

TALK OF THE TOWN

LUTON TOWN v OXFORD UNITED

WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2017 | CHECKATRADE TROPHY SEMI-FINAL | KICK OFF 7.45pm

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 25 | PRICE £3



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[WELCOME TO LUTON TOWN v OXFORD UNITED]

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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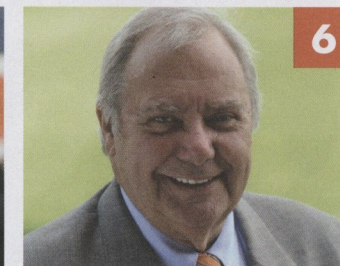
The views in this programme are those of the
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editor and/or Luton Town.

WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD



NATHAN JONES

The boss welcomes Oxford United
to Kenilworth Road



FROM THE BOARDROOM

With vice-chairman David Wilkinson



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WELCOME OXFORD

All you need to know about
the boys from the Kassam



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A PILGRIMS POINT

Action from Saturday's
1-1 draw with Argyle



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CHECK US OUT!

The Hatters' journey
to the semi-final stage

PENALTIES:

A reminder that if the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes
tonight, there will be no extra-time or replay. The tie will go
straight to a penalty shoot-out to determine which team takes on
Coventry City in the final at Wembley on Sunday 2nd April.

LET'S GET CONNECTED

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THE MANAGER NATHAN JONES



Good evening and welcome to Kenilworth Road for this Checkatrade Trophy semi-final against Oxford United.

We're at the business end of the season and to have yet another massive game following immediately on from two top-of-the-table League Two clashes with Doncaster and Plymouth shows we are doing something right.

These are wonderful matches to be involved in, and we welcome everyone from our visitors – including supporters, directors, staff, manager Michael Appleton and his squad – while wishing them a safe trip back to Oxford tonight.

We know they will provide us with yet another stern test, but at almost every stage of this season that we've been presented with opposition from a higher division, we've risen to the occasion.

From Aston Villa and Leeds in the EFL Cup, to Gillingham, West Brom, Millwall, Swindon and Chesterfield in this competition, we've enjoyed going toe-to-toe with players and management teams currently competing at levels we aspire to reach.

To have come through all the publicity about the fines we were handed for

supposedly fielding under-strength teams in the group stages and reach this stage has developed into one of the stories of the season, and we hope to write another chapter tonight.

We've shown the competition a tremendous amount of respect from day one, using it to give important game time to younger players who we believe are every bit as good as some of those who have come through academies higher up, and they've proved that with results.

After the group stages the EFL issued stats boasting that on average, just over 50 per cent of all players on teamsheets were aged 21 and under. With 15 of our 18 at Gillingham being under 21 (including 15-year-old Connor Tomlinson, now the youngest player in Luton Town history), 14 against West Brom and 13 against Millwall, our figure was 78 per cent.

On average, 67 per cent of the players in our starting XIs for those three games were under 21 and English – compared to the overall stat of 53 per cent that the EFL pushed out. In a competition in which the

new format was introduced to give young English players the chance to play senior football, all of our players were eligible for England compared to 64 per cent overall.

We assembled a very good squad here to compete on four fronts at the start of the season, and like the whole club, the players have taken this competition as seriously as every other one. They deserve great credit.

It would be great for them to get the chance to play at Wembley, it would be wonderful for our fans to get another trip there, and a wonderful achievement for the club when so many positive things are happening on and off the pitch, with the ground planning application and the new training pitches at The Brache, which we have been able to use for the first time in recent days.

Finally, we'll need you to help us get past a very good Oxford side. Please get behind us as you did against Plymouth on Saturday and let's have another of those famous cup nights under the Kenilworth Road lights!

Enjoy the game.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH VICE-CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON

Good evening everyone and a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road.

Our visitors tonight for this Checktrade Trophy Semi-Final are Oxford United, and we welcome all their fans, players and officials. The U's are having a good season with fine performances in both the FA cup and this competition, and are lying just outside the play-off places in League One with games in hand. We wish them well in their efforts to gain promotion.

Both our clubs have spent time in the top flight and both found it tougher than expected to recover from being relegated from the Football League, Oxford taking four years and ourselves five to get back up from the then Football Conference.



The U's were beaten finalists last year, the last under the sponsorship of Johnstone's Paint, and we of course won it in 2009 with that fantastic 3-2 win against Scunthorpe United.

The 2009 Final was very special and significant for us as fans, and perhaps even more so as Board Members and Investors.

It was our first season as custodians of our Club. We were reeling from the horrendous injustice of 30 points being deducted before the season started. We were recovering from the shock when we found the extent of the previous losses and mismanagement. Many of our best players had been sold or allowed to leave either as a passing shot by the former owners or to pay the creditors by the administrators. We knew by the time of the final that we hadn't got what we paid for any longer, namely a Club in the Football League. Had we then known what we subsequently discovered that it would take five years and many millions to get back, the blow would have been even more devastating.

It was in many ways a nightmare. The Club we love was teetering on the brink and those running it were encountering new obstacles every day, whilst moving towards an unknown future. There was a plan, but when you look back it is incredible to think that eight years later it not only still exists, but remains on track.

So the scene is set. We beat Brighton over two legs on penalties to reach the final and after all the pain and aggravation, our fans rallied to show their passion and support and we had a positive focus to encourage our belief in the future of the Club.

Our hero and Club legend Mick Harford was manager and he had put together a decent squad under the circumstances. Demand for tickets was astonishing and



we had to put a special team together to cope. This was the way fans and all those who felt we were hard done by could show their support and feelings in public and the media.

The result was that we sold 42,000 tickets, more, at that time, than had ever been sold to a single club for a Wembley final. Amazing. Absolutely amazing.

We had our Wembley suits made. On the day we met in high spirits at Luton Hoo and hopped on a coach to Wembley. I remember we had to stop at Scratchwood Services on the way because Gary's suit didn't fit and they had to rush a pair of trousers to him to change in the car park.

For most of us it was our first visit to new Wembley and when we arrived there was orange everywhere and when we got into the stadium to see one end packed with our fans, it was an emotional sight. It seemed to make everything worthwhile. The only sour note being the presence of Brian Mawhinney, who, as chairman of the Football League, presided over the savage points deduction.

As a Club we seem to have a knack of making things difficult or at least dramatic, and that was certainly true that day. Coming from being behind to a Gary Hooper strike we eventually won with goals from Chris Martin, Tommy Craddock and then Claude Gnaka in extra-time.

The elation was palpable. The release of frustration and tension and outpouring of pride were stronger than I had felt before or since. The expressions of joy on the faces of the players and fans and Mick Harford, the hard man of football, doing the Eric Morecambe dance with the Trophy across the Wembley pitch will live in my memory. It was one of my greatest days as a Luton fan.

However, in typical football style and perhaps what makes it such an addictive sport, a month later we were relegated

to spend the next five years out of the Football League. Something else we'll never forget.

It is no secret that we did not agree with the format of the competition this season, or that we have been fined on several occasions for fielding "weakened" teams, which seems a little perverse on the basis that we have beaten three teams from League One and West Brom U21s, with a number of highly priced senior players in their team. We believe that our talented youngsters have benefited from the competition and we have enjoyed watching some very entertaining games.

The competition was negatively affected by fans' boycotts resulting in small crowds, but it does seem to have some merit if some changes are made.

The threat of B teams entering the pyramid has gone now that a 90 per cent majority is required to change the constitution to allow it, so the Trophy is no longer the "thin end of the wedge".

It would be a shame to lose the competition, which it seems was slowly dying and money from the Premier League has given it a bit of oxygen. It remains to be seen whether a compromise can be reached to satisfy all those concerned. The League has asked League One and Two clubs and the Premier League for their views, and there will be further proposals and meetings in April.

I normally finish with a quote, but on this occasion would like to express my personal sadness at the passing of dear Jack Sapsworth and suggest that his life was inspirational enough.

Enjoy the game

Come On You Hatters

D~J

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[SCOTT CUTHBERT]

GREATSCOTT

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what we hope will be a night that ends with us booking a place at Wembley in the final of the Checktrade Trophy.

We know we are in for a very tough 90 minutes first to achieve that however, with an Oxford United side in very good form in League One visiting us.

We aren't in bad nick ourselves though, with just one defeat in our last 11 in all competitions and unbeaten in six matches throughout February.

Looking back at the last two games with the 1-1 draw at Doncaster and the same result here on Saturday against Plymouth, we could maybe

have got six points off the top two teams in the league, so there are massive positives to take from that.

We are disappointed that we didn't take all six, but we felt that we dominated the game against Plymouth for large parts and were the better side. We know that on our day, we can match the best teams in the league. We've shown that now, and we've just got to keep on pushing for the automatic promotion places.

Tonight will be a nice distraction to that, and the Checktrade Trophy games – right from the start of the competition when the gaffer was giving several of our promising youngsters an opportunity – have provided some real highlights this season.

Sky Sports being here tonight adds to the sense of occasion, and there should be a big crowd. We know Oxford are a good team from playing them last year. We are in form and they are in form, so it's got everything there to be a very good game.

Both teams know we are one game away from Wembley. The Trophy gets a lot of stick, but there aren't many competitions where you can go and play in the national stadium.

I've played there twice in League One play-off finals and it's amazing.

The first time I went there, all the older pros were saying 'Just embrace it, take it all in, because you might not get this opportunity again'. Luckily enough I got my second opportunity and I was that little bit more experienced and able to see the whole picture.

If I can go for a third time it would be excellent. Keep them coming, because they are massive games in front of big crowds.

Coventry are already there and we know they are a big club who will take sizeable support. But ourselves and Oxford would take massive followings too, so it is all set up to be a great final. We just need to make sure it's us going there on 2nd April.

Your support on Saturday was fantastic. We know how well you travel in numbers, and I can sense that you understand how important you are to help us here over the next few weeks too. The noise at times against Plymouth was electric and we'll need everyone behind us against tonight. It's a massive game and everyone knows the importance of it, so we know you'll be roaring us on.

Enjoy the game.



[TOWN V OXFORD UNITED | WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2017] 9

JACK SAPSWORTH MBE (08/11/1941 – 18/02/2017)

Everyone at Kenilworth Road, and throughout Luton and Bedfordshire as a whole, was saddened to hear of the death last Saturday morning of Luton Town Vice President Jack Sapsworth, at the age of 75.

Jack, who was made an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list in 2008 for his charity work, had been battling illness for many years after being diagnosed with a rare blood disorder in the early eighties.

In March 2006, he suffered a haemorrhage that left him in intensive care and hospitalised for nine weeks, eventually returning home without a spleen and requiring chemotherapy tablets, which then caused kidney disease that left him requiring dialysis on a daily basis in recent years.

Last August the hugely popular local businessman was diagnosed with a brain tumour that left him wheelchair-bound by September, and unable to speak by Christmas.

But, his son Gordon told Talk of the Town this week, that didn't stop his love for the Hatters and although he was only well enough to attend a couple of games at the very start of this season, he was keeping up to speed with everything that was going on at Kenilworth Road right to the very end.

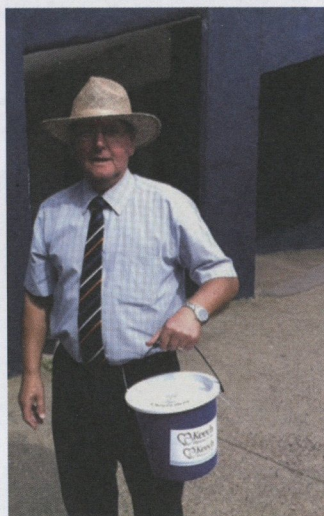
That the Glasgow-born painter and decorator had been suffering for so long, yet achieved so much in his life, provided inspiration not only to Gordon, eldest son Jack and youngest Barry, plus step-sons Dan and Keith and his ten grandchildren, but all who knew him.

Born to profoundly deaf parents and, having lost his father to TB at the age

of two, raised from the age of nine months to 13-years-old by his loving maternal grandparents who had the same disability, Jack decided to move south to England aged 15.

He lived rough in Scarborough for five weeks before landing a job in a boarding house, and eventually moved to Luton – where guests had told him of a factory that employed 27,000 people – at the age of 16 in 1957.

He didn't get a job at Vauxhall, as he intended, but worked in another boarding house before training as a painter and decorator, working his way up to become a technical assistant at Luton Borough Council, where looking after 80 decorators and three glaziers gave him the confidence to set up his own business on his 30th birthday in 1971.



By that time he was married to Betty, whom he'd wed at the age of 18 in 1959, and had their three boys and a mortgage on their Stockingstone Road home for J. Sapsworth Ltd Glazing & Decorating to provide for.

His love for his adopted hometown's football club had begun soon after he moved south, watching the 6-3 win over Arsenal on Boxing Day 1958 and becoming hooked from that day on.

Attending matches both home and away, with each of his sons joining him as they became old enough, Jack – with the help of Gordon and Barry, who both joined the family business from leaving school – decorated most parts of Kenilworth Road at some stage and became a regular sponsor as well as supporter.

Then-chairman David Kohler invited him to become a Vice President around two decades ago, and Jack has been a friendly fixture in the boardroom on matchdays ever since.

In a speech he made halfway through his year as The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 2012, which was

followed by appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of the County the following year, Jack said: "I am a supporter of Luton Town Football Club and have been ever since I arrived in the town. I have been through all the divisions, down and up, and all the way back down to the Blue Square Conference, watching some fantastic football over the years."

In one of his proudest moments, Jack was awarded the MBE by Her Majesty for his work raising funds for charities in and around Luton. He had joined the Rotary Club in 1981 as he believed it would help him give something back to the community in which he had made his home and built his business.

After his wife Betty died of bowel cancer in 1986, Jack met his second wife Lyn in the fundraising office of Luton & South Beds Hospice in 1987 and over the next 20 years helped raise £2.3m for the charity now known as Keech Hospice, having been a board director forming a committee to start the Hospice Lottery and the trading company, which had grown from one shop to ten by the time he left in 2009.

Also in 1986, he co-founded the Signpost Hostel for Homeless project. He soon became chairman of the charity and in 11 years watched it grow from one building looking after 18 residents with a staff team of six, to 11 units providing beds for 103 clients, with 48 staff.

"I felt so proud having had the experience of being homeless – albeit self-inflicted – that I was able to help those less fortunate for all kinds of reasons," Jack said.

In his 35 years as a Rotarian – serving as president in 1992-93 – Jack organised events raising



over £300,000 and received the Paul Harris Fellow award, the Four Avenues of Service Citation, the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Award for Services to the Community, and carried the Commonwealth Games baton through Luton in 2002.

Other honours include being made a Perth Guildryman in his native Scotland in 2001, and an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration by the University of Bedfordshire in 2014.

LEGACY

In death, his legacy will live on in the day-to-day working of Luton Town FC with his business, now run by sons Gordon and Barry, currently working on the glazing and decorating of the buildings at the Hatters' new training ground, The Brache.

"Dad knew he only had a few months to live and one of the things that he missed most in the last few months was not being able to come to games, but it was just too much for him with the wheelchair and the cold," said Gordon.

"I was keeping him fully informed on how the lads had been playing and even though he couldn't speak from Christmas onwards, he understood everything – he'd even been selling tables and organising everything for a boxing event organised with Lewsey Boxing Club from his bed in the last few weeks!

"He laughed a couple of months ago when I said to him that I bet the club would put a little bit in the programme and give him a round of applause when he died. He'd have loved the tribute on Saturday, just like he loved every Saturday he spent at Kenilworth Road."

Rest In Peace, Jack.

Jack's funeral will take place on Friday 10th March at St Mary's Church in Luton, 11.30am.

The family have asked for family flowers only, with any donations made towards Keech Hospice via www.memorygiving.com (Nevilles Funeral Services, on behalf of Keech Hospice, search Jack Sapsworth) or on the day.

UP NEXT

YEOVIL TOWN

NEXT SATURDAY THE
HATTERS HIT THE ROAD TO
SOMERSET TO TAKE ON THE
GAFFER'S OLD CLUB...

FORMED: 1895 | NICKNAMES: THE GLOVERS | LAST SEASON: 19TH IN LEAGUE TWO
FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @YTFC | COLOURS: GREEN AND WHITE HOOPS
GROUND: HUISH PARK | MANAGER: DARREN WAY

WHO? Formed 121 years ago as Yeovil Casuals, the club now known as Yeovil Town play at Huish Park in the Somerset town. Current manager Darren Way was an important cog in their midfield in 2002-03 when the Glovers won promotion from Non-League football, where they had a reputation as the FA Cup's greatest giantkillers after knocking out 20 League clubs and reaching the First Round Proper on no less than 49 occasions. They won the League Two title in 2004-05 and then promotion to the Championship in 2012-13 as League One play-off winners. Two successive relegations led them back to the bottom tier for last season, but they managed to secure a 14th season as a Football League club.

TICKETS Ticket info for this match can be found on the opposite page.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

The game will be the eighth time the clubs have met and the third time this season. After drawing 1-1 in the second league match of the season courtesy of a Stephen O'Donnell scorcher, the Hatters put five past the Glovers in the Checkatrade Trophy match in February. Jordan Cook, Alan Sheehan and Danny Hylton all got on the scoresheet, with Isaac Vassell netting a brace for the Town.

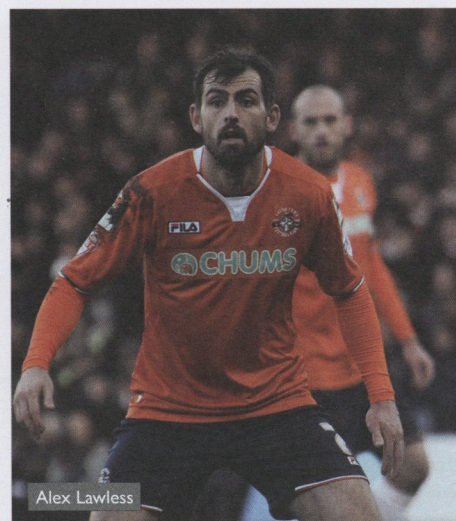
IN CHARGE Darren Way managed to keep the Glovers up comfortably in a successful fight against relegation last season and although they currently sit in the bottom half of the table, they're a comfortable distance away from 23rd

place. The Plymouth-born former midfielder made over 250 appearances for the Glovers in three spells, helping them win the Conference, the FA Trophy and League Two.

PREVIOUS FORM It's been a bit of a tough ride for Way's side in 2017, having only picked up two wins in 12 matches. However, that does include a 2-1 win over second-placed Plymouth Argyle. They have drawn three of their last four matches and held Notts County to a goalless draw at the weekend.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU Both sides have a man in the camp who will need no introduction to the opposing fans. Alex Lawless joined the Glovers after his summer departure from the Town. Alex was part of the squad that helped us regain our League status in

2014, making 203 appearances over five-and-a-half years with the Hatters. He joins another man who left Kenilworth Road, Alex Lacey, at the Somerset club. Our manager Nathan Jones, of course, is the main link from the current Town camp with the 43-year-old having played over 200 times for the Glovers. Jordan Cook and Lawson D'Ath have also had loan spells with the West Country club.



Alex Lawless

GET YOUR TICKET



YEOVIL TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH | 3PM

The Hatters have received an initial allocation of 1,087 tickets for their away trip to Yeovil Town on Saturday 4th March. There are 587 seated tickets in the Screwfix Community Stand and 500 Terrace spaces in the Radio Cabs Stand. Tickets are available on general sale until 2pm on Friday 3rd March. Subject to availability, any remaining tickets will be available on the day with a £2 price increase on all advertised price bands other than juniors. Prices: Seating: Adult: £22, Senior (65 and over): £18, Young Person (16-21): £14, Under-16: £6, Disabled and Carer: £18. Terrace: Adult £16, Seniors (65 and over): £14, Young Person (16-21): £12, Under-16: £5



STEVENAGE

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH | 3PM

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



CARLISLE UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH | 7.45PM

Town have received an initial allocation of 300 seated tickets and four wheelchair spaces in the Pioneer Foods Stand for their away trip to Carlisle United on Tuesday 14th March. Tickets are available to Season Ticket holders who are able to purchase two tickets each until close of business Friday 3rd March. These tickets will be on sale from the Ticket Office via phone or in person. Tickets will be available on general sale from Saturday 4th March until close of business on Monday 13th March, they will also be available online at this time. Subject to availability any remaining tickets will be available on the day with a £3 price increase on all advertised price bands other than juniors. Prices: Adult: £19, Seniors (65 and over): £16,

Young Person (18-22): £13, Under (11-17): £10, Child (10 and under): £7, Child (6 and under): FOC. One Adult + one junior: £27, One Adult + two juniors: £35, One Senior + one junior: £24, Wheelchair: £4, Ambulant Disabled Appropriate Age Category, Carer FOC.



EXETER CITY

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 18TH MARCH | 3PM

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



COLCHESTER UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH | 3PM

We have received an initial allocation of 1030 seated tickets and 6 wheelchair spaces for our trip to Colchester United on the 25th March 2017 (our total allocation will be approximately 1700). We apologise for the early release and short sales periods of these tickets, however, due to progressive pricing structure on ticket prices the following Sales Plan will be in operation. Tickets are available on general sale until close of business on Friday 24th March. PLEASE NOTE THE INCREASE IN PRICES THROUGHOUT

THE SALES PERIOD. Prices: From now until close of business Saturday 4th March (Yeovil Away fixture): Adult £16.00, Senior (65 plus) £11.00, 18-21 £12.00, Under 18 £9.00, Under 14 £3.50, Under 11 FOC (with Adult/ Senior 1 to 4 ratio), Additional Under 11 £1.00, Disabled £11.00, Carer - FOC. From Monday 6th March until close of business Saturday 18th March: Adult £17.50, Senior (65 plus) £12.50, 18-21 £12.50, Under 18 £9.50, Under 14 £4.00, Under 11 FOC (with Adult/ Senior 1 to 4 ratio), Additional Under 11 £1.00, Disabled £12.50, Carer FOC. From Monday 20th March until 2pm Friday 24th: Adult £19.00, Senior (65 plus) £14.00, 18-21 £15.00, Under 18 £11.00, Under 14 £4.50, Under 11 FOC (with Adult/ Senior 1 to 4 ratio), Additional Under 11 £1.50, Disabled £14.00, Carer FOC. Tickets will also be available on match day, subject to availability, with a further price increase on all ticket prices.

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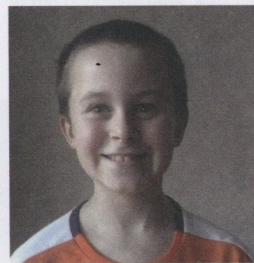
Age: 10

Favourite Player:
Cameron McGeehan

JAMES GINGER

Age: 9

Favourite Player:
Matt Macey



ROB GINGER

Age: 9

Favourite Player:
Cameron McGeehan



JOEL NICHOLLS

Age: 12

Favourite Player:
Danny Hylton

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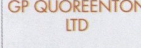
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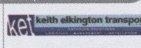
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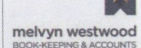
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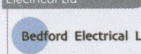
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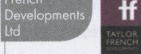
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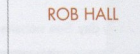
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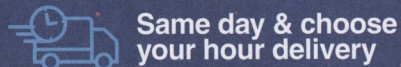
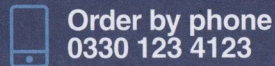
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GC KEVIN DEARDEN H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	P SIMON PARSELL H: Bobbers Travel A: AVAILABLE		

KEY
H: HOME | A: AWAY | G: GLOVES



WELCOME OXFORD UNITED



Manager Michael Appleton

The Hatters would like to wish tonight's visiting staff, players and supporters of Oxford United a warm welcome on what will no doubt be a chilly night in Bedfordshire.

The U's will be hoping to go one better in the Trophy this season after they fell at the last hurdle in the 2015-16 final, losing 3-2 to Barnsley.

A certain Danny Hylton scored a wonderful header for tonight's visitors in that match, whilst Johnny Mullins led the side out as captain.

The U's run to this point of this competition has been far from a straightforward one, having participated in three penalty shoot-outs, losing two in the group stages to miss out on bonus points, but winning the all-important third against Southend United in the knock-out stages.

It has proved to be another fruitful season under Michael Appleton, who took over in 2014. After the disappointment of the Wembley defeat, the U's made amends by securing promotion to League One, where they have been threatening to break into the top six in recent weeks.

Ten wins in their last 13 matches since the turn of the year highlights the wonderful run Oxford have been on, also reaching the fifth round of the FA Cup, where they lost by the odd goal in five to Premier League Middlesbrough.

That impressive run continued at the weekend as they beat Chesterfield, with Conor McAleny netting a hat-trick in a 3-0 win. The result puts Oxford in a good position to sneak into the play-off places, as they sit ninth, four points shy of sixth, but with two games in hand over a number of teams above them.

Their end of season form last term helped propel them into the third tier, but it almost came off the tracks when they welcomed the Hatters to the Kassam Stadium last season. Although Hylton had given the hosts an early lead, Town fought back and snatched all three points in a 3-2 win.

It wasn't quite enough to lift Town into the play-off places, whilst it didn't disrupt Oxford's climb up the league pyramid either.

Kane Hemmings has been the U's dangerman in the competition so far this term, netting four goals for his side. He scored three of those in the 4-1 round of 16 rout of Scunthorpe United, with his other arguably the most important of their journey in the Checkatrade Trophy so far – a 94th-minute goal against Chelsea to earn his side a point in the group stages and ensure their progression into the knock-out stages.

The summer signing from Dundee United has proven to be vital for Appleton's side in cup competitions in general, scoring nine cup goals out of his overall haul of 14. He has also set up four goals this season, meaning overall, he has had a hand in 18 goals in competitive matches since his arrival.

HATTERS V OXFORD

LUTON WINS: 17 | DRAWS: 9 | OXFORD WINS: 12

LAST MEETING

OXFORD UNITED 2-3 LUTON TOWN APRIL 16TH 2016

TEAM PROFILE:

NICKNAME: THE U'S, YELLOWS | GROUND: KASSAM STADIUM | LAST SEASON: 2ND IN LEAGUE TWO | MANAGER: MICHAEL APPLETON | LAST CHECKATRADE TROPHY MATCH: OXFORD 2-1 BRADFORD

MEET THE VISITORS

THE BOSS

MICHAEL APPLETON

After having to retire from playing at the age of 27 due to a serious knee injury, Appleton became a coach at West Brom, before going on to manage the likes of Portsmouth, Blackpool and Blackburn Rovers. Took over as Oxford boss in 2014.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

SIMON EASTWOOD

The 27-year-old joined the U's for the second time in his career at the start of this season and has been a regular in Appleton's side. His former teams include Huddersfield and Bradford City.

IN DEFENCE

CURTIS NELSON

Making his senior debut for Plymouth in 2010, Nelson went onto play nearly 250 times for the Pilgrims. He left in the summer and signed for Oxford in July.

PHIL EDWARDS

The former Accrington Stanley and Rochdale defender is currently on loan at Oxford from Burton Albion. Since making his debut in 2004 for Morecambe, he has made over 400 career appearances.

CHEY DUNKLEY

Released by Crewe in 2010, the 25-year-old found his way back into the League ranks by starring for

Hednesford Town and Kidderminster Harriers before signing for the U's in November 2014.

JOE SKARZ

Came through the youth system at his hometown club, Huddersfield, where he made 71 first team appearances, before moving onto Bury and Rotherham. Joined Oxford in 2015.

SAM LONG

Since signing his first professional contract with Oxford in 2013, he has gone onto make 25 appearances for his side.

ACROSS THE MIDDLE

LIAM SERCOMBE

The 26-year-old left hometown club Exeter for Oxford in 2015. He picked up what was thought to be a season ending ankle injury in November, but has already returned to first team duties.

JOHN LUNDSTRAM

After failing to make a competitive first team appearance for Everton and going out on loan six times, the 23-year-old departed the Toffees to join United in 2015.

JOSHUA RUFFELS

The 23-year-old made two appearances for former club Coventry City, before joining Oxford United in 2013. He has made over 100 appearances for the Yellows.

JOE ROTHWELL

An ex-Manchester United man, Rothwell left Old Trafford in the summer without making a first team appearance, joining the U's on a two-year deal.

RYAN LEDSON

Another to start their career at Everton, the 20-year-old made a single appearance for the Toffees, before signing for Oxford at the beginning of this season.

UP FRONT

CHRIS MAGUIRE

The 28-year-old started his career off with Aberdeen, where he made 158 appearances and scored 24 goals. He signed for Oxford permanently in 2015, after having spells with the likes of Derby and Sheffield Wednesday.

ROB HALL

After making a handful of appearances for West Ham, the forward signed for Bolton, before moving to Oxford at the beginning of this season.

KANE HEMMINGS

The 24-year-old counts Rangers, Cowdenbeath, Dundee and Barnsley as his former teams. He signed for Oxford in July and has been a regular scorer for his side in cup competitions.



FROM THE OAK ROAD

WITH TIMMY MALLET

THE COMPETITION SO FAR...

It must have been a slightly nerve-racking route to the semi-final tonight having had three penalty shoot-outs so far, how have you found the competition this season?

To be honest tonight is my first game in the competition. I'm here as much as friendship as anything. I worked on TV-AM with Nick Owen and he remains a great friend of mine. The conversation never takes too long until we are talking about football and his passion for all things Luton Town is famous. Friendship is a powerful thing and I'm looking forward to seeing him tonight, as well as Johnny Mullins and Danny Hylton, who were two of our best players last season and have a great relationship with the Oxford fans still.

You reached the final of the competition last season...

It was such a fantastic day and whichever club gets through, the fans are in for another wonderful experience.

I remember getting on the train to Wembley at Beaconsfield last year and it was rammed with Oxford fans – and then about 500 more got on at every station!

There were Barnsley fans on there as well, heavily outnumbered, and they were enjoying themselves and I'm sure will never forget their day. It is a great stadium and hopefully we get to go back again this year.

The utterly brilliant TV star Timmy Mallett, an Oxford United supporter of many years, gives us his thoughts on what lies in store for his team this season in Sky Bet League One and this evening on their visit to Kenilworth Road...

SEASONS PAST...

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

I used to have a radio show on BBC Oxford, Timmy on the Tranny, and saw the difference that a winning football club made to the whole city. I don't remember the first game but it was during the 1985/86 season when we ended up at Wembley in the Milk Cup Final. I have never looked back since and get to as many games as I can.

Who's your favourite Oxford player of all time?

Beano – James Constable!

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



Great question. Simon Eastwood, our current goalkeeper. He is in his second spell at the club and the first time he was with us I won his shirt, then he made me give it him back because he was on the bench! I'd invite James Constable, and probably Johnny Mullins because he is always such a good bloke – can't wait to see him tonight. I'd invite Kemar Roofe because he is nice and polite at all times, and Joey Beauchamp, another huge favourite for all Oxford fans.

LUTON AND OXFORD...

The Hatters took four points from a possible six off you last season, what has changed about your team since then?

We went up, you didn't!

What do you expect from this evening's game? What's your prediction?

4-3 to Oxford. I have been to Luton many times and know it won't be easy, but I think we will edge through in a high-scoring game.

QUICKFIRE:

Terrace or seats?

Seats, but you should ask people who sit near me – I am on my feet so often and they keep having to tell me to sit down!

Who are your rivals?

There is only one rival for us, and that's Swindon Town. It's a proper rivalry and I am so proud that they haven't beaten us this century and my son Billy, also a massive Oxford fan, has never seen us lose to them.



Predict your player of the season?

Chris Maguire

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

I can't pick just one. Matt Elliott, a brilliant defender, Paul Moody who was great for us up front, and I'd also have Steve Basham back – he played for Oxford and Luton and is still around the club every home game helping out behind the scenes. A great ambassador.

Most treasured United piece of memorabilia?

I'd like Simon Eastwood's shirt back please!

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

It would be lovely if we were in the Championship and therefore still one league higher than Luton in League One!

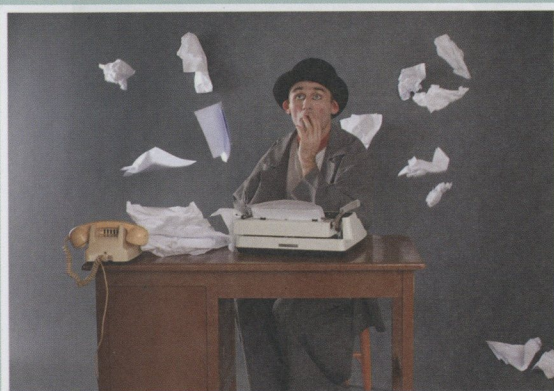
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SAT 25 MAR & SAT 22 APR
10AM & 11.30AM

TALES FROM THE SHED The Hat Factory Arts Centre

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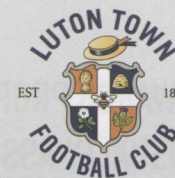
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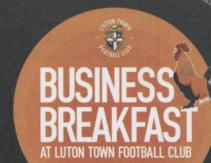
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FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES TEN BIG-NAME OXFORD UNITED PLAYERS NOT USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLUB

SADLY, THE

MARK WRIGHT

Central defender Mark Wright was capped 45 times by England after leaving Oxford United. He turned professional with Oxford in August 1980 and made ten League appearances prior to joining Southampton in a player exchange deal in March 1982. Starring as they were League Championship runners-up in 1983-84, he was unlucky to break a leg in the 1986 FA Cup semi-final and moved to Derby County in August 1987. He joined Liverpool in July 1991 and was an FA Cup winner in 1992. Later Southport's manager, he was Oxford's boss from May 2001 until November 2001, then managed Peterborough United and Chester.

MALCOLM PAGE

Former Welsh international full-back Malcolm Page gained 28 caps before joining Oxford United. He turned professional with Birmingham City in September 1964 and made his First Division debut in Blues' 1-1 draw at Everton five months later. He featured prominently as they reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1967-68 and was an influential figure in their 1971-72 promotion success, then an FA Cup semi-finalist again in 1974-75. Captain of club and country, he joined Oxford in February 1981 and scored once in 14 League games before hanging up his boots. He then worked for an insurance company in Birmingham.

COLIN TODD

Ex-England international central defender Colin Todd helped Oxford United to clinch the Third Division title in 1983-84. Initially with Sunderland, he moved to Derby County in February 1971, starring as they won the League Championship in 1971-72 and



1974-75, when PFA Player of the Year. He joined Everton in September 1978, then played for Birmingham City and Nottingham Forest. Reuniting with Jim Smith at Oxford in February 1984, he made 12 League appearances while at the Manor Ground. He had a spell with Luton Town, then managed Middlesbrough, Bolton, Swindon, Derby, Bradford City, Randers and Esbjerg.

STEVE PERRYMAN

One-time Oxford United defender Steve Perryman holds Tottenham Hotspur's appearance record. He turned professional with Spurs in January 1969 and helped twice win the League Cup and the UEFA Cup in 1972. The England international was an FA Cup winner in two consecutive seasons including 1982 when 'Footballer of the Year', then won the UEFA Cup again in 1984. He was awarded the MBE and joined Oxford United in March 1986, making 17 First Division appearances. Later Brentford's player-boss, he managed Watford, then was Spurs' assistant-boss before becoming Exeter City's director of football.

TOMMY CATON

Former England U-21 central defender Tommy Caton helped Oxford United to reach the League Cup semi-finals in 1987-88.



Initially with Manchester City, he made his First Division debut as a 16 year-old in August 1979 and was ever-present in 1979-80. He featured in two FA Youth Cup finals and the 1981 FA Cup final, moving to Arsenal for £500,000 in December 1983. Sold to Oxford United for £180,000 in January 1987, he netted three goals in 53 First Division games, joining Charlton Athletic for £100,000 in November 1988 where a foot injury ended his playing career. He suffered a fatal heart-attack in April 1993.

DAVID BARDSLEY

Right-back David Bardsley was capped twice by England after leaving Oxford United. Initially with Blackpool, he was sold to Watford for £150,000 in November 1983 and starred as they were FA Cup finalists in 1984. He joined Oxford United for £250,000 in September 1987, helping them to reach the League Cup semi-finals in 1987-88 and netting seven goals in 74 League games before moving to QPR in an exchange deal involving Mark Stein in September 1989. Helping to finish fifth in the Premier League in 1992-93, he rejoined Blackpool in July 1998 and is now director of Orlando FC in the United States.

IAN WALKER



Oxford United's former loan goalkeeper Ian Walker was capped four times by England. The son of ex-Colchester keeper Mike Walker, he turned professional with Tottenham Hotspur in December 1989 and featured in that season's FA Youth Cup final triumph. He was loaned to Oxford in August 1990 and made two League appearances. Ever-present for Spurs in 1998-99, helping to win the League Cup, he joined Leicester City for £2,500,000 in July 2001 and was ever-present as they regained Premier League status at the first attempt in 2002-03. He moved to Bolton Wanderers in July 2005, providing experienced cover.

MARCO GABBIADINI

Former England U-21 striker Marco Gabbiadini had a loan spell at Oxford United in 1996-97. He turned professional with York City in September 1985 and followed Denis Smith to Sunderland in September 1987, starring in their 1989-90 promotion campaign. Sold to Crystal Palace for £1,800,000 in October 1991, he joined Derby County in January 1992, helping to win promotion in 1995-96. Loaned to Oxford in January 1997, he scored once in five League games. After spells at Stoke City and York again, he joined Darlington in July 1998 and was twice leading marksman, then played for Northampton and Hartlepool.

CHRIS WHYTE

One-time Oxford United defender Chris Whyte starred in Leeds United's 1991-92 League Championship success. Signing professional for Arsenal in December 1979, he featured as they were semi-finalists in the FA Cup and League Cup in 1982-83. He joined Los Angeles Lazers in May 1986 and moved via West Brom to Leeds United for £400,000 in June 1990. Joining Birmingham City in August 1993, he helped win the Second Division title in 1994/95, then had spells with Charlton Athletic and Leyton Orient. He joined Oxford United in February 1997, making ten League appearances, then played for Rushden & Diamonds.

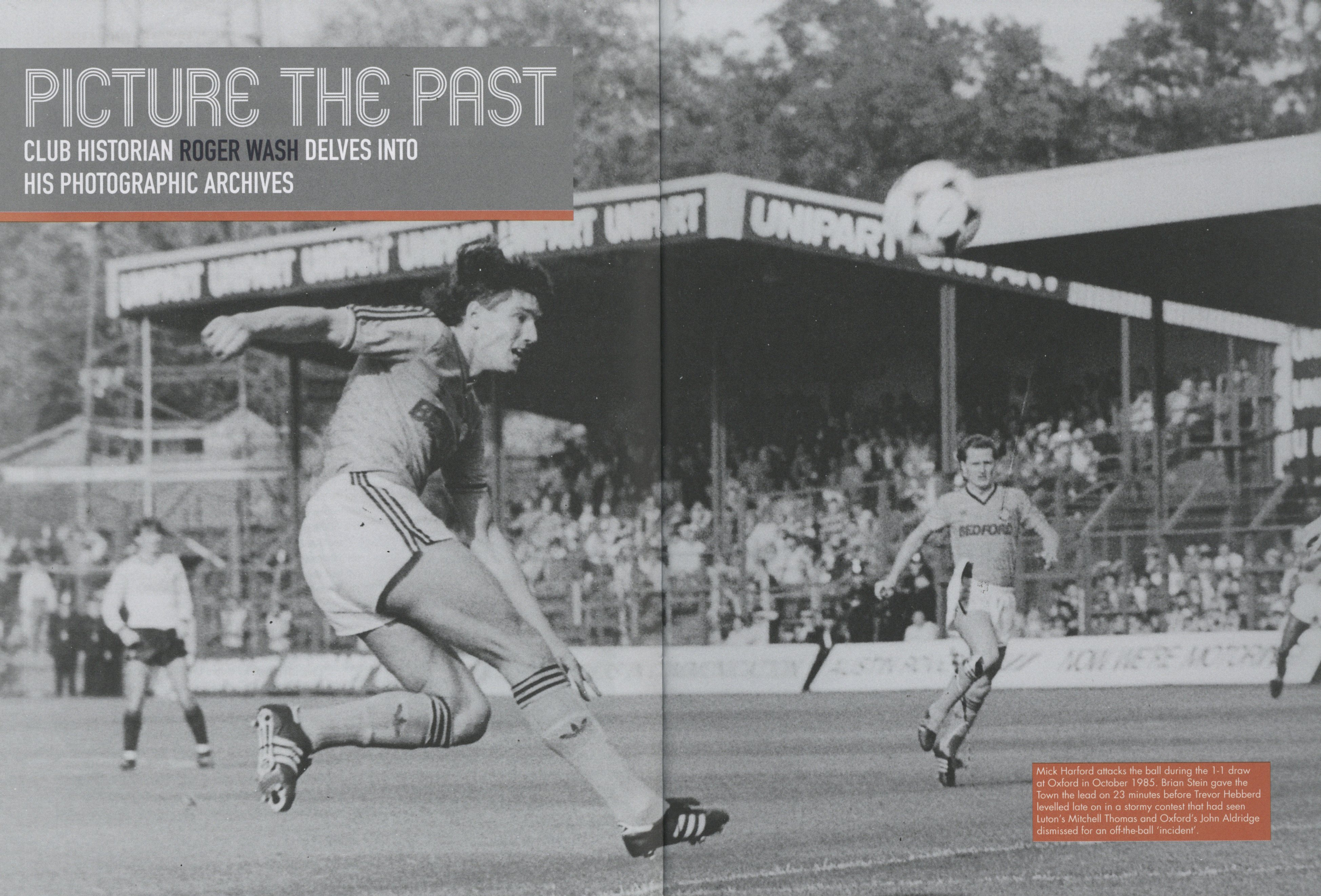


ANDY LINIGHAN

Former England B international central defender Andy Linighan played for Oxford United in 2000-01. Initially with Hartlepool, he played alongside his brother David prior to joining Leeds United in May 1984. He moved to Oldham Athletic in January 1986 and starred as they reached the Second Division play-offs in 1986-87. Sold to Norwich City for £350,000 in March 1988, he joined Arsenal for £1,250,000 in July 1990, helping win all three major domestic honours and the ECWC in 1994. He moved via Crystal Palace to Oxford in October 2000 and made 13 League appearances before ending his career with St Albans City.

PICTURE THE PAST

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



Mick Harford attacks the ball during the 1-1 draw at Oxford in October 1985. Brian Stein gave the Town the lead on 23 minutes before Trevor Hebbard levelled late on in a stormy contest that had seen Luton's Mitchell Thomas and Oxford's John Aldridge dismissed for an off-the-ball 'incident'.



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Mark Stein (on the floor) grabs one of his hat-trick goals watched by brother Brian

AS OTHERS SAW US

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

LUTON TOWN 7 OXFORD UNITED 4 | 6TH FEBRUARY 1988

The 1987/88 season was a momentous one for the Town. We reached the final of the Simod Cup, the semi-final of the FA Cup, were invited to the Centenary celebration competition at Wembley and, of course, won the Littlewoods Cup on a glorious April afternoon after beating Oxford United at the semi-final stage.

With all this going on it is worth remembering that we had 40 top-flight League games to play and it is remarkable to record that we finished in a healthy ninth spot for our third top ten finish in a row.

Oxford United played a big part in that campaign as far as the Town were concerned. As well as the aforementioned two leg Littlewoods Cup semi-final aggregate win, we also played out two cracking league games with 18 goals scored in total.

The Town did not start the season particularly well and by the time of the visit to Oxford on 5th September

the alarm bells had started to ring. With only two points from the five games played, and a position in the bottom three, manager Ray Harford decided to scrap the defensive formation he had been using and revert to the all-out attacking play favoured by David Pleat, one of his predecessors.

The system obviously suited the Town players as, from the first kick to last, they ran rings around their Oxford counterparts who were left chasing shadows long before the end. Brian Stein headed the Hatters into the lead in the 33rd minute and although Neil Slatter levelled for United against

the run of play, full-back Tim Breacker slammed in a low drive from distance just before the interval.

When Emeka Nwajobi scored with a diving header moments into the second period, the Oxford players seemed to throw the towel in and it was carnival football from then on. Ricky Hill, who took complete control of the midfield, netted number four leaving Mick Harford, back in the side after suspension, to lob the Town's fifth from 25 yards.

Oxford scored a late consolation through Martin Foyle but it was not enough to satisfy United manager



Maurice Evans, who called it: "The worst performance since I have been here. Some of our players looked as though they were ready to walk off after Luton went 3-1 up. Luton won because they were better than us in every department."

By the time of the return, in early February 1988, Oxford were struggling in the relegation positions while we had not looked back since our late summer trip to the Manor Ground and stood in eighth spot.

The first leg of the Littlewoods Cup semi-final was to be played four days after the League clash and the air was filled with talk of, 'This is not a dress rehearsal as the two games will be completely different.' We did not believe a word of it!

The game at Kenilworth Road started as the other had ended with the Town on all-out attack and it came as no surprise when Mick Harford hammered the Hatters into a sixth-minute lead. The goals then followed thick and fast, hardly allowing the crowd of 8,063 time to breathe.

Breacker set up Brian Stein for number two before Dean Saunders

pulled one back for Oxford from the spot after a handball. Darron McDonough then smashed in a volley to restore the Town's advantage before Foyle reduced the deficit once more just before the interval.

The second half was even more breathless with Mark Stein netting a hat-trick in only 11 minutes, Richard Hill and Les Phillips blasting home for Oxford and Mick Harford completing the scoring to make the final tally an amazing 7-4 to the Town. The story is not complete without mentioning that the woodwork was hit three times, several efforts were cleared off the line and both goalkeepers had blunders.

Ray Harford called it, "A freak occasion which was probably great for the fans, but I would sooner win 3-0 than 7-4."

It was great for more than the Luton fans as the TV companies had chosen both League games for transmission around the world so around 200 million viewers were treated to the 18 goals.

In the Oxford Mail, Maurice Evans confessed to being 'shell-shocked'

and promised that several of his players would be 'shaken up' before the forthcoming Littlewoods Cup clash.

Bill Pierce in the Sunday Express said, 'The goals poured in at such a rate on a barmy, unreal, plastic (NOTE. By this time the press used the word 'plastic' at least once in any match report - home or away - or article about the Hatters!) afternoon at Kenilworth Road yesterday that even Luton's electronic scoreboard was, at one stage, two behind. It was not so much pure football as pure farce - 90 minutes of Comic Relief with charity the name of the game, especially for the Oxford defenders, who ran around as though they should have been wearing red noses.'

In the Sunday Telegraph, John Moynihan was a little more measured when saying, 'As a rehearsal for Wednesday's Littlewoods Cup semi-final first leg at the Manor Ground, this merry 11-goal romp on the Kenilworth Road plastic (that word again!) pitch offered few clues about what might happen under Oxford's floodlights in a state of Cup fever.'

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CHECK US OUT!

HOW THE HATTERS REACHED THE SEMI-FINALS OF THE CHECKATRADE TROPHY...

SOUTHERN GROUP H

TUESDAY 30TH AUGUST

GILLINGHAM 1-2 LUTON TOWN

OLDAKER 90+1 | MUSONDA 10, SMITH 22

ATT: 2,128 (137 AWAY)

TUESDAY 4TH OCTOBER

LUTON TOWN 2-0 WEST BROMWICH ALBION

GILLIEAD 60, GRAY 62

ATT: 1,441 (89 AWAY)

TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

LUTON TOWN 1-3 MILLWALL

HUTCHINSON (OG) 57

ONYEDINMA 71 H SMITH 81, 87

ATT: 2,251 (370 AWAY)

CHECKATRADE TROPHY – SOUTHERN GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Millwall	3	3	0	0	7	2	5	9
2 LUTON TOWN	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
3 Gillingham	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
4 West Bromwich Albion	3	0	0	3	0	6	-6	0

KNOCK-OUT STAGES

SECOND ROUND

TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER

SWINDON TOWN 2-3 LUTON TOWN

NORRIS 6 IANDOLA 63 | MCQUOID 8, 19, VASSELL 69

ATT: 1,692 (134 HATTERS)



THIRD ROUND

LUTON TOWN 4-0 CHESTERFIELD

TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY

MACKAIL-SMITH (PEN) 23, MARRIOTT 25, 51, VASSELL 86 ▶▶



QUARTER-FINAL: TOWN 5 : YEOVIL 2

TUESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY | KENILWORTH ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 2,480 | AWAY: 90

TOWN GOALS: COOK 11, SHEEHAN 50, VASSELL 60, 90+3, HYLTON 66

YEOVIL GOALS: ZOKO 58, SOWUNMI 65

JUMPSTART! Jordan Cook, Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu and Danny Hylton celebrate the opening goal in the 5-2 quarter-final win over Yeovil that set up tonight's semi-final with Oxford United

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TOWN 1 : PLYMOUTH 1



SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY | KENILWORTH ROAD | ATTENDANCE: 9,124 | AWAY: 1,027

TOWN GOAL: HYLTON 8 | **PLYMOUTH GOAL:** TANNER 25

TOWN: MACEY, JUSTIN, CUTHBERT (C), SHEEHAN, SENIOR (MARRIOTT 79), REA, SMITH (GAMBIN 62), MPANZU, COOK, HYLTON, VASSELL (PALMER 62). **SUBS NOT USED:** MULLINS, D'ATH, GRAY, MOORE (GK) **YELLOW CARDS:** SMITH, COOK

PLYMOUTH: MCCORMICK (C), SAWYER, SONGO'O, SARCEVIC, CAREY, BRADLEY, KENNEDY (DONALDSON 69), THRELKELD, TAYLOR, FOX (SOKOLIK 46), TANNER (SPENCER 65). **SUBS NOT USED:** BULVITIS, SLEW, JERVIS, DOREL (GK)



Danny Hylton opens the scoring



STORY OF THE MATCH:

Top scorer Danny Hylton celebrated his 28th birthday with his 19th goal of the season against Plymouth – but the Hatters had to settle for a single point from one of the top sides in Sky Bet League Two for the second successive week.

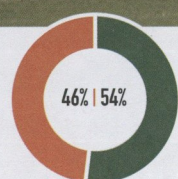
Hylton gave the Town an early lead with a stunning counter-attacking goal he started himself by heading clear inside his own penalty area and racing forward to collect a pass from Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, before lobbing a beauty into the roof of the Argyle net.

But just like last week at table-toppers Doncaster, Nathan Jones' boys were pegged back by a 25th-minute equaliser from second-placed Plymouth's wide man Craig Tanner, and although the Hatters dominated the second half, they couldn't find a winner and drop a place in the table to fifth.

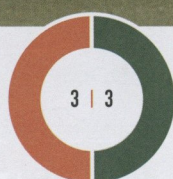
It was from a Plymouth set-piece that the Town broke away to take the lead, Hylton heading Graham Carey's centre clear and Mpanzu winning possession just outside the area before racing down the right and floating a delightful ball into the middle for Hylton.

The birthday boy still had a lot to do, but he took the ball on his chest 18 yards out and lifted it over the onrushing Argyle goalkeeper Luke McCormick with his outstretched boot for a wonderful breakaway goal.

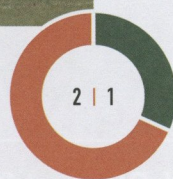
Tanner latched onto a Carey cross to level with a close range finish midway through the first half, and it remained 1-1.



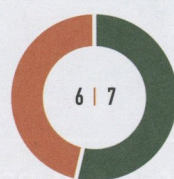
POSSESSION



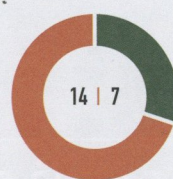
SHOTS ON TARGET



SHOTS OFF TARGET



CORNERS



FOULS



JONES: We showed what a strong, good side we are



"I am disappointed really. I thought we were the better side. We started magnificently well and then didn't really capitalise and continue that.

"As soon as we got the goal, we tended to drop off a little bit and that allowed them to take a breath, because we really had them on the ropes at that time.

"We are very disappointed with the goal, but our second half performance was superb. The only thing we couldn't do was get the ball in the net.

"In terms of performance levels I am very proud of them. We showed what a good side we are, what a strong, good side we are. It's just I am disappointed we didn't get all three points.

"We are a good counter attacking side, we have shown that, this season we have been very good. It was a wonderful counter attacking goal and a good finish, and we expect that from Danny.

"We did enough in the second half to create a clear-cut chance that should have won us the game. That's the only thing I am disappointed about and I said that to them in the dressing room.

"It is hard to be down or too critical because Plymouth are second in the league and we have played the top two in consecutive games. We should have won both games."

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[JAMES JUSTIN ON PLYMOUTH]

JJ'S ALWAYS READY



Injuries in pre-match warm-ups seem to be a recurring theme this season for the Hatters, as once again Nathan Jones was forced into making a late change after Stephen O'Donnell was due to start against Plymouth, but had to drop out 30 minutes before kick-off due to an ankle injury.

Ironically in Saturday's reverse fixture, Scott Cuthbert came in late for the injured Alan Sheehan on the opening day of the season, whilst the draw at the weekend saw James Justin come in for O'Donnell.

It was a gift in disguise for Justin who made his 25th appearance of the season two days after celebrating his 19th birthday.

"It was unexpected, but you can get the call whenever," Justin explained. "It might be halfway through the game, it might be at the start of the game, you have just got to be ready.

"It's quite overwhelming, but you're a professional footballer, so you have got to get on with your job. All the lads help you get ready and mentally prepare you, so it's alright."

Celebrating his 28th birthday just two days after the Hatters academy graduate, Danny Hylton once again got on the scoresheet on Saturday, with Justin impressed by the forward – although he was disappointed overall not to pick up all three points.

He said: "With Hylts you know what you're going to get each game, hard work, determination. That piece of skill that can win you a game.

"If we had scored and kept a clean sheet it would have been the perfect birthday really for both of us, but you take what you can get and we will keep it going into the next match.

"There's loads of frustration really as we thought we were better than them from start to finish and it was the same at Donny, we couldn't get the goal to push us over the line or keep the clean sheet. But we have got lots of winnable games coming up, so we will push on from there."

Saturday's result means that the Hatters fell to fifth, but it also saw them go the whole of February unbeaten, with Jones' team only picking up one defeat in their last ten games.

Although Justin is pleased with his team's form, he takes it game by game with the aim of winning all of the remaining matches this season.

"We only focus on ourselves, if we win all our games everything will fall into place," he continued. "We need to stop looking up or looking down or whatever, we just need to focus on ourselves.

"We just need to knuckle down and get Wembley out of our heads. If we get to Wembley, who knows what can happen."

[TOWN V OXFORD UNITED | WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2017] 41



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[DANNY HYLTON ON PLYMOUTH]

BIRTHDAY BOY HYLTS HAS HIS CAKE ... BUT DON'T TELL JARED!

Town's top scorer Danny Hylton celebrated his 28th birthday on Saturday in some style as he gave the Hatters the lead with a wonderful finish against Plymouth Argyle.

His strike that gave the Town an early advantage was pegged back 17 minutes later as Craig Tanner tapped in Graham Carey's low cross for the Argyle equaliser.

Although he was pleased to get on the scoresheet, Hylton would much rather have seen his side take all three points, than add to his own 19-goal haul this season.

"I am delighted to score obviously, but it's not about me or my personal tally," said Hylton. "I would have taken a win over a goal, so I am a little bit disappointed.

"It's a little bit of a missed opportunity, but we will go into next Saturday believing that we can win.

"We have got to make sure we go on a little run and we start winning games, and we don't take our foot off the gas and sit back then get hit by a sucker punch."

His goal came courtesy of a marvellous run from Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, who started on the edge of his own box, before powering down the right to chip the ball into the path of Hylton who lifted it over Pilgrims keeper Luke McCormick and into the back of the net.

"Pelly is one of those players, so powerful, so quick," the ex-Oxford United striker continued. "You know when he glides past players, I don't think people quite realise how agile and twisty and turny he is. He drifts past players.

"I made the run, I saw the gap and I knew once Pelly got his head up you just have to make that run, he's got that quality and thankfully he found me and I managed to score."

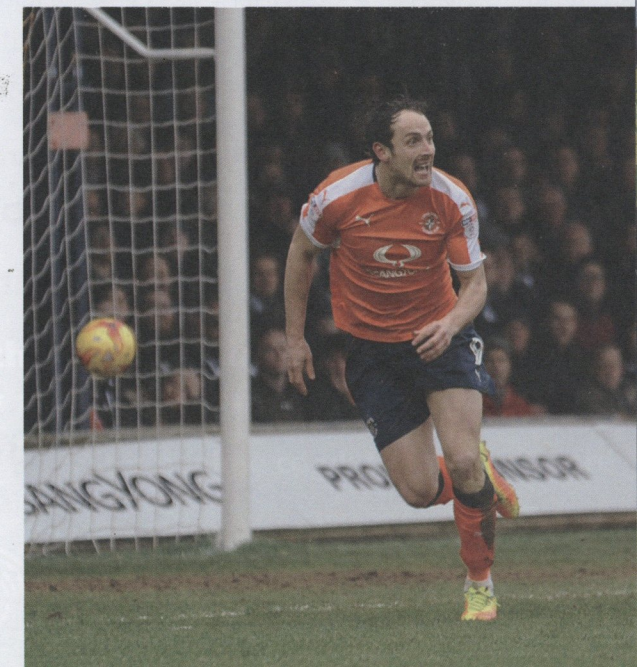
Tonight marks the first time the Hatters have taken on the U's since Hylton and Johnny Mullins left Michael Appleton's side in the summer, but he doesn't want it to be seen as a grudge match between Mullins and himself and his former team, more like a normal match with an added bonus should the Hatters win.

He explained: "It doesn't matter who it is, or who we are playing. It's a one-off game to go to Wembley that we can't wait for and we want to win. There's a massive carrot at the end of that game.

"I don't know the team we will play, me and Johnny might not play, so it doesn't matter that it's Oxford. It adds a bit of something for me and John if we do play. But when the whistle goes, all that goes to one side and we have got to be professional as it's a massive game."

To celebrate his birthday though, Danny said he was keeping things simple and going out for a meal in London, but there was one thing he was indulging in that he didn't want the club's sports scientist to know about.

"There will be a cake," he smiled, "but don't tell Jared!"



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GAFFER GRILLED ON THE BEAUTIFUL GAME!

OVER THE HALF-TERM BREAK, 13-YEAR-OLD HATTERS FAN ALEX OAKHILL — WHO WRITES A WEEKLY ONLINE BLOG 'OAKHILL SUNDAY SPORT' — CAME TO ELY WAY TO INTERVIEW TOWN BOSS NATHAN JONES. HERE IS HIS PIECE, WHICH YOU CAN ALSO READ AT OAKHILLSUNDAYSPORT.WORDPRESS.COM

What's your earliest footballing memory?

My earliest footballing memory is playing for my local team at my local pitch, just having fun playing football with all my mates really.

Who has been the most influential person in your career so far?

My parents have been very influential in terms of the support they've given me and everything they've done for me. My dad took me everywhere when I was a young player, following me all over the country and he always very supportive. I'm a Christian as well so God is very important to me, and he has blessed me throughout my career.

I can see you're a very passionate manager. What motivates you to keep managing with the same enthusiasm?

I think one thing is the fear of not doing it, not being able to be a footballer or a manager. I'm very ambitious in what I want to do, I want to achieve lots of things and I want to be the best manager I can be. The biggest thing for me is the fear of not being successful.

What do you look for in a player that you and the club are looking at signing?

We look for a number of things. Firstly, can they be a Luton player? Being a Luton player means they have to be mobile, they have a good ability and they have a good character. Secondly, we see if they fit into what we want to do, our style of play, and finally, we see if they can handle playing for Luton Town.

How much time do you spend studying the opposition before a match?

Lots of time. We watch the five previous games of our opposition, then we analyse them and get it down to a seven-minute presentation for the players to see. Of course, we know something about the opposition from playing them before, but we specifically watch the five previous games.

Do you have any pre-match superstitions?

I wouldn't say I have superstitions, but I have lots of routines. I drive into a match the same way and I try never to eat our chef's sandwiches before a game!! I do try and keep routines, especially if we're winning, but it all goes out the window as soon as the players step onto the pitch.



How does your team talk differ if you're losing compared to if you're winning?

I think they differ all the time. It's not always a rant or a rave, sometimes the players just need structural guidance, or sometimes they have played well and have just been unlucky. It's all about evaluating where we are, how we've played and what we need to improve or continue if we're playing well. The theme always is to try and score the next goal, whether we're winning 3-0 or losing 1-0. The opposition might come out of the changing room and be right at it so we always look to be positive and get the next goal.

How would you try and motivate a player in poor form?



Form is temporary but quality is permanent. We would try and reiterate the fact that he's a good player and that's why he's here, and maybe change something in training to develop him. But it's just about getting confidence back.

How do you relax away from football?

I run and drink red wine...just a little! It's very hard, especially now because there's lots of games, so to be honest, I don't really relax!

How big of a part do the supporters play in lifting the team?

Massive! They play a huge part in setting the tone of a stadium. It's a two-fold thing because if we're playing well and we're on the front foot, then that automatically gets the crowd going, but that's not always possible. Sometimes the players need a lift so if the crowd can get behind them and be really vocal, that can fill the players with adrenaline which enables them to give that three per cent extra. When we go away to a team with a big crowd like Portsmouth, we say silence the

crowd, get the crowd on the home team's back and make them feel edgy. Then that makes you feel like you have a moral advantage. The mood and tone of a crowd is very important.

If, and hopefully when, the club get their new stadium, how influential will it be?

It'll be massive really. Hopefully we can progress sufficiently before we move into the new stadium, and if we do that it will give us a new home, a state of the art home, it'll help us attract players and it'll help enable us to have bigger crowds. Also, it will help us compete in the Championship, which is where we hope to be when we move into our new stadium.

You've successfully brought quite a few youth players through in your time at Luton so far, how do you establish the balance between youth and experience in the first team?

It's difficult. Firstly you have to identify the young players and see that they're ready and then when you

feel they're ready for an opportunity you have to be brave enough to give it to them. Then you have to gauge it as you go along because with young players form will fluctuate so it's important you don't keep them in too long and it hurts their confidence. Also you need to have enough experience around them that helps them because experience really helps a young player. So it's about finding the balance between giving young players the opportunity and giving them a rest.

If you could've played alongside one player of your choice in your career who would it have been?

Chris Waddle. I was, and still am, a Tottenham fan and I would've loved to play with Chris Waddle because he was my favourite player.

This season, would you rather achieve automatic promotion or a Wembley cup final victory?

Automatic promotion, quite an easy question that. Although we would like to do both!!!

In August 1989 the Town were invited to take on Oxford United for the Oxfordshire Benevolent Cup. The game, which took place at the old Manor Ground, finished in a 2-1 victory for the Hatters with Roy Wegerle netting both Luton goals. Here we see the Town team line up with the magnificent trophy, which was solid silver and said to worth £15,000, shortly before the mandatory open-top bus parade through the streets of Headington!



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CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

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ANDY AWFORD'S ACADEMY UPDATE



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

U18S

Unfortunately, the Youth Team were on the end of a 2-0 defeat away at Southend United on Saturday. After a bright opening 20 minutes, in difficult blustery conditions, whereby Connor Tomlinson (pictured below) was unlucky with a shot that struck the outside of the post, we did not work their goalkeeper enough and although we were a lot younger than our opponents, with a good amount of U16s again getting good U18 game time, we fell short of our normal standards.

Next up for the U18s is a home game against Plymouth Argyle on Saturday and we will be looking for a marked improvement and a positive reaction.

U16S

The U16s totally dominated their game away at Southend United on Saturday, with a fine Jake Peck strike the difference between the teams. The individual performances from the majority of the boys were very encouraging and the overall result should have been a lot wider in all honesty. Again, great experience for some of our U14 & U15 players, who will have gained valuable experience from playing in the U16s.

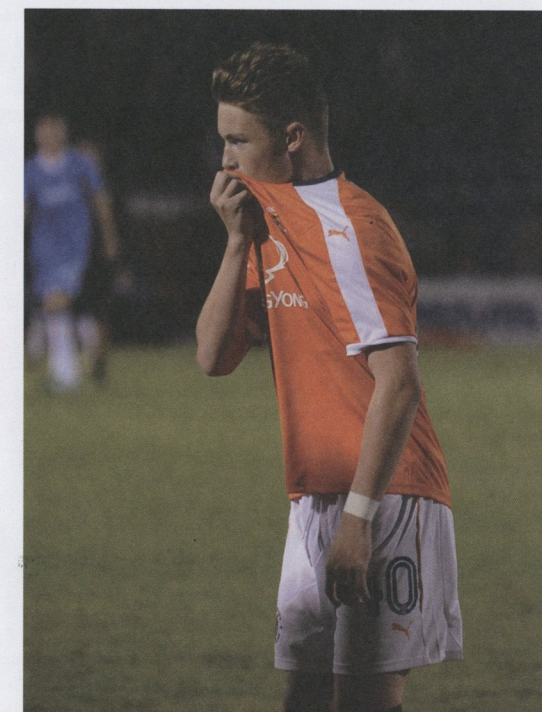
U11S

Our U11s will host an in-house festival at the weekend. Dutch side De Grafschaap, Leyton Orient & Queens Park Rangers will provide us with stern opposition and provide the boys with a great experience of playing against different cultures, systems and styles.

Enjoy tonight's game.

COYH!

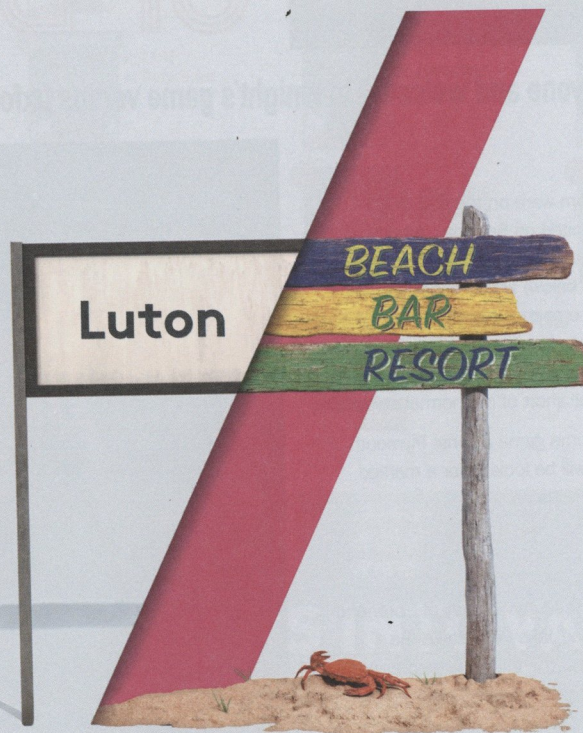
ANDY



HISTORY BOY!

Under-16s striker Connor Tomlinson entered the Luton Town record books in the opening match of our journey to the semi-finals of the Checkatrade Trophy when he appeared as a late substitute at Gillingham on 30th August, aged 15 years and 199 days. That made him the youngest player in Hatters history, beating Jordan Patrick, who was 16 years and seven days when he played against Grimsby in October 2008.

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LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN,
HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

Half term week turned out again to be the Trust's busiest week of the year.

With almost 50 fixtures for our recruited boys and girls development squads, the visit of Arsenal FC on our PL Kicks programme, our soccer camps and the start of our disability footballers' league programme along with

our walking footballers making the EFL regional national tournament, almost 900 boys, girls and adults pulled on the shirt to represent the Hatters in just five days!

PL KICKS PROGRAMME WELCOMES ARSENAL FC TO MARSH FARM

The Premier League's KICKS scheme seeks to engage young people from areas of high need in football, sport and personal development.

The Kicks project aims to use football as a hook to engage and target young people and attempt to divert them away from crime and anti-social behaviour by providing training and employment and volunteering opportunities.

Last week we played our home KICKS fixture with Arsenal FC in Marsh Farm, with the Hatters team made up from boys from all over Luton.

Hatters Trust Community Operations Officer Daniel Douglas commented: "Kicks is a fantastic project that encourages

young lads of all ages and abilities to come together and enjoy football. We are using the games as rewards for the boys who attend and behave. We lost a commanding lead in the game so I've put myself under pressure in the next game!"



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Our fully integrated youth player development structure at the club is run by the Community Trust to support our schoolboy academy.

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 with routes into our Centres of Excellence for recruited boys.

In total, over 20 of these centres run all year around through our development programme. An important part of the process is the games programme and during half-term week the programme of over 40 games saw the boys playing Derby County, York City and Colchester Utd FC at U7 to U16 age groups. It's fair to say we are competitive at most age groups and levels and particularly with our pre-academy squads who provide stiff opposition for most clubs.



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GIRLS PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FIXTURES V NORWICH CITY FC

Longest journey of the week saw our Hatters Girls PDC fixture v Norwich City played in Norfolk.

The tournament also included representative sides from Norfolk and Suffolk FA, and made for a great day out and a great atmosphere at the games with fantastic enthusiasm from everyone involved, and a fantastic second round of fixtures for our new Girls Player Development Centre.

The new Centre for this season aims to identify and recruit talented and enthusiastic local girls, provide quality coaching in a fun and friendly atmosphere and eventually provide elite pathways for girls aged 16+ to Luton Town Ladies first team and development squads.

We've made a great start so far and next up is our Easter fixture against Northampton Town and AFC Bournemouth.



HATTERS MEN'S DISABILITY FOOTBALL

Last week also saw the start of our men's disability league fixtures at our local ability counts league organised by the Beds FA. We have two teams running this season – one in the new super league and one in the Championship.

Our teams are part of our 'Every Player Counts' disability programme supported by the EFL Trust and the Wembley National Stadium Trust. Our programme is PAN disability and covers both children and adults with learning disabilities, with sessions and centres all over Luton and Bedfordshire.

It is a growing programme that this week alone will see the Trust deliver 12 sessions reaching over 150 participants of

all abilities. Our super league players are at the top end of the ability range, but our 'every player counts' multi sports programme also reaches those with less ability and aims to be inclusive enabling anyone with a disability to take part.



WALKING FOOTBALLERS

Finally, just have to mention our over 50 walking footballers that took on all comers from across Bedfordshire last week in Leighton Buzzard, and won through for the right to represent themselves in the EFL regional walking football tournament next month at V360.

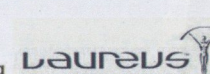
The regional tournament will be the third year in a row we have hosted the tournament and teams from EFL Clubs all over East Anglia and SE England will again converge, on Luton for the right to play in the national finals at St Georges Park in May. Good luck fellas!



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IWantToBe



HATTERSLADIES

RUTHERFORD BRACE BRINGS DOWN CANARIES

BY ROSIE BONASS

Joanne Rutherford netted twice for Town as they beat Norwich City Ladies 3-1 in the league on Sunday.

Right-back Lucy Webster scored arguably one of the goals of the season as she opened the scoring for Town early in the first half and Norwich pulled one back late on through Kyla Love.

Nikki Baker made one change to her starting line-up as Asia Brown made her full debut at left-back in replace of Mollie Robinson.

Town got off to an encouraging start as Webster scored an unbelievable solo goal after 13 minutes when she dribbled past four players – covering almost three quarters of the pitch – and after a brilliant run, she eventually slotted passed Ellie Bird into the bottom left corner.

Two minutes later, Rutherford doubled the advantage for Town as she poked the ball in at far post after Rachel Kosky supplied a superb long free-kick.

The Hatters should have increased their lead shortly after when Webster drilled in a dangerous ball from the right wing, but it was slightly too high for Zara Carroll who was unmarked in the box.

At the other end of the pitch, the only meaningful chance for the visitors came from a corner kick, just before the interval when Love volleyed the ball just over the crossbar.

Immediately after the break, Brown was unlucky not to bag her first goal for Town as she fired her shot inches wide.



Goal of the season contender scored by Lucy Webster

Half-an-hour later, Rutherford gave Town a three-goal cushion as she netted from close range after Henman delivered a brilliant ball in at the far post.

Love scored a scrappy consolation goal from close range for Norwich in the 81st minute, but Town's dominance paid off and they were the worthy winners by the end.

After the game, Baker said: "Getting the early goal helped us a lot. It was 2-0 after 15 minutes and this set us up to be able to relax and try to play a bit of football.

"We panicked a little bit and I was disappointed to concede, but we came through it well."

Baker went on to praise 16-year-old Webster after she scored a phenomenal solo goal, and Rutherford, who bagged two.

"Lucy has been exceptional this season despite being only 16," Baker commented. "Both at right back and on the wing she has been superb, keeping some of the best players in the league quiet defensively, and going forward she is difficult to stop.

"Her goal today was so typical of her as she took the ball off a player and just ran straight through the whole side.

"Jo has been a key player for us this season. Her work-rate is top class and she was unlucky today not to get a hat-trick.

"We have been working on partnerships with her and she has been linking really well with other midfield players recently."

Town's next game comes in two weeks' time when they play Ipswich away 12th March.



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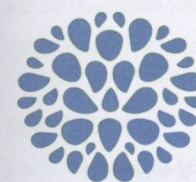
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LATE TACKLE

CHRIS DUNLAVY

MANSFIELD MANAGER STEVE EVANS ALMOST CAME A CROPPER AT BLUNDELL PARK LAST WEEKEND AFTER BIZARRELY BEING ORDERED TO SIT WITH A VOCAL SECTION OF GRIMSBY FANS.

Dismissed for arguing with the fourth official during the Stags' 3-0 defeat, the 54-year-old was confronted by home fans and eventually dragged out by stewards concerned for his safety.

"They offered me the opportunity to sit with the Grimsby press, which I didn't think was fair," explained the Scot. "I then asked to go on the far side, which I was refused to do. "When there was ten minutes left and we were 3-0 down I took the opportunity to take myself away from the situation and sat downstairs waiting for the players to come in."

Unfortunately, not everyone gets the chance to take themselves away from the situation. Take this lot...

HENRIK LARSSON

A hero at Helsingborgs as a player, Larsson's single season in charge was a disaster, culminating in relegation to the second tier for the first time since 1993.

Beaten in a do-or-die play-off by Halmstads, irate Helsingborgs fans invaded the pitch and attacked Larsson's son, Jordan, a striker for the club.

Having attempted to rip the shirt off his back before shoving him to the ground, fans then turned their attention to Larsson senior, who bounced towards them in a boxing stance before being grabbed by stewards.

Amidst threats on social media, Larsson warned he had "many dogs" at his house before wisely handing in his notice.

ANDREI NAZAROV

AS a player in the NHL, hardman Nazarov was nicknamed 'The Russian Bear' and famously racked up an 1,409 penalty minutes in just 571 games. To this day, the 6ft

Sins bruiser remains fifth on the San Jose Sharks' all-time offenders list.

So when a fan of Belarusian side Dynamo Minsk launched a lighter at Nazarov – then coach of Moscow-based side Vityaz – during a league match in 2011, he should have known what was coming.

Nazarov grabbed a hockey stick, clambered up the perspex barrier and attempted to pummel his assailant (and anyone who got in the way) in the head. Only a lack of reach and some committed stewarding saved the day.

Later, during a spell in charge of SKA St. Petersburg, Nazarov was accused of beating the club doctor unconscious. Nice bloke.

NEIL LENNON

Amidst the bullets and parcel bombs, Lennon's tenure as Celtic boss was also marred by a Hearts fan attempting to knock his block off.

During a match at Tynecastle in 2011, 26-year-old John Wilson charged into Lennon's technical area shouting abuse. He might have gone even further but for Lennon's quick-witted assistant Alan Thompson, who grabbed the man's hood and yanked him to the floor.

Lennon – who took an arm in the face during the incident – had to be restrained from seeking retribution.

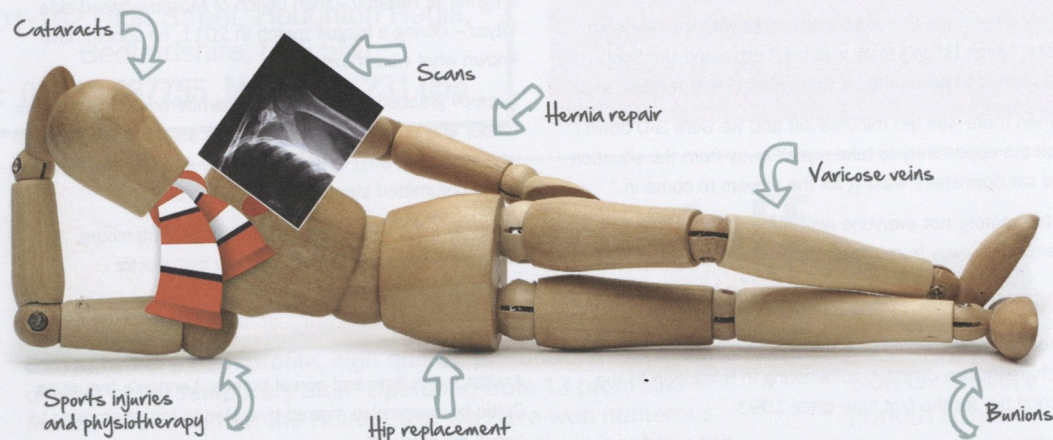
Wilson wrote a letter of apology to Lennon but it wasn't enough to spare him an eight-month jail sentence for breach of the peace.



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TERRY EMM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AS A HATTER

Congratulations to supporter Terry Emm who celebrated his half-century of life following the Town at Saturday's game against Plymouth.

He watched his first game at Kenilworth Road, aged nine, on 25th February 1967.

"I stood on the Oak Road terrace and paid six old pence to get in," recalls Terry. "It was a 0-0 draw against Southport and David Pleat was wearing the number nine shirt. My first away game was on 2nd January 1971 at Nottingham Forest in the third round of the FA Cup, and it was televised on Match Of The Day.

"My all-time favourite player Malcolm McDonald hit the goalposts with a shot so hard that they collapsed!"

Terry was a founder member of the Junior Hatters in 1972 and with some friends, played a team of players in 'A Question Of Football', with Eric Morecambe the quizmaster and Harry Haslam the timekeeper.

Thanks for your continued support, Terry!

SATURDAY'S LEAGUE 2 FIXTURES:

Accrington v Barnet	Hartlepool v Exeter
Blackpool v Morecambe	Newport v Leyton Orient
Cambridge v Colchester	Plymouth v Carlisle
Cheltenham v Mansfield	Portsmouth v Crewe
Crawley v Doncaster	Stevenage v Notts County
Grimsby v Wycombe	Yeovil v Luton

FANCY AN EVENING WITH THE GAFFER?

Luton Town Supporters' Trust are hosting an Evening With Nathan Jones in the Eric Morecambe Suite next week, with tickets costing just a fiver!

The Hatters' boss will talk about his playing career, which included playing Non-League for Merthyr Tydfil, a spell at Kenilworth Road, a stint in Spain and countless promotions over a dozen years with Brighton and Yeovil, as well as his current job trying to take the Town back up the Football League.

Fans will also be given opportunity to grill the gaffer in a Q&A session, with doors opening from 7pm for a 7.30pm kick-off.

Tickets for the event on Thursday 9th March are available to all from the Kenilworth Road ticket office in person, or by phone on 01582 416976, priced £5.

PLAYER STATS 2016/17

	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISP		LFC	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS
Alex Atkinson	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	1	0
Tyreeq Bakinson	0	(0)	0	3	(1)	0	3	(1)	0	5
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	2	(2)	0	14
Jordan Cook	24	(4)	3	4	(1)	1	28	(5)	4	33
Kavan Cotter	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1
Scott Cuthbert	26	(1)	1	3	(2)	0	29	(3)	1	4
Lawson D'Ath	2	(2)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	0
Akin Famewo	1	(2)	0	3	(0)	4	2	(0)	1	0
Luke Gambin	5	(3)	1	0	(0)	0	5	(3)	1	1
Alex Gilliead	10	(8)	1	3	(0)	1	13	(8)	2	3
Jake Gray	7	(6)	1	8	(0)	3	15	(6)	4	0
Danny Green	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0
Freddie Hinds	0	(0)	0	0	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	0
Dáirny Hylton	28	(1)	15	5	(0)	4	33	(1)	19	11
James Justin	17	(1)	0	6	(1)	0	23	(2)	0	2
Craig King	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0
Oilly Lee	16	(6)	0	5	(1)	0	21	(7)	0	7
Matt Macey	4	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	0
Craig Mackail-Smith	0	(2)	0	2	(2)	1	2	(4)	1	1
Jack Marriott	22	(8)	5	4	(2)	4	26	(10)	9	1
Cameron McGeehan	24	(0)	10	4	(0)	1	28	(0)	11	7
Josh McQuoid	1	(2)	0	5	(0)	2	6	(2)	2	2
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	21	(8)	0	5	(2)	0	26	(10)	0	5
Stuart Moore	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0
Johnny Mullins	20	(2)	0	5	(0)	1	25	(2)	1	1
Frankie Musonda	0	(0)	0	5	(0)	1	5	(0)	1	0
Stephen O'Donnell	19	(1)	1	6	(3)	2	25	(4)	3	1
Ollie Palmer	0	(5)	1	0	(0)	0	0	(5)	1	1
Dan Potts	16	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	18	(1)	0	3
Glen Rea	23	(3)	1	7	(0)	1	30	(3)	2	9
Arthur Read	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Jack Senior	8	(1)	0	5	(0)	0	13	(1)	0	2
Alan Sheehan	19	(3)	2	4	(0)	1	23	(3)	3	3
Jonathan Smith	9	(11)	1	8	(2)	1	17	(13)	2	6
Jack Snelus	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Connor Tomlinson	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Isaac Vassell	12	(15)	4	5	(5)	4	17	(20)	8	2
Christian Walton	27	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	33	(0)	0	1

Please respect the tireless efforts of groundsman Richard Bird and his staff by not invading the pitch, and be aware that anyone doing could face a ban from attending future games here at Kenilworth Road.

HOLD THE BACKPAGE

WITH ANDREW BARRINGER
FORMER LTFC PRESS OFFICER



As I type these words, I am frantically contacting as many English and Irish bars in Vienna as I can find to try and secure myself a place in front of a television screen which is showing this very match you have come to see tonight.

I've already had one rejection email. It just so happens Real Madrid and Barcelona are also playing this evening. If none of these desperate sounding emails comes to fruition then it would be a real shame: mostly because I don't want to disappoint an office full of new Luton supporters who now can't contain their excitement at watching the mighty Hatters live on national television.

"It's the cup for third and fourth league teams – we're in the semi-final and if we win we'll play at Wembley...and the game's live on the telly," I have told them every day since the crushing quarter-final triumph over Yeovil.

The last time the Hatters found themselves in this situation – one game from a place in the final of the Football League Trophy – was eight years ago and I was just one month into my role as press officer when the Town took on Brighton at Kenilworth Road. Like tonight, the game was also televised. We had to prepare for Sky Sports doing their thing: turning up and placing cameras here, there and everywhere, which, given the tight confines of Kenilworth Road, is never an easy task.

After the penalty-saving heroics of on-loan goalkeeper Lewis Price, thousands of delirious fans invaded the pitch. For me there was no time to celebrate. Reports had to be written and quotes typed up. There were pictures to upload: just don't upload the ones of Sol Davis naked, okay? The press requests to speak to Lewis went on and on. He was still standing in his dirty kit when he gave his last television interview at quarter-to-midnight.

Will there be similar scenes of jubilation on the pitch and manic typing off it tonight? Oxford – like Brighton on that night, a league above – stand in our way. Their communications manager, Chris Williams, is a bloody good bloke. I still remember that night we scored twice in injury time against the U's in the Conference in 2010. Having just witnessed his team snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in such dramatic fashion, he remained a true pro and magnanimous in defeat. Although had he been sat next to Simon Pitts in the press box that might have been an entirely different story...

Anyway, after the Brighton win, and with the Hatters through to Wembley, a new round of interview requests begun. There were FAQs to write, players to speak to and a music video to produce. 30 Miles to Wembley... remember Jane Ledson, Kevin Nicholls and a Reliant Robin? It peaked at number 13 on Apple's iTunes video chart, apparently.

So which team's press department will be working overtime come 10pm tonight? And which heroic player, fresh from shooting (or saving) their team to Wembley will be standing in his flip-flops on the touchline as midnight approaches when all he wants is a warm shower and his bed?

I'll just be hoping I can see the drama unfold properly, and not straining my eyes on a dodgy stream – and doing celebrating instead of the typing this time.

Gentlemen, it's over to you.

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- 6 Scott Cuthbert
- 7 Jake Gray
- 8 Cameron McGeehan
- 9 Danny Hylton
- 10 Jordan Cook
- 11 Danny Green
- 13 Matt Macey
- 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
- 24 Lawson D'Ath
- 27 Tyreeq Bakinson
- 28 Ollie Palmer
- 31 Craig King
- 36 James Justin
- 37 Frankie Musonda
- 39 Akin Famewo
- 42 Liam Gooch
- 44 Alan Sheehan

- 1 Simon Eastwood
- 2 Christian Ribeiro
- 3 Joe Skarz
- 4 John Lundstram
- 5 Curtis Nelson
- 6 Aaron Martin
- 7 Toni Martinez
- 8 Liam Sercombe
- 9 Wes Thomas
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- 19 Rob Hall
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