



THIS IS UR TOWN

OFFICIAL LTFC MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

2018-19 SEASON | ISSUE #1

LUTON TOWN V SUNDERLAND

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PUMAONE

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW
Switchboard: 01582 411622
Ticket office: 01582 416976
info@lutontown.co.uk | www.lutontown.co.uk

CLUB OFFICIALS

Chairman: David Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer: Gary Sweet
Directors: Paul Ballantyne, Stephen Browne
Bob Curson, Mike Herrick
Associate Director: Mick Pattinson
Finance Director: Simon Gibb
Vice Presidents: Richard Banks, Cliff Bassett,
Rob Stringer, Gary Chamberlain, Doug Knight,
Ian Gazeley, Emma Banks, Ben Banks,
Ian Montone, Nick Owen
Honourary Vice President: John Buttle.
Team Manager: Nathan Jones
Assistant Manager: Paul Hart
Chief Recruitment Officer: Mick Harford
First-Team Coach: Joaquin Gomez
Goalkeeping Coach: Kevin Dearden
Head Of Sports Science: Jared Roberts-Smith
Performance Analyst: Peter Booker
Physiotherapist: Simon Parsell
Kit Man/Masseur: Darren Cook
Academy & Development Manager:
Andy Awford
Academy & Development Coach: Inigo Idiazek
Academy Head Coach: Jordan McCann
Academy Administrator: Emily Howes
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Club Secretary: Chris Clark
Safety Officer: Stephen Copp
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Junior Supporter Liaison Officer:
James Whitehead
Club Doctor: Dr Paul Deeley
Club Chiropractor: David Leu
Club Chaplain: Revd David Kesterton

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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by post, phone or email #COYH

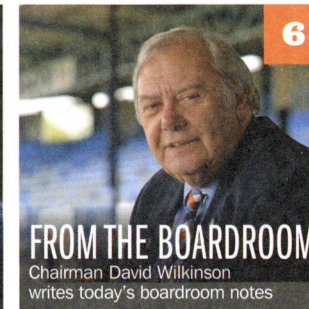
The views in this programme are those of the
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WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD



NATHAN JONES

The boss kicks off the new
campaign at Kenilworth Road



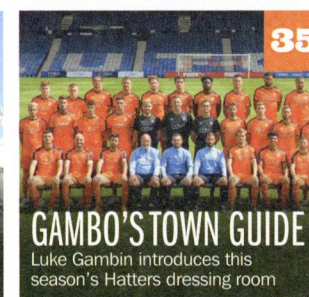
FROM THE BOARDROOM

Chairman David Wilkinson
writes today's boardroom notes



WELCOME BLACK CATS

All you need to know about
the Stadium of Light squad



GAMBO'S TOWN GUIDE

Luke Gambin introduces this
season's Hatters dressing room



BIG MICK'S BEST XI

Sunderland fan & Luton legend
Mick Harford's top line-up



HAT'S LIFE!

Luke Berry lets us in on what
he likes and dislikes in life

LET'S GET CONNECTED

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626 Hitchin Road Luton
Bedfordshire LU2 7UG

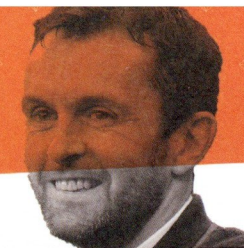
01582 512000

Amphill Office

101 Dunstable St Amphill
Bedfordshire MK45 2NG

01525 213321

THE MANAGER



NATHAN JONES

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the first time for a competitive game since we celebrated promotion from Sky Bet League Two. I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and are ready to get behind the team at the higher level.

I'd like to welcome everyone connected with Sunderland to Bedfordshire, including supporters, directors, officials, manager Jack Ross, his staff and their players. Jack has made the move down from Scotland and of course, I wish him well for the season and a safe journey back to the north-east tonight.

We kicked off our League One campaign last week at Portsmouth and I felt we were outstanding in our performance, but now we go up a level and we might not get away with the odd error. They had one chance and they scored one goal, which effectively stopped us getting anything out of the game.

We now move on to another big game against a massive club in front of a full house. It's a fantastic occasion for everyone, with it being ten years since we were last at this level, but the club has been in this division and the two above in the past, so it's not just a one-off. These games are our bread and butter now and I want us to make sure that we perform and adjust quickly.

We've had a real good introduction to the level with Portsmouth and Sunderland in our opening two games and we have to quickly find a way to compete with these teams. Playing two teams who are expected to be up there has been good to gauge ourselves on what we need and where we are.

I'd like to officially welcome our three new signings – four including Andrew Shinnie, who we are delighted

to have signed permanently after spending last season on loan – and I'm sure you'll enjoy watching them all in action here at Kenilworth Road.

Sonny Bradley, Matty Pearson and Jorge Grant are players we have tracked for a long time and were our top targets for the summer. They have all done well against us in the past for Plymouth, Accrington and Notts County, and we have high hopes that they can replicate that form and be even more effective in our environment.

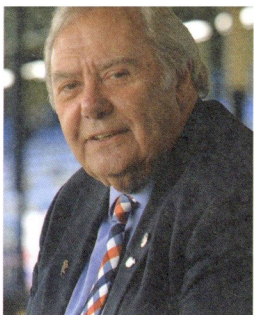
Phenomenal

I know that you'll back them, and the other players, as you always do. To take almost 2,400 to Portsmouth last week was phenomenal and those who travelled were outstanding, just as you were throughout last season.

The team's performance certainly silenced the Pompey Chimes, and all you could hear was our fans who really got behind the team, but sadly we couldn't get something out of the game, which we deserved. Hopefully today will be different.

We had some wonderful atmospheres here last season, so let's embrace the challenge of the higher level and make the place rock again.

Enjoy the game and the nine months that lie ahead.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN **DAVID WILKINSON**

Good afternoon everyone. Isn't it great to be at Kenilworth Road for the start of a new season and to be back in League One after a ten-year absence. Last week was our tenth anniversary as custodians of the Club. What a roller-coaster ride it has been!!

Our visitors today are Sunderland and we welcome all the officials, players and supporters from the Black Cats to this, our first home game of the season.

It truly demonstrates the vagaries of football when you think that five years ago our clubs were five divisions apart. However, we understand more than any other club that adversity can make you stronger and the lows make you appreciate the highs even more.

We last played each other just prior to our relegation from the Championship in 2007 and were hammered 5-0, a result which ensured their promotion to the Premier League as champions.

Their recent fall and experience of others only goes to prove how increasingly competitive the leagues have become. It was interesting for me to find that every team in the Championship this year has spent some time in the Premier League or its equivalent.

Those of you who were at Portsmouth last weekend saw a tremendous performance not matched by the result. Even their directors admitted that we were unlucky not to take anything from the game. Some of the play was scintillating to watch. Let's hope we can keep it up.

Activity on the transfer front has been a bit quieter and slower this Summer due in part to the World Cup. Nevertheless, we say goodbye to Oilly Lee, Johnny Mullins, Lawson D'Ath, Jordan Cook, Scott Cuthbert, Kavan Cotter and six second year scholars.

They will always be welcome at Kenilworth Road and we wish them all well in their future careers.

We are delighted that we have been able to attract Nathan's main targets and welcome Matty Pearson, Sonny Bradley and Jorge Grant. We hope they have a long, happy and successful stay with us.

We welcome Ian Montone as a new member of our Vice President's club. Ian is based in California and is the founder of music management business Monotone Inc. whose clients include the White Stripes and Vampire Weekend.

He joins as a VP and adds to the musical award winners already present in Emma Banks and Rob Stringer. We are very proud of our international fan base and along with other foreign connections being established it is exciting for the long-term to see such diversity coming together at the Kenny (or Power Court).

Shortly after the play-offs are over and the season finally finishes, the EFL holds its Annual Conference and AGM at which all 72 clubs are represented by owners and management. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for Clubs to meet and discuss matters affecting the game and to approve or otherwise changes to rules and regulations. This year there has been a welcome doubling of prize money in the FA Cup, and there were some minor rule changes – perhaps the most notable being that managers and coaches will now be subject to yellow and red cards for bad behaviour in the technical area.



When the players return from their break after an intense few days of testing and training they head out for a pre-season tour, which normally lasts a week. This year it was held at a ski resort in the north-west of Slovenia (pictured), close to the borders of Austria and Italy. It was an excellent facility. A short walk to a full-sized pitch with an excellent playing surface and all the necessary training aids including a gym, which was supplied with our own equipment driven in a white van all the way from Luton.

For the last few years Mike Herrick and I have tagged-along, and it gives us the opportunity of not only watching everyone perform, but also the chance to get to know the coaches and players a bit more and see how things tick. I think we've all noticed how much more technical and scientific it becomes each succeeding year. In the old days it was a kind of boot camp, which mainly involved tough fitness training without a ball in sight, but now although just as tough it seems to an untrained eye that it is more designed to increase intensity and speed of thought with and without the ball.

Ambition

Finally, but most importantly, we come to an update on Planning. As we have said before, and most of you are aware, we can have no genuine ambition until we have a new state of the art stadium. In fact, it will be virtually impossible to survive without it.

It is now more than two years since we put forward our plans and, like you, we are all very frustrated by the time the process has taken so far. However, we believe we are on the last lap now and do understand that such major projects need thorough scrutiny before the plans can be regarded as sound. The independent retail impact assessments have been published, proving the impact on our town centre is below minimal, and the consultation period has started, after which the Planning Officer will write his report and recommendation for the Council development committee to consider and approve or otherwise. So hopefully we are getting close and will do everything we can to help progress the issue.

Let's hope for good news on this front in the next few months and more performances like that at Portsmouth, but with better results.

"Football can generate excitement and bring people together"

Didier Drogba

Enjoy the game

Come On You Hatters

We're proud to be on the team...

Star Platforms, a local Luton business with national coverage, are proud to be the away shirt sponsors of Luton Town Football Club.

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[THE CAPTAIN]

THE SKIPPER

Alan Sheehan

Good afternoon everybody and welcome to Kenilworth Road for this massive game against Sunderland.

Today is an exciting occasion for the club – one I am really looking forward to. What better way to start your campaign off at home than against a massive club in Sunderland?

It's a big occasion, it's special. We've come up from League Two, they've come down from the Championship, having been in the Premier League not so long ago for a considerable period of time. Nobody would have expected this as a league game a few years back, so we're all buzzing for it.

I am delighted to be the new club captain. The gaffer and I had a conversation over the summer and I was more than happy to take the armband. It's a proud moment for me.



I have been captain before on quite a few occasions here – so I am more than aware what is expected of me both on and off the field.

Scotty Cuthbert was captain last year, but because of the injury he suffered in November, I filled in for much of the season. Despite losing a couple of experienced heads this summer with both Scott and Johnny Mullins departing, we've still got a number of leaders in the squad. We all help each other and with what we want to achieve this season, that experience is going to be invaluable. We are a young squad generally, but the way I look at it, age is just a number!

We head in to today's game following last Saturday's frustrating result against Portsmouth. The only really disappointing thing about the whole day was the result. We dominated at Fratton Park, their keeper made a few good saves and the woodwork got the better of us on the day. We were very positive.

It's always been a tough place to go, so to take control the way we did can only be a good sign for the rest of the season. The reaction from the boys has been as good as it can possibly be, and that's been massively boosted by you, the supporters. To take 2,392 fans anywhere is crazy, so it was little surprise to see we had the best travelling support in the division on the opening day.

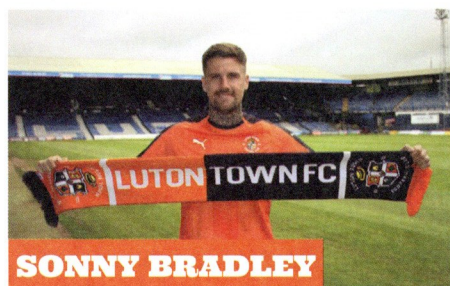
Let's try and carry on our home form from last season into this one with a good result today. We're going to need you every step of the way, so get behind the boys and enjoy the game.

TRANSFER WINDOW ROUND-UP

So, Thursday's new August transfer window deadline of 5pm passed without any more additions to the four signings Nathan Jones had in the bag by the time we kicked off pre-season at Hitchin on July 6th!

Therefore it's a warm welcome to the manager's long-term targets Sonny Bradley, Matty Pearson and Jorge Grant – as well as a welcome back (not that he ever left!) of Andrew Shinnie, who is now a permanent Hatter after the midfielder's impressive campaign on loan from Birmingham City.

Immediately after the end of our promotion-winning campaign we bade farewell to captain Scott Cuthbert, Johnny Mullins, Ollie Lee, Lawson D'Ath, Jordan Cook and Kavan Cotter, and of course we wish them all well with their new clubs.



SONNY BRADLEY

POSITION: DEFENDER

AGE: 26

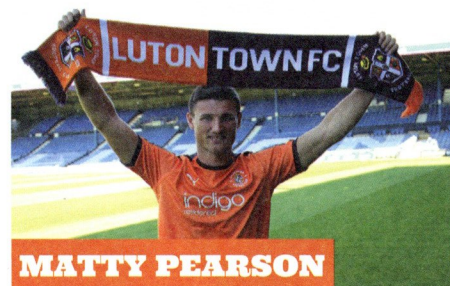
STATUS: FREE AGENT AFTER DEPARTING PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

HE SAID: "I'm delighted. It's been a long couple of days getting down here, but I've finally got the paperwork and stuff signed, so I just want to get started now."

"I seemed to get linked with Luton every transfer window, but it's just worked out well that coming into this summer I'm a free agent, so it made things quite easy. I met the manager and was really impressed with the plans. I'm just looking forward to getting started now."

The only player to have departed, temporarily, since then is young centre-half Akin Famewo, who has joined League Two Grimsby to gain valuable experience during a season-long loan – but not without having signed a one-year contract extension to keep him as a Hatter until 2020!

Don't forget that this year there could still be movement up to the end of the month, with the loan window open until 5pm on Friday August 31st. For now though, meet the new boys...



MATTY PEARSON

POSITION: DEFENDER

AGE: 25

STATUS: SIGNED FOR AN UNDISCLOSED FEE FROM BARNSELY

HE SAID: "I'm thrilled to be here. I've had it in the pipeline for a bit but I've always wanted to come, and obviously with everything to do with the club, it's a great opportunity for me."

"The manager wanting me to come has been the main thing, and especially with the size of the club, it makes it too good to refuse. I need to take this opportunity with both hands and show what I can do."



JORGE GRANT

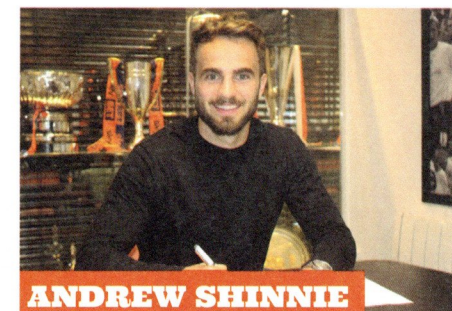
POSITION: MIDFIELDER

AGE: 23

STATUS: SIGNED ON A SEASON LONG LOAN FROM NOTTINGHAM FOREST

HE SAID: "Obviously I knew about Luton Town last season when I was at Notts County. Both times we played them, they played really good football and it's one of those things where you think 'That's a team I'd love to be in'."

"So when I knew the interest was there I was delighted to come down and speak to the manager."



ANDREW SHINNIE

POSITION: MIDFIELDER

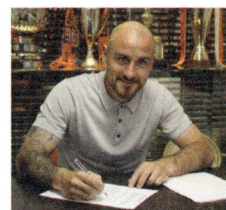
AGE: 28

STATUS: FREE AGENT AFTER LEAVING BIRMINGHAM CITY

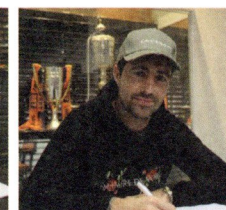
HE SAID: "I'm delighted to get it done, quite soon into the summer as well. It lets me go and enjoy my summer now and can't wait for pre-season, coming back and hopefully having a great season like the last one."

"It had been spoken about when I first came, looking towards next season as well, and I thoroughly enjoyed last year. We achieved what we set out to achieve, personally and as a team, so it was good to get things done."

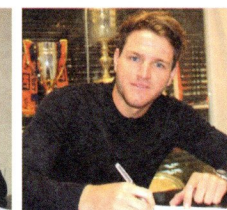
...AND WE'RE DELIGHTED WITH THESE NEW CONTRACTS!



ALAN McCORMACK (1 YEAR)



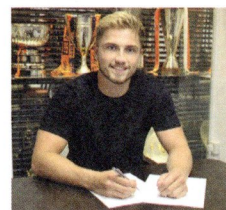
ALAN SHEEHAN (2 YEARS)



GLEN REA (2 YEARS)



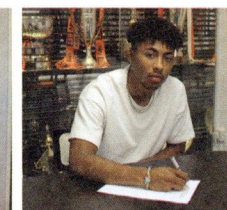
JACK JAMES (1st YEAR PRO)



HARRY ISTD (1 YEAR)




MAREK STECH (2 YEARS)



AKIN FAMEWO (2 YEARS)



DAN POTTS (3 YEARS)



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This article has been written by the independant #saveourtown campaign group

#saveourtown

Who else woke up this morning feeling fine?

What about the 111 days before that?

Nathan's Barmy Army are now back where they can start to belong, and this sense of a new chapter should be the case for our town too. We want Newlands Park. We want Power Court. We want regeneration, not stagnation.

Unfortunately, we face stubborn opposition.

That's why #saveourtown was created. An independent campaign group, made up of volunteers, all proud Lutonians, we believe these developments will help put a sense of pride back into our town. So, they are about so much more than football.

With the promise of £250million a year to the local economy and 10,000 new jobs, that's real transformation.

Add to that a major 1,800-capacity music venue, bars, restaurants, a rejuvenated night-time economy, leisure opportunities, offices, the re-emergence of the River Lea, high-end retail and, of course, a new 17,500-seat stadium for the Hatters. It will all help to change the reputation of our town for the better.

People still talk down our home, so #saveourtown believes it is time to stand up for Luton and demand the progress we want and deserve.

Many of you feel this too and have already thrown your support behind our campaign. We can't thank you enough.

You crowdfunded £5,000 in five overwhelming days and this is helping us raise awareness of the possibilities almost in touching distance for Luton.

Already we've held community and engagement events to gather support on the ground in various communities, like in Bury Park and High Town. We've joined with Wardown Parkrun and, last night in The Bricklayer's Arms, we launched a #saveourtown beer. It has been a true Luton effort – brewed by Stopsley's Rockhopper Brewing Company in conjunction with this town's legendary takeaway, Chicken George.

And, thanks to local businesses, Bartham Group and Indigo Residential, 80,000 leaflets and posters are being posted through Luton letterboxes to spread the word even further about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We hope you'll display those posters proudly in your windows.

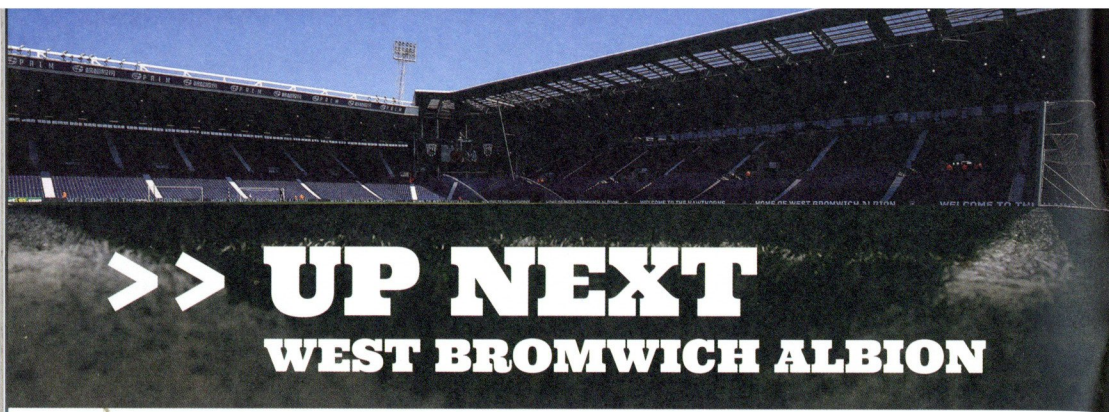
But, if you've already thrown your support behind us, you might think what else can you do?

To help us maintain momentum, you could give a donation to one of our #saveourtown ambassadors dotted around Kenilworth Road today, or online at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/saveourtownluton.

Discover our website www.saveourtownluton.co.uk and find out about the work we're doing and all the famous faces, fellow Hatters and Lutonians that back our campaign. You could follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, or sign up to our newsletter.

But, most importantly, you can tell everyone, from your friends, family, neighbours, co-workers, football fans and non-football fans.

Together we can #saveourtown.



>> UP NEXT WEST BROMWICH ALBION

FORMED: 1878 | NICKNAME: THE BAGGIES | LAST SEASON: 20TH IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE
FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @WBA | COLOURS: NAVY & WHITE STRIPES | GROUND: THE HAWTHORNS
MANAGER: DARREN MOORE

WHO?

Tuesday night's hosts have lifted the League Cup on the same amount of occasions as the Hatters – the Baggies winning the competition in 1966. They were also runners-up in 1967 and 1970. Their eight-season stay in the Premier League came to an end in May as they were relegated, finishing bottom of the table. But there is hope of an immediate return – new boss Darren Moore saw his side go on a decent end of season run, which they will be looking to carry into the new term.



STADIUM - THE HAWTHORNS

Home to the Baggies since 1900, the record attendance at the ground is 64,815, for an FA Cup Sixth Round tie against Arsenal. Interestingly (or not!) the ground is the highest out of all the 92 league teams, sitting over 150m above sea level. There's 93 miles between Kenilworth Road and the Hawthorns, if you travel via the M6.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

The last time we faced the Baggies was back in October 2016, when the Hatters defeated them 2-0

in the Checkatrade Trophy. Alex Gilliead and Jake Gray grabbed the goals for the Town. That was the 43rd meeting between the two, with Town winning ten, drawing nine and losing 23.

PUBS

The Vine is a 15-minute walk from the Hawthorns, with away supporters welcome. The address of the venue is 152 Roebuck Street, B70 6RD.

TRAVEL

As we said above, via the M6 the route is about 90 miles. You can head down the M40 as well, which is just over 100 miles. Bobbers Travel Club are charging £24 for adults and £21 for concessions. The train journey from Luton isn't ideal – four changes and just over three hours, one way. However, the journey from Milton Keynes is kinder, taking under an hour-and-a-half.

RESULTS SO FAR

The Baggies have yet to record their first win of the new season, after an opening day defeat at home to Bolton was followed up on Tuesday by a 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest. Matt Phillips struck an 87th-minute leveller for the Baggies, who gave a debut to Dwight Gayle, the striker signed on season-long loan from Newcastle.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Tony Grealish and Jack Bannister have represented both sides, the former also represented the Republic of Ireland on 45 occasions.

[TICKET INFORMATION]

TICKETS

TICKET OFFICE, THE STADIUM | THE MALL | 01582 416976 | WWW.ETICKETING.CO.UK/LUTONTOWN



WEST BROMWICH ALBION

TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST | 7.45PM | CARABAO CUP

The Town have received an allocation of 1,260 seats for our Carabao Cup First Round fixture on Tuesday night. Tickets are still available on general sale and will remain on sale until 1pm on Tuesday 14th August. Subject to availability, tickets will be available at The Hawthorns at an increased price.

Advance Prices: Adult/Senior/Students: £10, Under-18/disabled: £5, Under-11: £3. **On The Day Prices:** Adult/Senior/Students: £15, Under-18/disabled: £10, Under-11: £5



PETERBOROUGH UNITED

SATURDAY 18TH AUGUST | 3PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

The Hatters have received an allocation of 2,343 seats in the Motorpoint Stand at the Abax Stadium. This match is all-ticket for away supporters and tickets are available on general sale until 2pm on Friday 1st August. **Prices:** Adult: £26, Senior (60+): £21, Under-22: £17, Under-18: £10, Under-12: £7, Under-7: £1

*Wheelchair and Ambulant Disabled supporters will pay the relevant price class to their age with a Helper Free of charge.



SOUTHEND UNITED

TUESDAY 21ST AUGUST | 7.45PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

Tickets for this category C game are now on sale from the LTFC Ticket Office.



SHREWSBURY TOWN

SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST | 3PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

Tickets for this category B match are currently on sale from the LTFC Ticket Office.



WYCOMBE WANDERERS

SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER | 3PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

The sales plan for how to obtain tickets for the trip to Adams Park next month will be made available on the club website and our social media channels in the coming days.

HOME TICKET PRICES FOR THE 2018/19 SEASON

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C
Adult	£26	£22	£18
Senior (65+)	£21	£17	£13
Golden senior (75+)	£18	£14	£10
Young adult (19-21)	£21	£17	£13
Youth under 19 (17-18)	£11	£12	£10
Youth under 17 (10-16)	£11	£8	£6
Junior under 10 (9 & under)	£8	£5	£3

We are pleased to advise supporters that tickets for the following home league games are now on sale...

Date	Opposition	Cat
Tuesday 21st August	Southend United	C
Saturday 25th August	Shrewsbury Town	B
Saturday 15th September	Bristol Rovers	B
Saturday 29th September	Charlton Athletic	A
Saturday 6th October	Scunthorpe United	C

COMMERCIAL

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Tel: 01223 208108

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TODAY'S MASCOTS



DARCY GRACE GALLAGHER

Age: 9

School: St Martin De Porres

Hobbies: The goalie for Luton Town U9, Gymnastics and Rugby

Favourite Players: Marek Stech and James Justin

Who do you attend games with: My Dad and Danny Gallagher



GEORGE JUKES

Age: 7

School: The Firs Lower School

Hobbies: Football, Tennis, Beavers and watching Luton!

Favourite Player: Marek Stech

Who do you attend games with: My Dad

A FEW PICTURES OF OUR GUESTS AT PRE-SEASON MATCHES...



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WELCOME SUNDERLAND



The Hatters would like to extend a warm welcome to today's visiting staff, players and supporters of Sunderland.

The Black Cats were plying their trade in the Premier League less than 18 months ago, so unsurprisingly started this campaign as firm favourites for the League One title.

Their first season in the third tier since 1989, the club's on-field issues were as well reported as their off-field problems, but with Stewart Donald taking ownership from Ellis Short, his appointment of Jack Ross as manager has overseen a squad overhaul as they look to stop the rot and climb back up the EFL pyramid.

Ross has unsurprisingly bolstered his side with real quality, bringing in Charlie Wyke from Bradford City and Luke O'Nien from Wycombe Wanderers amongst many others, with big players who came down with them from the second tier now off the wage bill.

The former Alloa boss has good pedigree of taking sides up as, as he led St Mirren from the Scottish Championship and up to the Premiership.

It's little wonder as to why his services were sought after, the Scotsman opting for the Black Cats over Championship outfit Ipswich Town, as well as turning down Barnsley's advances last season.

His team got off to the winning start they would have no doubt wanted last week – after falling behind to a penalty against Charlton Athletic, Josh Maja got them back on level terms before Lynden Gooch grabbed a winner in the 96th minute at the Stadium of Light.

Formed in 1880, the club have had a number of prolific goalscorers in recent years, including Kevin Phillips, Darren Bent and Jermaine Defoe. Their nine-year stay in the Premier League came to an end in 2017, and a tumultuous 2017/18 in the Championship saw the two-time FA Cup winners fall further down the EFL.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

LUTON WINS:	14
DRAWN:	11
SUNDERLAND WINS:	32
LAST MEETING:	LUTON TOWN 3-0 SUNDERLAND AUGUST 2007

FACTFILE:

NICKNAME: THE BLACK CATS
GROUND: STADIUM OF LIGHT
MANAGER: JACK ROSS
LAST SEASON: 24TH IN CHAMPIONSHIP

MEET THE SQUAD

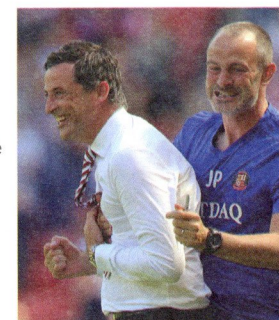
THE GAFFER

Jack Ross

Age: 42

Took over: May 2018

A centre-half in his playing days, the former Clyde and Falkirk defender made one Scotland B appearance, coming on to replace ex-Hatter Scott Cuthbert against Northern Ireland B in 2009. Managing in Scottish League One as recently as the 2016/17 campaign, the 42-year-old took his first managerial position at Alloa Athletic. His impressive spell there led to him being snapped up by St Mirren, who he guided to safety in the Scottish Championship before winning promotion to the Scottish Premier League last season. Approached by a number of English clubs, the Scotsman opted for the Black Cats. Of his 115-game managerial career, he has won 49 per cent.



THE STOPPER

Jon McLaughlin

Age: 30

A Scottish international having made his debut against Mexico in May this year, the 30-year-old was born in Edinburgh, but made a name for himself south of the border in Yorkshire. Non-League spells with Harrogate Railway Athletic and Harrogate Town were followed by a move to Bradford City in May 2008. After being in and out of the first team for much of his time there, the stopper played in every league game of the 2013-14 season, before joining Burton Albion. Part of their double promotion winning side that went from League Two to the Championship, he signed for Hearts of Midlothian last season, before returning to English football this campaign with Sunderland.



GOALKEEPER

ROBBIN RUITER

AGE: 31

The Dutchman joined the Black Cats in 2017, having been a regular in the Eredivisie with FC Utrecht. Has made over 250 career appearances.



DEFENDERS

BRYAN OVIEDO

AGE: 28

A Costa Rica international, Sunderland snapped up the left back from Everton in 2017. Began his career in his homeland with Deportivo Saprissa.

ALIM ÖZTÜRK

AGE: 25

The ex-Turkey Under-21 has played in Holland, Turkey and the UK, including three years at Hearts. Signed a two-year deal with Sunderland in June.

ADAM MATTHEWS

AGE: 26

Another international player on the books at Sunderland, the Welshman began his career with Cardiff before joining Celtic in 2011. Signed for the Black Cats in 2015.



DID YOU KNOW?

Sunderland's most recent FA Cup win – a 1-0 win over Leeds United in 1973 – at the time was the first time a second-tier side had won the competition since 1931. Manager Bob Stokoe made his name as a player at north-east rivals Newcastle United,

but will be forever remembered by Mackems as he sprinted down the touchline at Wembley in a mackintosh and trilby after his team beat Don Revie's United side packed with international players. A statue outside the Stadium of Light is dedicated to Stokoe.

THE WALL

Glenn Loovens

Age: 34

The experienced centre-back started his career in his homeland with Feyenoord. Progressing through the youth system, he made his first team debut in the 2001/02 season, playing alongside Robin Van Persie. He spent spells out on loan with Excelsior and De Graafschap, as well as Cardiff City. He made the move permanently to Wales in 2006, where he remained for two seasons before switching to Scotland to play for Celtic. A season in La Liga with Real Zaragoza came in 2012, before he signed for Sheffield Wednesday. He made 150 appearances in five years at Hillsborough, moving to Sunderland in the summer.



IN THE MIDDLE

Dylan McGeouch

Age: 25

The midfielder signed for the Black Cats in the summer after a four-year stint at Hibernian. His youth career saw him start at Celtic, before signing for Rangers. He returned to Celtic after Neil Lennon visited his house to convince him to go back. He made 27 appearances for the Bhoys, as well as going out on loan to Coventry City for half a season before signing for Hibs on a loan deal in 2014, making it permanent the following year. Under Lennon, the 25-year-old helped the Edinburgh side win promotion back to the Scottish Premier League in a midfield that included Andrew Shinnie. McGeouch made his international debut for Scotland in May, in a 2-0 defeat to Peru.



JACK BALDWIN

Age: 25

A climber from Non-League, he started his career with Faversham Town before earning a move to Hartlepool United and then Peterborough United. A utility player, he signed a two-year deal in July.

DONALD LOVE

Age: 23

Signed by the Black Cats alongside Paddy McNair from Manchester United for a combined fee of £5.5m, he made one Premier League appearance for the Red Devils.



REECE JAMES

Age: 24

Released by Wigan Athletic in the summer, the defender signed a one-year deal with the Black Cats in July. Started his career with Manchester United.

MIDFIELDERS

LUKE O'NIEN

Age: 23

A major part of Wycombe's promotion winning side last season, the former Wealdstone man joined the Black Cats at the end of last month.

BALI MUMBA

Age: 16

A Sunderland academy graduate having joined their system in 2010, he wore the captain's armband on the final day of last season, coming on as an 87th minute substitute for John O'Shea.



GEORGE HONEYMAN

Age: 23

Another academy graduate, Honeyman is a survivor from the squad that played in the Premier League, having made six appearances in the top tier.



CHRIS MAGUIRE

Age: 29

A former team mate of Danny Hylton's at Oxford United, the set-piece specialist began his career at Aberdeen. Signed a two-year contract in the summer with Sunderland.



WATCH OUT

Lynden Gooch

Age: 22

The 22-year-old had a dream start to his campaign last Saturday when he fired in the winner for Sunderland against Charlton as he found the back of the net in the 96th minute to complete a come-from-behind win. A United States international with four caps to his name, he began his career in America with California based side Santa Cruz Breakers, before joining the Sunderland youth system in 2012. Loans to Gateshead and Doncaster Rovers in 2015 and 2016 saw him gain valuable first team experience, before making his breakthrough into the Sunderland team last season, making 24 Championship appearances.



LUKE MOLYNEUX

Age: 20

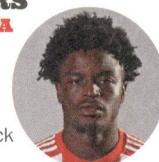
The winger joined Sunderland at under-16 level, making his first team debut on the last day of the 2017/18 season against Wolves.

STRIKERS

JOSH MAJA

Age: 19

Netted a debut goal to remember back in December when he scored against Fulham in a 1-0 win – one of Sunderland's seven league victories last season. Joined the club in 2015.



CHARLIE WYKE

Age: 25

Well known in the north-east

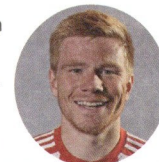


after starting with Middlesbrough and playing for Hartlepool, he made a name for himself at Carlisle. Scored 19 times in an 18-month spell at Bradford.

DUNCAN WATMORE

Age: 24

A signing from Altrincham in 2013, the ex-England U21 forward has a first-class honours degree in Economics and Business Management. Scored four goals for Sunderland.



IN NUMBERS...

Stadium Capacity:	48,095
Miles from Kenilworth Road:	244
Year opened:	1997
Average crowd last season:	27,635
Seasons in League One:	1

CLASSIC CLASH WITH THE BLACK CATS

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

13TH OCTOBER 1979 • LUTON TOWN 2 SUNDERLAND 0

After narrowly missing out on relegation to Division Three (now League One) at the end of manager David Pleat's first full season in charge of 1978/79, Luton Town supporters were hoping for much better in the coming campaign.

Pleat had already stated that stabilising the club was a three-year exercise and was determined to make the squad stronger ready for a promotion push. To this end he paid £200,000 to Mansfield for centre-half Mike Saxby and a tribunal fixed £150,000 for Orient midfielder Tony Grealish. The 'Os' had originally demanded £350,000 for Grealish, but Pleat manipulated the new tribunal system to his advantage, as he was to do so many times again in the future.

The Town adopted a new strip which placed less emphasis on the orange of the previous six seasons and for the first time a sponsor's name, 'Tricentrol', was emblazoned across the players' shirts.

Despite all the expectation the season got off to a poor start with a two-legged defeat to Gillingham in the League Cup before Cambridge United arrived at Kenilworth Road for the first league game and returned with a point after a drab encounter.

David Moss had been signed the previous summer but Luton supporters had not seen the best of the mercurial winger due to a deep-seated groin injury which affected his effectiveness. Now fully fit, Moss scored twice at Bristol Rovers in the next game, but the Town still lost 3-2 with future Hatter Steve White netting two of his own for the Pirates.

The first win eventually came in game three when Orient were narrowly seen off at Kenilworth Road, but the season suddenly sparked to life with a 3-1 win at promotion favourites Leicester watched by the 'Match

of the Day' cameras, who saw Moss clinch victory with a stunning shot in the final minute.

A combination of attractive, newly-promoted Swansea and the previous week's exploits at Leicester meant that a crowd of 10,004 turned up at Kenilworth Road the following week. They were rewarded with a five-star show and a 5-0 win with every goal out of the textbook.

An unusual combination of results actually took the Town to the top of the Division Two (now Championship) table for the first time since 1970, but the team dropped back a place following hard fought draws away at Notts County and at home to Oldham.

Highlights

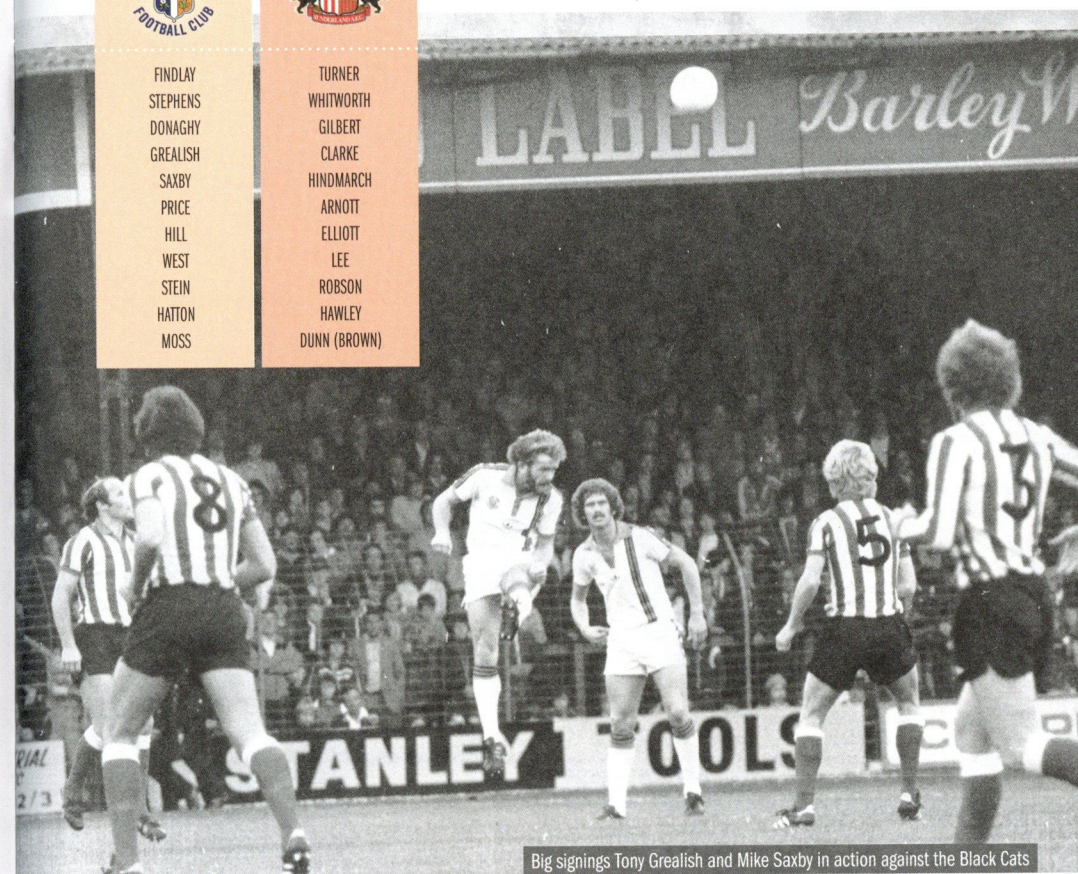
The bandwagon continued to roll with a 3-1 win at Fulham, followed by a temporary set-back in the shape of a 2-1 defeat at Cardiff – a game the Town should have won at a canter.

Back at Kenilworth Road a first-half hat-trick from wily striker Bob Hatton set up an easy win over Bristol Rovers, leading up to one of the highlights of the season; a home clash with Sunderland.

Sunderland were always attractive opposition and the cameras were present again, together with a best of the season crowd of 13,504. This was seen by David Pleat to be the toughest test of the campaign so far and he was soon proved correct.

Sunderland dominated the early exchanges and put the Luton defence under extreme pressure. Both John Hawley and Barry Dunn hit the woodwork for the visitors and only a stream of fine saves from Hatters' goalkeeper Jake Findlay kept the score level.

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	SUNDERLAND
FINDLAY	TURNER
STEPHENS	WHITWORTH
DONAGHY	GILBERT
GREALISH	CLARKE
SAXBY	HINDMARCH
PRICE	ARNOTT
HILL	ELLIOTT
WEST	LEE
STEIN	ROBSON
HATTON	HAWLEY
MOSS	DUNN (BROWN)



Big signings Tony Grealish and Mike Saxby in action against the Black Cats

With the Luton supporters hoping to go in at the interval without conceding a goal, an opportunist strike from Moss turned the game on its head and gave the scoreline an unrealistic look.

Showing instant control to kill a long cross from Hatton, and surrounded by defenders, Moss chipped a delicate shot over Sunderland goalkeeper Chris Turner for what was regarded by the BBC as one of the 'goals of the season'.

The second half started with the Town showing far more purpose and it was the Sunderland defence that was now on the end of a battering. It therefore

came as no surprise when Moss increased the lead on the hour after cleverly side-stepping Turner to stroke the ball home.

Sunderland came more into the game in the final quarter and only a couple of excellent saves by Findlay kept the Luton goal intact, but the final action saw Brian Stein unleash a 20-yard drive that thudded against the crossbar.

Sunderland manager Ken Knighton felt that his side were unlucky not to secure at least a point, but he had to agree that the game was an excellent advertisement for Second Division football.

WHEN THE
FUN
STOPS



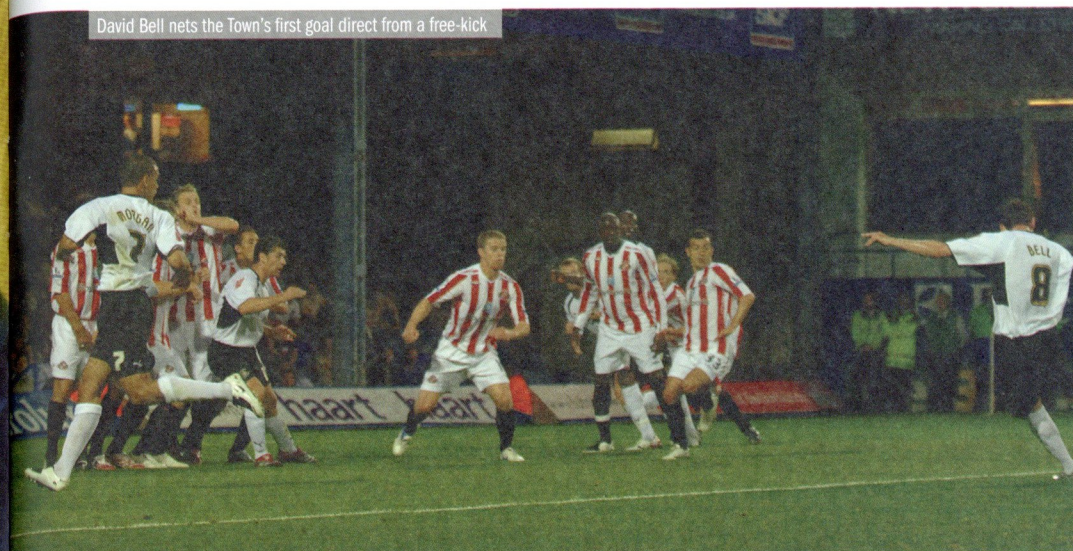
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sky bet

BETTING, BETTER

David Bell nets the Town's first goal direct from a free-kick



THE LAST TIME **SUNDERLAND** CAME TO **TOWN**

CLUB HISTORIAN **ROGER WASH** REPORTS ON THE BLACK CATS' LAST VISIT TO KENILWORTH ROAD

28TH AUGUST 2007

LUTON TOWN 3 SUNDERLAND 0 (CARLING CUP ROUND 2)

Following relegation from the Championship at the end of 2006-07, manager Kevin Blackwell set about ringing the changes at Kenilworth Road and over a bewildering summer, players arrived or departed almost daily.

This led to nine players making their Town debuts in the opening day 2-1 win over Hartlepool at Kenilworth Road with two of them, Darren Currie and Alan Goodall, netting the all-important goals to get the season off with a bang.

A victory at Dagenham in the Carling Cup and a home win over Gillingham sandwiched a poor display and defeat at Swindon, as the new players continued to gel. Next up was a visit from Sunderland in the second round of the Carling Cup and an early chance to get even with the Black Cats.

Sunderland had won 5-0 at Kenilworth Road on the final day of the 2006/07 campaign as they clinched the championship on an awful afternoon when the Town players appeared to throw in the towel.

Sweet!

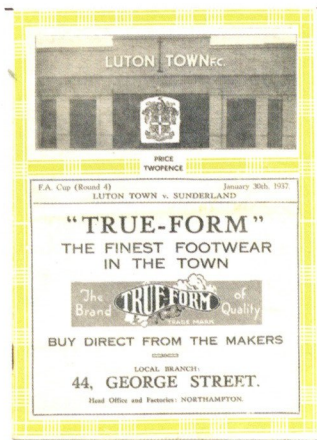
Sunderland manager Roy Keane put out a strong side of Premier League quality, but they were made to look second best as goals from David Bell and veteran striker Paul Furlong earned a comfortable interval lead.

The visitors tried to push on in the second half but the dismissal of Greg Halford for two yellow cards within ten minutes did not help their cause.

It was left to Furlong to cap off a masterful display with the Town's third goal after 76 minutes and with it a comprehensive victory. Revenge was sweet!

COVERED!

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH PICKS OUT EIGHT PROGRAMME COVERS FROM PAST GAMES WITH OUR OPPONENTS



January 1937

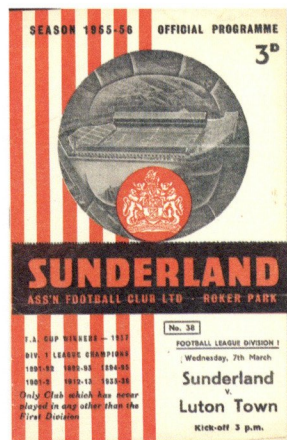
Third tier Luton take on top-flight Sunderland in an FA Cup fourth round tie in front of 20,205 at Kenilworth Road. Fred Roberts bags both Hatters goals in a pulsating 2-2 draw but is unable to prevent a 3-1 defeat in the replay.

November 1955

The Hatters, newly promoted to Division One (now the Premier League), go goal crazy with an 8-2 home win in front of 25,802 ecstatic supporters. Bob Morton nets a hat-trick against a side that stands top of the table at the start of play.

March 1956

The Town's first trip to Roker Park for a League clash ends in a 2-1 victory. Ray Daniel puts through his own net to add to a strike from Roy Davies as the Hatters end a run of six straight defeats.



August 1956

The Hatters open their League campaign with another comprehensive win over Sunderland at Kenilworth Road – this time 6-2. Record Luton scorer Gordon Turner nets four.



February 1958

For the third season in a row the Town pummel Sunderland at Kenilworth Road with Turner again scoring four in a 7-1 victory. Pity poor goalkeeper Willie Fraser who has now conceded 21 goals in three visits to Luton and is to let in five the following season whilst turning out for Nottingham Forest at Kenilworth Road!



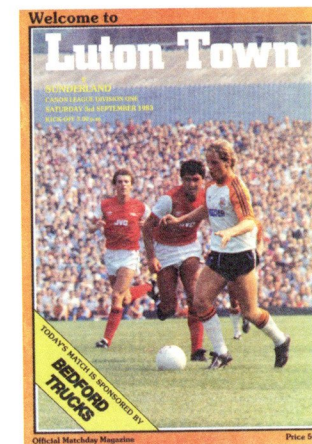
February 1976

The Hatters win 2-0 against promotion chasing Sunderland in a pulsating game at Kenilworth Road in front of a crowd of 15,338. Bobby Moncur scores an own goal after Jimmy Husband forces an error, with Ron Futchter adding a late clincher.



September 1973

The Town beat FA Cup holders Sunderland 1-0 at Roker Park courtesy of a goal from Barry Butlin. Scant revenge though for the defeat at Roker in the previous season's FA Cup quarter-final.



September 1983

In this, the first home match of the season, the game is scoreless at the interval but efforts from Ricky Hill, Paul Walsh, Brian Stein and an own goal from Iain Munro in the second period end in a convincing 4-1 victory.

DEADLY DUOS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES FOUR NOTABLE POST-WAR SUNDERLAND GOALSCORING PARTNERSHIPS

LEN SHACKLETON & TREVOR FORD

Skilful England international inside-forward Len Shackleton gained five caps while at Sunderland. A former Arsenal amateur, he joined Bradford Park Avenue in December 1940 and created a big reputation in wartime football.

The 'Clown Prince of Soccer' moved to Newcastle United for £13,000 in October 1946 and scored six goals on his debut, joining Sunderland for a then record £20,050 in February 1948. Starring as they were twice FA Cup semi-finalists, he was joint top scorer in 1951-52 and netted 98 times in 320 League games until injury ended his career in September 1957 and became a journalist. He died in Kendal, Cumbria in November 2000.

Welsh international centre-forward Trevor Ford was Sunderland's top scorer in 1952-53. Signing professional for Swansea in December 1944, he joined Aston Villa for £12,000 in January 1947 and was leading marksman three times before moving to Sunderland for £29,500 in October 1950.

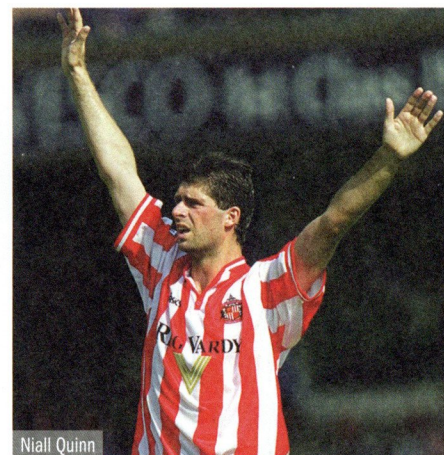
Joint top scorer in 1951-52, he netted 67 goals in 108 League games for The Lads prior to joining Cardiff City for £30,000 in December 1953 and helped them win the Welsh Cup in 1956. He moved to PSV Eindhoven in November 1956, then played for Newport County and Romford. Later working in the motor trade, he resided in Swansea until his death in May 2003.

BILLY HUGHES & BRYAN ROBSON

Scotland international striker Billy Hughes featured prominently in Sunderland's 1973 FA Cup final success. The younger brother of Celtic striker John Hughes, he turned professional with Sunderland in February 1966 and was ever-present in their 1974-75 promotion near-miss, gaining his solitary cap against Sweden.

He helped win the Second Division title in 1975-76 and netted 74 goals in 288 League games while at Roker Park before briefly joining Derby County in August 1977, then played for Leicester City, Carlisle United and San Jose Earthquakes. Later a licensee in Derby, he became club steward at Stressholme Golf Club in Darlington.

Former England U-23 striker Bryan 'Pop' Robson was leading marksman in Sunderland's 1975-76 Second Division title triumph. He began with Newcastle United in November 1962, helping to win the Second Division title in 1964-65 and Fairs Cup in 1969. Moving to West Ham in February 1971, he joined Sunderland in June 1974 and was also leading scorer in 1974-75. He returned to West Ham in October 1976, rejoining Sunderland in June 1979 and was top scorer again in 1979-80. Later with Chelsea, Carlisle United and Sunderland for a third spell, he netted 60 goals in 154 League games overall for The Lads. He became Sunderland's chief scout.



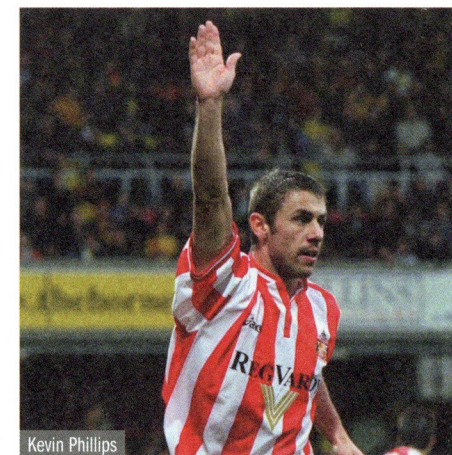
Niall Quinn

MARCO GABBIADINI & ERIC GATES

England B international striker Marco Gabbiadini was leading marksman in Sunderland's 1987-88 Third Division title triumph. Initially with York City, he followed Denis Smith to Sunderland in September 1987 and also starred in their 1989-90 promotion campaign.

He scored 74 goals in 157 League games before being sold to Crystal Palace for £1.8m in October 1991, then played for Derby County, helping to win promotion in 1995-96. After spells at Stoke City and York, he joined Darlington in July 1998 and was twice leading scorer. He helped reach the Third Division play-off final, then had spells with Northampton Town and Hartlepool.

Ex-England international striker Eric Gates was 'Player of the Year' in Sunderland's 1987-88 Third Division title success. The younger brother of Middlesbrough centre-half Bill Gates, he turned professional with Ipswich in October 1972, starring in their 1973 FA Youth Cup and 1981 UEFA Cup triumphs. He joined Sunderland in August 1985 and also featured in their 1989-90 promotion campaign, netting 43 goals in 181 League games while at Roker Park before moving to Carlisle United in June 1990. Later assisting Hartlepool, Newton Aycliffe, Staindrop and West Auckland, he worked for Century FM North East radio prior to becoming a pig farmer.



Kevin Phillips

NIALL QUINN & KEVIN PHILLIPS

Republic of Ireland international striker Niall Quinn was 'Player of the Year' in Sunderland's 1998-99 First Division title triumph. Signing professional for Arsenal in November 1983, he featured in their 1987 League Cup final success and moved to Manchester City in March 1990. He was top scorer in 1990-91, reuniting with Peter Reid at Sunderland for £1.3m in August 1996. Overcoming a knee injury, he starred alongside Kevin Phillips as they were First Division play-off finalists in 1997-98, netting 61 goals in 203 League games before retiring in November 2002. Later Sunderland's manager, then chairman, he became a Sky Sports pundit.

England international striker Kevin Phillips was Sunderland's top scorer in six successive seasons. Initially with Southampton, he moved via Baldock to Watford in December 1994 and joined Sunderland for £325,000 in July 1997. Starring as they were First Division play-off finalists in 1997-98 and won the First Division title in 1998-99, he netted 113 goals in 208 League games, moving to Southampton for £3.25m in August 2003. He joined Aston Villa in July 2005, then was a promotion winner with West Brom in 2007-08 and Birmingham City in 2008-09. Following a spell at Blackpool, he helped both Crystal Palace and Leicester City to clinch promotion.

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[ALL-TIME XI]



Mick Harford's ALL-TIME XI

4-5-1



Tony Coton

He's my best friend, but
I haven't picked him

for that reason! I have picked
him because he had a fantastic
career and he was unlucky not to
play for England.



David Langan

International for Ireland. Great legs, great
energy. He was suited to me at Birmingham

because he would overlap and get crosses in the
box. Super player when he was at his peak.



Steve Foster

As we all know at Luton Town, he was a
captain, a leader. He was a good all-round
player and he would be captain of this team.



Mal Donaghy

Mal was a bit of a Rolls
Royce. Absolutely

first class in possession and
fantastic at seeing danger and
dealing with it.



Mitchell Thomas

Very, very athletic. Very driven. Hard
working and he got his rewards playing for
Tottenham and for various clubs.



Ricky Hill

He is arguably one of the best ever players
to play for Luton Town. Fantastic ability,
could cross the ball on the run. A giant of a man
and a top footballer and gentleman.



Paul Gascoigne

He was at Newcastle when he was a kid
and in the England squad, arguably one of
the best players of his generation. Such a talented
player and one of the best players in the world in
my opinion.



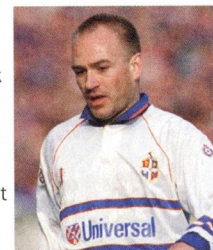
Bryan Robson

An England legend. Played with him against
Denmark. He was a fantastic all-round
player. Had a brilliant career and it was an honour
to play with him.



David Preece

Was great for me.
Whenever he took
that ball onto the left, he
had the ability to pick me
out at the back stick. He
carved a lot of chances out
for me. God bless him.



Chris Waddle

He signed for Newcastle from Tow Law
and we knew what he was all about. Great
energy, great ability. I played alongside him when he
was young and he used to cause absolute mayhem.



Brian Stein

We had a good
partnership. A
very talented player, very
underrated. Great finisher,
great technique. He could do
everything.





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[GAMBIN'S GUIDE]

GAMBO'S GUIDE

The Luton lads are more than ready for League One according to Town midfielder Luke Gambin, as he gives us the alternative lowdown on his team-mates...

Jack Senior as well and me and Jack are close, so we've got to know each other a lot better. Perfect hair, perfect nice hair. He loves an Instagram post.

MAREK STECH

POSITION: GOALKEEPER

AGE: 28

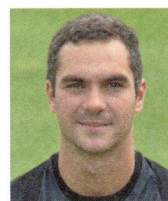


Really, really nice guy. Amazing keeper. A bit crazy, but he's a friendly giant. He's got all the gear and the banter. He's extremely loud, the most you can be.

JAMES SHEA

POSITION: GOALKEEPER

AGE: 27

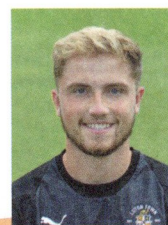


Looks about 130. He likes to play cards, but I've heard a rumour he's a bit of a cheater. He's got all the tricks up his sleeve. Always wears smart gear, never a mess. Well presented, family guy.

HARRY ISTED

POSITION: GOALKEEPER

AGE: 21

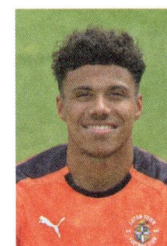


Bit of a weirdo with strange mannerisms! He's been hanging around with Harry Cornick and Jack Stacey, but

JAMES JUSTIN

POSITION: DEFENDER

AGE: 20

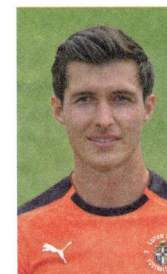


Very confident! Not in a bad way though. Good at everything. There's nothing he can't do well. Good looking, handsome young boy. He's funny and intelligent. He's a bit of a joker as well, he'll always have the last laugh though. He's never laughed at.

DAN POTTS

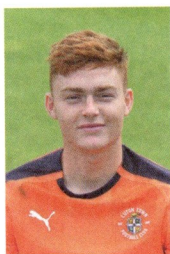
POSITION: DEFENDER

AGE: 24

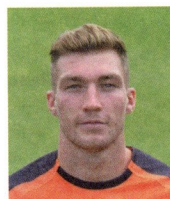


Diamond geezer. Clever, knows all the sums, knows all the maths. Always in smart Essex clobber, he knows he looks nice. He's got good hair as well and although some people say not I think he's got a good head of hair. Good looking boy, but he's a bit of a hard nut.



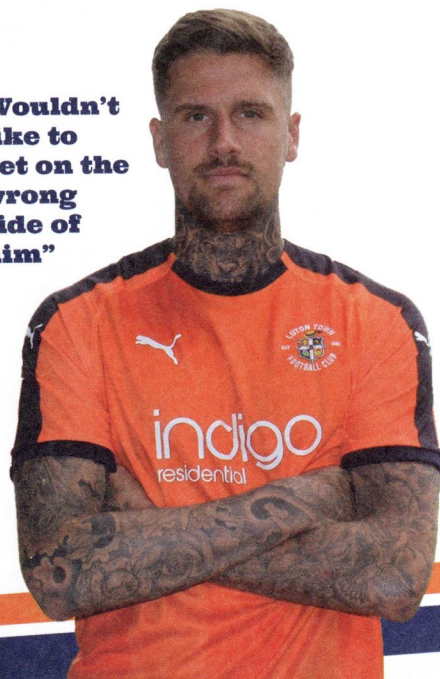
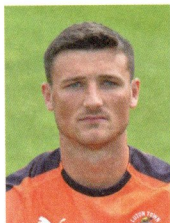
JACK SENIOR**POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 21**

I love him to bits. He's a really nice guy. His clobber is not that great, but I think that's something to do with being from Halifax. Always chatty, works really hard, he's smart as well, a clever boy. He's my new roomie, we had a really nice time in Slovenia.

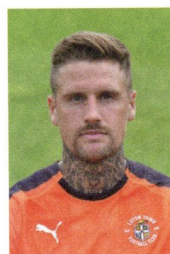
JACK STACEY**POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 22**

24/7 pro. Intelligent, funny, but his own funny. I find him hilarious. Keeps himself to himself, well liked around the team. Really fit, fittest at the club. Least body fat. Stechy has got the most body fat!

"Wouldn't like to get on the wrong side of him"

**MATTY PEARSON****POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 25**

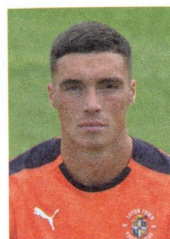
From the time I've got to know him, he's a bit of a crazy one to be honest! He loves a tackle, loves a shout. I like his accent as well. He plays Fortnite so I knew he'd be my type of geezer. Rock hard. If you were to run into him, it would be like running into a brick wall.

SONNY BRADLEY**POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 26**

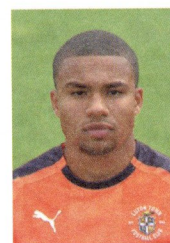
He's top dog. He's got a swagger about him that I like. Wouldn't like to get on the wrong side of him. He's a tricky one. He's got really nice gear and he's got the tattoos. He could be in Love Island actually. Very good at football, lovely left foot.

ALAN SHEEHAN**POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 31**

Depends what day with Sheez. He can either be your best mate or he's going to tell you off. Sheez is funny. He's the captain now, he's a top boy in the group. He will tell you how it is. He's got good hair, he's ageing well. A family man. Good player as well. All these left footed players are lovely to watch.

LLOYD JONES**POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 22**

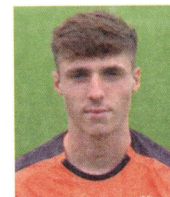
LJ. He's smooth! He's got everything. Nice guy, funny, scary, he's massive, really good footballer. Obviously has a good footballing background. Got a dodgy accent though. He's come out of his shell, and he's settled in really well.

FRANKIE MUSONDA**POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 20**

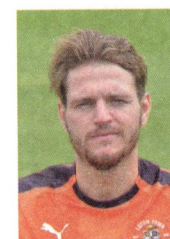
Hard working with a great attitude. Vain. He loves Instagram. He's ripped up to be honest, he's got a massive body. Since I have come here he's improved every day. You can tell he's going to be a top player. His mentality is right for a young player.

AKIN FAMEWO**POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 19**

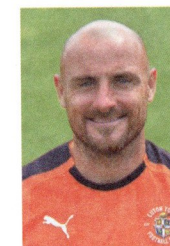
Akin is dedicated to what he's doing and he works hard. He keeps himself to himself. Quite introverted. He's gone on a season-long loan to Grimsby – it's a great opportunity for him to show what he can do.

JACK JAMES**POSITION: DEFENDER****AGE: 18**

We have got to know him well. He lives near me and Glen, so he's been travelling in with us. He's spending a bit too much time with Glen, he's getting a bit tricky. A good player who works hard.

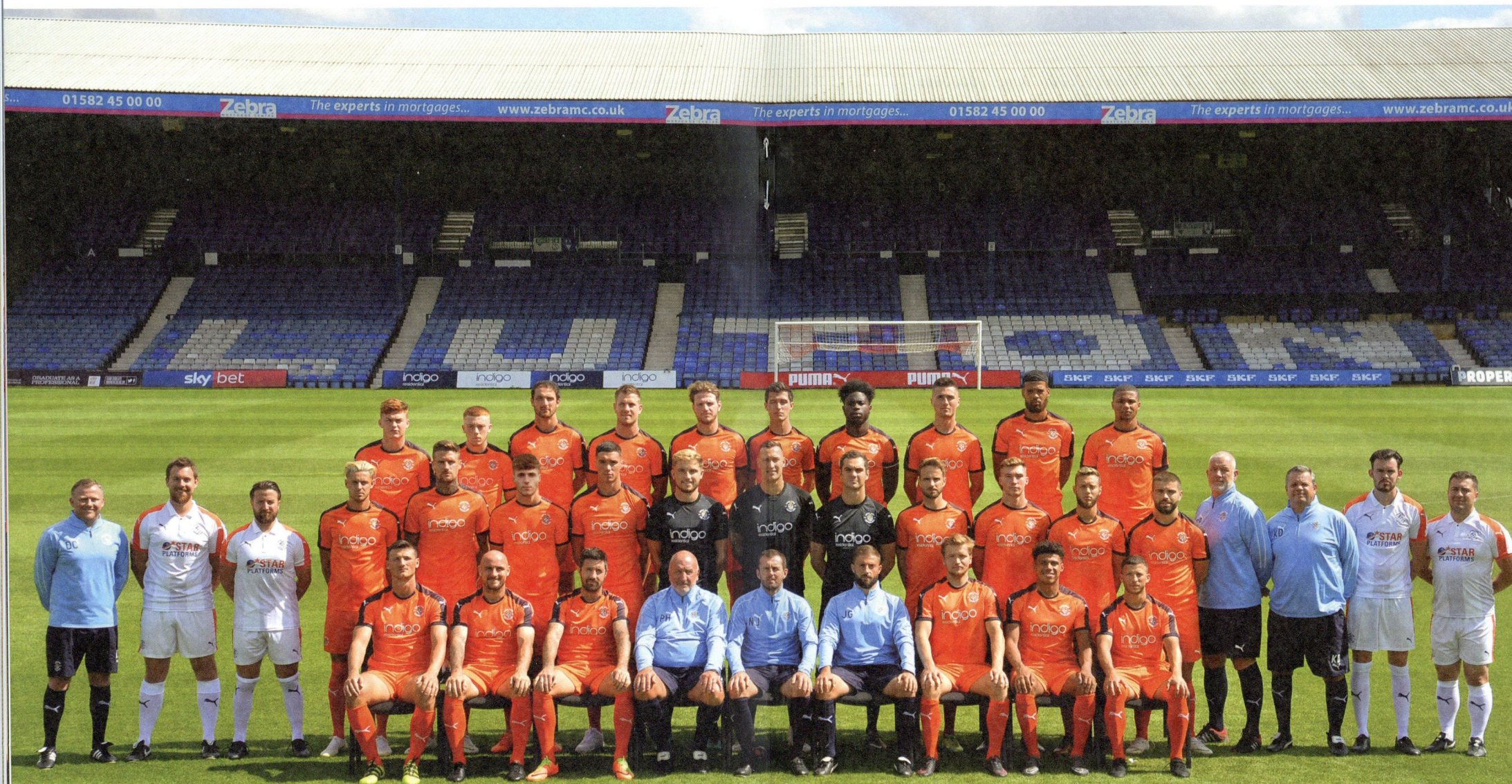
GLEN REA**POSITION: MIDFIELDER****AGE: 23**

He's what I like to call a tricky customer. Honest and hard-working, he has a laugh as well. You only live once, don't you? I like someone who can make me laugh. I am not sure about his hair though – I don't like it at all to be honest.

ALAN MCCORMACK**POSITION: MIDFIELDER****AGE: 34**

He's an experienced head. You will get a telling off from Alan McCormack once a season, you might get it twice if you're unlucky! You go in your shell afterwards. Crazy. A very serious guy, the age he's at now, he's looked after his body well. He's the Mac Dog.





LUTON TOWN 2018/19

Back row (from left to right):

Jack Senior, Arthur Read, Danny Hylton,
James Collins, Glen Rea, Dan Potts,
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, Aaron Jarvis,
Jake Jervis, Frankie Musonda

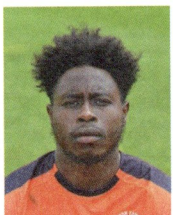
Middle row:

Darren Cook (Kitman/Masseur),
Elliott Plant (Strength and Conditioning Coach),
Jared Roberts-Smith (Head of Sports Science),
Harry Cornick, Sonny Bradley, Jack James,
Lloyd Jones, Harry Isted, Marek Stech,

James Shea, Andrew Shinnie, Jack Stacey,
Jorge Grant, Elliot Lee, Simon Parsell
(Physiotherapist), Kevin Dearden (Goalkeeper
Coach), Luke Sanders (Sports Scientist),
Peter Booker (Performance Analyst)

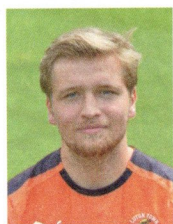
Front row:

Matty Pearson, Alan McCormack, Alan Sheehan,
Paul Hart (Assistant-Manager), Nathan Jones
(Manager), Joaquin Gomez (First-Team Coach),
Luke Berry, James Justin, Luke Gambin.

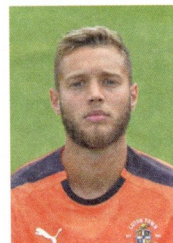
PELLY-RUDDOCK MPANZU**POSITION: MIDFIELDER****AGE: 25**

P-Rudz. DJ P-Rudz. I have never met anyone like Pelly. He's flamboyant. Funny. Out there. He's got a good head of hair and he's got his nose pierced – another good looking boy! He's got the strongest legs I have ever seen, he's a

bit of a beast to be honest. He's a top man. I like him a lot. He's one of a kind.

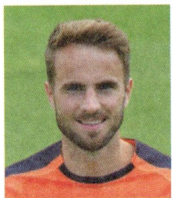
LUKE BERRY**POSITION: MIDFIELDER****AGE: 26**

Bezza, Bezza, Bezza! He keeps himself to himself. He's a really talented footballer. He's got a nice barnet. I have got a lot of admiration for him. He's hanging around with Danny Hylton too much these days, so I need to take him to one side otherwise he's going to get himself in trouble.

JORGE GRANT**POSITION: MIDFIELDER****AGE: 23**

He looks like Eyal from Love Island doesn't he? He's a good player, he's got a good barnet. I like how he's got the curls and he's got a strong beard. He's a great guy who did a good initiation song – Toploader. He's

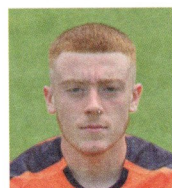
got the looks and he's got the skills.

ANDREW SHINNIE**POSITION: MIDFIELDER****AGE: 29**

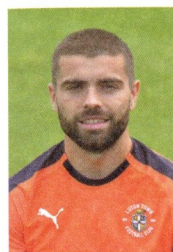
Lost without Olly – both technically gifted players. He likes dogs so gets a big tick in my book. Funny but serious and he's ageing really well as well. He loves Scotland, hates his car school.

LUKE GAMBIN**POSITION: MIDFIELDER****AGE: 25**

Tricky customer. Just happy. Small and happy. I am enjoying my time here. I like Luton.

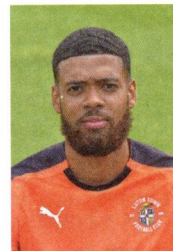
ARTHUR READ**POSITION: MIDFIELDER****AGE: 18**

He's the most relaxed guy I have ever met! Quite quiet as well. He's confident, but he's quiet. You have to spend a bit of time with him to know what he's about. He's got talent and he gets a kick up the backside from the older boys. He obviously comes from a good background because he's very polite.

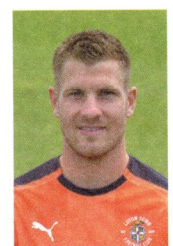
ELLIOT LEE**POSITION: STRIKER****AGE: 23**

I love him to bits. Very talented footballer. He's funny, he's a bit lost now his brother has gone. But he's close with Shinnie. Where I sit in the changing room, he's always around, he's a social person. An honest guy. His dad's a legend, so he's a great person

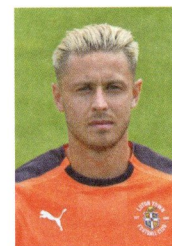
to be really! El is a top man.

JAKE JERVIS**POSITION: STRIKER****AGE: 26**

My big bro. I love him. Since he came here, Jake's been really good to be around. He's really positive, he will really help you. He's helped me in the gym. He's a 24/7 pro. He's got the longest legs you'll ever see, his feet are a bit dodgy though. I get on really well with him.

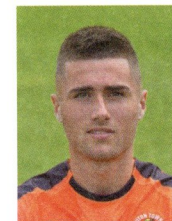
JAMES COLLINS**POSITION: STRIKER****AGE: 27**

Probably the third biggest moaner. He works hard. When it comes to the football he's serious. Off the pitch he has a laugh, but on it it's business for him. He's bossy. He eats loads, but he eats good! Loves scoring goals. He's obsessed with it. Dedicated to what he does.

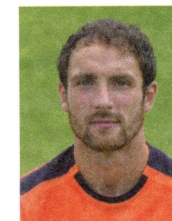
KARRY CORNICK**POSITION: STRIKER****AGE: 23**

The Corndog. Corns is quite out there, but he's quite introverted as well, he's a mix. He's got bleach blond hair. He's a focused guy, he's got a bromance going with Elliot. He's really fast, probably too fast for his own good. He's out there with his gear and his

hair. Doesn't take himself too seriously.

AARON JARVIS**POSITION: STRIKER****AGE: 20**

We all love Jarvo. He's a confident guy coming into this environment. The banter can be flying and he will give it back! He's strong, he's confident. Fair play to him he works really hard and is always trying to improve himself. He's quite introverted. He's got horrendous gear though.

DANNY HYLTON**POSITION: STRIKER****AGE: 29**

From playing against him in previous years, I thought 'this guy is a windup!'. But once you get to know him, he is a good guy. He is lively day-to-day. Off the pitch he's not too serious, but on it he is. He's got the balance I like.

He's the joker, playing up, winding people up. If you're not allowed to do it, he will do it. He likes to test the waters.

He looks like Eyal from Love Island doesn't he?

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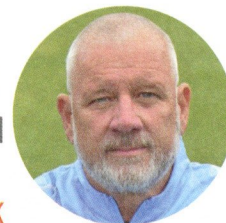
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TRICK OR TREATMENT



[SIMON SAYS...]

A HUMOROUS INSIGHT TO PHYSIO SIMON PARSELL'S WORK

Here we go again on an adventure, this time though in League One.

To have the first home game against Sunderland is fantastic. The Black Cats are strongly tipped to win the league so what a great test it is for us and one the boys are looking forward to. A packed Kenilworth Road is as intimidating as anywhere.

I often get asked the question 'what did you do this summer?' Of course, I wish I could talk of exotic holidays, golfing trips with my mates and sampling loads of lager. But NO! I got to spend it with Luke Berry. Six weeks is enough for any man. Mind you, he was good to me and let me buy him breakfast in London and coffee at Starbucks.

As much as I don't like to give him credit, I have to. He has worked incredibly hard to get to this point and is now back in daily training. It's just a question of getting the pre-season into his legs and making sure he doesn't pick up any other injuries.

Genius

March 30th was the fateful day and here we are in August on the verge of return. That's nearly the same time it's taken him to paint the kitchen cupboards in his house! He told he he'd bought Graffiti proof paint. I said. 'That's not remarkable'.

Obviously a major consideration during the pre-season training in Slovenia was 'what is happening on Love Island?'. Luckily we found that Sky Go now works throughout Europe, but the hour difference caused a problem for Collo. He came up with this theory: 'It's 10pm here in Slovenia and 9pm in the UK, so why don't we go onto Sky Go and we can watch Love Island at 9pm'. Absolute genius.

There has been a suggestion that Andrew Shinnie and Jorge Grant could be twins, but when I walked into the canteen and I saw George Best dressed



as Dale Brunton, the Academy's Education Officer pictured, I had to ask him: "Where did it all go wrong?"

I have to say another big thank you to Bobbers Travel Club. The fans' travel club have again supported us by buying some valuable equipment for the gym to assist in fitness and rehabilitation programmes.

Also to the board, who have invested heavily in an Alter G system which allows players to run and exercise in weightless conditions. This was instrumental in helping Bez recover quickly. So to everyone, a very big thank you!

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Luke Berry HAT'S LIFE



Apple or Android?

Apple.

Last person you called?

My girlfriend.

Most famous person in your phone?

Dion Dublin.

Favourite food?

Calamari or Camembert. Beautiful!

Apple or rhubarb crumble?

Apple.

Food you can't stand?

Baked beans.

Pet hate?

When people walk around oblivious of their surroundings – people who chat at the bottom of escalators! I have got a few things actually.

Cat or dog?

Dog.

Xbox or PlayStation?

PlayStation.

Karaoke song?

Oasis – Wonderwall.

Favourite artist?

Ed Sheeran, Coldplay or Arctic Monkeys.

Top of your playlist?

Closer – Kings Of Leon.

Last holiday?

Dubai for two weeks in the summer.

Can't miss on TV?

Grand Designs. That's the only programme I enjoy watching.

Love Island or Peaky Blinders?

Neither.

Club you support?

I don't really support anyone. I'll say Arsenal, but I am not really bothered.

Favourite away ground?

St James' Park.

Best moment in football?

Getting promoted with the mighty Hatters!

Best player played with?

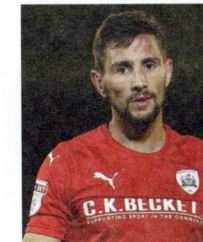
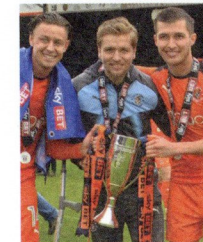
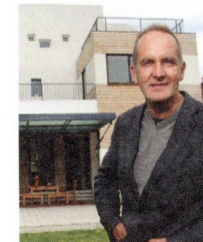
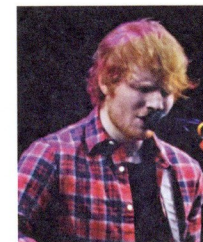
Conor Hourihane.

Room-mate?

Was Harry Cornick, now Danny Hylton.

Instagram or Twitter?

Twitter.



PORTSMOUTH 1 LUTON TOWN 0

PORTSMOUTH GOAL: LOWE 16

STORY OF THE MATCH

It was a positive, yet frustrating afternoon for the Hatters, as they demonstrated that they are more than adept at League One level, but were unable to find the back on the net in front of a full house on a sunny afternoon at Fratton Park.

After Jamal Lowe gave the hosts the lead just 16 minutes in, the Hatters dominated for the rest of the clash, with Alan Sheehan striking the post in the first half before Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu saw his low effort drift just wide of the goal.

James Collins crashed a shot against the Pompey crossbar in the second half with a brilliant curling effort and Harry Cornick almost rounded off a brilliant passing move, but it was Kenny Jackett's side that took all three points in the end.

	
<p>STECH JUSTIN PEARSON SHEEHAN (C) POTTS MCCORMACK (JERVIS, 86) MPANZU GRANT LEE CORNICK (SHINNIE, 77) COLLINS</p>	<p>MACGILLIVRAY WALKES (CLOSE, 60) BROWN CLARKE NAYLOR PITMAN (C) (HAWKINS, 45) LOWE CURTIS WHATMOUGH THOMPSON (BURGESS, 71) HAUNSTRUP</p>
<p>SUBS NOT USED: SHEA BRADLEY STACEY REA GAMBIN</p>	<p>SUBS NOT USED: MCGEE DONAHUE CHAPLIN EVANS</p>
<p>YELLOW CARDS: POTTS JUSTIN</p>	<p>YELLOW CARDS: BROWN</p>

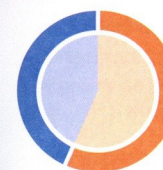


JONES:

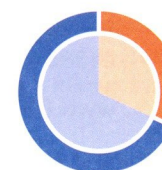
"We should have been comfortable with the chances we created, the type of chances. I don't know how thick the bars and posts are, but I thought we were brilliant.

"I am so proud of my team. To come into League One, to come here to the favourites, or second favourites, and to do that to them, I am proud. I am excited for what we can achieve.

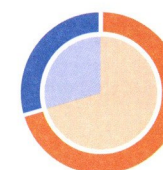
"We carved them open time and time again. We weren't quite clinical. We hit the post and second half we were totally dominant. I am very proud."



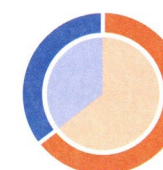
POSSESSION
42% | 58%



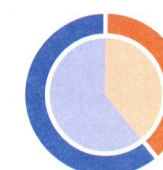
SHOTS ON TARGET
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[REACTION]

PELLY PLEASED AFTER POMPEY PERFORMANCE

BY HARRY ROGERS

Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu has said he is desperate to impress Town boss Nathan Jones as he looks to pin down a place in the Hatters' starting XI.

The club's current longest serving player – who signed initially on loan from West Ham United before making the move permanent back in 2014 – won his second promotion with the club last season, having been a big part of the team that climbed out of the Conference.

After having to bide his time last season, the midfielder stepped in after Luke Berry's ankle injury at Colchester, with Pelly reminding us all why Nathan Jones tied him down to a new long-term deal at the beginning of last season, putting in some tremendous displays that saw him start at Fratton Park.

Fight

Now on 125 appearances for the club, Mpanzu still loves every minute of being a Hatter and wants to push on for his third promotion.

He said: "Starting the Portsmouth game shows that the manager has got belief in me and I've got to fight for my place just like everyone else. Hopefully I put in a good performance on the day and I can continue that throughout the season.

"It's good to put a Luton shirt on still and it's good to be here. The main aim is to get promoted and to keep the fans happy. We've got to have belief. We are a big club in this league and we have got to prove that. Obviously, we didn't do that at Portsmouth, but we still have 45 games to go so hopefully we can have a little run and see where we go."

Last week wasn't the start Jones' side would have been hoping for but with Danny Hylton available for



selection today, former Boreham Wood youngster believes his presence along with all of the squads striking options could help in producing Luton's first Sky Bet League One win in more than a decade.

He added: "We've got four great strikers including El (Elliot Lee) who can play there as well, so Hylts coming back into the team will be a big boost. He gets a lot of goals, so he will be fighting for his place like everyone else. Hopefully it's a boost and we'll see what happens against Sunderland."

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[REACTION]

TOWN WERE THE SHEEZ KNEES... BUT JUST COULDN'T FIND THE BACK OF THE NET

BY HARRY ROGERS

With Alan Sheehan appointed as the club's new captain this season, the 31-year-old was disappointed not to get the win on his first game with the armband on a permanent basis.

The defender who has captained the Hatters sporadically throughout his time at Kenilworth Road, was just as stunned as the rest of the 2,392 travelling supporters not to see the ball in the back of the net on more than one occasion at Fratton Park.

After hitting the post with a curling free kick, the centre half is confident that the goals and a clinical edge will soon come.

He said: "We carved Portsmouth open a few times and on the flip side, they didn't carve us open all day.

"We had some excellent play through the midfield and the boys had chances. We hit the woodwork a few times and the keeper pulled off a few good saves. Unfortunatley it didn't go in but these things even themselves out.

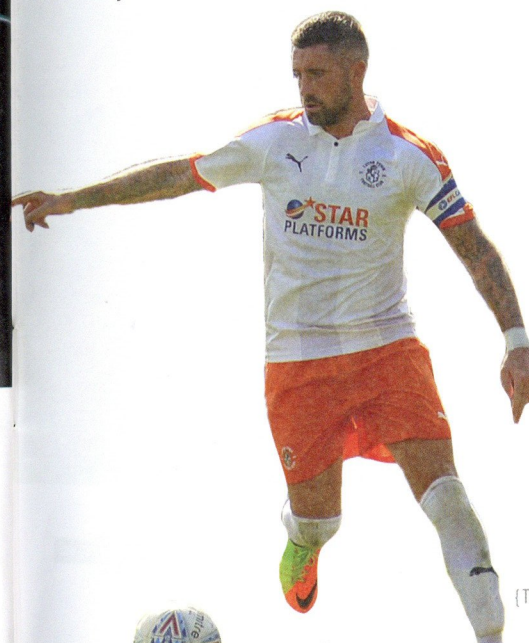
"I don't think anybody would disagree that we were the better team at Portsmouth, but they got the three points. They were clinical, they had one chance and they scored and that's the way things work. The positives are that we did play really well, everybody showed up and we did put in good performances throughout. Apart from the goal, the defence did really well, I don't think Stechy had a save to make all game.

Pride

"The thing is, if we play like that every game of the season there isn't going to be a problem. We're going to wipe the floor with some teams I believe. Unfortunately, these first games of the season are weird games, there is so much build up. We're just proud that we got the ball down and we played our game."

After accepting the captain's armband after the departure of Scott Cuthbert, the defender expressed nothing but pride at being the man to lead the Hatters on the pitch.

He added: I'm very proud to lead the team out. I've worn the armband a number of times so it's always proud for me every time I lead this club out."





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TRAVELLER'S TALES

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST MEDIA OFFICER **KEVIN HARPER'S** TRIP TO FRATTON PARK

THE JOURNEY

On another belting summer day the journey down to Southsea wasn't too bad. The M25 was generally kind to us and apart from some traffic going past the sea when we got down there we made it to Fratton Park in decent time.

RATING: (OUT OF 5) ●●●●●

THE GROUND

This was not my first trip to Fratton Park and it has not changed in the two years since we last went there. It was a good ground to stage our return to League One if we had to be on the road. It holds over 20,000 and there was a decent atmosphere throughout. It is a traditional ground which I prefer, and the view from the away end is not too bad so all good.

RATING: ●●●●●●●

THE FOOD

Food and drink inside the ground was a little expensive at £4.10 for a burger and £2.20 for a soft drink, but on a boiling hot day a drink was a must. There were plenty of food options so I grabbed a burger and a drink and headed into the seats.

RATING: ●●●●

THE PROGRAMME

Much was made a few weeks ago that clubs no longer have to produce a match day programme. Portsmouth still do one which was 84 pages for £3. Eight to ten of those pages were about the Town,

with the usual stats and quiz pages mixed in around it. It made for a decent read on the way home!

RATING: ●●●●●●●

THE MATCH

Great match to get our League One return underway. Unfortunately the result didn't go our way but it wasn't for the want of trying. Portsmouth opened the scoring fairly early on with what was their only real chance of the game with Lowe tapping in after Sheehan slipped in the build up.

We had chances to get back into it and deserved at least a point. Sheehan hit the post with a free-kick, Collins thumped the bar while the keeper made good saves from Cornick and Sheehan as we couldn't get the goal we deserved.

RATING: ●●●●●●●

MAN OF THE MATCH

I thought Alan McCormack stood out in this one. He protected the defence well, broke up play on the few occasions Portsmouth did attack and sprayed the ball around nicely. We know he's a key player for us and he highlighted it here.

SUMMARY

Not the result we wanted but there is no need to feel despondent on the evidence of that performance. We'll play much worse and win for sure. The journey home was traffic free which was nice, so other than the outcome it was a decent first day of the season all in all.

OVERALL RATING: 18

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EFL YOUTH ALLIANCE SOUTH EAST FIXTURES 2018/19

Sat Aug 4	Gillingham	A	L 0-4	Sat Oct 20	Cambridge Utd	H	11am
	Beechings Cross, Gillingham ME7 2EU			Sat Oct 27	Cup Area Quarter Final		
Sat Aug 11	Barnet	H	11am	Sat Nov 3	Peterborough Utd	A	11am
Sat Aug 18	AFC Wimbledon	A	10:30am	Sat Nov 17	N'hampton Town	A	11am
Sat Aug 25	Cambridge Utd	A	11am	Sat Nov 24	Stevenage	A	10:30am
	Newmarket Town FC, Cricket Field Road, Newmarket, CB8 8BT			Sat Dec 1	MK Dons	H	11am
Tue Aug 28	Cambridge Utd (EFL Cup)	H	1pm	Sat Dec 8	Leyton Orient	H	11am
Sat Sep 1	Peterborough Utd	H	11am	Sat Dec 15	Southend Utd	A	11am
Wed Sep 12	Cup Group Match 2			Sat Dec 22	Gillingham	H	11am
Sat Sep 15	N'hampton Town	H	11am	Sat Jan 5	Barnet	A	10:30am
Sat Sep 22	MK Dons	A	11am	Sat Jan 12	Cup Area Semi Final		
Sat Sep 29	Stevenage	H	11am	Sat Jan 19	AFC Wimbledon	H	11am
Sat Oct 6	Leyton Orient	A	10:30am	Sat Feb 2	Cup Area Final		
Sat Oct 13	Southend Utd	H	11am				

All home Saturday matches are played at Ely Way with 11am kick-off, unless stated otherwise



ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH ANDY AWFORD

U18S

We welcomed seven new apprentices – James Holden, Ricco Grecco, Lewis Swindells, Josh Boorn, Sam Beckwith, Jonas Kalonda and Avan Jones – to the club on a full-time basis in July.

Those seven, along with our second year apprentices – Tiernan Parker, Drew Richardson, Josh Neuville, Corey Panter, Toby Byron, Connor Tomlinson and Jake Peck – will form the nucleus of our youth team this season.

With only having 14 apprentices, we are comfortable with the fact that this will open up opportunities for our current Under 16 players to get valuable match minutes for the U18s this season.

We started our league programme last Saturday with an away defeat at Gillingham. Three quick fire second half goals did the damage with Gillingham thoroughly deserving of their 4-0 scoreline.

It provided a big learning curve for some of the younger ones that played and the apprentices will certainly need to do a lot better as we faced Barnet at Ely Way this morning.

ITALY TOUR

The Youth Team spent two weeks in the picturesque Italian village of Borgo Valsugana during pre-season. This trip was paid for and organised by Erasmus+, who operate for Academies in this field and provide a fantastic opportunity for the boys to not only experience good facilities, but also a wide range of education and life skill activities. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by us all and proved a worthwhile experience both on and off the pitch.

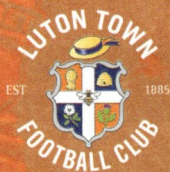
EFL CUP DEFENCE

A date for your diary - we have been drawn at home to Cambridge United in the first round of the EFL Youth Alliance Cup. This will take place at Ely Way on Tuesday August 28th with a 1pm kick off. After winning the competition for the second time in three years last April, we are delighted to be drawn at home, however as always Cambridge will provide us with a stern test.

Enjoy the season, enjoy today's game and please get behind the team... COYH!!

Andy





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LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

SIX DAY COMMUNITY STADIUM EVENT REACHES OVER 5,000 PARTICIPANTS

Seems only five minutes since we were celebrating automatic promotion last season and no play-off drama! One of the big benefits to the Trust of this meant the Club were able to donate the stadium to us for an unbelievable five days before the new pitch was laid. In those five days we managed to engage with over 5,000 participants as we invited young and old to take part in a series of projects and events.

First up was the culmination of our Football for Peace project. Luton Council and Luton Town FC Community Trust have joined together with Football for Peace to enable young people to work together within communities to create greater mutual understanding and respect, while developing personal skills in the process. Whilst learning sports leadership skills, during the course training, the young ambassadors aged 16 and 17 attended a variety of workshops looking at issues such as

equality and diversity, learning ways to tackle prejudice, hate crime and extremism, while developing skills such as conflict management. On the day, boys and girls from local schools arrived and to emphasise the nature of the event, the squads were given names such as "diversity", "cohesion" and "equality". Spectators included both the Town's MPs Gavin Shuker and Kelvin Hopkins, LBC Mayor Ayub, LBC CEO Trevor Holden, Luton Town CEO Gary Sweet, Chairman David Wilkinson and club legend, Mick Harford. Cllr Aslam Khan, LBC portfolio holder for Safer, Stronger Communities, said: "Today was a fantastic event. The town recently united to celebrate the achievements of its sporting heroes and initiatives like Football for Peace are another great way of drawing people together. These enthusiastic ambassadors have learnt a great deal. While in some ways the tournament marks the end of their programme, I'm sure their energy and



enthusiasm will continue to inspire others from all sections of our community for many years to come."

Following straight after our Football for Peace event we continued with the community cohesion theme by holding an U16 PL KICKS tournament on the pitch. Teams from Stevenage, Milton Keynes, Leyton Orient and West Ham travelled to take on our Luton Town teams which were made up from boys across the town. In all over 150 boys attended the event and as part of the evening the boys attended an anti-knife crime workshop that included a 'real life' story from Channitta Lendore of Dynamic Decisions, who told the story of her brother Isaac's death from a gang knife attack in Bedford two years ago.

We also held our first 'Luton Street League' football championships for local young men over two nights of our six-day community stadium event and were delighted to welcome first teamer and Luton boy James Justin to present the trophies. The 'Luton Street League' project is a joint project between the Hatters Trust and East Cricket that also seeks to use sport to improve community cohesion and life chances for young people in Luton. The overall project involves investment from both the Trust, our partners East Cricket and the European Union through the European Social Fund with Luton Council managing the project.

Squeezed in between our cohesion events was the small matter of the Hatters Youth Football Cup that saw 1,200 youngsters take part in one of the biggest two day stadium tournaments in the south of England, and we followed this up with another two days of schools tournaments that saw a further 20 local primary schools take part.

We finished off the six days with a charity adult football tournament, which raised £2,500 for the Foxley Kingham 50th Anniversary Foundation, which is aiming to raise £50,000 this year to support local charities.

Phew! Six days non-stop – you could almost hear the grass sigh after everyone had left. Can't wait for next May – no play-offs please!



BEN ABBOTT

The Hatters would like to wish Town season ticket holder Ben Abbott a happy birthday for Monday, as he will be turning 17!

Ben sits in the Kenilworth Road End with his mum, dad and brother Josh.

Have a great day, Ben!



WELCOME TO THE DOWNES!

We would like to welcome three generations of Hatter supporters who have travelled over from Dublin for the game today.

Gerry Downes, 83, has connections going back to the 1960s with Luton. His son Ciaran was born in the town in 1966, and after the family moved back to Ireland in the 1970s, Conor (pictured) was born in 1999. His first visit came in January 2016 - but today is the first time all three will have attended a match together at the Kenny. Enjoy the game guys!



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HATTERS LADIES

Luton Town Ladies began their pre-season fixtures hosting QPR Ladies from the division above, before travelling to Crystal Palace from the newly formed Championship, then hosting Ipswich Town Academy.

With several new players and youngsters on show throughout the fixture programme, it was a chance for Hatters manager Nikki Baker to look at new signings and partnerships within the squad.

Against QPR, it was the Hatters who took the lead when new signing Olivia Abraham played Nicola Henman (pictured) in and she rounded the keeper finishing well. Just before half-time though, the visitors pulled a goal back from a corner.

In the second half and with several changes to the side, Luton didn't settle and allowed QPR to take the lead. Soon after though, another new signing Maddison Goodenough played a teasing ball in behind Rangers' defence and Erica Byron latched onto it, slotting it past the oncoming keeper.

Away at Palace was a tough test with the Hatters being heavily beaten, but able to learn from a team two divisions above.

Ipswich at home saw another draw after Erica Byron put Town ahead, before three quick-fire goals from the away side. The Hatters pulled it back though, as Byron scored from distance before setting up new signing Kiki Christofi to neatly finish for the equaliser.

Town manager Nikki Baker said: "The four games have been positive exercises, challenging ourselves against higher opposition. We were able to look at several players against decent opposition. We feel that we have



added well to the squad and retained players too, giving us a chance to compete at the top of the division.

"Olivia and Maddison are youngsters we have recruited from MK Dons, whereas Naomi, Kiki and Hodo have played in and around this level for other clubs. We are hopeful of another couple of signings in the next week or so."

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH EAST DIVISION ONE FIXTURES 2017/18

Sun Aug 19	Leyton Orient	H	Sun Jan 20	AFC Wimbledon	A
Sun Aug 26	AFC Wimbledon	H	Sun Feb 3	Actonians	H
Sun Sep 9	Actonians	A	Sun Feb 13	Enfield Town	A
Wed Sep 12	Enfield Town	H	Sun Feb 17	Billericay Town	H
Sun Sep 16	Billericay Town	A	Sun Mar 10	Ipswich Town	A
Sun Sep 30	Ipswich Town	H	Wed Mar 13	Denham United	H
Wed Oct 3	Denham United	A	Sun Mar 24	Crawley Wasps	A
Sun Oct 21	Crawley Wasps	H	Sun Mar 31	Cambridge United	H
Sun Nov 4	Cambridge Utd	A	Sun Apr 14	Norwich City	H
Sun Nov 18	Norwich City	A	Sun May 5	Stevenage	A
Sun Dec 16	Stevenage	H	(Home games are played at Stockwood Park Athletics Stadium)		
Sun Jan 13	Leyton Orient	A			

ELITE BODYSHOP

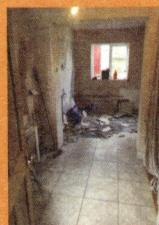
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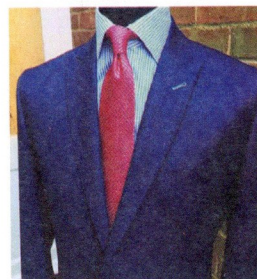
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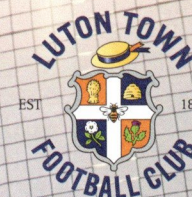
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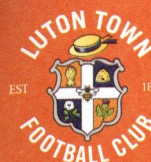
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JUNIOR HATTERS

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SUNDERLAND A.F.C.

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IN MEMORIAM

Over the summer we have been saddened to hear of the passing of several loyal Luton Town supporters. Family and friends have contacted This Is Our Town to pay tribute to their loved ones, and we send our condolences to all who knew them...

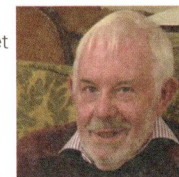
PETER BRATT

Lifelong supporter and season ticket holder for many years, Peter Bratt, passed away peacefully on June 7th, aged 82.



MICHAEL WOOD

Michael Wood had been a Kenilworth Road season ticket holder for around 70 years. Michael, who lived in Ash Road, sadly passed away on June 27th, aged 81.



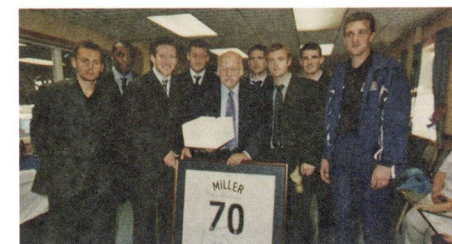
BRIAN MURPHY



Martyn Boydon wrote: "Brian Murphy passed away aged 80 on May 25th. Brian was a lifelong fan, first developing his love of Luton when he was evacuated to his Auntie Daisy and Uncle Sid in Dunstable during WW2, often talking about the suspension and restarting of games after the war. He attended games regularly from the late 1950s until moving to Devon in 1978. More recently he attended games when he could with his daughter, son in law and grandchildren, Morag, Martyn, George and Emily. He will be missed by us all – a great husband to Dorothy Murphy, Dad and Grandad. RIP Brian"

DOUG MILLER

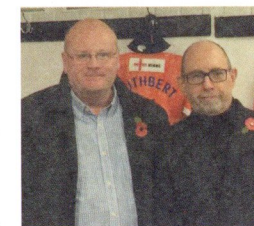
Sue Miller wrote: "Over the close season we lost my father in law, Doug Miller. A stalwart Luton



supporter of many years, Doug introduced his three sons, Les – of Bobbers Travel and Supporters' Trust fame – Roger and Paul, to the joys of supporting the Hatters. Roger's son Darren and his son Reece have also followed Doug's example, so in the last couple of seasons he attended matches with two of his sons, one daughter in law, his grandson and his great grandson. Doug followed the club home and away for many years experiencing many ups and downs over the years. He was 85 when he died but right up until a few hours before he was asking about any transfer news. He had already paid for his 2018/19 season ticket in the disabled supporters' balcony row A space 5. Travelling to Kenilworth Road without him on Saturday will be hard but we will give the boys an extra cheer for Doug because that's what he would have wanted."

BARRY REVELS

Graham Winterbone wrote: "Barry was a big Luton fan and attended hundreds of matches over the years. His last Luton game proved to be the final home game of last season, which he enjoyed in one of the executive boxes, with his wife, two sons and many good friends. His younger son Luke was in the youth system at Luton for several years, and attends games with his Barry's older son Craig when possible. He also found time to watch Hitchin Town and there was a minute's applause before the pre-season friendly with them, which was very moving. He is much missed by his family and friends."



FIXTURESPILE-UP

WHO, WHEN AND WHERE THE HATTERS ARE PLAYING THIS SEASON

KEY: ● First Substitute | ● Second Substitute | ● Third Substitute | ■ Sent off | GOALSCORER

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI	SUBS
AUGUST									
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth	L0-1	19,018	2,392	21	Stech Justin Pearson Sheehan Potts McCormack ●	Mpanzu Grant Lee Cornick ● Collins Shinnie ● Jervis ● Bradley Stacey Rea Gambin Shea
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Sunderland						
Tue 14	8.00pm	A	West Bromwich Albion (CC R1)						
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Peterborough United						
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Southend United						
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Shrewsbury Town						
SEPTEMBER									
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers						
Tue 4	7.45pm	H	Brighton & Hove Albion U21 (CT)						
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Doncaster Rovers						
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Bristol Rovers						
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Blackpool						
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Charlton Athletic						
OCTOBER									
Tue 2	7.45pm	A	Oxford United						
Tue 9	7.45pm	H	MK Dons (CT)						
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Scunthorpe United						
Sat 13	3.00pm	A	Barnsley						
Sat 20	3.00pm	H	Walsall						
Tue 23	7.45pm	H	Accrington Stanley						
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon						
NOVEMBER									
Sat 3	3.00pm	A	Rochdale						
Tue 13	7.45pm	A	Peterborough United (CT)						
Sat 17	3.00pm	H	Plymouth Argyle						
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Gillingham						
Tue 27	7.45pm	H	Bradford City						
DECEMBER									
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Fleetwood Town						
Sat 15	3.00pm	A	Coventry City						
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Burton Albion						
Wed 26	3.00pm	A	Scunthorpe United						
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	Walsall						
JANUARY									
Tue 1	3.00pm	H	Barnsley						
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	Portsmouth						
Sat 12	3.00pm	A	Sunderland						
Sat 19	3.00pm	H	Peterborough United						
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Southend United						
FEBRUARY									
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town						
Sat 9	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers						
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Fleetwood Town						
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Coventry City						
MARCH									
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Rochdale						
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle						
Tue 12	7.45pm	A	Bradford City						
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	Gillingham						
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Doncaster Rovers						
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Bristol Rovers						
APRIL									
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Blackpool						
Sat 13	3.00pm	A	Charlton Athletic						
Fri 19	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley						
Mon 22	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon						
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	Burton Albion						
MAY									
Sat 4	5.30pm	H	Oxford United						

LEAGUE TABLE 2017/18

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Barnsley	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
2	GILLINGHAM	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
3	Doncaster Rovers	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
4	Peterborough United	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
5	Rochdale	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
6	Scunthorpe United	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
7	Sunderland	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
8	Walsall	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
9	AFC Wimbledon	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
10	Bradford City	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
11	Portsmouth	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
12	Blackpool	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
13	Wycombe Wanderers	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
14	Southend United	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
15	Bristol Rovers	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
16	Burton Albion	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
17	Charlton Athletic	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
18	Coventry City	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
19	Plymouth Argyle	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
20	Fleetwood Town	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
21	Luton Town	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
22	Shrewsbury Town	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
23	Accrington Stanley	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
24	Oxford United	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0

PLAYER STATS 2017/18

	THIS SEASON										LTCF	
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISP		CAREER TOT			
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS		
Luke Berry	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	39	8
Sonny Bradley	0	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0	
James Collins	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	46	20	
Harry Cornick	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	42	5	
Luke Gambin	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	37	3	
Jorge Grant	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0	
Danny Hylton	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	90	50	
Jack James	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	1	0	
Aaron Jarvis	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	4	1	
Jake Jervis	0	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	11	0	
Lloyd Jones	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	1	0	
James Justin	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	1	0	63	3	
Elliot Lee	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	50	15	
Alan McCormack	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	1	0	17	1	
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	155	9	
Frankie Musonda	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	12	1	
Matty Pearson	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0	
Dan Potts	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	1	0	90	8	
Glen Rea	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	109	4	
Arthur Read	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	3	0	
Jack Senior	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	21	0	
James Shea	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	13	0	
Alan Sheehan	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	1	0	108	7	
Andrew Shinnie	0	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	35	3	
Jack Stacey	0	(0)	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	45	1	
Marek Stech	1	(0)	0	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	43	0	



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

BY SIMON PITTS - IFOLLOW HATTERS COMMENTATOR

A warm welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this, the first League One fixture here in ten years, and just over 11 years since we last played today's visitors in a league fixture.

In May 2007 Sunderland came to a sold-out Kenilworth Road looking to win the Championship title, which they did with a 5-0 victory and were promoted back to the Premier League, as Luton dropped into League One.

It has certainly been two very contrasting stories for the clubs since our last league meeting as Sunderland have had ten consecutive seasons in the Premier League, whilst Luton had spent five seasons playing Non-League football before returning to this level.

The two sides did, of course, meet in the League Cup just a few months after that League fixture with Luton winning 3-0 courtesy of a brace from Paul Furlong, after David Bell had opened the scoring.

Overall there have been 23 league meetings between the sides and five Cup fixtures. The Hatters have won 11, there have been four draws and Sunderland have the slight edge overall with 13 victories. Luton have scored the most goals though: 55 to 49. The Hatters' last victory came on a very wet December afternoon in 1994, a 3-0 win as Scott Oakes netted twice with John Hartson also scoring.

The Hatters started their League One campaign at Portsmouth last weekend and, despite a positive

performance and dominating the game, lost by a solitary goal. The performance certainly deserved more and it was good to see over 2,300 travelling fans on their feet and applauding the squad off the Fratton Park pitch at the end of the match.

It was great to be back behind the mic and commenting once again on iFollow, just a shame that there was no trademark goal celebration to enjoy on the opening day! With a little bit of luck and the difference of an inch or two, both Alan Sheehan and James Collins could have been celebrating instead of seeing their efforts coming back off the woodwork.

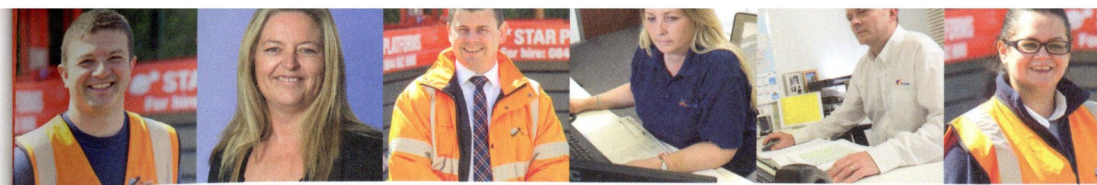
There was a terrific response on social media from those overseas who are now able to enjoy the commentary alongside the iFollow video coverage. UK subscribers aren't missing out either as they have access to watch a full match replay, which also now has the commentary included.

Looking back, I've noticed that the last Football League match Luton played on this date was also the last time we were in League One back in the 2007/08 season. Hartlepool were beaten 2-1 that day; here's hoping that we're celebrating the same outcome over visitors from the north-east today!

Enjoy the match! #COYH



Luton Town Football Club's commitment is to promote inclusion and to confront and eliminate discrimination, whether by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief. People can be assured of an environment in which their rights, dignity and individual worth are respected, and in particular that they are able to work and watch football in an environment without the threat of intimidation, victimisation, harassment, bullying and abuse. Should you wish to report a specific incident, please contact your nearest steward or download Kick It Out's free, confidential reporting app on the App Store or Google Play.



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TEAMS



Manager: NATHAN JONES

- 1 Marek STECH
- 2 James JUSTIN
- 3 Dan POTTS
- 4 Alan McCORMACK
- 5 Sonny BRADLEY
- 6 Matty PEARSON
- 7 Jack STACEY
- 8 Luke BERRY
- 9 Danny HYLTON
- 10 Elliot LEE
- 11 Andrew SHINNIE
- 14 Harry CORNICK
- 15 Jake JERVIS
- 16 Glen REA
- 17 Pelly-Ruddock MPANZU
- 18 Jorge GRANT
- 19 James COLLINS
- 21 Jack SENIOR
- 22 Luke GAMBIN
- 27 Aaron JARVIS
- 28 Lloyd JONES
- 34 Jack JAMES
- 35 Arthur READ
- 36 James SHEA
- 37 Frankie MUSONDA
- 40 Harry ISTED
- 44 Alan SHEEHAN

Manager: JACK ROSS

- 1 Jon MCLAUGHLIN
- 2 Adam MATTHEWS
- 3 Bryan OVIEDO
- 4 Glenn LOOVENS
- 5 Alim OZTURK
- 6 Lee CATTERMOLLE
- 7 Chris MAGUIRE
- 8 Dylan McGEOUCH
- 9 Charlie WYKE
- 10 George HONEYMAN
- 11 Lynden GOOCH
- 12 Tom FLANAGAN
- 13 Luke O'NIEN
- 14 Duncan WATMORE
- 15 Jack BALDWIN
- 16 Reece JAMES
- 17 Jerome SINCLAIR
- 18 Donald LOVE
- 19 Aiden MCGEADY
- 20 Josh MAJA
- 21 Ethan ROBSON
- 25 Robbin RUITER
- 29 Elliot EMBLETON
- 32 Max STRYJEK
- 33 Denver HUME
- 34 Jake HACKETT
- 35 Luke MOLYNEUX
- 36 Andrew NELSON
- 37 Bali MUMBA
- 40 Brandon TAYLOR

MATCH OFFICIALS



CHARLES BREAKSPEAR



CHRISTOPHER WARD



STEPHEN BROWN



MICHAEL WEBB

NEXT HOME GAME:
SOUTHEND UNITED
TUE 21 AUGUST 2018 | KO 7.45PM

