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2018-19 SEASON | ISSUE #5
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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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Thoughts, feedback and announcements are welcome by post, phone or email #COYH

The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.

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THE MANAGER



NATHAN JONES

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this afternoon's Sky Bet League One game against Bristol Rovers.

It seems an age since we last played in the league here when Shrewsbury visited three weeks ago, and a lot has happened on and off the pitch since then.

I'll start by welcoming everyone who has travelled up from the Memorial Stadium, including all Bristol Rovers supporters, directors, officials, Darrell Clarke and Marcus Stewart, their staff and their players, and I hope they have a safe journey back west tonight.

Like Luton Town, Rovers have experienced Non-League life in the not-too-distant past, but are now an established League One club currently in their third season in the division following successive promotions back from the National League.

We know they will represent another stern test and act as another good gauge for where we are at, just as Sunderland, Southend and Shrewsbury have in previous home matches.

Our last two games on the road may have produced only the one point, which we earned by coming from behind yet again at Wycombe, but we know that performance levels have been good enough to have realistically come back with all six.

Once we stop conceding early goals and giving ourselves a mountain to climb in matches, we know we'll be more of a force to be reckoned than we already are.

The overall structure to our play, our domination of long periods of matches and the number of openings we are creating has been terrific to see as we get used to the new level with as tough a start as you could have imagined, but we need to start converting that positivity into points.



Off the pitch, we've said farewell to Paul Hart, who has been a great help to me in his two years as my assistant-manager. Harty's a wonderful friend and mentor, and he did everything I asked of him, completely committed to the role.

But the travelling from his home in Nottingham was proving tough, and when the opportunity arose at Notts County, it was a sensible lifestyle decision for Paul to make at his stage of life. It gives him a new challenge, one that I know he'll relish, and we all wish him every success back at Meadow Lane.

Back to today, and the atmosphere here at Kenilworth Road for the first three games has been electric. It's no coincidence that we're unbeaten, with that near-capacity crowd behind us. As always, your support on the road for the past fortnight has been phenomenal, too.

Please continue to get behind the team as we look to bounce quickly back to winning ways.

Enjoy the game.

{NATHAN JONES IS SPONSORED BY: THOMPSONS ACCOUNTANTS AND COUNTRY PROPERTIES (HITCHIN) 01462 452951} 5



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN **DAVID WILKINSON**

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road.

Today we entertain the officials, players and supporters from Bristol Rovers. It's just under three years since we last faced the Pirates, when we lost 2-0 under the caretaker management of Andy Awford, a week before we welcomed Nathan Jones to the club.

Perhaps the most memorable game to me was on Boxing Day in 2007, the last time we were in League One, where we managed an amazing rearguard action to draw 1-1 at their place whilst ending up with only eight men on the pitch. Tense isn't the word for it! We look forward to another challenging match this afternoon.

Our recent form has been somewhat of an enigma. Our performances have deserved better, and apart from a spell against Peterborough, we have rarely been outplayed. It's always gratifying when even the opposition say we played well, but it doesn't earn us any points.

There has been a lot of discussion recently about modern football including ownership of league clubs, it being particularly noted how few are owned by fans, supporters or people connected with their local communities. This is particularly true in the Premier League and Championship.

We noticed a tweet from Nick Owen recently celebrating the 60th anniversary of his first game against Leeds United, which got us thinking about the supporting history of the Board. Nick, as you all know, resigned as chairman a year ago having been our figurehead for nearly ten years. Although he was never a member of the Board or an investor in 2020, he played an invaluable role representing us with the media and as our most famous fan, after Eric of course. We continue to owe him a debt of thanks for all he did through those difficult years.

It is amazing how so many of us began to support so close together. Our first season in the top flight was 1955/56 so perhaps that higher profile, at the time, drew us in.

Mike Herrick tops our list, his first game being Blackpool here in September 1957, which we won 2-0 in front of 19,567 with goals from Allan Brown and Mick Cullen.



Bob Curson is next having been at the same Leeds game as Nick, so he too has made his 60th year. The game ended as a 1-1 draw in front of 13,497 on a Wednesday afternoon with the goal scored by Brown.

My first game was the next one, against West Ham, in September 1958, which we won 4-1 in front of 25,715 with goals from Gordon Turner (2), Brown and Dave Pacey. We were unbeaten for the first ten games of that season and I was hooked. Sadly, we lost the FA Cup Final at the end of the season and were relegated the following year, which began a ten-year slide down the divisions. However, that was not enough to dim my enthusiasm, nor that of my present 2020 colleagues.

Mick Pattinson was next watching us play Spurs with his dad in late 1958, a game we lost 2-1 in front of 23,592 fans with a goal from Billy Bingham. Mick's dad was landlord of the Hare and Hounds pub in Old Warden and couldn't go very often, so Mick would tag along with customers instead.

Gratitude

Gary Sweet's first game was in September 1971 against Middlesbrough. We won 3-2 in front of 13,001 with goals from Vic Halom, Robin Wainwright and Peter Anderson. Gary told me that he wanted to support Arsenal after taking a liking to Charlie George, but it was short-lived until his mum clipped him round the ear and told him he was going to see his home town team the next day. We all owe his mum a great debt of gratitude!

Paul Ballantyne's debut game was in 1972 in the League Cup replay against Birmingham City. We drew 1-1 with a goal from John Aston to take it to a second replay, which we managed to lose 1-0 at the neutral venue of the County Ground, Northampton.

Although he had been close to attending on an earlier occasion, Stephen Browne's first game was here against Aston Villa in 1983. He was brought along by his grandad, who, ironically, had trialled with Villa before the war. We won 2-1 with goals from Trevor Aylott and David Moss in front of 10,924.

What is the point of all this you may ask? Well, it's about credentials and custodianship. I doubt there is a club in the country where the current Board of Directors and investors have some 370 years of supporting their Club. If you include vice presidents,

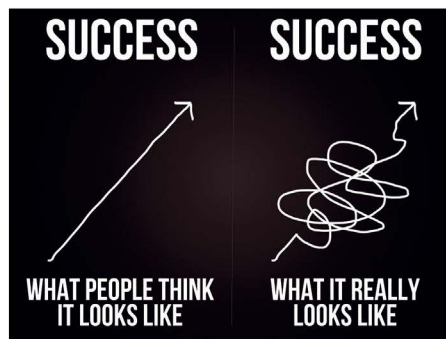
who are former chairmen, investors and directors, the numbers go off the chart.

Where the majority were born in, or have a major connection to the town, and have proved their resilience by continuing to support throughout adversity. We know the highs and the lows. We have reached the top and touched the bottom.

There are those in connection with our planning applications, who try to cast doubt on our motives. They don't know us. We are a steadfast bunch. When 2020 was put together we backed a plan, and ten years on that plan is still good and we are more determined than ever to make it happen for the Town and the Club.

If there are any youngsters watching for the first time, can you imagine in 2078 looking back to today, as we are looking back to our first games? That's why we are only custodians of this unique Club and why our plans are so important.

Whilst I'm on the subject of determination – Alastair Cook – what a shining example of a sporting professional! Could I close by extending on behalf of us all our congratulations to our fellow Hatter. What an incredible achievement. We wish him every success in the future and a happy retirement and hope to see him in the Kenny again soon.



Enjoy the game.

Come On You Hatters!

David Wilkinson



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THE SKIPPER

Alan Sheehan

Good afternoon everybody and welcome to Kenilworth Road for this afternoon's game against Bristol Rovers.

Firstly, I'd like to give a special mention to outgoing assistant manager Paul Hart, who has departed Kenilworth Road for Notts County, to become their technical director. We are all obviously very disappointed to see Hart leave, he had a great relationship with all of the players here.

We all understand his reasons for leaving though, it's a lot closer to home and he knows Notts County inside out having been there a couple of times already in his long career, so it's a good fit.

I know how much he loved it here and I had a great relationship with him. He was always very good with me and he helped me a lot on the pitch.

We used to have great conversations – all the tales from the days when he played. He's an old school guy and we loved that. He's a dying breed in the game and we all wish him the very best.

We are unbeaten at home so far this season and we know how important our

brilliant home form was last year to our success, so it's great to see we have carried that on into the new campaign. Hopefully we can keep that going and continue to make Kenilworth Road a fortress.

Opportunity

We face a Bristol Rovers side though who are a very capable team, and although their position in the table isn't where they probably envisaged themselves being at this stage, they will look at us as a big scalp and will no doubt be looking at today's game as an opportunity to climb up the table.

On the flip side of that though, we know away teams don't look forward to coming here, and we want to keep it that way.

As a team, we know that we have been conceding goals early, but at times last season we were conceding early and then would outscore teams.

Forget first half and second half, I think overall we have been decent throughout games. Generally, we have been playing well on the road without getting results, and it would be a whole lot more worrying if we weren't showing up in both halves.

Hopefully we can go on a run now where results reflect the hard work we put in and the chances we create.

I hope you enjoy the game.




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WELCOME EUNAN O'KANE...

...and farewell to Jake, Gambo (for the time being) and Harty!

It seems a while ago now, but since our last home league game we have welcomed a new signing to Kenilworth Road – with midfielder Eunan O'Kane arriving on loan from Leeds United.

The 28-year-old, who counts Torquay United and Bournemouth among his former clubs, has joined the Town until January 10th.

Speaking after his impressive debut as a second-half sub in the 1-1 draw at Wycombe a fortnight ago, the seven-times capped Republic of Ireland international said: "I spoke to Nathan on the phone and he said, 'I wish I could sit down with you and I'd inspire you about football' and I was thinking, he'd already done that, and we had only been on the phone five minutes, so credit to him.



"He's built a really good squad here, the way that they play football is tremendous and I can't wait to be a part of it. I've not been here very long at this point, but I've been really impressed with the set-up we have at the training ground, it's first class facilities and the pitches are excellent.

"Everyone has been extremely friendly, it seems like a really good bunch of lads and I'm looking forward to spending more time around them, getting to know them better and building better relationships both on and off the pitch."

Departing Kenilworth Road on loan deadline day were striker Jake Jarvis and midfielder Luke Gambin, who joined AFC Wimbledon and Crawley Town respectively on deals until the end of the season.

We have also waved goodbye to hugely popular assistant-manager Paul Hart, who left – with the best wishes of all at Kenilworth Road – to rejoin former club Notts County as their technical director.

On his departure, Paul told lutontown.co.uk: "I came here for Nathan because I believed in him, and that feeling is even stronger now after what we've experienced over the last two seasons.



"I always knew about Luton from afar, but in that time what I've found is a great club that is very well run, from top to bottom, and I've made so many new friends, not least our staff who have been excellent in every respect.

"Everyone connected with Luton has been first class with me, and having the opportunity to experience the wonderful support that follows the team in such phenomenal numbers has been very special.

"Luton Town gave me the first element of success in my senior career, something I'll always remember, and with Nathan in charge, I know the club will go on to even greater things."



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JOSH NEUFVILLE TURNS PRO!

Teenage forward Josh Neufville recently put pen to paper on his first professional contract with the Hatters.

The pacy 17-year-old, who hit double figures last season as part of the Under-18s side that won the EFL Youth Alliance Cup, signed a two-year contract running until the end of 2019-20.

Luton boy Josh has been with the Town's academy since he was an Under-10, having played his earlier football with neighbours Crawley Green.

Hatters boss Nathan Jones said: "Josh is a young man that we feel can make the step up. He's done excellently in recent months and is someone that we've monitored and tried to make sure that we nurture carefully.

"For a long time we've identified him as someone who could potentially step into the first team environment, but we've had to make sure that we do it at the right time.

"His application, his all-round quality and ability has really put him closer to the first team squad, and we feel that now is the ideal time to take up that option of giving him a pro contract, so we can see him challenge and hopefully fulfil his potential."

Josh made his senior debut as a substitute in the Checkatrade Trophy win over Brighton, the day after turning pro.

UNDER-15S IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

The Hatters Under-15s have reached the group stages of the Premier League Floodlit Cup – a Champions League style tournament that could see the Town play across the country.

Town beat Coventry City, Cambridge United – hosts on the qualification round day – and Burton Albion, as well as drawing with Millwall, to qualify for the group stages a fortnight ago.

The draw for the group stages saw the Town matched with Reading, Walsall and Wolves, with the Royals set to be the first to visit The Brache on Tuesday 25th September for a 7pm kick-off.

In further good news for the academy, 16-year-old defender Dequane Wilson-Braithwaite signed a scholarship following a successful trial period.

Congratulations to both Josh and Dequane!



PELLY'S THE AUGUST DIAMOND!

We are delighted to announce that Pelly Ruddock-Mpanzu has won the first Diamond Player of the Month Trophy for this season.

Pelly – who has started all eight of the Town's league and Carabao Cup matches so far this season – received 65% of the vote for August, beating Elliot Lee into second place.

We would like to thank all those that took the time to cast their votes. Diamond season ticket holder Phil Doherty was drawn from the hat and received two tickets in hospitality and the opportunity to present the trophy to Pelly after today's game.

Connor Stevens was also selected as the junior winner and will receive the Diamond mascot package.

This is just one of the benefits of a Diamond Season Ticket. Why not talk to the Ticket Office (01582 416976 or ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk) and discuss an upgrade?



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Paul Hart's ALL-TIME XI

Our former assistant-manager had already picked his all-time best line-up of players he played with in his illustrious career, before he departed for Notts County last week...and what a team it is!



Hans Van Breukelen



Played with at: Nottingham Forest

A Dutch international, he was at Forest when I went there in 1983. Big character, big personality, extremely safe hands.



Viv Anderson



Played with at: Nottingham Forest

First black player to play for England. Quick, aggressive. Technically he was very good. Second to none.



Paul Madeley



Played with at: Leeds United

One of the most complete footballers this country has ever produced. Played for England and for Leeds throughout the 60s and 70s. Great bloke and lightning quick.



Colin Todd



Played with at: Nottingham Forest

Unbelievable reader of the game, fantastically strong, quick. A big personality, and nasty.



Frank Gray



Played with at: Leeds United

Classy player, went onto play for Nottingham Forest and win European Cups. Just oozed class.



Tony Currie



Played with at: Leeds United

Wonderful player. Strong, classy, would have the ball anywhere on the pitch. Absolutely fantastic player.



Allan Clarke



Ian Bowyer



Played with at: Nottingham Forest

My captain at Forest. A bit older than me, I had seen him play at Manchester City when I was a kid. Won European Cups, League titles. Hard. A great influence.



Steve Hodge



Played with at: Nottingham Forest

I have put him out on the wing, but he's really a centre mid. A goalscoring midfielder. An excellent player.



Eddie Gray



Played with at: Leeds United

A six-foot winger, but could play anywhere. Left peg, brave. Absolute class. Frank's brother.



Allan Clarke



Played with at: Leeds United

The most technically gifted player I have ever seen. Right and left foot. Nasty. There's a theme going through this! Absolutely class player.



Garry Birtles



Played with at: Nottingham Forest

Left and right foot, could hold the ball up. Brave, wonderful player.

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Cat C: £300

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Properties
G: Derek & Madison
Borino

**37: FRANKIE MUSONDA**

H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

**40: HARRY ISTD**

H: Craig Steeples
A: Selsey Properties
Ltd
G: Mg-Gk Goalkeeper
Products

**44: ALAN SHEEHAN**

H: Hatters Talk
A: Bobbers Travel
Club

**NATHAN JONES**

H: Thompsons
Accountants
A: Country Properties

**KEVIN DEARDEN**

H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

**SIMON PARSELL**

H: Bobbers Travel
Club
A: AVAILABLE

**JOAQUIN GOMEZ**

H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE

**MICK HARFORD**

H: Carnoisneur
Leasing
A: Carnoisneur
Leasing

**KEY:**

H: HOME
A: AWAY
G: GLOVES
T: THIRD SPONSOR

[OUR VISITORS]

WELCOME BRISTOL ROVERS



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

It was a season of consolidation last season for Gas after their impressive climb from Non-League football just three years ago. Two relegations in four years saw Rovers drop into the Conference in 2014, but they made an instant return to League Two, winning back-to-back promotions when they went up again the following season. A tenth placed finish in 2016/17 saw them slow down their upward curve, but last season's mid-table finish was by no means a failure.

They achieved all this under Darrell Clarke, who has four promotions to his name as a manager, having taken Salisbury City from the Southern Premier League up to the Conference, before his appointment at the Memorial Stadium in 2013 as assistant manager. He took over the reins late on in that season, but was unable to turn around their fortunes as they were relegated on goal difference, falling into the drop zone only on the final day.

The Pirates have a decent squad – although it was weakened by the departure of Billy Boden at the beginning of the year. Liam Sercombe is arguably

one of the best midfielders in the league, and his 12 goals from the middle of the park last year makes it easy to see why he was so sought-after following his promotion with Oxford United in 2016.

They've added quality in the summer in the form Stefan Payne, who was top scorer for play-off finalists Shrewsbury Town last season, bagging 14 times.

It's been a tough start though for Clarke, a draw at home to Plymouth last week moved them up to five points from their opening seven games, picking up two draws and one win – that coming against Wycombe Wanderers. Defensively they haven't been too bad, but goals have been hard to come by; netting just six so far.

Formed in 1883, the Pirates were first admitted to the Football League in 1920. Their highest ever league finish was sixth place in the second tier in 1956 and 1959, and they were EFL Trophy finalists in both 1990 and 2007, the latter in which they were defeated 3-2 by Doncaster Rovers at the Millennium Stadium.

...

HEAD-TO-HEAD

LUTON WINS: 46
DRAWS: 29
ROVERS WINS: 47
LAST MEETING: BRISTOL 2-0 LUTON - JANUARY 2016

FACTFILE:

NICKNAME: GAS, THE PIRATES
GROUND: MEMORIAL STADIUM
MANAGER: DARRELL CLARKE
LAST SEASON: 13TH IN LEAGUE ONE



MEET THE SQUAD

THE GAFFER

Darrell Clarke | Age: 40

Took over: March 2014

As a player, Clarke clocked up more than 400 appearances across the EFL with a handful of clubs. He hung up his boots at Salisbury City in 2013, although the 40-year-old had worked as player-manager for the club since 2010. He then went on to take over as manager of today's visitors in March 2014 after serving as assistant to John Ward for the previous nine months. He could not prevent Rovers' relegation from the Football League that season though, eventually going down on goal difference, losing to his boyhood club Mansfield Town. Despite this, the Mansfield-born gaffer led the Pirates to an immediate return from the Conference, and then up to League One the following season, where they are now in their third campaign.



GOALKEEPER

ADAM SMITH

AGE: 25

Signed from Northampton Town in 2017. The keeper has made three appearances so far this season, taking over from Sam Slocombe since his loan move to Lincoln City.



DEFENDERS

DANIEL LEADBITTER

AGE: 27

Defender who has been with Rovers since 2014. He came up through the youth system at Newcastle and was part of the Conference play-off winning side.



TONY CRAIG

AGE: 33

The experienced centre-half who has had three spells with Millwall, was snapped up by Rovers on a free deal in January 2018 following his release by the Lions.

THE STOPPER

Jack Bonham | Age: 24

The Stevenage-born shot stopper began his career with Watford but struggled to find game time, making just one senior appearance with the Hornets. The 24-year-old then signed for current club, Brentford, in 2013, before going out on loan to Non-League Arlesey Town. After a successful spell with Carlisle United last season, making over 40 appearances, Rovers snapped up the keeper for a second successive season-long loan before last month's deadline. Bonham made his first appearance for the Pirates in the recent 1-1 draw with Shrewsbury, making a few important saves in the process to ensure that the points were shared.



DID YOU KNOW?

Bristol Rovers' goalkeeper Jack Bonham was the man between the sticks for Carlisle when Olly Lee scored that famous goal away at Brunton Park last April to send the Hatters back up to Sky Bet League One for the first time in a decade.



THE WALL

Tom Lockyer

Age: 24

A real fans' favourite and the man with the arm band, Tom Lockyer has seen it all with Bristol Rovers. After his release from the youth set-up at Cardiff City, the Welshman penned a deal with Rovers in 2011 and went on to make his senior debut in 2012. His brilliant form in his first season won him the Supporters' Club Young Player of the Year award. From there, the 24-year-old has gone on to make more than 200 appearances for Rovers, playing a big part in the side that won two promotions in two seasons, as well as that horrible relegation that Hatters fans know all too well. The defender's solid performances at the back have also been rewarded with four senior international call ups for Wales.

IN THE MIDDLE

Ollie Clarke

Age: 26

The club's longest serving player has been incredibly unfortunate over his time at the Memorial Stadium. Hailing from Somerset, the 26-year-old began his career with Rovers as a schoolboy, before turning professional with the club in 2009. The creative midfielder has had a frustrating career, tarnished with injuries, spending the majority of the 2011/12 season watching from the sidelines after rupturing his anterior cruciate ligament on the first day of pre-season training. Having started all the Pirates' matches so far, Clarke will be hoping to recreate last season's form and play another big part in the side.



JAMES CLARKE

AGE: 28

Born in nearby Aylesbury, Clarke started his career at Oxford United. He was an important defensive player for the Pirates in their Sky Bet League Two promotion season in 2015-16.

TOM BROADBENT

AGE: 26

Followed a unique but somewhat rewarding route into professional football, Broadbent only signed his first professional contract with Rovers in 2017 after spending six years in the army.



JOE PARTINGTON

AGE: 28

The ex-Eastleigh captain signed for the Pirates in 2017 for an undisclosed fee. The Welshman started his career at Bournemouth, making more than 50 appearances for the Cherries.



TAREIQ

HOLMES-DENNIS

AGE: 22

Yet to make an appearance at the Memorial Stadium, the talented defender struggled to make it into the Huddersfield Town side and signed for Rovers in July of this year.

MIDFIELDERS:

ED UPSON

AGE: 28

The 28-year-old began his career at Ipswich Town and even scored the winning goal for the Tractor Boys in their FA Youth Cup final against Southampton in 2005.

CHRIS LINES
AGE: 32



In his second spell with the club, Lines has played a huge amount of games for

Rovers, totalling nearly 300 appearances for the club and scoring 33 goals.

LIAM SERCOMBE
AGE: 28



The midfielder began his career at Exeter City, before winning promotion from League Two with

Oxford United and eventually with Rovers. Played alongside Danny Hylton at the Kassam Stadium.

KYLE BENNETT
AGE: 27



One of Paul Cook's first signings at Portsmouth, Bennett played a big part in Pompey's 2016-17 promotion winning season from League Two. He joined the Pirates midway through last season.

SAM MATTHEWS
AGE: 21

The 21-year-old spent all of last season on loan at Eastleigh and scored his first senior hat-trick on the final day of the season against Solihull Moors.

STRIKERS:
TOM NICHOLS
AGE: 25

Joined Rovers from Peterborough United in 2017. With only one league goal to his name since his arrival, the former Exeter man will be hoping to find the net more this season.

GAVIN REILLY
AGE: 25

After many Scottish Premiership appearances and a successful campaign in the Championship north of the border with St Mirren last season, the Scotsman joined Rovers on a free transfer this year.



ALEX RODMAN
AGE: 31

The tall winger has played all over England for a number of clubs including Tamworth, Notts County, Grimsby and Newport. He even had a stint playing futsal for the English national side.

WATCH OUT

Stefan Payne
Age: 27



The striker started in Non-League, playing for a host of clubs including Sutton United, Ebbsfleet United and Dover Athletic, where his form led to a move to Championship side Barnsley in 2016. It proved to be unsuccessful, as Payne was loaned out to Shrewsbury halfway through the season, and was subsequently sold the following year. The forward made 38 league

appearances for the Shrews last season, scoring 14 in all competitions to finish as their top scorer while reaching both the Checkatrade Trophy and League One play-off finals. Rovers bought Payne for an undisclosed fee at the start of this season, scoring on his home competitive debut in a 2-1 defeat against Accrington Stanley.

IN NUMBERS...

Stadium capacity:	11,906
Miles from Kenilworth Road:	132
Year opened:	1921
(Rovers have played there since 1996)	
Average crowd last season:	8,933
Seasons in League 1:	3

[ROGER WASH]

CLASSIC CLASH WITH THE PIRATES

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

6TH SEPTEMBER 1969 • LUTON TOWN 4 BRISTOL ROVERS 0

Luton Town supporters were a little down in the dumps over the summer of 1969. In the days before play-offs, the Hatters had finished a clear third in Division Three (now League One) the previous season and failed to win promotion, and when, on 10th July, it was announced that fans' favourite Bruce Rioch was to be sold for a record £100,000 to Aston Villa, the sky seemed to cave in.

The feeling of despair was made worse when Luton manager Alec Stock seemed in no hurry to replace Rioch and instead paid £17,500 to Fulham for an unknown (to us anyway) full-back by the name of Malcolm Macdonald.

Stock said at the time: "I have seen him score goals in Fulham's first team, but I have signed him as a full-back. He is a big, strong powerful player and at 19, he is the right age for us."

Strength

Macdonald made his debut for the Hatters in a pre-season game at Aldershot where he and his fellow defenders were given the runaround as the home side won 5-2.

With the Town 1-0 down to Clyde at Kenilworth Road in the next friendly, Stock pushed Macdonald on to the left wing in the second period where his speed and strength caused any manner of problems as the Hatters fought back to draw 1-1.

A pair of goals in the final friendly – a 10-0 humbling of Gibraltar – meant that Macdonald would never return to defence, and for the opening League game of the season at home to Barrow, he started on the left wing but was then moved inside as the game progressed, a position he was to maintain for the rest of his career.

The 3-0 win over Barrow was followed by a tough 1-1 draw at Peterborough in the League Cup before Macdonald netted his first League goal in a 1-0 win at Bournemouth. In what was to become typical fashion, Macdonald latched on to a clever through pass from skipper Mike Keen and sped past the Cherries' defence before rounding the goalkeeper to slot the ball home with his left foot.

Macdonald scored again in the 5-2 home replay win over Peterborough, before netting a late winner against Orient at Kenilworth Road, where the Town won 3-2 after being 2-0 down.

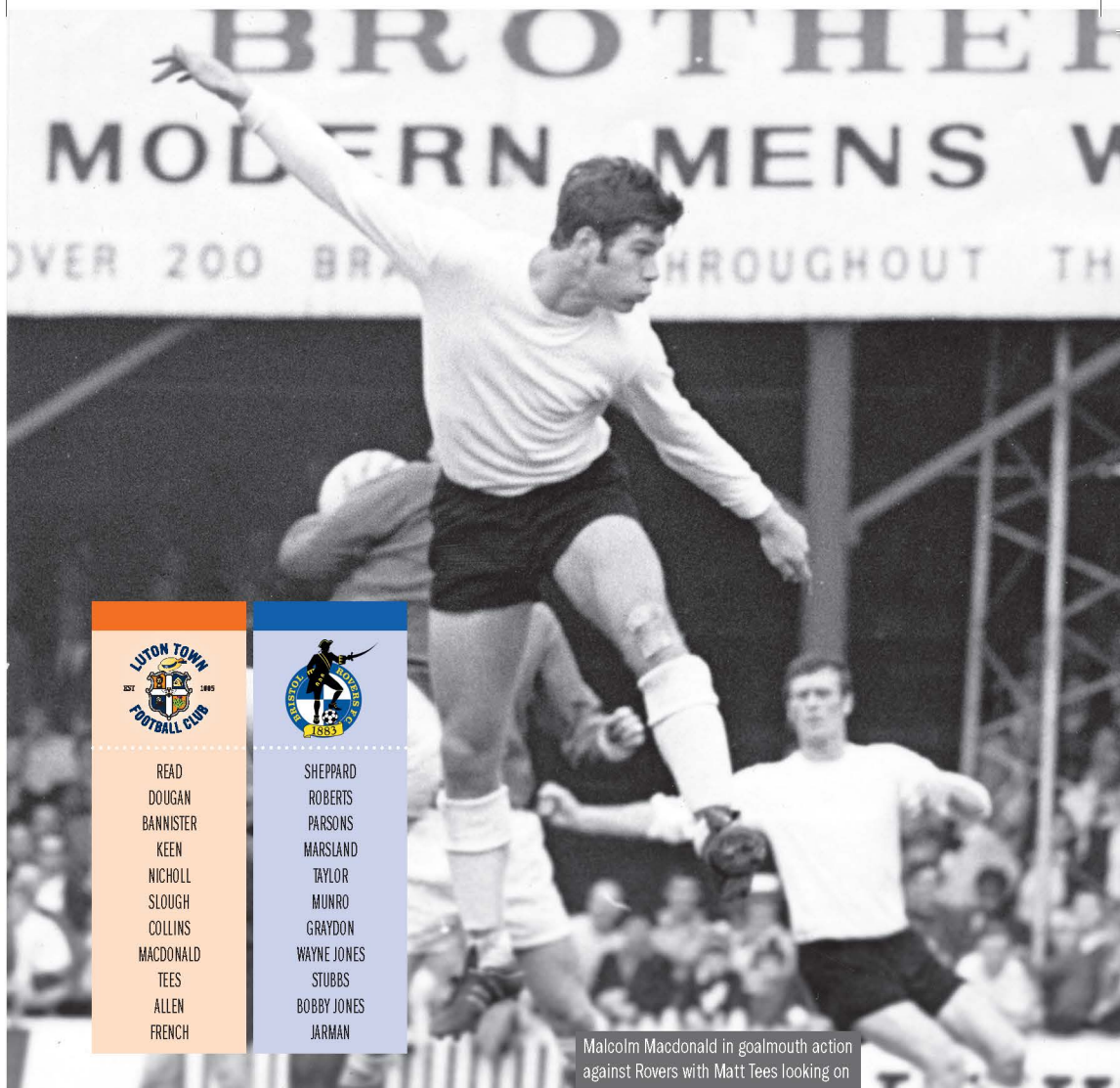
Although he scored an early goal in the 1-1 home draw with Halifax, he was well held by the big opposition centre-half Chris Nicholl, so straight after game Stock entered into negotiations for the defender and 24 hours later he was a Luton Town player at a Hatters record £34,000.

It got even better the following day as, following a mad dash to get him registered, a further £25,000 was paid to Charlton for their striker Matt Tees. Stock had bided his time in spending the Rioch money, but now the gloom of the summer had been lifted completely and the sky was blue!

Both players made their debuts in a tough 2-0 win at Gillingham with Macdonald inevitably on the scoresheet before he netted again in a 2-2 home draw with second division (now the Championship) Millwall in the League Cup.

Next up in the League was a home clash with Bristol Rovers who were, like the Town, unbeaten at that stage in the season. The Hatters were top and Rovers were third.

A crowd of 15,198 turned up to see Rovers open the brighter side with £12,000 signing Robin



READ
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NICHOLL
SLOUGH
COLLINS
MACDONALD
TEES
ALLEN
FRENCH



SHEPPARD
ROBERTS
PARSONS
MARSLAND
TAYLOR
MUNRO
GRAYDON
WAYNE JONES
STUBBS
BOBBY JONES
JARMAN

Malcolm Macdonald in goalmouth action against Rovers with Matt Tees looking on

Stubbs going close with a volley, but it was the Town that opened the scoring through John Collins on 12 minutes with a shot that trickled over the line.

The game flowed from end to end for the remainder of the half with the Luton defence having to be at its best against Rovers' three-man attack of Stubbs and the two Jones boys, Wayne and Bobby, while at the other end winger Graham French had the beating of full-back Phil Roberts.

The game was settled with two goals in a minute shortly after the interval. Firstly, Matt Tees took two attempts to force the ball over the line following a

cross from Keith Allen before Macdonald headed home an accurate French cross.

The scoring was completed just before the end when Macdonald headed a deep corner back across goal, leaving Allen with a simple tap-in.

"We had honest endeavour followed by skill," said Stock afterwards, "but skill only comes on the back of graft and sweat. You have to put that in first."

He also confirmed something about Macdonald that we were all starting to believe. "If there's a better 19-year-old striker around at the moment I have still to see him," was Stock's verdict.

WHEN THE
FUN
STOPS



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BETTING, BETTER



Craig Mackail-Smith appears to be tugged back by Pirates' James Clarke

THE LAST TIME ROVERS CAME TO TOWN

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

18TH AUGUST 2015 • LUTON TOWN 0 BRISTOL ROVERS 1 (LEAGUE 2)

Another season and another summer of much transfer activity at Kenilworth Road, with Craig Mackail-Smith and Paddy McCourt the most high profile of the new signings.

Hopes were high of a better placed finish than the previous campaign, where the Town narrowly failed to reach the play-offs, but a lacklustre display in a 1-1 draw at Accrington on the opening day was a disappointing start.

Championship side Bristol City were then seen off at Kenilworth Road in a game marking the full debut of two-goal Jack Marriott, and when the Town led Oxford 2-0 at home with only ten minutes left, supporters were confident that the season had turned.

Sadly, a late goal from Kemar Roofe followed by an equaliser deep into added time, compounded by a rare error from dependable goalkeeper Mark Tyler, was utterly deflating.

The third home game in a week followed with this time the other team from Bristol visiting. Newly-promoted Rovers were buoyed by a win at Yeovil

three days before, and sat back as the Town huffed and puffed in front of them.

McCourt tried to inject some urgency in the Town's play but the Rovers defenders easily snuffed out the Luton spearhead of Paul Benson and Mackail-Smith, leading to Pirates goalkeeper Aaron Chapman having a trouble free evening.

Rovers had some chances of their own, but were thwarted by the alert Tyler and with the game petering out to a turgid scoreless draw, for the second time in three days, the Town conceded a stoppage time goal with ex-Hatter Stuart Sinclair, completely unmarked, being allowed to run through to plant the ball in the net.

Luton Town: Tyler, Cuthbert, McNulty, Wilkinson, O'Donnell, McGeehan (Mpanzu), Doyle (Smith), McCourt, Griffiths, Benson, Mackail-Smith (Marriott).

Bristol Rovers: Chapman, Leadbitter, Brown, Lockyer, Parkes, Ollie Clarke, Harrison, Lines, James Clarke, Easter (Taylor), Sinclair.

{TOWN v BRISTOL ROVERS | SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018} **27**

[ROGER WASH]

COVERED!

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

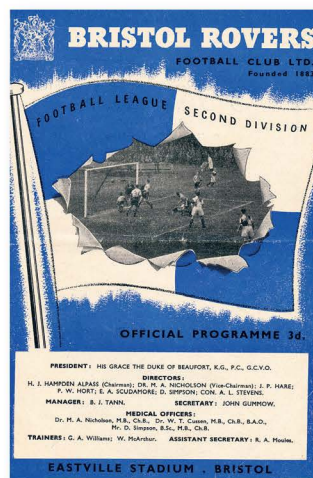


April 1936

A 12-0 win with Joe Payne scoring ten goals in his first game in the forward line for the Town – a Football League record.

October 1953

The Town and Rovers fight out a 3-3 draw at Eastville with Jesse Pye scoring twice and Bert Mitchell hitting the leveller on 87 minutes. Geoff Bradford scores all three for the Pirates.



April 1955

The Town need to win their penultimate Division Two (now Championship) game in their bid for promotion to the top flight. Charlie Watkins, in his last game before setting off for South Africa, bags both goals in a 2-0 win before a midweek crowd of 20,120.

October 1960

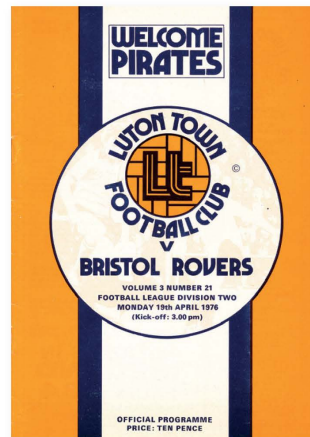
Following relegation from Division One (now Premier League) the Town have only won twice in the opening 11 games, but stun the Kenilworth Road crowd with a 4-2 victory featuring four different Luton goalscorers, including an own goal.





▲ March 1964

The start of the seemingly hopeless task to avoid relegation from Division Three (now League One) comes with a 4-2 home win over Rovers. New scoring sensation John O'Rourke bags a hat-trick.



▲ April 1976

With the home game against Rovers petering out to a 1-1 draw, teenage substitute Ricky Hill is introduced for his debut. With this first touch he sets up Brian Chambers, and with his second, nets the Town's third goal with a fierce strike. A star was born!



▲ September 1977

A 2-1 win at Eastville for the Town with full-back Steve Buckley's winner as hard a strike as you are likely to see.



▲ September 2000

A season of gloom is lit up a little with a 3-3 draw at the Memorial Stadium. Tresor Kandol scores two as the Luton supporters get very wet.

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TRICK OR TREATMENT

A HUMOROUS INSIGHT TO PHYSIO SIMON PARSELL'S WORK



Good afternoon. It's good to get back to the Kenny after a couple of tough away games.

The thing is, whilst you are away in hotels, you get to have some interesting debates. Pete the analyst led us into a deep discussion following this statement: "Apple is an average company with some average goods." I don't remember seeing too many Lenovo laptops at NASA and with Apple only worth a trillion, I suspect they are doing something right.

So, following this statement, I was surprised to see Pete's next photo, featuring an Apple watch, an Apple computer and an iPhone – the screen on which is brighter than Pete's future!



Injury-wise, Hylts has been back in training following his hamstring strain, but Marek has been having problems with his groin and will need an operation to sort it out. We are trying to get that done as soon as possible.

Luke injured his knee in training, completely unrelated to his ankle problem. Unfortunately, the knee required an operation which he had on Monday. This all happened on the Monday before he was due to make his first start against Brighton. To be fair to Luke, at this minute in time, if he didn't have bad luck, he'd have no luck at all.

Whilst on the subject of things needing treatment, the ball needed CPR when Matty Pearson managed to sky it over the main stand against Southend.

It was going that high and fast, a Wizz Air pilot reported an unidentified flying object going past his cockpit window. He is a strong lad, our Matty, and a light eater. When it's light, he eats. Difficult keeping that body fuelled up.

Everyone always says it must be good being a footballer and famous, known by everyone around the club and town. Well James Shea might dispute that. He went into the club shop on a matchday to get a kit and asked for it to be printed. The response he got was "Could you pop back at half-time to collect it?" He did say he might be a bit busy at half-time!

Fair play to the staff in the club shop for checking out things. Kev Dearden had to produce his programme photo to prove who he was. To be fair to Kev, there are no bad pictures, it's just how your face looks sometimes.

It was great to welcome Les and Sue Miller to the training ground, so they could see the equipment that Bobbers Travel have purchased for us in action. However, when one the lads got off the Air Assault bike dripping in sweat, I think Sue and Les realised that not everyone enjoys their donations. Once again thanks to Bobbers Travel for their support. Sue's plaster cast will have to be cut off carefully with all those signatures on it.

I was also pleased to see our Club Chiropractor David Leu, owner of Back to Back, voted best Bedfordshire Chiropractor for 2018. His contribution to the Luton Town medical department is really appreciated.

Enjoy the game and as you always do get behind the boys. COYH!

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Harry Cornick's HAT'S LIFE



Apple or Android?

Apple.

Last person you called?

Aaron Ramsdale.

Most famous person in your phone?

Lewis Cook.

Favourite food?

Fajitas.

Apple or rhubarb crumble?

Apple.

Food you can't stand?

Tomatoes.

Pet hate?

Loud eaters.

Cat or dog?

Cat.

Xbox or PlayStation?

PlayStation.

Karaoke song?

Maroon Five – She Will Be Loved.

Favourite artist?

Drake.

Top of your playlist?

Labrinth – Jealous.

Last holiday?

Marbella. 2k18.

#WithTheLads #Marbs

Can't miss on TV?

Game Of Thrones.

Love Island or Peaky Blinders?

Love Island.

Club you support?

Chelsea.

Favourite away ground?

Portsmouth.

Best moment in football?

The day I met Elliot Lee. And promotion.

Best player played with?

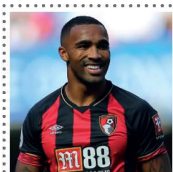
Callum Wilson.

Room-mate?

Elliot Lee.

Instagram or Twitter?

Instagram.



Harry in action at his favourite away ground, Fratton Park





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JACK WITTON

17/07/1929 - 14/06/2018

After growing up in Luton, Jack joined the Army working in the Stores travelling the world and spending



two years in Hong Kong before returning to his home town and starting off his career working for F.S Biggs learning the hat trade. After his time there, Jack then moved on to being a bus conductor for United Counties. Fancying a change Jack then spent 25 years at Electrolux before coming out of retirement to return to the hat trade where he earned the title of top hat blocker of the town and making the world famous boaters for his beloved team Luton Town. Jack was well known and loved throughout the town and will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRAHAM!



Graham Gaylor, a Kenilworth Road season ticket holder since he was a boy, recently celebrated his 60th birthday. His family including wife Karen, son Jon and daughter wish him the happiest of birthdays – something all at LTFC would like to echo!

DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR RON!



Long-time supporter and sponsor Ron Hedley is celebrating his 69th birthday at today's game. In just under a fortnight's time, on September 27th, it will also be 60 years since Ron's first visit to

Kenilworth Road to watch Luton beat Preston North End 4-1 in the old First Division. Best wishes from his family and Kenilworth Road lower tier friends.



GO GOLD FOR SEPTEMBER

Because children get cancer too...

This month The Bradley Lowery Foundation are going **GOLD** for National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

You can support vital research into Childhood Cancer by donating to **JustGiving** <http://bit.ly/blfgogold>

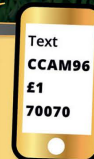
100% of your donation will go directly to vital research into Childhood Cancers.



Bradley Lowery Foundation
Supporting Fundraising Campaigns

Registered Charity No. 1174333


Text your code —
With the amount —
To 70070 —
You can also add Gift Aid
at no extra cost.



[ON THE CENTRE SPOT]

ON THE CENTRE SPOT **Dan Potts**

We asked for your questions on our social media channels to put to Dan Potts ahead of today's clash with Bristol Rovers. Here the 24-year-old left-back is the latest Hatter to be put On The Centre Spot!


 **thomas_ltfce:** What was it like when we got promoted last season?

It was everything you expect it to be, and more. Carlisle away will stick with me for the rest of my career, and probably the rest of my life. The group we've got, it was even better doing it with them and when you go through a long season like that, you put so much into it, so many sacrifices, so to achieve what you want at the end of it is so memorable.

 **hattersnews:** Best footballing memory?

My debut for West Ham against Barnsley at Upton Park will always stick with me – 17th December 2011. I was 17 and got thrown in five minutes before kick-off after a centre-half got injured in the warm-up. The manager at the time was Sam Allardyce, and I got pulled in the dressing room and asked if I was ready. I said, tentatively, 'Yeah'! He said 'Good, you're starting', ran through a few set pieces and before I knew it we were kicking off. I had a few other good appearances for West Ham, and maybe at

the time I didn't think of it being as big as it was. But going into the game I think we'd lost a couple and there was quite a bit of pressure on the gaffer. We won 1-0 and if I had to look back on one individual moment, it would be that one.

 **jamesball2481:** What has been your favourite game in a Luton shirt?

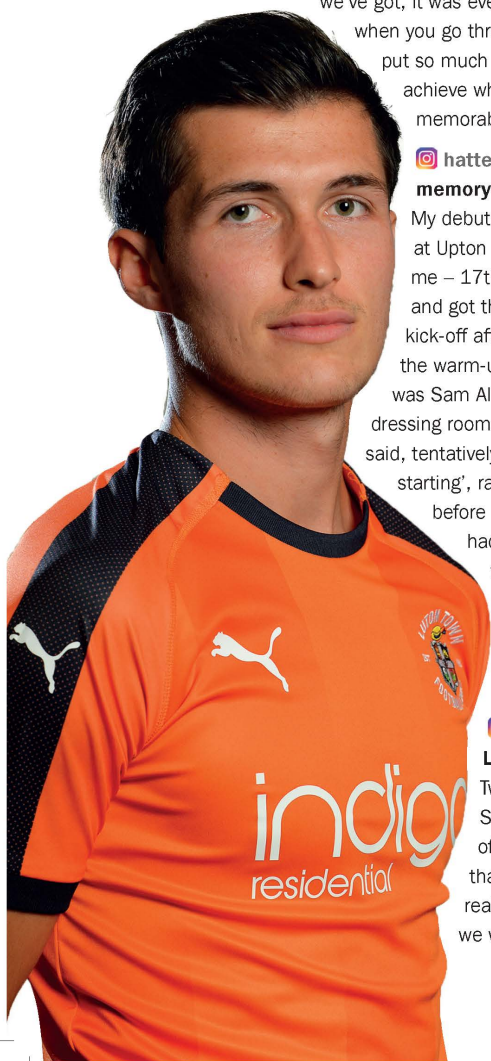
Two away games stick in my mind from last season – Exeter and Swindon. We went into the Exeter one off the back of a good run of results and went top for the first time, winning 4-1. I scored that night and I felt that was a real turning point for us, when we really felt 'We're going to do it this year'. Then on Boxing Day, when we won 5-1 at Swindon – you travel up on Christmas Day and to do



Celebrating promotion at Carlisle



In Premier League action for boyhood club West Ham





it in that fashion, with that blistering second half performance, was good. In terms of playing teams at the top and really coming away with good results from tough away games, I think they're the ones that are more fulfilling.

Instagram: @samwatt: Where do you think Luton will finish this season?

I really believe we can finish in the top six. We'd love to finish top two, of course. But it's a step up, and in the games we've had so far, things have gone against us. Maybe some mistakes have cost us a bit, but if you look at the seven games as a whole, there is a belief there that even if you didn't think we could finish top six at the start of the season, after six or seven games, we've got to believe that we can. We've had some tough opening fixtures, but I'd like to think play-off places, definitely.

Instagram: @loz4090_: What's going to be the toughest part of the season?

Hopefully we could look back and say the opening fixtures, but you always look at winter time, Christmas, where the weather turns, the fixtures come in thick and fast, people putting a run of games together, injuries – God forbidding there's none, but if the squad gets stretched. Obviously we want to still be in the cups as well, so we'll have all those games. November, December, January is normally a time when the season escalates and it can be season-defining.

Twitter: @LutonTownExile: Couple here. I think the modern-day full back/wing back needs to have

the widest skill set. Needs to defend, head it, be quick, athletic, have a good engine, cross the ball & finish. Firstly, do you think in future full/wing backs will be defenders or converted midfielders?

Defenders. I've always been taught that as a full-back, wherever I've been, you're a defender. First and foremost, that's how you set up. Obviously it's nice to chip in with your goals, and you want to chip in with assists as well, because you're getting in positions in advanced areas. But if you can't defend, you're not going to be a full-back. I wouldn't want to score a goal and lose 4-3. I'd rather someone else score and win 1-0.

Twitter: @LutonTownExile: Secondly, I've noticed that you and NJ are in contact quite often in a game. Do you have specific responsibility over & above your job for how we defend?

I'm quite vocal on the pitch, and always have been. When I'm on the side where the benches are, if there is a break in play, it's a good chance to get feedback from the bench, to see how they are seeing it. Normally in the second half at home, I'm on the gaffer's side, so if there are changes being made, if we are tinkering with formations and he wants something different, it's hard for him to relay the info to all the other players, so I take it upon myself sometimes to get the info across. It's just about being one step ahead to try and get the info as quick as possible, get it onto the pitch so we can put it into the game.



{TOWN v BRISTOL ROVERS | SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018} **87**

ON THE CENTRE SPOT





ad:fleet: How do you jump so high?

I realised it's a strength I've got, because I'm not particularly tall, tall – I'm six foot, not 'God, look at the size of him' kind of thing. But I'm springy, which is quite natural. I tend to do a lot of gym work with Jared – he's probably the man to ask. I've got a knack for timing my jump well, assessing the ball flight and it all comes together really, but you do need that natural jump. I can jump quite high just from a standing start.

@AlfieMee: What's your favourite thing about the club? And where do you see yourself in five years' time?

I think everything about the club is positive. There is not a bad thing you could say about it at the moment, in all aspects – on the pitch, off the pitch, staff, players, backroom staff as well. It's just a very professional, enjoyable environment. You enjoy coming in every day and working. For the second part of the question, in five years' time I'll be 29 – wow! I like to think I'll be looking back on a couple more promotions. Being in the Premier League will be on the club's agenda, and on my agenda too, definitely!



Boxing Day knockout at Swindon

@MattHal15406989: Has your father ever told you about the time Scott Oakes roared past him for his hat trick v West Ham in the FA Cup? 😂

Has he told me about it? No. Have I asked him about it? Yes! So he's told me about it off the back of my questions. Someone tweeted me the video of it, and I've been reminded of it a few times by Luton fans. He comes to as many games as he can get to, and always sits in with the fans.

f Chris Neville: With speculation linking you with Championship teams, what made you sign a new deal at Kenilworth Road?

It was just speculation. I wasn't looking too much into it, I was just focussing on where I was at Luton at the time, where I wanted to be, and the aspirations of the club tied in together. I had some good, honest chats with the manager and that was a big part of why I signed. You've only really got to come into the training ground for one day to see where the club is going, not only on the pitch but behind the scenes. It's a good place to be at.

@SteveLTC1: What's his target for goals this season as we need them?

I'd like to match the seven that I got last year, just to prove it wasn't a fluke! I have enough chances, and I keep getting myself in positions where I can score. Stepping up a level, it's going to be harder, but I'd like to think I can match or better what I did last year for sure.

@clinicalgrant: Who's the best player you've played with?

There's been a few players coming through at West Ham. You look at Joe Cole, Mark Noble – top, top quality players. But the one player who does stick in my mind as an out and out footballing talent

was Ravel Morrison. He was like nothing I've ever seen before with a football at his feet. Potential wise, he's obviously not fulfilled what he could have been, but in terms of a football player, his awareness balanced with both feet, passing, shooting, he can get around the pitch – unbelievable. I honestly think the England team should have been built around him.



scottsmiley1tfc: If you could play alongside anyone, who would it be?

If I could play with any left sided centre-half, it would be Sergio Ramos. Do I think he's the best centre-half defensively? Probably not, but in terms of what you can see that he brings to a team from centre-half, the complete package, yes, he'd be the one.



charliehairy1: Who'd be in your dream 5-a-side team?

Manuel Neuer, Sergio Ramos, N'Golo Kante, Lionel Messi and Neymar.

@3dw1n_: Favourite goal you've scored for Luton?

Probably the goal away at Exeter last year, half-volley. I'd missed a similar one at Morecambe a few weeks earlier, so it was good for the confidence.

joel.p.: How do you feel when you come up against people like Adebayo Akinfenwa??

You don't really feel any sort of way, to be fair. It's clear what his strength is and you just think 'How



can I out-perform him with my strengths?' whatever they may be. So you just try to balance it out. You don't want to get into a wrestling match with him, that's for sure.

@hattersitfc27: What other football team do you support??

West Ham. I've grown up around that area and obviously it's been within the family. They were different class with me, and it's something I'll never forget – it was a dream come true for me to have played at the top level for them.

@AnthonyJHayward: How glad are you that you left West Ham for a bigger club? 😊

<Laughs> West Ham will always be in my heart. They did a lot for me on a personal level as well, growing up. Opinions never change. I just wanted to play football and chances were at a minimum, and it was at a stage where I'd fulfilled what I thought I could there, without stalling my career as such. Obviously looking at it now, it was the right decision to come to Luton.

@benstorey: What was it like playing for America and England Under-20s?

I get a lot of stick about this, playing for America, but I was eligible, I got called up and I played. It was against France and looking back now, it was a bloody good team. I was 18 playing in the Under-20s and it was a good experience. It's another thing where when you are young, you're thrown into it, a different group of players, different philosophy and you've just got to get on with it and try and enjoy it. They were great to me. England as well – that was

[ON THE CENTRE SPOT]

something I'll never forget – the Under-20 World Cup was a good experience and again, looking at it now, I played with some great players; there was Harry Kane, John Stones, Ross Barkley, Eric Dier. I was 19 and it was a fantastic experience.

@gompstomp78: How long does it take you to do your hair before a game? You got plenty of stick from the other players in last year's programmes...

The boys giving me stick for my barnet is a bit unjustified. I don't think it's that bad to be fair. I've got to be top three at the club for barnets! Look at the people who give me stick – they've got to be bottom three. The likes of Shins, he's always got a comment to make, so maybe there's some jealousy there.

@dannyhylton09: Do you think your extension will be finished by 2020?

At the rate it's going, probably not! Me and Hylts have a laugh about it because his extension has been going for four days and mine for four months, and he's already further ahead than mine, so we won't go into that one!

@LutonTownFans: Favourite cheese?

Boring – just standard mild cheddar.

@DtandyKarma: Red or Brown sauce in your bacon sandwich?

Red all day long, not only in bacon sandwiches but with everything.

@samscard: What's your 'Go-to' game to play on, on any platform (Xbox, PlayStation etc)?

I'm Xbox. It used to be Call Of Duty, but this new generation – the young kids who play it – they're too good for me now, so I'm just standard FIFA.

@espokes7: Best dancer at the club?

I tell you what, he's only been at the club a short time, but from what I saw pre-season, Jorge Grant is the person who thinks he's got the best moves! The dance to his initiation song – Toploader's Dancing In The Moonlight – I thought, 'This kid's got a few moves, he's having himself as a dancer!'



LUTON TOWN 3 SHREWSBURY 2

TOWN GOALS: GRANT 51, STACEY 72, LEE 76

SHREWSBURY GOALS: WHALLEY 23 (PEN), ANGOL 67



Jorge Grant curls in the first equaliser...

STORY OF THE MATCH

Town came from behind to take all three points against the Shrews and make it consecutive Sky Bet League One victories.

Shrewsbury took the lead with just over half-an-hour gone when ex-Hatter Shaun Whalley scored from the penalty spot, after he was tripped by Jack Stacey.

The Hatters equalised soon after half-time as Jorge Grant bent in a wonderful free-kick from the edge

of the box, but the Shrews regained their advantage with a mistake from James Shea allowing Lee Angol to slot in.

Stacey made amends for his earlier error as he latched onto a pass from Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu to fire past Joel Coleman and once again bring it level, before Elliot Lee put the hosts in front for the first time on the afternoon with a deflected free-kick with just under 15 minutes to go.



SHEA
STACEY
PEARSON
BRADLEY
POTTS
REA
MPANZU
GRANT (JUSTIN 78)
SHINNIE
HYLTON (COLLINS 46)
LEE

SUBS NOT USED:

CORNICK
JERVIS
GAMBIN
JONES
STECH

YELLOW CARD:
REA



COLEMAN
HAYNES
SADLER
WHALLEY
DOCHERTY
ANGOL
BOLTON
GILLIEAD (NORBURN 78)
WATERFALL
LAURENT
GRANT (OKENABIRHIE 78)

SUBS NOT USED:

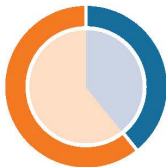
BECKLES
JOHN-LEWIS
ARNOLD
LOFT
BARNETT

YELLOW CARD:
ANGOL

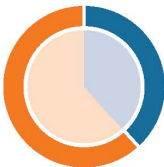




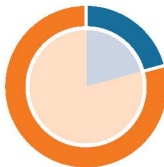
... and Jack Stacey slams in the second



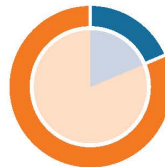
POSSESSION
60% | 40%



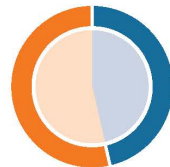
SHOTS ON TARGET
9 | 5



SHOTS OFF TARGET
13 | 3



CORNERS
8 | 2



FOULS
11 | 9



JONES:

"I am really pleased with the result and the second half performance. We had to come

from behind twice because of poor decision making really. I thought we were by far the better side.

"They came to frustrate and get something out of the game which they were very good at last year, so we knew we would have to be patient

to break them down, but when you give them a goal from poor defending and a real lack of energy, then that's what happens.

"We showed a lot more character and the second half was more like us. We had a real tempo and I thought some of our second half play was brilliant. We showed a real attacking thrust about us and it should have been more at the end."



WYCOMBE LUTON TOWN

WYCOMBE GOAL: JACOBSON (PEN) 15 • TOWN GOAL: PEARSON 68



STORY OF THE MATCH

It ended up being an entertaining afternoon at Adams Park after a difficult opening 45 minutes for the Hatters, with Matty Pearson equalising after Joe Jacobson had given the hosts the lead from the penalty spot.

Town were 1-0 down within 15 minutes after Sonny Bradley tripped Matt Bloomfield in the penalty area – Jacobson converting from 12 yards. James Shea wasn't to be beaten again though, the keeper

thwarting Jacobson's second penalty just after the hour-mark when James Collins was adjudged to have handled the ball in the area.

Pearson's header after Chairboys keeper Ryan Allsop had spilled Elliot Lee's cross with nearly 70 on the clock sparked a frantic end, but neither side could snatch a winner, Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu's 25-yard effort tipped onto a post by Allsop being as close as either side came.



SHEA
STACEY
PEARSON
BRADLEY
POTTS
REA
JUSTIN (CORNICK 53)
MPANZU
SHINNIE (O'KANE 64)
COLLINS
LEE

SUBS NOT USED:

MCCORMACK
GRANT
JONES
SHEEHAN
STECH

YELLOW CARD:

BRADLEY
COLLINS



ALLSOP
MCCARTHY
JOMBATI
STEWART
JACOBSON
MORRIS
BLOOMFIELD (THOMPSON 49)
GAPE
MACKAIL-SMITH
(ONYEDINMA 71)
WILLIAMS (KASHKET 80)
AKINFENWA

SUBS NOT USED:

KMA-KALAMBAY
SAUNDERS
HARRIMAN
FREEMAN

YELLOW CARD:

MORRIS
THOMPSON
STEWART

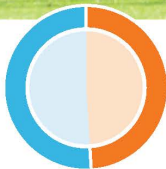


HART:

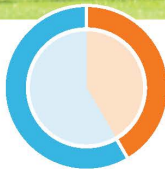
"Lots happened, it was very eventful. But I think we certainly deserved the draw,

if not more. It was difficult for us to see the first penalty. Sonny said it was nothing, but it was given. This is where we're suffering at the moment. If we took all the first halves out of it, we'd probably be in the top four!

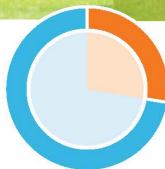
"We're suffering for our little mistakes at the minute and it's tough for us, but I don't think there's any doubt in the quality of our play we try and produce and the courage that they show. To come back as many times as we do, it's phenomenal and we have just got to try and minimise these comebacks and start taking the lead."



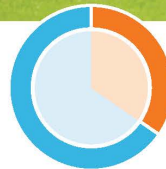
POSSESSION
51% | 49%



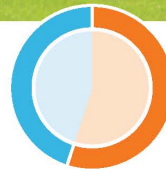
SHOTS ON TARGET
8 | 5



SHOTS OFF TARGET
7 | 3



CORNERS
6 | 3



FOULS
13 | 19

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TRAVELLER'S TALES

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

THE JOURNEY

It was a local trip to Wycombe on what was another glorious summer day. Thankfully the roads were pretty kind. You can never be too sure when you have to encounter the M25, but all was clear and we made it to Adams Park in around an hour.

RATING: (OUT OF 5) 🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗

THE GROUND

Adams Park is well known to us as we have been there every season since we got back into the league. Nothing has changed from last season. It isn't the worst ground and the view from the away end is usually decent. The only negative is getting out of the car park after the game!

RATING: 🏟️🏟️🏟️🏟️

THE FOOD

With the short journey meaning I could leave later, I had eaten at home but Wycombe laid on a marquee with beer and a BBQ for Town fans, which was doing an excellent trade. The food options inside the ground was the usual offering.

RATING: 🍔🍔🍔🍔

THE PROGRAMME

Wycombe are another club who offer a programme. This one was £3.50 and was the usual combination of home notices and advertisements. I did notice one thing from 'Nick's Nuggets' that suggested Luton and Wycombe were evenly matched. Not sure about that!

RATING: 📖📖

THE MATCH

This was like a movie I'd seen before at Wycombe. In fact it was the same game played out for the third or fourth time. Wycombe started better, went ahead early via a penalty which looked dubious to me, and then proceeded to kill any semblance of life out of the game through timewasting.

The second half was very similar to last season, although we had to ride a second penalty which James Shea saved. That flicked a switch and we finished like a train, equalising through Matty Pearson and almost winning it via chances from Elliot Lee, Dan Potts and Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, the latter with a great shot that hit the post only for the rebound to fall for the keeper. No injury-time joy this year but a solid point.

RATING: ⚽⚽

MAN OF THE MATCH

Pretty simple one this. James Shea's penalty save turned the match on its head. After the comedy goal he conceded the week before, this was a great rebounding effort. Shea made some other saves too in a really solid performance from the Town stopper.

SUMMARY

You know what to expect with a trip to Wycombe and this one didn't disappoint in that regard. When they stood over the second penalty I'd have taken a draw, but it felt like two points dropped in the end. After the battle with the car park the journey home wasn't too bad, which was a consolation!

OVERALL RATING: 17

{TOWN v BRISTOL ROVERS | SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018} **47**



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LUTON TOWN 2 BRIGHTON 1

TOWN GOALS: JARVIS 5, GRANT 79 • BRIGHTON GOAL: CONNOLLY 86



ISTED
JUSTIN
JONES
SHEEHAN
SENIOR
MCCORMACK (REA 81)
GRANT (NEUFVILLE 85)
READ
O'KANE (MUSONDA 39)
CORNICK
JARVIS

SUBS NOT USED:

JAMES
TOMLINSON
RICHARDSON
STECH



STEELE
WHITE
GYOKERES
TILLEY (SPONG 71)
CONNOLLY
A DAVIES
J DAVIES
KERR
MANDRIOU
COCHRANE
ONEN (BARCLAY 46)

SUBS NOT USED:

O'HORA
COLLINGS
CASHMAN
PACKHAM



STORY OF THE MATCH

The Hatters cruised to victory over Brighton & Hove Albion Under-21s in the Checkatrade Trophy, with a strong line-up creating nearly 30 scoring chances.

Aaron Jarvis opened the scoring just five minutes in with a lovely volley after a brilliant move from the hosts, before the Hatters went onto dominate the affair, creating 29 chances.

They finally got their second 80 minutes in, when Jorge Grant's strike deflected past Jason Steele – the stopper putting in a spirited display to keep the Hatters at bay for so long.

The Seagulls got a consolation goal with four minutes of normal time to play when Aaron Connolly headed in Alex Cochrane's cross, but the Town held out for the win.

{TOWN v BRISTOL ROVERS | SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018} 49

DONCASTER 2 LUTON TOWN 1

DONCASTER GOALS: BLAIR 6, WHITEMAN 46 • TOWN GOAL: LEE 45+1

STORY OF THE MATCH

Town suffered a frustrating defeat on the road as early goals conceded at the beginning of both halves killed any chance of taking any points from the Keepmoat Stadium.

Matty Blair burst through the Town half unchallenged, before curling a well-taken effort into the top left corner from the edge of the box just six minutes in.

The Town reacted well, creating several good openings and Elliot Lee equalised just before the half-time whistle as he headed in from close range after Dan Potts rose highest to meet Jorge Grant's corner.

But Donny restored their lead just 35 seconds after the restart though through Ben Whiteman, and the Town were unable to recover.



SHEA
STACEY
PEARSON
BRADLEY
POTTS
REA
MPANZU
GRANT (JARVIS 85)
LEE
CORNICK
COLLINS (O'KANE 76)

SUBS NOT USED:

JUSTIN
MCCORMACK
SHINNIE
SHEEHAN
ISTED

YELLOW CARD:
COLLINS



MAROSI
MASON
WRIGHT
BUTLER
ANDREW
KANE (J ANDERSON 75)
BLAIR
WHITEMAN
WILKS (MAY 62)
COPPINGER (TAYLOR 81)
MARQUIS

SUBS NOT USED:

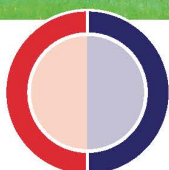
BLAWLOR
T ANDERSON
BEESTIN
PRIOR

YELLOW CARD:

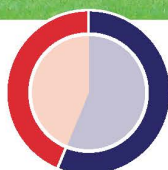
WRIGHT
BLAIR
MAROSI

Elliot Lee's header levels things on the stroke of half-time

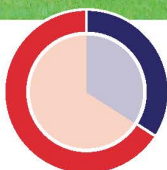




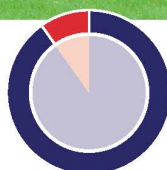
POSSESSION
50% | 50%



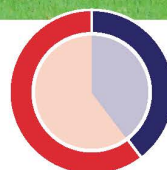
SHOTS ON TARGET
5 | 6



SHOTS OFF TARGET
4 | 2



CORNERS
2 | 14



FOULS
12 | 9



JONES:

"We keep saying it. We're controlling games, we were pretty dominant first half. We

started the second poorly. We work on starts, we work on what we have got to do, maybe we shouldn't, maybe we should just let them get on with it.

"After the goal I thought we were excellent, creating chance after chance, opportunity after opportunity. We controlled the game. These are

a very good footballing side. All our reports came back and we were watching games, they cause sides real, real problems.

"We caused all the problems. They changed their shape at half-time. We come in at half-time right after scoring, thinking all the momentum is with us. One ball into the box, it's not even a good ball into the box, it drops, we don't get on the second and we don't get on the third. Then you've got another mountain to climb."



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TRAVELLER'S TALES

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST MEDIA OFFICER **KEVIN HARPER'S** TRIP TO THE KEEPMOAT STADIUM

THE JOURNEY

The second away league game in succession was a mid-range trip to Doncaster. After a re-route to avoid an accident on the M1, the journey ran smoothly and we made it to a filthy wet Yorkshire in decent time.

RATING: (OUT OF 5) 🏆🏆🏆

THE GROUND

This was my second visit to the Keepmoat Stadium. It is a new ground but that is really all that is good about it. It is one of those bowls which are a stain on football arenas. Thankfully, on a soaking wet day there was a roof, so that was something!

RATING: 🏆🏆

THE FOOD

I had already had a Burger King at the services on the way up so I restricted myself to a drink inside the ground. Surprisingly the top was kept on, although at £2.20 that was the least they could do! I did hear them say there were no burgers, which wasn't ideal for over a thousand travelling fans.

RATING: 🏆🏆

THE PROGRAMME

A £3 programme was produced for this match which once again was pretty mundane for an away fan. The usual home interviews, statistics, advertisements and general news was in it, but not much else of any note in truth.

RATING: 🏆🏆

THE MATCH

Another Town match and another slow start. This time we fell behind on six minutes when the Hatters' defence spread as one to allow our nemesis Matty Blair to coast through and fire into the top corner. We were level right on half-time when Elliot Lee headed home Dan Potts' knockdown. That was as good as it got for the Town though. As the heavens opened we conceded straight after the break when a shot from the edge of the area was deflected past Shea. We had pretty much all of the remainder of the game, but aside from a shot from a narrow angle from Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, the keeper had little of note to do as we fell to a disappointing defeat.

RATING: 🏆

MAN OF THE MATCH

Not for the first time this season, Mpanzu was my man of the match. This wasn't a game where many Town players stood out in fairness, but Pelly was all action in the centre of the park and came the closest to equalising for us in the second half. He continued his fine start to the season in this game.

SUMMARY

A really disappointing day all round. A poor result on a really depressing day weather wise. Thankfully despite the conditions the journey home was smooth enough and I was back for the second half of the England game. Of course all of the goals were in the first half!

OVERALL RATING: 10

{TOWN v BRISTOL ROVERS | SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018} **53**

YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS 18/19

TOBY BYRON  H: SOLYD Gold Hatters A: AVAILABLE	JOSH NEUFVILLE  H: AVAILABLE A: Derek & Madison Borino	COREY PANTER  H: Andrew J Finch A: AVAILABLE	TIERNAN PARKER  H: SOLYD Gold Hatters A: Bobbers Travel Club G: AVAILABLE
JAKE PECK  H: DLA Driving School A: AVAILABLE	DREW RICHARDSON  H: RCP Parking A: Blakeney Estates	CONNOR TOMLINSON  H: LTFCFool A: Michael & Vicky Wilson	JOSH BOORN  H: Andrew J Finch A: AVAILABLE
AVAN JONES  H: Middleton Bespoke Joinery A: AVAILABLE	JAMES HOLDEN  H: S S & C Technologies A: AVAILABLE G: AVAILABLE	RICO GRECO  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	LEWIS SWINDELLS  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE
JONAS KALONDA  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	SAM BECKWITH  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	DEQUANE WILSON-BRAITHWAITE  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	
ANDY AWFORD  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	INIGO IDIAKEZ  H: RCP Parking A: Icknield Class of 96/97	<p>TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KIT SPONSORSHIPS, CONTACT OUR COMMERCIAL TEAM ON 01582 411622</p> <p>KEY: H: HOME A: AWAY G: GLOVES T: THIRD SPONSOR</p>	

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ACADEMY UPDATE

**ACADEMY STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH
ALI KERR**

With the schoolboy programme starting at the beginning of September, it is an ideal time for the sports science and medicine team to complete physical testing with every player from Under-Nines to U18s.

These tests include acceleration, sprinting and jumping, three areas that are key to develop in the making of an athletic footballer. The results from these tests will be used to implement specific training.

This year, two university students have joined us during their placement year, Eoin and David. Whilst their placements provide valuable experience for them, we as an academy benefit hugely as we are able to implement a number of new strategies aiding players' development.

The U18s' season is now well underway and the boys have achieved impressive results so far, with 10 out of 15 points already on the board.

With The Brache as our training facility, we are working very closely alongside the first team. This is a huge incentive for the scholars as they are motivated and eager to step up their game and impress.

This has recently been seen with Josh Neufville, who has signed his first professional contract after training with the first team numerous times already this season. He made his first professional debut on Tuesday 4th September in the Checkatrade Trophy game against Brighton. One thing I will say about Josh...he has pace to burn!

Part of my role in the Academy is to work closely with our medical team in the rehabilitation of players. At the moment, we are working with long-term injured Jonas Kalonda, who as of this week, was back out on the grass running!

Working with Jonas is always interesting. Recently he came up into the office to collect his programme

for that day's work when, on the way out, I asked him to shut down head of education Dale Brunton's laptop.

Sure enough, he walked over to Dale, who was happily sitting on his laptop working and proceeded to shut the lid before turning and walking out of the office. It is safe to say that Dale was not impressed. However, Jonas will do as told – even if you are joking or not!

A massive thank you needs to go to Paul Hart from me personally. I have been lucky enough to have learnt a lot from him during his years here at the club. He has been a massive help and I am grateful for all of the advice he has given me from his extensive experience and knowledge in football and academy football.

I also have to thank Paul for calling me Zidane – after realising that our hairlines are starting to look very similar!

EFL YOUTH ALLIANCE SOUTH EAST FIXTURES 2018/19

AUGUST

Sat 4	Gillingham	A	L 0-4
Sat 11	Barnet	H	W 2-0
Sat 18	AFC Wimbledon	A	W 3-0
Sat 25	Cambridge Utd	A	D 1-1
Tue 28	Cambridge Utd (EFL Cup)	H	L 1-4

SEPTEMBER

Sat 1	Peterborough Utd	H	W 4-2
Sat 15	N'hampton Town	H	11am
Sat 22	MK Dons	A	11am
	MK6 3EA		

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LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

HATTERS OVER-50S WALKING FOOTBALLERS THROUGH TO NATIONAL FINALS

Our walking footballers continue to gain national recognition, recently finishing fourth in the Over-50s TRA South Walking Football League.

The Hatters now qualify for a 'Ryder Cup' style finals with the top four southern teams – Bexley, Romford, Colchester and ourselves – due to play against the top four northern teams – Leggy Mambos, Peterlee, Helford, Leeds Titans and Blackburn Rovers – at Leicester's PlayFootball on December 2nd.

Hatters player-manager Arthur Mason said: "To finish fourth and to qualify for the finals at Leicester is a great achievement in our first league season, as it was a very strong league with lots of good teams. We have played some excellent football at times

this season and we have learned a lot. With a bit of luck and a full squad, we could have finished even higher. Now we have another chance on the national stage, which is a great way to finish the season."

On top of this success we will soon be announcing several new initiatives promoting the many benefits of walking football – not just the benefit of regular physical exercise, but the mental health benefits of being involved in regular activity with like-minded people enjoying the social side as much as the competitive side of football.

To get involved in our Over-50s activities call the community office on **01582 561622** or drop us an email at community@lutontown.co.uk



FOOTBALL FOR PEACE

It was great to see the first team warm up in our Football for Peace (FFP) T-shirts at the recent Southend United home fixture to reinforce the Club's community cohesion agenda.

Our FFP project is a Home Office funded project through the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme, and involves the Trust partnering with FFP, who are a diplomatic sports movement, and Luton Borough Council to use football to create dialogue and unite Lutonians.

Through the FFP Young Ambassador Training Programme we created a local community initiative that used football to connect young people from different faiths, cultures and backgrounds in Luton and get them to communicate, play together and learn to confront stereotypes and better understand one another through dialogue.

As well as having the chance to organise a peace football tournament here at the stadium during the close season, the project identified young people aged 16 to 18 years to work together within Luton's communities to create greater mutual understanding and respect as well as developing their personal skills in the process.

Our 'Peace Ambassadors' attended workshops that covered events management, conflict management,

team building, and equality and diversity, as well as everyone gaining a recognised Level 2 sports qualifications, skills that we hope will be helpful for them in the future whilst also benefitting the whole community.

Luton Town FC Community Operations Manager, Daniel Douglas, said: "We recognise the cohesive impact that a relatively small number of young people from across the town can have as young leaders in changing perceptions and raising aspirations.

"We know that Luton's young people have a lot to contribute to making Luton a place to be proud of and projects like Football For Peace help them to achieve this."

Football For peace is an ongoing project and is part of the Hatters Trust's portfolio of projects that aim to improve community cohesion in Luton.

This year the Trust will be heavily involved in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Kick it Out celebrations, along with other projects including Black History Month in October.

To get your school or youth group involved you can contact Daniel Douglas at the community office on **01582 561622**.





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HATTERS LADIES

BY DANIEL TAGG

Luton Town 1-3 Cheltenham Town

Hatters rue missed chances as they crash out of League Cup

The form of these two sides couldn't have been more contrasting as they went into this tie, with Cheltenham on six points compared to Luton's zero after the first two games.

Despite going into the game as underdogs, Luton were definitely the side on top in the opening stages, with Funmi Babalola coming close a few times after some intelligent runs in behind the Cheltenham defence.

Erica Byron also posed a significant threat with her delivery from the left, but it was the Robins who took the lead against the run of play when Annie Martin converted after a flowing move.

Luton's response to going behind was superb, Nicola Henman heading home expertly to bring the Hatters deservedly back level within five minutes.

Cheltenham regained the advantage soon after the restart, however, when Amy Leask smashed in off the bar after a reshuffled Luton defence – missing usual centre-half pairing Rachel Kosky and Rachel Carter – failed to clear.

The second half brought yet more big opportunities for Luton to draw level, but Babalola was once again denied by a solid display from the opposing keeper.

Town continued to press, with Henman coming close, and the introduction of Naomi Stirling created further openings as the Cheltenham defence struggled to handle her physicality and link up play, coupled with the speed and athleticism of Byron and Babalola, who joined her up front to form a dangerous offensive trio.

It looked for all the world that Luton would equalise at any moment, but the Hatters were unable to turn their host of chances into goals, not helped by a poor decision by the linesman which denied Naomi Stirling a clean run on goal.

Inevitably, Luton would be made to pay for their missed chances when Martin bagged herself a second to all but end the tie. Having said this, Luton continued their pursuit of a second goal and came as agonisingly close when Naomi Stirling's goal-bound effort from inside the six-yard box struck her own team mate Babalola and bounced away, illustrating perfectly how it just wasn't Luton's day.

Town manager Nikki Baker gave her thoughts on the last few games, saying: "It is very disappointing to not get any points on the board yet. We had a very tough start against top teams with a big budget, but it is no excuse.

"We haven't been good enough or clicked yet which is very frustrating. We will be working hard in the coming weeks to get better and will hopefully pick up some points urgently."

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH EAST DIVISION ONE FIXTURES 2018/19

Sun Aug 19	Leyton Orient	L 0-1	Sun Dec 16	Stevenage	H
Sun Aug 26	AFC Wimbledon	L 1-3	Sun Jan 13	Leyton Orient	A
Sun Sep 2	Cheltenham (Cup)	L 1-3	Sun Jan 20	AFC Wimbledon	A
Sun Sep 9	Actonians	L 0-3	Sun Feb 3	Actonians	H
Sun Sep 16	Billerica Town	A	Sun Feb 13	Enfield Town	A
Sun Sep 30	Ipswich Town	H	Sun Feb 17	Billerica Town	H
Wed Oct 3	Denham United	A	Sun Mar 10	Ipswich Town	A
Sun Oct 21	Crawley Wasps	H	Wed Mar 13	Denham United	H
Sun Nov 4	Cambridge Utd	A	(Home games are played at Stockwood Park Athletics Stadium)		
Sun Nov 18	Norwich City	A			

{TOWN v BRISTOL ROVERS | SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018} 61



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QUICK QUIZ! >>> P _ _ _ _ _ : Clue... it's one of Bristol Rovers' nicknames



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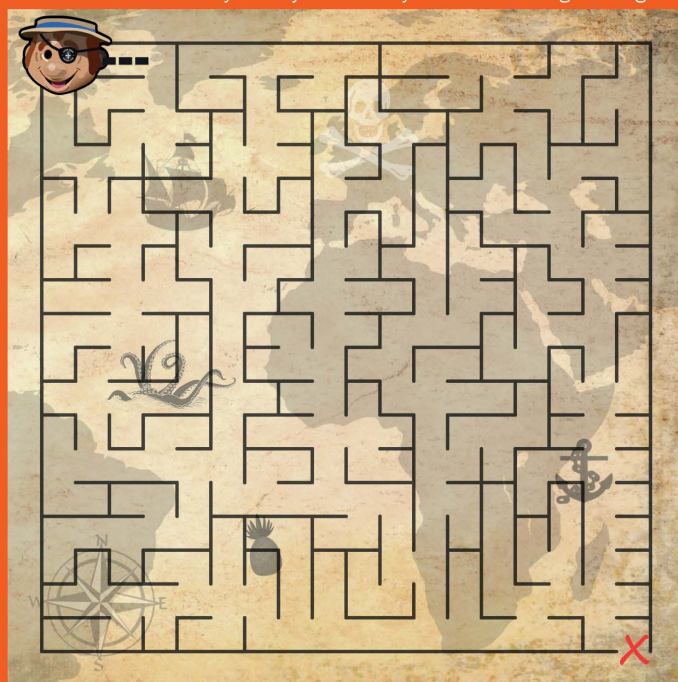
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Answers: Quick Quiz: Pirates



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FIXTURES PILE-UP

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI							
AUGUST															
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth	L 0-1	19,018	2,392	21	Stech	Justin	Pearson	Sheehan	Potts	McCormack ●		
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Sunderland	D 1-1	10,059	1,047	19	Stech	Stacey	Pearson 1	Sheehan	Potts	McCormack		
Tue 14	8.00pm	A	West Bromwich Albion (CC R1)	L 0-1	10,404	1,175	-	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin	Rea ●		
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Peterborough United	L 1-3	8,016	2,209	22	Stech	Stacey	Pearson ●	Bradley	Sheehan	McCormack ●		
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Southend United	W 2-0	9,086	916	15	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts	Rea		
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Shrewsbury Town	W 3-2	8,518	379	10	Shea	Stacey 1	Pearson	Bradley	Potts	Rea		
SEPTEMBER															
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers	D 1-1	6,072	1,702	9	Shea	Stacey	Pearson 1	Bradley	Potts	Rea		
Tue 4	7.45pm	H	Brighton & Hove Albion U21 (CT)	W 2-1	1,318	44	-	Isted	Justin	Jones	Sheehan	Senior	McCormack ●		
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Doncaster Rovers	L 2-1	7,526	1,013	11	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts	Rea		
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	12.00pm	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												

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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WHO, WHEN AND WHERE THE HATTERS ARE PLAYING THIS SEASON

KEY: ● First Substitute | ● Second Substitute | ● Third Substitute | ➡ Sent off | **GOALSCORER**

SUBS											
Mpanzu	Grant	Lee	Cornick ●	Collins	Shinnie ●	Jervis ●	Bradley	Stacey	Rea	Gambin	Shea
Mpanzu	Grant ●	Lee ●	Hylton	Collins ●	Cornick ●	Ray ●	Jervis ●	Justin	Bradley	Shinnie	Shea
Mpanzu	Gambin ●	Shinnie ●	Cornick	Jervis	Jones ●	Lee ●	Berry	Collins	Senior	Read	Stech
Mpanzu	Potts	Lee	Hylton 1	Collins ●	Rea ●	Shinnie ●	Grant ●	Justin	Cornick	Jervis	Shea
Mpanzu	Grant ●	Shinnie	Hylton 1 ●	Lee 1 ●	Justin ●	Cornick ●	Collins ●	Jervis	Gambin	Sheehan	Stech
Mpanzu	Grant 1 ●	Shinnie	Hylton ●	Lee 1	Collins ●	Justin ●	Cornick	Jervis	Gambin	Jones	Stech
Mpanzu	Justin ●	Shinnie ●	Collins	Lee	Cornick ●	O'Kane ●	McCormack	Grant	Jones	Sheehan	Stech
Grant 1 ●	Read	O'Kane ●	Cornick	Jarvis 1	Musonda ●	Rea ●	Neufville ●	James	Tomlinson	Richardson	Stech
Mpanzu	Grant ●	Lee 1	Cornick	Collins ●	O'Kane ●	Jarvis ●	Justin	McCormack	Shinnie	Sheehan	Isted

TODAY'S FIXTURES:

AFC Wimbledon v Scunthorpe United

Bradford City v Charlton Athletic

Burton Albion v Sunderland

Coventry City v Barnsley

Fleetwood Town v Accrington Stanley

Luton Town v Bristol Rovers

Peterborough United v Portsmouth

Plymouth Argyle v Blackpool

Rochdale v Gillingham

Shrewsbury Town v Southend United

Walsall v Doncaster Rovers

Wycombe Wanderers v Oxford United

LEAGUE TABLE 2018/19

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

PLAYER STATS 2018/19

	THIS SEASON								LIFC	
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISP		CAREER TOT	
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS
Luke Berry	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	40	8
Sonny Bradley	5	(1)	0	(0)	6	(1)	0	1	7	0
James Collins	5	(2)	0	(0)	5	(2)	0	2	52	20
Harry Cornick	2	(3)	0	(0)	4	(3)	0	0	48	5
Luke Gambin	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	0	38	3
Jorge Grant	5	(1)	1	(0)	6	(1)	2	1	7	2
Danny Hylton	4	(0)	2	(0)	4	(0)	2	0	94	52
Harry Isted	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	0	1	0
Jack James	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	1	0
Aaron Jarvis	0	(1)	0	(0)	1	(1)	1	0	6	2
Jack Jervis	0	(2)	0	(0)	1	(2)	0	0	13	0
Lloyd Jones	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	3	0
James Justin	2	(2)	0	(0)	4	(2)	0	1	68	3
Elliot Lee	7	(0)	3	(0)	7	(1)	3	0	57	18
Alan McCormack	3	(0)	0	(0)	4	(0)	0	2	20	1
Pelly-Raddock Mpanzu	7	(0)	0	(0)	8	(0)	0	0	162	9
Frankie Musonda	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	13	1
Josh Neufville	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	1	0
Eunan O'Kane	0	(2)	0	(0)	1	(2)	0	0	3	0
Matty Pearson	7	(0)	2	(0)	8	(0)	2	0	8	2
Dan Potts	7	(0)	0	(0)	7	(0)	0	2	96	8
Glen Rea	4	(2)	0	(1)	5	(3)	0	2	117	4
Arthur Read	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	0	4	0
Jack Senior	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	0	22	0
James Shea	4	(0)	0	(0)	5	(0)	0	0	18	0
Alan Sheehan	3	(0)	0	(0)	4	(0)	0	1	111	7
Andrew Shinnie	3	(2)	0	(0)	4	(2)	0	0	40	3
Jack Stacey	6	(0)	1	(0)	7	(0)	1	0	52	2
Marek Stech	3	(0)	0	(0)	3	(0)	0	0	45	0
Connor Tomlinson	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	1	0



FORMED: 1887 | NICKNAME: THE TANGERINES, THE SEASIDERS | LAST SEASON: 12TH IN LEAGUE ONE
FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @BLACKPOOLFC | COLOURS: ORANGE SHIRT, WHITE SHORTS
GROUND: BLOOMFIELD ROAD | MANAGER: TERRY MCPHILLIPS

WHO?

A Premier League outfit for one season in 2010/11, the Tangerines slipped down the pyramid to League Two, before making one step up two campaigns ago. Promoted via the Championship play-offs in 2010, the club very nearly maintained top tier status, but a narrow defeat to Manchester United at Old Trafford on the final day of that season saw them go down under Ian Holloway.

STADIUM - BLOOMFIELD ROAD

With a capacity of 17,338, Bloomfield Road is one of the bigger grounds in League One. The club's record attendance since it was redeveloped in 2010 is 16,116, but it once held 38,098 when they played Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1955. Hosted its first Premier League match in 2010, when the Seaside welcomed Fulham. During their top tier season, they averaged crowds of 15,782.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Don't remind us.

PUBS

The Bridge is the main away supporters' pub, which can be found on Lytham Road. It's a short walk away from the ground, just four minutes according to Google Maps. There is also the Bloomfield Brewhouse, which has its own microbrewery.

TRAVEL

A trip up the M1 and the M6, or the M1 and the A50, works out at just over 200 miles one way and will take about three-and-a-half hours. The

train takes about 15 minutes longer, followed by a bus – this requires heading down into central London before going up to Preston and changing for Blackpool North. From there you can catch a bus or the tram on the seafront.

RESULTS SO FAR

Gary Bowyer left his role as manager following the opening day draw with Wycombe, with interim boss Terry McPhillips losing his first game at the helm to Portsmouth. Since then, however, the 49-year-old former Blackburn coach has led the Tangerines on an eight-match unbeaten run in all competitions to earn the job on a 12-month rolling contract. Blackpool are currently ninth – two points and two places above the Town.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Mark Cullen links the two clubs – the striker having made 83 appearances in a Town shirt, scoring 24 times, before he moved to Blackpool in 2015 for an initial fee of £180,000. He has since made nearly 100 appearances for the Seaside. Further back, Town signed Allan Brown from Blackpool in 1956, the inside-forward staying at Town for four years. He represented Scotland on 14 occasions, before returning to Kenilworth Road to manage the side between 1966-69.



TICKETS

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



BLACKPOOL

SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER | 3PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

All remaining tickets for this fixture are now available on general sale. **PRICES:** Adult: £22, Senior (60+): £18, Junior (Under-18): £10, Junior (under-10) with Adult/Senior: £0. Wheelchair/ambulant disabled supporters will pay the relevant price class to their age with a helper free of charge with high, medium or enhanced payments.



CHARLTON ATHLETIC

SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER | 3PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

Tickets for this game are currently on general sale from the Ticket Office at category A prices.



OXFORD UNITED

TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER | 7.45PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

The Hatters have received a full allocation of 1,822 seats for the trip to Oxford. Tickets are now available for Diamond season ticket holders and executive members to purchase two-per-person until close of business on Tuesday 18th September. These tickets will be on sale from the Ticket Office via phone or in person only. Season ticket holders will be able to purchase two tickets each from Wednesday 19th September. These will remain on sale until close of business at 12pm on Saturday 22nd September. Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale online from 1pm on Saturday 22nd September and over the phone and in person on Monday 24th September and will remain on sale until 1pm on Tuesday 2nd October. Supporters who have taken an away season ticket will automatically receive one ticket which will be processed on Tuesday 18th

September. If you are a Diamond and require two tickets for this fixture please advise to ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk before this date. **PRICES:** Adult: £24, Senior (65+): £17, 18-21: £16, Under-18: £14, Under-13: £10, Under-7: £6. Wheelchair/ambulant disabled supporters will pay the relevant price class to their age with a helper free of charge with high, medium or enhanced payments.



SCUNTHORPE UNITED

SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER | 3PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

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



BARNSELY

SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER | 12PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

The Hatters' Sky Bet League One fixture at Barnsley has been selected for live TV coverage on Sky Sports, with kick-off moved to midday as a consequence.

As a result, Barnsley have reduced ticket prices to £10 for adults, £5 for concessions (65-plus and Under-18s) and £1 for Under-12s.

Please keep an eye on the club's website and social media channels for details of when these tickets will go on sale.

We would like to make supporters aware that due to the fixture taking place on an international weekend, it is subject to potential postponement should ourselves or Barnsley receive call-ups for three or more of our players to go on international duty.

In the event of that happening, all Luton Town supporters who have purchased a ticket in advance would be entitled to a full refund, or an exchange for the rearranged date if that is preferred.

[HARRY ROGERS]



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

BY **HARRY ROGERS** HATTERS SUPPORTER & RECENTLY QUALIFIED JOURNALIST

When I think of football clubs who have faced torrid times in the recent past, there are many that come to mind. In fact, every football club in the country has a problem at some point.

It might be a financial breakdown, a controversial owner or the fact there isn't enough pies in the oven for the half-time rush.

They're all unique and can cause new strains, and at ten to five on Saturday 3rd May 2014, Bristol Rovers had one of those big dilemmas as their 94-year stay in the Football League came to an end.

And it's a feeling that grips my stomach with anxiety even now, thinking back to 2009 and the Hatters' Non-League days. But as I celebrated a fine promotion campaign under John Still from the Conference throughout the summer of 2014, I constantly thought of Rovers.

Just like Luton, they're a traditional old club who ended up on hard times and fell into the abyss which is Non-League football.

I remember watching the scenes on television after the final whistle at the Memorial Stadium, pure anger and frustration overcoming a section of the home support as they pushed their way onto the pitch. The big drop can bring out all sorts of emotions if you love your team, and manager Darrell Clarke was in tears, along with the fans.

Seeing Rovers – and Clarke – claw their way back the way they did was inspiring. To not only do it through the dreaded play-offs at the first time of asking, but to win promotion all over again the following season, was incredible.

As the Pirates scored their winning penalty in the Conference play-off final at Wembley, I cast my mind back to the nerves and shaky knees I felt in the stand at the City of Manchester Stadium, as it was known back in 2011.

I could barely watch as Danny Kedwell sent Wimbledon up, but these are dark memories of the past. The future looks good for the Hatters and as these two sides meet in today's Sky Bet League One fixture, it's important to remember the vast journey to hell and back that both clubs have been on.

Yes, it may have taken Luton considerably longer than Rovers, and my heart would have preferred a much smoother path – but that's what makes supporting Luton entertaining. You never know what's around the corner.

I'm hoping that today we can keep Kenilworth Road the fortress it's become, and not let Rovers re-create their 1-0 win last time they visited Bedfordshire in a league match.

However, both sides act as fantastic examples to the likes of Leyton Orient, Hartlepool and Chesterfield that it can be done. It may not feel like it when you lose 5-1 away at Gateshead – or should I say Carlisle – but with a bit of passion, skill and belief, anything is possible.



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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
- 16 Glen REA
- 17 Pelly-Ruddock MPANZU
- 18 Jorge GRANT
- 19 James COLLINS
- 21 Jack SENIOR
- 27 Aaron JARVIS
- 28 Lloyd JONES
- 32 Eunan O'KANE
- 34 Jack JAMES
- 35 Arthur READ
- 36 James SHEA
- 37 Frankie MUSONDA
- 40 Harry ISTD
- 44 Alan SHEEHAN

Manager: DARRELL CLARKE

- 2 Daniel LEADBITTER
- 3 Tareiq DENNIS-HOLMES
- 4 Tom LOCKYER
- 5 Tony CRAIG
- 6 Ed UPSON
- 7 Liam SERCOMBE
- 8 Ollie CLARKE
- 9 Stefan PAYNE
- 10 Tom NICHOLS
- 11 Bernard MENSAH
- 13 Jack BONHAM
- 14 Chris LINES
- 15 James CLARKE
- 16 Tom BROADBENT
- 17 Alex JAKUBIAK
- 20 Gavin REILLY
- 21 Adam SMITH
- 22 Joe PARTINGTON
- 23 Kyle BENNETT
- 24 Stuart SINCLAIR
- 26 Sam MATTHEWS
- 28 Michael KELLY
- 29 Joe MARTIN
- 31 Alexis ANDRÉ JR
- 33 Alex RODMAN

MATCH OFFICIALS



ROBERT LEWIS



CHRISTOPHER WADE



BHUPINDER GILL



NIGEL LUGG

NEXT HOME GAME:

CHARLTON ATHLETIC
(SKY BET LEAGUE ONE)

SAT 29th SEPT 2018 | KO: 3PM

