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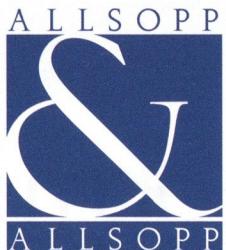
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**Chief Executive:** David Boddy



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# TOGETHER

2018 / 19

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MANAGER



### MANAGER'S MESSAGE

## MARK ROBINS

**G**ood evening and welcome back to the Ricoh again tonight for the second time this week, as we take on Luton Town in League Two.

It was good to get the three points against Barnet in the last game. They are fighting for their lives and are trying to get points to stay in the division and we are trying to get points to put us in a position to get promotion, so it was an important game with a lot riding on it, but it was really pleasing that although not at our best, we won the game.

Lee Burge made a top class save from Shaquille Coulthirst's shot from outside the box in the first half, but after that, apart from some reasonable possession, I didn't feel we were under to much pressure from them.

However, different opposition can throw up different challenges and it was a tough game for us nevertheless because they had a real good go. Our defensive unit, which has stayed firm this season, had to do so again to keep the clean sheet.

We've kept a solid shape at times and the mindset of the players has been excellent for most of the season and we will make sure that for the rest of the games we keep those standards.

At the other end, we created a good opportunity to score moments before we got the winner, when Liam Kelly played a ball across to Marc McNulty who headed over, but he made amends on the edge of the

box when his cross shot picked out Jonson Clarke-Harris who put it away.

At this stage of the season, it's all about points and staying firm, and in the last three games we have done that and picked up seven.

Elsewhere, I would like to also offer a warm welcome to Nathan Jones and his players, staff and all the supporters who join us from Luton. Tonight's fixture is one of the games in hand we have after it was re-arranged due to our run in the FA Cup this season.

Luton have been in the automatic spots for the majority of the season and they have some good players, so it will be a tough game. However, it gives us an opportunity to challenge against a team that are in the top three.

It's a brilliant game and these are the evenings people look forward to; there's an added edge to the game and its great challenge for us under the lights tonight.

We've won eight of the last nine games here at the Ricoh and we want the players to keep enjoying their football and embracing the challenge that's in front of us. There will be opportunities that are given to you throughout a season and we want to capitalise on those and enjoy it.

Enjoy the Game.

*Mark Robins*

# AN EVENING WITH

# HARRY REDKNAPP

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BOARDROOM



FROM THE BOARDROOM

## DAVE BODDY

**G**ood Evening everybody and welcome to the Ricoh Arena as we welcome our friends from fellow promotion contenders Luton Town and hope that everybody connected with the Club enjoys their visit here. If tonight's game is anywhere near as good as the game at Kenilworth Road back in October, then we are in for a treat. My abiding memory of our season to date is Jordan Shipley's stunning free kick which sealed the game for us in stoppage time.

The talk at the back end of last week was all about Carl Baker rejoining the club & Season Tickets going on sale.

It is great to see Carl back at the club and judging by the reaction on social media it is a very popular decision. Carl will be a very useful addition to the squad for the run in to the end of the season and I am sure he will help us towards the ultimate goal of promotion.

The Early Bird Season Tickets were launched last Thursday afternoon and we are happy to be able to freeze the prices for next season's Early Bird's. Early Bird prices are obviously the best priced Season Tickets and a reward to loyal supporters who are prepared to make the commitment for next season at this stage of the year. We have deliberately brought Season Ticket sales forward this year in line with a large majority of other EFL Clubs for whom it is the norm to be selling in March, or even earlier. Last year we went on sale on 11th April, but I had only been in post a couple of months and did not have



used effectively, will pay for your Season Ticket and much more. The exclusive membership scheme provides a fantastic range of discounts and offers on leading brands to our members, including Asda, Tesco, Sainsburys, M&S, EE, Sky, Amazon, Thomas Cook and many more, making it one of the best supporter membership schemes in the UK, with the opportunity to save up to £2,000 a year on everyday expenses and lifestyle purchases. The discount portal replaces the free Cup game which was included in this season's package, but the benefits far out weigh the free game.

We have also got a special Early Bird offer on Executive Boxes with seasonal places available at just £20 a match per person, making the excellent corporate experience affordable. This offer has already proved popular with several new boxes already sold.

Here's to an entertaining game tonight.

PUSB

# LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

## WEEKS OF ACTION

### Celebrating 'Our Matchday'

The EFL is supporting the 2018 Level Playing Field Weeks of Action. This annual initiative, now in its 13th year, aims to celebrate accessibility and inclusion for disabled sports fans across England and Wales.

Disabled people constitute the largest minority group at around 15% of the population and this number is increasing year on year. Naturally, a large number of disabled people are football fans too and we are pleased to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued loyalty and dedication to their club and our competitions.

This year the EFL and Level Playing Field are celebrating the matchday experience for disabled fans. We want to shine a light on the positives of attending a live matchday and promote a culture of accessibility and inclusiveness within sport.

This season's campaign will see Level Playing Field join together with sports clubs, fans and organisations across England and Wales to celebrate the #OurMatchday campaign to promote the positive experience had by disabled fans and the message of access and inclusion for all.

Clubs across the EFL will be working with their Disabled Supporters' Association to promote the work they are doing to improve the supporter experience so that football matches are a welcoming environment for everyone.



3rd to 18th  
March  
2018



For more information about the important work of Level Playing Field and this year's Weeks of Action, please visit [www.levelplayingfield.org.uk](http://www.levelplayingfield.org.uk) email [helen@levelplayingfield.org.uk](mailto:helen@levelplayingfield.org.uk) or call 0208 621 2403.

Alternatively you may wish to send a message of support to [@lpftweets](https://twitter.com/lpftweets) on Twitter using the hashtag #OurMatchday

NEWS

## CLUB NEWS

### FANS CAN STILL BOOK THEIR PLACE FOR AN EVENING WITH HARRY REDKNAPP AT THE RICOH ARENA NEXT MONTH!

A hugely popular figure in football, Redknapp will be the guest on Thursday 22nd March in the Premier Lounge at the Ricoh Arena where he will speak about his career initially as a player, most notably at West Ham and Bournemouth, and then manager with the likes Bournemouth, West Ham, Southampton, Portsmouth, Tottenham and most recently Birmingham City.

Places are available to book for the event, which is proudly supported by Boardroom Member Ken Simmons, for £55 or a VIP Package is available for £80.

Both packages include three course dining, while the VIP package includes a complimentary drink on arrival and access to an exclusive area prior to the event where guests can meet and mingle with Harry and have a photo with him. CCFC Season Ticket holders who book a standard package in the first 2 weeks of sale will be entered into a draw for 2 VIP packages for the event. Meanwhile, all CCFC Season Ticket holders will be entered into a draw for 2 free standard packages for the evening.

To book your place, call Coventry City on 024 7699 1987 (Option 2).

### END OF SEASON AWARDS DINNER

Coventry City are delighted to announce this year's End of Season Awards Dinner will be held on Sunday 6th May at the Ricoh Arena.

There have been many highlights and memorable moments this season already, including the FA Cup run, but with the Sky Blues still in the hunt for promotion from League Two, there may be even more to celebrate by the first weekend in May.

Tickets are now on sale for just £40\* per person for supporters who purchase in the Early Bird period, which lasts until midnight on Tuesday 3rd April.

From Wednesday 4th April, prices will be £55\* per person – so make sure you book your place early to save money and guarantee your seat!

Your ticket includes superb three course dining, plus of course the awards ceremony.

The whole first-team squad will be in attendance as well as the management staff, so make sure you join them and enjoy the following highly coveted awards:

- Player of the Season
- Players' Player of the Season
- Goal of the Season - sponsored by Genesis Employment
- Community Player of the Season
- Young Player of the Season - sponsored by Andrew Whiting Wealth Consultancy LLP
- Top Goalscorer
- Michelle Ridley Award

With the End of Season Awards Dinner expected to be as popular as always, we recommend booking as soon as possible - secure your place now by visiting [eticketing.co.uk/CCFC](http://eticketing.co.uk/CCFC), calling 024 7699 1987 (Option 2) or for more information please e-mail [hospitality@ccfc.co.uk](mailto:hospitality@ccfc.co.uk).

### LEGENDS DAY

Following Saturday's annual Legends Day match against Lincoln being postponed we are pleased to confirm a new date has been agreed in conjunction with the Coventry City Former Players Association.

Legends Day will now go ahead for our final home fixture of the season against Morecambe on Saturday 5th May.

Legends Day against Lincoln was set to be our most successful to date with over 50 former players confirmed attending, the highest amount ever, and over 580 attending the event – again another milestone for Legends Day.

We do hope that all guests who were due to attend Legends Day will be able to make the re-arranged date. If however guests are unable to attend the Morecambe fixture we have suitable alternatives below that are available to all who booked for the Lincoln fixture:

1. Booking moved to Legends Day for the Morecambe fixture.
2. Booking moved to alternative home league fixture for the 2017/18 season
3. Full refund

This will also be the arrangement for all executive box and premium lounge tickets.

All guests will receive a formal email from the hospitality department on how to go about re-booking or obtaining a refund. We ask that you reply to the email when you receive it in order for an efficient process to be administered.

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NEWS

## CLUB NEWS

### 2018/19 SEASON TICKETS

Coventry City have announced details of Season Tickets for the 2018/19 campaign, with Early Bird Season Tickets set to go on sale from 9am on Friday 9th March and prices frozen!

Season Tickets will be available to buy at [eticketing.co.uk/CCFC](http://eticketing.co.uk/CCFC) or 0844 453 9134, and also the Butts Park Arena Ticket Office. Once again, fans will be able to pay for their Season Ticket through monthly instalments with Zebra Finance. The early bird period lasts until midnight on Monday 23rd April – giving supporters nearly seven

weeks to buy early and save. With the Sky Blues still in the fight for promotion, supporters could be paying League Two prices for League One football!

All Adult supporters will have the chance to save up to £2000 per year as they join a new CCFC Rewards Scheme – with discounts available at high street stores and brands including Tesco, Asda, Boots and many more. \* This means fans can essentially pay for their Season Ticket – and then some – using the money they save in the Rewards Scheme!

JSB Under 13s continue to be FREE when accompanied by a paying adult, while the Young Sky Blue rate continues to extend junior discounts to under 18s.

Meanwhile, unlike previous seasons, students can access the concession rates too – as well as young adults (Under 21s), seniors (over 60s) and armed forces members.

Disabled Supporters can be purchased in-person at the Butts Park Arena Ticket Office during regular office hours. Up to date proof of disability will be required. Disabled supporters Season Tickets are charged at the age relevant price, with a carer going free if required.

### 2018/19 EXECUTIVE BOX AND SUPERBOX PACKAGES

Executive Box and SuperBox packages are now available for the 2018/19 campaign and have been massively reduced for the Early Bird period, being priced at £20 per game per person – only £7 more than a standard Season Ticket.

You and 11 others will be able to enjoy Coventry City's 2018/19 season from an Executive Box for

just £200+VAT per game – or less than £17+VAT per person.

An Executive Box costs £4,600+VAT for the 2018/19 season in the Early Bird period, while it is £8,640+VAT after the conclusion of Early Bird.

There is also the SuperBox option, which seats 20 people and can be yours for just £7,667+VAT for the

2018/19 season in the Early Bird period – this works out at less than £334+VAT per game...or just over £17 + VAT person, per game!

To book an Executive Box or Super Box and discuss possible locations, please call the commercial team on 024 7699 1987 (option 2) or e-mail [hospitality@ccfc.co.uk](mailto:hospitality@ccfc.co.uk).

### 2018/19 PREMIUM MEMBERSHIPS

Coventry City's range of 2018/19 Premium Memberships are now available to purchase at an Early Bird price!

The membership packages boast a great range of benefits for the Sky Blues fan who want to enjoy matchdays in style from the comfort of the hospitality lounges at the Ricoh Arena in the 2018/19 season.

The Premium Memberships will be available on an Early Bird basis until

midnight on Monday 23d April, after which date prices will rise.

The club has three types of Premium Memberships available to purchase for the 2018/19 campaign, with prices frozen for each of the packages...

The Vice Presidents Membership is the oldest corporate club in UK football and you can join the club for just £1,000+VAT in Early Bird for the 2018/19 season.

The Club Coventry Membership has become increasingly popular over recent years and you can join the club for £550+VAT for the 2018/19 campaign.

The Legends Membership includes a great range of benefits and is priced at £450+VAT for adults and £345 plus VAT for over 60's, while it is £150+VAT and £100+VAT for Under 16s and Under 13s respectively – all offering great value for a premium membership with the Sky Blues.



## CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

## MICHAEL DOYLE

**G**ood evening and welcome back to the Ricoh tonight for our League Two match with Luton Town, as we look to build on last weekend's win against Barnet.

It was a great win for us at this stage of the season, when we are coming into the final stages of the campaign and I thought it was a tough game for us in the conditions.

Barnet are a good side and we knew that going into their game, that their league position can be deceptive because they are better than that and it probably doesn't justify where they should be on their performances.

However, I always thought that we would get a chance as the game was going on and I had a feeling that we would take it and win the game and fortunate enough we got that, as Jonson has made a good run and he's put it away and as soon as we got that lead we were confident that we would be able to see the game out.

Overall, it was a tough game for us and it was good that we were able to come away with it with the three points and help to push on up the table and close the gap.

We have put ourselves back in amongst it now and we need to keep that momentum up and take it into tonight's game against Luton.

Tonight, is obviously one of our games that were re-arranged due to the run we had in the FA Cup earlier in the season, so it's a chance for us to get back into the play-offs and set ourselves up to continue to push on from there from now until the end of the season.

It was a tough game for us when we went down to Kenilworth Road earlier in the season, but we put in a good performance and got ourselves a good result, so hopefully it can be more of the same again tonight.

Finally, I would also like to welcome Nathan Jones and his staff and the supporters from the Hatters and hope you have had a safe trip to Coventry.

Your Captain,



WE HAVE PUT OURSELVES BACK IN AMONGST IT NOW  
AND WE NEED TO KEEP THAT MOMENTUM UP AND  
TAKE IT INTO TONIGHT'S GAME AGAINST LUTON.



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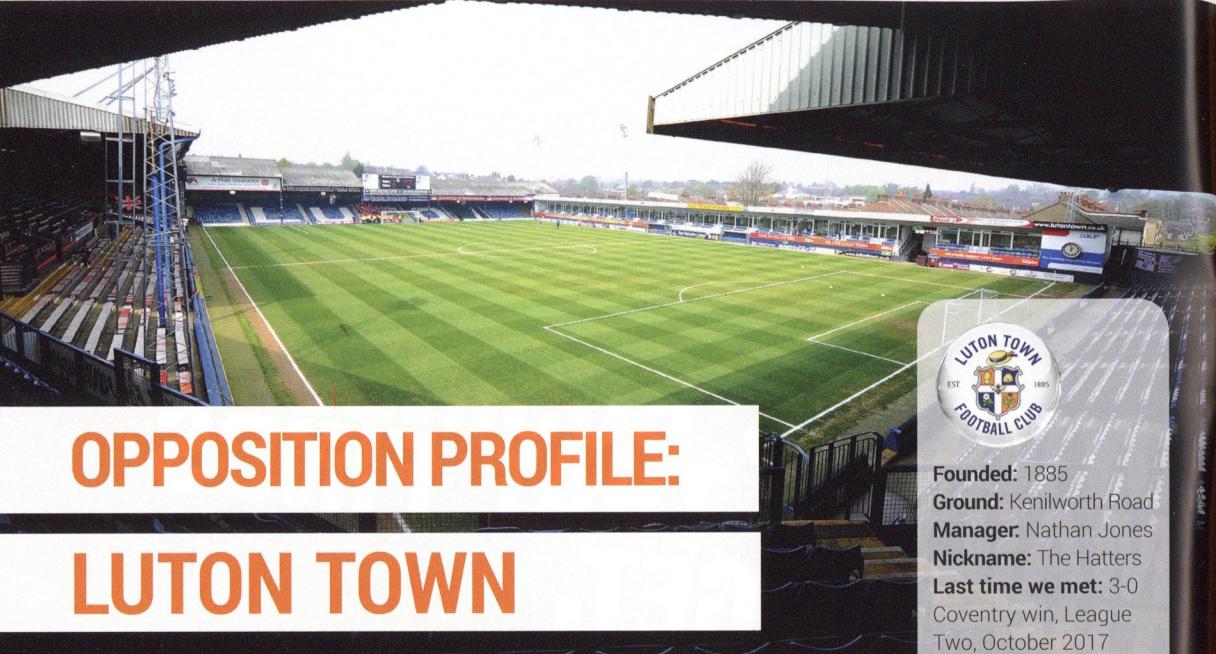
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## OPPOSITION PROFILE:

# LUTON TOWN

### HATTERS OFF DIVISION'S TOP SPOT

**L**ast season there was a feeling of "always the bridesmaid, never the bride" as Luton twice fell short of Wembley in losing in both the play-off and EFL Trophy semi-finals.

Feelings of nausea induced by those last-minute jitters came flooding back for Hatters supporters on Saturday, after defeat to Accrington knocked them off top spot in League Two for the first time since November.

A stoppage-time winner from Billy Kee handed Stanley maximum spoils at Kenilworth Road, as Luton extended their winless run to three games and slipped to second in the table as a consequence.

Although still firmly rooted in the automatic promotion spots - six points ahead of fourth-placed Wycombe - at one point in January they were three clear victories in front of their nearest title rivals.

Naturally defeat at their Bedfordshire base was disappointing for manager Nathan Jones. Town pride themselves on

the third best home record in the top four tiers this season, behind only Manchester City and Cardiff, in winning 13 of their 19 outings.

Jones told Luton Today: "We had that sickening feeling at the end of last year, of losing the game really late. Now we have a little bit more opportunity with ten games to go, so we can use that feeling to motivate us and to move forward.

"We are a good side, we have been in good form, we've been on top for the majority of the season. We have lost it today... but we have got a good side and we have just got to make sure we prove that."

Under Jones Town have defied convention in playing attractive, expansive football with a midfield diamond formation to get them out of the division. At times their style hasn't suited and they've been left red-faced - 3-0 home defeats to Swindon and Coventry, as well as a 4-0 loss at Port Vale in December case studies in point. But more often than not when it clicks Luton's passing principles has seen them play with a swagger that belies their fourth-tier status.

Opening the season with an 8-2 trouncing of Yeovil should have given an early indication of their intent, while there have been other heavy beatings handed out. Stevenage and Cambridge were both hit for seven in the autumn, Swindon lost 5-0 on Boxing Day and eight other teams have conceded three or more to the Hatters this season.

Out-gunning their opponents has been Town's overriding philosophy, with free-scoring forwards James Collins and Danny Hylton contributing over 30 goals between them. Luton's 76 goals in the league this season from 36 games, a divisional high, is the most any side after as many games in the fourth tier has managed since Northampton in 1986-87.

Having been in the top three for 75 per cent of the campaign, in context Saturday's defeat was a minor blot on the copybook. Yet with five play-off failures in recent seasons, Luton will be determined on getting down the aisle as soon as possible to claim a third-tier return for the first time in a decade.



**Founded:** 1885  
**Ground:** Kenilworth Road  
**Manager:** Nathan Jones  
**Nickname:** The Hatters  
**Last time we met:** 3-0 Coventry win, League Two, October 2017



**SCOTT CUTHBERT**



**LUKE BERRY**

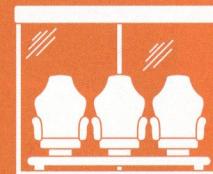


**JAMES COLLINS**

One of the centre-back's 16 career goals - his last before joining Luton in 2015 - came against Coventry. In November 2014 his final goal for previous employers Leyton Orient arrived in a 2-2 League One draw with the Sky Blues, cancelling out James O'Brien's brace at Brisbane Road.

Luton's creator-in-chief scored 22 times during 2016-17 for previous employers Cambridge United, including all four in an FA Cup Second Round rout over Coventry. His rare quadruple against the Sky Blues came in December 2016, and went some way to seeing him crowned Player of the Year that season for his hometown club.

One of League Two's most feared sharpshooters with more than a century of goals on his impressive CV, the prolific frontman was born in Coventry. A pupil at the Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School and Language College in the city, he was 'the one that got away' after beginning his career at Aston Villa before coming to prominence with Shrewsbury.



### IN THE DUGOUT: NATHAN JONES

There is no doubt Luton have one of the brightest up and coming managers in the English game leading their charge up the divisions.

Hugely ambitious, thoughtful and intuitive, the 44-year-old has the Hatters playing some of the most eye-catching football seen in the fourth-tier for a long time, while rivalling Manchester City when it comes to goalscoring exploits.

Putting great stock in analysis and influenced by a brief spell in Spain during his playing career, Jones was a coach with Brighton and England's Under-21s before taking his first managerial job in Bedfordshire.

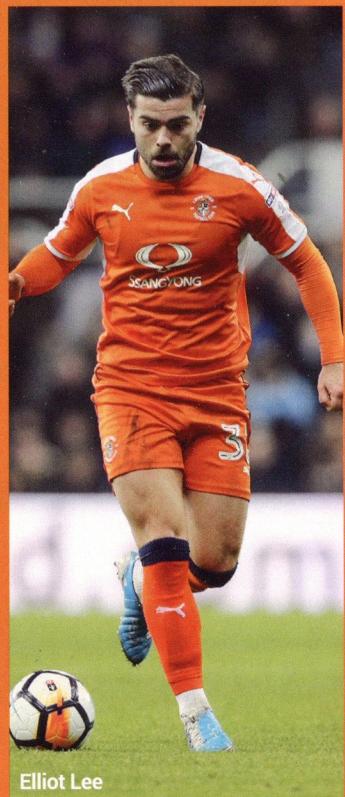


Last season he took the Hatters to the League Two play-offs in his first full season at the helm, something that impressed the club's top-brass enough to see him offered extended terms in March. Penning a new four-year deal until 2020, the Welshman is keen to "take the club forward" in the foreseeable future.

It's a philosophy intune with Luton's chief executive Gary Sweet, saying: "From the moment he walked into Kenilworth Road almost two years ago we have all seen the transformation of our playing style and improvement in our squad."



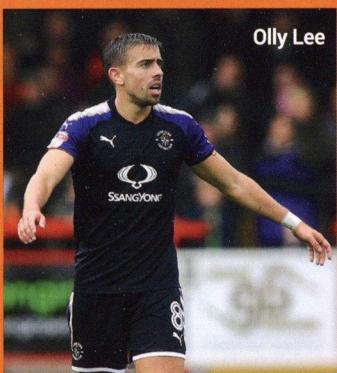
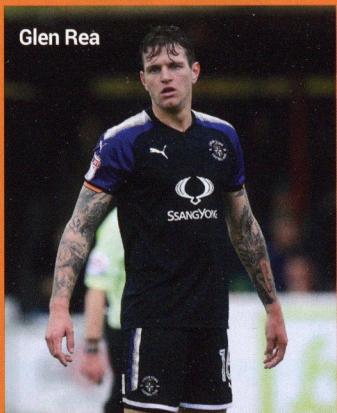
# LUTON TOWN MEET THE SQUAD



**MAREK STECH**  
Goalkeeper | DOB: 28.01.1990  
Luton's only league ever-present this season has 17 clean-sheets, the 6ft 5ins Czech Republic international starting at Sparta Prague before helping Yeovil reach the Championship.

**JAMES JUSTIN**  
Left-back | DOB: 23.02.1998  
The homegrown England Under-20, Town's 2016-17 Young Player of the Season, was reportedly the subject of seven-figure bids in January, with Brighton believed to be at the front of the queue.

**DAN POTTS**  
Left-back | DOB: 13.04.1994  
A diligent figure in Luton's impermeable backline, the West Ham graduate is enjoying a magnificent campaign with six goals by December thanks to his aerial dominance.



**ALAN MCCORMACK**  
Defensive midfielder | DOB: 10.01.1984  
The seasoned campaigner has not featured since September due to groin and calf injuries, but boasts 450 games and promotions with Swindon and Brentford.

**JOHNNY MULLINS**  
Centre-back | DOB: 06.11.1985  
Commanding defender who reached 500 career outings last season, he lists promotions from this level with Rotherham and Oxford on a packed portfolio.

**SCOTT CUTHERBERT**  
Centre-back/right-back | DOB: 16.06.1987  
Imposing Scot who took the armband from Steve McNulty in October 2015, the former Celtic graduate reached the League One play-offs with Leyton Orient and Swindon.



**JACK STACEY**  
Right-back/midfield | DOB: 06.04.1996  
Gained six Championship outings for Reading and was part of Exeter's run to the League Two play-offs before heading to Kenilworth Road last summer.

**OLLY LEE**  
Centre midfield | DOB: 11.07.1991  
The ex-Birmingham midfield schemer, son of former Newcastle maestro Rob Lee, is enjoying the most productive season of his career with five goals.

**JORDAN COOK**  
Attacking midfield | DOB: 20.03.1990  
Now operating at his lowest level after Premier League outings for Sunderland, Championship experience with Charlton and two terms with Walsall a level up.

**ANDREW SHINNIE**  
Attacking midfield | DOB: 17.07.1989  
On a third loan away from Birmingham in 18 months, the Scottish Championship winner with Hibernian has been Luton's creator-in-chief in topping their assists chart.

**HARRY CORNICK**  
Striker | DOB: 09.04.1995  
High-octane forward who jumpstarted his career by joining Luton last summer, following six loans while at Bournemouth, and has scored five times since October.

**JAKE JERVIS**  
Right winger | DOB: 17.09.1991  
Reached double figures for goals in his past two League Two terms with Plymouth, but the rangy frontman is yet to open his account in LU4 after making Town his 12th employers.

**GLEN REA**  
Centre-back/Utility | DOB: 03.09.1994  
Combative defender or holding midfielder, the highly-rated former Brighton man was sent-off against Coventry in October's 3-0 defeat.

**PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU**  
Utility | DOB: 22.03.1994  
Duracell-charged midfield dynamo who is a fans' favourite for his ceaseless endeavour and versatility, he joined from West Ham in December 2013.

**LUKE BERRY**  
Centre midfield | DOB: 12.07.1992  
A box-to-box workhorse who allows Luton's slick passing to tick, he's excelled since arriving from Cambridge last summer with eight goals.

**JAMES COLLINS**  
Striker | DOB: 01.12.1990  
Prolific at Shrewsbury, Swindon and Crawley - scoring 22 times in 2016-17 for the latter - he endeared himself to Town supporters with a debut hat-trick against Yeovil on his way to 17 goals.

**FLYNN DOWNES**  
Central midfield | DOB: 20.01.1999  
"He'll turn into some player" was Jones's assessment upon loaning the England Under-19 international from Ipswich in January, having made 10 Championship outings this season.

**LUKE GAMBIN**  
Left winger | DOB: 16.03.1993  
Malta international winger who helped Barnet to the Conference title in 2014-15, during 136 appearances over a five-year spell, he turns 25 on Friday.

**LAWSON D'ATH**  
Attacking midfielder | DOB: 24.12.1992  
The League Two title winner with Northampton is sidelined after sustaining medial ligament damage against Cambridge earlier this month.

**LLOYD JONES**  
Centre-back | DOB: 07.10.1995  
A member of the supporting cast since leaving Liverpool in January, the ex-England Under-20 gained League One experience with Blackpool and Swindon.

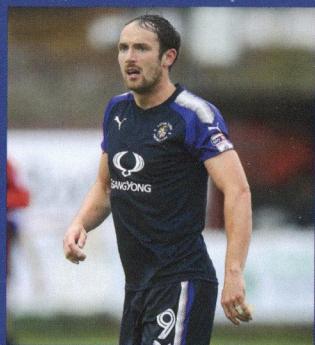
**JAMES SHEA**  
Goalkeeper | DOB: 16.06.1991  
Limited to five EFL Trophy run-outs since arriving from AFC Wimbledon last summer, the former Arsenal trainee penned a new two-year deal in February.

**ELLIOT LEE**  
Striker | DOB: 16.12.1994  
Brother of Town's Olly, he marked his return from a shoulder injury with a goal against Accrington on Saturday, taking his season's tally into double figures.

**AKIN FAMEWO**  
Centre-back | DOB: 09.11.1998  
Lauded by Jones as "having all the top attributes", big things are expected of the homegrown left-footed ball-winner.

**ALAN SHEEHAN**  
Left-back/Centre-back | DOB: 14.09.1986  
Jones's first signing as manager, the cultured Irishman has versatility, 350 league games of know-how, a devilish set-piece and leadership qualities after captaining Notts County.

## KEY MAN



**DANNY HYLTON**  
Striker | DOB: 25.02.1989

Injury had seen Luton's talisman miss five games since the turn of the year, so his return to action against Cambridge earlier this month brought a sigh of relief from manager Nathan Jones.

Hylton's constant harrying of opposition defenders, unwavering commitment and goal-scoring regularity makes him a real weapon in the Hatters' armoury for the end of season run-in.

Jones explained to Luton Today: "It's a big shift he puts in when he plays and it was great to have him back as I thought he was the outstanding player on the pitch."

A promotion winner with Aldershot and Oxford, the highly-competitive 29-year-old has been in the form of his life since heading to Bedfordshire in July 2016. Last season he hit a career-best 27 goals, a feat that saw him shortlisted for League Two Player of the Year, collect a glut of club accolades and be named in the PFA Team of the Season.

His Midas touch has not deserted him this time around either. A 17-goal haul, which has included a hat-trick against Cambridge, has him joint third in the chase for the division's Golden Boot.

# classic Match

Rob Mason looks at a classic fixture from the past.

**T**hen as now both clubs were going for promotion. Then as with tonight's fixture the game had been re-arranged. Unlike tonight, instead of supporters having had plenty of time to make travel arrangements for getting to the game, back in 1936 the fixture was only announced a day or so before the match.

The Football League was having a spat with the Pools companies and in order to make it impossible for them to print coupons in time for collectors to do their rounds fixtures were a closely guarded secret. Never mind the Pools companies – spare a thought for 1936 programme editors!

This was such a big game though that last minute arrangements didn't stop a sizeable contingent of City supporters being at Kenilworth Road to back Harry Storer's side. As the teams lined up they were level on

points with two games to play after this one – one of them being the return at Highfield Road 48 hours later. Coventry held a marginal advantage courtesy of a superior goal average which put a bit of added pressure on the Hatters.

Both teams contained legendary goal-scorers. City boasted Clarrie Bourton who still holds the distinction of being the club's all-time leading goal-scorer. Leading the line for Luton was a man who had played his first game at centre-forward 12 days earlier – and scored 10 goals in a 12-0 win! That was Joe Payne who would end up with 83 goals in 72 league games for the club and net twice on his only appearance for England.

Inevitably it was Payne who opened the scoring but City were made of stern stuff and not to be outdone Bourton equalised 12 minutes from time with his 23rd goal of the season.



Although Bourton went close to a late winner honours ended even in what would be a game as tense as might be expected with the stakes so high. As the away team holding a narrow advantage the point was much more valuable to the visitors, especially as for most of the game captain George Mason had been little more than a passenger after being injured. Remember this was in the days before substitutes.

It was a similar story in the return where a record crowd of over 42,000 crammed into Highfield Road for a hard fought goalless draw that left Coventry in pole position to complete the job which they did with a home win over Torquay.

*City captain George Mason shaking hands with Luton captain George Fellowes at Kenilworth Road*



# Last Time

Saturday 28th October 2017



0



3

STECH  
STACEY  
CUTHBERT  
MULLINS (MPANZU 58)  
POTTS  
CORNICK (SHINNIE 74)  
LEE  
REA  
BERRY  
COLLINS (LEE 80)  
HYLTON

BURGE  
GRIMMER  
WILLIS  
McDONALD  
HAYNES  
DOYLE  
KELLY  
JONES (SHIPLEY 90)  
VINCENTI (BIAMOU 82)  
McNULTY  
PONTICELLI (NAZON 81)

SkyBet League Two | Attendance: 9,670

**LAST TIME AT COVENTRY**

It is over 11 years since The Hatters came to Coventry. On that occasion

of a night to miss the traffic. With 90 minutes gone Coventry had edged it having led from the 17th minute as Marc McNulty's header looked like toppling the league leaders. As the match moved into injury time McNulty looked to make sure only to be tripped by Glenn Rea who was sent off and probably hadn't got back to the dressing room before Jordan Shipley doubled the punishment by netting the free-kick.

Having not scored for four games Coventry's rediscovery of their shooting boots and produced a third goal a further four minutes into added time as substitute Duckens Nazon further helped the goal difference as City climbed to sixth, level on points with seventh placed Wycombe as Luton fell to third place.



27 years ago this month in a 2-1 City win. The last three midland meetings have finished 1-0 to the home side but at the start of the 1991-92 campaign two goals from Kevin Gallacher contributed to a 5-0 victory which is the record margin of victory in this fixture.

**GOAL-FEST**

on a Tuesday night meeting on 30 January 2007 one goal from substitute Leon McKenzie was sufficient to give City the points in the Championship.

**PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The clubs have met on 71 competitive occasions dating back to January 1920 when four goals were shared in a cup-tie at Kenilworth Road before Luton came to Coventry and won 1-0. Despite that unpromising start City have gone on to dominate meetings with 37 victories to Luton's 21 with just 13 draws. Luton's lone win in the last five fixtures was a 3-1 home win on the day before Christmas Eve in 2006.

**THREE DECADE DOMINANCE**

Luton have played at Coventry seven times in the last 30 years with the Sky Blues achieving a



# SPOT THE SEASON

Welcome to the series where we look at seasons gone by. We feature some of the highs and lows of a campaign, pick out some great games and goals as well as some of the key individuals. The question is can you spot the season and if so how many sections will you need to read to work it out? Find out the answer on page 63.



## POINTS AND POSITION

City finished 10th in the top-flight with 53 points from 40 games. It was an almost identical record with Luton who finished above City by virtue of a slightly better goal difference. Goal difference was even more crucial at the foot of the table where the teams

in 16th, 17th and 18th places were all level on 42 points. Of those the side with the weakest goal difference were Chelsea who fell into what was then a Play-off place and were subsequently relegated after losing to Middlesbrough who had finished third in what is now the Championship - the Teessiders themselves having missed out on an automatic promotion place on goal difference.



## CHAMPIONS

Liverpool won the league, finishing a handsome nine points ahead of runners' up Manchester United.



## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

David Speedie scored six times and was a key player, missing just four matches.



## EVER PRESENT

Steve Ogrizovic played every game in league and cup, totalling 45 appearances.



## TOP SCORER

Cyrille Regis registered 10 goals league to be the only man in double figures and for good measure added another in each of the cups. Only four of Cyrille's goals however came in league victories. On only one occasion did a City player score more than once in a game, Dave Bennett netting twice in a 3-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday.



## CROWDS

Liverpool were responsible for the biggest gates of the season both home and away. 27,637 saw the Reds at Coventry while at Anfield on New Year's Day 38,790 saw the Sky Blues. For the away game with Charlton, a top-flight match was witnessed by under 5,000 while across London under 8,000 saw City win at QPR just before Christmas.



## MANAGER

John Sillett took over the hot-seat at the start of the season.



## CUPS

City disappointingly went out of the FA Cup at home to Watford in the fourth round. In the League Cup Cambridge were beaten home and away before tonight's visitors Luton knocked City out in a game played at Leicester's Filbert Street.



## MATCH OF THE SEASON

COVENTRY CITY 4  
LUTON TOWN 0  
Division 1  
15 March

Three days after The Hatters won an FA Cup quarter-final they came to Highfield Road. Two weeks earlier they had reached the League Cup final but Luton's cup exploits didn't end there. A week before coming to Coventry they had won yet another semi-final, this time beating Swindon in the Full Members' Cup which gave them a Wembley date with Reading 12 days after this league date with the Sky Blues.

In the bread and butter of the league this was only Luton's second game in a month. Previously they had lost at Wimbledon and before that at Arsenal after an incredible 7-4 victory over Oxford in their last home league game.

Coventry meanwhile were on a splendid five match unbeaten run and ran up the biggest win of the season. First half goals from Steve Sedgeley and Gary Bannister were added to by a Brian Kilcline penalty before Cyrille Regis wrapped the victory up.



## TODAY'S VISITORS

Luton won the League Cup, beating Arsenal at Wembley. They also reached the FA Cup semi-final, the final of the Full Members' Cup and finished ninth in the top flight - so not a bad season!

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HISTORY

## THE WEEK THAT WAS

Rob Mason looks at this week in 1984

34 years ago today City shared six goals with Aston Villa at Highfield Road.

Sam Allardyce, Gerry Daly and Terry Gibson got City's goals in a game where Villa keeper Nigel Spinks was subbed in the days when there was just one sub.

City sub Steve Hunt made his final appearance for the club.

Two goals from Trevor Aylott gave Luton a 2-1 top-flight win over Ipswich.

In the High Court Robert Maxwell's attempt to take over Derby County was rejected.

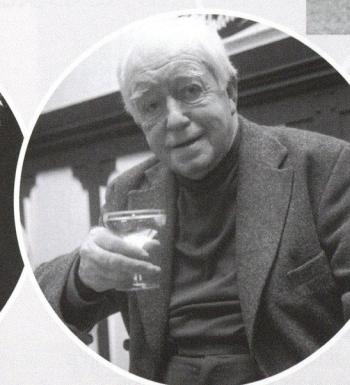
The day before the 3-3 with Villa the year-long Miners' strike began.

On that same day Dad's Army star Arnold Ridley (Private Godfrey) passed away.

Peter Davison's last episode as Dr. Who was screened.

Nena was enjoying the second of three weeks at number one in the singles charts with '99 Red Balloons.'

The film, 'Terms of Endearment' was released in UK cinemas.



# WWTT

## WHO WAS THAT THEN?

In each issue of PUSB this season we will attempt to test your memory by choosing a City game and giving you a brief 'pen-picture' of each of the starting line-up. Your task is to name all XI. (Answers on page 63)



### PORTRSMOUTH 1-1 COVENTRY CITY

FA CUP 4TH ROUND | 13 MARCH 1963



**A**

Hailed from Teesside and later played for Walsall and Doncaster.

**B**

Future Sky Blues manager who wouldn't be popular at Fratton Park as a former Southampton player.

**C**

Eventually totalled almost 400 games for the club, the first along the south coast at Bournemouth five and a half years before this game.

**D**

City's youngest player and scorer when he debuted five years earlier and stayed with the club until the seventies.

**E**

Later worked with the right back in this game to lead Coventry to the FA Cup in 1987.

**F**

German who later became the first man to be used by City as a sub.

**G**

Northern Ireland international who also played for Leeds, Swansea and Ards.

**H**

Signed from The Magpies of Newcastle, debuted against The Magpies of Notts County, scored in this game and later managed Halifax.

**I**

Scored 28 times in this season but it would his solitary year with the club



**J**

Scored six goals in this cup run. Signed from Reading he later moved on to Millwall.

**K**

Wales international who played over 250 games for City before moving on to WBA, Nottingham Forest and Swansea.



# HALF TIME QUIZ

With Luton and Coventry both looking to be amongst the prize-winners at the end of the season, test yourself on the season so far.

- 1) Which teams will contest the Checkatrade Trophy final next month as they seek to succeed Coventry as holders?
- 2) In the Premier League, other than Manchester City who have lost the fewest games?
- 3) Which Premier League team have drawn most games?
- 4) Which former Coventry manager is in charge of a club currently topping their table?
- 5) Which two championship clubs has Garry Monk managed this season?
- 6) Which manager left Mansfield last month to take over at Peterborough?
- 7) Who did England defeat in October to secure qualification for this summer's World Cup?
- 8) Which relegation threatened club ended Manchester City's 18 game winning run on New Year's Eve?
- 9) What did Preston and Republic of Ireland Under 21 defender Kevin O'Connor win at Christmas?
- 10) Who lost his job after losing to Coventry in the FA Cup?



#### HOW DID YOU DO?

- |            |                                                              |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 points  | Table topper                                                 |
| 7-9 points | Promotion material                                           |
| 5-6 points | Play off loser                                               |
| 3-4 points | Mid table                                                    |
| 2 points   | Just escaped the drop                                        |
| 0-1 points | Relegation beckons – keep reading PUSB and move up the table |

ANSWERS 1) Lincoln City and Shrewsbury Town, 2) Luton, 3) Southamption, 4) Tony Mowbray at Blackburn, 5) Middleborough and Brimingham City, 6) Steve Evans, 7) Steven, 8) Crystal Palace, 9) Don million Euros in the Irish National Lottery's Christmas Millions raffle, 10) Mark Hughes at Stoke City



## JUNIOR SKY BLUE TEST

Here's a little test on tonight's visitors Luton Town

- 1) Is it true or false that Luton once won the League Cup?
- 2) Is it true or false that Luton once won the FA Cup?
- 3) Which country is Luton manager Nathan Jones from?
- 4) Which Premier League team knocked Luton out of this season's FA Cup: Stoke, Newcastle or Manchester City?
- 5) How many Luton players have scored at least 15 goals so far this season?

## FAMILY ZONE



# USB S...OO

## MAKE LEARNING FUN WITH SAM!

### WATCH OUT FOR...



Today's visitors have some dangerous players. Watch out for Luton's Danny Hylton

### FIVE FACTS

- 1) His 15 goals before the weekend were scored at a rate of one goal every 148 minutes – the best in League two.
- 2) He has scored over 100 league goals.
- 3) He was Luton's Player of the Year last season
- 4) He was named in the League Two Team of the Year last season.
- 5) He has scored hat-tricks this season and last season.

## MY MATCH REPORT

Can you help Sky Blue Sam with your match report?

### BEFORE KICK OFF:

- 1) What do you think tonight's score will be?  
Coventry City  Luton Town
- 2) Who do you think will be Man of the Match?
- 3) Guess how many people will be at the game

### AT HALF TIME:

- 4) What was the half time score?  
Coventry City  Luton Town
- 5) What do you think the full time score will be now?  
Coventry City  Luton Town
- 6) Who has impressed you most in the first half?

### AFTER THE MATCH:

- 7) What was the final score?  
Coventry City  Luton Town
- 8) Who scored the goals?
- 9) Was the best player in the first half just as good in the second? Yes / No
- 10) Who was your Man of the Match?

## MASCOTS

### BEN EVANS

Age: 10  
School: Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystrwyth  
Hobbies: Football, Cricket and playing the drums.  
Favourite Players: Marc McNulty



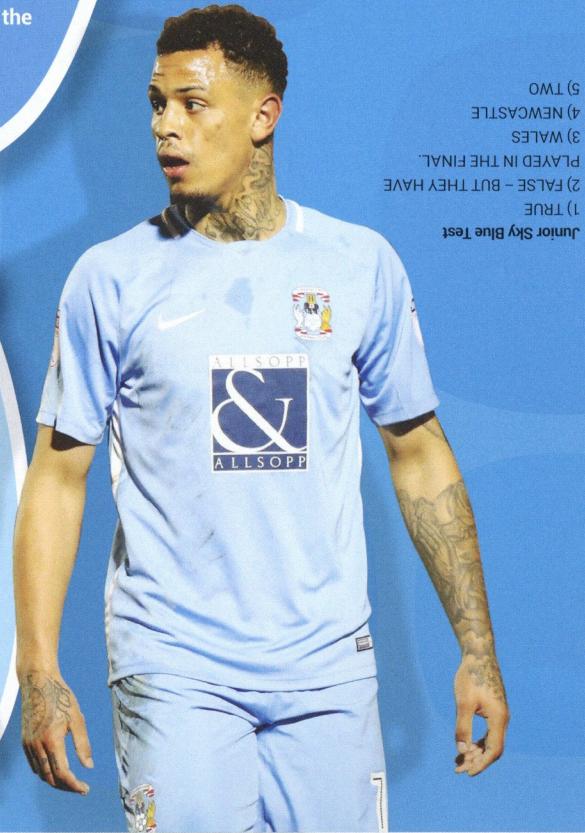
### FREDDIE LEWINGTON

Age: 4  
School: Flamstead JMI School  
Hobbies: Football  
Favourite Players: Olly Lee



### GEORGE LEWINGTON

Age: 7  
School: Flamstead JMI School  
Hobbies: Football  
Favourite Players: Glen Rea



## FIVE FACTS ON JONSON CLARKE-HARRIS

- 1) Jonson is on loan from Rotherham United
- 2) He started his career with Coventry, making one appearance in the League Cup in 2010 before being transferred to Peterborough.
- 3) His most recent game for Rotherham was against Bradford in January, a team he scored against earlier in the season in the Checkatrade Trophy.
- 4) He scored for the Sky Blues this season in the FA Cup at Brighton and against Mansfield in the league.
- 5) He scored against Coventry for Oldham in 2013.



# Jordan Shipley

**F**irst of all, Jordan how much have you enjoyed this season so far?

It's been great so far, I have really enjoyed it and it has been my breakthrough season, I've made a lot of appearances and hopefully there will be more to come.

**Would you say that so far it had gone better than you had expected back at the start of the campaign?**

When pre-season came around, I felt good and that I was going to do well this season, but I think I've surprised myself to be honest with how well it has gone.

**Did you set yourself any aims back then?**

I just wanted to be in and around the first team and maybe make a few appearances.

I've made more than I thought I would have and hopefully I can get some more.

**Is there a moment that you look back at in the season which was a turning point and helped kick start your run in the first team?**

There was a couple of times when I was on the bench in some games and I was doing well in the under-23 games and then there was a few injuries in the side and the Gaffer gave me my chance at Lincoln and I've been in the team ever since.

of midfield as well, but yes, I enjoy playing there, it's good.

**How much has the manager helped you in establishing yourself in the first team this season?**

He has helped me massively so far, he was the one who gave me the opportunity and he keeps pushing me every day along with Adi and they have been really good with me.

**Does it help having a manager who is willing to give youth a chance and has faith in you to be able to go out there and perform?**

Of course, and it's not just me, it's great for everyone here, people are





*Jordan*  
**SHIPLEY**



getting their chances and when they do they are taking it.

**This season also saw a great run in the FA Cup with some great memories created during that and you were one of a few players to**

**have featured in every game, so what was that like as a player?**

It was a great experience.

The MK Dons game away was fantastic, we had the Brighton



game away which was unreal and then obviously beating Stoke as well, it was all memorable.

**Is there one moment in particular that sticks out for you?**

I would probably have to say the MK Dons game, just because of having around 8,000 fans there and having more fans than them in the stadium and it was amazing to be a part of.

**Also, a few months back you signed a new deal, you must have been delighted to extend your stay with Coventry?**

It was good, I was really proud and delighted to have signed the deal. Me and my family have worked really hard over the last 12 years being here and it was really great.

**There isn't long left to go this season, so is there any more aims you have set yourself until then?**

It is just to keep being in the first

team and obviously help with the push for promotion and just to keep working hard and doing well.

**Tonight's opponents are one you will be familiar with, after you scored your first goal for the club against Luton, so will you be looking to be on free-kick duty again?**

Of course, I will be putting my name forward, but I know a few of the other lads want to try and score one or two, so we will probably take it in turns.

**Finally, of course tonight Luton are the visitors and it's a game that sees yourselves come up against a side above us in the league currently, so it gives you the chance to close the gap on them?**

Yes, it will be a massive game tonight for both teams, they're getting caught and we are trying to catch the pack and we are really looking forward to it and looking to get that win.





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SUPREMOS

# SKY BLUES **SUPREMOS**

By Rob Mason

Mark Robins is the latest in a long line of Sky Blue Supremos, the men who have tried to bring success to City. In this series PUSB reflects on the highs and lows on those who have occupied the hot-seat.



## DAVE SEXTON

**J**ust as it is often said that great players don't make great managers, it can be the case that journeymen footballers can emerge as excellent managers. In their playing days none of Sir Alex Ferguson, Jose Mourinho or Arsene Wenger can have laid claim to be the Panini sticker schoolkids most desired but they are amongst the greatest gaffers of the modern era. Similarly, Dave Sexton's career as a player was a modest one but he became a big name manager of Manchester United, Chelsea and others, as well as Coventry City.

A deep thinker on the game he was a student and advocate of the 'Total Football' pioneered by Rinus Michels with Ajax and the Netherlands in the early seventies. Sexton had considerable success but being a studious and cerebral character he lacked the larger than life personality the media and fans required for a high profile boss, such as another one-time Sky Blue Supremo, Ron Atkinson, who took over from him at Old Trafford.

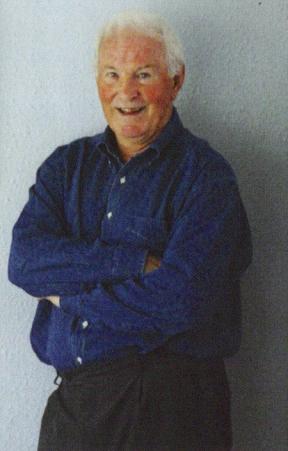
Gaining a degree in philosophy in later life, Sexton had actually been an amateur boxer as a youngster. He was following in the footsteps of his father Archie who fought for the Middle-weight title of Great Britain in 1933 but on the night after Dave's birth on 6 April 1930 lost to George Willis at the King's Hall in Manchester.

Sexton's absence of a brash nature was there for all to see right from the start of his managerial career when the comparison with the ebullient Tommy Docherty, his predecessor at Chelsea, couldn't have been more obvious.

Luton Town brought Sexton into the professional game in 1951 after the young inside-forward had attracted attention playing for Newmarket Town and Chelmsford. Under the renowned Dally Duncan, Sexton would play just nine league games for the Kenilworth Road club, scoring once before moving on to West Ham in March 1953 with his Hammers debut following in a 2-1 home defeat to Fulham on 3rd April.

The Boleyn Ground would be Dave's home for longer than anywhere else in his playing career. In 77 league and FA Cup games 29 goals came his way, including hat-tricks against Rotherham and Plymouth. Perhaps more importantly it was at West Ham that he honed his appreciation of the game. Under Ted Fenton the Hammers squad included a host of future managers. In addition to Sexton these included future Coventry boss Noel Cantwell, as well as Malcolm Allison, John Bond and another man who, like Sexton, would manage Manchester United, Frank O'Farrell. The group would frequent Casettari's Café opposite the Boleyn Ground to spend hours monopolising the café's condiments as they used them as props for talks on tactics as each developed their philosophy on how the game should be played.

It was while he was with West Ham that Sexton won his first representative honour, playing for the FA against The RAF at White Hart Lane in October 1953. He would later play for a Third Division South Select XI against their northern counterparts.



While he would later spend serious money as manager of Chelsea and Manchester United, the only fee Sexton ever moved for was the £2,000 Leyton Orient paid for him to switch East London allegiance in June 1956. There he played for one of the game's great managers Alec Stock (a future Luton boss) but when Stock left to take over at Roma at the start of Sexton's second season Dave moved on again in October to Brighton – shortly before Stock returned to Orient for whom Sexton had scored just four goals in 24 league appearances. Nonetheless his year working with Stock combined particularly with his West Ham experience was shaping the thoughts of a man destined to manage with distinction.

After 18 months on the south coast where his 17 goals in 24 games helped them to promotion (Sexton spending his £300 bonus on travelling to Sweden to watch the World Cup) Islington born Dave was back in London with Crystal Palace where his old Chelmsford manager George Smith was now in charge. Oddly, fourth division Palace pulled Chelmsford in the first round of the FA Cup, Sexton scoring in a 4-1 win, while he also played in Palace's record victory of 9-0 v Barrow.

February 1960 saw Dave score four goals in three games before what would be the final appearance of his

career away at the footballing outpost of Workington. While he would stay on Palace's books for another two years, cartilage problems saw him finished a couple of months before his 30th birthday.

Two years after playing for the last time Tommy Docherty gave Dave a chance, making him an assistant coach at Chelsea in February 1962. The Blues would win promotion back to the top flight in Sexton's first full season and he would stay at Stamford Bridge until January 1965 when he took up the hot-seat himself for the first time, back at Brisbane Road with Orient.

Sexton's steely side revealed itself when he made the unpopular move of releasing several club stalwarts and bleeding youngsters including 15-year old Paul Went but with his team bottom of the second division he resigned after 11 months in charge.

Two months later he was back in the game as coach of Fulham where he worked with George Cohen who would win a World Cup winner's medal with England that summer. Sexton wouldn't be around to admire it though as he started the following season at Arsenal as assistant manager to the newly appointed Bertie Mee.

Three months into his second season at Highbury Sexton was back in management himself – this time replacing Tommy Docherty at Chelsea.

He would stay at the Bridge for seven years leading the club to the FA Cup in 1970 and the European Cup Winners' Cup a year later, both won after replays, the latter against Real Madrid. A year later Sexton would guide the Blues to another final, this time in the League Cup where they succumbed to Stoke.

Dave's downfall in West London sprang from financial problems created by over-spending on a new stand combined with a growing number of disputes with crowd favourites. While at Orient these had been Sid Bishop, Stan Charlton and Dave Dunmore, at Chelsea it was Peter Osgood and Alan Hudson. Sacked in October 1974 Dave didn't have long to wait or far to travel for a new job as thirteen days later he was installed as manager of near neighbours QPR.

Within a couple of months he had signed a cheque for £100,000 to bring in schemer Don Masson and in his first full season of 1975-76 saw his stylish side finish as runners' up in the top flight, finishing a point behind Liverpool after beginning a run of eight wins from the last nine games with a 4-1 win over Coventry. Agonisingly Rangers were a point ahead of the Merseysiders after the Hoops completed their 42 game programme but had to wait an astonishing 10 days for the Anfielders to play their remaining fixture and squash their dreams with it, albeit they teased QPR by trailing at relegation threatened Wolves with 15 minutes left before coming back to win.

Having won a European trophy with Chelsea Sexton took QPR to the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup where they lost on penalties to AEK Athens after smashing 26 goals in eight games. They went one stage better in the League Cup, only to lose to Villa in a replay.

That summer Sexton was on the move again, not for the first time succeeding Tommy Docherty, this time at Manchester United. Once again he wasn't daunted by the opportunity to flash the cheque-book. Gordon McQueen, Joe Jordan, Ray Wilkins and eventually Gary Birtles arrived for big fees, the latter joining the then select £1m club - but it was winners' medals not runners' up ones that the Old Trafford hierarchy craved. Under

Sexton United lost the 1979 FA Cup final and as in Dave's time at Loftus Road, his side finished second in the league to Liverpool.

In his final campaign of 1980-81 there were only two league victories in 16 mid-season games which meant that despite ending the season with seven successive wins – including one at Highfield Road – Sexton was sacked as the season ended, with United in eighth place and having made no impact in the cups, going out of the League Cup to the Sky Blues.

It was the Sky Blues who were the next club to secure Sexton's services, appointing him in May 1981 as a replacement for Gordon Milne whose nine year hold on the helm had come to an end despite that League Cup win over Sexton's United setting them off on the road to the semi-final.

By the time the name of Dave Sexton was being put on the door of the manager's office at Highfield Road the gaffer was in his fifties and a highly regarded figure within the game. That sprang from the style of pass and move football he liked to play. His was a cultured approach to the game and Coventry supporters could look forward to seeing some attractive football. Sexton could look forward to the first game of the season, a typical quirk of the fixture list seeing his new club entertain his new one on the opening day when goals from Steve Whittom and Peter Bodak outscored a sole reply from Lou Macari. There was more to come for home fans as Leeds were seen off 4-0 in the next home game with another four put past Southampton soon afterwards.

Excellent home form and terrible away form was the order of the day until a first away victory at Spurs in December but instead of signalling improvement that win at White Hart Lane proved to be the last in the league until mid-March. Three draws and nine defeats included a horror show at home to Notts County who won 5-1.

Given that dismal form there may have been some trepidation as Dave stepped back into Old Trafford 36 years ago this week but once again Whittom was the hero, grabbing the only goal as Les Sealey kept a second clean sheet in three games after coming into the side.

Three days later home fans saw their first league win in four months as Sexton's side emulated his United team of the season before by finishing strongly. Starting with the win at Old Trafford there were seven wins and just one defeat in a 12 match spell which helped City to a 14th position finish, two places higher than the year before.

The start of Sexton's second season was almost a mirror image of his first with cracking home form. Indeed in the anniversary week of the 1-5 home defeat to Notts County a crowd of nine and a half thousand went home happy after a 4-0 home win over Manchester City saw Sexton's men move into double figures for home wins, with just two draws and a solitary defeat to Arsenal blemishing the record of a side who sat in fifth place.

Unfortunately history repeated itself with another 5-1 defeat to Notts County, this time at Meadow Lane and a season that was going well spiralled into near disaster. By the time City won at Stoke in the penultimate fixture only three points had been gleaned from the previous dozen winless matches.

Losing what would be Sexton's City swansong, one of his old clubs, West Ham, won 4-2 at Highfield Road. It was the season of Luton Town's final day win at Manchester City which doomed Man City to relegation, as recalled by Kirk Stephens elsewhere in this evening's PUSB in his 'Sent to Coventry' interview.

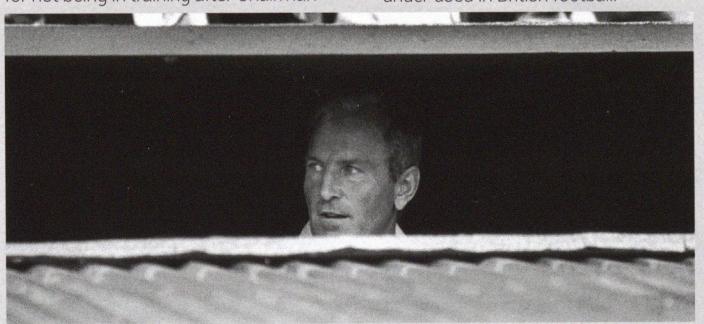
Comparing the side who were fifth on Valentine's Day and only just missed relegation there was one big difference. Garry Thompson made his final appearance in the Man City match. As relayed in Steve Phelps book '29 minutes from Wembley' Thompson has explained that Sexton fined him two weeks' wages for not being in training after Chairman

Jimmy Hill insisted Thompson was sold to West Brom to protect the club's financial future. Thompson being sold was bad enough for Sexton but being sold without his knowledge evidently left the writing on the wall for the manager who was sacked at the end of the season.

The Coventry job was to be Sexton's last manager's position in club football but he was far from finished as within a couple of months no less a figure than Bobby Robson appointed him as assistant manager to the England team, Sexton having coached Robson at Fulham in the mid-sixties. The national team calling on Sexton's experience was nothing new. For many years from 1977 to 1990 he had coached England Under 21s leading them to successive European titles, while he had also assisted Ron Greenwood and after the Robson era Dave would continue to work with Terry Venables, Glenn Hoddle, Kevin Keegan and Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Not content with that Sexton also became the FA's technical director at their School of Excellence at Lilleshall and in the first year of the Premier League in 1992-93 coached at Aston Villa who finished as runners' up.

Awarded the OBE in 2005, Dave Sexton passed away a month before Christmas in 2012 at the age of 82. His had been a life well lived. He is remembered as one of English football's most thoughtful managers and one who wanted his teams to produce attractive football. While his time with the Sky Blues was far from his most successful spell, City fans were given an insight into a footballing philosophy much under-rated and under-used in British football.





# Former Players Supporting The Sky Blues

with CCFPA's Mike Young  
Website: [www.ccfpa.co.uk](http://www.ccfpa.co.uk) Twitter: @ccfpa Facebook: @CCFPAOfficial

## TONIGHT'S SPECIAL GUEST – WELCOME KIRK

CCFPA President **Kirk Stephens** is particularly looking forward to seeing the Sky Blues take one of his previous clubs especially as they are currently table toppers! Though CCFC originally turned down the Caludon Castle youngster, local club Nuneaton Borough developed his talents under manager David Pleat and Kirk followed him to Luton Town in 1978.

At Kenilworth Road he made nearly 250 appearances (and two goals) becoming a firm favourite as an attacking full back. Kirk was overjoyed in 1984 to be brought back by fellow 'Cov Kid' (and CCFPA member) **Bobby Gould**.

Sadly, Kirk's top level career was limited by a severe knee injury in May 1986 after only 37 Sky Blues appearances (2 goals), though between 1987-89 he got non-league outings at Barnet, Stockingford and Nuneaton Borough where he eventually became player-manager (and later director).

Kirk still has business interests locally and has coached at the CCFC Academy. He is always heavily involved in CCFPA 'set piece' events.

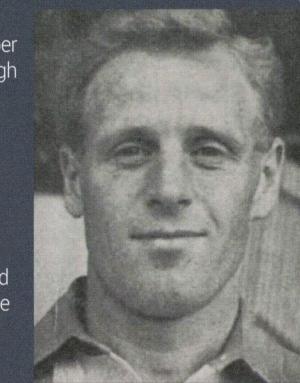


Kirk in the Sky Blue

## KEN MCPHERSON R.I.P.

We were sad to report the death of CCFPA's second oldest member, former CCFC striker (1955-58) **Ken McPherson** who passed away on the 5th February aged 90. CCFPA extends condolences to Ken's family and friends. Ken's funeral takes place this Thursday 15th March at Nottingham's Wilford Hill Crematorium at 12.40pm.

A paratrooper after the war Ken was a bustling 'old fashioned' centre forward who led CCFC's late 50s Div.3 South forward line. Ken scored plenty first with local club Hartlepools then at Notts. County (1950) understudying Tommy Lawton and later Middlesbrough.



## BAKES SEES STANLEY STUN SKY BLUES

CCFPA member, popular former Sky Blue skipper **Carl Baker** (now back at CCFC) was our 'special' at CCFC's 'Community Day' on 10th March against top ten rivals Accrington Stanley. Before over 28000 fans (a record for League Two) hopes for an 8th straight home win were dashed!



Carl interviewed as CCFC's Jodi Jones high fives

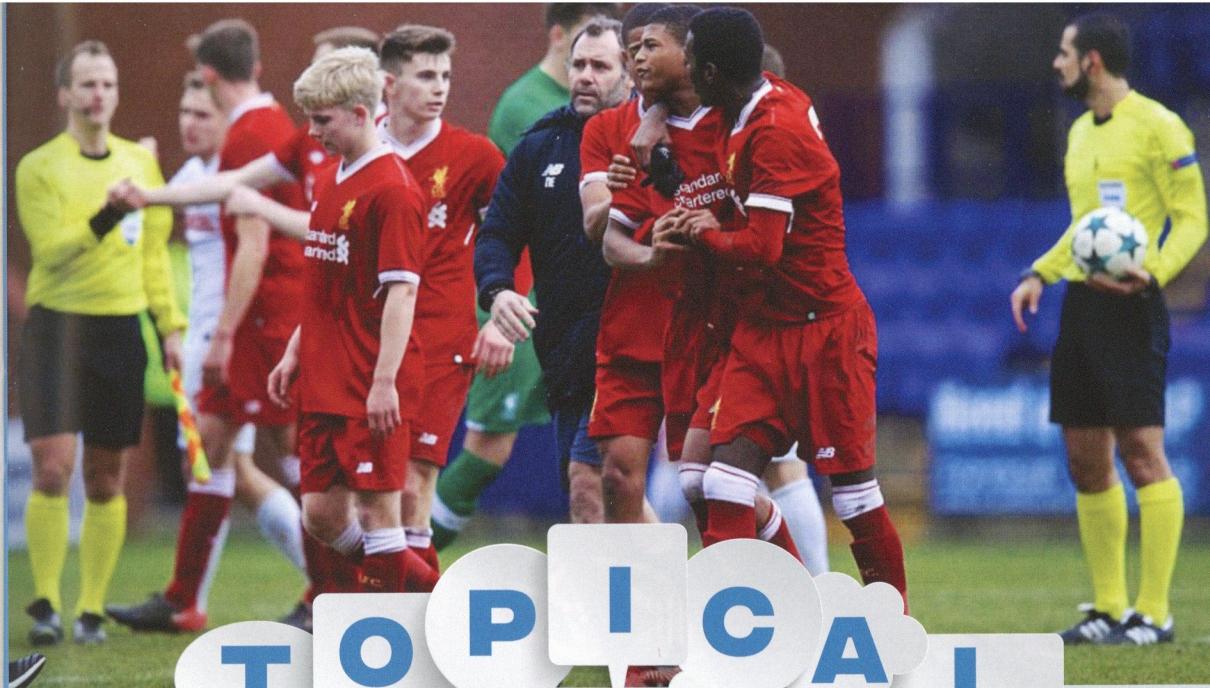
Carl first visited the packed Fans' Village in the Ericsson Exhibition Hall with some Sky Blues players (e.g. the injured Jodi Jones) for a Q&A hosted by CCFPA member, club host **Brian Roberts**. Autographs and selfies aplenty were taken up by excited youngsters. 'Harry' then took Carl up



Bakes & CWR's Stuart Linnell

to the Ricoh's supporters lounge for more Q&As along with injured Sky Blue full back Jack Grimmer.

Sadly 'Bakes' saw a somewhat disjointed, lack-lustre performance from Sky Blue side hit by injury and illness. Accrington made the most of their few chances to spoil the party with a 2-0 away win. Bakes comments during the game with BBC CWR's live match-day commentary team and post-match on stage in Lady Gs with CCFPA's **Billy Bell** (in front of another packed house) reflected disappointment at the way the game panned out. The Billy & Bakes show managed to raise a few smiles too!



## TOPICAL TALK

by Rob Mason

**I**n last Saturday's PUSB Dave Bennett spoke about the racism he experienced as a young player in the eighties. In England there can be no doubt that progress has been made since the days when Dave Bennett was a lad but anyone who thinks racism in football has been eradicated is sadly naïve.

Racism belittles the person guilty of racist actions. It shows their own vulnerability, their own lack of self-confidence in that they feel a need to be scornful of another in the mistaken belief that this shows them to be superior in some way. Prejudice against women, the LGBT community or any other group of people has the same root. Removing it is easier said than done. It's a bit like removing ivy from a tree it might bring down. Just because you've removed it once doesn't mean it won't come back again. You can never stop.

So why do UEFA appear to be possibly brushing accusations of racism by Spartak Moscow youth team captain Leonid Mironov

against 17-year old Liverpool player Rhian Brewster under the carpet?

Liverpool have accepted UEFA's decision to take no action but have praised their young player for 'bringing focus to this issue' while the BBC reports that the anti-racism organisation 'Kick It Out' expressed disappointment over UEFA's lack of action has been supported by the FA.

Apparently UEFA questioned the relevant match officials and five players from either team in the game without any of them being able to say they heard any discriminatory language. Mironov accepted he had sworn at Brewster but denied using racist language.

Perhaps he didn't and it is right that everyone is innocent unless proven otherwise. Kick It Out make the point that, 'Kick It Out believes there are issues with clubs, such as Spartak Moscow, who have been involved in several alleged racist incidents in recent years, receiving little or no discouragement by national and international football authorities in response to allegations of racism and discrimination. This underlying

issue is compounded with any action taken in relation to racist or discriminatory incidents rarely being appropriate. This current situation is intolerable.'

It seems as if what really happened between Brewster and Mironov is something only known to them. Possibly something was lost in translation. What cannot be lost is the determination of football to be a leader in ridding the world of racism. Things have improved since Dave Bennett was the age Rhian Brewster is now but that word is improved not removed.

Especially with the World Cup in Russia this summer it is imperative that people are alive to the dangers of racism. The clue is in the name of the competition it is the WORLD Cup. It is a tournament for everyone regardless of colour or anything else. As the world's game football does so much to bring people together and the only colours that matter are the colours of the kits

*The views expressed in this column are not necessarily the views of Coventry City Football Club*



# GET GAME READY



**BRING IT ON!**

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TICKET NEWS

## HOME TICKET NEWS



### v GRIMSBY TOWN

SkyBet League Two  
Saturday 24th March 2018  
Kick-Off: 3:00pm  
General Sale

### v YEOVIL TOWN

SkyBet League Two  
Monday 2nd April 2018  
Kick-Off: 3:00pm  
General Sale

### v STEVENAGE

SkyBet League Two  
Friday 20th April 2018  
Kick-Off: 7:45pm  
General Sale



### v CREWE ALEXANDRA

SkyBet League Two  
Saturday 17th March 2018  
Kick-Off: 3:00pm  
General Sale

## AWAY TICKET NEWS

### TICKET INFO & PRICES:

We have been given an allocation of 1630 tickets, for the North Stand Prices are shown below:

North Stand – Whitby Morrison  
Ice Cream Stand:

Adult - £22  
Senior (60+) - £17  
12-16 years - £10.50  
Under 11s - £6.50

DISABLED SUPPORTERS:  
Wheelchair/Ambulant disabled - £17  
Carer - £0

Please note – no tickets will be available to buy on the day at Crewe.

End of postal dispatch: Monday 12th March – 2pm. After this time, all tickets will be for collection only.

Off-Sale: Friday 16th March – MIDDAY

Any tickets not collected from the Butts Park Ticket Office will be sent to Crewe for collection on the day.

### CONTACT US:

0844 453 9134 (sales)  
0333 321 3134 (enquiries)

[eticketing.co.uk/ccfc](http://eticketing.co.uk/ccfc)  
[CCFTickets@ticketmaster.co.uk](mailto:CCFTickets@ticketmaster.co.uk)

[Butts Park Arena - CV1 3GE](http://ButtsParkArena-CV13GE)



# Kirk STEPHENS



## SENT TO COVENTRY

City's guest this evening is the President of the City Former Players' Association Kirk Stephens. His story is an amazing one, writes Rob Mason. Coventry born, Kirk was released by City as a youngster, was spotted by David Pleat playing in a trial for Peterborough and persuaded to sign for Nuneaton. Six years followed at the non-league outfit during which Pleat promised that if he ever became manager of a Football League club he'd come back to sign Stephens. Some five years after leaving to coach Luton, Pleat took over at Kenilworth Road and good as his word captured Kirk who

had starred alongside Trevor Peake at Nuneaton. 39 years ago Kirk made his Football League debut for Luton in a 6-1 win over Oldham Athletic. Four years in the second division culminated in Stephens being ever present as the divisional title was won in 1981-82. A year later came Luton's final day survival at Manchester City, made famous by Pleat skipping across the pitch after The Hatters' late winner.

Although Stephens was happy at Luton, a year later he couldn't resist the opportunity to return to Coventry where horribly he suffered a cruciate knee injury in just his



third game. Although he came back Kirk never returned to 100% fitness, his City career consisting of just 37 appearances, the last on a night when Cyrille Regis scored five goals in a 7-2 League Cup win over Chester in October 1985.

Kirk remains as passionate about the game as the most ardent supporter of either club here today- two clubs Kirk holds in the highest regard. As an experienced writer who has been interviewing players since the era when Kirk was playing he massively impressed me. Bouncier than an over-inflated ball on a hard surface, he is a person who sums up all that is good about football, and indeed both of today's clubs.

**PUSB:** What have you made to City's season so far?

**KIRK:** I've been saying this for a few seasons now, Coventry are always fancied to go up because we are one of the biggest clubs in the league, if not the biggest, so the expectations are always high. Having played for the club, coached at the academy, been a life-time supporter and apart of the Coventry City legends team I am no different. I just want the best for the football club. I love the place and I just

# FACT FILE

## Clubs:

COVENTRY CITY schoolboy player

Nuneaton Borough 1972-1978

Luton Town 1978-1984

COVENTRY CITY 1984 - retired

as a professional 1986

Stockingford 1987

Nuneaton Borough 1987

Barnet 1987

Nuneaton Borough 1998 - player/manager

Halesowen Town 2009 - manager

Nuneaton Town to 2012 - director, President

## Sky Blue total, all competitions:



## Career league and major cups total:



want us to be in a place where we can climb the league again.

**PUSB:** The Wembley win last season was the perfect illustration of what this club is capable of wasn't it?

**KIRK:** I was one of the tens of thousands at Wembley for what was a fantastic weekend. It just proved to everybody in the football world that Coventry City still has a big fan base. The people of Coventry showed that by turning up in such numbers. We just need a winning team. Promotion would be fantastic. If it was automatic promotion that would be great but if we were to get into the Play offs and win at Wembley what a way to end the season that would be.

**PUSB:** In your career you dealt with plenty of blows by reacting positively, what advice would you give City fans now when it comes to dealing with bouncing back from the low point the club reached last season?

**KIRK:** The supporters are still there and we know we can count on 8,000 every week. They stick with the team through thick and thin. Having supporters who have gone through what Coventry supporters have endured over the last six or seven years and still turn up regularly speaks volumes. Actions speak louder than words and their support shows that we all want success again. We have a good manager in Mark Robins and we've seen some good football this season. I do believe we need some experience in there and I believe that Carl Baker is doing well in training with the club. We need all the help we can in getting out of this league because it's not an easy division to get out of. People come to The Ricoh and they think it's like being at Wembley because the stadium and the facilities are so good and it helps a lot of visiting teams to raise their games. It's a similar sort of scenario that Tottenham have had this season actually playing at Wembley.

**PUSB:** Every year young players are released from clubs and if they have belief in themselves they come back. There were 12 years between you being released by City and walking out for your debut for your home-town club, but I imagine to the end

of your life that moment of walking down the tunnel for your City debut will be indelibly imprinted in your mind even though you already had a couple of hundred league games under your belt by then?

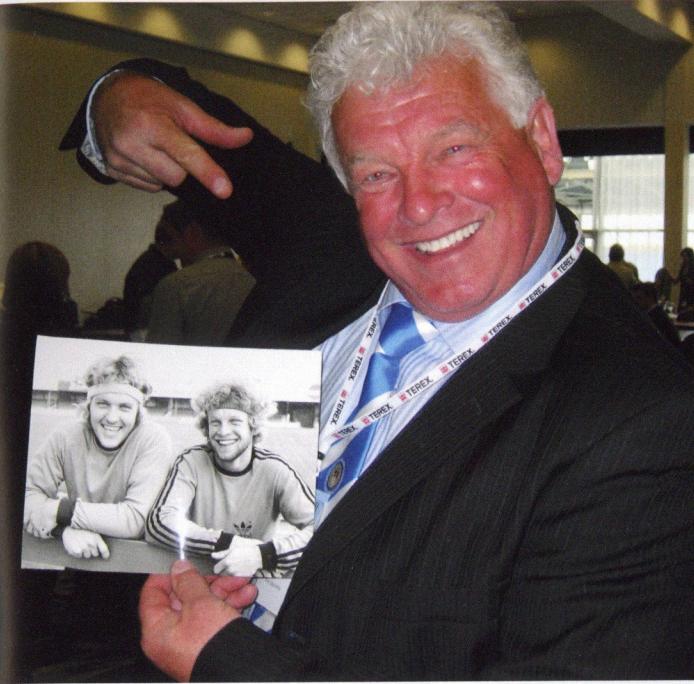
**KIRK:** Can I tell you I've just come out in goose-pimples talking to you about it. I remember turning up at the ground on the day and thinking 'I've achieved what I always wanted to do which is to run out at Highfield Road for my home town club'. Playing for your home town club in front of all your family and your friends is just fantastic – and I even scored a couple of goals as well! Unbelievable moments. It took me 12 years after being released to show the people of Coventry that I was good enough to play for the club but I got there.

**PUSB:** You stood on the West End Kop as a kid, who would have been your favourites when you were coming to the match?

**KIRK:** I used to watch Dave Clements, Ernie Hunt and people like that. I even saw George Hudson play and then there was Bill Glazier. What a goalkeeper he was. He'd have been an England international if he hadn't broken his leg. I have so many memories as a kid growing up in Coventry. I was at the Wolverhampton game when there were over 50,000 there in 1967.

**PUSB:** You'd have watched Bobby Gould play for Coventry when you were a boy. In your wildest dreams did you ever imagine he might one day sign you?

**KIRK:** It was amazing. I'd even been to the same school as Bobby Gould, Caludon Castle. I'm forever indebted to Bobby Gould for signing me for Coventry and to David Pleat for letting me go. I turned down a 60% pay rise at Luton to sign for Coventry. David Pleat explained to me he was about to offer me a new contract and showed me the deal he had organised. It was a great deal especially for those days and he understood when I explained him that I wasn't in the game for the money and never had been. I just wanted to play for the football club and he told me I could go with his blessing.



**PUSB:** Could you do a tour of Premier and Football League dressing rooms and express that attitude please?

**KIRK:** It's a different game now. Things have changed. When was the last time you saw one player give another a rollicking? You don't see that now. What you do see is a big centre-half heading the ball out of the box and high-fiving his mate just because he's done his job!

**PUSB:** When you did move to Luton to begin life as a pro at the age of 23 after six years at Luton it was a massive leap from the Southern League Premier to the second division. Did you take some time to get to grips with it or did you not find the gap as huge as might be imagined?

**KIRK:** I didn't find it as big a leap as might be imagined but that was because I'd played in a great team at Nuneaton. There were some fantastic footballers there who I'd really enjoyed playing alongside. When I went to Luton I played with a smile on my face and took a pay cut to do so. At work I'd been getting £90 a week and joined Luton for £70 a week but I wanted to play so I made sure I enjoyed it. It was like being paid to do a hobby and I loved it. David

Pleat knew me from when I'd played for him at Nuneaton and he paved the way for me to make the transition.

**PUSB:** In your last five years at Luton you played at least 40 games a season so it was unbelievably bad luck to get such a bad injury so soon after coming to Coventry, yet you have always acknowledged the Leicester player Bob Hazell you collided with was making a fair challenge.

**KIRK:** I loved playing football and managed to play for a good few years. I played at Highfield Road in a Sky Blue shirt against top class teams. I don't look at what I lost, I look at what I had. I love still being involved with the club as we've got a great thing going with the Former Players' Association. The committee works so hard and do such a lot of good work.

**PUSB:** At Luton you were ever present as promotion was won in 1982 and played at Manchester City on the final day the following season on the day everyone remembers, not least for David Pleat's celebration of Raddy Antic's late winner. Does that game rate as the most dramatic of your career?

**KIRK:** It was certainly one of the

most dramatic moments I was ever involved with. Tony Greish, who sadly is dead now, played in that game and he captained Brighton in the cup-final against Manchester United but he told me he didn't remember much of the cup final but he recalled every minute of that game at Maine Road! It was tear-jerking stuff that was, probably one of the most emotional moments of my career.

**PUSB:** On a personal level you were famed for stopping other people but everyone likes to score and if you're only going to score a handful in a career you might as well make one of them a last minute winner in a derby and your goal for Luton at Watford must be a big part of your hero status at Kenilworth Road.

**KIRK:** We hadn't played Watford since 1972 and I managed to score the only goal of the game! It's a goal that made me very popular! A lot of people ask me my memory of that goal and I tell them I don't remember much about it as it's nearly 30 years ago so all I can remember about is it was on Boxing Day in 1979 and Jake Findlay rolled it out to Alan West. He sent the ball into Ricky Hill's feet and he then played a little one-two with Brian Stein. He fed Dave Moss who cut inside and played it to Bob Hatton who was steaming down the left wing. He crossed it to the far post and bang! I scored with a header in the 89th minute – but other than that I don't remember too much about it to be honest!

**PUSB:** With business interests and being a director at Nuneaton since your playing days you've always been very active. Are you retired now or still involved in things in addition to being President of the Coventry Former Players' Association?

**KIRK:** I'm still involved in the family business. All the family work in it and all the people involved all work together and they are absolutely fantastic. Football wise I'm not a director at Nuneaton as it was just too time consuming and when I can I try to spend a little bit of time in Spain. I'm still a bit of a workaholic though and I've no plans to retire.



Glazier saving at the feet of George Best with Dave Clements looking on.

## SKY BLUE STORY - 50 YEARS ON

with Club Historian Jim Brown

### MAJOR FIRE CAN'T STOP SKY BLUES HUMBLING THE CHAMPIONS.

**A**s if Coventry City had not had enough blows in their inaugural First Division season the club were shocked on the morning of 6th March when a fire destroyed a large part of the Main Stand. The fire, caused by a dropped cigarette at the previous night's reserve game, destroyed most of the club's offices, the ticket office, the boardroom and many parts of the seating in the stand that had been built in 1936.

City were at Manchester City on the following Saturday so had ten days to get their act together for what would be the biggest crowd of the season, against champions Manchester United. With the floodlights temporarily out of order the club switched a reserve game to St Andrews and Wolves offered City the use of Molineux if

Highfield Road was unplayable.

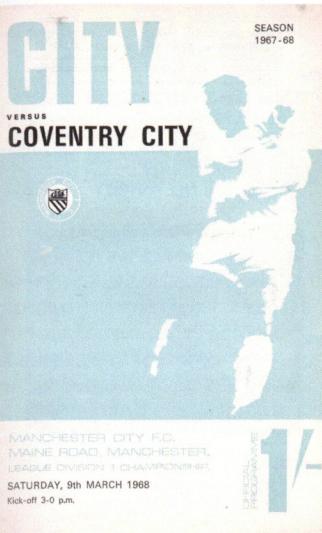
Cantwell named an unchanged side for the trip to Maine Road and his red-shirted side were on the defence from the start against second-placed Man City. Mike Summerbee should have scored on 12 minutes but he hesitated and Glazier snatched the ball off his toe. The former Swindon winger had to wait only seven more minutes for his goal however. Glazier was beaten to a corner by Colin Bell whose glancing header was forced home by Summerbee.

The home side dominated the rest of the half and City's only effort was Hannigan's 35-yard shot, which was only parried by goalkeeper Ken Mulhern but the 'keeper recovered to foil Neil Martin. Two minutes before the break there was a major incident which saw two players sent off. Dietmar Bruck came in with a heavy tackle on Tony Coleman and

the Manchester winger kicked Bruck in retaliation. After a hectic scrum involving many players and Man City coach Malcolm Allison, the referee ordered Bruck and Coleman from the field.

After half-time Manchester's superior ability was evident and Colin Bell made it 2-0 after 49 minutes and although John Tudor pulled one back in the 76th minute Neil Young soon made it 3-1. Four minutes from time Glazier made a fine save from Francis Lee's penalty, given for a trip by Maurice Setters on Summerbee. The win pulled City to two points behind United at the top of the table. In summing up City's performance, Derek Henderson wrote in the Coventry Telegraph that 'the team wore a hang-dog look which gave the impression they were almost resigned to defeat'.

On the eve of the big game with



Manchester United it was transfer deadline day and City were very busy. Ronnie Rees joined West Brom for £70,000, Dudley Roberts signed for Mansfield for £5,000 and John Key joined Orient for £1,000. City captured Ernie Hunt from Everton for £65,000 and Chris Cattlin from Huddersfield for £70,000. At Highfield Road whilst transfer talks went on, workmen toiled all night under arc lights to get the temporary seating in place ahead of the big game.

The next day the two new signings slotted perfectly into the side with Cattlin blotting George Best out of the game and Hunt's busy midfield activity impressed the fans. Bobby Charlton and Pat Crerand were similarly not at their best and with Denis Law missing injured the United powerhouse was short-circuited.

City survived early United pressure in an even first thirty minutes and when the breakthrough came it was for the Sky Blues. Carr fed Ernie Machin and the City skipper cracked in a shot which was so fierce that the ball hit the stanchion and came back out as Alex Stepney was diving. The goal sparked a pitch invasion from hundreds of young boys.

United piled the pressure on City after half-time but on 52 minutes it was 2-0 when former Red Maurice Setters headed home. Ernie

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1	Manchester City	31	19	5	7	69	34	43
2	Manchester Utd	31	18	7	6	60	38	43
3	Leeds Utd	31	17	8	6	54	26	42
4	Liverpool	31	16	9	6	49	27	41
5	Newcastle Utd	32	12	13	7	47	42	37
6	Everton	30	15	4	11	49	33	34
7	Tottenham Hotspur	31	13	8	10	44	45	34
8	West Bromwich Albion	31	13	7	11	56	48	33
9	Nottingham Forest	31	12	8	11	42	35	32
10	Chelsea	30	11	10	9	49	58	32
11	Arsenal	30	10	9	11	41	37	29
12	Burnley	31	10	8	13	51	58	28
13	Sheffield Wednesday	31	10	8	13	41	47	28
14	Leicester City	30	9	9	12	48	54	27
15	Stoke City	30	11	5	14	37	46	27
16	Southampton	32	10	7	15	52	66	27
17	Wolverhampton Wanderers	31	10	6	15	49	62	26
18	West Ham Utd	30	10	5	15	57	57	25
19	Sheffield Utd	32	8	9	15	37	55	25
20	Coventry City	32	7	10	15	41	60	24
21	Sunderland	31	8	7	16	36	54	23
22	Fulham	31	8	4	19	43	70	20

Table 16 March 1968

Hannigan's corner. United's tails were up now and Charlton peppered the City goal with his fierce shots before David Herd hit a post. That was the last real chance for the league leaders and the City fans in

the 47,111 crowd went home happy having witnessed one of the greatest results in the club's history. Man City thumped Fulham 5-1 and replaced United at the top of the table.



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## TWO'S COMPANY

Rob Mason rounds up news from SKYBET League Two.

The thought that **Luton** would come to The Ricoh not as league leaders is something that few people would have expected until recently, but Saturday's dramatic home defeat to **Accrington Stanley** toppled The Hatters who succumbed to an added time winner. That came from the league's top scorer Billy Kee but Luton are the division's highest scorers and will be determined to respond positively tonight after manager Nathan Jones suggested that after being front-runners for so long the weekend's result might be a reality check. Consequently, **Coventry** will have to be at their best tonight.

At this stage of the season it is all about results and after Saturday's 1-0 win over bottom of the table **Barnet**, the Sky Blues are only kept out of the Play Off places on goals scored. Seventh placed **Lincoln's** first away league win in three months leaves them level with Mark Robins' men on points and goal difference but with The Imps having hit the back of the net more often, three of those goals coming in a 3-1 win at **Chesterfield**. The Spireites lost for the 10th time in 14 games but, putting things in perspective, a 30 minute delay while an air ambulance landed on the pitch to bring aid to a stricken supporter should concentrate the mind.

Concentration seemed to be in short supply at Adams Park where **Wycombe** took the lead deep into first half injury time against **Cambridge** only to let slip two points as the visitors equalised three minutes into added time at the end of the game.

The Chairboys are now two points behind third placed **Notts County** who won 2-1 at **Forest Green Rovers**. Like Wycombe, **Exeter** dropped points at home, **Carlisle's** 694 mile round trip being rewarded with a point from a 1-1 draw.

There is now an added subplot to observing the progress of **Mansfield** and **Swindon**. Having been appointed

former Coventry youth 'keeper James McKeown who saved his second spot-kick in successive games. Along with James Berrett's last minute equaliser this enabled The Mariners to not only take a point from a home 1-1 draw with **Port Vale**, but subsequently prevent Vale from leap-frogging them.

Added time goals were also the order of the day as **Crawley** entertained **Morecambe**, both goals in one of the division's five 1-1 draws coming after the initial 90 minutes were up.

A draw looked unlikely with 10 minutes to go at **Stevenage** where the home side led **Crewe** 2-0 before the visitors came back to take a point that keeps them above Forest Green and Grimsby on goal difference. That fightback also saw Crewe climb to within a point of **Yeovil** who lost 2-0 at home to **Newport** who marked Mike Flynn's first anniversary in charge by winning for the first time in ten.

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Accrington Stanley	36	22	5	9	61	39	22	71
2	Luton Town	36	20	9	7	76	37	39	69
3	Notts County	37	18	11	8	59	38	21	65
4	Wycombe Wanderers	36	18	9	9	68	52	16	63
5	Mansfield Town	36	16	14	6	55	37	18	62
6	Exeter City	34	18	5	11	45	38	7	59
7	Lincoln City	36	15	12	9	50	39	11	57
8	Coventry City	35	17	6	12	39	28	11	57
9	Swindon Town	36	18	3	15	55	54	1	57
10	Carlisle United	37	15	10	12	53	46	7	55
11	Newport County	36	13	13	10	46	46	0	52
12	Crawley Town	36	15	7	14	42	44	-2	52
13	Colchester United	36	13	12	11	46	42	4	51
14	Cambridge United	37	13	11	13	37	47	-10	50
15	Cheltenham Town	37	11	11	15	52	53	-1	44
16	Stevenage	36	11	10	15	48	53	-5	43
17	Yeovil Town	35	10	8	17	46	57	-11	38
18	Crewe Alexandra	36	11	4	21	43	59	-16	37
19	Forest Green Rovers	36	10	7	19	43	61	-18	37
20	Grimsby Town	37	9	10	18	31	54	-23	37
21	Morecambe	35	8	12	15	35	46	-11	36
22	Port Vale	35	9	9	17	38	50	-12	36
23	Chesterfield	35	8	6	21	36	64	-28	30
24	Barnet	36	7	8	21	33	53	-20	29



Saturday 10th March 2018

	<b>CLARKE-HARRIS 75</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>0</b>
BURGE GRIMMER HYAM MCDONALD HAYNES KELLY DOYLE BAYLISS REID (62' BARRETT) MCNULTY CLARKE-HARRIS (84' BIAMOU)	LEGG SANTOS WATSON WESTON AKINDE (78' NICHOLSON) COULTHIRST (78' AKINOLA) TUTONDA IZQUIERDO (78' TAYLOR) VILHETE NICHOLLS SWEENEY			
UNUSED SUBS: O'BRIEN, STOKES, WILLIS, DEV. KELLY-EVANS, PONTICELLI	UNUSED SUBS: ROSS, CLOUGH, TAYLOR, AKINOLA, NICHOLSON, PLAVOTIC, BRIGGS			

Referee: Gavin Ward | Attendance: 7,127 (353)

**Mark Robins said:** "Sparky [Marc McNulty] got his shot away and Jonson [Clarke-Harris] has read it well and put it in the net so I am relieved,"

"We can now get this game out of our system and move on to Tuesday night against Luton."

"We had to stick in. They are fighting for their lives and the pitch was poor. That made it very difficult because the ball was bouncing high and we had to stay concentrated."

"We had to rely on a world-class save from Lee Burge in the first half to keep us in the game."





## SKYBLUES in the COMMUNITY

Registered Charity Number: 1127014

### COVENTRY MEN ARE GETTING FIT WITH THE SUPPORT OF SBITC'S INFORM PROJECT!

Thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Fund, Sky Blues in the Community (SBiC) have been supporting local men to get fit and healthy over the last 5 years through the "InForm" project. InForm is a project aimed at men living in Coventry and essentially uses football and fitness to engage, encourage and support men in looking after their health and well-being.

Alongside the football sessions, the project has evolved and introduced new sessions including: a specific weight-management exercise class; a men's only running group and a men's only circuit class – resulting in more and more of Coventry's men getting fitter and healthier with the help of the Sky Blues InForm project.

2018 signaled the start of a mass expansion of SBiC's 'InForm' project which aims to improve the participation levels of Coventry men when it comes to sport and fitness as well as support them in adopting healthier habits. Brand new sessions have been added to the programme which previously

included just football sessions and the increasingly popular Walking Football aimed for those aged 50+.

New sessions include the popular men's only fitness class, which is held every Monday night at the Woodlands Sports Complex in Coventry. On the first week of this programme men of all abilities took part in some fitness testing which included press-ups, sit-ups, wall-sits and other exercises. Since then, they have been working week by week to improve their own fitness levels in the hope of gaining improving their fitness scores when they are retested at the end of the programme.

Sky Blues in the Community's Sport & Fitness Coach, Jack Tombs, told us: "All the men that come along have been working really hard to improve their fitness from week to week. The sessions are very lively with quite a bit of banter flying around the sports hall, but the men also really encourage each other to reach targets they've set for themselves".

The Big Lottery Fund is the largest



distributor of National Lottery good cause funding across the UK. The Fund aims to enable others to make real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need. To find out more information on any on the InForm sessions please contact Sky Blues in the Community Health Manager Nathan Isom, via Email: nathan.isom@ccfc.co.uk or Telephone: 024 7678 6521.



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### SKY BLUES' ACCELERATE PROGRAMME BOOSTS SANDRA'S CONFIDENCE & MOTIVATES HER TO PURSUE HER PASSION!

Sky Blues in the Community (SBiC) are celebrating the achievement of one particular female who has also recently achieved an accredited Sports Leadership Qualification through SBiC's Accelerate programme. Sandra is also a dedicated volunteer for our 'In it Together' project, supporting females to get active as part of our women's running programme.

Accelerate is a network of 23 local organisations (including Sky Blues in the Community), funded by the Big Lottery Fund and European Social Fund and



### SKY BLUES IN THE COMMUNITY AND WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL LAUNCH WARWICK MULTI-SPORTS CAMPS

During the recent February half-term, the Sky Blues in the Community (SBiC) team delivered a series of Multi-Sports Camps to Primary School children in Key Stages 1 and 2 at Warwick Gates Community Centre.

The camp was kindly supported by funding Warwick District Council who will continue to work in partnership with Sky Blues in the Community to support provision across Warwick for the remaining school holidays in 2018, with the next camps during Easter at 2 local Warwick venues.



managed by Coventry & Warwickshire CDA. Accelerate aims to provide opportunities to support individuals and remove barriers preventing them from entering work or self-employment.

Sky Blues in the Community offers Accelerate participants the opportunity to undertake a Level 1 Qualification in Sports Leadership alongside a variety of workshops in health & wellbeing, employability skills and literacy & numeracy.

Sandra (pictured collecting her certificate at half-time vs. Swindon Town) had previously worked as an Office Manager. However, with a strong passion for exercise and running, she decided to enrol onto the Accelerate programme to pursue a career change and take up a new opportunity.

Accelerate project participant, Sandra, told us: "The whole experience has boosted my confidence and helped me to tackle some of the doubts that have been holding me back! I feel more positive and motivated to work towards something that I am passionate about. I have great affirmation in my ability to achieve my goals! I now know how to

Children played a variety of sports across the 4 day camp which gave them opportunities to improve, enjoy and compete against others in sports such as; football, dodgeball, basketball, athletics and many more. Camps were targeted at local children aged 5-11 and all children who attended received a SBiC medal and ticket voucher for a home league game this season.

Sky Blues in the Community's Premier League Sport Manager, Neil Kelly, said: "It's great to be working with Warwick District Council who are helping to fund our delivery for children in Warwick. The feedback from our first camp was really positive and the children were able to experience lots of different sports from qualified coaches. We're targeting more children at our 2 camps in Easter!"

#### SAVE THE DATE!

The next Multi-Sports Camps for boys and girls aged 5-11 will be taking place during

evaluate situations, set achievable targets and adapt to situations better.

My personal highlight was developing the confidence to deliver my own coaching session, which I had planned myself. I was so proud of myself being able to deliver this & how well it went – I was so motivated by the feedback I received afterwards. With the help of Accelerate's Journey Guides, I have future goals to access more training opportunities to further develop my skills & attend business enterprise workshops to explore setting up my own coaching business.

For now, I am continuing to volunteer as a Run Leader, putting my new Sports Leadership skills into practice with Sky Blues in the Community."

For more information about the Accelerate project, please contact Sky Blues in the Community's Training & Skills Officer, Andrew Hopcroft, via Email: andrew.hopcroft@ccfc.co.uk or Telephone: 024 7678 6349.



the Easter Holidays from 9:30am – 3:00pm at:

- Acre Close Community Centre in Whitnash – Tuesday 3rd and Friday 6th April.
- Warwick Gates Community Centre in Warwick Gates – Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th April 2018.

Prices are just £11.50 per day or only £10 per day when booking more than one day. For more information on our next Multi-Sports Camps in Warwick please contact the Sky Blues in the Community office on: 024 7678 6349.

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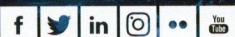
If every all-weather and natural grass pitch the Football Foundation funded was laid back-to-back, it would stretch from London's **BIG BEN TO CALAIS!**

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!**

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WHO: **GRIMSBY TOWN**  
WHEN: **SATURDAY 24 MARCH  
K.O. 3.00PM**  
WHERE: **RICOH ARENA**  
WHAT: **SKYBET  
LEAGUE TWO**

**G**oing into Saturday's key game at home to Port Vale The Mariners were still waiting for their first win since a fortnight before Christmas. It is a run that cost former Sky Blue supremo Russell Slade his job with Michael Jolley taking charge of his first game today following Paul Wilkinson's caretaker stint.

Jolley is a graduate of Cambridge University, has a Masters' degree and at the time of the appalling 2001 terrorist attack in New York was working near the World Trade Centre as a fixed income trader. Three years later he stepped into football at Academy level with Crystal Palace. A holder of the UEFA Pro Licence Jolley's career led him to coach in Scotland, take



A new manager will have new ideas and perhaps a change of personnel but last time out Grimsby had former Coventry youth player James McKeown in goal. Now 29 he has played over 300 times for Grimsby and saved a penalty on his most recent appearance.

Zak Mills is the usual right back but switched to the opposite flank part way through the last game after an injury to Paul Dixon. At centre back recent Coventry man Nathan Clarke



## NEXT UP

Rob Mason looks ahead to the next home fixture.



partners the vastly experienced Danny Collins.

There is plenty of experience too in the shape of James Berrett who has over 350 games under his belt but found himself in a new role on right at Carlisle. In the centre Mitch Rose – brother of Spurs and England star Danny – is a hard working box-to-box man who is strong in the air. Recently he has been partnered with another man with a footballing relative. The well-travelled Luke Summerfield's father Kevin played almost 400 league games, starting at West Brom. Providing pace amongst the experience is teenager Diallang Jaiyesimi, a winger on loan from The Canaries.

Scotland Under 21 international Harry Cardwell has been at centre-forward. In his first season at the club, the 21-year old is yet to register a league goal. Alongside Cardwell and providing 29 career league goals, including three this season, is Jamille Matt who is on loan from Blackpool.

**Ginsters**  
of Cornwall

# Full Time



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\*IRI data MAT 26.03.16

INTERVIEW



## CARL BAKER

Last week, we were delighted to confirm the return of Carl Baker to the Sky Blues, as he signed on a short-term deal until the end of the season.

Baker, who was previously with Indian side ATK, suffered an injury and has been working with the medical team at Coventry in order to get back to full fitness over the past few weeks.

Carl is no stranger to Sky Blues fans having played for the club from 2010 to 2014. He played 182 games and scored 28 goals, and proved a fans favourite for his attitude and committed performances in his first stint.

The midfielder spoke exclusively to the official club website of his delight at returning to the club.

He said: "It feels great to be honest.

"It's just a relief and obviously it's been a tough couple of months for me so it's nice to get back involved and I'm looking forward to getting back going now.

"I already feel like I'm settled in now

already and I know most of the lads and some with my Portsmouth connections from last year, so it's not felt like I've come into a new club at all and even in my first few days coming in I felt pretty settled.

"I've come back hopefully to get promoted.

"I've seen the lads training and the Gaffer has put some good sessions on over the last few weeks I've been here and they've been working really hard and the lads look like they're in good shape.

"There are some talented players here so hopefully I can bring in some more experience and help some of the younger lads, similar to what Michael Doyle does on a regular basis."

Baker suffered an injury that cut short his spell in India and he came back to England and eventually began regaining fitness with the Sky Blues.

The 35-year-old has been working hard to get back to full fitness and after weeks of rehabilitation he has now returned to full training with the club.

He added: "I'm feeling really good at

the minute and hopefully my injury stays the way it is, as I feel I could go on for another couple of years.

"My body feels in good condition, so fingers crossed it keeps reacting well to training as it has over the last three, four weeks.

"I've been coming in with Pauline Robertson and Andy Young and they've been fantastic with me and I appreciated the one to one work they've done with me.

"It's reacted really well and the Gaffer has given me the chance to get some sessions in with the first team and again its reacted well to that and I'm just happy to be back and hopefully I can play some part and help contribute from now until the end of the season.

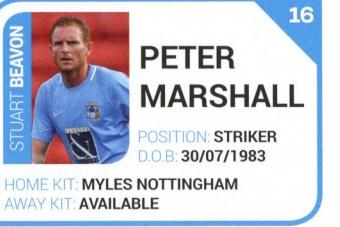
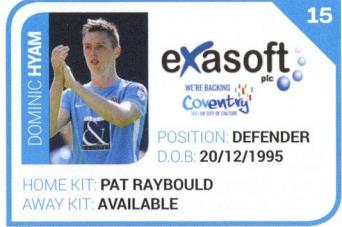
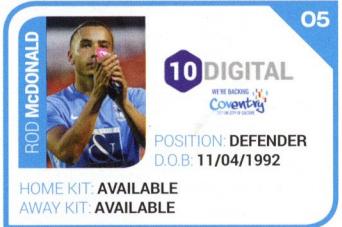
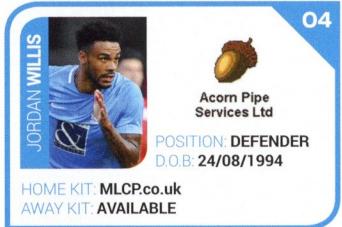
"It's been nice to get sweating again, getting out on the field, putting the boots back on and it's just those small little things that you miss when you're out injured for so long and being in amongst the lads and being involved in the banter.

"It's definitely better than sitting at home and watching Jeremy Kyle."



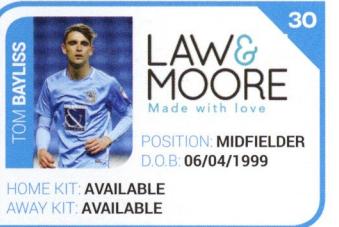
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## FIXTURES

# FIXTURES & RESULTS 2017/18



**KEY:** Goalscorers in bold - McNulty1 = 1 goal scored by McNulty  
1st Sub: Green | 2nd Sub: Blue | 3rd Sub: Red | Example - **McNulty** (65) - sub on 65 minute  
Yellow Card | Red Card | Home games are highlighted Blue.



## COVENTRY CITY

MANAGER: MARK ROBINS

- 01 ○ Lee **BURGE**
- 02 ○ Jack **GRIMMER**
- 03 ○ Chris **STOKES**
- 04 ○ Jordan **WILLIS**
- 05 ○ Rod **MCDONALD**
- 06 ○ Liam **KELLY**
- 07 ○ Peter **VINCENTI**
- 08 ○ Michael **DOYLE**
- 09 ○ Max **BIAMOU**
- 10 ○ Marc **McNULTY**
- 11 ○ Jodi **JONES**
- 12 ○ Tom **DAVIES**
- 13 ○ Liam **O'BRIEN**
- 15 ○ Dominic **HYAM**
- 16 ○ Stuart **BEAVON**
- 17 ○ Jordan **MAGUIRE-DREW**<sup>1</sup>
- 18 ○ Jonson **CLARKE-HARRIS**<sup>3</sup>
- 19 ○ Tony **ANDREU**
- 20 ○ Dion **KELLY-EVANS**
- 22 ○ Devon **KELLY-EVANS**
- 23 ○ Carl **BAKER**
- 24 ○ Ryan **HAYNES**
- 26 ○ Jordan **SHIPLEY**
- 27 ○ Josh **BARRETT**<sup>2</sup>
- 28 ○ Callum **MAYCOCK**
- 29 ○ Bilal **SAYOUD**
- 30 ○ Tom **BAYLISS**
- 32 ○ Kyel **REID**
- 33 ○ Corey **ADDAI**<sup>4</sup>
- 34 ○ Chris **CAMWELL**
- 35 ○ Kyle **FINN**
- 36 ○ Reece **FORD**
- 37 ○ Jak **HICKMAN**
- 38 ○ Jordan **PONTICELLI**
- 39 ○ Jordon **THOMPSON**

<sup>1</sup> On loan from Brighton & Hove Albion

<sup>2</sup> On loan from Reading

<sup>3</sup> On loan from Rotherham United

<sup>4</sup> On loan to Dulwich Hamlet



## LUTON TOWN

MANAGER: NATHAN JONES

- 01 ○ Marek **STECH**
- 02 ○ James **JUSTIN**
- 03 ○ Dan **POTTS**
- 04 ○ Alan **MCCORMACK**
- 05 ○ Johnny **MULLINS**
- 06 ○ Scott **CUTHBERT**
- 07 ○ Jack **STACEY**
- 08 ○ Olly **LEE**
- 09 ○ Danny **HYLTON**
- 10 ○ Jordan **COOK**
- 11 ○ Andrew **SHINNIE**
- 14 ○ Harry **CORNICK**
- 15 ○ Jake **JERVIS**
- 16 ○ Glen **REA**
- 17 ○ Pelly **RUDDOCK**
- 18 ○ Luke **BERRY**
- 19 ○ James **COLLINS**
- 20 ○ Flynn **DOWNES**
- 21 ○ Jack **SENIOR**
- 22 ○ Luke **GAMBIN**
- 24 ○ Lawson **D'ATH**
- 27 ○ Aaron **JARVIS**
- 28 ○ Lloyd **JONES**
- 35 ○ Arthur **READ**
- 36 ○ James **SHEA**
- 38 ○ Elliot **LEE**
- 39 ○ Akin **FAMEWO**
- 44 ○ Alan **SHEEHAN**

## MATCH OFFICIALS



REFEREE  
Charles **BREAKSPEAR**



ASSISTANT  
Darren **STRAIN**



ASSISTANT  
Chris **ISHERWOOD**



FOURTH OFFICIAL  
Paul **HOBDAY**

## NEXT UP AT THE RICOH



### GRIMSBY TOWN

SATURDAY 24TH MARCH 2018  
SKY BET LEAGUE TWO  
KICK OFF 3.00PM

OFFICIAL CLUB PARTNER



OFFICIAL KIT SUPPLIER



OFFICIAL RETAIL PARTNER



OFFICIAL CLUB PARTNER

