

THE ALEX



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE
OF CREWE ALEXANDRA FC

£3.00



v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2
SATURDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 2017
KICK-OFF 3PM



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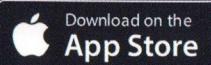
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THEALEX Matchday Magazine

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Some of the comments made in the Crewe Alexandra programme are not necessarily the views of the Football Club.

vs LUTON TOWN • SKY BET LEAGUE 2 • 2017/18 SEASON

DAVE ARTELL WRITES...

PLAYERS RESPONSE WAS TERRIFIC AT MORECAMBE

Iwould like to welcome Nathan Jones, his staff, players and supporters of Luton Town to today's game. Luton are understandably favourites for promotion and are the highest scorers in the division. They share goals all around their team and we will have to be at our defensive best to keep them out. The players have shown they can do it. They did it here against Notts County and Stevenage and similarly at Morecambe on Tuesday night. It has to be same again from us.

We got the response we wanted from the players to record our first win in five matches. In truth it wasn't much of a football match on Tuesday night. It was sometimes a scrappy and bitty affair due to the adverse weather and pitch conditions, but to a man we were terrific on the night. The players had to show the other side of the game again. They had to work their socks off and be resolute. We had to ride our luck at times especially in the first half when Kevin Ellison hit the woodwork twice.

His first effort clipped the top of the crossbar but if you watch it back, his shot takes a slight deflection to propel it onto the bar. It was all about putting bodies on the line and making sure we make those kind of blocks to keep the ball out of our net. The second effort that struck the post was some shot from Ellison and there is not much

you can do about that. It has hit the inside of the post and come back out and it is those fine margins in sport that sometimes go for you and other times they don't. We were on the right side of one.

I thought we deserved to earn the clean-sheet and the three points. We had chances of our own and could have been ahead before Perry (Ng) scored the only goal with five minutes left. It was a wonderful strike from him and it topped off a good night for everyone. Perry is a good footballer. He has now played at full-back, centre-half and now in central midfield at first team level. He had played there before in the Academy and Steve (Davis) often used him as a substitute in that holding role. His ability to play various positions shows what a good footballer he is. I was delighted for everyone and I thought our game management was excellent to close the game out in the last few minutes.

They took on board what happened late on at Forest Green only a few days previous. They learned from those mistakes and they deserve great credit for that. At Forest Green, we didn't see out the game well enough. There didn't seem to be much danger going into the final 15 minutes but we didn't retain possession well enough and started whacking it long too often. They know that it only invites pressure and it gave the home side the momentum.

They had a bit of luck with their two opening goals. The first one was a shot that hit the striker in the six yard box. We thought he had strayed into an offside position but the officials didn't spot it and from preparing to go in 1-0 up thanks to Chris Porter's diving header, we were level again. Although they had more of the ball, that was our game plan because we felt that with the attackers we had on the pitch, we could hit them on the counter attack and have chances. The tactics were spot on.

I was delighted for them, the fans and the club **but it is one win and three points and we have to keep on doing that ...**



Our second goal scored by Jordan was the best move in the match by a country mile. We popped the ball around and George (Cooper) has delivered another inch perfect cross to the far post. Perry has shown the awareness to head it back across goal and Jordan has tucked it in.

I was disappointed that we couldn't see the game out. Again they had a bit of luck when a wayward shot fell to the forward and he has stuck his leg out to divert it onto the post. Saying that we were not good defensively in the second phase of play. We didn't cut the cross out and we didn't mark properly and Doidge has had a simple tap in.

When they forced that late corner, you feared the worst. What we needed was some organisation and a real desire to head the ball out of our box. We didn't get it.

Their defender made a run that was left unchecked and after hitting the post, their lad reacted quickest to put it in. I was annoyed by the way we conceded that goal so easily. We just had to stand up to that last corner to earn an away point but we couldn't manage it.

We have worked extremely hard on defending set-pieces and that is why I was so annoyed by what happened on Saturday, but credit to the lads, they picked themselves up really well and went and got a result at Morecambe. I was delighted for them, the fans and the club but it is one win and three points and we

have to keep on doing that if we are to move away from the bottom. It is one step at a time.

I must say the Crewe fans at Forest Green were a credit to the club. They were out in the open for the majority of the game, until they opened an adjacent stand and it poured down throughout. There was a great following of nearly 500 and they sang their hearts out to help us. I cannot praise them enough, they were absolutely terrific for us and I'm sorry we couldn't get something to show for our efforts.

We took nearly 150 again on Tuesday night and although there was under 1,000 supporters inside the ground, it was our fans making most of the noise. They were fantastic and I'm sure they celebrated Perry's winner as vehemently as we did!

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our youth team on progressing to the third round of the Youth Cup. They comfortably won 4-0 at Evesham on Tuesday night and now face a tie at Colchester next month. Well done to Lee, Jacko and all the boys.

I would like to thank you for the fantastic support you have given us. It really is appreciated and get behind the lads like you have been doing again this afternoon. As I've said in the press it is time for unity.

Dave

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Safety Officer: Cliff Simpson

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Director of Football: Dario Gradi MBE
Head of Coaching: James Collins
Academy Manager: Aidan Callan
U23 Manager/First Team Coach: Alex Morris
U18 Manager: Lee Bell
Goalkeeping Coach: Fred Barber
First Team Sports Scientist: Liam Anderson
Academy Sports Scientist: TBC
Senior Physiotherapist: Rob Sharp
First Team Physio: Tom Butterfield
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Academy Recruitment Officer: Phil Swift
Academy Operations Manager: Paul Anthrobus
First Team Kit Man: Peter Cope
Video Analysis: John Dillon and Gerald Parton
Head Groundsman: Andy Whalley
Assistant Groundsman: Peter Cope

HONOURS

Football League Division 1: Runners Up 2002/2003, Play-Off Winners 1996/1997
Football League Division 2: Play-Off Winners 2011/12
Football League Division 3: Third and Promoted 1993/94
Football League Division 4: Third and Promoted 1963-64, Fourth and Promoted 1967/68, Third and Promoted 1988/89
Football League Trophy: Winners 2013
FA Cup: Semi-Finalists 1888
League Cup: Third Round 1975, 1976, 1979, 1993, 2000, 2002, 2008
Welsh Cup: Winners 1936, 1937
FA Youth Cup: Semi-Finalists 2003/2004
Football League Most Admired Club: 2005

Crewe News

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM AROUND GRESTY ROAD

Effective Utilities to sponsor Gresty Road end

Energy suppliers Effective Utilities have become the new Gresty Road End stand sponsor as part of their growing partnership with Crewe Alexandra Football Club.

As part of the partnership, Effective Utilities secured the best utility deals for the Club, giving Crewe Alexandra the cheapest possible gas, electricity and water services on the market.

Chris Sharman, Marketing Executive at Effective Utilities said: "We are delighted to be affiliated with Crewe Alexandra FC as an official sponsor, and a partner in delivering energy and utility services.

"We understood the needs and requirements of a transparent and holistic approach in helping the club achieve its objectives in the

energy space and look forward to working together in the coming years to do so."

Andrew Blakemore, Company Secretary at Crewe Alex said: "Effective Utilities have a clear understanding of the utilities market for Gas, Electricity and water alike and were able to demonstrate significant savings in these areas across our three sites.

"They have a professional no nonsense approach to utilities procurement and our confidence in their ability and understanding was soon gained."

Want to save money on your company utility outgoings? Give Effective Utilities a call on **0333 009 3360** and mention 'Crewe Alexandra' to secure your deal.

For more information on Effective Utilities, visit the website at effective-utilities.co.uk



Railwaymen's FA Cup tie at Blackburn

switched to Sunday 3rd December

Crewe Alexandra's FA Cup tie at Blackburn Rovers has been moved to Sunday 3rd December with a 2pm kick-off.

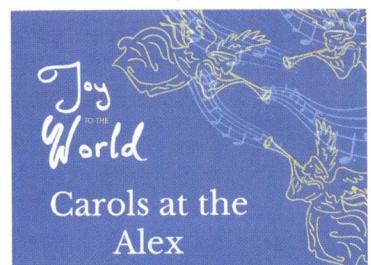
The tie at Ewood Park has been moved as a result of us featuring in the extended highlights programme.

Tickets for the FA Cup at Ewood Park are priced at £12 adults, £5 seniors/young adults, £2 U18's.

Christmas Carol Service Details

Following our FA Cup clash with Blackburn Rovers, will be our annual Carol Service. The popular event will be taking place in the Carlsberg Lounge at 6pm on the Sunday evening.

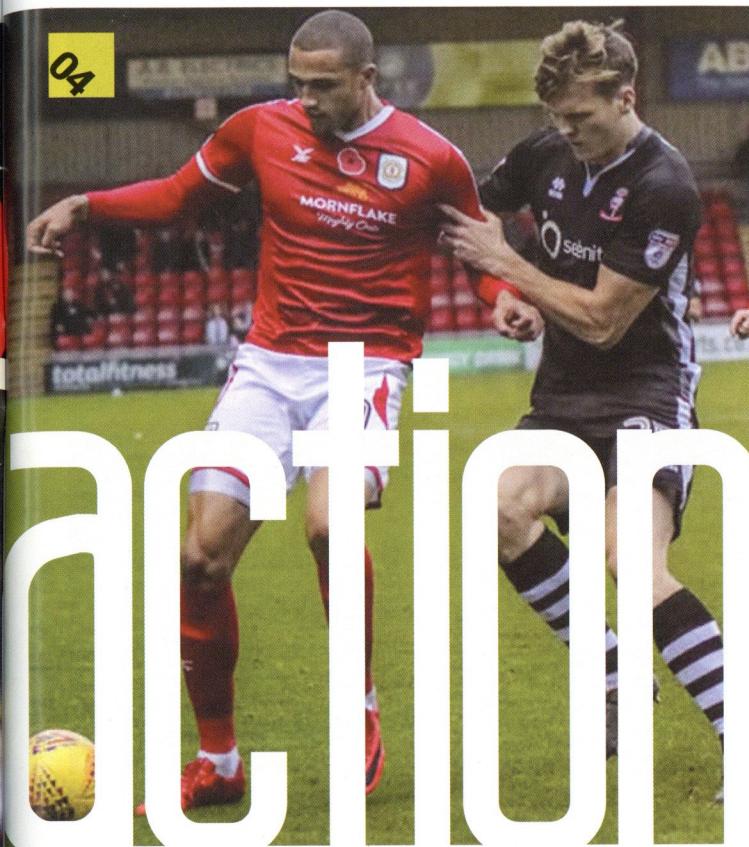
Everyone is welcome and this year we will be joined by the Funky Choir, so make sure you come down and make it a double celebration ahead of the festive period.



Sunday 3rd Dec at 6pm
Please join us as we celebrate Christmas together.
Carols, mince pies and time to reflect.
Special guests - the Funky choir.
Everyone welcome!
The Carlsberg Suite, Alexandra Stadium.

THE ALEXANDRA STADIUM / 11TH NOVEMBER 2017 / ATTENDANCE: 4,723
 CREWE ALEXANDRA 1 Raynes (8)
 LINCOLN CITY 4 Anderson (50, 67), Raynes (pg 70), Whitehouse (90+4)

The Alex in



1. Michael Raynes rushes to celebrate with George Cooper after he headed home his early corner.
2. Tommy Lowery battles in midfield with Michael Bostwick.
3. George Cooper's deflected effort went inches wide.
4. Jordan Bowery holds off the intentions of Lincoln's Sean Raggett.
5. Perry Ng challenges in the box in an attempt to find a late goal back into the game.

Pictures by kind permission of Kevin Warburton

How they lined up...

CREWE ALEXANDRA

1. Dave Richards
2. Perry Ng
18. Harry Pickering
6. Michael Raynes
4. Brad Walker
9. Chris Dagnall
10. Jordan Bowery
11. George Cooper
14. Callum Ainley
16. Tom Lowery
28. Conor Grant

From The Bench

3. Zoumana Bakayogo (18)
12. Eddie Nolan (28)
7. Chris Porter (14)

LINCOLN CITY

21. Josh Vickers
2. Sean Long
15. Rob Dickie
25. Sean Raggett
23. Neal Eardley
30. Alex Woodyard
16. Michael Bostwick
4. Elliott Whitehouse
7. Josh Ginnelly
26. Harry Anderson
8. Ollie Palmer

From The Bench

28. Nathan Arnold (7)
5. Luke Waterfall (26)
10. Matt Green (8)



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League2RoundUp

MCGHEE BACK IN BUSINESS AT THE HIVE

MARK MCGHEE IS BACK IN MANAGEMENT AT BARNET AFTER OUTGOING BOSS ROSSI EAMES WAS PLACED IN A NEW ROLE AT THE LONDON CLUB. EAMES, 32, WAS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST MANAGERS IN THE EFL AND HE HAS BECOME HEAD OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE NEW STRUCTURE.

Scottsman McGhee, 60, succeeds Eames as manager after a recent run of poor form saw them slip into the relegation zone. Alex Armstrong will continue as assistant manager.

McGhee brings vast managerial experience to the dugout having served the likes of Reading, Leicester City, Millwall and Wolverhampton Wanderers early on in his career.

He had most recently served as Gordon Strachan's assistant with the Scotland national team but their failure to qualify for next summer's World Cup Finals in Russia saw them leave their posts.

McGhee's last job in club management saw him in charge at Motherwell in the SPL but he was sacked from that position in February as they slipped too close to the relegation drop zone.

Luckily for McGhee, the Scotland Football Association did not ask for a six-match club suspension to be upheld on his move to England. McGhee was banned from the touchline for six games after he was involved in a verbal exchange with a supporter following Motherwell's 7-2 defeat to his former club Aberdeen.

The SFA have not asked FIFA to enforce the ban and it will now only be reactivated if he was to take another post in Scotland in the future.

Carlisle United have been dealt a massive blow with the news that their influential winger Nicky Adams has been ruled out for the remainder of the season after suffering a knee injury in their recent 4-0 win over Yeovil Town.

Adams was Carlisle's player of the year last season as he helped them



Mark McGhee is now the manager of Barnet after his spell as Scotland's assistant manager.

reach the play-offs. The 31-year-old had made 21 appearances this campaign and his ability in the final third will be sorely missed by Keith Curle and his improving side.

Cheltenham Town have also lost defender Jordan Cranston for the duration of the season after it was revealed that he would need surgery on his severe hamstring tear. The left-back, 24, had featured in 21 games this season for the Robins but he suffered the serious injury in their recent 2-2 draw with Luton Town.

In Cranston's absence, manager Gary Johnson says Dan O'Shaughnessy will get an opportunity to step up for the Robins, who Crewe face on Saturday 9th December.

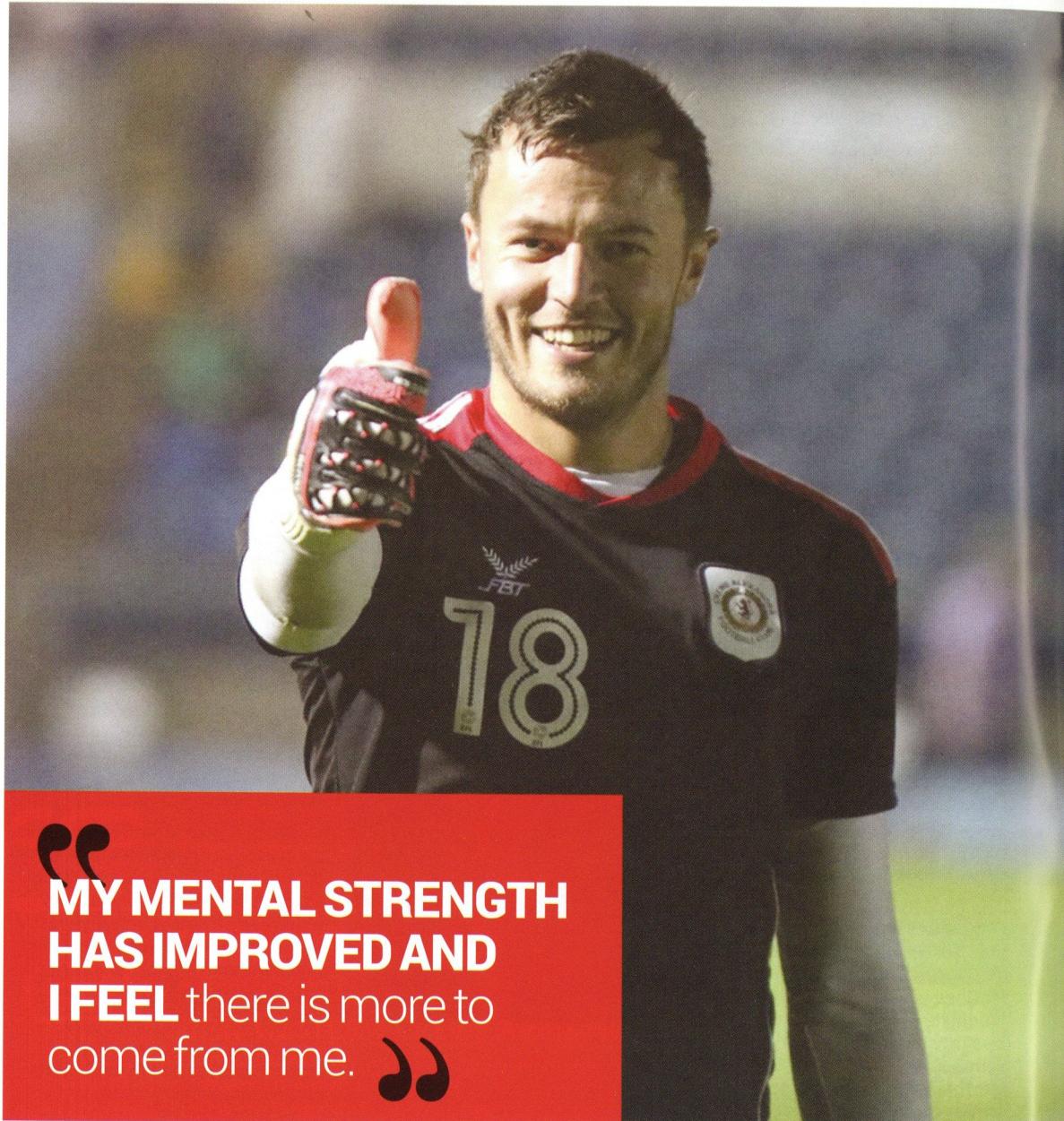
Coventry Rugby Football Club chairman Jon Sharp has ruled out any possibility of footballing neighbours Coventry City moving to the Butts Park Arena as part of a proposed ground share. Coventry are in the final year of their agreement with Ricoh Arena landlords Wasps and are on the hunt for a new venue.

Sharp says that he will not discuss the possibility because of Coventry's current ownership by Sisu: "We will not deal with them as long as they are owned by Sisu. Whether correctly or not, the current owners are vilified within the city. Whether that is fair or not, I'm not going to comment on."

"But we have spent many years re-establishing our status in the city. I'm not prepared to risk that by associating with City's owners."

player interview

David Richards



“**MY MENTAL STRENGTH HAS IMPROVED AND I FEEL** there is more to come from me. ”

vs LUTON TOWN • SKY BET LEAGUE 2 • 2017/18 SEASON

WELSHMAN REALLY FINDING HIS FEET AT FIRST TEAM LEVEL

Goalkeeper David Richards believes he is really beginning to find his feet at first-team level after displacing Ben Garratt as number one back in late September.

Crewe Alexandra boss David Artell felt that Garratt needed a mental rest more than anything after appearing in almost 200 games at the age of 23 and he did not hesitate to present Richards with an opportunity.

The bubbly Welshman has had to wait patiently to make his first-team debut for the club or any club for that matter. Having previously been a reliable understudy at his previous clubs Cardiff City and Bristol City, his only first-team action was when he went out on loan to Llanelli and Chippenham Town.

The 23-year-old was thrust into action for his senior debut at Coventry City and he didn't disappoint. Despite losing the game 1-0, Richards excelled between the sticks and following a string of good saves, he was comfortably our best performer at the Ricoh Arena. In only his second ever League game he promptly saved an early penalty from Stevenage striker Matt Gooden and a last minute winner from Jordan Bowery gave us a deserved three points.

Artell recently claimed that Richards' consistent form has deservedly seen him retain the number one shirt and the confidence the manager has shown in him is rubbing off.

The man fondly known by his team-mates as Trigger told the Alex match day magazine:

“The time has gone quickly since I made my debut at Coventry and although I would have liked to have helped us get a few more results, I've really enjoyed it.

“We have had some high points such as the Notts County game, the Stevenage game and the FA Cup win over Rotherham, but we would have all liked to have picked up a few more points. We have slipped up in too many games.

“It is all about consistency. I know we have all been saying it for a while but the group is strong. The spirit is good here and there are a lot of talented players. When we play well and click as a team then we are a very good, like we were against Notts County and Rotherham but when we make a few mistakes then we seem to get punished.

“We know that if we play the right way and stand up to the opposition then we can beat anybody. I think we have the right players here to make sure we fly up the table. We are capable of it. We have just got to stick together and build that momentum again.”

With Garratt and the promising youngster Will Jaaskelainen breathing down his neck, Richards knows that he has to keep performing to a high standard to keep the shirt. He has had to adjust quickly to the extra demands made on him at first-team level but says that concentration remains key.

Dave explained: *“What I've found making the step up is that you have to concentrate a lot more. The players are quicker and stronger, so you have to match that. You have to be alert all the time because we can be on the attack one minute and then defending against a counter-attack the next.*

“That is the main difference but I've felt my confidence rise by each passing game. I feel fitter and sharper. My mental strength has improved and I feel there is more to come from me.

“When I first went into the team it was about dipping my toe in and seeing what it was all about. I've got more used to it now and I've come out of my shell a bit. I think I can become more vocal and help the lads in front of me.

“The more you play with a settled back four and the midfield lads, the more it helps you. I think we get the best out of each other and if that means having a row on the pitch then we do. It is nothing personal.

“If I have a row with someone like Raynes or he has a dig back at me, I know it is not personal. It is just about getting more out of yourself. I don't mind that because I know that we are a strong group and we all want to do well.

“Now we have to go on a run of games and make sure we get up that table.”

Richards knows that he has a pivotal part to play in that and he is determined to keep the ball out of net as much as possible.

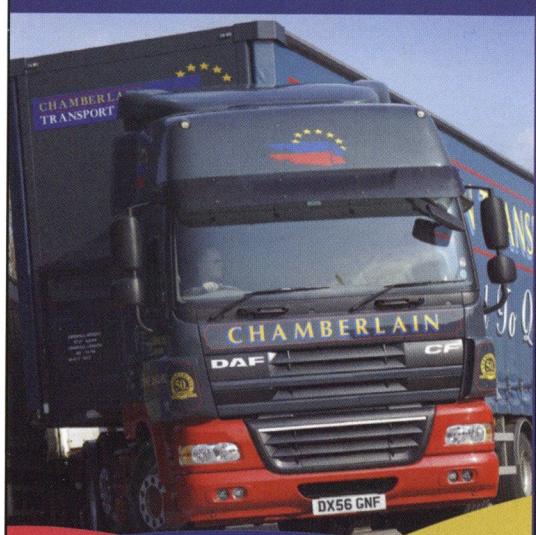
He said: *“Having this run of games in the first-team has allowed me to see how important it is to do well every game. I know that if I play well and help the lads keep the ball out of the net then that gives us every chance of getting a result.*

“If we get a clean-sheet then we are confident that with the players we have, we will get one up the other end.

“It really spurs you on to do well and there is no better feeling than winning games. All I can do is take it game-by-game and carry on performing to the best of my ability.”

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2017-18 STAT PACK



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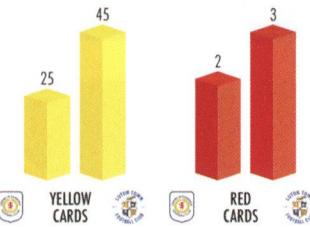
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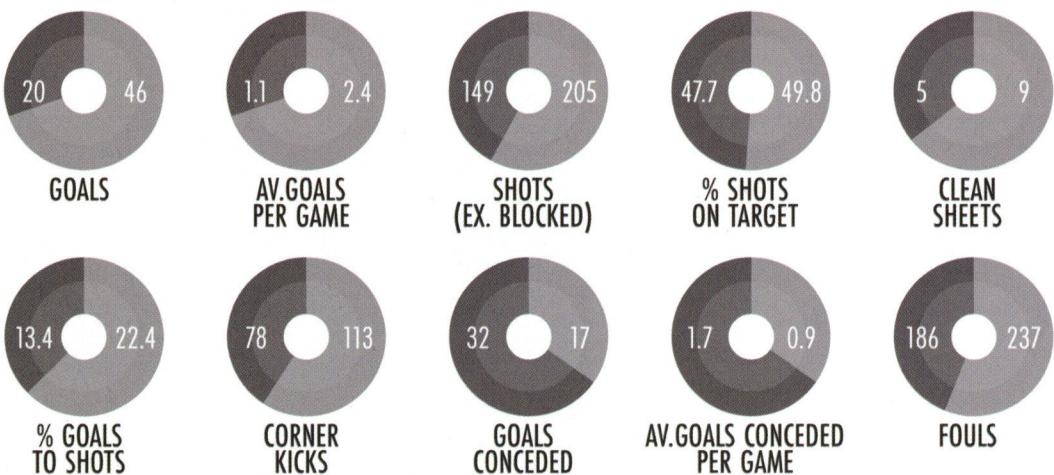
MATCH FACTS

The Railwaymen have failed to win any of their last three league meetings with Luton (D1 L2); they last went four without a win against them in all competitions in March 1997 (five games).



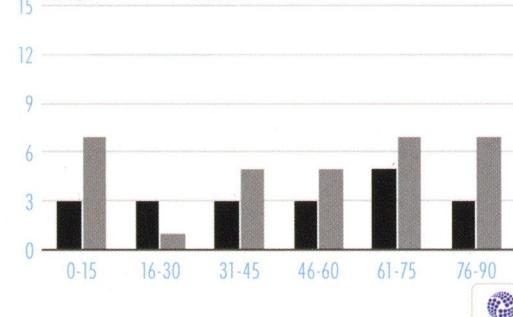
MATCH FACTS

Including play-offs, Luton have lost eight of their 11 trips to Crewe in the Football League (W2 D1), although those two wins have come in the last four such encounters.



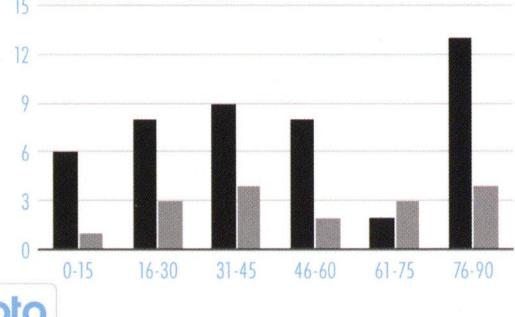
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Welcome to Gresty Road...

LUTON TOWN



This Season

The Hatters remain many pundit's favourites for the League Two title this season and after losing out in the play-offs last season they will aiming to make sure they get the job done automatically this time around.

Luton Town have rightly won plaudits for their style of football and they comfortably have the most potent strike force in the division. Even more so now that Danny Hylton has fully recovered from injury!

They set an early marker by beating Yeovil Town 8-2 on the opening day of the season and they have followed that up by putting seven goals past both Stevenage and only last weekend at home to Cambridge.

With Hylton on 11 goals, James Collins on 9, and Elliott Lee on five goals already this season, Crewe will have to be at their defensive best to keep them quiet this afternoon.



THE NUMBERS GAME

11

The number of goals striker Danny Hylton has scored this season. He currently tops the League Two scoring charts with Notts County's Jorge Grant.

4

The number of key assists James Collins has made, usually for his prolific strike partner Hylton.

43

Yellow cards dished out to Luton Town players so far this season.

3

Red cards issued to Luton players Dale Gorman, Glen Rea and Scott Cuthbert in EFL League Two.

52

The impressive number of games, Nathan Jones has won as Luton manager from his 106 games in charge.

55

The record number of goals the legendary Joe Payne (left) scored for the Hatters during the 1936/37 season.

New arrivals

Alan McCormack, Marek Stech, Luke Berry, James Collins, James Shea, Elliott Lee, Aaron Jarvis, Harvey Isted, Harry Cornick, Jack Stacey (loan), Andrew Shinnie (loan)

Last Time Out

Despite having left-back Alan Sheehan sent-off after 53 minutes for two bookable offences, Luton Town recorded a deserved 2-1 win at Gresty Road last season.

In what was David Artell's first game in charge after succeeding Steve David just days before, striker Ryan Lowe opened the scoring after 28 minutes for what would be his final goal for the club. Lowe later re-joined Bury in the January transfer window.

Jack Marriott timely equalised for the Hatters on the stroke of half-time and Nathan Jones' side went on to control much of the second half despite having Sheehan dismissed. The ten men won the three points thanks to Jake Gray's winner 20 minutes from the end.

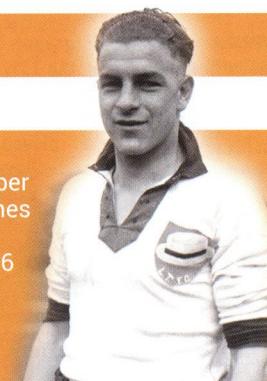
In the reverse fixture at Kenilworth Road back in October 2016, Lowe was again on target but a goal from Hylton just before the half time interval meant the points were shared.

Away Days

Luton may have made impressive headlines with their high scoring victories over Yeovil, Stevenage and Cambridge but arguably their most telling performance of the season saw them win 4-1 away at their promotion rivals Exeter City last month.

They have enjoyed great success on the road, winning 2-0 at Accrington Stanley thanks to goals from Collins and a penalty from Hylton.

Wycombe Wanderers is never an easy place to go and they managed to win there too back in September and they have also been successful on their travels at AFC Wimbledon in the Checkatrade Trophy.



THE HATTERS

Ones To Watch...

► 1. MAREK STECH (GK)

Stech joined Luton in June 2017 from Sparta Prague after enjoying three seasons in the Czech Premier League.

The 27-year-old started his career in his home country as a schoolboy with Sparta, before joining West Ham United at 16 and gaining experience on loan with clubs including Wycombe Wanderers and Yeovil Town.

The 6ft 5ins stopper earned cult hero status in Somerset after signing permanently in 2012, helping the Grovers to promotion to the Championship for the first time in the club's history before leaving following their immediate relegation in the summer of 2014 to play in the Europa League with Sparta.

He has 12 Czech Republic Under 21 caps to his name and one full cap which came in June 2014 in a friendly against Austria.

► 3. DAN POTTS

Potts joined the Hatters in summer 2015 from West Ham United, where he made 13 appearances after being handed his debut in a Championship win over Barnsley in December 2011.

The 23-year-old represented the USA at Under-20 level in 2011, before being selected for England Under-18, 19 and 20s.

Potts gained valuable EFL experience on loan at Colchester and Portsmouth before agreeing a two-year deal with Luton.

After making 44 appearances in his first two seasons with the Hatters, he was offered a new contract in May 2017 for another year.

► 5. JOHNNY MULLINS

Mullins joined Luton in summer 2016 after leaving Oxford United.

The 32-year-old experienced centre-half started out at Reading, but left in 2006 without adding to the 50 appearances

he'd made during two lengthy loans with Kidderminster.

He then spent two years at both Mansfield and Stockport before joining Rotherham in the summer of 2010. He helped the Millers win promotion to League One in 2012/13, but left to sign for Oxford the following summer after a loan spell.

Mullins made 51 appearances in his last season, including leading the U's out at Wembley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final with Oxford also sealing promotion from League Two, before joining the Hatters with team-mate Danny Hylton.

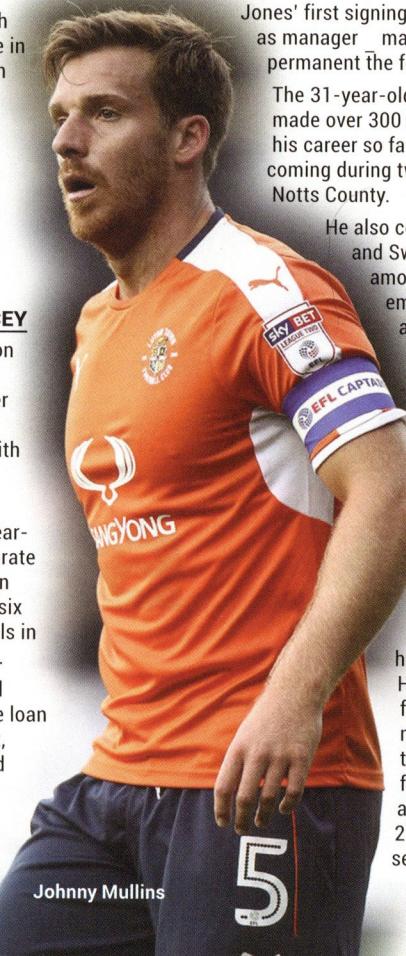
He made his 500th career appearance in 2016/17, although suspension and a hamstring problem made the second half of his first campaign stop-start, limiting him to 29 appearances.

► 7. JACK STACEY

Stacey joined Luton on a permanent deal in the summer having agreed an undisclosed fee with Reading.

A Reading youth product, the 21-year-old who can operate at right back and in midfield played six times for the Royals in the Championship.

Between 2015 and 2017, he had three loan spells, with Barnet, Carlisle United and Exeter City, but really found his feet with the Grecians last term.



Johnny Mullins



A full season at St James Park saw him flourish as he made 38 appearances as well as scoring a fantastic late winner in Paul Tisdale's side's 6-5 aggregate win over the Cumbrians in the League Two play-off semi-final.

He then started in the Wembley final, which they lost 2-1 to Blackpool before joining the Hatters on a two-year contract after Town agreed terms with the Madejski Stadium outfit.

► 44. ALAN SHEEHAN

Cultured defender Sheehan joined the Hatters on loan from Bradford City in January 2016, becoming Nathan

Jones' first signing after taking over as manager making the move permanent the following summer.

The 31-year-old left-footer has made over 300 appearances in his career so far with the majority coming during two spells with Notts County.

He also counts Leeds United and Swindon Town among his former employers, as well as loans with Mansfield, Crewe, Oldham and Peterborough after starting out at Leicester City.

He signed a permanent deal with the Town in May 2016 and made 41 appearances in his first full season.

He has Hatters four goals to his name, including three stunning free-kicks that were all nominated for 2016-17 goal of the season.

► 8. OLLY LEE

Central midfielder Lee joined the club on an initial short-term deal in August 2015, before quickly earning a contract to 2017 which was then extended to the summer of 2018 at the end of an impressive first campaign with the Hatters.

The brother of Elliot Lee, Olly started on the books of West Ham, enjoying two loan spells at Dagenham & Redbridge under former Hatters boss John Still, who brought him to Kenilworth Road, and one at Gillingham before signing for Barnet for 2012-13.

He joined Birmingham City before the season was out, but was released by the Championship side in 2015 after a spell on loan in League Two with Plymouth. By the end of 2016-17, Lee had made 80 appearances in a Town shirt, scoring four times.

► 11. ANDREW SHINNIE

Shinnie signed for the Hatters on a season-long loan from Championship side Birmingham City,

The 28-year-old adds experience to Nathan Jones' midfield, having played over 200 first team games across the top three tiers in Scotland as well as the English second tier.

a new contract in order to pen a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road.

The club's top scorer last season with 27 goals, Hylton came in the top three shortlisted for the EFL League Two Player of the Year award and was voted in the Team of the Season for League Two.

► 19. JAMES COLLINS (FW)

Luton acquired the signature of lethal League Two poacher James Collins from Crawley during the summer for an undisclosed fee.

Having netted over 100 career goals most of which have come in the fourth tier Collins adds even more firepower to the Town frontline, penning a three-year contract.



Danny Hylton

interest from the Shrimpers. Rea made 49 appearances, 46 of them starts, in his first full season with Luton, finding the net three times.

The 23-year-old is a highly-rated Republic of Ireland Under-21 international who can operate as a holding midfielder or centre-half.

► 18. LUKE BERRY

Berry made the short move to Luton from Cambridge United in summer 2017 for an undisclosed fee, ending his long association with the Club.

He had spent a total of six years of his seven year career so far with the U's after graduating from their youth set-up in 2010.

Scoring 29 goals in 150 appearances for the Club from 2010-2014, Barnsley paid an undisclosed fee for his services, but he spent just one season with the Tykes before returning to Cambridge on a four-year-deal for an undisclosed fee.

Three seasons, 35 goals and 105 appearances later and he opted to leave the Cambs Glass Stadium again for rivals Luton Town after they outlined their ambitions for the future.

Since leaving Aston Villa, the 26-year-old pursued a career in the lower leagues, going onto score regularly for the likes of Shrewsbury Town, Swindon Town and the Red Devils.

A season in the Scottish Premiership with Hibernian didn't prove as fruitful as planned in the 2013-14 season, but he has netted 54 goals since his return to England, including 22 last term for Crawley.

The Coventry-born former Republic of Ireland U21 international has won promotion three times from League Two; twice with Shrewsbury and once during his loan at Northampton Town in 2016.

Attack

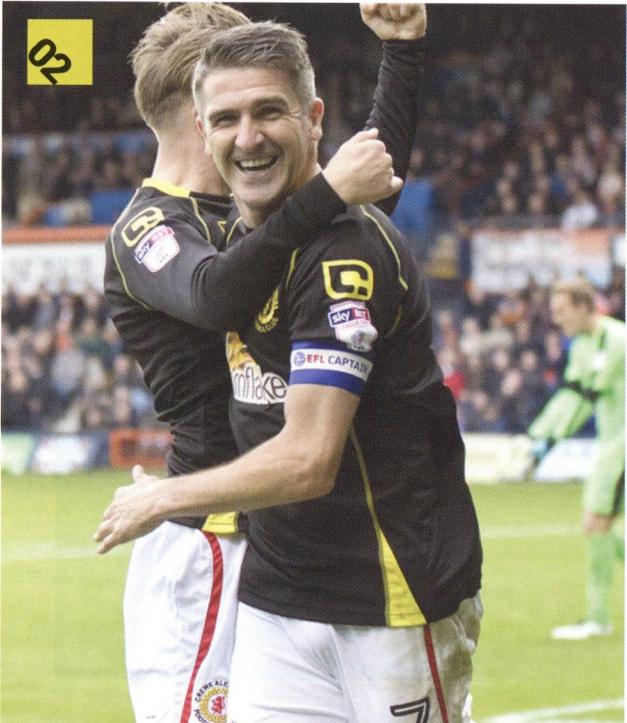
► 9. DANNY HYLTON

London-born forward Hylton joined Luton in summer 2016 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.

The 28-year-old started his career with Aldershot Town, where he made over 200 appearances in the National League and League Two before joining Rotherham 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 in 2014.

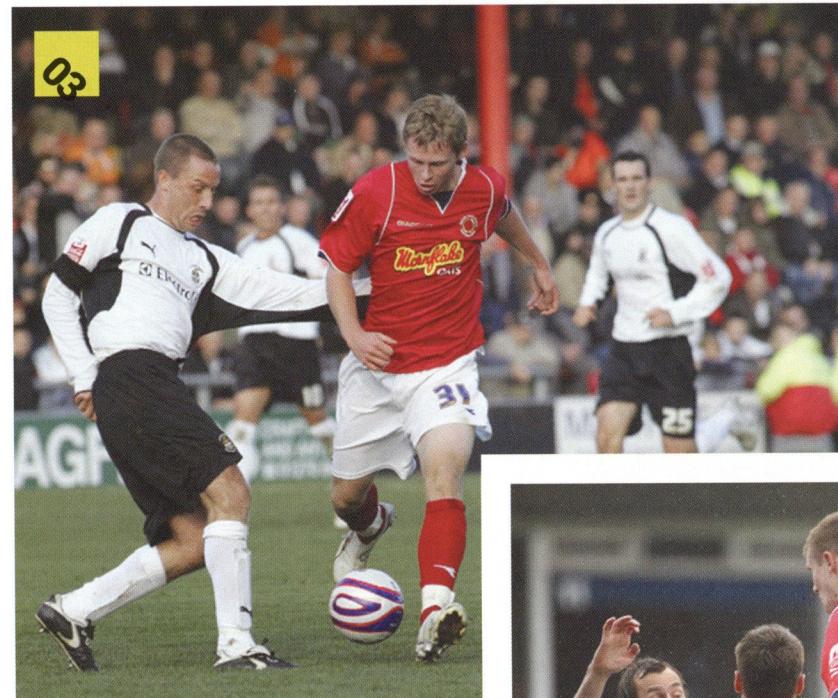
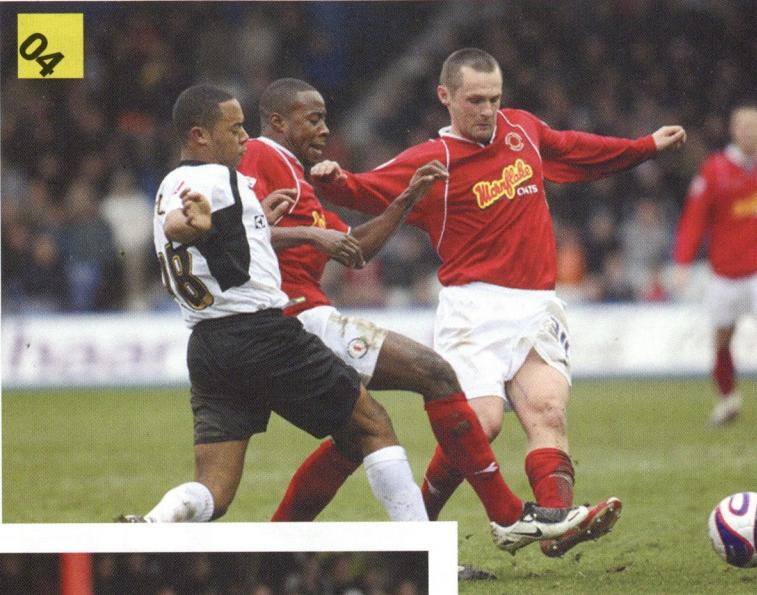
While at the Kassam, Hylton hit 30 goals in 84 starts, but turned down the offer of

History ³ Lessons



1. The Alex players form a guard of honour to welcome Luton's Fourth Division Champions onto the pitch in May 1968. Crewe were also promoted that season.
2. Ryan Lowe celebrates scoring his equaliser at Luton last season. The game ended 1-1 with Danny Hylton on target for the Hatters.
3. Chris Perry cuts out a run from Crewe loanee Simon Church in October 2007
4. Kenny Lunt in action at Kenilworth Road in March 2008. Crewe lost 2-1 with Matt Spring scoring both for Luton.
5. Michael O'Connor and Gary Roberts fly into a challenge with the former Scotland International Don Hutchison.

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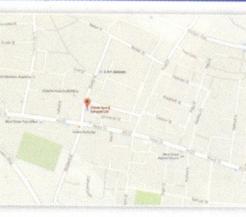
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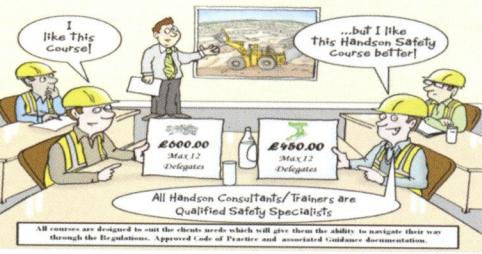
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THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PAPER

MISSING OUT ON THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

by Chris Dunlavy

Italy's limp play-off defeat against Sweden means the World Cup will not feature the famous blue shirts of the Azzurri for the first time since 1958.

Doomed manager Giampiero Ventura said the side had "an infinity of issues" whilst La Gazzetta Dello Sport decried a "national tragedy".

Only Brazil and Germany now boast a longer unbroken stretch of World Cup participation, but the Italians are far from the only elite nation to miss a major tournament...



Former World Cup winner Buffon won't be in Russia.

Still, all's well that ends well. Two years later, after an eight-year absence from tournament football, the Netherlands won the Euro 88, their first - and only - major honour.

► NETHERLANDS - 1982-86

If you think the Dutch have problems now, hark back to the early eighties. The legendary side of Cruyff, Rep and Neeskens that introduced the world to Total Football and reached two consecutive World Cup finals had aged or retired.

In 1982, only whipping boys Cyrus (a scrappy 1-0 win in Nicosia was a lowlight) kept the Dutch off the bottom of their qualifying group. Two years later, Spain pipped them on goals scored courtesy of smashing Malta 12-1. The fact it was the final qualifying game and the Spanish needed to win by 11 clear goals to stop the Dutch was... curious.

Then, in 1986, with the likes of Van Basten, Gullit and Koeman approaching the peak of their powers, bitter rivals Belgium scored in the 86th minute to inflict a heart-breaking play-off defeat.

Which means that 1968 is the only time Die Mannschaft have ever failed to qualify for a major tournament.

And, to be fair, it was pretty easily done. Back then, 31 teams were competing for just FOUR places at the European Championships. Even group winners required a play-off to seal the deal.

Germany didn't even make it that far, a draw in Albania meaning they finished second to Yugoslavia. Still, they showed everybody in 1970.

► ENGLAND - 1994

Four years after their finest hour since 1966, England compounded goal-shy embarrassment at Euro '92 with a wretched qualifying campaign.

Though ended in controversial fashion at the hands of Ronald Koeman and Holland, a side of over promoted journeymen - Carlton Palmer, anyone? - had struggled throughout and eventually finished third in their group.

Gaffer Graham Taylor departed but not before quotes like "Can you not knock it?" and "Do I not like that," - all captured by a fly-on-the-wall documentary team - had entered football folklore.

► FRANCE - 1988-90 & 1994

Like the Dutch, France followed a golden era with an eight-year drought. Michel Platini - the three-time winner of the Ballon D'Or and inspiration behind Les Bleus' 1984 European Championship success - retired in 1987.

In his absence, France won just one game in qualification for Euro 1988 and three ahead of Italia '90, despite fielding the likes of Eric Cantona, Laurent Blanc and Jean-Pierre Papin.

After a winless Euro '92, France then missed USA '94 thanks exclusively (if you believe manager Gerard Houllier) to David Ginola.

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PLAYER INTERVIEW

Perry Ng

NG STRIKE AT MORECAMBE GIYES EVERYONE A LIFT

Perry Ng knows that the Alex dressing room are going to have dig really deep if we are going to move away from trouble at the bottom of the table. Ng, may still be only 21, but he has deservedly established himself in David Artell's starting XI. The Liverpudlian is closing in on 50 first team appearances and his unique versatility has already seen him play at right-back, centre-half and like Tuesday night at Morecambe in a midfield role for the club.

He marked his change of position at the Globe Arena by scoring a magical winner with just five minutes left on the clock. Lively sub Callum Ainley did brilliantly to carry the ball from the opposite touchline before inviting Ng to shoot. He had one touch before drilling an unstoppable shot past Morecambe's experienced goalkeeper Barry Roche. It was a goal worthy of winning any game and it gave us only our second away win of the season.

The former Academy graduate doesn't mind where he plays as long as he has the opportunity to help the team pick up the points we will need to starve off the growing threat of a relegation battle.

Despite his young age and relative inexperience compared to others in the squad, Ng has become a real leader on and off the pitch and he continues to lead by example.

Ng is now hoping that his late winner on Tuesday can be a catalyst for an upturn in results

He told the Alex matchday magazine: "As you can imagine it hasn't been good after games in the dressing room.

We hate losing and when you put a lot of effort in and you lose late on, it drains the life out of you. It does affect you but we picked ourselves up quickly to get the three points on Tuesday night.

"You cannot dwell too much on things and have to get over a defeat quickly. That is what we did and now we have to keep it going. Our poor results have gone on far too far now and we need to move up the league as soon as possible."

Ng speaks and thinks with great maturity, so much so that he could become a future captain. He is critical of his own game more than most and admits that he often analyses what he has done well and not so well in games.

Perry told the Alex matchday magazine: "I'm one of those who watches the DVD's and the clips of the games and my own performance. I have to. I like to know how I've done and what went wrong when goals went against us. I think it is important to always learn from your mistakes and I

usually watch them back on a Saturday night.

"You have to get over set-backs quickly and the lads showed that fight and character to get that win at Morecambe.

"It was about being prepared to put your bodies on the line and fighting until the end. I want to play and I want to win. I am like everyone else; I hate it when we lose as a team, so it was nice to get a win and for me to score the winner. I think I can score more goals and I enjoy it in midfield but like I've said I'll play wherever the manager wants me to play."

Pezza added: *"There are no excuses whatsoever. With the players we have here, we should be doing a lot better than we have been doing. It is not from the want of trying but we have given away some stupid goals at stupid times and they have cost us. When we play our football we can compete with anyone in this league and we will be trying to do that again against Luton, who are the best team in the division at the moment."*



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 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 U-23 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 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 U-23 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 times 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 U-21 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

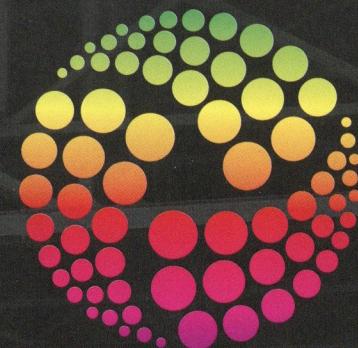
Former Luton Town central defender



John Hartson



Paul Allen



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THE MATCH DAY PROGRAMME ASKS AVID ALEX FANS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES SUPPORTING THE RAILWAYMEN.

► **HOW LONG HAVE YOU SUPPORTED THE ALEX AND WHY WERE YOU ATTRACTED TO THE CLUB?**

Born and bred in Crewe so all my life but I have to admit my interest waned a little in the pre Dario days after I had left Crewe to work in London and the team, frankly, wasn't very good.

► **WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST CREWE ALEXANDRA MATCH AND WHAT WAS YOUR ABIDING MEMORY?**

My memory is a little hazy - first match I saw was in 1964/65 season but I do remember the second promotion season 1967/68 vividly where I saw every home match. We were unbeaten at home that year and the abiding memory has to be beating the champions Luton Town in the last game to secure the final promotion place.

► **WHAT DO YOU RANK AS THE BEST CREWE ALEXANDRA GAME YOU HAVE ATTENDED?**

There have been so many over the years but two in particular stand out.

26th April 2003 at Loftus Road, QPR had two men sent off and the locals were not happy but the draw we earned that day secured our promotion spot at the expense of QPR. The after match celebrations between the Crewe fans and the team were unforgettable. Especially so as QPR were the closest team to where I lived.

However the best game was 23rd August 1997 at Carrow Road, Norwich. Promotion to the then League One had been won at Wembley the season before but "little old" Crewe were everybody's favourite to be relegated, especially after we had sold Danny Murphy to Liverpool in the close season. The first two games of the season had been lost so it looked as if the pundits would be proved right. But no! We went to

Norwich played them off the park and won 2-0 with Shaun Smith scoring a trademark free kick.

► **WHO WAS THE FIRST CREWE ALEXANDRA HERO?**

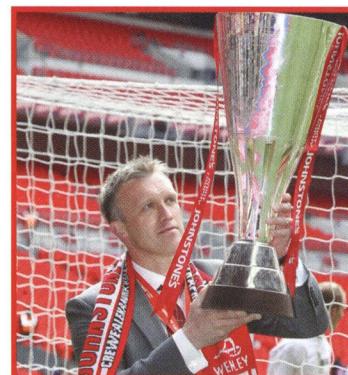
Not sure I ever had a hero but there were players you felt a particular affection for. Gordon Wallace, the star of the team, whose career was cut short by a terrible tackle, Terry Harkin and Gary Talbot for their goals and the two seemingly ever present full backs Tommy Lowery and Peter Leigh.

► **HAVE YOU EVER MET ANY PAST OR PRESENT CREWE PLAYERS?**

As a child I fondly remember standing in the alleyway between the player's entrance and the cattle market waiting for autographs. So if that counts then probably most of the players in the mid to late 60's.

► **FAVOURITE CURRENT CREWE PLAYER AND WHY?**

I try to follow the team and be neutral about the players but I will be very interested to see how Tommy Lowery's



Memorable Wembley trips in 2012 & 2013.



Philip Dodd

Age: 62
From: Ickenham, London Borough of Hillingdon

career develops. He has tremendous ability and if he works hard and is fortunate with injuries could make the Premier League.

► **FAVOURITE GROUND VISITED AS AN AWAY FAN?**

You mean after Wembley! Probably the New Den, Millwall. Despite their reputation I have always found the Millwall fans to be welcoming and the atmosphere inside the ground good humoured.

► **DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE CREWE ALEXANDRA KIT?**

For many years I had a shirt with black trim on it but I confess I can't remember the year it came from.

► **WHOSE RESULT DO YOU LOOK FOR FIRST AFTER THE ALEX?**

No team specifically. It usually relates to teams whose results are important to us.

I was looking out for Leyton Orient's results. Steve Davis was part of one of the most successful periods in our history. When you see how that club has been mismanaged in recent times it helps you appreciate the stability we have at The Alex.

► **CAN YOU NAME YOUR DREAM CREWE STARTING XI FROM HISTORY?**

4-4-2
Jason Kearton (GK)
Tommy Lowery (RB)
Shaun Smith (LB)
Steven Foster (CB)
Keith Stott (CB)
Gordon Wallace (CM)
Danny Murphy (CM)
Neil Lennon (RM)
Steve Jones (LM)
Dean Ashton (CF)
Terry Harkin (CF)

Best & Worst

Being out for 4 to 5 months just isn't very nice!



Conor Grant

⊖ The Player ...

Best thing about being a footballer? It's what I love doing and it's what I've done all of my life. It was my dream job and I'm getting to live that.

Worst thing about being a footballer? Losing and being injured are both bad.

Best moment in football? My favourite would be scoring on my debut when I was at Motherwell - I did that at Doncaster as well.

Worst moment in football? Being injured with my back, I was out for four-five months which wasn't nice.

Best performance for Crewe? The Notts County game was a good one, for the team as well, everyone was good.

Worst performance for Crewe? The 5-0 Carlisle one when we got beat at home.

Best goal celebration? I did a knee slide in my first ever game at Motherwell.

Worst goal celebration? I tend to do just a generic aeroplane for my other goals so I'd go with that.

Best away ground? We played at Newcastle United last year. That was quality.

Worst away ground? Newport is shocking, honestly.

Favourite food & why? I'll just say chicken!

Least favourite food & why? I'd say tuna, can't do tuna.

⊖ Team Mates...

Best Hair? Udoh, it's outstanding.

Worst Hair? Kirky, not really sure what he's quite going for!

Best Car? It's between Porter and Perry, both very good.

Worst Car? I'm going to have to say Dan Udz because he always gets it for that tin can he drives!

Best James Bond stand-in? Porter, he's got that in him.

Worst James Bond stand-in? Perry Ng, I just can't see it at all.

Best footy skills? Cooper or Ainley, can't really separate them.

Worst footy skills? Take your pick from the centre-havles! Raynesy or Eddie Nolan probably.

Best reality TV contestant? George Ray has got that in him.

Worst reality TV contestant? Probably Ben Garratt because he's a little bit more reserved and quiet.

Best lad to take on a night out? I haven't experienced it yet, but from what I've heard Daggers is the one for a night out.

Worst lad to take on a night out? Perry, no words needed!

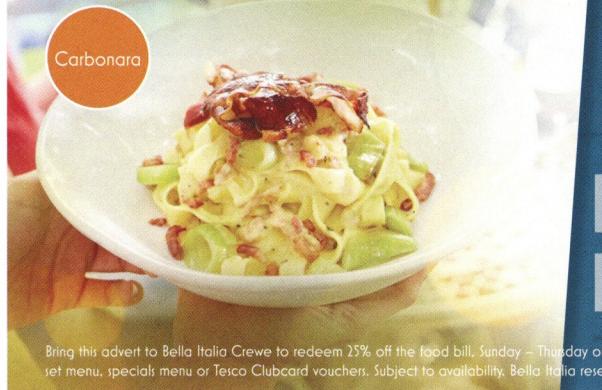


Ryan Winkle

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CLUBSHOP

The Alexandra Shop takes the pressure off this Christmas

If you are on the lookout for that perfect gift this Christmas then why not make the Crewe Alexandra store your first stop? The newly revamped Alexandra Store has a wide range of gift ideas for you to purchase from the replica kits, to training wear to handy stocking fillers. You may just get that perfect gift for those avid Crewe fans in your family.

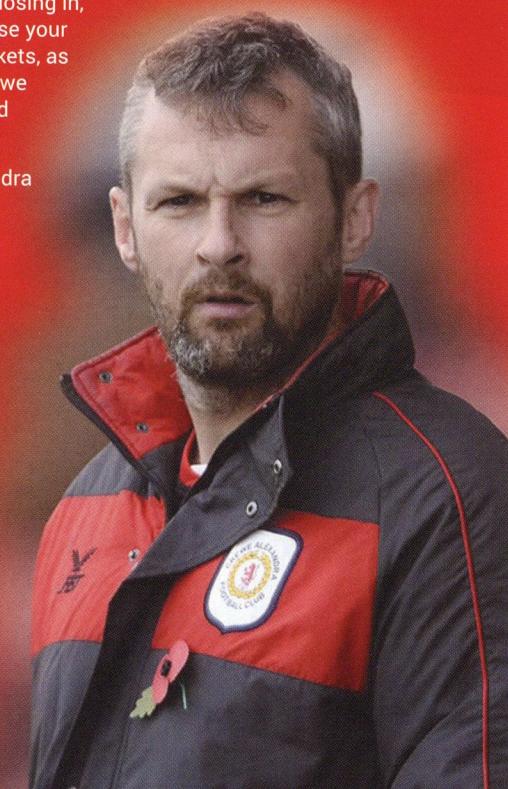
You can also take the pressure away from your last minute

shopping by visiting us on line at thealexandrastore.co.uk. You can order with us on-line now and we will make sure you get your items ahead of the Christmas rush.

With the wintry weather closing in, now is the time to purchase your FBT Stadium and rain jackets, as well as your exclusive Crewe Alexandra hats, scarfs and gloves.

Everyone at Crewe Alexandra would like to thank our

kit supplier, FBT, and if you are involved with a grassroots team why not check out their range? You could get yourself kitted out for an unbeatable price.



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The Alexandra **SOCCER CENTRE**



CREWE ALEXANDRA FC 'AMBASSADORS' 2017/18

As part of our commitment to the PFA (Professional Footballers Association) the Crewe Alexandra players are involved in 'player visits' during the season. These range from visiting schools to local hospitals or having a photo before games etc.

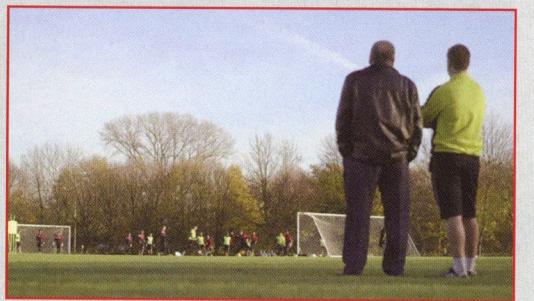
The players will be volunteering to visit local schools and community groups to encourage participations, health and wellbeing.

Some players have put themselves forward to act as 'Ambassadors' for a certain theme that the Community Programme are involved in.

Our player ambassadors for season 2017/18 are:

- » **SPORTS PARTICIPATION** - Tom Lowery & Michael Raynes
- » **EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIPS** - James Jones
- » **HEALTH** - Chris Dagnall & Dave Richards
- » **EQUALITY** - Lewis Reilly

Soccer Centre Manager, Ray Walker, and the community department would like to thank the players and management team for their involvement this season. Ray said: "The



player visits not only help generate interest in the club and community activities, but these young people are also the supporters of the future."

CREWE ALEXANDRA FOOTBALL CLUB IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK AS LOCAL YOUTH SCOUTS.

If you are aged 18 or over and believe that you possess the necessary skills to recommend young players for our Academy, then please contact the club's Head of Academy Recruitment, Phil Swift, on **07764 662 475**.

If successful, you will be asked to scout local games of young players aged between 5-16 years of age. This position is open to over 18s only. Any successful applicants will be DBS checked and could receive an incentive bonus depending on their recommended players progressing through the Academy system with the Football Club.



Behind the Scenes

01



1. Brad Walker poses with a young fan before kick-off.
2. George Cooper and the rest of the boys warm up.
3. Captain Chris Dagnall lays our remembrance wreath before the Lincoln game.
4. PA Announcer Andy Scoffin greets the club mascots.
5. Dave Richards gets down to it in his warm up preparation.



02



03



04



Rookery Wood Farm



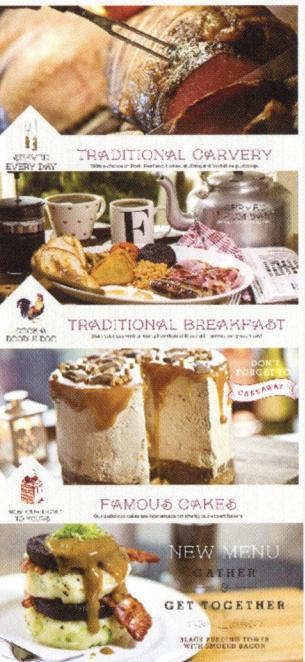
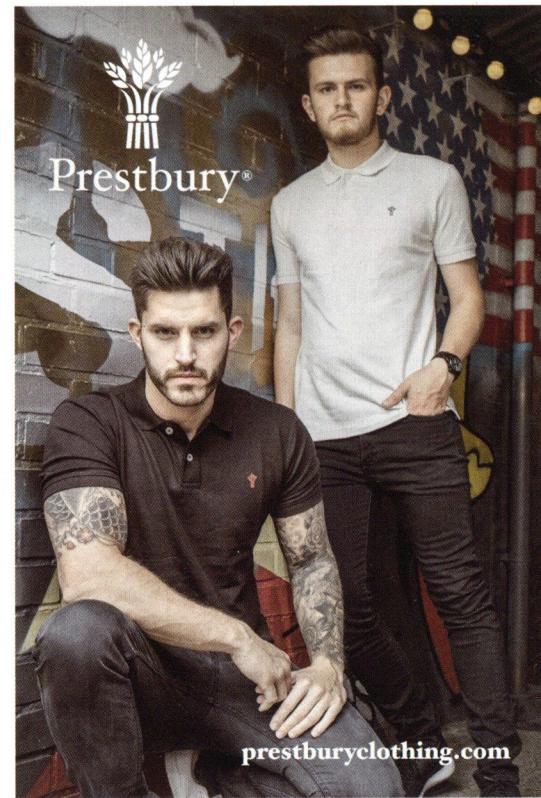
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SWAP THE ALEXANDRA STADIUM FOR THE AMSTERDAM ARENA

Leave your rivalries on the pitch and get on your bike to help stop a disease that kills one man every 45 minutes.

On 1-3 June 2018, two weeks before the World Cup kicks off, hundreds of football fans will take part in Prostate Cancer UK and the EFL's Football to Amsterdam bike ride and you could be one of them.

Putting rivalries aside, fans will unite to ride 145 miles over two days before finishing at the Amsterdam Arena.

Not only is it a chance to represent The Alex, but with the help of fans from across the EFL, it's an opportunity to turn the game around for men everywhere.

This is a game of two halves and your mates and you can make the difference to relegate the most common cancer in men in the UK.

Last year 380 football fans took part and raised

£600,000 which can pay for over a year's worth of life-changing research, so this really is a ride of a lifetime.

Tracey Leaburn, a Charlton Athletic fan did it for her dad and is already building her squad for 2018.

"Last year's ride was extremely emotional," said Tracey. "I did it for my dad and every man and their family fighting prostate cancer. We can't wait to go again next year."

Once signed up riders are supported every pedal of the way and will join an elite club to receive a Prostate Cancer UK cycling jersey plus a unique finishers medal when they cross the finish line.

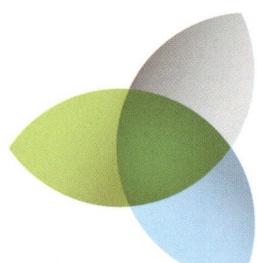
There are two start locations to choose from – one in London at the Olympic Park and the other in Yorkshire at Barnsley's Oakwell Stadium.

So what are you waiting for? It's time to get on your bike and represent Crewe Alexandra in the biggest ride in football.



Sign up by the end of October and get £50 off registration with the code **EARLYBIRD50.**

Visit the club's official website or prostatecanceruk.org/Amsterdam now.



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Marketing News

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SARAH JONES, Events and Room Hire **01270 213 014 ext 3110**

A warm welcome to all supporters

We would like to welcome our guests from Luton Town to Gresty Road for today's game.

Everyone at the club would like to thank you for your fantastic support away at the New Lawn last weekend. It was a new ground for all of us and we would like to thank all those who made the trip and braved the rain to get behind the lads. It was such a shame that we couldn't hold on for a result after twice leading in the game.

We would also like to thank all those fans who made the journey to Morecambe on Tuesday evening.

Tickets for our forthcoming FA Cup tie at Blackburn Rovers are now on sale from the Ticket Office. Please remember that the game has been confirmed for Sunday 3rd December with a 2pm kick off. There is more information in our away guide to Ewood Park on page 63 of the Alex programme.

Welcome to Man-of-The-Match Sponsors

We would like to express a warm welcome to our Man-of-the-Match sponsors, the Four Eagles pub. The family oriented venue is situated on Dunwoody Way, Crewe and is a great place for food.

Our guests will be choosing the Crewe Man-of-the-Match at the end of the game. You can



follow the Four Eagles Pub now on Facebook at facebook.com/Thefour eagleshungryhorse.

We hope our guests have a fantastic day with us and we thank them for their continued support.

Total Fitness Free introductory offer

Crewe-based gym and health centre, Total Fitness has partnered with the Football Club to help promote the importance of health and fitness. Total Fitness Crewe, which is located within walking distance from Gresty Road on Macon Way, has signed a deal to come on board as an Alex fitness partner, with plenty of fan perks in the pipeline.

Fans will also get the chance to win tickets to watch The Alex in action on their home turf, plus Gresty the Lion will be making

appearances in the gym to meet and greet The Alex's younger fans and their families.

Adele Purton, General Manager at Total Fitness Crewe, said: "We're so happy to be officially partnering with Crewe Alexandra, our local football club.

"We'll be working together with The Alex to help bring health and fitness to the forefront of people's minds in Crewe and doing our bit to make exercise part of everyday life in our community.

"We hope the association with the Club will encourage more fans to make the most of our outstanding facilities in the local area."

To find out more about Total Fitness Crewe and a free trial pass please visit www.totalfitness.co.uk/clubs/crewe



Paul's of Stoke are the club's new official coach partner

Coach company Paul's of Stoke have taken over from Bakers as Crewe Alexandra's official coach partner.



Paul's will now be responsible for official coach travel for both the team coach and supporters coaches, with the dedicated staff looking to make everyone's journey to and from away fixtures a positive one.

Paul's of Stoke are a long standing beacon of quality coach travel in the Staffordshire and South Cheshire area and are excited about their new partnership with the Alex.

Our new partners are committed to giving our supporter's the best away day experience, why not try them out by booking official coach travel for our upcoming trips to Blackburn and Cheltenham?

Call **01270 252 610**, pop in-store or buy tickets online at www.thealexandrapstore.co.uk

Hospitality packages available...

Crawley Town Saturday 16th December / 3pm Kick Off

Why not enjoy some pre-match hospitality at the Alexandra Stadium when Harry Kewell's Crawley Town will be the visitors to the Alexandra Stadium on 16th December?

You can make our home game even more enjoyable by purchasing some matchday hospitality in style and comfort. We can offer you and your guests some great match day packages and sponsorship, so why not give us a call and get more involved with the Railwaysmen.

Our sponsorship packages offer a wide range of exciting opportunities for you, your company, clients or family and friends. So if you have something to celebrate or just fancy a different matchday experience then please call us on **01270 213 014** now.

Crewe Alexandra Legends

THE CONWY-BORN DAVID VAUGHAN IS ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST NATURALLY GIFTED PLAYERS TO HAVE EVER WORN A CREWE ALEXANDRA SHIRT. ALTHOUGH QUIET AND RESERVED OFF THE PITCH, THE SKILFUL MIDFIELDER DEMONSTRATED GREAT FLAIR ON THE PITCH. POSSESSING SUPERB CLOSE CONTROL, GREAT AWARENESS AND A POWERFUL SHOT, VAUGHAN, WHEN PLAYED ON THE LEFT WING WAS A POTENTIAL MATCH WINNER ON HIS DAY.

Progressing through the same youth team as Dean Ashton, Lee Bell and Ben Rix, Vaughan made his first-team debut against Blackburn Rovers on the opening day of the 2000/01 season. Many fans wondered what all the fuss was about when he was substituted at half-time by then manager Dario Gradi. Vaughan was introduced before his time but he would return in spades.

Vaughan would go on to enjoy eight productive seasons at the club, winning promotion to the Championship in 2003 and scoring 20 goals in 209 games. His goal record is not a fair reflection as he was often deployed as a left-back following the departure of the stalwart Shaun Smith. His versatility made him one of the first names on the team-sheet.

The young Welshman was capped for his country at U-19, U-21 and senior level whilst a Crewe player and went on to amass 42 caps and was part of the Wales squad that reached the semi-final stage of the European Championships in 2016. He later retired from International football to concentrate on his club career.

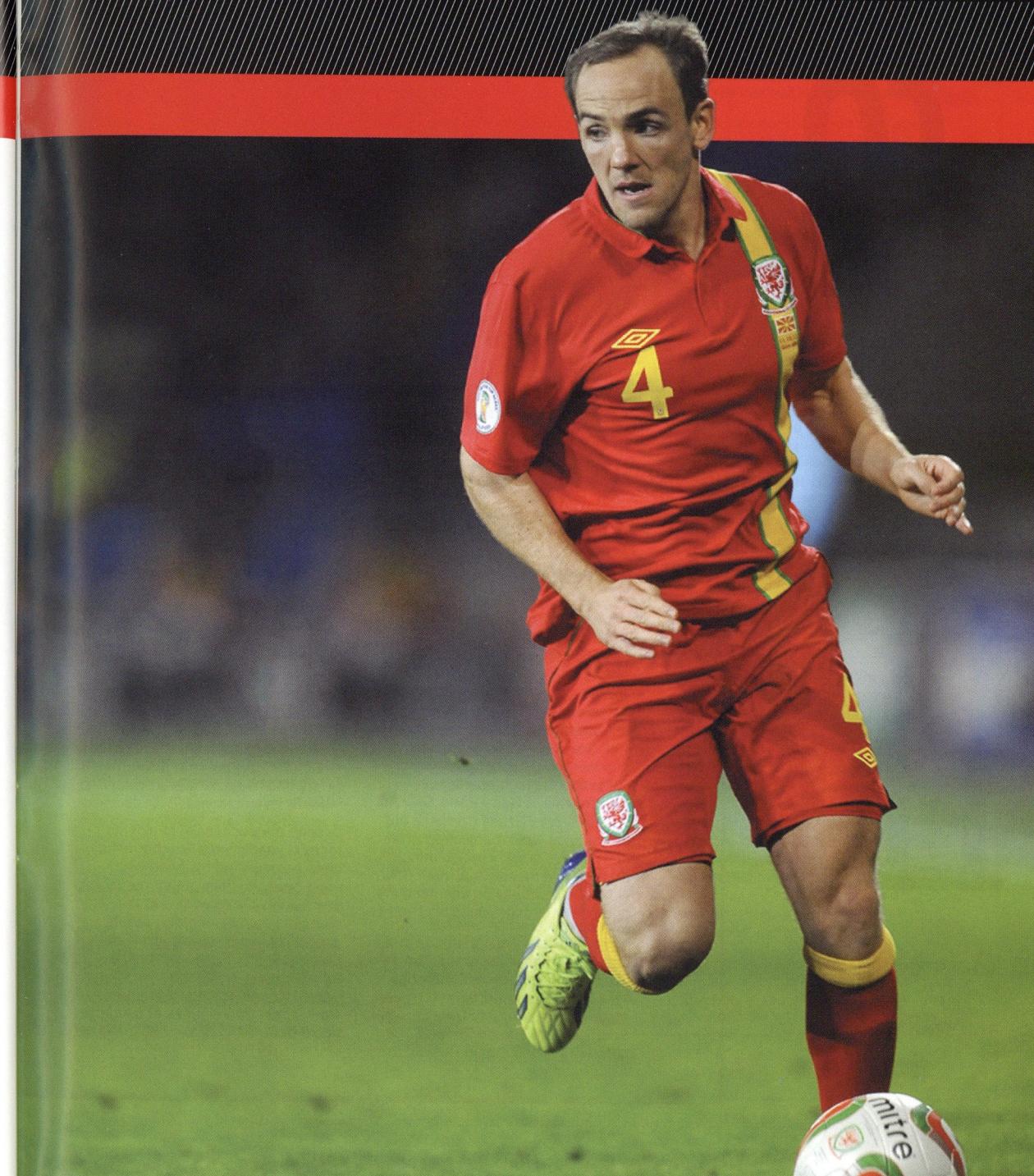
Vaughan, now 34, joined Real Sociedad from Crewe in January 2007 for an undisclosed fee. The Spanish side were then managed by the current Wales boss Chris Coleman. His spell in Spain was short lived after Coleman resigned in January 2008.

After signing for Blackpool and converting into a central midfielder alongside Charlie Adam, the Seasiders reached the Premier League in 2010. He made 35 appearances in the top flight, scoring twice against West Brom and Everton.

Following Blackpool's unfortunate relegation, Vaughan joined Sunderland on a free transfer to continue playing in the top flight. Although in-and-out of the side at the Stadium of Light, he memorably scored a contender for goal of the season to help Sunderland defeat rivals Newcastle 3-0 at St. James' Park in April 2013. He played 59 games for Sunderland, scoring 3 goals but with his opportunities limited under Gus Poyet, Vaughan initially joined Nottingham Forest on loan in 2013.

After impressing at the City Ground, he signed a permanent deal a year later and has now played over 100 games for the club. With a wand of a left foot, Vaughan remains a class act at Championship level.

David Vaughan



Southgate's youth policy

by
Rob Wilson



SOUTHGATE DESERVES CREDIT FOR HIS BRAVERY IN PROMOTING YOUTH

England's recent goalless draws against elite opponents Germany and Brazil at Wembley were most encouraging.

Following the high profile withdrawals of Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Raheem Sterling (to name but three) there were many supporters and pundits quickly proclaiming that the two friendly internationals would be pointless on one hand and potentially embarrassing on another.

They felt that a couple of heavy defeats against the current World Champions and the fluent Samba Kings would be detrimental to morale and harmful to Gareth Southgate's planning for next summer's World Cup in Russia. It

was thought that a strong Germany and Brazil would put us firmly in our place following our relatively straightforward qualifying campaign. Those projected hammerings didn't happen.

Despite our success in qualifying for next year's finals Southgate has often been vilified by those who must honestly believe that managing your country is easy. Due to the changing complexion of football, especially in our top two divisions, Southgate and his assistant, the former Crewe Alexandra manager Steve Holland, are now having to work within the confines of a smaller talent pool.

The influx of foreign players in the Premier League and in the Championship has restricted opportunities for home-grown talent, but we are still expected to compete in tournaments and emulate the glory of 1966 when we were blessed with world class players in Banks, Wilson, Moore, Charlton and Greaves and had the luxury of home advantage too.

During his time in charge of England, Southgate has shown some genuine steel. He has proven to be decisive leader, prepared to make big decisions and he does what he says. He has already made big decisions over Wayne Rooney that has prompted him to retire from the international stage at 31. Southgate never made him any promises over selection or the captaincy.

He has warned all those players with hopes of making the squad for next year's World Cup that they have to be playing regularly for their club sides and he will select on form and fitness. That is why the likes of Jack Wilshere, Daniel Sturridge and Ross Barkley are now on the outside, enviously looking in.

Joe Hart has been warned about his

◀ Gareth Southgate and Steve Holland deserve credit for promoting youngsters.

form with West Ham, with the likes of Tom Heaton, Jack Butland and Jordan Pickford all pressing their claims for the number one spot. Competition for places is going to be crucial and it wouldn't be a major surprise that players move in the January window for game time and the possibility of propelling themselves into the squad for Russia. If they are ambitious footballers then they should move.

Due to the recent withdrawals due to injury, Southgate placed his trust in youth and it was fantastic to see. Instead of recalling Wilshere as the easy option, he picked Ruben Loftus-Cheek. The talented midfielder moved to Crystal Palace on loan from Chelsea in the summer to gain regular football at the top level and that has been rewarded with his first England caps. Dominic Solanke was chosen ahead of his Liverpool team-mate Sturridge after similarly leaving Chelsea in pursuit of first-team football.

Yes, it does appear easier to earn an England call-up now but why not give the likes of Tammy Abraham, Joe Gomez, Harry Winks and Harry Maguire an opportunity? It didn't do Michael Owen, Rooney or Marcus Rashford any harm in their teenage years.

Football has changed dramatically from the days when a Steve Bruce doesn't win an International cap despite winning numerous titles as a key defender with Manchester United. There is no room for us to be picky because there are now limited players to choose from. Our top league is a melting pot of overseas talent, so we have to select a Solanke even before he has started a league game at club level.

It is obvious that Southgate cares deeply about the game in this country. He has a real passion for England and he wants the youthfulness of our squad to recapture the public's imagination. He is right when he says that as the England manager he is asking other club managers to give young players a chance at that level, so it would be hypocritical of him not to do so. He wants to give our successful juniors a chance as soon as they are ready.

Southgate, who previously worked

alongside Holland at Under-21 level has provided hope for those talented young players coming through the system. They can now see a pathway right through from the U-19s, U-20s, U-21s and into the senior squad and that makes one hell of a difference.

If you are good enough then age is not going to be a consideration. The recent performances of the youngsters against Germany and Brazil, has only increased the competition for places. It may serve certain players to make sure they do all they can to make the squad because now there may be someone waiting for their chance to snatch your place away. It is all positive and Southgate is beginning to restore some pride in our national side after the 'Iceland debacle'.

Of course, he like any other manager will be judged when it comes to the crunch next summer. We have underperformed at major tournaments for too long. We can keep harping back to Italia 90, Euro 96, or the Euros in 2004 in Portugal, but we have got to be more resilient and help the public believe in our team again. We shouldn't be thinking about winning it or even reaching the last four because there is little evidence to suggest that we can, but our fearless youngsters may just cause a surprise. It will certainly be interesting to see if they can or not.

Thus far, Southgate has done reasonably well. It is tricky when you are overwhelming favourites in your group and the opposition are prepared to park two London buses to make sure they do not get hammered at Wembley. It is never easy to break down a 10-man defence, who are prepared to see out a goalless draw and perhaps strike on a counter-attack. There are going to be times in qualification where England have struggled to break teams down, but we still managed to win 8 of our 10 games and we drew the other two away in Scotland and Slovenia.

You only have to witness the inquests begin carried out in Italy and Holland to know that anything can happen in football. We all have a World Cup to look forward to and we are one of the 32 lucky ones.

Ginsters
of Cornwall

Full Time

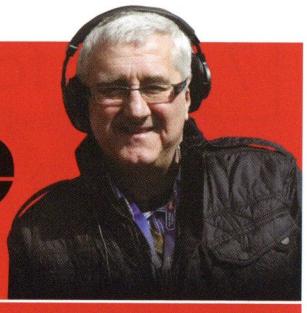


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Radio Stoke

BY GRAHAM McGARRY



'ALL IN THIS TOGETHER'

G

oalkeeper Dave Richards has just completed his first ten games as the first choice Crewe keeper after been brought into replace Ben Garratt.

Dave has waited a long time for his chance due to the consistent form of Ben, which resulted in him playing 114 consecutive games.

The Welshman in an interview with BBC Radio Stoke said: *'I have gained a lot of confidence in the games that I have played.'*

'The games at this level are much quicker, and you need to be alert and ready for anything that comes at you.'

'I was just dipping my toe in at the start then you come out of your shell with the games, but now I feel I have become more commanding.'

'I don't mind giving my team-mates a row, and I also don't mind accepting a row from those who are in front of me.'

'It's is nothing personal we all want to do well for the fans.'

'We have a talented bunch of players here, and I am sure that our position in the league will improve.'

It was a big call for the manager David Artell to hand Richards his senior debut in September at Coventry.

But the Alex boss says: *'Dave has come into the team and done well. We thought he would because he is a good goalkeeper. That is why he remained at the club.'*

'You have to trust your players and give them that chance and that is the decision we took with Trig. He has done well and I don't think he has made a mistake for any of the goals he has conceded.'

'Ben is an excellent goalkeeper and I just

felt he needed a break, both mentally and physically. I am sure he will benefit from the rest and I feel he will come back even better.'

'The competition is good and it is tough on them because only one of them can play.'

WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER SAYS BIG DAVE.....

Crewe boss David Artell has warned that they must find a way to start winning games on a regular basis as their whole future depends on staying in the English Football League.

Last weekend's defeat at Forest Green Rovers meant four straight losses plunged the Alex to 22nd, just one place - and three points - above the bottom two.

And Artell has told the Crewe playing staff that going down to the National League would put the club at risk.

'We have to get out ourselves of the mire. It's win some games, or oblivion,' he told BBC Radio Stoke.



Alex boss says whole football club rests on staying up.

'There's no point me harping on about the referee or the state of the pitch. It's our mental state on a matchday.'

'I've been in positions like this as a player. It takes every single one of you to work your socks off every single day and give everything you can. You've got to believe.'

The Alex's awful away form has been woeful.

Crewe were beaten 3-2 at Forest Green last Saturday after leading twice, their eighth straight league defeat away from home.

Coupled with back-to-back losses at home, it has left the Alex in their lowest position since they were bottom at the start of the 2011 season.

A public rant at his players by Artell last season, two months after taking the job, had a positive effect, prompting a run of four wins in five games, which proved enough to keep Crewe in League Two.

And he has pointed out that it is not just himself or the first-team players who would face the consequences of relegation but the entire club, 125 years on from first entering the Football League.

'If you don't want to embrace the challenge to do it for me, or for your teammates or even yourself, then do it for the 12-year-old kid that's sat in our academy waiting to be where you are,' he said.

'That's what's riding on it. The whole football club. There's 160 boys in our Academy, still dreaming.'

Enjoy the game and get behind the lads.

Graham

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The total area of every all-weather pitch the Football Foundation has funded is equivalent to **NEW YORK'S CENTRAL PARK!**

x351

If every all-weather and natural grass pitch the Football Foundation funded was laid back-to-back, it would stretch from London's **BIG BEN TO CALAIS!**

If every goalpost the Football Foundation funded were stacked on top of each other, it would create a structure equivalent to the height of **351 WEMBLEY STADIUMS!**

Football Foundation

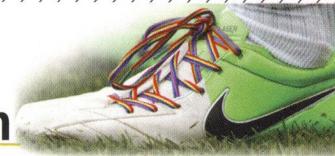


www.footballfoundation.org.uk

Charity No: 1079309 Company No: 3876305

CreweNews

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM AROUND GRESTY ROAD



Crewe Alexandra supports Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign

In a League first, EFL Clubs across the country will unite in their support of LGBT+ inclusivity by turning their corner flags rainbow coloured to raise awareness of Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign. Crewe Alexandra Football Club are fully behind the campaign and will feature the rainbow corner flag for today's game against Luton Town.

The bespoke rainbow coloured corner flags sit at the heart of a wide range of activities that the EFL and its Clubs will be undertaking as part of the Rainbow Laces campaign between 25 November and 3 December 2017.

In a show of solidarity to support lesbian, gay, bi and trans-gender fans, players and staff across the game the EFL will change its logo to a bespoke rainbow coloured version whilst Clubs have also been provided with rainbow laces, captain's armbands and programme adverts. PGMOL officials

have also been provided with rainbow coloured laces for EFL matches.

Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign aims to make sport everyone's game with national teams, leading clubs, professional players, fans and grassroots players from across football showing their support for LGBT+ people in sport.

The EFL's support for Rainbow Laces forms part of its wider LGBT+ work delivered in conjunction with Clubs through its Equality Code Of Practice. This includes delivering activities, setting policies, and advising on recruitment and education at Clubs.

Shaun Harvey, EFL Chief Executive said: "We are proud to support Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign again for this season. Ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for supporters attending EFL matches remains a key priority but the EFL and our Clubs are committed to providing a positive experience for all that stretches well beyond the 90 minutes of play.

"Our specific Rainbow Laces initiatives this year will see all EFL Clubs come together to raise awareness of this important issue delivered through a range of activities which this season include converting all corner flags at EFL grounds up and down the country into rainbow colours. This follows the introduction of the bespoke EFL rainbow logo which celebrated the League's burgeoning relationship with Stonewall earlier this year.

"The campaign very much complements the ongoing work our Clubs are undertaking as part of the EFL Equality Code of Practice. Whilst acknowledging there has been progress made in this area, there is still work to be done. We can never be complacent and that is why the EFL remains committed to supporting campaigns such as this as we continue to promote diversity and inclusivity across all areas of the game."

Stonewall Chief Executive Ruth Hunt said: "We're delighted that the EFL has again joined our Rainbow Laces campaign. We believe in making sport everyone's game and to do that we need allies to step up and show their support. By making such a visible show of Rainbow Laces - with armbands and corner flags, as well as of course rainbow laces - the EFL is raising awareness on and off the pitch.

"We know we can't solve this by ourselves and that's why allies are so important. We need to create a culture where everyone can be themselves. From fans, to teams, and employees at all levels, when leadership organisations step up and commit to creating a welcoming and inclusive culture in football, everyone wins."



Gresty's Corner

► OUR THANKS TO ALL OUR JUNIOR FANS

We would like to welcome all our junior supporters to the Alexandra Stadium for today's home game against Luton. We would also like to say a big hello to all the young Hatters, who have made the trip up to South Cheshire. We hope you all have a safe journey home.

Make sure you get behind Dave and the lad this afternoon. Make some noise for the Railwaymen.

► WARM WELCOME TO PAUL GILLIGAN & FAMILY

Everyone at Crewe Alexandra would like to welcome Paul (Gilly) Gilligan and his family to the Alexandra Stadium for today's home game. Paul supports Crewe along with his local team St. Mirren and he gets down to South Cheshire whenever he can to watch his beloved reds play.

It will be a real family affair this afternoon with Paul bringing his partner Linda, son, sister and brother in law and brother and sister in law to the match. Paul will also be checking out the club brick he had bought for him last Christmas.

We hope Paul and all his family have a wonderful day with us at the Alexandra Stadium.

I have attached a story from the St Mirren Football Club black and white magazine about my partner.

► HAPPY 8TH BIRTHDAY TO LOUIS DORE



Everyone at Crewe Alexandra Football Club would like to wish Louis Dore a very happy 8th birthday. We hope you have a great day celebrating your birthday here with us with your family and friends. Have a wonderful time and let's hope we can get that win for you as well!

Louis is mad about football. It doesn't matter if it's a kick about on the school field or the World Cup – it is football! He trains on Saturdays with Crewe Alex and spends the rest of the week talking about football and dreaming of his debut!

In association with

boughey

► OUR THANKS TO THE BRITISH LEGION

Crewe Alexandra would like to thank all the volunteers and service men and women who helped marked the day of remembrance on 11th November. The minute's silence was impeccably observed by everyone inside the stadium and the last post was played ahead of kick-off.

We would also like to thank all those fans who made a donation on the day to such a worthy cause. Your generosity was greatly appreciated by the British Legion.

The players also wore shirts with the poppy emblem on and those match worn jerseys have been auctioned off as well, with all the proceeds going to the British Legion.



We love to receive your photos & messages

If you would like to be featured in the Alex programme this season then don't forget to email us your pictures or requests. We love to receive pictures of our fans dressed in their Crewe colours, or on holiday or to celebrate new born babies, birthdays, anniversaries and retirements. Email your photos and messages to editor Rob Wilson at rwilson@crewealex.net and we will do our best to publish them for you.

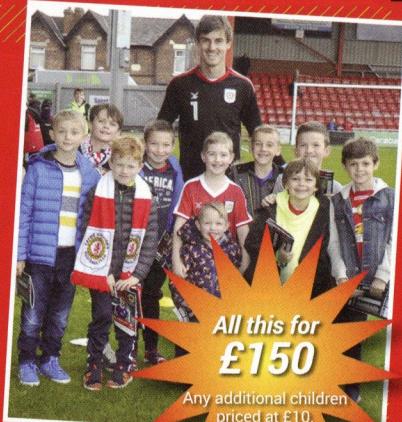
Celebrate your birthday with us at Gresty Road

Why not consider having a children's birthday party at the Alexandra Stadium this season? The club will only be pleased to host your birthday party for up to 10 juniors under the age of 11 on a matchday. You can enjoy access to the BMW Family Lounge at Gresty Road and as part of the package you will also receive the following:

- 2 adult match tickets (for the family stand)
- Burger/hotdog, drink and chocolate bar
- Match day programme for all 10 children
- Match day programme recognition
- PA message
- Pitch side photograph with a Crewe player to be included in the match day programme
- Signed Alex football to be presented to the birthday boy or girl by Gresty the Lion.

Please note there must be at least one adult per 5 children.

Packages are strictly limited so register your interest now to secure an extra special day for your child by calling the office on **01270 213 014 ext 3105** and speaking to Laura or email ladams@crewealex.net



All this for
£150

Any additional children
priced at £10.

► Gresty's Activity Corner <

WORDSEARCH

Can you find the words from the list below? They can be up, down, forward, backward or diagonal.

ROAD, CREWE, STADIUM,
ALEXANDRA, CHESHIRE, GRESTY

Guess Who?



1. Can you name this former Crewe Alexandra great?



2. Can you name this Italian forward who now plays in France for Nice?

True or False?

Former Crewe legend David Vaughan once played for Luton Town?

P	Q	W	T	Y	Q	G	Q	E	K
S	M	R	I	H	F	T	F	A	C
T	C	R	I	J	O	E	R	Y	H
A	R	O	F	X	Q	D	Y	N	E
D	E	A	J	W	N	N	Y	M	S
I	W	D	E	A	V	G	C	L	H
U	E	M	X	S	P	X	F	H	I
M	F	E	N	M	Y	S	V	I	R
H	L	Z	H	M	W	X	K	K	E
A	G	H	X	Y	T	S	E	R	G

WORDSEARCH answers can be found on page 67
GUESS WHO? 1. Rodney Jack 2. Mario Balotelli
TRUE OR FALSE? False
ANSWERS:

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YOUR FAVOURITE CREWE ALEXANDRA PLAYERS TAKE TIME OUT TO PROVIDE THEIR ANSWERS TO 21 QUESTIONS? WITH THE HATTERS VISITING THE ALEXANDRA STADIUM THIS AFTERNOON, WE PUT THOSE VERY QUESTIONS TO **HARRY PICKERING**.

Messi or **Ronaldo**
Coffee or **tea**
Chinese or Indian
Beach or pool
Twitter or **Instagram**
Netflix or YouTube
Phone or **text**
Box set or cinema
Cardio or **weights**
Chocolate or **sweets**
KFC or McDonalds
Paper or **Internet**
Driver or passenger
Book or **magazine**
Blonde or Brunette
Brown Sauce or **Tomato Sauce**
Love Island or Towie
Coca-Cola or Pepsi
Boxing or golf
What's worse? Laundry or **Dishes**
Hot Coffee or Iced Coffee



THEALEX

Development Squads



To keep up-to-date with all the U23 & U18 fixtures, results and reports, head to the fixtures and results section on the Club website at www.crewealex.net

Under-18 Fixtures 2017/18

AUGUST					
19th	Charlton Athletic	A	W 0-2		
26th	Queens Park Rangers	H	L 2-3		
SEPTEMBER					
2nd	Millwall	A	L 5-1		
9th	Coventry City	H	W 6-0		
16th	Watford	A	W 0-2		
23rd	Sheffield United	A	L 2-1		
30th	Sheffield Wednesday	H	W 4-1		
OCTOBER					
7th	Bolton Wanderers	A	D 3-3		
14th	Birmingham City	H	D 1-1		
21st	Barnsley	A	L 2-1		
NOVEMBER					
4th	Burnley	H	W 5-1		
11th	Nottingham Forest	H	L 2-3		
18th	Leeds United	A	W 1-2		
25th	Hull City	H			
DECEMBER					
2nd	Huddersfield Town	A			
9th	Sheffield United	H			
16th	Sheffield Wednesday	A			
JANUARY					
6th	Bolton Wanderers	H			
13th	Birmingham City	A			
20th	Barnsley	H			
FEBRUARY					
3rd	Burnley	A			
10th	Hull City	A			
17th	Leeds United	H			
24th	Nottingham Forest	A			
MARCH					
3rd	Huddersfield Town	H			
10th	Colchester United	H			
17th	Crystal Palace	A			
24th	Ipswich Town	H			
APRIL					
7th	Bristol City	A			
14th	Cardiff City	H			

Bell's boys comfortably progress in FA Youth Cup

Crewe Alexandra's Under-18s progressed to the third round of the FA Youth Cup with a comfortable 4-0 win over Evesham United on Tuesday evening.

The Crewe youngsters controlled the tie at Jubilee Stadium and could have added even more goals than the four they did score on the night. Only a fine individual display from the home side's goalkeeper Nathan Taylor kept the scoreline down, especially in the first half when Lee Bell's side should have been out of sight. He made fine saves to deny Joe Thompson, Alex Hurst and Regan Griffiths to name but a few. Captain Joe Lynch also went close with a long range effort.

The deadlock was finally broken on the half an hour mark, with the in-form Luke Walsh delightfully chipping the ball home from close range after a short goalmouth scramble caused by Regan Griffiths trying to smuggle the ball home.

Both Griffiths and Walsh had half

chances to increase that lead before the interval but we couldn't find a way past an inspired Taylor. Luke Offord also went close with a great drive from distance.

With the wind now in our favour, our domination of possession continued in the second half and although Taylor denied Lynch and Griffiths from doubling our advantage, a fine passing move from the Alex on 70 minutes sealed the victory. Attacking midfielder Griffiths finished with a tap in after some unselfish play from substitute Rio Adebisi. Instead of going for goal himself, Rio rolled the ball over for his teammate to tap home.

Joe Lynch got his name on the scoresheet 10 minutes later with a powerful shot from just inside the Evesham penalty area.

Substitute Challis Johnson rounded off a good night for the boys with a fourth goal in the final few minutes. The forward raced onto a good through ball from Walsh, before his shot had too



Youth Cup scorers (from left to right) - Luke Walsh, Regan Griffiths, Joe Lynch and Challis Johnson

much on it for Taylor to keep this one out.

Everyone at the Football Club would like to congratulate Lee, his assistant Jacko and the boys on a job well done. The youth team now face league opponents Colchester United on Thursday 14th December at the Weston Homes Community Stadium.

The Under-18s took on Hull City at Reaseheath today.

Crewe: Appleyard, T.Johnson, Barlow (C.Johnson, 68), Offord, Manuel, Sass-Davies, Griffiths, Lynch (c), Thompson (Adebisi, 45), Walsh, Hurst (Harrison, 45)



Cheshire Senior Cup defence starts at Runcorn

Crewe Alexandra begin the defence of their Cheshire Senior Cup crown with a First Round trip to Runcorn Linnets.

The tie will take place at Runcorn's Millbank Linnets Stadium on Wednesday 10 January 2018, with a 7:45pm kick-off.

After defeating Nantwich Town

3-2 in last season's thrilling final at Gresty Road, Crewe received a bye for the preliminary round this year.

Runcorn won 1-0 away at Congleton Town to set-up the meeting with The Alex.

Ticket information will be announced in due course.

Under-23's at Bolton on Monday

Alex Morris' Under-23 side take on Bolton Wanderers on Monday evening.

The game will be taking place at the Macron Stadium with a 7pm kick-off. The Development Squad match against Birmingham City in mid-week was postponed due to our involvement at first-team level and with the FA Youth Cup tie at Evesham taking place on the same evening. The fixture has been re-arranged for Tuesday 13th March at Reaseheath.



Under-23 Fixtures 2017/18

AUGUST					
14th	Ipswich Town	A	L 3-2		
21st	Millwall	H	W 3-0		
25th	Cardiff City	A	L 2-1		
SEPTEMBER					
4th	Bristol City	H	W 2-1		
18th	Charlton Athletic	H	L 1-4		
25th	Huddersfield Town	A	L 3-1		
OCTOBER					
9th	Hull City	H	L 1-3		
13th	Leeds United	A	L 1-0		
23rd	Nottingham Forest	H	D 1-1		
30th	Burnley	H	W 2-0		
NOVEMBER					
10th	Barnsley	A	L 3-1		
22nd	Birmingham City	H	P-P		
27th	Bolton Wanderers	A	7pm		
DECEMBER					
4th	Sheffield Wednesday	H	1pm		
11th	Sheffield United	A	2pm		
18th	Huddersfield Town	H	1pm		
JANUARY					
8th	Hull City	A	7pm		
15th	Leeds United	H	1pm		
23rd	Nottingham Forest	A	7pm		
29th	Burnley	A	7pm		
FEBRUARY					
14th	Barnsley	H	1pm		
19th	Birmingham City	A	7pm		
26th	Bolton Wanderers	H	1pm		
MARCH					
5th	Sheffield Wednesday	A	1pm		
12th	Sheffield United	H	1pm		
19th	Colchester United	A	1pm		
26th	Watford	H	1pm *		
APRIL					
9th	Coventry City	A	2pm		
16th	Crystal Palace	H	1pm *		
23rd	Queens Park Rangers	A	2pm		

* Indicates matches to be played at the Alexandra Stadium. Please note fixtures are subject to change.



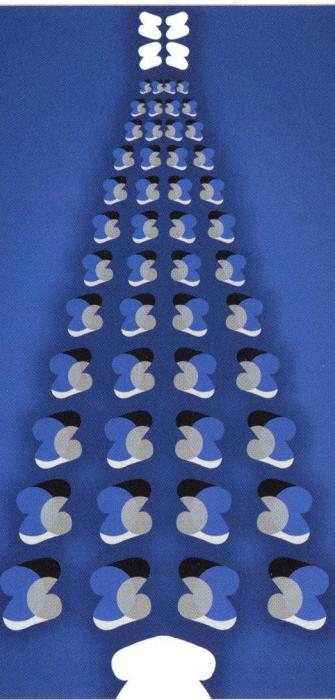
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&
Happy New Year*

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www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, 17th December

CREWE ALEXANDRA FOOTBALL CLUB WILL BE HOSTING THE POPULAR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY ON SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER IN THE CLUB'S CARLSBERG LOUNGE. THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 2PM-5PM WITH LOADS OF GREAT OFFERS AND ATTRACTIONS.



The event is hugely popular, so make sure you snap up your tickets well in advance. Tickets are priced at £8.50 per child (adults taking their children come FREE) and you can purchase yours by calling into the Ticket Office, by phone on 01270 252 610 or online at www.thealexandrastore.co.uk

First team manager Dave Artell and the first team squad will be in attendance. Our club mascot Gresty will also be there to celebrate the coming of Christmas.

There will be so much going on during the day with face painting, a disco, a super raffle to win some amazing prizes and all those coming to the party will also receive two complimentary tickets for the Family Stand for our home game against Swindon Town on 23rd December.

The event also includes Santa's Grotto, balloon modelling and a free goodie bag!



Ticket News

Blackburn Rovers v Crewe Alexandra

03/12/17 ■ Kick off 2pm

The Emirates FA Cup ■ Second Round

Adults	£12.00
Seniors (Over 65's)	£5.00
Young Adult (18-21's)	£5.00
Under 18's	£2.00
Under 12's	£2.00

Coaches depart **10.45am** and are priced at

Season Ticket Holders

£14.00
£15.00

Non Season Ticket Holders



Cheltenham Town v Crewe Alexandra

09/12/17 ■ Kick off 3pm

Sky Bet League 2

Adults	£21.00
Seniors (Over 65's)	£15.00
Students	£7.00
Under 18's	£7.00

Coaches depart **10.15am** and are priced at

Season Ticket Holders

£15.00
£16.00

Non Season Ticket Holders



For any further ticket enquiries or to book tickets please contact 01270 252610 or e-mail tickets@crewealex.net

Away Guide

BLACKBURN R. v CREWE ALEXANDRA
THE EMIRATES FA CUP - SECOND ROUND
03/12/17 - KICK OFF 2PM

► BY CAR

From the North:

Leave the M6 at Junction 30 and join the M61, at the first exit join the M65 and head East to Blackburn.

Ewood Park is well signposted on the M65, leave at junction 4, join the A666 and head towards Blackburn.

Ewood Park is about a mile away on your right.

From the South:

Leave the M6 at Junction 29 and join the M65 and head East to Blackburn.

Ewood Park is well signposted on the M65, leave at junction 4, join the A666 and head towards Blackburn.

Ewood Park is about a mile away on your right.

From the West:

From the M6/M62 or M60, join the M61, leave the M61 for the M65 and head East to Blackburn.

Ewood Park is well signposted on the M65, leave at junction 4, join the A666 and head towards Blackburn.

Ewood Park is about a mile away on your right.

From the East:

Travelling from Yorkshire, either on the B6234, the A56 Haslingden by-pass or the Skipton Road, join the M65 and head West. Leave the M65 at junction 4 and head towards Blackburn on the A666, Ewood Park is about a mile from the motorway on the right hand side.

From the M62 leave at Junction 18 for the M66 Bury, travel to the end of the Motorway which becomes the A56, join the M65 at Junction 8 and head Westbound towards Blackburn. Leave the M65 at junction 4 and head towards Blackburn on the A666, Ewood Park is about a mile from the motorway on the right hand side.

Postcode for Sat Nav is: BB2 4JF

► BY BUS

The buses serving Ewood Park are: No. 1 (Bolton - Darwen - Blackburn) and No. 24 (Chorley - Blackburn)

The frequency of buses serving Ewood Park is every 10 minutes. For timetables see www.lancashirebus.co.uk

If people require any further information they should use the Traveline website or telephone number: www.traveline.org.uk 0871 200 22 33.

► BY TRAIN & FOOT/TAXI

Blackburn station is approximately a mile and a half from Ewood Park. Mill Hill station is approximately one mile away from the ground. There are direct trains from Manchester Victoria, Salford Crescent and Preston.

► MATCH DAY PARKING

Matchday parking is also available, either in advance or via cash on the day, on Car Park H, Car Park F and Car Park B priced at just £10 – subject to availability.

Accessible Match Day Car parking is available at Car Park B - which is located behind the Darwen End Stand, and Car Park H - which is located behind the Blackburn End Stand. Priced at £10. Please note a disabled blue badge without a permit is not sufficient to access Car parks B and H.

If you have pre-booked a car parking space please look for car park signs near the ground. Car Park F is approximately 100 yards from the ground. A permit is not required but surfaces are not considered suitable for wheelchairs users or those with mobility issues.

For further details, prices and to pre-book please phone 01254 508 283.

► DROP-OFF / PICK-UP POINTS

If you are given a lift to the ground by car, taxi or minibus you can use one of the two drop-off points at the ground – either end of the Jack Walker Stand. Both are within 50 yards of access into the stadium and on the level. They also serve as pick-up points after the match.

BLACKBURN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Ewood Park, Blackburn, BB2 4JF

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or away shirt and will receive full programme and website recognition.

We are also offering a junior sponsorship deal for just £20 and you will receive a signed print of your chosen player and a signed birthday card.

If you are interested in sponsoring your favourite Alex player call the Club Shop now on **01270 213 014 Ext 3103** or email tickets@crewealex.net to avoid disappointment. It is first come first served, so don't miss out.

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ALEX PROGRESS

Fixtures are subject to change. Data provided by Press Association.

DATE OPPONENTS KO H/A F-A ATT. FIRST XI

AUGUST

Sat Aug 5	Mansfield Town	15:00	H	2-2	4,993	Garratt	Ng	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley
Wed Aug 9	Bolton Wanderers	19:45	H	1-2	3,167	Garratt	Ng	Walker	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley	(18)
Sat Aug 12	Newport County	15:00	H	1-1	3,400	Garratt	Ng	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan	Wintle
Sat Aug 19	Barnet	15:00	H	1-0	3,217	Garratt	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Bowery	Cooper	Nolan	Wintle
Sat Aug 26	Port Vale	15:00	A	1-0	6,299	Garratt	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley
Tue Sep 29	Newcastle United	19:45	H	1-2	1,351	Garratt	Bakayogo	Walker	Bowery	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley	Lowery	(15)

SEPTEMBER

Sat Sep 2	Grimsby Town	15:00	A	0-1	4,066	Garratt	Ng	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	(10)	Nolan	Ainley
Sat Sep 9	Chesterfield	15:00	H	5-1	3,513	Garratt	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	(20)	Nolan
Tue Sep 12	Cambridge United	19:45	H	0-1	3,042	Garratt	Ng	(10)	Bakayogo	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan
Sat Sep 16	Exeter City	15:00	A	0-3	4,218	Garratt	Bakayogo	Walker	(27)	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley
Sat Sep 23	Carlisle United	15:00	H	0-5	4,021	Garratt	Walker	Raynes	(18)	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley	Wintle
Tue Sep 26	Wycombe Wanderers	19:45	A	2-3	3,295	Garratt	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan	Bowery
Sat Sep 30	Coventry City	15:00	A	0-1	7,664	Richards	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Bowery	(20)	Nolan

OCTOBER

Tue Oct 3	Oldham Athletic	19:30	H	0-1	976	Richards	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	(19)	Raynes	Porter	(9)	Bowery	Cooper	Kirk	(14)
Sat Oct 7	Stevenage	15:00	H	1-0	3,697	Richards	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	(14)	Raynes	Porter	(20)	Dagnall	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley
Sat Oct 14	Yeovil Town	15:00	A	0-2	2,360	Richards	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	(27)	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	(10)	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley
Tue Oct 17	Notts. County	19:45	H	2-0	3,339	Richards	Ng	Bakayogo	Raynes	Porter	Bowery	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley	Wintle	(27)	
Sat Oct 21	Accrington Stanley	15:00	H	0-2	3,849	Richards	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	(18)	Raynes	Porter	Bowery	Cooper	Nolan	Ainley	(19)
Sat Oct 28	Colchester United	15:00	A	1-3	3,088	Richards	Ng	Bakayogo	Walker	(28)	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Bowery	(1)	Nolan	Ainley

NOVEMBER

Sat Nov 4	Rotherham Utd	Emirates FA C	15:00	H	2-1	2,597	Richards	Ng	Pickering	Walker	(1)	Raynes	Dagnall	Bowery	(7)	Cooper	Ainley	
Tue Oct 7	Port Vale	CT	19:45	A	2-4	1,322	Garratt	Bakayogo	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Cooper	(14)	Nolan	Lowery	Kirk		
Sat Nov 11	Lincoln City	15:00	H	1-4	4,723	Richards	Ng	Pickering	(3)	Walker	Raynes	Porter	Dagnall	Bowery	Cooper	Ainley	(7)	
Sat Nov 18	Forest Green Rovers	15:00	A	2-3	2,221	Richards	Ng	Pickering	Walker	Nolan	Porter	Dagnall	Bowery	Cooper	Grant	Lundstram	Reilly	
Tue Nov 21	Morecambe	19:45	A	1-0	927	Richards	Ng	Bakayogo	Pickering	(28)	Walker	Nolan	Porter	Dagnall	Bowery	(24)	Cooper	
Sat Nov 25	Luton Town	15:00	H															

DECEMBER

Sun Dec 3	Blackburn R.	Emirates FA C	14:00	A														
Sat Dec 9	Cheltenham Town	15:00	A															
Sat Dec 16	Crawley Town	15:00	H															
Sat Dec 23	Swindon Town	15:00	H															
Tue Dec 26	Chesterfield	15:00	A															
Sat Dec 30	Cambridge United	15:00	A															

JANUARY

Mon Jan 1	Grimsby Town	15:00	H															
Sat Jan 6	Exeter City	15:00	H															
	Emirates FA Cup Rd 3																	
Sat Jan 13	Carlisle United	15:00	A															
Sat Jan 20	Wycombe Wanderers	15:00	H															
Sat Jan 27	Swindon Town	15:00	A															
	Emirates FA Cup Rd 4																	

FEBRUARY

Sat Feb 3	Notts. County	15:00	A															
Sat Feb 10	Yeovil Town	15:00	H															
Tue Feb 13	Accrington Stanley	19:45	A															
Sat Feb 17	Colchester United	15:00	H															
Sat Feb 24	Lincoln City	15:00	A															

MARCH

Sat Mar 3	Forest Green Rovers	15:00	H															
Sat Mar 10	Stevenage	15:00	A															
Sat Mar 17	Coventry City	15:00	H															
	Emirates FA Cup Rd 6																	
Sat Mar 24	Newport County	15:00	A															
Fri Mar 30	Barnet	15:00	A															

APRIL

Mon Apr 2	Port Vale	15:00	H															
Sat Apr 7	Mansfield Town	15:00	A															
Sat Apr 14	Luton Town	15:00	A															
Sat Apr 21	Morecambe	15:00	H															
	Emirates FA Cup Semi-Final																	
Sat Apr 28	Crawley Town	15:00	A															

MAY

Sat May 5	Cheltenham Town	15:00	H															

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CREWE ALEXANDRA

Manager: David Artell

		GLS	Y	R
1	Ben Garratt (GK)			
2	Perry Ng			
3	Zoumana Bakayogo			
4	Brad Walker			
5	George Ray			
6	Michael Raynes			
7	Chris Porter			
8	James Jones			
9	Chris Dagnall			
10	Jordan Bowery			
11	George Cooper			
12	Eddie Nolan			
13	Dave Richards (GK)			
14	Callum Ainley			
15	Ryan Wintle			
16	Tommy Lowery			
18	Harry Pickering			
20	Charlie Kirk			
21	Ollie Finney			
22	Josh Lundstram			
23	Ross Woodcock			
24	Lewis Reilly			
25	Billy Sass-Davies			
27	Sam Stubbs			
28	Conor Grant			



LUTON TOWN

Manager: Nathan Jones

	GLS	Y	R
1	Marek Stech		
2	James Justin		
3	Dan Potts		
4	Alan McCormack		
5	Johnny Mullins		
6	Scott Cuthbert		
7	Jack Stacey		
8	Olly Lee		
9	Danny Hylton		
10	Jordan Cook		
11	Andrew Shinnie		
14	Harry Cornick		
16	Glen Rea		
17	Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu		
18	Luke Berry		
19	James Collins		
21	Jack Senior		
22	Luke Gambin		
24	Lawson D'Ath		
27	Aaron Jarvis		
33	Kavan Cotter		
35	Arthur Read		
36	James Shea		
37	Frankie Musonda		
38	Elliot Lee		
39	Akin Famewo		
40	Harry Isted		
44	Alan Sheehan		

Match Officials

Referee: Graham Salisbury

Assistant Referees:

Alan Clayton, Richard Bartlett

Fourth Official: Ken Haycock

Next Up at Gresty

Saturday 16th December 2017

CRAWLEY TOWN

Sky Bet League Two

Kick off 3pm

Match Stats

Half Time:

Full Time:

MoM:

Attendance:



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