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v Luton Town
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Kick-Off: 3.00pm
Sky Bet League Two
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Community Development Officer: Tom Tayler
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Head Groundsman: David Blacknall
Club Photographer: Richard Blaxall

HONOURS

League One Runners-Up: 2005/06
Division Three Play-Off Winners: 1997/98
Fourth Division Runners-Up: 1961/62
FA Trophy Winners: 1991/92
Football Conference Champions: 1991/92
Football Conference Runners-Up: 1990/91
Football League Trophy Runners-Up: 1996/97
Southern League Cup Winners: 1937/38, 1949/50
Watney Cup Winners: 1970/71
Essex Senior Cup Winners: 2009/10

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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COVER STAR

Drey Wright tussles for possession in last weekend's 2-0 reverse at Crewe Alexandra



JOHN McGREAL



I WON'T EVER USE INJURIES AS AN EXCUSE, WE HAVE QUALITY PLAYERS READY TO STEP INTO THE TEAM AND WE WILL WORK HARD TO SECURE AS MANY POINTS AS WE CAN

Welcome back for today's game, as we take on Luton Town here at the Weston Homes Community Stadium. I'm sure it will be a tight game, with both sides looking for the three points to stay in the promotion race.

I extend my welcome to Nathan Jones, his players, staff and supporters and wish them all a safe journey back to Bedfordshire later this evening. Like us, their sole aim at the moment will be to win today so we will have to be right on our game and make sure we get the win.

Our last two home games produced two very different results, starting with the game against Portsmouth a couple of Saturdays ago. We started the game pretty well, but that was short lived and our visitors showed exactly why they are well in the mix for the automatic promotion places. It was probably the best performance against us this season but we were below our best and got what we deserved on the day.

We'll fight on without him, just we have done without all the other serious

injuries we have suffered this season. I won't ever use injuries as an excuse, we have quality players ready to step into the team and we will work hard to secure as many points as we can over the remaining eight games.

The game at Crewe saw us come away empty handed, having gone behind in a poor first half and then conceding a second as we searched for an equaliser. We dominated the second half and had a couple of decent chances that weren't converted. It was disappointing to leave with nothing, adding to the bad news about Sammie.

Thanks for all your support in these recent games, keep up the good work this afternoon and for the next seven games after today. We are still very much in the mix but it will take a big effort from everyone to achieve it. Make plenty of noise and enjoy the game.

UPCOMING GAMES



Notts County Saturday April 1st | 3PM KICK-OFF | EFL 2

Tickets are now on sale for the U's trip to Notts County at the start of April.



Prices are as follows:-

Adults: £20 | **Concessions (18-21s, Seniors (60+)):** £14 | **U18s:** £5 | **U12s:** Free

Ambulant and wheelchair disabled: As per relevant age band

Carer: Free of charge for persons on higher or medium rate of DLA

There are no cash turnstiles at Meadow Lane, so advance purchases are advised. Tickets available on the day from the away ticket booth (cash only).

There is limited parking available for disabled supporters, available to purchase in advance via 0115 952 9000.

AWAY

HOME

HOME

STEVENAGE Saturday April 8th | 3PM KICK-OFF | EFL 2

The U's host high flying Boro at the start of April as the push for promotion continues. Tickets are currently at the **Saver rate** for this fixture, so book your seat now to make a saving!



DONCASTER ROVERS Good Friday April 14th | 3PM KICK-OFF | EFL 2

The U's welcome league leaders for our home Easter fixture at WHCS. Tickets are currently at the **Saver rate** for this fixture, so grab yours now!



WANT TO GET ON BOARD? IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

If you're yet to become a Season Ticket holder, it's not too late to get on board. Our Season Passes are available in the coming weeks and you could join a growing number of fans backing the U's in this way.

And, if you're not able to commit just yet, there's still an option for you! Our brand new Annual Subscription allows you to pay a monthly subscription, but still enjoy all of the benefits of a Season Ticket holder. You have to commit to being a member for at least a year but you can join at any time.

That means that, if you get the U's bug after the season starts or can't start coming to games until later into the fixture list, you can still buy yourself a full year's worth of matches.

These are available to buy via the Ticket Office or you can grab one online with just a few simple clicks!

MATCH CREDITS

Match Credits are available to purchase via www.colutickets.com in multiples of five games (5, 10, 25, 50 and 100). These credits are then kept on your account until such time that you decide to redeem them against a game you'd like to attend.

The more credits you buy in one transaction, the cheaper they will be and Match Credits will represent a significant saving on matchday prices.

A full price table, with a cost per credit, can be found on the official website. A credit is valid for one seat in a Football League fixture.

Should you wish to use multiple credits against one fixture, then you are able to do so. Simply select the seats you would like to buy and redeem the relevant number of credits. Furthermore, groups are encouraged to buy credits together to then redeem and attend the games they wish to go to together.

For a full Q&A on Match Credits, take a look at page 66 and see what savings you could make this season!

MATCH PRICING

EARLY BIRD BEST PRICE UNTIL 5 WEEKS & 1 DAY BEFORE THE GAME

	South	W1/9	W2/8	W3/7	W4/6	E8	E7	E6	E5
Adult	£14.50	£15.50	£17.50	£19.50	£21.50	£15.50	£17.50	£19.50	£21.50
Conc.	£10.00	£11.00	£13.00	£15.00	£17.00	£11.00	£13.00	£15.00	£17.00
18-21	£11.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U18s	£8.00	£8.00	£9.00	£10.00	£11.00	£8.00	£9.00	£10.00	£11.00
U14s	-	-	-	-	-	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00	£6.00
U11s	-	-	-	-	-	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

SUPER SAVER FROM 5 WEEKS BEFORE THE GAME UNTIL 3 WEEKS & 1 DAY BEFORE

	South	W1/9	W2/8	W3/7	W4/6	E8	E7	E6	E5
Adult	£16.00	£17.00	£19.00	£21.00	£23.00	£17.00	£19.00	£21.00	£23.00
Conc.	£11.00	£13.00	£15.00	£17.00	£19.00	£13.00	£15.00	£17.00	£19.00
18-21	£12.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U18s	£9.00	£9.00	£10.00	£11.00	£12.00	£9.00	£10.00	£11.00	£12.00
U14s	-	-	-	-	-	£3.50	£4.50	£5.50	£6.50
U11s	-	-	-	-	-	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

SAVER FROM 3 WEEKS BEFORE THE GAME UNTIL 1 WEEK & 1 DAY BEFORE

	South	W1/9	W2/8	W3/7	W4/6	E8	E7	E6	E5
Adult	£17.50	£19.00	£21.00	£23.00	£25.00	£19.00	£21.00	£23.00	£25.00
Conc.	£12.50	£14.00	£16.00	£18.00	£20.00	£14.00	£16.00	£18.00	£20.00
18-21	£12.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U18s	£9.50	£10.00	£11.00	£12.00	£13.00	£10.00	£11.00	£12.00	£13.00
U14s	-	-	-	-	-	£4.00	£5.00	£6.00	£7.00
U11s	-	-	-	-	-	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

ADVANCE FROM 1 WEEK BEFORE THE GAME UNTIL 1 DAY BEFORE

	South	W1/9	W2/8	W3/7	W4/6	E8	E7	E6	E5
Adult	£19.00	£21.00	£23.00	£25.00	£27.00	£21.00	£23.00	£25.00	£27.00
Conc.	£14.00	£15.00	£17.00	£19.00	£21.00	£15.00	£17.00	£19.00	£21.00
18-21	£15.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U18s	£11.00	£11.00	£12.00	£13.00	£14.00	£11.00	£12.00	£13.00	£14.00
U14s	-	-	-	-	-	£4.50	£5.50	£6.50	£7.50
U11s	-	-	-	-	-	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

MATCHDAY THESE PRICES APPLY ON THE DAY OF THE GAME

	South	W1/9	W2/8	W3/7	W4/6	E8	E7	E6	E5
Adult	£21.00	£23.00	£25.00	£27.00	£29.00	£23.00	£25.00	£27.00	£29.00
Conc.	£16.00	£17.00	£19.00	£21.00	£23.00	£17.00	£19.00	£21.00	£23.00
18-21	£17.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U18s	£13.00	£13.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00	£13.00	£14.00	£15.00	£16.00
U14s	-	-	-	-	-	£5.00	£6.00	£7.00	£8.00
U11s	-	-	-	-	-	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE



ROMAN CARS
**BE THE
TWELFTH
MAN!**

Our official travel partners Roman Coaches will be offering fans the chance to get to games at fantastic prices this season. You will be able to travel to ANY away game for just £12 this season as we look to make the fans the twelfth man.

What's more, if you're a Season Ticket (season pass or annual subscription) holder, you can travel for just £10 on the presentation of your Season Card!

**To book
your spot,
call 01206
521521**

**Upcoming
departure times:-**

Notts County
Saturday 1st April
9.30am departure

Morecambe
Monday 17th April
7.00am departure



WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU?

OUR GUIDE TO TICKETS



Colchester United's General Manager Tim Waddington has been answering some of the questions we have been receiving about our ticket options and how fans can decide what option is best for them.

With so many different ways to buy tickets for games this season, with

different prices for different parts of the stadium and then different concessions that also affect the price, it can be a bit confusing for fans to determine which method they should use and why that is the best option for them.

With the games having now started, the Season Pass is perhaps not an option for some fans, but the Annual Subscription means that supporters enthused by the

team's first half of the season can still get on board for the next year.

Tim said: "The Annual Subscription provides access to all home games for exactly a year and the cost is spread over 12 monthly payments."

Going on to discuss the matchday tickets, Tim advised us: "The Early Bird prices are very competitive, but you

EXAMPLE CASES

So, looking to understand the full advantages of the Match Credits, we asked Tim to supply us with some examples and below is the information he provided:

EXAMPLE ONE

You know you will attend multiple games in the next year, but work and family commitments mean you don't know until the last minute when it will be, so you can never take advantage of buying cheaper, earlier.

Buying a batch of Match Credits allows you to buy at a competitive rate and then convert a credit into a match ticket at the last minute.

EXAMPLE TWO

You attend several games each year in a group, but not everyone in the group goes to all of the same games. Buying a batch between the group will make tickets cheaper to purchase and for each game you just convert the number of credits into match tickets that you need to.

EXAMPLE THREE

You run a business and like to mix business with pleasure and invite your customers and potential customers to games. You want to attend all of the games but, if you buy a number of Season Tickets, you know that some games are less attractive to your customers than others.

Buying Match Credits allows you to invite more customers to the attractive fixtures and yet still come yourself on that cold Tuesday evening in January, without wasting any tickets.

EXAMPLE FOUR

A large group of you want to attend a game, but it's too late to buy the cheaper matchday tickets.

You can simply buy a large batch of Match Credits at a cheap rate and then go online and convert them into match tickets.

FAIR USAGE

We want Match Credits to offer our loyal fan base a way to buy cheaper access to games. However, they must not be used to create a reseller option which would seriously undermine the Club finances.

need to be certain a couple of months in advance of the actual games you will be attending.

"Matchday prices do ramp up as a game gets closer so, if you are buying matchday tickets, then you must remember that the earlier you buy, the cheaper it is."

This season has also seen us introduce a Match Credits system, which offer another level of flexibility to fans with busy lives and are something that represents a first for the club as we continue to evolve the offer for supporters.



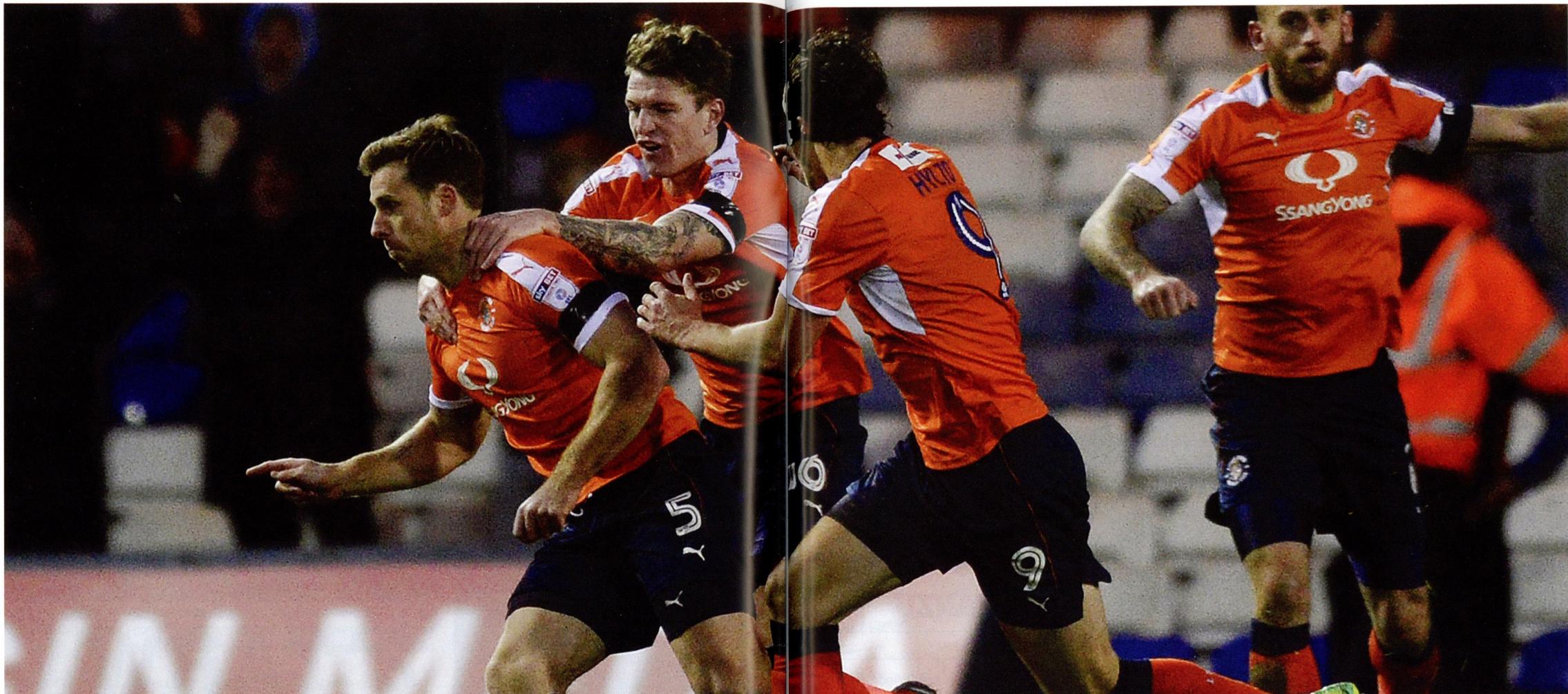
Tim explained: "The credits are very exciting for us and we are not aware that anyone else is doing anything else like it."

"If you, or a group which includes you, are planning to attend five or more games in the next 12 months but you need some flexibility regarding if, when and who will attend matches, then these Match Credits which are bought in batches online are going to be a great option."

"They get converted online to match tickets and remain valid for 12 months from the day the first one is redeemed."

We hope that this gives a better understanding of what's on offer this year as we prepare for an exciting campaign under John and Steve's management. We look forward to welcoming you on board!





IN OPPOSITION LUTON



WORDS: Brian Jeeves

Last weekend's defeat at Gresty Road has left Colchester United with work to do if they are to make a late dash for a Sky Bet League Two play-off berth. And with the unfortunate Sammie Szmodics breaking his leg, adding further to the U's injury woes, supporters could be forgiven for feeling somewhat frustrated at the moment.

Nevertheless, the wonderful thing about football is that there is always another game and an opportunity to put things right. Luton Town visit the Weston Homes Community Stadium today, perhaps a little disappointed themselves that they have failed to pick up maximum points in their last four League Two fixtures following Tuesday's draw at Newport.

Promotion-chasing Hatters were also held

by Exeter City at Kenilworth Road last weekend, much to the frustration of manager, Nathan Jones, who said: "It's definitely two points dropped. Exeter are a good side, but we have to win these games. For our ultimate goal, we have to win these games. It was a very good performance first half, I thought we controlled the game.

"We needed a bit more cutting edge, we needed a bit more about us, but we didn't quite have that. We started slowly second half, which is something we don't usually do. That let them into it and they had a couple of chances and then finally scored from a counter attack.

"Then we came into it. We made the changes and we got a goal back. We have missed a fair few chances in the

second half to have won the game, so that's the frustrating thing.

"It went a bit like a basketball game at the end. End-to-end. But it was two sides going at each other and we showed a lot of character to come back and to draw the game.

"Look, I am disappointed because I think it's two points dropped."

Colchester will also look to get back to winning ways. Speaking after that 2-0 setback at Crewe, U's boss, John McGreal, said: "I'm frustrated that we didn't get anything from this game because we had so many chances in the second half.

"If Rekeil's header had gone in, then I think Crewe would have been nervous

because they haven't been good at home recently.

"Their keeper (Ben Garratt) also made two good saves, and I could see them being edgy at 1-0.

"At least we gave the fans something to shout about with our second-half performance."

With neither side showing any form of consistency of late this could prove to be a tricky one to predict. Nevertheless, on their day both sides like to play an open, expansive game, which I believe could give us a decent contest this afternoon.

With all that in mind, I'm sitting on the fence and predicting an entertaining draw: U's 2-2 Hatters.

FACTS & STATS



NICKNAME

The Hatters

FOUNDED

1885

GROUND

Kenilworth Road

CAPACITY

10,356

MANAGER

Nathan Jones

2015/16

League Two, 11th

FORM GUIDE

Tue 21 March
Newport County D 1-1

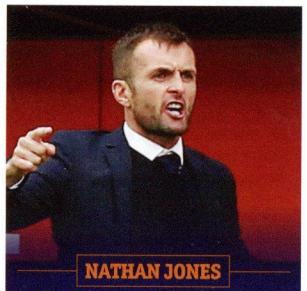
Sat 18 March
Exeter City D 1-1

Tue 14 March
Carlisle United D 0-0

Sat 11 March
Stevenage L 0-2

Sat 4 March
Yeovil Town W 4-0

IN CHARGE



NATHAN JONES

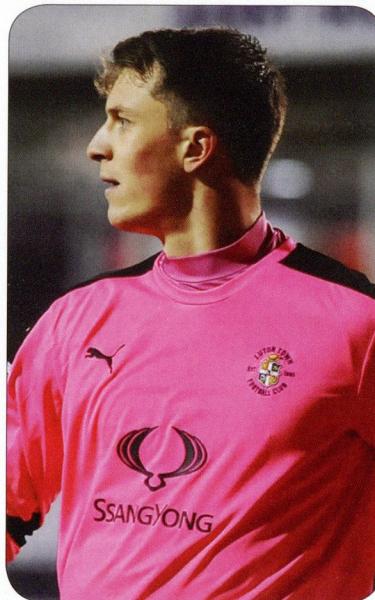
MATT MACEY

Age: 22 | Signed From: Arsenal (on loan)

Macey joined the Hatters on loan until the end of the season from Arsenal late on deadline day in January 2017.

The 22-year-old joined the Gunners in 2013 from Bristol Rovers, where he had started in their successful academy side, and was named on the bench nine times for Arsene Wenger's side in Champions League, Premier League and EFL Cup matches.

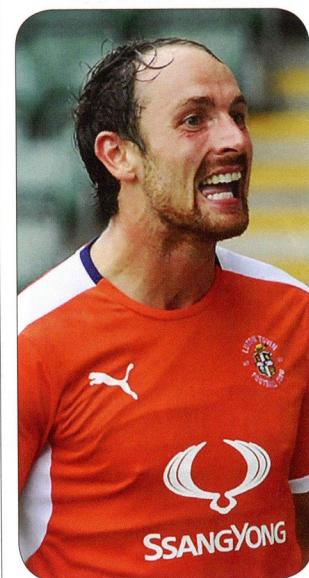
He had a loan spell with Accrington Stanley in 2015, for whom he made four appearances.



SCOTT CUTHBERT

Age: 29 | Signed From: Leyton Orient

Capable of playing at either centre-half or right-back, Cuthbert signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2015 having spent two years at Leyton Orient. He helped the O's reach the League One play-off final the season before last, and prior to that his influential performances enabled Swindon to do the same. He has been capped at B level for Scotland and, like Stephen O'Donnell, also came through the youth ranks at Celtic. Made 40 appearances in his first season at Kenilworth Road, and took over the captaincy when Steve McNulty left for Tranmere in October 2015. The club captain recently activated a clause in his contract to extend his stay at Kenilworth Road until the summer of 2018 after making his 50th start against Carlisle United in December 2016.



DANNY HYLTON



London-born forward who joined the Town last summer alongside Oxford United team-mate Johnny Mullins, after the pair had helped the U's to promotion to League One and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final.

Hylton started his career with Aldershot Town, where he made over 200 appearances in the Conference and League Two before joining Rotherham United in 2013.

He played just one game for the then-League One club, however, and was loaned out to Bury and AFC Wimbledon prior to his move to Oxford two years ago. While at the Kassam Stadium, Hylton hit 30 goals in 84 starts, but turned down the offer of a new contract in order to pen a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road.

Currently the club's top scorer this season, having passed his previous season's best tally of 16 in January.

PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU

Age: 23 | Signed From: West Ham United

The former West Ham United academy graduate Ruddock Mpanzu is a direct, pacey youngster who was an instant hit when signed on-loan by then-boss John Still from the Hammers midway through the Conference title winning campaign of 2013-14, scoring a memorable goal in a crucial come-from-behind win at Dartford.

Versatile to play in central defence, midfield or on the wing, Pelly is a real crowd favourite and recently passed the 100 appearance mark for the Hatters.

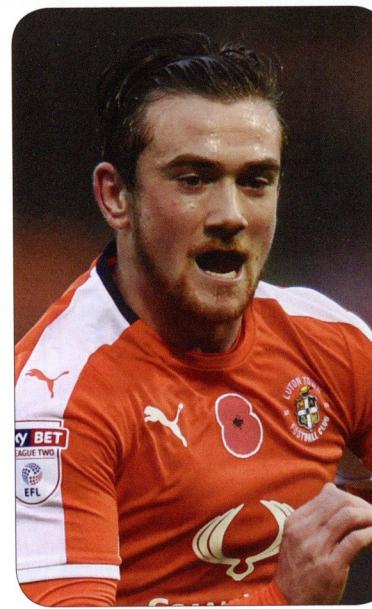


JACK MARRIOTT

Age: 22 | Signed From: Ipswich Town

Talented young forward who moved to Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2015 after spending six years at Ipswich Town, where he came through the academy.

Marriott played twice for Ipswich in the Football League, but gained experience on loan at Colchester, Gillingham and Carlisle, as well as in three spells at Conference club Woking, where he impressed in matches against the Hatters. After a bright start to his Luton career, Marriott signed a two-year contract extension before the opening month of the season was out and his goalscoring form continued throughout 2015/16, with 16 in 25 starts in all competitions earning him our supporters' player of the year award. Rewarded with a new three-year deal in late July 2016.





IN OPPOSITION THE UNLIKELY LADS

Football historian Leigh Edwards profiles ten big-name Luton Town players not usually associated with the club



RON DAVIES

Noted for his aerial ability, Welsh international striker Ron Davies was capped 29 times after leaving Luton Town. Signing professional for Chester in July 1959, he was twice leading marksman, moving to Luton in October 1962. He was top scorer in 1962/63, netting 21 goals in 32 League games before joining Norwich City in September 1963. Moving to Southampton in August 1966, he topped their goalscoring charts three times before joining Portsmouth in April 1973. Later with Manchester United, Arcadia Shepherds, LA Aztecs, Tulsa Roughnecks and Seattle Sounders, he coached in the United States and died in May 2013.

DEREK KEVAN

Inside-left Derek Kevan was capped 14 times by England before joining Luton Town. Initially with Ripon YMCA, he joined Bradford Park Avenue in October 1952 and followed Vic Buckingham to West Brom in July 1953. 'The Tank' was twice ever-present and top scorer on five occasions, moving to Chelsea in March 1963. Later with Manchester City, Crystal Palace and Peterborough, he joined Luton in December 1966 and



Alan Birchenall

netted four goals in 11 League games. He moved to Stockport in March 1967, then Macclesfield, Boston United and Stourbridge. Later a driver for Signs Specialists in Hockley, he died in January 2013.

ALAN BIRCHENALL

Former England U23s midfielder Alan Birchenall briefly appeared for Luton Town in 1978/79. Signing professional for Sheffield United in June 1963, he joined Chelsea for £100,000 in November 1967 and moved via Crystal Palace to Leicester City in September 1971. He featured in their 1973/74 FA Cup run, then played for Notts County, San Jose Earthquakes, Memphis Rogues and Blackburn Rovers before joining Luton in March 1979. Making ten League appearances, he moved to Hereford United in October 1979, then had a spell as Trowbridge Town's player-boss, becoming Leicester's public relations officer.

COLIN TODD

Ex-England international central defender Colin Todd appeared for Luton Town in 1984/85. Initially with Sunderland, he moved to Derby County in February 1971, starring as they won the League

EST 1885

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 United in February 1984, he helped clinch the Third Division title and moved to Luton in October 1984, playing two League games. He later managed Middlesbrough, Bolton, Swindon, Derby County, Bradford City, Randers and Esbjerg.

STEVE WILLIAMS

Former England international midfielder Steve Williams was capped six times before joining Luton Town. Signing professional for Southampton in July 1976, he starred as they won promotion in 1977/78, were League Cup finalists in 1979 and League Championship runners-up in 1983/84. He joined Arsenal for £525,000 in December 1984 and featured in their 1987 League Cup final triumph, moving to Luton for £300,000 in July 1988. Scoring once in 40 League games, he reunited with Alan Ball at Exeter City in August 1991. He has worked in magazine publishing and property development, settling in Ottery St Mary.

MERVYN DAY

Luton Town's former loan goalkeeper Mervyn Day starred in West Ham's 1975 FA Cup final success. The England U23s international was twice ever-present for the Hammers and played in the 1976 ECWC final, moving to Orient in July 1979. He was ever-present three times prior to joining Aston Villa in May 1983, then joined Leeds United in February 1985 and helped win the Second Division title in 1989/90. Loaned to Luton in March 1992, he made four League appearances. Joining Carlisle United in July 1993, he became their manager, then assisted Alan Curbishley at Charlton and West Ham, returning to Leeds as chief scout.

JOHN HARTSON

Welsh international striker John Hartson helped Luton Town reach the FA Cup semi-finals in 1993/94. Signing professional for Luton in December 1992, he netted 11 goals in 54 League games before sold to Arsenal for £2,500,000 in January 1995. He scored in the 1995 ECWC final, moving to West Ham for £3,200,000 in February 1997. Leading marksman in 1997/98, he joined Wimbledon for £7,000,000 in January 1999 and had a spell with Coventry City prior to joining Celtic in August 2001. He starred in their 2001/02 'treble' triumph and joined West Brom for £500,000 in July 2006, gaining a total of 51 caps.

PAUL DICKOV

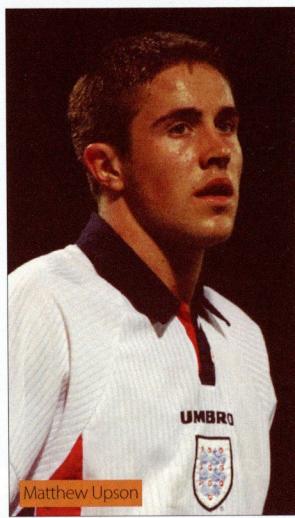
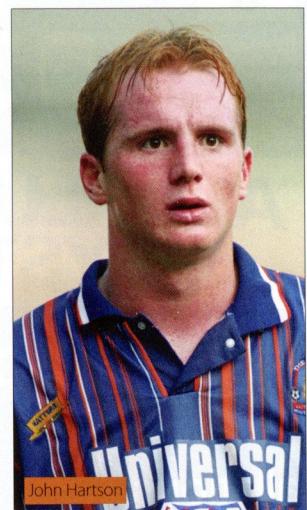
Luton Town's former loan striker Paul Dickov was capped twice by Scotland. Signing professional for Arsenal in December 1990, he was loaned to Luton in October 1993 and scored once in 15 League games. A member of the Gunners' triumphant 1994 ECWC squad, he moved to Manchester City for £1,000,000 in August 1996. Starring in three promotion campaigns, he joined Leicester City in February 2002 and was leading scorer in their 2002/03 promotion success. He then appeared for Blackburn Rovers, Manchester City again, Leicester again and Leeds United, since managing Oldham Athletic and Doncaster Rovers.

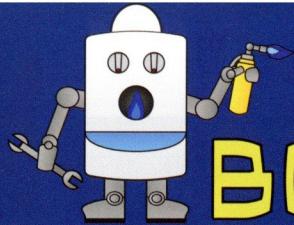
PAUL ALLEN

Former England U21s midfielder Paul Allen had a loan spell at Luton Town in 1994/95. From a notable football family, he signed professional for West Ham in July 1979 and was the youngest FA Cup finalist at 17 years 256 days in their 1980 Wembley triumph. He moved to Tottenham Hotspur for £400,000 in June 1985 and was an FA Cup winner again in 1991. Joining Southampton for £500,000 in September 1993, he was loaned to Luton in December 1994 and made four League appearances. He moved to Swindon Town in October 1995. He later played for Bristol City, Millwall and Purfleet and currently works for the PFA.

MATTHEW UPSON

Former Luton Town central defender Matthew Upson gained 21 England caps. Signing professional for Luton Town in April 1996, he made his only League appearance for the Hatters as a substitute in their 1-0 win over Rotherham four months later and joined Arsenal for £1,000,000 in May 1997. He featured in their 1997/98 Premier League title campaign and was a member of the 2001/02 'double' winning squad. Loaned to several clubs, he moved to Birmingham City for £2,000,000 in January 2003, then joined West Ham for £6,000,000 in January 2007. He has since played for Stoke City, Brighton, Leicester City and MK Dons.





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IN OPPOSITION

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LUTON TOWN
FAN'S EYE VIEW

HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP LUTON'S SEASON SO FAR?

It's been a season of missed opportunities as every time we knock on the door of the automatic places, we don't take advantage and constantly find ourselves trying to close the gap again.

We've had some real highs though, beating Aston Villa early in the season and then progressing so well in the Trophy against higher league opposition throughout.

WHICH PLAYERS HAVE SHONE THE MOST AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AS CONTENDERS FOR YOUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS?

I think it's fair to say that Danny Hylton stands out this season having netted 24 goals. Nathan Jones refers to him as the best striker in the league and he's been superb for us since joining from Oxford in the summer.

We've had some promising young players like Isaac Vassell and Jack Senior also really develop and progress this season too.

WHAT HAVE YOU MADE OF NATHAN JONES' FIRST YEAR AS A MANAGER AT TOWN?

Nathan is a very passionate and hard-working young manager who has brought some quality players to the Club since taking over in January 2016. It was announced this week that he's signed an extension to his contract keeping him with the Club until 2020 so he's clearly



Danny Hylton has been the stand out performer with 24 goals this season

impressed the Board with his work behind the scenes too.

LUTON HAVE A CHANCE OF AUTOMATIC PROMOTION, WHAT DO THEY NEED TO DO TO GET OVER THE FINISHING LINE?

Finish with more points than Portsmouth and Stevenage!

Seriously though, too many draws have cost us this season otherwise we could easily have been sitting comfortably in the top three, whereas we keep playing catch

up. There's eight games to go now and we've still got a chance!

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF SATURDAY'S GAME AT COLCHESTER?

I'm looking forward to our first league visit to the Community Stadium, and hoping we get a better result than when I saw our reserves lose 4-0 there in 2009! I'm hoping we can take advantage of Colchester's indifferent run of late but also very wary that play-offs are still a possibility for our hosts too.

Questions answered today by **Simon Pitts**, a long time Luton Town fan who is currently commentator on the club's Hatters Player service. You can follow Simon on Twitter at @
SimonStattoP

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IN OPPOSITION

EX ON THE PITCH: DAN POTTS



O

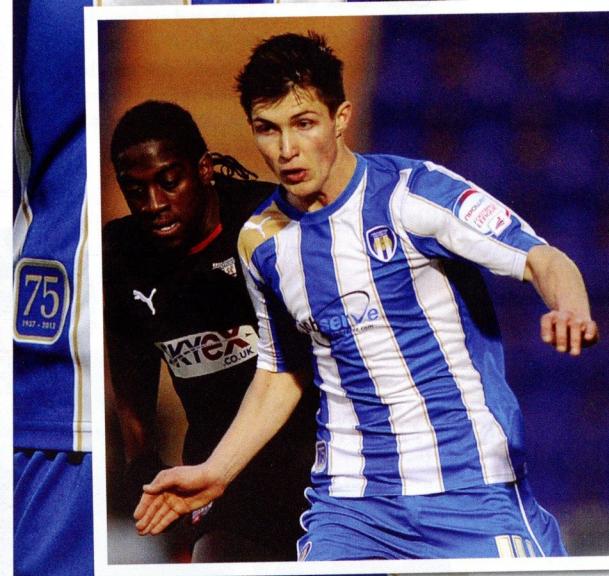
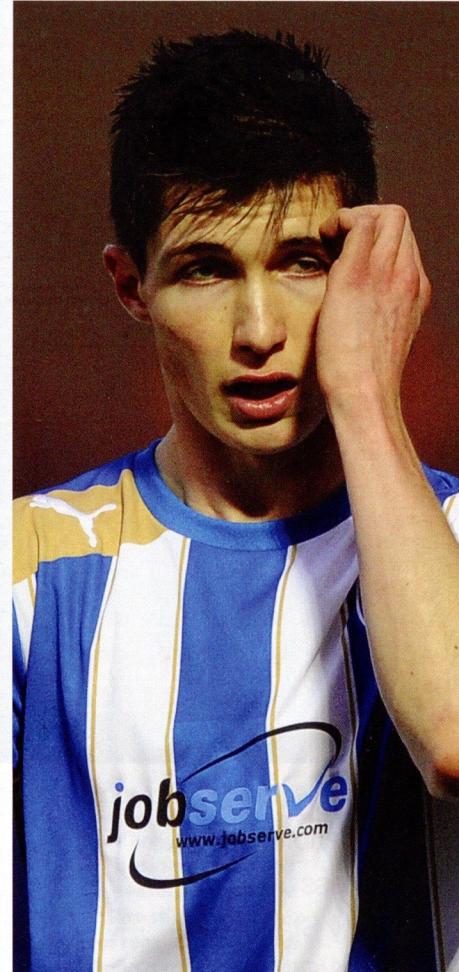
ver the course of the season, the U's will face a number of players, coaches and even managers that are familiar from their time here in North Essex. Or a member of the U's squad will be taking on an opponent that he has had as a teammate in the past. This season, we'll be taking a look at the 'Ex on the Pitch'- or just off the pitch if they happen to be in the opposition dugout!

This afternoon, it's the turn of former U's full back Dan Potts. The twenty two year old from Barking was on loan to the U's for a couple of months during the 2012/13 season from West Ham, and made five appearances over the course of a couple of months.

Beginning his career at West Ham, Dan made his debut as a seventeen year old for the Hammers in a Championship tie against Barnsley in the 2011/12 season. He made two further appearances in the league, and another in the FA Cup the same season. He began the next season starting in the first couple of rounds of the League Cup, winning 2-0 against Crewe, then losing 4-1 to Wigan at Upton Park.

He was loaned to the U's a couple of months later in November, and made his debut in a miserable game for the U's as they were thumped 5-1 by MK Dons in League One. In fact, he was never on the winning side in blue and white stripes, losing all five games he played for the U's. Following a 3-0 defeat to Crawley on New Year's Day 2013, Dan was recalled by West Ham as they hit an injury crisis.

Potts went straight into the Hammers' team as they drew 2-2 against Manchester United in the Third Round of the FA Cup. His Premier League debut came a week later as his side lost 3-0 away to Sunderland. A few days later, he was again selected for the FA Cup tie against Manchester United, but in the replay at Old Trafford he was on the losing side following a 1-0 defeat. He made one further appearance, the next Saturday, as West Ham lost 5-1 away to Arsenal.



In the following season, Dan began once again at West Ham, and made one appearance in the League Cup, a 0-2 win at Burnley, before being loaned out again, this time to League Two Portsmouth. This loan spell was almost as unsuccessful as his time at Colchester, not winning a game but drawing a couple.

His loan spell ended having played six games for Pompey, and he went into the West Ham team which crashed out of the FA Cup at the third round again, being beaten 5-0 by Nottingham Forest. He was to make one more appearance for West Ham, the next season, in the League Cup second round against Sheffield United.

He left the Hammers for today's opponents Luton in the summer of 2015 and initially struggled to get into the team. When he did, he was unfortunately injured and missed most of last season through injury. This term, he has been far more consistent, making twenty two appearances so far.

He had a tough start to the season though, being sent off for two yellows in the opening game against Plymouth, where Luton won 0-3 at Home Park. In total, Dan has made more than fifty appearances across all four leagues of English football.

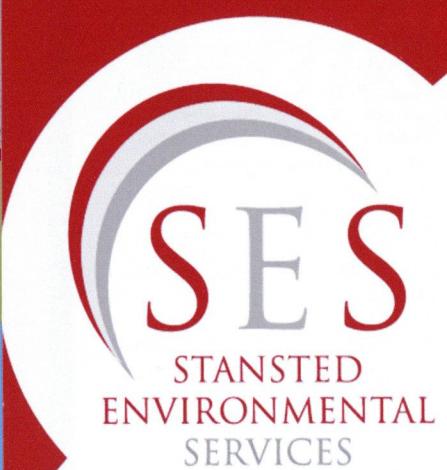


END OF SEASON DINNER - TUESDAY 2 MAY -

Join us for a night to remember as we review the season and present a variety of awards

The evening will include arrival drink and three-course meal with petit fours

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CAPTAIN



LUKE PROSSER



“IT ISN’T GOING TO BE EASY AND WE HAVE GOT TO PUT IN A GREAT RUN OF RESULTS BETWEEN NOW AND MAY 6TH. THAT’S WHAT WE’LL BE AIMING TO DO”

We are getting to the business end of the season now and we are still very much in the mix for regaining our place in League One. Of course, it’s going to be tough and we have got to put in a great run of results between now and May 6th. That’s what we’ll be aiming to do, starting today against another of the teams up there.

More about today’s fixture later, but first I’m going back a couple of weeks to the games here at the Weston Homes Community Stadium against Portsmouth and Mansfield. For almost every team at every level, there are those odd days where nothing really goes for you and we certainly had one of those days. Credit to Pompey though who played very well.

After a bright start, we were second best against Portsmouth and they had players in their side who were more than good enough to capitalise on that. At the final whistle, it was an extremely disappointed changing room and we knew that it

wasn’t a good day at the office.

When this happens, you desperately want to win the next game and fortunately, we only had to wait three days until we could put it right. Put it right we did. It was great to see Bren get to double figures with his finish to put us ahead, (right foot as well).

Not long after that, he turned provider and Szmodis scored to double the lead. It stayed at two for the rest of the game, through a mixture of great defending, luck and some poor finishing from Mansfield. At this stage of the season, it doesn’t really matter how you win, just that you win.

We went to Crewe last weekend looking to win again and it was touch and go for a bit whether the game would even go ahead. It did but we didn’t really get going in the first half and came in at half time a goal down and knowing we had to do more after the break. We did take the game to them in the second half and maybe should have scored with one or two of our chances.

As we threw men forward looking for the goal, we got caught and conceded a second a few minutes from the end. We still had chances and were denied twice in injury time by great saves, but in the end we came away empty handed. There was more bad news because Szmodis had broken his leg in a first half challenge and joins the rest of us in the treatment room.

We all feel for him, he has only just got back from one long term injury and had really hit the ground running. In his three starts, he has looked full of energy and has scored twice as well. I’m sure he’ll be back better than ever but he’ll have to put up with us for the next few weeks now.

Back to today’s match, we are expecting a massive away following so you guys have to be at your best again. The players will be doing all they can to win the game, make sure you are louder than the Luton fans. Let’s get the result together – enjoy the game.

Pross

U'S VIEWS



SENIOR CUP FINAL

Colchester United's Weston Homes Community Stadium will be the venue for the 2017 BBC Essex Senior Cup Final as Vanarama National League South clubs Chelmsford City and East Thurrock United go head-to-head for the prestigious silverware on Tuesday 28th March (kick-off 7:45pm).

"We are delighted that the Weston Homes Community Stadium will be hosting the final for the first time," U's General Manager Tim Waddington said.

"The Essex Senior Cup final has been a keenly contested fixture over recent years and we are looking forward to seeing the two teams go head to head."

"We have enjoyed working with Brendan Walshe and his team on a number of projects in the past and we are very proud to be able to be the chosen venue for this year's showpiece game."

A large crowd is expected in North Essex for the climax between two of the County's highest-ranked non-league clubs.

Entry can be gained on the night, with an admission of £10 for adults, £5 for OAPs and £2 for U18s. U11s, when accompanied by an adult, can watch the game for free.

PITCH HIRES RETURN!



Ever fancied strutting your stuff on the Weston Homes Community Stadium pitch and showing what you can do with a ball at your feet?

You can get the chance to live out your dreams and pull on your boots, as our pitch hires return this summer.

We've got packages from £720 (including VAT), with pitch hires available from Saturday 13th May to Saturday 27th May (this may alter dependent on the U's potential play-off commitments!).

Package includes:-

- Full match officials (including assistant referees)
- On-site first aid
- Use of home and away dressing rooms
- Fans can watch from the West Stand (max. 300)
- Free parking

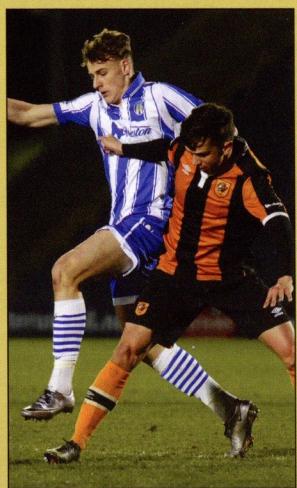
For more information on remaining available dates, please contact us on 01206 752020 or e-mail commercial@colchesterunited.net.

U23S GAME MOVED

Colchester United's U23s game against Barnsley has been moved to a new date.

The U's were due to entertain the Tykes at the Weston Homes Community Stadium on Monday evening, but the game has now been moved to Thursday April 13th at Florence Park.

With the Barnsley game being switched, there is now only one more U23s league game at the stadium this season, on April 3rd against Leeds United.



MATCH CREDITS

If you're thinking of coming along to a number of the U's remaining games, then our Match Credits could be just the thing for you to book your spot for these crunch fixtures.

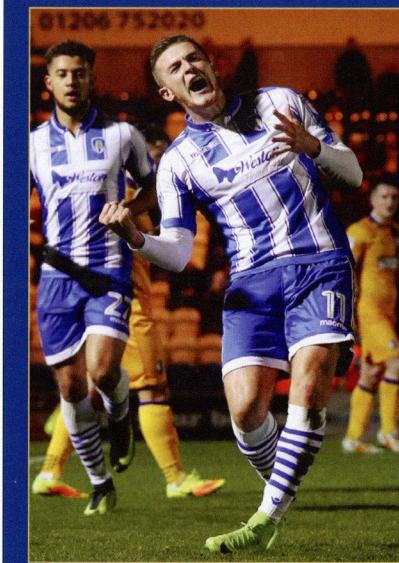
Buying credits in blocks of 5, 10 or 25 games could help you and your friends save money and ensure you're there for every kick, tackle and goal!

Here's how it can save you money:-

An adult ticket in the South Stand is £21. Buy yourself five credits - to redeem against whichever games you choose - and you'll get the tickets for £17.50 each, a saving of £3.50 a game!

If you buy yourself ten credits - either for you to attend the remaining games this season or for you and a friend to come to five each - then they're £16.50, so you save even more!

What's more, once you purchase your credits, they have a twelve month lifespan, so you could even save some credits for next season - and who knows where we'll be by then!



TODAY'S BAND: THE KICKS

The Kicks are the South East's leading mod, rock, and punk cover band. Playing in pubs and clubs across the area! If you like The Jam, The Who, The Kinks, Specials, The Clash, The Ramones and a hell of a lot more besides then they're your band!

With over 15 years of experience, The Kicks are a 5 piece band offering a set that literally stands out from other bands. Recreating the Mod sounds of the sixties and seventies, and adding a dash of punk and a drop of Ska, not to mention the more modern contemporary floor fillers, The Kicks play the songs you remember in their own inimitable style.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEOFF



Happy 70th Birthday Geoff Aves! Hope you enjoy the match and all your celebrations, with lots of love from Chris, Jennie and Oliver xxx

CONGRATULATIONS MICK

Congratulations to long time Colchester United supporter Steve Whitfield, who is with us here today as part of his stag do ahead of an upcoming wedding in April to his fiancée Melanie Manning. Everyone at Col U, and all of your friends, wish you all the very best Steve!



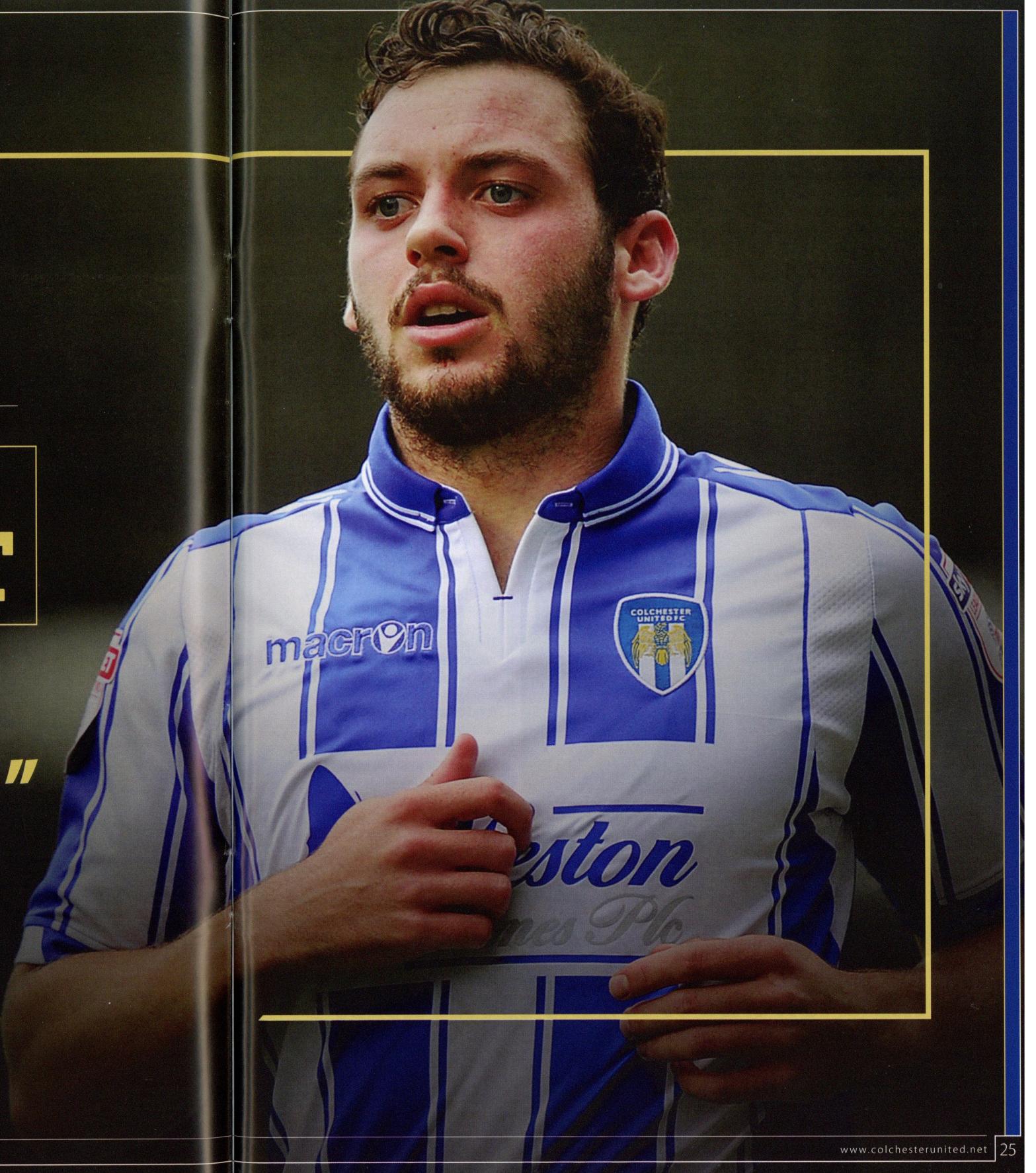
A big congratulations go to York City fan Mick Wright, who completes the 92 with his visit to the Weston Homes Community Stadium this afternoon.

Mick has been following City for over thirty years and this is his third visit to Colchester, the first visit way back in 1984. York won the game 1-3. The second visit was in the 1998/99 season, Colchester beating York 2-1 that Friday night. The game v Luton will complete the current 92 and will mark 140 grounds altogether!

MAIN FEATURE

DREY WRIGHT

“ WE HAVE HOME GAMES
TO PLAY AGAINST THE
TEAMS AROUND AND
ABOVE US AND WE’LL BE
AIMING FOR MAXIMUM
POINTS ”



It has been no secret that over the past few years, the U's have looked to bring young players up through the Academy and into the first team. It became especially important once limits on squad spending came into being and then again last summer.

New rules came into force ahead of the current season, meaning clubs could only sign players in the transfer windows in the summer and in January. For the remainder of the year, clubs would have to make do with the players already on their books. One option would have been stockpiling players during the windows, the other to make sure that the young players in the U23s are good enough to step in when needed.

An added bonus for any of these players making the step up would be the ability to cover more than one position. And one player has had to learn that as an ongoing process this season, after spending all of his fledgling career in one position before now.



Drey Wright was amongst the first raft of youngsters that came through the ranks, following the change from a Centre of Excellence to an Academy.

As an exciting, pacy winger, Drey broke onto the first team scene at the start of the 2012/13 season, making his debut

in the League Cup First Round defeat at Yeovil Town.

His early appearances impressed and he went on to play another twenty two times that season, scoring three goals in the process. The following three seasons were massively disrupted by serious injuries, but he has put that all behind him this season and has made thirty eight appearances already.

The last handful have been in one or two somewhat unfamiliar roles for him, wingback and right back. He has stepped in due to the injury to Richard Brindley and has coped extremely well with the move from his more usual position further up the right side of the pitch. He admitted that he hasn't found it plain sailing though.

He told *We Are United*: "It has been quite difficult but I've been learning it as quickly as I can as I go along. It's obviously different to what I have been used to but I've been trying hard to adapt to it. I came off the subs bench a few times to play wingback and I did spend time watching players in that position, knowing that we had changed

the system and I might need to play there to get in the team.

"I have had to hold back a little bit on the attacking side of my game just to be on the cautious side and to make sure we're solid and so I don't get caught out to be honest. I feel like I have been doing OK so far but I know that there is still so much to learn and improve on."

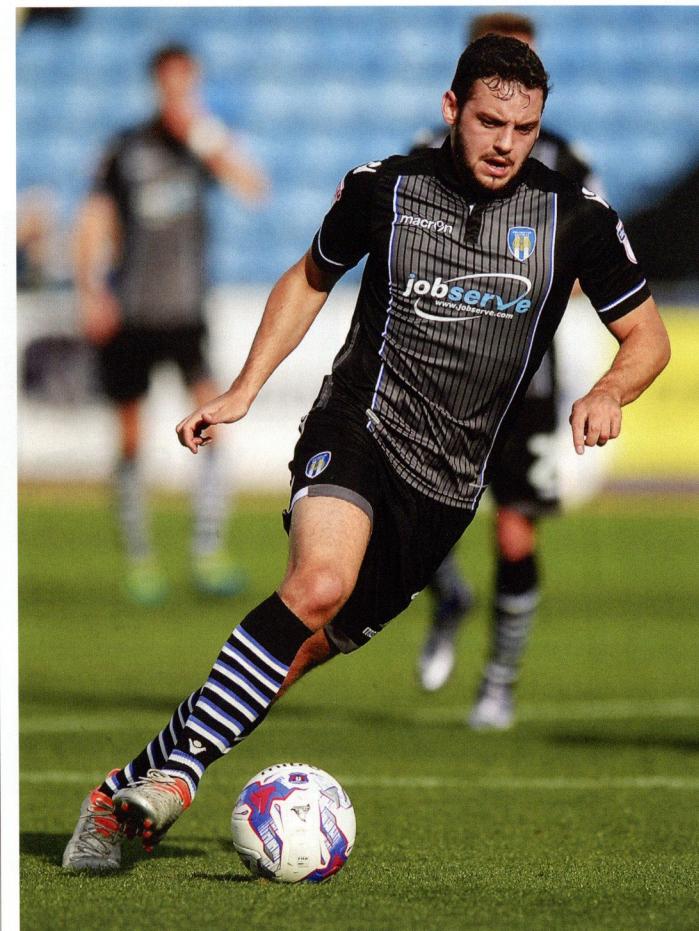
Being further back in the side has certainly added a new string to Drey's bow and he seems to be enjoying the challenge of learning the new positions he is being asked to play. He continued: "It is so different to playing on the right wing in a four or even up top wide in a three, the positions I've been playing for years. Things become second nature, where you should be in certain situations and what to do in and out of possession.

"Changing positions means changing that whole thought process so it's something that I really have to concentrate on. Being part of a defensive unit has made me have to focus more and be more switched on to what is around me. George Elokobi and Cameron James are great for that as well, they're always talking and making sure I'm positioned right and keeping me focussed."

There was special praise for Cameron James, who is the latest product to progress from the Academy into the first team for the U's. The nineteen year old has stepped into the side in recent matches and it came as no surprise to Wright to see him do so well.

"Cam has been brilliant since he came into the side, and has put in some really solid performances. The only time he has seemed a bit flustered was in the Mansfield game, when I heard him getting annoyed with himself for not winning as many headers as he thought he should be. I just talked to him and told him not to worry about it, he was doing fine.

"We know how good he is but I think it has come as a bit of a surprise to some people just how well he has done since coming into the team and how comfortable he has found it. I played with him quite a bit in the U23s last



season so know that he's got a lot of quality, especially on the ball. If we're in possession and I want to get forward, I know there's never any problem with Cam stepping out and giving me the ball."

Drey getting into the team in his new, more defensive role came about through injury and it's fair to say that injuries to more experienced centre halves has given James his opportunity. They have both taken that opportunity and have impressed with their respective performances. It was a chance that Drey was looking for and he was confident that he and others would be more than capable of producing the goods.

"Those of us that weren't playing during the excellent run we went on always felt that we could step in when needed and continue the good work

that was being done. There is a case of having to fill holes with so many injuries but we have an excellent squad of players and we've managed to stay well in the mix despite the injuries we have suffered."

The U's sit a few points off the Play-Off positions but the twenty one year old insists there is plenty to play for between now and the beginning of May, especially here in north Essex.

"The home form has been excellent, and has been a refreshing change from the last few seasons. We became a better away side, catching teams out on the counter attack but this time round, we've taken the game to the opposition at home and it's worked great. We have home games to play against the teams around and above us and we'll be aiming for maximum points to keep us in the promotion race."

"THERE IS A CASE OF HAVING TO FILL HOLES WITH SO MANY INJURIES BUT WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT SQUAD OF PLAYERS AND WE'VE MANAGED TO STAY WELL IN THE MIX"

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PHYSIO



TONY FLYNN

“ HE HAS ALREADY MISSED A LOT OF FOOTBALL THIS SEASON THROUGH INJURY AND HAD JUST GOT BACK IN THE TEAM AFTER FOUR MONTHS OUT. IT WAS TESTAMENT TO HOW HARD HE HAD WORKED THAT HE WAS ABLE TO START GAMES SO QUICKLY ”

Welcome back for this afternoon's match, as we take on Luton Town here at the Weston Homes Community Stadium. We have had a full week since our last fixture, so the lads are fully recharged and ready to go into battle again.

At this stage of the season, it's a case of just keeping them ticking over and making sure they are getting the correct balance of rest and training. Players who have been in the side all season won't need much in the way of fitness training, their bodies will be fully tuned to games – they just need the right foods and drinks to keep them fuelled.

Mind you, we don't have many players left that have been in the side all season because we've had so many injuries. I was hoping that we could go the remainder of the season without

suffering another long term one following Craig Slater and Kurtis Guthrie but last weekend, we lost Sammie Szmodics.

It looked an innocuous enough challenge but Sammie was helped off the pitch and whisked off to hospital. Once the game was finished, we found out that he had broken his leg and would miss the rest of the season. As well as John and Steve being without him for the last eight games, it is a massive blow for Sammie himself.

He has already missed a lot of football this season through injury and had just got back in the team after four months out. It was testament to how hard he had worked that he was able to start games so quickly and he was certainly making up for lost time, scoring twice in his three starts. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing him well in this recovery and can't wait to see him racing around the

pitch again as soon as possible.

The night before we played Crewe, our U23s went up to the North East and did fantastically well to beat Sunderland in the Premier League Cup. We won 1-0 and it was great to see Dean Brill in action, his first game back after a knee injury. He got through the whole game and prevented it going into extra time by making a penalty save in injury time. Hopefully, we have seen the last of him in the treatment room and he'll push Sam and Dillon in the first team squad.

I haven't managed to talk about most of the injured lads this time round, but I'll bring you up to speed when Stevenage come to town at the beginning of next month. Hopefully, I won't have anyone new to talk about after today's game, and we all go home happy with three points in the bag and all the players unscathed.

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9-11 June 2017

500 cyclists, 3 days, 2 countries, I aim.
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ASSOCIATION



AMSTERDAM RIDERS RAISE FUNDS FOR PROSTATE CANCER UK

Today we're delighted to welcome a team of collectors who will be taking part in Prostate Cancer UK and the EFL's Football to Amsterdam bike ride.

The group of football fans will be riding 145 miles over two days from either London or Barnsley to Amsterdam. They will be joining 500 football fans, staff and legends of the game in the pedal-pilgrimage that takes place on 9-11 June.

The riders will be stationed outside the ground today to raise funds, so please give generously.

Fancy trading your football shirt for the lycra?

It's not too late to sign up and you can help us climb the F2A league - www.prostatecanceruk.org/F2ALeagueTable. Places for the ride are running out fast so if you want to represent Colchester United this June make sure you sign up soon.

Visit prostatecanceruk.org/Amsterdam for more information.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. 1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer, while the odds for black men are just 1 in 4. By donating and supporting today you're helping to stop prostate cancer being a killer.

Find out more by visiting
prostatecanceruk.org/football





2 - 0

Tuesday 14th March 2017
Sky Bet League Two
Weston Homes Community Stadium
Referee: Nicholas Kinseley
Attendance: 2,526 (172 away)

COLCHESTER

01 Sam Walker
35 Cameron James (Vincent-Young 90)
15 George Elokobi
03 Matthew Briggs
07 Drey Wright
04 Tom Lapslie
10 Sammie Szmodics (Bonne 81)
23 Sean Murray
11 Brennan Dickenson
09 Chris Porter
27 Rekeil Pyke (Wynter 64)

MANSFIELD

01 Scott Shearer
16 Hayden White
05 Krystian Pearce
02 Rhys Bennett
03 Malvind Benning
04 Lee Collins (Hamilton 45)
26 Joel Byrom
28 Ben Whiteman
18 Alex MacDonald (Coulthirst 64)
23 Ashley Hemmings (Rose 45)
10 Matt Green

The U's took all the points at home to Mansfield to make it eleven home wins at the Weston Homes Community on a cold Tuesday night.

John McGreal's men were never behind, with two first half goals coming through Brennan Dickenson and Sammie Szmodics.

McGreal only made one change to the starting eleven, with Rekeil Pyke replacing the injured Owen Garvan.

Both teams had decent chances in the early stages of the game, with Szmodics flashing his shot wide of the post whilst Matt Green fired over Sam Walker's goal from close range.

However it was the U's who broke the deadlock; Sean Murray whipped the ball across the pitch to Dickenson who breezed past his man into the box.

After doing the hard work, his finish didn't disappoint, as he calmly rolled the ball past Shearer and into the goal off the post.

The visitors almost hit back instantly after Rhys Bennett found himself in space following a Mansfield free-kick, but his effort was well blocked by George Elokobi.

With the U's next attacking move it was 2-0.

For the second time in the game Dickenson found himself in space on the left hand side. He picked out Szmodics who controlled the ball instantly on the penalty spot, swivelled and placed the ball into the side netting.

It could have been three just before half time after Szmodics burst through on goal but somehow the ball managed to

escape his grasp.

The second half was wave after wave of Mansfield attack. Both Malvind Benning and Matt Green had chances in the opening phases but neither could convert from inside the area.

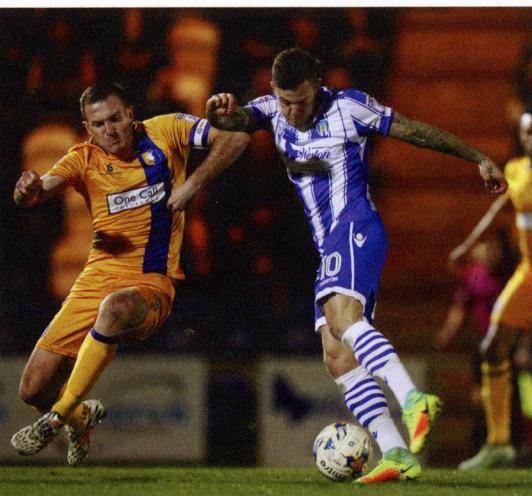
Danny Rose came on for the visitors and caused trouble for the remainder of the game, winning a high percentage of his headers but nothing was falling for the visitors.



Sam Walker was called into action with ten minutes left and made a smart double save to deny both Shaquile Coulthirst and Matt Green.

Chris Porter had a half chance in injury time but could poke his effort goalwards.

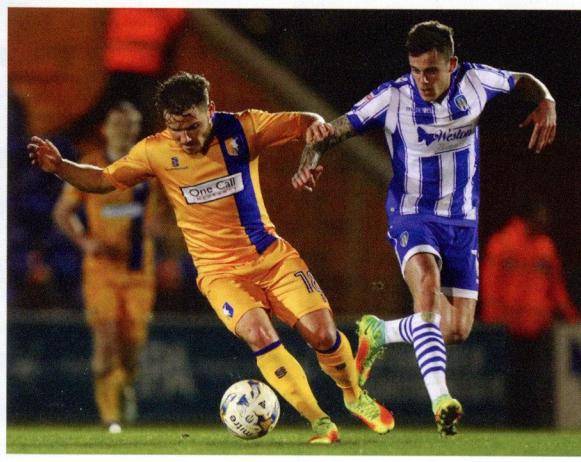
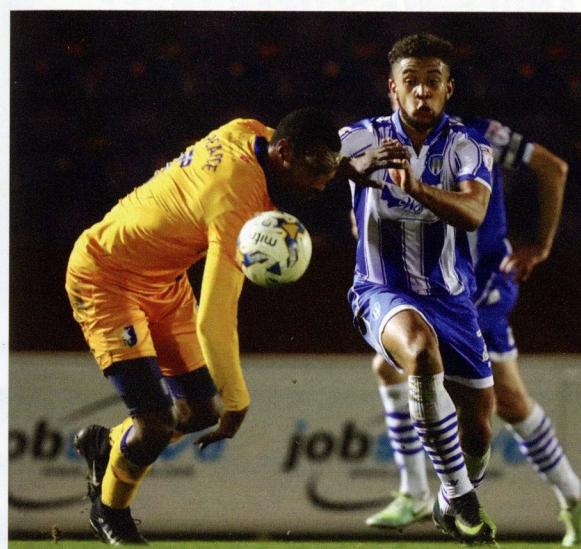
It didn't end up being important, though, as the U's saw out the game and preserved their clean sheet with a very professional performance.





**PICT OF
THE GAME**





“

**JOHN McGREAL**

"It was a very hard-earned win for us and it keeps us in and around that top seven, so I'm absolutely delighted. We let ourselves down a little bit in losing 4-0 to Portsmouth last Saturday and we analysed the performance and we knew that we needed to improve defensively. I thought you saw that against a tough Mansfield team who will push and pull you into certain areas you don't want to go."

**STEVE EVANS**

"We're never going to win a game unless we score a goal and it's hard to take. If you've got any experience as a manager at all, the problems come if you're not making chances. There becomes a time when you're making chances and you're playing ever so well and you need a goalscorer, and at this minute in time we've not got somebody in the squad who's capable of putting the ball in the net."



THE U18s YOUTH TEAM



“THE SECOND HALF STARTED BRILLIANTLY AND THE BOYS PLAYED WITH A REAL TEMPO THAT IPSWICH COULDN’T HANDLE. WE SCORED THREE GOALS WITHIN THE FIRST FIFTEEN MINUTES”

U's U18s 5-4 Ipswich Town

Our game against Ipswich was a thrilling one for the neutral. We started the game really well and had two really good chances within the first ten minutes, which we didn't take unfortunately. This has been a fairly consistent theme of our season,

where we do not take our chances, so something to really work on in training.

The game started to even out after our two chances and both teams had equal amount of possession and even chances. It was Ipswich who took the lead in the thirty sixth minute and what

was pleasing about us is that as a group, our heads didn't drop after probably shading the first part of the first half.

We responded quickly and got the game back level just six minutes later. This was the exact response we were looking for after going a goal down but



The U's U18s produced a thrilling win over Ipswich recently

			01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Sat 13	Nottingham Forest	H	PDL	3-2	Williams	Keys	Ferlisi	Pollard	Kensdale	Partridge
Sat 20	Huddersfield Town	A	PDL	2-5	Williams	Keys	Ferlisi	Pollard	Moore	Ager
Sat 27	Charlton Athletic	A	PDL	1-2	Williams	Keys	Ferlisi	Pollard	Kensdale	Partridge
SEPTEMBER										
Sat 3	Coventry City	H	PDL	2-5	Phillips	Mulryne	Ferlisi	Pollard	Moore	Ager
Sat 17	Sheffield United	A	PDL	0-2	Phillips	Mulryne	Debrick	Pollard	Anderson	Partridge
Sat 24	Birmingham City	H	PDL	2-1	Phillips	Mulryne	Ferlisi	Pollard	Anderson	Clampin
OCTOBER										
Sat 1	Crystal Palace	A	PDL	2-2	Phillips	Keys	Debrick	Anderson	Kensdale	Michaels
Sat 8	Millwall	H	PDL	1-4	Phillips	Mulryne	Ferlisi	Howard	Partridge	Cosgrave
Sat 15	Hull City	H	PDL	0-1	Williams	Mulryne	Ferlisi	Howard	Kensdale	Cosgrave
Sat 22	Barnsley	A	PDL	2-2	Williams	Mulryne	Ferlisi	Anderson	Madley	Partridge
Sat 29	Watford	A	PDL	1-2	Morgan	Mulryne	Ferlisi	Anderson	Kensdale	Madley
NOVEMBER										
Wed 2	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	FAYC1	3-7	Phillips	Mulryne	Ferlisi	Anderson	Kensdale	Clampin
Sat 5	Bristol City	H	PDL	2-0	Phillips	Keys	Debrick	Anderson	Kensdale	Cosgrave
Sat 12	Cardiff City	A	PDL	1-2	Phillips	Keys	Debrick	Anderson	Kensdale	Sims
Sat 19	QPR	H	PDL	1-1	Phillips	Keys	Debrick	Anderson	Kensdale	Ager
Sat 26	Ipswich Town	A	PDL	1-3	Phillips	Keys	Debrick	Anderson	Kensdale	Howard
DECEMBER										
Sat 3	Charlton Athletic	H	PDL	0-1	Phillips	Keys	Lelliott	Anderson	Kensdale	Jopling
Sat 10	Crystal Palace	H	PDL	5-2	Phillips	Keys	Lelliott	Anderson	Pollard	Cosgrave
JANUARY										
Sat 7	Millwall	A	PDL	1-3	Phillips	Keys	Ferlisi	Anderson	Kensdale	Cosgrave
Sat 14	Bristol City	A	PDL	0-3	Phillips	Keys	Ferlisi	Anderson	Pollard	Howard
Sat 28	Cardiff City	H	PDL	0-1	Phillips	Keys	Ferlisi	Anderson	Pollard	Cosgrave
FEBRUARY										
Sat 4	QPR	A	PDL	1-1	Phillips	Keys	Ferlisi	Howard	Goodliffe	Ager
Sat 11	Coventry City	A	PDL	0-9	Clarke	Keys	Stone	Anderson	Madley	Jopling
Sat 18	Ipswich Town	H	PDL	5-4	Phillips	Keys	Stone	Anderson	Kensdale	Cosgrave
Sat 25	Watford	H	PDL	1-0	Phillips	Keys	Jeffries	Howard	Kensdale	Michaels
MARCH										
Sat 4	Leeds United	A	PDL	0-2	Phillips	Keys	Stone	Anderson	Kensdale	Jopling
Sat 18	Crewe Alexandra	H	PDL	2-3	Clarke	Kelly	Ferlisi	Anderson	Templeton	Jopling
APRIL										
Sat 1	Bolton Wanderers	A	PDL	11.00						
Sat 8	Sheffield Weds	H	PDL	11.00						

what followed was Ipswich taking the lead again a minute before half time. Once again, we got straight back at them and were back on level terms with a second equaliser straight from kick off. The half time whistle went seconds later with the score at 2-2.

Our half time team talk remained quite positive despite the disappointment in the lack of concentration in conceding goals quickly after us scoring. We tried to urge the boys to continue the attacking play that had got them the two goals in the first half and really take the game to Ipswich.

The second half started brilliantly and the boys played with a real tempo that Ipswich couldn't handle. We scored three goals within the first fifteen minutes to put ourselves 5-2 up. As the second half went on, credit to Ipswich they kept the pressure on and that coupled with our boys not continuing what they had done in the first fifteen minutes, they managed to find themselves back to 5-3.

As the game entered the final ten minutes, it was Ipswich who were now on top. With this, we started to dig in and defend well as a team, but as the game entered the final minutes Ipswich added a fourth to make it 5-4.

Pretty much as soon as Ipswich scored, the game was over and we ran out 5-4 winners. As previously mentioned, a real good game for the neutral. We felt we could take a lot away from the game in terms of attacking play and being positive but also lots to work on for us as a team defensively.

KEY:
Green = 1st substitute | Orange = 2nd substitute
Red = 3rd substitute | Bold = goalscorer

Home games are to be played at the club's training ground, Florence Park, on Grange Road in Tiptree, which can be found as follows:-

- Leaving the A12 at Kelvedon/Tiptree, follow the road through until you get to the turning from Tiptree on your left (coming from Colchester) or right (if coming from Chelmsford/London)

- Follow this road for a couple of miles until you pass the water tower on your right. Shortly after that, you will see a primary school on your left (Baynards)

- Opposite Baynards is the turning for Grange Road. Follow Grange Road as it bears around to the right and the training ground is on this road on the left hand side.

			09	10	11	SUB 1	SUB 2	SUB 3
Sat 13	Fenn-Evans	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Cosgrave		
Sat 20	Howard	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Mulryne	Syrett
Sat 27	Howard	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Syrett		
SEPTEMBER								
Sat 3	Howard	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	McKeown	Anderson	Cosgrave
Sat 17	Howard	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Syrett	Kensdale	Kensdale
Sat 24	Howard	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Jones	McCosgrave	Syrett
OCTOBER								
Sat 1	Carlton	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	McKeown	Howard	Howard
Sat 8	Carlton	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Syrett	Sims	Sims
Sat 15	Carlton	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Anderson	Jones	Jones
Sat 22	Carlton	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	McKeown	Clampin	Clampin
Sat 29	Carlton	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Howard	Stone	Howard
NOVEMBER								
Wed 2	Carlton	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	McKeown	Syrett	Carlton
Sat 5	Carlton	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Syrett	Anderson	Anderson
Sat 12	Carlton	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	McKeown	Madley	Madley
Sat 19	Carlton	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Howard	Stone	Howard
Sat 26	Carlton	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	McKeown	Sims	Sims
DECEMBER								
Sat 3	McKeown	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Ager	Ager
Sat 10	McKeown	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Jones	Stone	Stone
Sat 17	McKeown	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Sims	Sims
Sat 24	McKeown	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Jones	Stone	Stone
Sat 31	McKeown	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Anderson	Anderson
JANUARY								
Sat 7	McKeown	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 14	McKeown	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 21	McKeown	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 28	McKeown	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
FEBRUARY								
Sat 4	Jones	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 11	Jones	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 18	Jones	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 25	Jones	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
MARCH								
Sat 1	Jones	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 8	Jones	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 15	Jones	H	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 22	Jones	A	Jones	Clampin	Clampin	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
APRIL								
Sat 1	Mudd	H	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 8	Mudd	A	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 15	Mudd	H	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 22	Mudd	A	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 29	Mudd	H	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
May								
Sat 5	Colchester United	H	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 12	Colchester United	A	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 19	Colchester United	H	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 26	Colchester United	A	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 3	Queens Park Rangers	H	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers
Sat 10	Queens Park Rangers	A	Thomas	Ager	Ager	Carlton	Chilvers	Chilvers

THE U23s DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

“ AS THE SECOND CORNER SWUNG IN FROM THE RIGHT SIDE, MCKEOWN REACTED QUICKEST AS THE BALL PINGED ABOUT AND PROVIDED A DEADLY TOUCH TO STAB THE BALL INTO THE FAR CORNER ”

Sunderland's first team boss David Moyes watched from the stand as the U's U23s knocked his youngsters out of the Premier League Cup eight days ago. Eoin McKeown scored the game's only goal inside the opening nine minutes, poking the ball home after a goalmouth scramble.

Chances were aplenty for the Black Cats, with Joel Asoro and Elliot Embleton seeing the clearest sights of goal before late drama almost forced the game to extra time. Dean Brill produced a great save to deny Josh Maja from the penalty spot before the striker was then denied by the offside flag a minute later.

The U's youngsters held firm though to advance

to the quarter-finals of the Premier League Cup. While Sunderland had failed to win a league game since the turn of the year, they have enjoyed a certain cup success this term. With a place in the quarter-finals up for grabs for the winners, it was certainly hold your nerve time in preparation for the Black Cats' European semi-final in a fortnight's time against Norwich City.

Wind and rain made conditions particularly challenging at Appleton Colliery Welfare, but it was the visitors who strode forward early on. Having already defeated Manchester City in this year's competition, Colchester showed no fear in the early exchanges. McKeown rounded James Talbot and would've broken the deadlock had it not been for Sam Brotherton's last ditch tackle.

Minutes later, though, Sunderland were



Dean Brill saved a late penalty

stunned. The Black Cats failed to clear their lines fully from the resultant corner from Brotherton's interception. As the second corner swung in from the right side, McKeown reacted quickest as the ball pinged about and provided a deadly touch to stab the ball into the far corner.

It was a shock lead but you would have to say the visitors fully deserved it as they continued to frustrate the Black Cats for much of the first period. Embleton tried to muster up some magic, a neat one-two with Ethan Robson in the centre of the park had the U's chasing shadows, but Embleton's through ball to Joel Asoro had just too much on it.

Undeterred, though, Louis Dunne was only a good connection away from doubling the advantage when Brendan Ocran's cross from the left side was whipped in on twenty four minutes. Josh Robson fired over from range for Sunderland while Greenwood's barnstorming run from the left flank saw him upended inside the area as the Lads' attempts to make something happen came to nothing.

Embleton, then, took centre stage for the Lads. Two corners in as many minutes from the midfielder had the visitors guessing, and almost saw Sunderland conjure up a response. His first had everyone bamboozled as it came in from the left side and whizzed over everyone's heads before his second one, from the other side, almost caught Brill out as it smacked the bar.

Brill was more assured in the fortieth minute,

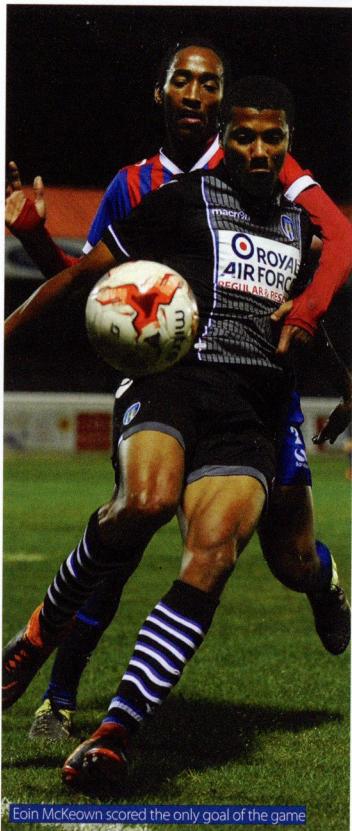
however, getting down low to stop Luke Molyneux's drive from eighteen yards before Maja had the Lads' final effort of the half blocked inside the area.

A high press approach from the Black Cats saw them win possession much further up the field and pen the U's deep in their own half. Embleton warmed the gloves of Brill in the forty eighth minute and then Maja attempted an acrobatic bicycle kick which bounced harmlessly wide as the Lads continued to turn the screw.

The U's formed a two rigid lines of defence as McKeown stayed up top on his own and continued to torment George Brady and Brotherton. Asoro glanced Greenwood's cross from the left wide before Maja and Robson then saw two strikes in quick succession blocked away.

The visitors were being penned back by the second as Sunderland lay siege on their goal, camping themselves deep into the U's half and peppering stopper Brill with strike after strike. A moment of magic from Denver Hume saw him do the hard part by beating three players, unfortunately though his shot lacked conviction and Brill was equal to his tame effort.

Brill produced a heroic save to deny Maja from the penalty spot before the striker was then denied by the offside flag a minute later. The visitors held firm though, to advance to the quarter-finals.



Eoin McKeown scored the only goal of the game

					01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Mon 15	Hull City	A	PDL	1-1	Barnes	Ocran	Wyatt	Garvan	Peter	Kent	Brown	Allen
Mon 22	Sheffield United	H	PDL	0-0	Bransgrove	Vincent-Young	Kitching	Garvan	Peter	Wynert	Sembie-Ferris	Di Wright
Mon 29	Charlton Athletic	H	PDL	2-0	Barnes	Ocran	Wyatt	Garvan	Peter	James	Brown	Regis
SEPTEMBER												
Mon 5	Cardiff City	A	PDL	1-4	Barnes	Ocran	Wyatt	Garvan	Peter	James	Brown	Regis
Fri 9	Nottingham Forest	H	PDL	2-0	Barnes	Ocran	Wyatt	Harrison	Peter	James	Brown	Regis
Mon 19	Crewe Alexandra	H	PDL	1-4	Bransgrove	Vincent-Young	Wyatt	Harrison	Peter	Wynert	Sembie-Ferris	Di Wright
Mon 26	Sheffield Wednesday	A	PDL	1-2	Barnes	Ocran	O'Donoghue	Harrison	Peter	Kent	Brown	Regis
OCTOBER												
Sun 2	Hull City	A	PLCG	1-0	Barnes	Ocran	O'Donoghue	Di Wright	Peter	Kent	Brown	Regis
Mon 10	Bolton Wanderers	H	PDL	0-0	Bransgrove	Ocran	O'Donoghue	Di Wright	Peter	Doyley	Brown	Regis
Mon 17	Ipswich Town	H	PDL	2-2	Barnes	Ocran	Doyley	Di Wright	Peter	James	Brown	Regis
Mon 24	Watford	A	PDL	4-3	Bransgrove	Ocran	James	Di Wright	Peter	Kent	Kamara	Regis
Mon 31	Coventry City	A	PDL	2-2	Bransgrove	James	O'Dohogue	Laporte	Peter	Kent	Brown	Regis
NOVEMBER												
Mon 14	Bristol City	H	PDL	0-5	Bransgrove	Mulryne	Wilson	Garvan	Peter	Partridge	Brown	Di Wright
Mon 21	Millwall	H	PDL	4-1	Bransgrove	Ocran	Loft	Pollard	Peter	Pollard	Brown	Regis
Fri 25	QPR	A	PDL	2-3	Bransgrove	Ocran	Di Wright	Peter	Peter	Pollard	Sembie-Ferris	Di Wright
DECEMBER												
Mon 5	Derby County	H	PLCG	2-2	Barnes	Ocran	Wilson	Di Wright	Peter	Grandison	Brown	Regis
Tue 6	Barnet	A	CLCG	0-5	Williams	Gascoigne	Clampin	Kamanzu	Peter	Keys	Monlouis	Di Wright
Mon 12	Crystal Palace	H	PDL	0-1	Barnes	Vincent-Young	Wilson	Di Wright	Peter	Grandison	James	Regis
Tue 13	AFC Wimbledon	H	CLCG	0-3	Williams	Ocran	Howard	Peter	Peter	Kensdale	Sembie-Ferris	Regis
Mon 19	Charlton Athletic	A	PDL	2-1	Williams	Ocran	Howard	Peter	Peter	Triallist	Carlton	Regis
JANUARY												
Mon 9	Ipswich Town	A	PDL	3-2	Williams	Ocran	Briggs	O'Sullivan	Peter	Howard	Dooley	Di Wright
Tue 10	Peterborough United	A	CLCG	0-3	Phillips	Keys	Wilson	Peter	Peter	Pollard	Brown	Jones
Mon 16	Watford	H	PDL	4-0	Barnes	Vincent-Young	Briggs	Di Wright	Peter	James	Edge	Edge
Thu 19	Manchester City	H	PLCG	2-1	Williams	Ocran	Briggs	Di Wright	Peter	James	Edge	Edge
Tue 24	Southend United	H	CLCG	2-1	Phillips	Keys	Wilson	Howard	Peter	Pollard	Brown	Edge
Mon 30	Bristol City	A	PDL	1-4	Barnes	Ocran	James	Di Wright	Peter	Pollard	Brown	Edge
FEBRUARY												
Mon 6	Coventry City	H	PDL	1-1	Barnes	Vincent-Young	James	Di Wright	Peter	Wynert	Brown	O'Sullivan
Sun 12	Manchester City	H	PLCG	0-3	Williams	Ocran	Kinsella	Di Wright	Peter	Kensdale	Brown	Regis
Mon 20	Millwall	A	PDL	0-2	Williams	Ocran	Kinsella	Di Wright	Peter	Kensdale	Brown	Howard
Mon 27	Derby County	A	PLCG	1-2	Wilks	Ocran	Jeffries	Di Wright	Peter	Pollard	Brown	Harrison
MARCH												
Thu 2	Hull City	H	PLCG	2-1	Wilks	Pollard	Clampin	Di Wright	Peter	Howard	Brown	Harrison
Fri 17	Sunderland	A	PLCG	1-0	Brill	Kensdale	Ocran	Di Wright	Peter	Howard	Brown	Harrison
Tue 28	Birmingham City	A	PDL	19.00								
TBA	Portsmouth	A	PLCQF	TBC								
APRIL												
Mon 3	Leeds United	H	PDL	19.00								
Thu 6	Huddersfield Town	A	PDL	14.00								
Mon 10	Cardiff City	H	PDL	13.00								
Thu 13	Barnsley	H	PDL	15.00								
Mon 17	QPR	H	PDL	13.00								
Mon 24	Crystal Palace	A	PDL	13.00								

					09	10	11	SUB 1	SUB 2	SUB 3		
Sheriff	Issa	Edge	Edge	Edge	Sheriff	Issa	Edge	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Akinwande	
Bonne	Loza	Edge	Edge	Edge	Bonne	Loza	Edge	Brown	Sheriff	Pollard	Partridge	
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James	Sheriff	Partridge	McKeown
Akinwande	Akinwande²	Johnstone	Sheriff	Sheriff	Akinwande	Johnstone	Sheriff	Di Wright	James			

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SEAN THACKER ACADEMY



Welcome back for this afternoon's game, as John, Steve and the lads take on Luton Town, another side chasing promotion. They have all been working hard as usual this week, and I'm sure they'll do the same today in their quest for three points.

Here in the Academy, the opening week of March saw the monthly in-house tournaments taking place between all the schoolboy players in the Academy.

Lead Phase Coach, Adam Lewis made it two wins out of two in the U14s to U16s category with the team he and Steve Bartlett managed. This side included Luke Hipkin, Harry Fairs, Frankie Stone, Kacy Parish, Alfie Adams, Liam Bennett, Noah Chilvers, Emmanuel Akpan and Andre Hasanally.

The U11s to U13s tournament was won by Adam Watkinson's team, which consisted of Jayden Robinson, Louis Freeman, Josh Bruce, Luke Spurling, Tom Kemp, Tommy Johnson & Noah Harewood.

The eight team U8s to U10s tournament went down to a penalty shoot-out with Steve Southgate's team of Kaiden Lewis, Brody Lyons, Freddie Taylor-Coghill, James Sacere and Theodore McQuillan coming out victorious.

These monthly tournaments break up the various coaching syllabus' themes, where long-term player development, individual players' needs and the academy's philosophy are of paramount importance.

For this one evening, winning becoming the priority for players (and coaches), in a bid to give them different challenges and take them out of their comfort zone.



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U16s

AVAILABLE

please contact Commercial Team on 01206 752020

U14s

AVAILABLE

please contact Commercial Team on 01206 752020

U13s



U9s & U10s - Jackson & Co

For more information on sponsoring the available sides, contact the commercial team on 01206 752020




2 - 0

Saturday 18th March 2017
Sky Bet League Two
Gresty Road

Referee: Graham Horwood
Attendance: 3,407 (223 away)

CREWE

01 Ben Garratt
02 Oliver Turton
05 George Ray
06 Ben Nugent
14 Zoumana Bakayogo (Ng 59)
24 Callum Cooke
08 James Jones
18 Billy Bingham
11 George Cooper (Wintle 77)
09 Chris Dagnall 🏹 🏹
16 Jordan Bowery

COLCHESTER

01 Sam Walker
03 Matthew Briggs
35 Cameron James
15 George Elokobi
11 Brennan Dickenson
07 Drey Wright (Brindley 76)
04 Tom Lapslie
23 Sean Murray
10 Sammie Szmodics (Fosu 14)
09 Chris Porter
27 Rekeil Pyke (Bonne 69)

The U's lost 2-0 away at Crewe last weekend on a soggy afternoon in Cheshire.

In a first half, the hosts took the game to the U's and went ahead through striker Chris Dagnall.

Further bad news in that first period came early, when Sammie Szmodics went down under challenge and couldn't continue.

After the break, the U's threw everything at Crewe, but were hit on the break and Dagnall doubled the lead.

Dickenson and Fosu were both denied by saves in injury time, but it remained 2-0 to the hosts.

There were doubts about whether the game would take place, with flooded areas on the surface troubling the referee.

He inspected the pitch on two occasions, and finally gave the go-ahead thirty minutes before three o'clock.

The home team started the game, which kicked off fifteen minutes later than planned, on the front foot and there was only two minutes on the clock when Sam Walker palmed away a long range shot.

Three minutes later, and Jordan Bowery got away from George Elokobi but shot well wide from the edge of the box.

The on loan forward then had a much better chance, but volleyed over from a great knockdown from George Ray.

U's forward Sammie Szmodics then went down in a challenge and looked to be holding his left ankle before being helped off the pitch.

He wasn't able to continue, and Tariqe Fosu entered the fray and took up Szmodics' position

just behind Rekeil Pyke and Chris Porter.

The U's first effort on goal came on sixteen minutes, but Sean Murray's shot from distance flew well wide.

Crewe were having the better of things as the first half progressed, and it was no surprise when they went ahead on twenty five minutes.

A wide free kick was whipped into the near post and dangerman Chris Dagnall got there first and his flicked header could only be helped into the net by Walker's right hand.

Sub Fosu came closest for the U's in the remainder of the first period, but his acrobatic volley went just the wrong side of the post.

That chance on the half hour was the final goalmouth action before the break, but it was a half that the hosts dominated and were deservedly a goal ahead.

Whatever John McGreal said to his U's side, it had the desired effect and it was the visitors who started the second half best.

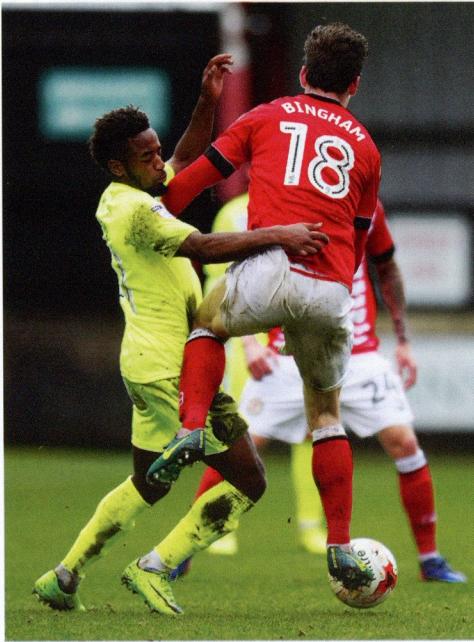
Sean Murray was first to try his luck, but his shot from just outside the box went wide of the target.

Murray then capitalised on a great flick from Pyke to break, and the former Watford forward played in Fosu, who blazed over the bar with his right foot shot.

The best chance of the day for the U's fell to loanee Pyke, but his far post header was blocked by Garratt.

Pyke and Fosu then combined on the right and when the latter crossed, Porter's header was comfortably saved by Garratt.

It was all U's at this stage, and Garratt had more work to do



when he fielded a Fosu free kick just after the hour mark.

Another U's attack saw Fosu shoot across goal, after great work on the left by Matt Briggs and Pyke.

A rare attack for the hosts came about when Tom Lapslie lost possession in midfield, but the subsequent shot went wide of the target.

Porter once again won his header when a cross came into the box, but his looping header wasn't strong enough to beat Garratt in the home goal.

With six minutes remaining,

Lapslie was fouled in midfield but the referee decided that an advantage could be had.

There was no advantage though, and Crewe broke to make the game safe for the home side when Dagnall slid in a cross to double his tally.

He was denied a hat-trick with two minutes of the ninety remaining, with Walker blocking the close range effort from another effective low cross.

Garratt made two top drawer saves in injury time, from Dickenson and Fosu, and ensured that his side held out for the three points.

Are you the the ultimate Diddy Pundit?

Nick Kicks and the EFL are offering five fans the chance to attend a Play-Off Final of their choice, with one fan joining Nick Kicks' Roman Kemp and Rachel Stringer pitch-side at Wembley.

Enter at nicktoons.co.uk/nickkicks

UK and Eire residents aged 16 or younger only, parental consent required. Competition closes 4pm on 31/03/17. 1 winner will be selected. T&Cs apply.



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ON **nicktoons**

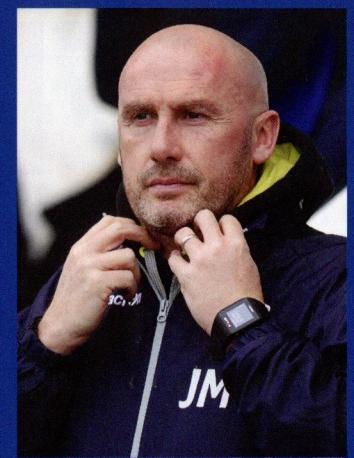
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EFL



MATCH ACTION

“



JOHN McGREAL

"We weren't great in the first half, although we were excellent in the second. The referee made the wrong decision on their second goal when he allowed play to go on and he should have brought it back as it was a free-kick for us. It was little things like that which went against us."



DAVID ARTELL

"The front three worked unbelievably hard and when that happens you have got a platform to defend. Daggers is a great finisher and he has scored two more from zero to eight yards out which is what he is all about because he gets in those areas. We were worthy winners."

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Saturday, March 25th, 2017

Daily
Gazette

www.gazette-news.co.uk

REGENT EXTEND LEAD AT THE TOP OF THE TABLE

HEROIC DEFENSIVE DISPLAY HELPS THE R'S OPEN UP A NINE POINT GAP

BRIGHTLINGSEA REGENT manager James Webster hailed long-serving defender Josh Gould for his heroics in their 1-0 victory against Bury Town.

The centre-half stood out in a makeshift back four that was missing regular trio Matt Cripps (suspended), Ricky Griggs (injured) and former Colchester United midfielder Russell Malton (unavailable).

He inspired his side to a hard-earned clean sheet and Aaron Condon's second-half winner – combined with second-placed **MALDON AND TIPTREE** losing 1-0 at home to Brentwood Town – means Regent now have a nine-point lead at the top of Ryman League Division North, heading into today's match at Haringey Borough.

"We never make a big thing of injuries but it was definitely a patched up back four on Saturday," said Webster.

"But I thought they were excellent, especially Josh Gould. He didn't lose a header all game. He's the only one who's been in that defence consistently this season and it felt like he really stepped up and led by example.

"I was really pleased for him. Pip Boyland has also made a big difference, in terms of his talking and organising. We've got a relatively young team and he says the right things to them.

"Being a coach himself obviously helps because he's giving them the right information. It's good to have that extra voice on the pitch, in addition to those from the sidelines."

In addition to Brightlingsea winning and Maldon losing last weekend, third-placed AFC Hornchurch could only



Josh Gould of Brightlingsea (Pic: David Scales)

draw with Wroxham while fourth-placed Thurrock lost at Soham Town Rangers.

"We certainly didn't expect those other results and, on paper, we thought we had the toughest match," added Webster.

"I thought it was a bit tense out there. You go into the dressing room before the game and it doesn't feel like the players are under pressure.

"But when the game started it seemed everyone was a bit nervous. We didn't play a lot of football and it wasn't one for the purists. It was like watching Stoke versus Stoke.

"The wind played a part but, in all honesty, it doesn't matter how we win at this stage of the season. It's just about getting points on the board. I always felt we'd get a chance, if we could keep it nice and solid at the back."

Junior U's



Good afternoon and welcome along to Colchester United for today's big match against Luton Town!

A warm welcome to all the fans who have travelled from Luton but here's hoping you will be going home empty handed today!

Last time out for the U's we were away at a very damp Crewe Alexandra, so damp in fact the kick-off had to be delayed to make sure they could get the pitch up to scratch. Thankfully they did and we had a game!

Unfortunately for us that's pretty much as good as it got, with the U's conceding goals midway through both halves which turned the match in favour of the hosts. The U's huffed and puffed but couldn't get anything out of the game so faced the long trip back empty-handed.

As well as this we suffered more bad news when midfielder Sammie Szmodics limped off and has had to join our lengthy injury list.

Back to today's match and we



are still in with a shout of the play-offs, we just need to make sure we can put a run together and win games like today to make ground on those above us.

Let's give our players everything we can to cheer them onto victory!

Up the U's!

Eddie

Prediction: U's 3-2 Luton



WELCOME TO...



Joseph Albano

Happy 11th Birthday Joseph from Mum and Dad and the rest of the family! Have a great day at Col U x



Lucy and Thomas Fennell

To Lucy and Thomas, enjoy your first match at Colchester United love from Mum, Dad, Nana & Goggie!



Jack Mascot

Happy 10th Birthday to Jack Mascot, love from Mum, Dad, Grandad Bob and Auntie Dawn!



Charlie Cowley

Welcome to your first U's game Charlie - we hope you have a great day! Happy 7th Birthday for next month as well!

Junior U's



CAN YOU SPOT
THE BALL?



NAME THE
STADIUM



NAME THE
CLUB'S BADGE



NAME THE EX-
COLU PLAYER

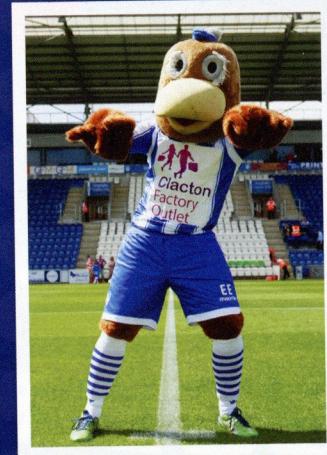
Try your hand at these games and puzzles that
Eddie has put on for you during the half-time
break - how many can you get right?



FACE OFF - WHICH THREE U'S
PLAYERS ARE HERE?



NAME THE
MANAGER



OUT OF FOCUS

Face Off: Tom Eastman, Sam Walker, Doug Loft

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of Cornwall

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Together for older people

 SATURDAY 1st APRIL
Notts County
DEPARTING 9.30AM
Adult: £20 | Conc: £18



 MONDAY 17th APRIL
MORECAMBE
DEPARTING 7.00AM
Adult: £34 | Conc: £32



 SATURDAY 29th APRIL
LEYTON ORIENT
DEPARTING 12.00PM
Adult: £14 | Conc: £12

Good afternoon all and welcome back to the WHCS for the visit of play-off rivals Luton Town, who will be making their first appearance at the stadium. A warm welcome is extended to the players, officials and supporters of today's opponents who have made the relatively short trip from Bedfordshire. I hope that they enjoy their time in North Essex and have a safe journey home.

Among the fans supporting the Hatters today will be two of my old work colleagues, Clive and Matt. I hope that you enjoy the match chaps but preferably not to the extent of avenging the 1-0 defeat inflicted by the U's at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day!

For U's fans, this will be the first of four home matches in a row against teams above us in the table so the magnitude of the task in hand is clear for all to see. Six wins from eight matches on home turf since the turn of the year has just about kept us in contention for a play-off place but, unfortunately, the outstanding home results have not been matched by those away from home. Despite the best efforts of the players, only three points have been gained from a possible twenty one on our travels in 2017.

It's a bit baffling to note that while only

Doncaster have won more home games, only Yeovil have won less away matches than the U's. As the saying goes, it's a funny old game!

Having been given a footballing lesson by a very competent Portsmouth side, it was encouraging to see the team respond well to claim a win against Mansfield, albeit with a largely backs to the wall performance.

Nevertheless, the spirit and determination in the team was there in abundance as they defended manfully to prevent the visitors from scoring even though they created numerous chances to do so. Then it was off to Crewe and a potential postponement because of a waterlogged pitch.

However, the ground staff at Gresty Road worked wonders to enable the match to kick off fifteen minutes later than scheduled after the referee had made his second inspection at half past two.

Sadly, the injury curse struck again early on as Sammie Szmodics suffered a broken leg with less than fifteen minutes played. Cruel luck indeed for a player who had only just returned from his ankle injury and we wish him well for a full and speedy recovery. This setback seemed to disrupt the team for the remainder of the first half and they went behind for the seventh away match in a row.

The second half display was better, and some good chances were created, but Crewe always looked a bit quicker and sharper with some neat and tidy passing. Eventually, Chris Dagnall scored his second goal of the game to claim all three points for the home side. It is frustrating for all concerned but the management and players will be working hard to get that elusive away win.

Thank you to the boys and girls who travelled with us to Crewe and to those who have already booked up for the remaining scheduled three games. All of our contact info can be found at www.cusa.co.uk where you will also find details of CUSA Member and superb U's fan Jamie Newstead's London Marathon appeal.

Finally last Monday four of the CUSA committee, including chairman Jon, attended an EFL Fans Forum in London. A report will appear in the programme for the match against Stevenage.

Back to today and let's get behind the team as, with your support, they strive to complete another league double.

Up the U's!

**Trevor Bailey
Committee Member**



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The Promotion runs from 12.00 GMT on 1st March 2017 and closes 23.59 GMT on 17th March 2017. 72 winners each win 4 tickets to join their local EFL team for a VIP experience to take place during EFL Championship, League One & League Two 2016 - 2017 season. 71 prizes will be rewarded and selected from 1 prize draw through www.wickes.co.uk/competitions. 1 prize will be rewarded through TalkSport's promotion, 'Ultimate Fan Competition'. This Promotion is only open to legal residents of the United Kingdom who are aged 18 years or over, excluding employees of the Promoter, their immediate families, their agents or anyone professionally associated with this Promotion. Maximum one entry per person. No purchase is necessary; however, internet access is required. For full terms & conditions visit www.wickes.co.uk/competitions. Promoter: Wickes - Wickes Head Office, Vision House, Colonial Way, Watford, WD24 4JL.

COMMERCIAL SALES PITCH

JOIN US FOR THE END OF SEASON DINNER ON 2ND MAY

Join the manager, players and directors at this year's event as we review and celebrate the season in the Layer Suite on Tuesday 2nd May.

The evening will include behind the scenes footage from the training ground, interviews with the players and an insight to what preparation goes into getting everyone ready for 3pm on a Saturday.

Tickets are priced at £66 per person or £600 for a table of 10.

Contact the commercial team to book your places
01206 752020.



CONTACT US:
FOOTBALL SALES: 01206 752020
CONFERENCE, EVENTS & BANQUETING: 01206 752443



Join us for a night to remember as we review the season and present a variety of awards, including:

Player of the Season • Goal of the Season
Young Player • Community Player • Players Player

The evening will include arrival drink and three-course meal with petit fours

GOLD SPONSOR TICKETS Sponsor one of the prestigious awards for £625+VAT for four guests Includes: Prime location table, logo on the programme and screens, gifts for your guests, opportunity to present the award on the night, post-event pictures, choice of players to join your table	SILVER TICKETS £600 for a table of 10 £66 per person
DRESS CODE BLACK TIE	EVENT SPONSOR 

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commercial@colchesterunited.net

REMEMBERING TERRY PONDER

Terry Ponder sadly passed away recently after an illness bravely borne. Born locally in Great Wigborough, Terry, with his wife Marion, was a lifelong supporter of the club as both a fan and a sponsor. Marion and Terry loved to sponsor the players' shirts and join them for the annual dinners and events. They travelled extensively to watch the U's in action as far afield as Hartlepool, Plymouth and Carlisle, and both particularly enjoyed the promotion party at Yeovil.

Terry was a very sociable man, he loved the Col U atmosphere with many good friends made along the way, enjoying the odd brandy to celebrate! He will be sadly missed by us all – RIP.



With thanks to our partners:





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Football in the Community

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Book your courses online at the click of a button with our online service! Simply visit www.officialsoccerschools.co.uk/colchesterunited and follow the instructions.

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Colchester United Football in the Community's upcoming trip to Kenya has evoked some powerful distant memories for one Season Ticket holder.

The U's community team, plus a number of club supporters, are heading to Nakuru with African Adventures for their first trip to Kenya to help with sports, education and construction projects on a ten day visit.

And for Malcolm Smith, a Season Ticket holder in the West Stand, it brought back memories of his National Service.

He told us: "In February 1960, I was called up for National Service with the Royal Army Pay Corps. After basic training (square bashing), I was posted as Pay Clerk to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers - an Irish regiment stationed at Gil Gil near to Nakuru.

"Arriving around the beginning of June, after a picturesque drive by army truck from Nairobi, I reported to the camp Guardroom when I was asked for the only time in my life - Smith, is that with an 'oy' or wit a 'woy'?

"The camp was very basic and Nakuru

didn't have much to offer. There was a branch of Barclay's DCO from where we collected our cash supplies weekly. There was little interaction with the locals apart from some inquisitiveness from the younger ones and some barter with their elders.

"I shall be interested to learn how the area has developed and whether the army barracks still exist. It was largely scrubland with no traditional wildlife.

"The most poignant memories I have are of the staggering views of the Rift Valley and Lake Nakuru, a salt lake surrounded by pink flamingos.

"I was in Gil Gil for about a year, when we went to Kuwait which was under threat from Iraq (Saddam Hussain wasn't the first!). Then back to Kenya, via Bahrain, to new barracks outside Nairobi.

"In those days I lived in Woodford. Got into the U's 40 years ago when the children were old enough and have been 'hooked' since."

Malcolm is pictured here during his National Service and with Football in the Community's Tom Tayler, who is off to Kenya next week.



FITC ARE RECRUITING

Colchester United Football in the Community are looking to recruit talented sports coaches and educators on part time sessional, full time and volunteer basis.

We are looking for people who inspire and motivate young children through sport.

The sports that we deliver at FITC include football, basketball, hockey, cricket, tennis, handball, athletics, tag rugby and netball.

We are looking to recruit in the following areas:-

- Primary School Coaching: (Grassroots / various sports as listed above)
- Sports Centre Coaching: (Grassroots /

- football)
- Saturday morning clubs: (Grass roots / football)
- Infant Coaching: (Grass roots infants)

For more details on what we're looking for as we continue to develop our community programme, please visit the club's official website.

FOOTBALL COLLEGE TRIALS

Colchester United Football Club is on the look-out for current school year 11, 12 and 13 students (male and female) that are advanced footballers, for their 'Football College'.

The Colchester United Football College Programme is based at the Thurstable Sixth Form Centre, close to the Colchester United training ground.

The programme has run very successfully since September 2009 and is now established as one of the top post-16 football/education programmes in Essex.

The football college programme will also allow students to progress in their further

education and leadership skills.

Successes so far:

- Promotion from BCS Participation League
- Winners of BCS Performance East Division
- Promotion to the British College Sport (BCS), National College Football League
- NEES Cup Winners 2010 and 2011, finalists 2013, 2015
- 11 Players have represented Essex FA Schools U18s squad
- 61 qualified coaches to FA Level 1 standard
- 29 qualified coaches to FA Level 2 standard
- Currently three ex-football college players employed as coaches for Colchester United FC

Are you a talented and committed footballer aged 16-19?
Want to improve and develop your football and further your education?
WE ARE RECRUITING NOW!

For more details on the programme, contact Mark Foster on 01206 755133 or via e-mail on Mark.Foster@colchesterunited.net

We had a great time at our first Football In The Community Day against Leyton Orient earlier in the season and we're delighted to confirm that our second FITC Day will take place for the U's home game against Plymouth on April 22nd.

It could be a huge match for both teams and we are expecting a bumper crowd, so it will be a great day to showcase everything that the Football In the Community programme is up to. Stay tuned for more information!

FITC DAY RETURNS



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
Want to get the lowdown on life at the Colchester United Football in the Community scheme?

Our Twitter account @ColU_FITC will give you all of the information you need on life in our community programme, the latest from schools and player visits, as well as some great competitions!

Follow us on @ColU_FITC for the inside track - we look forward to hearing from you!



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Department for Culture
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Football Foundation

Charity No: 1079309 Company No: 3876305

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LEARN NEW SKILLS, GAIN QUALIFICATIONS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS FOR LIFE.

Whatever role you choose, from an electrician to an engineer, we'll be there to support you every step of the way.

The sense of belonging you find in the Army is next level. When you've trained together, side by side, learned things no classroom can teach you. When you've lived together and worked together, it creates a bond like no other. A bond that lasts a lifetime, and sees you through whatever life throws at you.

In the Army, it's about having a go-getting attitude and the drive to make a difference whilst working as part of a close-knit team. We'll give you the opportunity to travel the world, experience different cultures and gain a host of skills all whilst earning a decent salary along the way.

FIND WHERE YOU BELONG
SEARCH ARMY JOBS



NEWS FEATURE

U'S ADD TWO DIRECTORS



“THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO ME THAT THEY CARE ABOUT COLCHESTER UNITED WAY BEYOND WHAT CAN NORMALLY BE EXPECTED FROM EMPLOYEES”

Colchester United chairman Robbie Cowling has added two new faces to the club's board, as the U's continue to build towards a bright future on and off the pitch.

This season has seen the club enjoy a positive campaign in front of their own supporters, with our home record among the best in League Two as we push for promotion.

Those successes on the pitch have been more than ably assisted by the products of the club's Academy at Florence Park and two of the men who have helped build the infrastructure and day to day programme at the training ground have

now been appointed as directors of Colchester United.

In a statement ahead of the home game against Portsmouth, Robbie said:-

“I am pleased to announce that Tony Humes and Tony Ashby have both joined the Colchester United Board as Directors.

“Tony Humes and Tony Ashby already work full-time in their roles as Director of Football and Director of Football Operations respectively, but they have demonstrated to me that they care about Colchester United way beyond what can normally be expected from employees.

“Therefore I am delighted that they have

both accepted my offer to join the Board.

“It is important for me to have fellow directors who share the club's visions and its values and, having worked with them both for a number of years, I know that is the case.

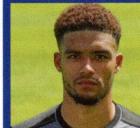
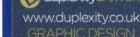
“The next few years are going to be very important for Colchester United.

“We're starting to see the benefits of the club's policy to develop and promote our Academy players, but it's a long term policy and we still have a lot of work to do.

“As always I look forward to the challenges and I know I can rely on the support that my fellow directors have always provided me with.”

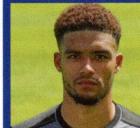


PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

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2016/17 ■■■■■ STATISTICS

*Won 4-3 on penalties

LEAGUE TABLE

		P	GD	PTS
Doncaster		38	31	78
Plymouth		38	18	72
Portsmouth		38	25	65
Stevenage		38	12	61
Luton		38	20	60
Carlisle		38	0	59
Exeter		38	16	58
Blackpool		38	20	57
Mansfield		38	3	55
Wycombe		38	1	55
Colchester		38	3	54
Cambridge		37	6	53
Grimsby		38	-2	51
Accrington		37	-1	48
Barnet		38	-5	48
Morecambe		38	-13	46
Yeovil		38	-9	45
Crewe		38	-11	45
Crawley		38	-16	45
Notts County		38	-23	43
Hartlepool		38	-15	41
Cheltenham		38	-14	39
Newport		38	-20	33
Levton Orient		38	-26	32

PLAYER STATS

	16/17	CFCU		
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS
Walker	40	0	158	0
Brindley	33(2)	0	67	1
Briggs	9(2)	0	60	0
Lapslie	33	0	57	3
Prosser	17	0	17	0
Kent	15	0	56	0
Wright, Drey	27(11)	2	93	6
Loft	2(2)	0	4	0
Porter	24(7)	11	86	25
Szmodics	20(3)	5	77	10
Dickenson	31(2)	10	33	10
Vincent-Young	11(2)	0	38	0
Wynter	13(3)	0	55	1
Elokobi	21	1	86	6
Akinwande	(1)	0	3	0
Johnstone	19(13)	2	32	2
Eastman	30	3	226	11
Bonne	3(15)	1	80	14
Sembie-Ferris	2(7)	1	30	1
Garvan	18	1	52	2
Murray	7(1)	0	8	0
Slater	25(7)	3	32	3
Barnes	2	0	2	0
Pyke	2(4)	0	6	0
Guthrie	35(1)	12	36	12
Bransgrove	1	0	2	0
Brill	0	0	0	0
Doolay	2(1)	0	3	0
Fosu	8(17)	3	25	3
Kamara	3(3)	0	6	0
O'Sullivan	0	0	0	0
Kinsella	13(1)	0	14	0
Grandison	0	0	0	0
James	7(2)	0	10	0
Edge	(1)	0	1	0
Peter	(1)	0	1	0
Dunne	(3)	0	5	0
Wright, Diaz	(1)	0	1	0
Issa	(1)	0	1	0

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OFFICIALS

Referee:
Gavin Ward



Assistants:
Geoffrey Russell
Carl Fitch-Jackson



Fourth Official:
Daniel Robathan

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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

NEXT HERE

STEVENAGE
Saturday 8th April 2017
Sky Bet League Two
Kick-Off: 3.00pm

**COLCHESTER UNITED**

HEAD COACH: John McGreal

- 01 Sam **WALKER**
- 02 Richard **BRINDLEY**
- 03 Matthew **BRIGGS**
- 04 Tom **LAPSLIE**
- 05 Luke **PROSSER**
- 06 Frankie **KENT**
- 07 Drey **WRIGHT**
- 08 Doug **LOFT**
- 09 Chris **PORTER**
- 10 Sammie **SZMODICS**
- 11 Brennan **DICKENSON**
- 12 Kane **VINCENT-YOUNG**
- 14 Alex **WYNTER**
- 15 George **ELOKABI**
- 16 Femi **AKINWANDE**
- 17 Denny **JOHNSTONE**
- 18 Tom **EASTMAN**
- 19 Macauley **BONNE**
- 21 Dion **SEMBIE-FERRIS**
- 22 Owen **GARVAN**
- 23 Sean **MURRAY**
- 24 Craig **SLATER**
- 25 Dillon **BARNES**
- 27 Rekeil **PYKE**
- 28 Kurtis **GUTHRIE**
- 29 Dean **BRILL**
- 30 Lloyd **DOYLEY**
- 31 Tarique **FOSU**
- 32 Tommy **O'SULLIVAN**
- 33 Lewis **KINSELLA**
- 34 Jermaine **GRANDISON**
- 35 Cameron **JAMES**
- 39 Charley **EDGE**
- 40 Dexter **PETER**
- 41 Louis **DUNNE**
- 44 Diaz **WRIGHT**
- 46 Tariq **ISSA**

**LUTON TOWN**

MANAGER: Nathan Jones

- 01 Stuart **MOORE**
- 02 Stephen **O'DONNELL**
- 03 Dan **POTTS**
- 04 Jonathan **SMITH**
- 05 Johnny **MULLINS**
- 06 Scott **CUTHBERT**
- 07 Jake **GRAY**
- 08 Cameron **MCGEEHAN**
- 09 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**
- 35 Arthur **READ**
- 36 James **JUSTIN**
- 39 Akin **FAMEWO**
- 44 Alan **SHEEHAN**