-halves did superbly well and little Jack Senior came on, with telling contributions.

"Pelly-Ruddock did superbly well; Jake Gray with another goal; Hylton gave an immense performance; Marriott a bit of danger.

"Every single one of them, I'm absolutely delighted. It was a wonderful, wonderful performance and it should have been more, because we have had some great chances even with ten men.

"Look, not to take away anything and not to overplay it – it's a big win. It's an immense win. I am so proud of them, I really am.

"Some of the football we played at times was excellent. We are a strong side, we are a fit side, and that's a credit to the people we have at the club.

"They show a desire to work hard and want to do well and want to win games. This win could be a real key point of the season."

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[JACK SENIOR ON CREWE]

JACK'S 20TH BIRTHDAY GIFT IS LEAGUE DEBUT!

Summer signing Jack Senior celebrated his birthday on Friday 13th, but it certainly wasn't unlucky as the day after that he received the greatest gift of all.

Alan Sheehan's dismissal with 53 minutes on the clock against Crewe Alexandra saw Town boss Nathan Jones bring on the former Huddersfield left-back to make his Football League debut with the score level at 1-1.

Although he didn't directly contribute to taking the lead, the 20-year-old certainly helped maintain it, as he stood up to every challenge as Crewe's danger man Alex Kiwomya threatened down the right and impressed as the Hatters eventually saw out the 2-1 victory.

UNBELIEVABLE

He said: "First and foremost it was an unbelievable win, especially in the circumstances as we went down to ten men.

"I think the lads put in a great shift to see out the game. Overall I enjoyed it very much, getting my first run-out in the League. Hopefully there is many more to come!

"It's my first appearance in the Football League, so it's a nice little birthday present. I am overwhelmed!

"I am going to take some time with the family tonight as I haven't seen them for a while. It was a different kind of birthday spending it on the coach and in a hotel, but with the three points it's more than worthwhile."

In his Press conference prior to the match, Jones was asked about Senior, with the Hatters manager saying: "He presses, he goes and backs himself, he's excellent in possession, he has a load of character about him."

This led to speculation that the left-back would be involved in some way in the match against the Railwaymen, but the August deadline day signing didn't let the pressure get to him.

"After the game against Chesterfield, there were little rumours here and there that I could have been playing, but I didn't let that affect me in training or whatever," Senior continued. "I got my head down and tried to do the best I can.

"Obviously, you never know what might happen in football, but I made sure I was right and prepared well.

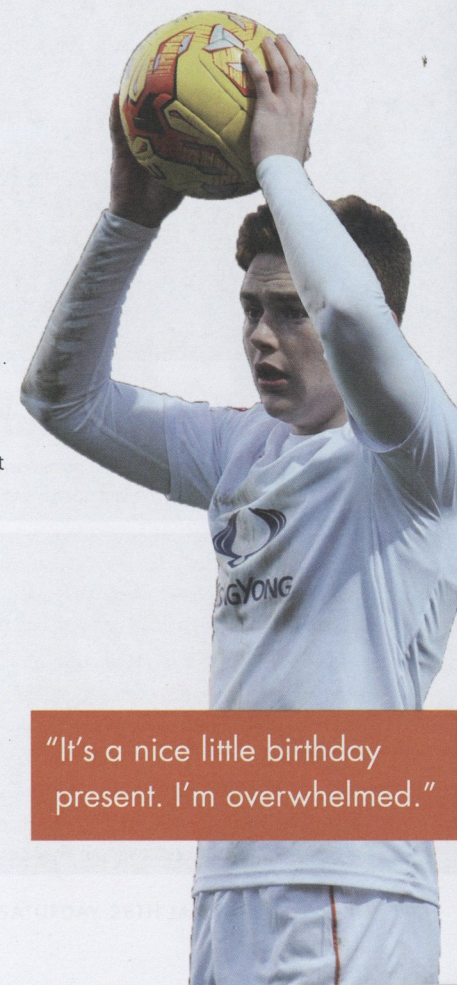
"When I came on, I tried my best just to keep them out and we did in the end, so I am very pleased overall."

It wasn't just Jones who was impressed by Senior's performance, as the defender was cheered on by almost 1000 travelling Hatters who just so happened to be in the stand that was parallel to the side that the man who wears the number 21 shirt was covering.

Senior said: "The fans were brilliant, you could see they filled the whole

stand, out-singing the Crewe fans for 90 minutes.

"It gives you so much confidence just to do your best for the fans, as well as your team-mates, when they're shouting your name, encouraging you as much as they do."



"It's a nice little birthday present. I'm overwhelmed."

WYCOMBE 1 : TOWN 1

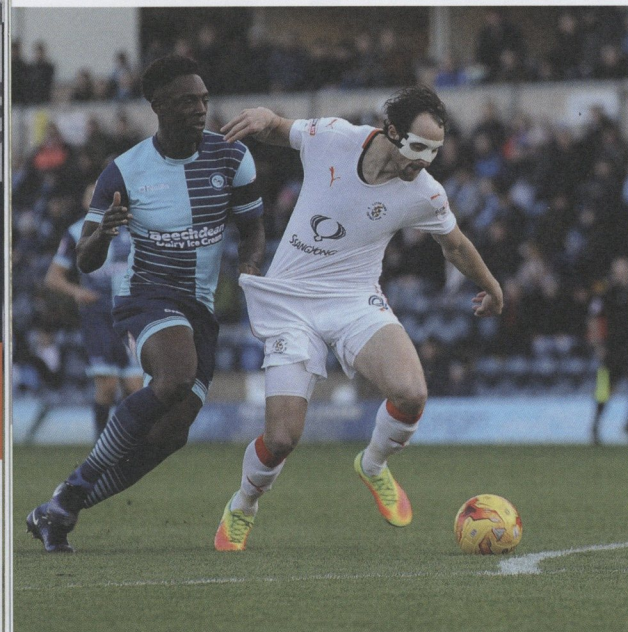


SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY | ADAMS PARK | ATTENDANCE: 5,387 | AWAY: 1,800

WYCOMBE GOAL: AKINFENWA 82 | **TOWN GOAL:** CUTHBERT 57

WYCOMBE: BLACKMAN, JOMBATI, STEWART, PIERRE, JACOBSON, O'NIEN, GAPE, WOOD, COWAN-HALL (KASHKET 66), HAYES (SAUNDERS 66), AKINFENWA. **SUBS NOT USED:** RICHARDSON (GK), THOMPSON, BEAN, WESTON, DE HAVILLAND. | **YELLOW CARDS:** PIERRE, O'NIEN, STEWART

TOWN: WALTON, JUSTIN, CUTHBERT, MULLINS, SENIOR, MPANZU, SMITH, GRAY (REA 72), GAMBIN, HYLTON (VASSELL 72), MARRIOTT (O'DONNELL 88). **SUBS NOT USED:** COOK, MACKAIL-SMITH, D'ATH, KING (GK) | **YELLOW CARDS:** MPANZU, SMITH, HYLTON, CUTHBERT, GAMBIN | **RED CARD:** MULLINS



STORY OF THE MATCH:

The Hatters brought a hard-earned point back from last Saturday's fifth versus sixth clash with Wycombe at Adams Park, after playing the last quarter-of-an-hour with ten men following the dismissal of centre-half Johnny Mullins.

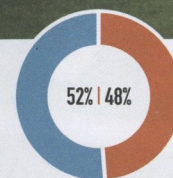
Nathan Jones' boys were leading 1-0 at the time through Scott Cuthbert's 57th minute header, but Wycombe striker Adebayo Akinfenwa levelled within seven minutes of Mullins' straight red for a foul on Chairboys' substitute Scott Kashket, and the Town had to settle for a share of the spoils.

Cuthbert's first goal in 65 appearances – a glancing header past Jamal Blackman 12 minutes after the restart – put the visitors in control. But a heavy touch from Mullins on the edge of his own area allowed Kashket to pinch the ball and in his attempts to win it back, the Town defender brought the home forward down.

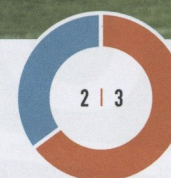
Unlike the previous week at Crewe where Town had managed to win all three points with ten men, Akinfenwa powered a header from ten yards past Walton to bring the scores level on 82 minutes, and the Hatters had to settle for the draw despite Isaac Vassell going close late on.



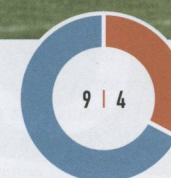
Scott Cuthbert heads the Town in front



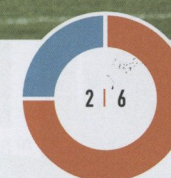
POSSESSION



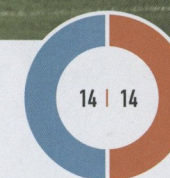
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



CORNERS



FOULS

JONES: I felt we had all the best chances in the game



"I'm a little bit disappointed because I felt we were the better side and created the better chances. I felt we dealt with everything from their build-up, which we knew was going to be direct and physical. We dealt with that very well.

"I felt we had all the best chances in the game. We scored from a corner, but we had chances first half and second half we had a great chance with Jack Marriott that would have probably won us the game, so I'm a little bit disappointed.

"I felt second half we were even better. I thought we were excellent. We got the goal and then we tried to get another goal and we were on the front foot.

"Undoubtedly Mullins' red card turned the game. We were comfortable, and we were looking for the second and that stunted us. We had to change a little bit and it gave them a bit of impetus.

"But all in all, to come here and get a result against a side who are in real good form shows what a good side we are."



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[PELLY-RUDDOCK MPANZU ON WYCOMBE]

PELLY'S IN POSITION AT LAST

MIDFIELDER MAKING THE MOST OF HOLDING ROLE CHANCE

A return to the starting XI after a spell on the substitutes' bench has seen Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu thrive in a holding midfield role, a position he once again occupied as the Hatters earned a big point at Wycombe.

Town captain Scott Cuthbert headed the Hatters in front at Adams Park after the break, but the game turned when his fellow centre-half Johnny Mullins was shown a straight red for a late challenge on Scott Kashket.

Adebayo Akinfenwa headed his side level with eight minutes of normal time remaining to see the game end in a draw.

"I thought we were in control for most of the game," Pelly said after the full-time whistle. "Jack Marriott hit one sweetly and hit the crossbar. Chris Walton had a couple of catches to make, but the red card kind of killed us and then they scored a good header from Akinfenwa.

CHANCES

"We had to try and shut up shop and try and grind it out with ten men, but obviously once you're down to ten men, they're going to get chances and get crosses in. Unfortunately, Akinfenwa peeled off and scored."

On his captain's first goal in a Hatters shirt, Pelly smiled: "Everyone was saying Scott needs to score more goals! No, it's good that Scotty has scored and hopefully he can get more in the rest of the season."

Since his impressive appearance in the Checktrade Trophy win over Chesterfield, Mpanzu has nailed down the holding role as his own, with the side unbeaten since that match with the 23-year-old playing in that position.

It comes after a period of Mpanzu having a go at playing in a host of different roles this term, including partnering Jack Marriott up front at Hartlepool in September.

DISCIPLINED

The former West Ham United and Boreham Wood man said: "I have played everywhere! Obviously if the gaffer wants me to play somewhere, I will play. I am not going to complain. To nail down a position would be nice. When I am asked to play a disciplined role, I will do that.

"I am enjoying playing in that role. You have got to get the gritty stuff, right of all. It has been frustrating sitting on the bench, but I can't really complain as the team are playing well. You have got to work hard in training and hopefully that pays off and you get in the starting XI."

Known for adding a little bit of flair wherever he plays, it's the enjoyment of regular first team football which



Everyone was saying Scott needs to score more goals!

has seen the midfielder tweak his style to suit his position.

FOCUSING

He continued: "I have tinkered with things just to get my mentality back. There's more focusing. Playing a defensive role means you need to check your shoulder, check the runners. You learn new things every day."



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[LEVEL TRUST]

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR THE GAFFER!

LEVEL TRUST TO BENEFIT FROM JONES JUMP

Wednesday 19th April will be a day to remember for Luton Town manager Nathan Jones, as he straps on a parachute and launches himself out of an aeroplane in aid of Luton Town charity of the year – Level Trust.



Jones will be joined by Hatters fan Mark Warne, who won the privilege of taking part in the skydive at the Club's Christmas Dinner in December.

The two intrepid skydivers will be making their leap of faith in a tandem jump at Skydive Hinton, near Banbury, to raise funds for the Luton-based Level Trust.

The charity, who became official partners with Luton Town at the beginning of the 2016-17 season, help to support the 14,000 children in Luton who live below the poverty line. They do this in a number of ways, including through their Uniform Exchange, which provides free school uniform to school children in the town who would otherwise go without.

Money raised by the Club throughout the season will be used to help fund a new home for the Uniform Exchange, which is without a permanent home at present.

"It's something I've wanted to do for a long time, but to be honest, I'm not the best with heights," said Jones. "Helping the Club to raise money for Level Trust was the incentive I needed to get the parachute on and go for it. I'm looking forward to getting my feet back on the ground again and hopefully raising a lot of money for Level Trust."

Mark Warne, Managing Director of DOTgroup International and a lifelong Hatters supporter, will be joining Jones on the 19th. "This is something of a dream come true for me," he said. "It's not every day you get to jump out of a plane with the Luton Town manager, I can't wait. That's one off of the bucket list!"

Jane Malcolm is the founding director of Level Trust. "The partnership with Luton Town has helped raise loads of awareness of the work we're doing already this year," she said.

"We're really excited that our logo will be taking pride of place on the players' shirts on 11th February for Luton's game against Crawley. We're so grateful to Nathan and Mark for bravely agreeing to take part in this skydive. The money they raise will help ensure that poverty no longer acts as a barrier to a child loving their learning."

The Club are hoping to raise £16,000 for the season in aid of the charity. Anyone who'd like to support Nathan's skydive can do so via our justgiving fundraising page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/LTFC>

Please give generously, and help Nathan help Level Trust. Come on you Hatters!



TRAVELLER'S TALES

HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER HAS SPENT PLENTY OF TIME ON THE ROAD FOLLOWING THE TOWN SINCE THE TURN OF THE YEAR. HERE HE CHARTS HIS JOURNEYS TO PORTSMOUTH AND ACCRINGTON, WITH AWAY DAY TRIPS TO CREWE AND WYCOMBE TO FOLLOW IN TUESDAY'S PROGRAMME....

PORTSMOUTH – MONDAY 2ND JANUARY

THE JOURNEY

9.30am – Having recovered from the New Year celebrations it was time to leave the house for the first game of 2017 which is a pretty big one given that the Town are away to Portsmouth.

10.35 – Two coaches are loaded up and the journey to Portsmouth begins on a sunny but chilly morning. Plenty of enthusiasm for the day after the win on New Year's Eve.

1.10pm – We make it onto the outskirts of Portsmouth with minimal traffic on the road which was surprising for a bank holiday. 30 minutes later and we're at the ground.

THE GROUND

2.00 – After a walk around from the coach park to the ground we arrive with about an hour to kick off. Team news is in. Alex Gilliead starts after his goal on Saturday. I like that.

2.20 – With a pie and a programme in hand it is off to find my seat. Over 1,600 Town fans will be behind the goal. The players are warming up as I walk down to where I'm sitting. Decent atmosphere beginning to build. Feels a bit bigger than a normal League Two match.

THE MATCH

3.00 – The game is underway. Town are in white shirts and attacking the opposite end to where our fans are.

3.13 – Quiet start to the game but then comes an awkward looking tackle which didn't look right. Cameron McGeehan was the recipient and stays down. It soon becomes obvious that he is in pain and that his injury is serious. Amazingly while he is getting treatment Cam is booked for seemingly thumping the floor in agony! The game has officially gone with that decision. Some seven minutes after the incident Cam goes off on a stretcher. Too bad. Unbelievably he was booed off on the stretcher by the home fans. Really, really poor that.

3.31 – Town look understandably flat after the injury. Then Pompey go 1-0 up. A free-kick was given down our right but it didn't look a foul to me. The cross comes over and the centre half smashes a header home.

3.52 – Half-time. Portsmouth lead 1-0 but the scoreline doesn't really matter. Thoughts are with Cameron McGeehan hoping the injury isn't as bad as it looked.

4.18 – Town so close to a leveller. We've been much better since half-time and Danny Hylton goes through down the channel. He brilliantly lobs the keeper but the ball hits the bar and comes away. So unlucky.

4.53 – Portsmouth are holding us out and get a penalty in injury time. The ref has been rotten all day but there is no arguing this decision. Roberts steps up and literally belts the penalty to the moon! Awful kick. We can't take advantage as the whistle goes shortly after for a 1-0 defeat.

MAN OF THE MATCH

5.25 – Back on the coach and it is time to confirm Scott Cuthbert as the man of the match. He was superb and a worthy recipient of the award from this game.

SUMMARY

8.15 – The journey back wasn't too bad and I get back in the house shortly after 8pm. Disappointing day but a football result becomes irrelevant when you see someone break their leg. I wish Cameron a speedy recovery and hope we get to see him in a Town shirt soon.

ACCRINGTON STANLEY – SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY

THE JOURNEY

7.30am – A 6am alarm wasn't very welcome and neither was leaving in near darkness to get the coach for the FA Cup match at Accrington! Nevertheless, as ever, it was off to Amptill to get the coach.

8.35 – Just the one coach made the journey for this game. Plenty of talk about the Portsmouth fall out was still lingering as people got on.

10.25 – On a dank and foggy morning we stop off at Norton Canes services. Having left the house without time for breakfast a McDonald's breakfast was most welcome. While I was ordering I bumped into my mate Russ from Blackburn. He was going the opposite way for their cup tie at QPR! Amazing coincidence!

1.45pm – We've arrived in Accrington. All parked up. It is a dank day up north too and the fog is lingering. Hopefully that clears off before kick off!

THE GROUND

2.15 – After hanging around outside to chat to a few people it is time to go in. Having been to Accrington before I decide to stand this time as the leg room in the seats is non-existent.

2.25 – Quick drink and catch up with a couple of people I've not seen for a while and then it is onto the terrace to get a good position behind the goal!

THE MATCH

3.01 – We're underway. Town are in purple and are without the injured Danny Hylton and Cam McGeehan. Alex Gilliead has gone back to Newcastle. Jake Gray and Josh McQuoid both start.

3.02 – Almost an instantly good start for us. Jake Gray gets into the area and shoots but just misses. Unlucky that!

3.41 – The fog which has been lingering around has lifted for the time being but the Town are forced into a change after Scott Cuthbert goes off. Stephen O'Donnell replaces him.

3.46 – Disaster right on half-time! O'Donnell plays a loose pass to Lee who doesn't win a challenge and McConville takes aim from 25 yards and finds the top corner. Top strike but so poor from us.

4.07 – Back underway with Jack Marriott coming on five minutes into the half. He almost scores immediately but the chance is blocked.

4.09 – We're level this time! Marriott goes through but his shot is saved. The rebound falls to Jake Gray who threads a needle from the edge of the box to find the net! Game on!

4.12 – Parity didn't last long. Accrington take the lead. I'd love to describe the goal but the fog has returned with a vengeance and that, coupled with the terrible lighting, makes it impossible to see past the halfway line!

4.46 – A couple of chances have come and gone for the Town but from a viewing point of view the game has turned into a farce. Nobody can see anything from the terrace. Glen Rea was sent off just before the final whistle as the Town lose 2-1.

MAN OF THE MATCH

5.10 – Man of the match time which was another farce really given how little we could see! James Justin got my vote but with no certainty given the poor viewing conditions!

SUMMARY

9.45 – A long day ends with getting home just before 10pm on a day the Town bow out of the cup. No complaints really. Not the best day overall.

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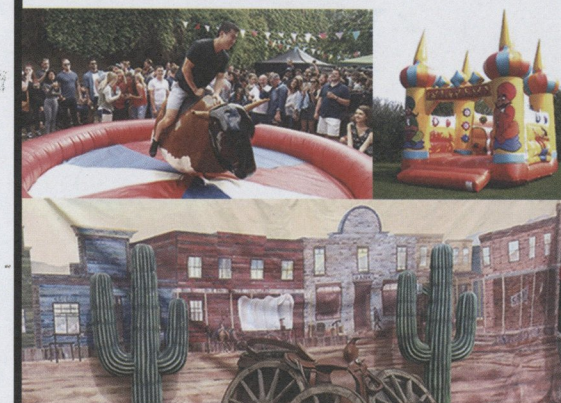
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THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES



Local boy Wayne Turner nets his first ever League goal during the 1-1 draw against Cambridge at the Abbey over Easter 1982. With the Town homing in on promotion to the top-flight, around half the crowd of 8,815 seemed to be from Luton.

YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS 2016/17

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11 JOE MEAD  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	12 GEORGE MURRAY  H: Andrew J Finch A: Football 262	13 ARTHUR READ  H: COYH A: Dave Baker	14 MICHAEL SHAMALO  H: DM Specialists A: AVAILABLE
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YOUTH TEAM NEXT UP: TUES 31ST JAN – MK DONS (A) – MIDDAY KICK-OFF (MK DONS TRAINING GROUND)

NEXT DEV SQUAD FIXTURE: THURS 9TH FEB – DUNSTABLE TOWN (A) – BEDS FA SENIOR CUP SEMI-FINAL – 7.45PM KICK-OFF. CREASEY PARK

[ACADEMY UPDATE]

ANDY AWFORD'S ACADEMY UPDATE

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

U18S

After a few days of 'downtime' over the Christmas period the U18s have settled back in to their routine and although the cold frosty weather has not helped us get out onto the grass too much, we have managed to keep the training levels up by using local 3G pitches.

I would like to thank both Creasey Park and Lea Manor School for their help and support with this. I would also like to thank the people over at Shefford & Campton FC, who have been extremely supportive in providing our U18s with a matchday facility for a couple of recent fixtures.

FIXTURES

A few games since Christmas have been postponed due to the adverse weather, however we have still managed to play some decent fixtures. We always try, where possible, to give our boys a mixture against different types of opposition, and during the month of January our U18s and U16s have certainly received invaluable experience from the following games:

U18s - Tottenham Hotspur, Barnet, Southend Utd, AFC Wimbledon and Stevenage.

U15/16s - Stevenage, Manchester City and Arsenal.

TOURS

At half-time today you will see our Academy U9 players on the pitch, following their recent victorious tour to Germany.

The boys travelled to Oerlinghausen last weekend to participate in the Schroder Cup, an indoor 6v6 tournament attracting some of the biggest clubs in Europe including FC Köln, Rapid Vienna and Werder Bremen.

The young Hatters fought through the group stage on day one to qualify for the Gold Cup on the second day. Having lost the opener to Werder Bremen, they then beat SC Berliner to progress to the quarter-final, where they overcame Rot-Weiss Essen.



A win over Serbian side Vojvodina Novi Sad in the semis meant the boys took on Bundesliga side FC Köln in the final, and they ran out winners on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

Please give them a well deserved clap and cheer as they take centre stage.

*A full report of the tour will appear in Talk Of The Town on Tuesday night

SPECIAL GUEST

On behalf of the Academy, I would like to welcome our special guest Richard Ware and his family to today's game. Richard is a lifelong fan of the club who currently resides in the USA. However he still remains very supportive of our academy in more ways than one. Great to have you here Richard and hopefully we can send you home happy with another three points in the bag!

Enjoy today's game.

COYHI

ANDY

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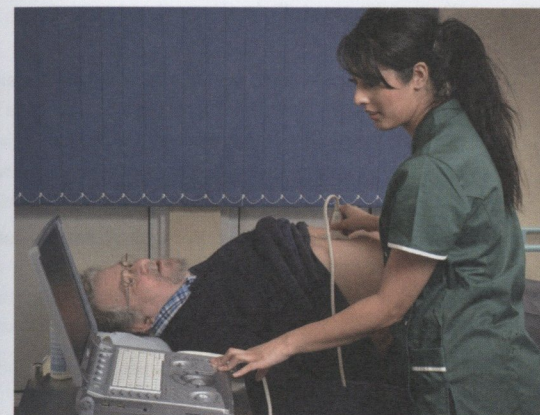
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LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

EASYJET FREE SCHOOLS VISIT PROJECT & PREMIER LEAGUE PRIMARY STARS

It was a great way to start the new year when the Trust received confirmation that easyjet were renewing their sponsorship of our Free Schools Visit Project for 2017.

It is the third year in a row easyjet have continued to support the work of the Trust in local schools since the original shirt sponsorship deal ended, and we are delighted to retain an association with such a strong brand and major employer in the town. It's great we also continue to form an integral part of easyjet's corporate and social responsibility provision locally.

This continued support from easyjet for our Free Schools Visit Project, which provides free curriculum time football coaching and PE lessons to all schools within Luton and Bedfordshire, will perfectly complement our new three-year deal with the Premier League Charitable Fund to deliver the new Primary Stars project alongside our free schools visit project.

In practise it means we will continue to visit over 40 schools each week, reaching over 1,500 local school children every single week during term time free of charge. That adds up to over 1,500 free PE hours delivered into local schools each year by Hatters coaching staff – and a very effective way of reaching the next generation of supporters!

So, how do the two schemes complement each other? Well, our free school visit project is specifically designed to provide primary schools with support in improving the

provision of PE and sport and physical activities, both during curriculum and extra-curriculum time.

The aim is to provide higher quality, positive experiences for all pupils, enabling positive teaching and learning, alongside increased participation opportunities and playing pathways with our youth development and academy system.

Already this school year we have a pool of almost 20 talent identified six-year-olds in training hoping to gain a place in next year's foundation intake at our various levels.

This free support to schools includes PE curriculum lessons, Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) activities, enrichment sessions, through to breakfast clubs, lunch-time activities and after-school clubs, and also a range of competitive opportunities for children, helping inter-school and District schools football programmes.

The Premier League Primary schools project also uses the appeal of football and sport to connect and inspire local school children using both the Hatters brand locally as well as the Premier league brand that all children recognise. Under the banner of Premier League Primary Stars, the programme aims to develop skills and ambition both on and off the sports field with resources for primary age girls and boys.

The programme will provide free curriculum-linked Key Stage 1 and 2 classroom resources for PE, but also Maths, English and Enterprise.

New PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) resources will use an array of sport examples to promote equality and diversity, encourage life skills such as teamwork and resilience and deliver key messaging such as anti-bullying. This will be available alongside a programme of activities, events and teacher support to enhance teachers' and non-qualified PE staff knowledge, skills and confidence to improve the provision of PE and school sport.

It is well documented that school sport is not as high on the school timetable as it was back in the day, and our tailored teacher mentoring programme will this year support over 20 teachers through individual mentoring programmes.

We hope better delivery will increase children's enjoyment, participation and confidence in both competitive and non-competitive activity, and increase children's understanding of the skills they need to achieve their goals.

Football Development Officer, James Hatch, who oversees the project on behalf of the club's Community Trust

commented: "We always have a great response from local schools who have asked us to come in and help with all kinds of requests from running lunchtime clubs to coaching the school's football teams.

"This season with the continued funding from easyjet and the new Premier League funding through the Primary Stars project, we will be able to go more schools than ever each week to promote the Club to the next generation of supporters.

"The funding is great because we can now get all of our local schools involved with the club at no cost to them. We hope this project will not only help schools with providing quality PE lessons, but also, by getting the children involved with Luton Town FC provide future supporters of the club and as well as maybe even future academy players who come in as part of our school talent identification programme.

For any schools looking to be involved in the project you can contact James Hatch or Kyle Durcan at the club on 01582 737568 or via email atschoolsport@lutontown.co.uk

FOOTBALL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

As with many other EFL Clubs, our fully integrated youth player development structure at the Club is run by the Community Trust.


It starts with players as young as four-years-old who simply 'pay and play' each week through to our Skills Performance Centres Talent Identification Coaching Programme for boys up to 16 years of age who train on our ten-week coaching programme. In total over 20 of these centres run all-year round through our development programme.

All of the boys, together with recruited boys, continue their journey for an academy place at our Centre of Excellence Centres in Luton, Dunstable, Kempston and Arlesey, which

have over 300 boys who we see long term development potential with a further 140 boys signed at our Luton Pre-Academy level for boys with shorter term potential.

An important part of the process is the games programme and over the new year half-term week we played lots of internal grading games, and also played Swindon Town FC home and away.

Fair to say we are competitive at all age groups and levels, and particularly with our pre-academy squads. The boys are all now looking forward to February half-term with games against Derby County, Fulham, Colchester and Northampton Town.

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IWantToBe



HOMEGROUND HATTERS RETURN TO LUTON

You may remember that back in February 2016, The Homeground Project came to Kenilworth Road to launch their exhibition in Luton. Souvenirs from Home is the culmination of Home Ground, a three-year project which celebrates the cultural heritage of football clubs with nicknames inspired by the local craft industries that have shaped their communities.

Souvenirs from Home Luton contains work made by Luton Town Football Club supporters and other local groups who worked alongside lead artist Valerie Corona. Valerie led two weekend hat making courses with supporters to create a range individually designed straw boaters inspired by the club and local history of the hat making trade in Luton.

The beautiful Boaters are currently being exhibited at The Hat Factory in Bute Street, but today we are delighted to welcome the participants to Kenilworth Road to take part in a parade around the perimeter of the pitch at half-time.

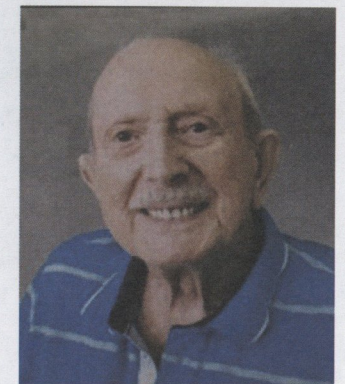


HEDLEY GRIGGS

We are sorry to report that loyal Hatters supporter Hedley Griggs passed away on 17th November, aged 97.

Mr Griggs' granddaughter Melanie Bunkle got in touch to pay this tribute:

'Grandad was a lifelong fan of Luton Town, attending matches for over 70 years,' wrote Melanie. 'He went to all the home fixtures with his son Barry well into his late 80s. 'He continued to keep up with the club's progress through his four sons and via the radio and TV. He will be missed by his sons, his nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren who loved him very much. 'His love for Luton Town Football Club was only surpassed by his love for his late wife Marjorie and for his family.'



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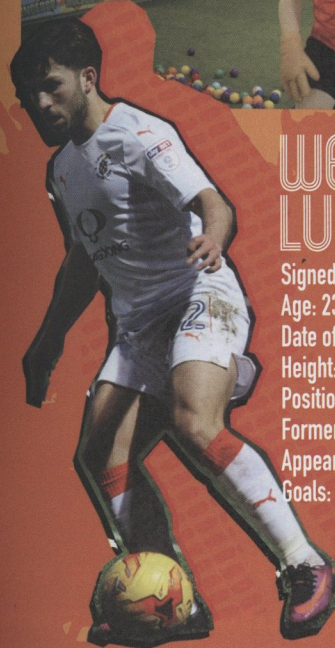


JUNIOR HATTERS



HAPPY HARRY TV CELEBRITY

Did you spot Happy Harry on TV recently? The cheeky chap appeared on the 'Spongebob vs Mascots' feature on Nick Kicks earlier this month, getting up to his usual mischief! Good work Harry!



WELCOME TO LUKE GAMBIA

Signed to Luton: 16th January 2016
Age: 23
Date of Birth: 16th March 1993
Height: 5ft 6"
Position: Winger
Former club: Barnet
Appearances: 136
Goals: 15



WELCOME TO LAWSON D'ATH

Signed to Luton: 6th January 2016
Age: 24
Date of Birth: 24th December 1992
Height: 5ft 9"
Position: Midfielder
Former club: Northampton Town
Appearances: 92
Goals: 13

CAMBRIDGE UTD

Luton Town have played Cambridge Utd 37 times, with the first meeting between the two sides back on 23rd September 1978. Since then, the Hatters have had the better record with 13 wins to the Us 9 and 15 draws. We last met Cambridge earlier in the season away at The Abbey Ground, where the lads put in a terrific performance to bring home the bacon with a 0-3 win. Fingers crossed for more of the same today! #COYH

SEND US YOUR PICS

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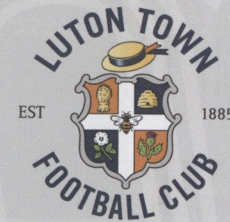
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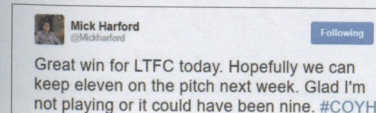
LUKE WHO'S HERE!

Gambin checks in from Barnet

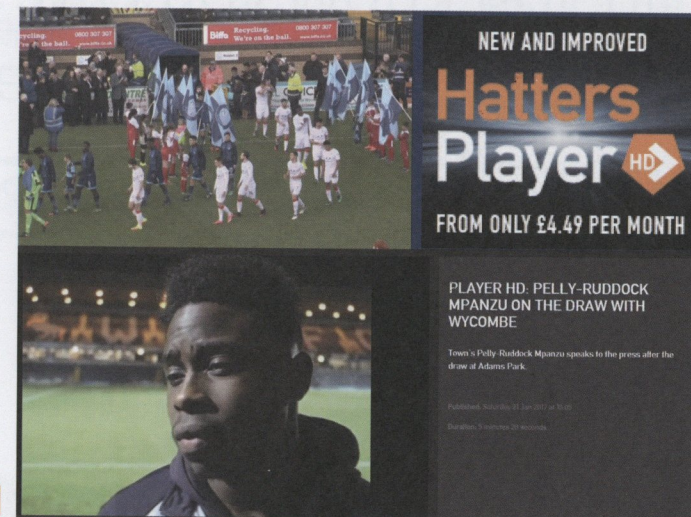


BIG MICK'S BACKING

Hatters legend salutes the boys



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



SCOTT STRIKES

Skipper opens Hatters account



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Young Hatters keep warm with the beautiful game



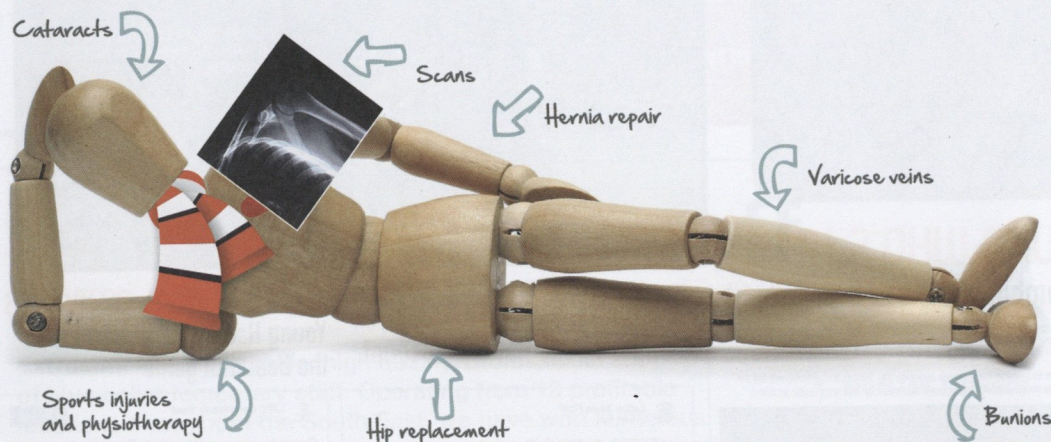
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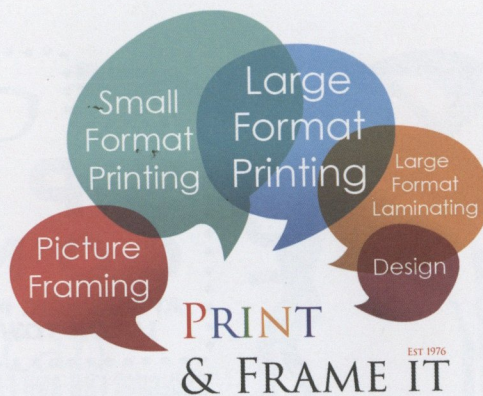


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[LEAGUE TWO ROUND-UP]

LEAGUELOOK

TODAY'S LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES:

Carlisle United v Barnet
Crewe Alexandra v Cheltenham Town
Luton Town v Cambridge United
Mansfield Town v Leyton Orient
Newport County v Hartlepool United
Notts County v Crawley Town
Portsmouth v Exeter City
Stevenage v Grimsby Town
Yeovil Town v Doncaster Rovers

LAST SATURDAY'S LEAGUE 2 RESULTS:

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

LEAGUE TABLE 2016/17

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Doncaster Rovers	27	18	4	5	55	34	21	58
2	Plymouth Argyle	26	17	3	6	43	28	15	54
3	Carlisle United	27	12	12	3	48	37	11	48
4	Portsmouth	26	13	6	7	40	26	14	45
5	Wycombe Wanderers	26	12	7	7	34	28	6	43
6	LUTON TOWN	26	11	9	6	37	24	13	42
7	Colchester United	27	11	7	9	41	34	7	40
8	Barnet	27	10	10	7	37	37	0	40
9	Exeter City	26	12	3	11	39	27	12	39
10	Cambridge United	26	11	6	9	36	29	7	39
11	Grimsby Town	27	11	6	10	35	31	4	39
12	Mansfield Town	27	9	10	8	29	30	-1	37
13	Blackpool	26	9	9	8	38	27	11	36
14	Crawley Town	25	10	5	10	31	38	-7	35
15	Stevenage	27	10	3	14	40	46	-6	33
16	Yeovil Town	26	8	8	10	28	31	-3	32
17	Morecambe	25	9	4	12	32	43	-11	31
18	Hartlepool United	27	7	9	11	35	44	-9	30
19	Crewe Alexandra	27	6	10	11	26	39	-13	28
20	Accrington Stanley	26	6	8	12	24	35	-11	26
21	Leyton Orient	26	7	4	15	28	39	-11	25
22	Cheltenham Town	26	5	9	12	28	39	-11	24
23	Notts County	27	6	5	16	28	50	-22	23
24	Newport County AFC	26	4	7	15	29	45	-16	19

PLAYER STATS 2016/17

	THIS SEASON				TOTAL				LFC CAREER TOT			
	LEAGUE		CUP		LEAGUE		CUP		LEAGUE		CUP	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS
Alex Atkinson	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(0)	1	0	1	0
Tyreeq Bakinson	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0	0	5	0
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	(0)	1	4	14	0
Jordan Cook	18	(4)	1	(3)	19	(5)	1	(4)	1	26	1	0
Kavan Cotter	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	1	0
Scott Cuthbert	20	(1)	1	(3)	21	(2)	1	(4)	0	65	1	0
Lawson D'Ath	1	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	1	0
Akin Famewo	1	(2)	0	(3)	1	(2)	0	(1)	0	6	0	0
Luke Gambin	1	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	(0)	1	0	1	0
Alex Gilliead	10	(8)	1	(3)	11	(8)	2	(3)	0	21	2	0
Jake Gray	6	(5)	1	(8)	7	(13)	4	(0)	0	19	4	0
Danny Green	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	30	6	0
Freddie Hinds	0	(0)	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	(0)	0	2	0	0
Danny Hylton	23	(1)	11	(4)	34	(11)	14	(10)	1	28	14	0
James Justin	13	(1)	0	(6)	13	(1)	0	(1)	0	21	0	0
Craig King	0	(0)	0	(4)	0	(4)	0	(0)	0	4	0	0
Olly Lee	16	(5)	0	(5)	16	(5)	0	(7)	0	66	3	0
Craig Mackail-Smith	0	(1)	0	(2)	0	(2)	1	(3)	1	1	39	5
Jack Marriott	20	(4)	5	(4)	25	(5)	9	(1)	0	73	25	0
Cameron McGeehan	24	(0)	10	(4)	34	(0)	11	(7)	0	106	31	0
Josh McQuoid	1	(2)	0	(5)	1	(2)	2	(2)	0	43	7	0
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	14	(8)	0	(4)	14	(8)	0	(5)	1	94	5	0
Johnny Mullins	19	(2)	0	(4)	19	(2)	1	(2)	1	2	25	1
Frankie Musonda	0	(0)	0	(5)	0	(5)	1	(0)	0	0	8	1
Stephen O'Donnell	16	(1)	1	(5)	17	(4)	3	(1)	0	58	4	0
Dan Potts	16	(0)	0	(2)	16	(0)	0	(3)	1	35	0	0
Glen Rea	16	(3)	1	(6)	17	(3)	2	(5)	1	35	2	0
Arthur Read	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0	1	0	0
Jack Senior	1	(1)	0	(4)	1	(4)	0	(0)	0	6	0	0
Alan Sheehan	15	(1)	2	(3)	17	(1)	2	(3)	1	39	3	0
Jonathan Smith	4	(10)	1	(7)	5	(17)	2	(5)	0	164	11	0
Jack Snelus	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0	1	0	0
Connor Tomlinson	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0	1	0	0
Isaac Vassell	5	(15)	1	(4)	6	(19)	3	(1)	0	29	3	0
Christian Walton	26	(0)	0	(6)	26	(0)	0	(1)	0	32	0	0

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

SUBS

McGeehan MCGEEHAN 1 McGeehan + MCGEEHAN 2 MCGEEHAN 2 ▲ McGeehan McGeehan Gray	Cook • GRAY 1 • Mpanzu • Cook • Cook Gray • Cook Banton •	HYLTON 1 Hylton Hylton Hylton Hylton • HYLTON 1 Vassell	MARRIOTT 1 • Marriott • Marriott ▲ Marriott • Marriott • MARRIOTT 1 ▲ McQuoid •	SMITH • Smith • Smith • Famewo • Mpanzu • Cook • Cuthbert • Atkinson •	Lee • Cuthbert • Smith • Vassell • Vassell • Mpanzu • Smith • Tomlinson •	Gray ▲ Cook Vassell ▲ Smith McQuoid ▲ Vassell ▲ Gooch	Justin Vassell ▲ Lee Gray Smith Cuthbert Gray Read	Vassell McQuoid McQuoid McQuoid King McQuoid McQuoid Hinds	McQuoid King King King Justin King King Bean	King Famewo Justin Famewo Justin Justin Snelus
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McGeehan Smith McGeehan MCGEEHAN 1 • MCGEEHAN 1 McGeehan ▲	Cook GILLIEAD 1 ▲ Mpanzu • Gilliead ▲ Gilliead Gilliead •	HYLTON 1 McQuoid • HYLTON 1 HYLTON 1 Cook • Hylton	Marriott • Banton • Marriott ▲ Marriott Marriott • Marriott •	Smith • Vassell • Gilliead • Smith • Mpanzu • Lee •	Gilliead • Hinds • Rea • Mullins • Vassell • Mpanzu •	O'Donnell Snelus ▲ McQuoid ▲ Gray ▲ Lee ▲ Vassell ▲	Gray Cotter O'Donnell Mpanzu Smith Potts	McQuoid Read Banton Smith Mullins Smith	Famewo Atkinson Vassell Vassell Mackail-Smith Gray	King Gooch King King King King
McGeehan Smith MCGEEHAN 1 McGeehan McGeehan McGeehan	Cook • McQuoid Gilliead • Gilliead ▲ Mullins	HYLTON 2 Mackail-Smith • Hylton HYLTON 1 HYLTON 1 Vassell • Hylton	Gilliead • Vassell Marriott • VASSELL 1 • Vassell ▲ Vassell ▲	Smith • Banton • Vassell Marriott • Cook • Mpanzu •	Mackail-Smith • Hinds • Smith • Smith • Marriott • Gilliead •	O'Donnell ▲ Read ▲ Mullins ▲ Gray ▲ Mackail-Smith ▲ Marriott •	Gray Snelus O'Donnell O'Donnell O'Donnell O'Donnell	Potts Cotter Gray McQuoid Smith Smith	Vassell Bean Mackail-Smith Mackail-Smith Cuthbert Mackail-Smith	King Gooch King King King King
McGeehan Smith McGeehan MCGEEHAN 1 • McGeehan MCGEEHAN 1 ▲	Gilliead • Gray • Vassell ▲ Gilliead ▲ Gilliead • Smith	HYLTON 1 ▲ VASSELL 1 HYLTON 1 Hylton Hylton	MARRIOTT 2 MCQUOID 2 • Marriott • MARRIOTT 1 • Marriott • Cook	O'DONNELL 2 • Mackail-Smith • Gilliead • Mpanzu • Vassell • GILLIEAD 1 • Justin •	Potts • Bakinson • Mpanzu • Vassell • Mpanzu • Justin •	Vassell ▲ Tomlinson Cook ▲ Smith ▲ Cook ▲ Lee ▲	Smith Banton Smith Cook Smith Gray	Mpanzu Cotter Lee Senior Gray Marriott	Lee Snelus McQuoid McQuoid Senior McQuoid	King Gooch King King Gooch King
McGeehan • Smith ▲ MACKAIL-SMITH 1 ▲ D'Ath • Gambin	Gilliead • GRAY 1 Gray • GRAY 1 Gray •	Hylton McQuoid Cook Hylton Hylton •	Cook ▲ Vassell MARRIOTT 2 • MARRIOTT 1 ▲ Marriott •	Mpanzu • O'Donnell • Lee • Smith • Rea •	Lee • Marriott • VASSELL 1 • Senior • Vassell •	Vassell ▲ Mpanzu ▲ Banton • Vassell ▲ O'Donnell ▲	Marriott Cook Mullins O'Donnell D'Ath	Senior Senior Bakinson Lee Cook	McQuoid D'Ath Cotter Mackail-Smith Mackail-Smith	King King King King King

Today we welcome Tyneside-based referee Seb Stockbridge to Kenilworth Road.

Stockbridge has over seen 26 matches so far this season, dishing out 105 yellow cards and four red cards.

He has also awarded 13 penalties this term.

His last game which involved the Town was the 1-1 draw at Hartlepool on 27th September, when Alan Sheehan scored his first goal of the season from a fantastic free-kick.

The 26-year-old's most recent match was Bury's 5-1 win over Peterborough in the Sky Bet League One.

CHECKATRADE TROPHY

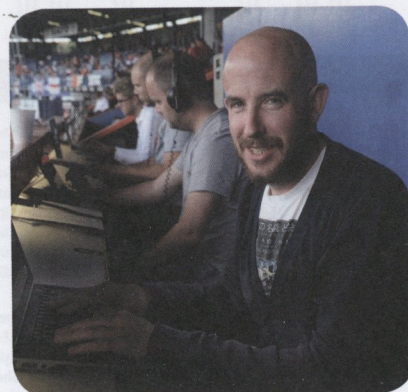
Following the postponement of Tuesday night's scheduled Checkatrade Trophy quarter-final with Yeovil Town due to a frozen pitch, a reminder that the rearranged game will take place here at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday 7th February.

Kick-off will be 7.45pm and as with previous fixtures in the competition, admission will be £5 for adults with Under-16s free, although the junior tickets must be obtained from the ticket office in advance.

The winners of the last eight tie will host either Oxford United or Bradford City in the semi-final, which will be one tie due to be played in the week commencing 20th February. The final will be played at Wembley on Sunday 2nd April.

HOLD THE BACKPAGE

WITH MIKE SIMMONDS
LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR



Hatters boss Nathan Jones recently completed 12 months in charge at Kenilworth Road and it's safe to say it's been a pretty encouraging start to his managerial career, both on and off the field.

Coincidentally, it was today's visitors Cambridge United who were the first opponents of Jones' reign back in January last year, as despite losing both Mark Tyler and Danny Green to injury early on, Town dug out a goalless draw.

The former Brighton first team coach had inherited a bloated squad of over 30 first team players, such was the extent that the club could field almost three different sides at one stage.

RUTHLESS

He managed to reduce that in size fairly early on, while showing a ruthless streak in the summer to start getting the slimline squad in place that he clearly wanted.

Few can argue with the majority of Jones' transfer dealings too, with keeper Christian Walton and lovable rogue Danny Hylton the main two to catch the eye so far this term.

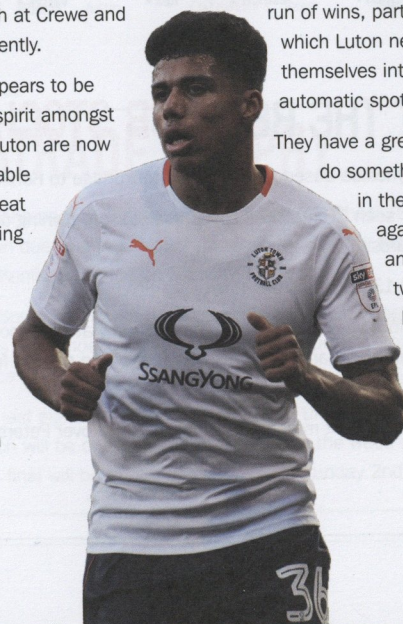
Also, Jones' commitment to bringing youth through at a club who have prided themselves on their homegrown players, has led to his 11 first team debuts for academy graduates since arriving.

It's paying dividends too as one in particular, James Justin, now looks like he could be Town's first choice right back for years to come if he continues the stellar start to his Luton career.

TALENT

Although not one to come through the ranks, the impact of Jack Senior shows Jones is not afraid to go further afield for young talent, with the former Huddersfield defender showing he can handle the big occasion, both at Crewe and Wycombe recently.

There also appears to be a far greater spirit amongst the side, as Luton are now not so vulnerable to certain defeat when conceding first, hitting back to win five times already, something that was unheard of in recent years.



The Town chief is also getting the absolute best out of skipper Scott Cuthbert now, while making sure his players are rewarded for their efforts on the pitch, with contract extensions being handed out to the likes of both Justin and Hylton recently.

Crucially, Jones is learning as he goes in the job too, with the side's style of play during the 3-1 victory over Barnet on New Year's Eve a case in point.

All that is missing is that consistent run of wins, particularly at home, which Luton need to really fire themselves into contention for an automatic spot.

They have a great chance to do something about that in the next four days against Cambridge and Cheltenham and two victories could be just the boost needed to really attack what is now looking like the fight for third place.

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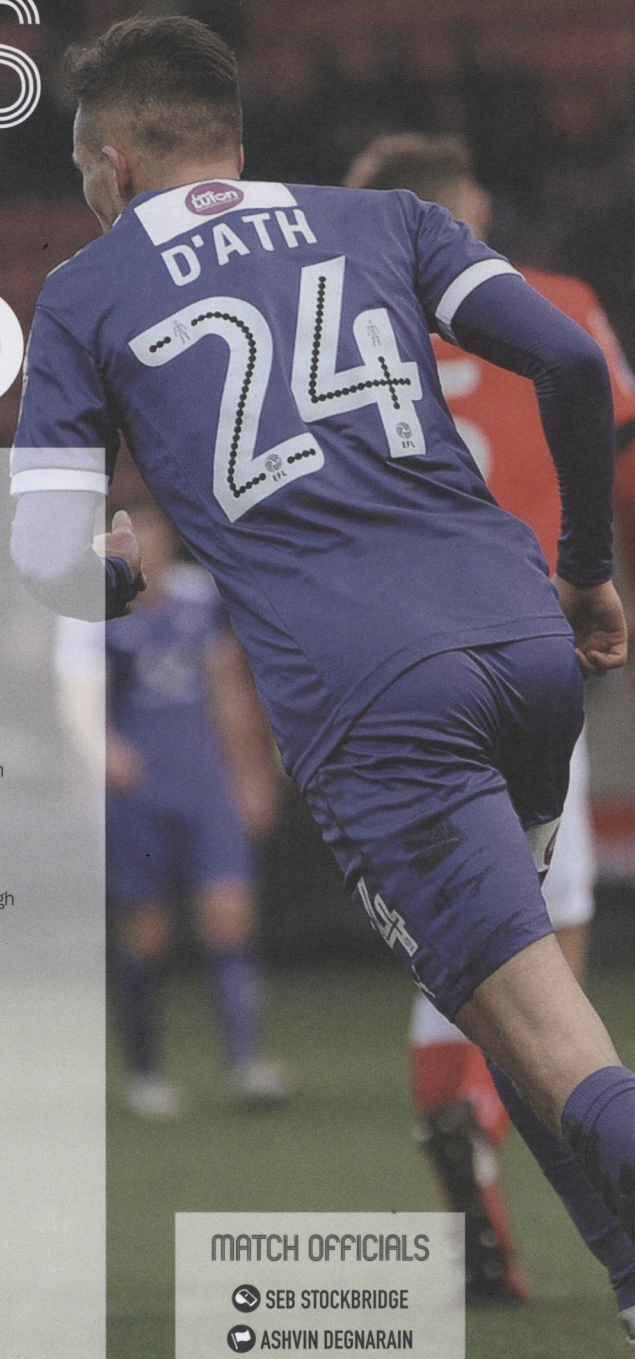
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TEAMS



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

- 1 Will Norris
- 2 Greg Taylor
- 3 Blair Adams
- 4 James Dunne
- 5 Mark Roberts
- 6 Leon Legge
- 7 Piero Mingoia
- 8 Luke Berry
- 9 Barry Corr
- 10 Ben Williamson
- 11 Harrison Dunk
- 13 David Gregory
- 14 Josh Coulson
- 15 Gerry McDonagh
- 17 Adam McGurk
- 18 George Maris
- 19 Jake Carroll
- 20 Max Clark
- 21 Medy Elito
- 22 Paul Lewis
- 23 Joe Pigott
- 24 Conor Newton
- 26 Uche Ikpeazu
- 28 Brad Halliday
- 34 Scott Wharton

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- ASHVIN DEGNARAIN
- KEVIN MORRIS