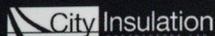




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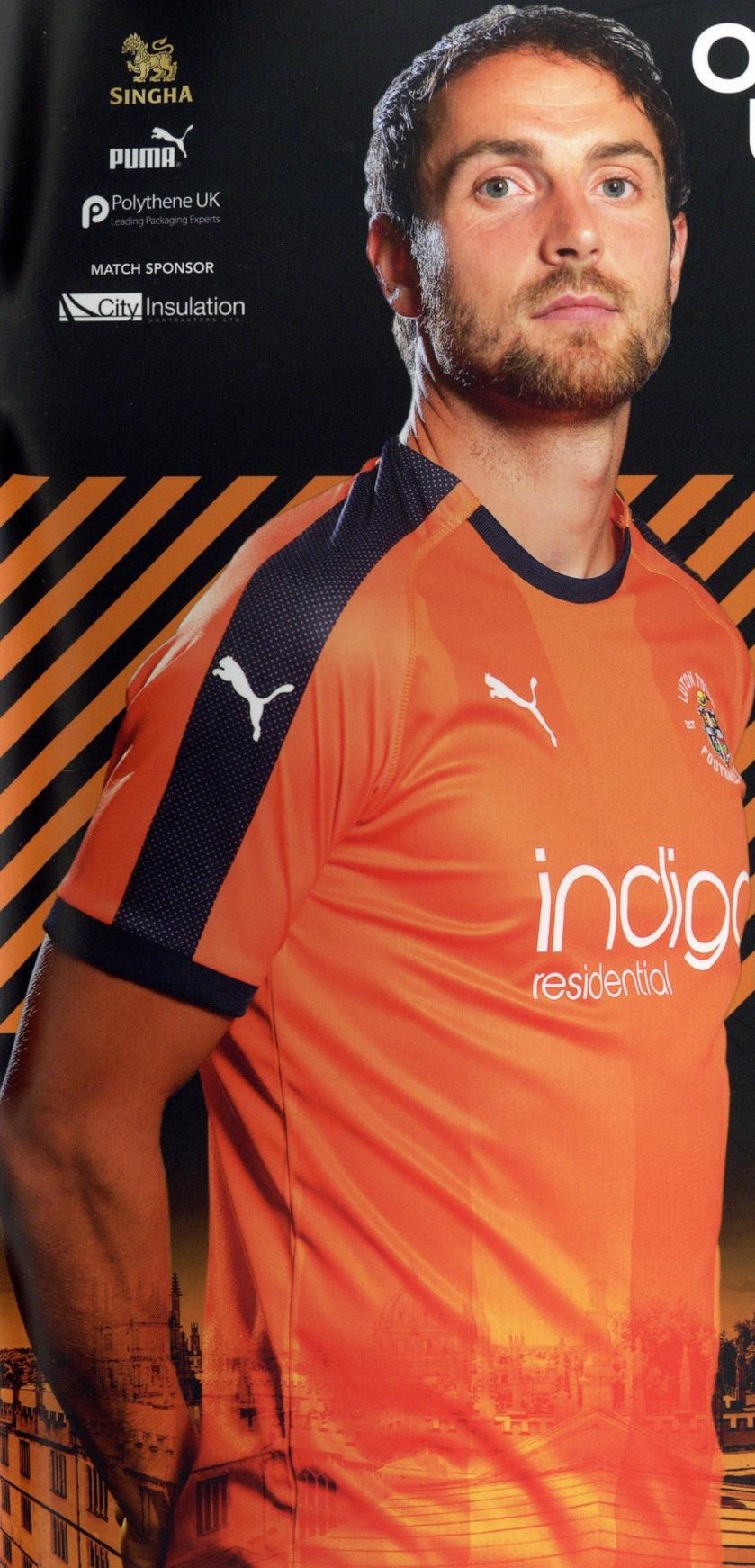
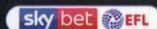


# OXFORD UNITED



## LUTON TOWN

TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2018  
KO 7.45PM | SKY BET LEAGUE ONE



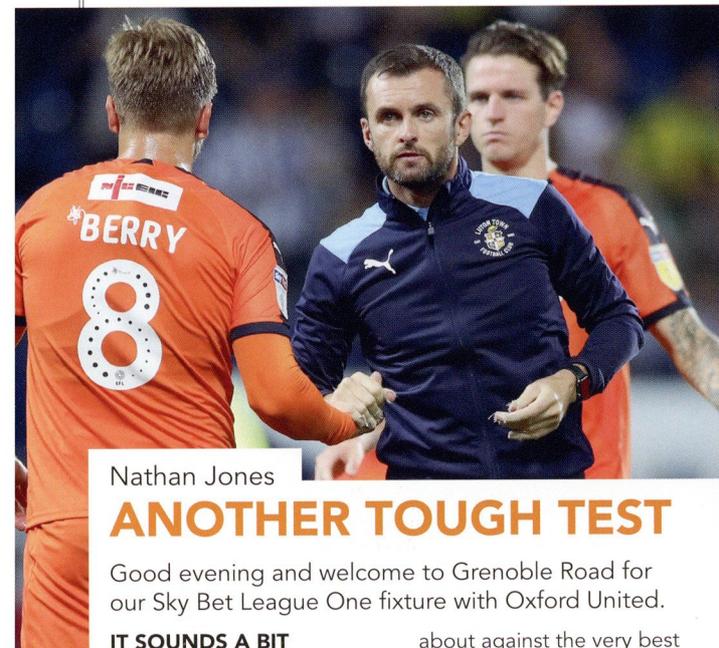
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PROGRAMME FOR  
VISITING FANS



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Nathan Jones

## ANOTHER TOUGH TEST

Good evening and welcome to Grenoble Road for our Sky Bet League One fixture with Oxford United.

**IT SOUNDS A BIT STRANGE WRITING THAT,** as I'm used to welcoming our supporters to Kenilworth Road, but our hosts' idea of doing an away supporters' version of the programme is one to be applauded – and we're always happy to say thank you to our wonderful fans for following us in such terrific numbers!

I know this is one of our shortest away trips of the season, but if we were playing a midweek game on the moon, there'd be some of you making the journey to get behind your team.

Tonight will be another tough test against a side who are established in League One having won promotion a couple of years ago, with a manager in Karl Robinson who is proven at the level.

I was here last week when they played Manchester City in the Carabao Cup, so I've seen first-hand what they are

about against the very best this country has to offer.

I was pleased with our last away performance at Blackpool, when I thought we were outstanding, especially in the first half, against one of the division's form teams.

As has been the case in all our away games except that spell in the opening period at Peterborough, we were on the front foot, dominating possession and creating numerous good opportunities.

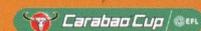
We'll need your support here tonight as we look to go that one step further and record that first away win, so please make as much noise as you always do when we're away from home – it really does make a difference.

Enjoy the game, have a safe journey home and we'll see you back at Kenilworth Road for Scunthorpe on Saturday.

Nathan Jones

## Meet the HOME SIDE

United 0 Manchester City 3  
Tuesday 25th September | 7.45pm



### 41. JONATHAN MITCHELL | GK

Young keeper who joined United on loan until January from Derby in August following an injury to regular goalie Simon Eastwood.

### 23. SAM LONG | DF

Despite being just 23-years-old, Long is United's longest-serving player, having come up through the youth ranks before making his debut in 2013. Sam made his first start in almost two years against Manchester City.

### 5. CURTIS NELSON | DF

Towering centre-back who is also comfortable with the ball at his feet. Nelson spent many years with Plymouth before joining United in 2017.

### 4. ROB DICKIE | DF

Formerly with Reading, Dickie joined the U's in January for an undisclosed fee and was recalled to the side to face Manchester City.

### 3. LUKE GARBUTT | DF

Left-back who joined from Everton on loan for the season in July. Capped by England at every level from U16 to U21 inclusive and had previous loans with Fulham and Wigan.

### 6. JAMIE HANSON | MF

Signed from Derby during the summer, Jamie's nickname at Pride Park was 'Bruiser', although this doesn't do justice to the fact that he is also a good passer of the ball, as well as a midfield enforcer.

### 8. CAMERON BRANNAGAN | MF

Signed from Liverpool in January for an undisclosed fee, Brannagan is equally happy in the number 10 role or playing deeper, in front of the defence.

### 26. SHANDON BAPTISTE | MF

An 18-year-old who turned pro last season having come from the youth team. Was captain for the visit of Manchester City, making him one of the club's youngest-ever skippers.

### 17. GAVIN WHYTE | MF

Won his first cap for Northern Ireland recently, scoring with his first touch on his international debut. Has also been included in the NI squad for their forthcoming games later this month.

### 12. RICKY HOLMES | MF

An experienced winger who joined United on deadline day on a season-long loan from Sheffield United. Holmes has the ability to get the fans off their seats with his scintillating runs and deadly free kicks.

### 20. JON OBIKA | FW

A strong striker who can hold up the ball, Obika started his career with Tottenham Hotspur. He joined United at the start of last season.

From the Chairman

# TIGER TALES

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming to tonight's game against Luton Town.

**I AM WELL AWARE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE RIVALRY** for most Oxford fans but this fixture had also built up a healthy respect and history over the last few years, so it should be another big night to follow up last week's fantastic game against Manchester City.

I thought we showed the world what this club is all about. OK, on the pitch things went against us but most people expected that. We played very well and with 15 minutes left were still in the game, but City are so clever in the way they exploit space and the moment we tried to chase the game they picked us off with two quick goals. There is no shame in that defeat and it was great experience for the players who will learn a lot from playing against that quality of opposition.

**"It really brought home to you all and I am very proud to be taking responsibility for building a club you can be so proud of."**

The team off the pitch also excelled. I want to thank all the staff for the work they did in the build-up and on matchday. I will not make a list for fear of missing someone out but from top to bottom the staff, helpers and volunteers did a superb job and I hope helped everyone enjoy their evening. Can I also thank the fans, because I thought the atmosphere and the spectacle were first class as well. It really brought home to me what this club means to you all and I am very proud to be taking responsibility for building a club you can be so proud of.

That will take time but we are making progress in all areas



and there have been some very encouraging meetings in the last week or two with fan groups and with local councillors which we think may open up some very exciting possibilities for us. I am sure that more will come out about that in the next few days but all I can say right now is that we are getting great support and working so hard to build a better Oxford United.

Of course, we live in the present and losing at Wimbledon on Saturday hurt us all. I saw the game in Thailand and although

we didn't play well at the start we definitely deserved something over the 90 minutes. It was the middle of the night for me but I could not sleep for a long time after. I was in touch with Karl, Shaun and Faz and I spoke to a few people around the club; I don't think my wife appreciated me ringing people at 4.30am actually! But I wanted to talk about the match and just make sure everyone didn't get too down; these people care passionately about this club and I know that defeats hurt them deeply. That is a great starting point and why I know that results will turn for us. Clearly, we are not in the position we wanted to be, but we will stay positive, keep our heads up and I strongly believe that we will turn things around together. With that last word the key one: Together.

**Tiger**  
**Sumrith Thanakarnjanasuth**  
**Chairman**

## OXFORD UNITED FC

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**Directors** Horst Geicke, Zaki Nuseibah  
**Finance & Operations**  
**Director** Benn Brown  
**Managing Director** Niall McWilliams

**Head Coach** Karl Robinson  
**First-team Coach** Shaun Derry  
**First-team Coach** Derek Fazackerley  
**Under-23 Coach** Chris Allen  
**Goalkeeping Coach** Wayne Brown  
**Head of Medical**  
**Services** Amy Cranston MSc MCSP  
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## MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

**EDITOR** Martin Brodetsky  
**THANKS TO** Stu Hammond  
**CONTRIBUTORS** Liam Potter, Jerome Sale, Sam Beresford  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** Tony Bailey, Jacqueline Cross, Steve Daniels, Darrell Fisher, Oxford Mail, Terry Winter, Sheena Booker  
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## FEEDBACK

If you have any comments, complaints or praise regarding the club then please write to the Supporter Liaison Officer at the above address  
• The views and opinions of the contributors to this programme are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Oxford United Football Club.

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From the Dugout

## KARL ROBINSON

I want to start off my notes this time with a look at where we are after ten games of the season. I don't think I have ever hidden when results have gone against us: that's not my style and I always prefer to face up to the facts.

Those facts are that after the first two months of the season our results have not been good enough. One look at the league table will tell you that. OK there have been difficult circumstances and we haven't been helped by a horrendous injury list: tell me any team in the division that wouldn't miss Simon Eastwood, Samir Carruthers and Rob Hall, who have barely been on the pitch for us so far.

But those injuries can't mask the fact that we have built a very strong squad here and should have been able to adapt and still pick up better results than we have been.

It's important to note that it is the results that need to improve rather than the effort or the commitment from the players. I will stand in front of you and tell you honestly that this group work so hard in training and in matches and deserve to

**"I will stand in front of you and tell you honestly that this group work so hard in training and in matches and deserve to have more points on the board..."**

have more points on the board, because I have lost count of the number of games where we have dominated but not turned it in to wins.

I thought we were fairly comfortable at Wimbledon on Saturday and then in a 12-minute spell we conceded two goals, one where we didn't defend properly the other the result of two individual errors. Those were

Wimbledon's only two shots on target and the stats tell you plenty; we had 65 per cent possession - more in the second half - but just couldn't turn that in to at least one more goal.

I had a bit of a go at our strikers afterwards but in reality they know without me pointing it out that we need more of a cutting edge. But we need that from everyone. Defenders need to be ruthless and putting their bodies on the line, midfielders need to win 50/50 tackles and then bust a gut to get in to the box when the ball arrives from wingers who are on the front foot and taking on their man, or from forwards throwing themselves at loose balls in the box trying to make things happen.

It is not easy in our current situation but we need positivity and we need togetherness. I know we have that on the training ground and in the dressing room but now is the time to show it on the pitch on a much more regular basis. Don't wait for things to happen and then react: go out there and make good things happen for us.

As ever, we need your backing and support. It's easy for fans to come and watch us take on Man City. The real die-hard fans will be here tonight to do all they can to support the team and help us beat Luton Town.

Get behind us,

**Karl Robinson**  
Head Coach

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**PUMA ONE**

# News from the U's STARS OF THE PAST JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS

**FORMED ON 27TH OCTOBER 1893** in The Britannia pub in Headington, our home match with Shrewsbury Town marks the exact day the club was formed 125 years earlier, and this anniversary will be celebrated in true United style.



That evening there will be a fantastic black-tie event where a specially selected group of club legends will join us at the Sheldonian Theatre and Bodleian Library.

With tables from each decade, we are proud to announce that our iconic former captain Ron Atkinson and Manor favourite striker Peter Foley will be joining Mark Creighton, Ryan Clarke, Les Robinson, Roy Burton, Milk Cup winning captain Malcolm Shotton, John Shuker and Joey Beauchamp for what is sure to be a night full of great memories.

This night really will be celebrating our history to support our future, with all profits from the evening going directly into funding the Academy.

For full details of all the packages available, please contact the Commercial Team on 01865 337503 or 337513 or email [commercial@oufc.co.uk](mailto:commercial@oufc.co.uk).

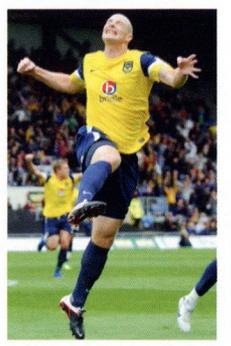
## UNDER-23S IN CUP ACTION ON THURSDAY

**UNITED'S UNDER-23 SIDE** take on Swansea City U23s at Thame United on Thursday 4th October, kick off 7pm. Admission is free and there is always a friendly welcome at the ASM Stadium, so come along and cheer on the boys against Championship opposition.

## BEANO IS BACK

**A TRUE OXFORD UNITED LEGEND** returns tomorrow when James Constable is the guest of the Manor Club.

'Beano' needs little introduction to the United fans after scoring over 100 goals and leading the team back into the Football League.



This event tomorrow lunchtime is bound to be well attended, so please book your place in advance from the Oxford United ticket office in person or online at [www.ouftickets.co.uk](http://www.ouftickets.co.uk) or by calling 01865 337533. Tickets cost just £5.

The Manor Club, for supporters aged 60 and over, meets on the first Wednesday of every month for a talk from a former player and a bite to eat.

The Cowley Workers Social Club is on Between Towns Road, Cowley OX4 3LZ.

## CALL UP FOR T

**OXFORD UNITED MIDFIELDER TSUN DAI** has been included in the Hong Kong senior squad for the first time.

'T', as he is known around the club, has been named in a 33-strong preliminary Hong Kong squad in preparation for two international friendlies against Thailand and Indonesia on 11th and 16th October.

Those matches form part of Hong Kong's build-up towards the East Asian Football Federation (EAFF) Championship second-round matches in Taipei, where Hong Kong take on North Korea, Mongolia and the hosts in November.



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The Back Room

## THREE PLAYERS ALMOST READY

Good evening to everyone joining us here at Grenoble Road tonight.

**WE HAVE MADE SOME GOOD PROGRESS** and had a really positive week which has seen the return of three key players back into the training settings, as well as one more beginning his pitch-based return-to-training protocol.

Samir Carruthers has returned to full training and is doing really well following his knee ligament injury (MCL). Due to his hard work and determination, he has returned bang on the predicted return-to-play date of two months.

Simon Eastwood was also given the go ahead to start progressive goalkeeping work last week. He is doing really well and will be making his return soon. With Easty it's not just about being medically fit

but also about being 'goalkeeper fit', which he is working on daily with the expertise of Wayne Brown (Head Goalkeeper Coach) and Scott Daly (Head of Physical Performance) since being given the all clear to get back in the goalmouth last week.

We have also seen the return of Jamie Mackie, which has been

**"Samir Carruthers has returned to full training and is doing really well following his knee ligament injury (MCL). Due to his hard work and determination, he has returned bang on the predicted return-to-play date of two months."**

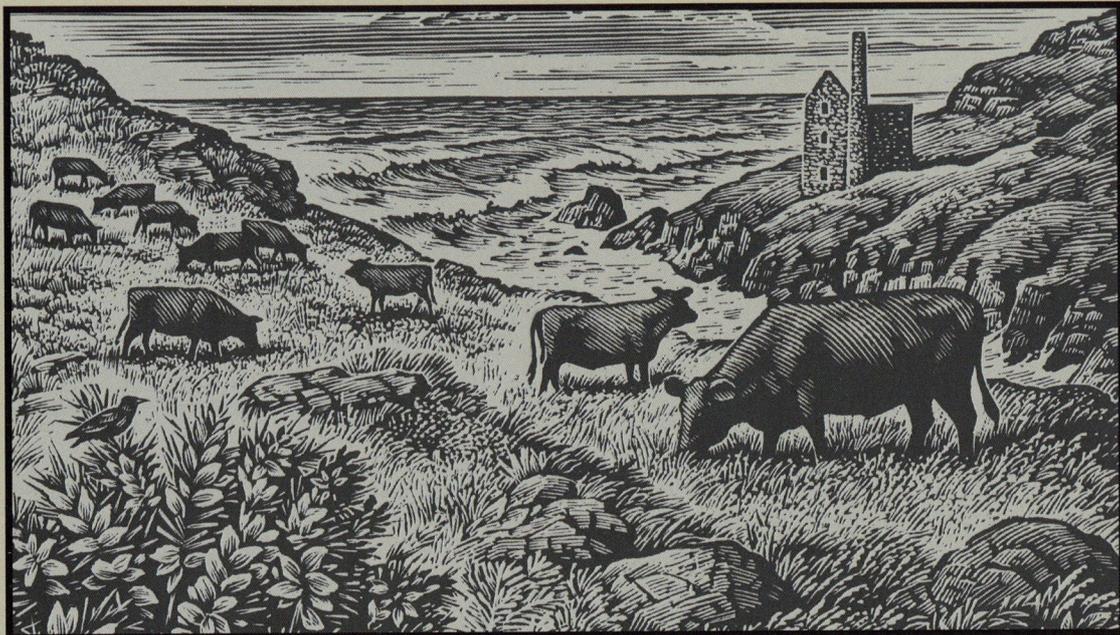
great to see. Originally, we thought his hip injury was going to take much longer to settle, however with daily treatment and a complex and detailed daily rehab programme he is now symptom free.

Marcus Browne is also back on the pitch following his knee ligament injury (LCL) and is beginning change-of-direction work. There are certain steps we must take before he can re-join the boys in training, but so far so good.

Rob Hall also continues to make great progress one month post-operation. It's still very much early days but his range of motion at the knee is improving weekly and he is bang on track to where he should be just one month after his knee surgery.

Make some noise for the boys tonight #coyy

**Amy Cranston MSc MCSP  
Head of Medical Services**



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Introducing Tonight's Visitors

# LUTON TOWN



**LAST TIME OUT**  
Luton Town 2 Charlton Athletic 2



**STADIUM**  
Kenilworth Road



**LEADING SCORER 18/19**  
Elliot Lee (3)



**POINTS 18/19**  
13



Introducing The Hatters

# LUTON TOWN

**WE WELCOME LUTON TOWN** to Grenoble Road this evening. The Hatters are back in League One for the first time in a decade. Liam Potter looks at the visitors' squad.

The man in charge

## NATHAN JONES

Welshman Nathan Jones started his managerial career at Yeovil Town Ladies as he worked towards his UEFA Pro License, which he earned in 2014.

After a brief spell at Brighton & Hove Albion, he joined the Hatters on a three-and-a-half-year deal.

In Jones' first full season at the club he guided them to fourth place in League Two. The following season Jones started the season strongly and ultimately gained three Manager of the Month awards throughout the course of the season.

Last season was a memorable one for Jones, who guided the club to promotion. The Hatters finished second on 88 points and were promoted automatically alongside Accrington Stanley and Wycombe Wanderers. Jones also orchestrated a run in the FA Cup, rewarded with a trip to St James Park as they faced Newcastle. They were beaten 3-1 by the Premier League side in the third round.

## Goalkeepers

Marek Stech joined the Hatters in June 2017 from Sparta Prague. A former cult hero at Yeovil Town, he helped the Glovers win promotion to the Championship before a big summer move to the Czech Republic side. Also among the ranks is stopper James Shea, who earned the number-one spot after finishing the season between the sticks as the Hatters stormed to promotion.



see him also operate as a centre half – and Jack Stacey operate as full backs, while former Plymouth man Sonny Bradley and Matty Pearson make a strong pairing in central defence. Pearson was a summer capture from Barnsley and, despite only being 24-years old, has already obtained over 250 career appearances for Blackburn, Halifax, Accrington Stanley and Barnsley.



## Defenders

Luton usually play with four at the back. Dan Potts – a versatile defender whose aerial ability can

## Midfielders

In midfield, the Hatters made the summer signing of Jorge Grant



on a season-long loan from Nottingham Forest. As one of League Two's brightest prospects last season, he has become a regular in Jones' side and scored a terrific free-kick in the 3-2 win over Shrewsbury Town in late August. Alongside him is highly rated Republic of Ireland U21 international Glen Rea, who has made over 100 appearances for the Hatters and Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, who is a former West Ham Academy graduate. Luton's latest signing is former Newcastle winger Kazenga Lua-Lua, who joined as a free agent last week.

## Forwards

The Hatters are spearheaded by hotshot Elliot Lee, who notched 12 goals in 19 appearances in his first full season at the club. He is supported by experienced striker James Collins and the versatile winger Andrew Shinnie (right), who spent four seasons at Birmingham City in the Championship. In among the attacking ranks is former Oxford United fans favourite Danny Hylton.



### ONE TO PICK OUT: AT THE BACK



#### Dan Potts

**No: 3 | Apps: 99**  
One of a number of players in the Luton side that have come through the West Ham academy, Potts is blessed with strong aerial ability, which makes him a good option as either a fullback or a centre half. Predominantly a left back, he has represented the USA up to U20 level before being selected for England U18s, U19s and U20s. Last season he was nominated in the League Two Team of the Season and also picked up Luton's Players' Player of the Season award.

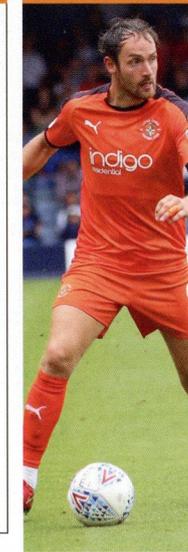
### ONE TO PICK OUT: BEHIND THE STRIKER



#### Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu

**No: 17 | Apps: 163**  
A real crowd favourite, 'Pelly' has been known to play anywhere from centre half to being deployed as a striker. More commonly found on the wing now, he passed the 100-game mark for the Hatters during the 2016/17 season. After scoring the League Two Goal of the Month Award for April last season, in the summer he was rewarded with a contract extension that sees him stay at Kenilworth Road until 2021.

### ONE TO PICK OUT: UP FRONT



#### Danny Hylton

**No: 9 | Apps: 94**  
Danny Hylton was a pivotal player in Michael Appleton's promotion side in 2015/16. His debut season in yellow saw him finish as the club's top scorer and his contributions the following season saw him earn promotion to League One, as well as a goal in the Checkatrade Trophy final at Wembley. Firing in 21 goals for the Hatters last season, he has not lost his eye for goal but if it's not the goals although he has been nursing an injury of late.

# THE HATTERS



**Did you know**

Luton Town's most recent successful period began in 1981/82, when the club won the Second Division and thereby gained promotion to the First. Luton defeated Arsenal 3-2 in the 1988 Football League Cup final and remained in the First Division until relegation at the end of the 1991/92 season.

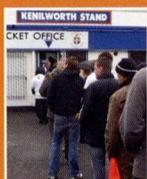
**Did you know?**

Luton Town Football Club was a combined result of two teams: Luton Town Wanderers and Luton Town Excelsior. It had played a number of friendly matches followed by annual participation in English Cup.



**Did you know**

The club's nickname, "the Hatters", reflects Luton's historical connection with the hat-making trade, which has been prominent in the town since the 17th century.



**Stadium - Kenilworth Road- 10,356**

Luton Town moved to Kenilworth Road in 1905, leaving their previous home at Dunstable Road. On 24 March 2015 the ground was officially renamed "The Prostate Cancer UK Stadium" for one day, for the game against Wycombe Wanderers, in support of charity and raising awareness of prostate cancer.



**Famous player - Andre Gray**

The now Burnley star joined Luton Town, then in the Conference, on loan in 2012. He scored on his debut in a 1-1 draw with Grimsby Town. He went on to play 97 games for the club in a spell that lasted three years, scoring 52 goals in the process. He would then move onto Brentford, where he made a name for himself.

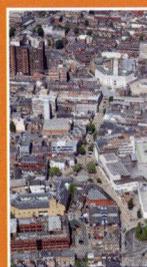


**Club Legend - Ricky Hill**

Hill joined Luton in 1975, and made 436 League appearances, scoring 54 goals in the process, from 1976 to 1989. He earned three full England caps during this time, making his debut on 22 September 1982 as a substitute for Bryan Robson in England's 2-2 draw with Denmark in Copenhagen - the nation's first match under the management of Bobby Robson.

**Past Match - Luton 1-1 Carlisle 21/4/18**

Luton confirmed their promotion back to League One with a point at home to Carlisle. Olly Lee scored the goal that sent the Hatters up in the 62nd minute. They had been in the top three since mid-November and the promotion was thoroughly deserved.



**Luton**

Luton has a population of 194,400 according to the latest estimate from the Office for National Statistics. It began when the Saxons conquered Bedfordshire in the sixth century and created a settlement, called a tun, by the river Lea. It is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Loitone'.



They played for both

## Steve Foster



**'FOZZY' WAS INITIALLY A CENTRE FORWARD**

when he started his career at Portsmouth in 1973. Manager Ian St. John converted him into a centre half and he made 130 appearances for Pompey before leaving for Brighton in 1979.

While with the Seagulls he was capped three times for England and made over 200 appearances, including in the 1983 FA Cup final against Manchester United.

He moved to Aston Villa in 1984, and eight months later Luton paid £150,000 for his services. His 212 appearances for the Hatters included captaining the 1988 League Cup winning side against Arsenal after Luton had beaten Oxford in the semi-final. In 1989, United paid Luton £175,000 for Foster. He played 112 games for United, scoring 13 goals, before he returned to Brighton in August 1992. He retired in May 1996.

### Luton Town timeline

- **1885** Club founded following merger of Luton Town Wanderers and Excelsior
- **1897** Joined the Football League for three seasons
- **1905** Moved to Kenilworth Road
- **1920** Rejoined Football League
- **1955** First promotion to Division One
- **1988** League Cup winners v Arsenal
- **2014** Conference champions
- **2018** Promoted to League One



IN FOCUS | TUESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2018 | 7.45PM

REFEREE  
Roger East

COMPETITION  
Carabao Cup 3rd round

VENUE  
Grenoble Road

ATTENDANCE  
11,956 (1,247 away)



SCORERS

0-3



SCORERS

Jesus (36), Mahrez (78),  
Foden (90+2)



They said...

**KARL ROBINSON**  
OUFC Head Coach

"Every single player who took to the pitch I'm immensely proud of. I want to do things the right way. I said to my players before the game, play on the edge, but play with total respect. We played with our hearts and our heads, and we showed we can be a good team."



**PEP GUARDIOLA**  
MCFC Manager

"We spoke with my players about Oxford and we were really impressed with the way they tried to play and the way they did many things. The strikers are strong, the wingers they are so fast, so quick."



Unused subs: Shearer, Mousinho, Raglan, McMahon



Unused subs: Ederson, Walker, Laporte, Sané

United's first home game in the Football League was a 2-1 win over Lincoln City in front of a Manor crowd of 10,483. Alan Willey and Bud Houghton scored Oxford's historic goals.



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(FOOTBALL LEAGUE—FOURTH DIVISION)

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## WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE EVER OXFORD PLAYER?

Ceri Evans – If the anecdote is true that he turned up on his bike as a student and asked for a trial (despite being a full international) then it's Roy of the Rovers stuff and not the sort of scenario you would get in today's world of agents and academies. He was a very skilful player who also gained a first-class honours degree from Oxford University in Experimental Psychology, not your run-of-the-mill footballer.



### JOHN MATTHEWS

Age: 44  
How long following United: 36 Years  
Which stand do you sit in: East

## WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE PAST OXFORD MATCH?

A cliché I know but the Milk Cup final. QPR fans totally confident they were going to win but 11 players and 45,000 Oxford fans thought otherwise. In all likelihood I won't see such a day again and so I'm very lucky to have been there – something I constantly point out to younger OUFC fans!



## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND?

Fratton Park – proper old ground set in the back streets of a city where the crowd



is right on top of the pitch. Not too far to get to, home stands invariably sold out and we normally take a good number. The 4-1 away win a few seasons ago was very enjoyable.

# John Matthews with his... FANS FAVOURITES

Each issue we invite a fan to tell us their favourites...

## WHICH RANKS AS YOUR FAVOURITE SEASON SUPPORTING UNITED?

1995/96. We were mid-table in February but won 13 of our last 17 games to gain



promotion. The 3-0 win at Wycombe with Moody doing a handstand and Massey swinging from the crossbar says it all. Also having a sold-out away end at Crewe Alexandra by 1.30 due to it not being all ticket was amusing with no-one else in the other stands.

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PAST OXFORD KIT?

The AC Milan-esque away kit from the nineties. I remember wearing this on a trip to Milan and getting a number of quizzical looks from the locals who probably wondered why an Oxford-based parts manufacturer was their new sponsor. I think it also featured in a promotion season, so we probably actually gained some points wearing it.



## WHICH HAS BEEN THE STAND-OUT MOMENT SINCE YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE CLUB?

Winning the Conference play-off final, due to its importance. I hated the match itself as I was so nervous but when Potter scored the third and the win was secured, it was the best feeling.



What are your United favourites? Why not send in your answers, along with a photo, and let us know and you could appear on this page. Write to Martin Brodetsky, Programme Editor, Oxford United, Grenoble Road, Oxford OX4 4XP or email [mbrodetsky@oufc.co.uk](mailto:mbrodetsky@oufc.co.uk)



Lee Bradbury

# GIVING LEEWAY

Martin Brodetsky talks to United's former striker...

**THIS EVENING'S GUEST OF HONOUR** is former United player Lee Bradbury. Born on the Isle of Wight, Lee started his career with Portsmouth after leaving the army. He was signed by Manchester City for a club-record £3 million and in October 1998 Crystal Palace bought him for £1.5 million. A year later he returned to Portsmouth and it was in June 2004 that Graham Rix signed him for Oxford.

"I knew Graham from his Portsmouth days," Lee tells me. "So when I got the phone call it was an attraction for me straight away. It was a big club and even though it wasn't the level I wanted to play at I'd just come back from a long-term injury, so it was a good opportunity for me, and reasonably local as well as I lived in Fareham which is just an hour down the road, and there were a couple of other players signed from the same area, so it was ideal for us all to travel together."

**"I had Brian Talbot as well. I had a good relationship with Brian and I liked him; he was a players' man and if you did it for him, he would back you. But by that time the club was cutting back and it was difficult for whoever came in."**

Lee scored ten goals in 78 appearances for United, his final game coming in January 2006 before he left the club for Southend. It wasn't the happiest of endings for Lee or the club.

"I had a clause in my contract and the chairman at the time didn't want me to play my 30th game, which would have activated another year. It was in the contract that I signed in good faith, like he did, and I wasn't willing to change the contract, so I went to Southend and we won the league."

As well as Lee, United also sold Chris Hackett and Craig Davies during that January transfer window. I wondered if things might have been different had those three players remained with the club.

"Me and Chris were experienced players and Craig was up and coming, he was raw but he could score goals," Lee tells me. We were losing a lot of pace out the team – certainly with the other two even if not me at the time. I was playing centre midfield, up front, all over the place and I captained the club for a while, which made me very proud – that's always been an honour for me to captain a club – and I really enjoyed my time there, but it was a turbulent time.

"I started under Graham Rix, then I had Ramon Diaz come in with his Argentinean staff. That was difficult because they didn't know the English game and they didn't

speak English, at all. Everything took three times longer than it should do because we had to have conversations through an interpreter. It was disruptive for everyone because there was no other way of communicating. It was a bit of a strange one – you sort of expect that with Premier League clubs now but not a club in League Two. They were good people and I liked them and they had a good sense of humour but it was difficult to connect with them because of the language problems.



"I had Brian Talbot as well. I had a good relationship with Brian and I liked him; he was a players' man and if you did it for him, he would back you. But by that time the club was cutting back and it was difficult for whoever came in."

After Southend, Lee moved on to AFC Bournemouth, where he played almost 150 games at right-back before becoming caretaker manager and then manager in 2011.

"I had a great time at

Bournemouth," he tells me. "We had minus 17 points one season, minus 15 another. We managed to stay up with minus 17 points and went down, I think by just one goal, with minus 15. We had a transfer embargo as well. Eddie Howe had a really good learning curve for management there off the back of that. He won't have many harder seasons than that. It was a good grounding for me as well as a young coach coming through and in hindsight it was good to be a part of that.

"When I got the sack at Bournemouth I went and did a bit at Portsmouth in the youth set up and then the Havant & Waterlooville job became available and it's just 15 minutes from me, so I took it. Since then we've won the Hampshire Cup twice, having never won it before, got to the semi-finals of the FA Trophy and we've won two leagues in a row. We're in the Conference now which is a bit of a test for us if I'm honest; we're probably not ready as a club to be there, but we are there so we're trying our best. There's plenty of money at that level and there are probably quite a few clubs paying more than League Two clubs. I've got aspirations to get back in the league at some point but for now I'm enjoying my time with Havant & Waterlooville."

I obviously can't speak to Lee without mentioning his son Harvey, who joined United as an U23 player in August after impressing against the U's for Hungerford in pre-season.

"Harvey went to Watford on a

two-year deal," Lee says. "He got nowhere near the first team but played some under-23 games and in all honesty he probably lost a bit of heart for the game and a bit of confidence. He needed to get out and get playing and have a fresh challenge and being at Oxford it's given him a new lease of life. I think Karl and Shaun Derry's style in giving young lads confidence and self-belief has been a big factor in Harvey turning the corner and he's thankful for that. He's now gone on loan to Woking and he scored on his debut and got man of the match and then last week he scored a hat-trick and got Player of the Round in the FA Cup.

"I let him get on with it to a certain extent but we talk quite a lot and we watch football all the time – it's always on and we're always talking about football. I've learned over the years that when he's on the pitch it's not the time to speak to him about it because he's quite emotional on the pitch and always desperate to win, so I only talk to him once his temper's subsided. He's keen to learn and willing to work and I look forward to seeing how he does for Oxford."

I mention to Lee that, certainly since the club turned professional in 1949, there has never been a father and son that have played for United, so should Harvey make the first team it will be a little bit of history for the club.

"Really? That will be good! I'll have to try to get along if he makes the first team and my assistant manager will have to do his job for a change!"



#OUFC125

# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Continuing our look back at United's previous 125 years...

**IN THE COVENTRY PROGRAMME**, this series reached the end of the 1945/46 season. The following season was to be United's last in the Oxfordshire Senior League.

It started well enough, with a 12-2 victory over Moreton RAF, including seven goals for Ray Mansell (pictured). The club also embarked on its best FA Cup run so far, beating Bicester Town, Banbury Spencer and Aylesbury United before being eliminated 5-2 at Uxbridge in the third preliminary round. Headington were also beaten in the FA Amateur Cup, losing 2-0 at Marlow.

A 3-1 Senior League win over MPRD was followed by a 7-0 replay victory over RAOS in the Oxfordshire Charity Cup and that in turn was followed by another 12-2 win, this time in the OSL against RNAS. Senior League defeats by Brize Norton RAF and Bicester Town were followed by a 6-1 win over St Frideswide

**"The U's also beat City 1-0 in the final of the Oxford Hospital Cup, a victory that had Herbert Smith, president of the Oxfordshire Football Association, exclaiming that with two wins over City, United were now the premier side in Oxford."**

before United's biggest win of the season, when they beat Thame 14-2 in the first round of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup.

Thame were again the victims one week later, when United beat them 5-0 in the Senior League before a run of four successive defeats included elimination from both the

Charity Cup and the Senior Cup. Results continued to be inconsistent and Headington eventually finished in fifth place. The club's final game as a member of the Oxfordshire Senior League was a 3-0 win over Pressed Steel Reserves.

The 1947/48 season was Headington's first in the Spartan League, although they didn't get the best of starts as they lost 2-1 at Marlow, with Mansell the club's first goalscorer at this higher level. United then beat Chelsea Mariners 7-1 at the Manor before travelling to Wycombe, where they beat Hazell's 8-1. Unfortunately, Hazell's resigned from the



league following this match and the result was void.

A visit to Southall resulted in elimination from that season's FA Cup, while Huntley & Palmers wielded the axe on Headington in the FA Amateur Cup. Back in league action, Headington beat Leighton United 12-0, a result that sparked a mini upturn in fortunes until a 6-0 hammering at the hands of Bicester in the county Charity Cup.

United suffered just two further league defeats over the next three months and had a run that took them to the final of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup, where they beat Oxford City 1-0 in the final before a crowd of 7,796. The U's also beat City 1-0 in the final of the Oxford Hospital Cup, a victory that had Herbert Smith, president of the Oxfordshire Football Association, exclaiming that with two wins over City, United were now the premier side in Oxford.

Meanwhile, the league campaign finished with an 8-0 win over Wycombe Redfords to leave United finishing in fifth place in their inaugural Spartan League season.

Headington's second season at this level started somewhat inauspiciously, with an 8-2 defeat at Slough Centre, although they rectified matters just four days later, beating Henley Town 6-0. With early elimination from the FA Cup by Banbury Spencer and the FA Amateur Cup by Slough

Town, United were relying on good league form to excite their fans, and with wins over Amersham, Hemel Hempstead, Polytechnic, Luton Amateurs and Leighton United, the side was riding high in the table. Convincing wins against Chelsea Mariners (7-0) and Lyons Club (6-0) meant that going into the New Year the U's were challenging near the top of the league.

However, despite beating Amersham 6-0, results began to suffer going into the second half of the season, and there were also demoralising defeats by Oxford City in both the Senior Cup semi-final and the Benevolent Cup final. The Spartan League campaign finished with a 4-1 win at Chelsea Mariners to leave Headington in fourth place.

It was on 26th April that Headington United rocked the local football scene with the announcement that they were to enter the new second division of the Southern League, and thereby relinquish their amateur status. This announcement, while endorsed unanimously by the club's Extraordinary General Meeting, met with vociferous opposition elsewhere, especially by the Oxford Times, which felt that the club had failed to consider the

decision properly. They felt that "as an amateur club they could not command gates comparable to those of the Oxford City Club. The latter are in the heart of the city, Headington are on the outskirts." Other objections included the finances required to run a professional club and the challenge

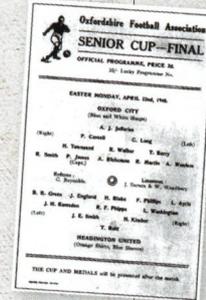
of drawing spectators when Oxford City, Pegasus and the Varsity Rugby Club all draw big crowds on a Saturday afternoon.

Although these objections were rejected by the football club, the dream of turning professional almost failed before it got off the ground as the Southern League changed its mind about forming a second division after a number of clubs (primarily from the south west) that were interested in joining withdrew their applications, leaving an insufficient number of clubs to make a second tier viable.

However, United persisted and eventually the Southern League agreed to expand from 22 to 24 clubs, with Headington United and Weymouth voted in to make up the numbers.

This heralded the start of a new era in Oxfordshire football as, for the first time, City would be eclipsed by United.

**Martin Brodetsky**  
Official Club Historian



## THE BIG INTERVIEW



JON MITCHELL

# IN SAFE HANDS

Chris Williams catches up with Jonathan Mitchell

**GOALKEEPERS ARE A DIFFERENT BREED.** I think it's because they stand in splendid isolation between the posts, knowing that one moment of brilliance saves the day, but one error makes them the scapegoat. You need real mental resilience as well as razor-sharp reflexes and it makes them slightly different to the ten men in front of them: part of the team but a specialist position.

Jon Mitchell has done really well since he came in on loan from Derby after Simon Eastwood picked up a freak injury just one game into the season. 'Mitch' has had to replace a real fans' favourite in goal and has done so in his usual unflappable style, quietly going about his business and having to hit the ground running.

"I never thought it was going to be easy," he tells me over a drink at the training ground. "It's a good league with very good players and teams, so I knew I was coming here to test myself and I just wanted to play well and keep a few more clean sheets than I have done!

"The lads have been brilliant - the whole club really - and I have felt part of it since

**"I think if you make a few saves and your team win you take that, but if you are having a quiet day because your team is doing well and all the play is at the other end then that's fine too!"**

## MITCHELL ON ON FACING MAN CITY'S STRIKERS

**"IT WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF US.** It's something you aspire to do when you are a child: test yourself against top players and hopefully there will be more chances to do that again in the future.

"I think they are a bit sharper with the ball and they have a picture in their minds when the ball comes to them, so everything, the speed of their reactions, just goes up a notch. But they aren't kicking it any harder are they? Maybe a bit more clinical in their thought process and accuracy but I thought we dealt with them really well as a defence."



the very first day despite only being on loan. It's part of your education to come on loan and have to settle quickly. You just get your head down and get on with it. The keepers here are a great group too and hopefully I have added something new to that department."

A week ago he got to test himself against the very best, making some excellent saves against champions Manchester City. I wonder whether goalkeepers in particular enjoy having to show off their skills in games like that?

"It's always nice to make a couple of saves but that's what you are there to do as a goalkeeper, isn't it?" he says. "Try and make saves and do your job. I think if you make a few saves and your team win you take that, but if you are having a quiet day because your team is doing well and all the play is at the other end then that's fine too!

"It was almost a free hit for us last week. It was a great occasion and a sell out, so all the fans were able to enjoy it, but the league is massive for us and what we are judged on and so far this season we haven't been good enough. I do think we are a much better team than we have shown. Sometimes the score doesn't reflect the game and it's not as though we aren't creating chances. But we know we >>

# THE BIG INTERVIEW



## MITCHELL ON SPORT IN GENERAL

"I love all sports to be honest. If the rugby, the cricket or the golf is on then I will watch. I've just got tickets sorted for the Ashes next summer actually.

"When I was younger I was doing stuff when I was 15 or 16 with the Falcons at rugby as well as Durham cricket and then I was playing in goal for my town schools' team and Newcastle spotted me and I had a choice to make whether to take my football seriously. I was lucky really because I was late to the game but I guess I'll never know if I was good enough to make it in the other two sports."

have to be more ruthless in both boxes: take those chances but also at the other end the aim has to be to keep clean sheets. We do have some really good players in defence, but things seem to have gone against us. That will change, definitely, because we are doing the right things and we know these things even themselves out eventually. We are certainly capable of going on a run right now."

How closely have parent club Derby been monitoring his progress?

"They have been good. Someone was there for the Man City game and Shay Given, our keeper coach, has been watching all the clips. It's good to have

him there; he commands such respect not just from the keepers but from the outfield players too. He will do well as a coach, but Brownie is excellent here as well. I think as a keeper you take bits from everyone you work with.

"You take aspects of everyone's game, even if you are watching on TV. I don't watch many games on TV actually – you would be surprised how few players really watch matches because you sometimes need to switch off from your work – but when I do I am always studying what the goalkeepers are doing rather than enjoying the match itself! It's all about improving your game and helping the team at the same time."

# OLLY THE OX



## OXFORD UNITED V LUTON TOWN

TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2018  
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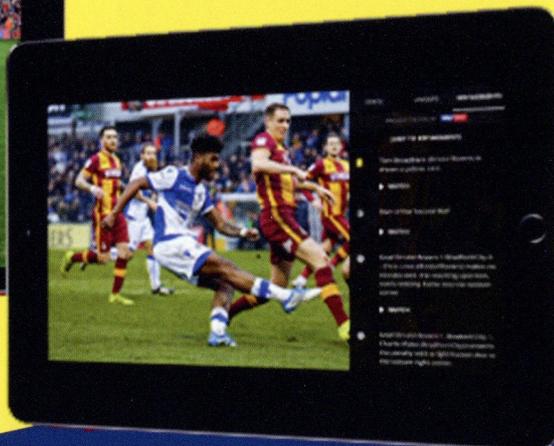
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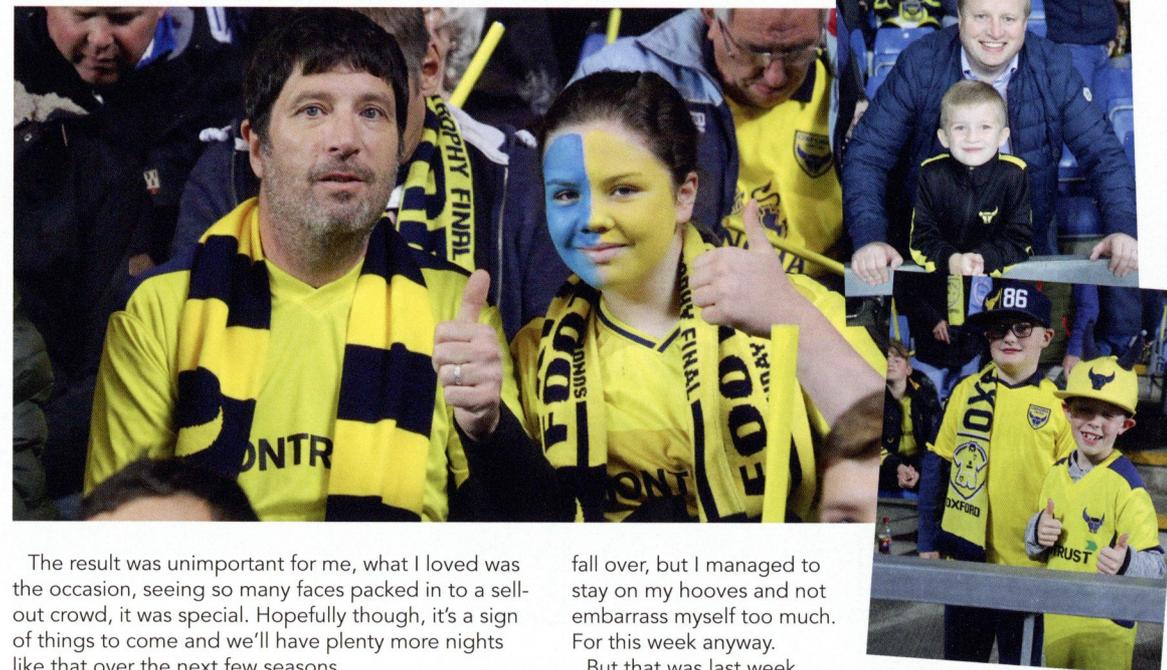


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# WELCOME!

Hello and welcome back to the Kids Zone! Well, what have I been up to this week? There was the small matter of the Premier League champions coming to town! What a night that was.



The result was unimportant for me, what I loved was the occasion, seeing so many faces packed in to a sell-out crowd, it was special. Hopefully though, it's a sign of things to come and we'll have plenty more nights like that over the next few seasons.

Even though it was a school night, I was especially pleased to see so many younger faces and I was lucky enough to get some pictures with a few of you. The family room was packed and we were treated to a visit from not one, not two, but THREE first-team players. Samir Carruthers, Cameron Norman and Marcus Browne popped over to join in with some arts and crafts, sign some autographs and pose for pictures before the game. A big thank you to them for their time!

At half time I got to join in with the fun activities on the pitch as we had some relay races. Club legend Peter Rhoades-Brown asked me to demo in front of you all. Between you and me, I think he was hoping I'd

fall over, but I managed to stay on my hooves and not embarrass myself too much. For this week anyway.

But that was last week.

Tonight it's Luton's turn and it should be another fantastic night under the lights with a brilliant atmosphere that you, the Yellow Army, create. Enjoy, sing your hearts out for the boys and roar them home!



**COME ON YOU YELLOWS!**

## FACE IN THE CROWD!

Is this you? This photo was taken at our last home game, against Manchester City. Are you the person ringed in the picture? If so, you win an adult and a child ticket in the Family Stand to a home league game of your choice. Contact me: [olly@oufc.co.uk](mailto:olly@oufc.co.uk) with your details and a picture of you showing this page.





**26**

**SHANDON  
BAPTISTE**



OXFORD UNITED  
IN THE COMMUNITY

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## QUESTION TIME!

THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN OF...

### SHANDON BAPTISTE

#### WHO

**Who was your favourite player when you were a child?**

I liked a lot of players but never had a favourite. I guess Messi

**Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**

My whole family; even when I was released they were the ones who were telling me I was good enough and my time would come

**Who is your room-mate on away games?**

I've had a couple – Jon Obika and Fabio. Jon mostly

**Who is the first person you call after a game?**

My mum

**Who is the loudest in the changing room?**

Jamie Mackie

#### WHAT

**What is your biggest motivation?**

My mum; she's done a lot to get me where I am – when I was little she would rush from work to take me to training and do lots of little things to help me

**What were your favourite subjects at school?**

PE

**What is the best game you've played in?**

No contest, Manchester City last week

**What pre-game superstitions do you have?**

I don't have any

**What keeps you awake at night?**

Nothing, I sleep soundly especially when I'm tired

#### WHERE

**Where did you make your debut?**

At Stevenage in the Checkatrade last season

**Where did you grow up?**

In Reading

**Where is your favourite holiday destination?**

I've not been to many places but of the ones I've been to probably Grenada

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

Hopefully playing in the Championship or Premier League, that's the ambition and if it's with Oxford even better

**Where do you keep your valuables?**

At home or on me

#### WHEN

**When did you sign your first professional contract?**

It was a six-month deal in July last year

**When did you play your first game?**

Probably when I was around seven I played for Purley Jubilee

**When will England win the World Cup?**

In eight-years' time

**When did you score your first goal?**

At Newport County

**When you win the lottery, what's the first thing you'll buy?**

A house for my mum



# MAZEY DRIBBLE!

JON MITCHELL'S GOALKICK NEEDS TO REACH THE FORWARDS. HELP IT ON ITS WAY...



## U'S TEASERS

### QUICK QUIZ

1. Which Luton player featured for Oxford in the 2015/16 promotion season?
2. Where do Luton play their home games?
3. Who is Luton Town's manager?
4. Which current Oxford player had a loan spell with Luton from Derby County?
5. Who do United play next at home?

## SPOT THE BALL!



IS THE CORRECT POSITION A, B, C, D OR E?



## NAME THE PLAYER

### ANSWERS

**Quick Quiz:** 1. Danny Hylton 2. Kenilworth Road 3. Nathan Jones 4. Jonathan Mitchell 5. Plymouth Argyle on Saturday 13th October

**Spot the ball:** Position B

**Name the Player:** Jon Obika

### GET IN TOUCH...

@OllysOX4Life fb.me/OllysOX4Life  
Or email Ollie: Ollie@OUFC.co.uk



United Commercial

# A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS

Well what a busy few weeks commercially for the club!

**WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENING TUESDAY NIGHT WAS**, both on and off the pitch. It was great for us commercially to have sold out all the hospitality areas, and although we were all extremely busy we thoroughly enjoyed it. We would like to thank all sponsors, guests and volunteers.

Once again, we are busy tonight in hospitality with the Manor Bar and restaurant at capacity. They will be well entertained with stories from Guest of Honour, ex-player Lee Bradbury.

In recent weeks we have been concentrating on our 125th birthday celebration day on

Saturday 27th October when we play Shrewsbury Town, which we hope will see a 10k plus crowd. We have invited former players to the game for a "parade of the decades" as well as lots of other activities around the stadium.

After the game, attention will turn to the Bodleian Library for a fantastic black-tie event. Tickets are selling well but there are still opportunities to get involved, from tickets for individuals to sponsorship packages for businesses. To book or receive more information please call commercial on 01865 337513 or email commercial@oufc.co.uk

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## ENERGY



David Oldfield presents a framed shirt to match sponsors HDR Group



Guest of Honour David Oldfield



Christine Phasey is presented with her prize of two tickets to Thailand by Ms. Nonthakorn Trakulpa of Thai Airways, Ms. Phantajit Promkatkaew of Tourism Authority of Thailand, and United Commercial and Marketing Director Matt Everett

IN FOCUS | SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2018 | 3PM

**REFEREE**  
Robert Lewis

**COMPETITION**  
Sky Bet League 1

**VENUE**  
Cherry Red Records Stadium

**ATTENDANCE**  
4,068 (618)

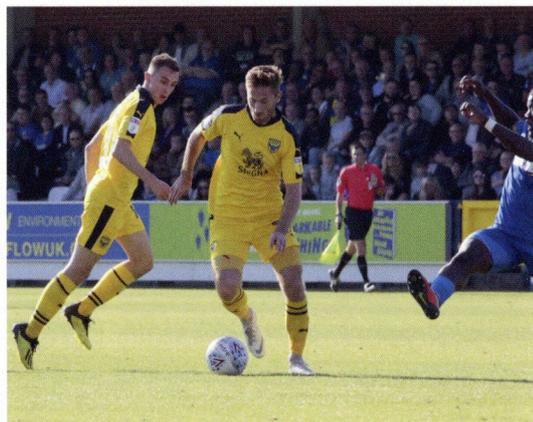


**SCORERS**  
Wagstaff (20), Piggot (32)

**2-1**



**SCORER**  
Brannagan (44)



**They said...**

**KARL ROBINSON**

*OUFC Head Coach*

"I can only go on the facts, which are we've dominated the game, created more goalscoring opportunities and not taken them. That's the crux of the season."



**NEAL ARDLEY**

*AFCWFC Manager*

"Some of the flow to our football wasn't there, but credit to Oxford as I thought they were the better team on the day. We dug in, we took our chances, got the lead and we defended well for the rest of the game."



**Unused subs:** King, Hartigan, Pinnock, Garratt



**Unused subs:** Shearer, Dickie, Ruffels, McMahon

# GET GAME READY



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## BBC PEAS IN A POD

Last week the Manchester City visit passed off without too much incident. Thanks to some decent FA Cup runs, a promotion push and derby matches in the league in recent seasons, there have been some near-capacity crowds here on several occasions, but the way the games have fallen – outside the Checktrade Trophy – they’ve been restricted to the weekends.

**PEOPLE CAN GET IN AND OUT** over a longer period of time, in the light and without somewhere else to be. It struck me that the visit of Luton in 2009 was one of the biggest Tuesday night matches staged here. And that was a non-league game.

Of course, the five-figure crowd was a shock to anyone who didn’t follow Oxford or Luton. To those who did, they knew that they were the two biggest clubs in the Conference and the two matches between them that season would be the biggest games, with the biggest atmosphere – both Tuesday nights and both memorable – although any fan of either side will only want to remember one of them.

Now, thankfully, these two meet as League One clubs. Their rise into the top flight in the 1980s, a League Cup trophy each and then a slide out of the Football League –

these two clubs have experienced incredible highs and desperate lows. Few supporters from any other club can know what it’s like to be an Oxford fan as much as Luton fans do – and vice versa.

The clubs know each other well. Geography and often being in the same division mean there’s something of a rivalry – familiarity can of course breed contempt. But it can also lead to respect and understanding.

It will feel more normal tonight sitting with Geoff from BBC Three Counties than a bunch of national reporters who were googling ‘Aunt Sally’, asking why the ground has three sides and remarking that the last time they were at the stadium, Oxford lost to Leyton Orient and went out of the League. Did we remember that, they asked? Seriously.

**Jerome Sale**  
BBC Radio Oxford

**“Their rise into the top flight in the 1980s, a League Cup trophy each and then a slide out of the Football League – these two clubs have experienced incredible highs and desperate lows.”**



SAM LONG

# A LONG WAIT

Martin Brodetsky speaks to defender Sam Long after the Manchester City game

**WHEN SAM LONG TOOK TO THE FIELD** against Manchester City in the Carabao Cup tie last week, it was the first start he had made for United since October 2016, when he featured in a Checktrade Trophy tie at Swindon.

When I speak with him at the new training ground last week, I ask him if he was taken aback to be named in the starting eleven.

**“Even when we were in the Conference a few years ago I know it was the game that the fans looked for: two big clubs in the Conference. But now we’re both in League One it’s even bigger.”**

“I wouldn’t say it was a surprise,” he tells me, “but it was a nice thing to be involved and in for my first start in quite a while you couldn’t come up with a bigger test. I thoroughly enjoyed it and relished the opportunity, and I don’t think I did myself any harm.

“To be honest, you didn’t really think about who you were playing against. It was only really after the game that I thought I was playing against the players that you watch every week. The atmosphere, the fans turning up in their numbers and the occasion for the whole football club was massive. I think every player relished the opportunity of playing against the best players in the world.”

Despite the result, United

received a lot of praise for the way they played. Was Sam pleased with the side’s display?

“It was a one-off game that we were never expected to get anything out of. Obviously, anything can happen in football, but we were never really expected to win. However, the performance we put in and how hard we worked and the passion of the players, I think we did ourselves proud on the night and if we can go into our league games with the same attitude and the same hunger, I think we’ll do well. But it’s that consistency of performances in league games is something that we need to get better at.”

Sam made his Oxford United debut in 2013 but has made just 30 appearances for the club.

“I’ve had my issues with injury and I’ve been very unlucky,” he explains. “I’ll be the first one to say how frustrating it all was, but to be where I am now, to get through all the injuries I’ve had and to still be at the club, playing in games like against Man City, is something I can be proud of, because mentally, when you’re injured, you can go into some dark places, so I feel like I’ve done well to get past these injuries and stayed true to myself and kept going. I’m just glad that the hard work’s paid off a little bit in having the opportunity to play in that game.”

Despite being just 23 years old, Sam is currently United’s longest-serving player. I suggest that he’s seen a few changes in the past few years.

“Chris Wilder gave me my debut, then there was Micky Lewis who was caretaker before Gary Waddock came in. Michael Appleton obviously, Pep (although I didn’t really feature under Pep because I was injured, then went out on loan), and now Karl. There’s been a lot of change, some good change and then it altered a lot to where we were heading, but I think we’re now back on track to where we were under Michael Appleton. When he came in he changed a lot of things about the club and got us



going in the right direction.

“I think the culture changed a little bit under Pep because half his squad were foreign players, which was the first time I’ve ever been involved in a squad with that many foreign players. It was different, I wouldn’t say it was a massive challenge, just that the culture of English players compared to a lot of foreign players is a bit different. The Gaffer now is setting the same culture that Appleton did in the sense that he signs mostly English players and he likes bringing young players through, like Shandon playing a lot this season and credit to him, he’s been our best player this season and fully deserves his new deal.”

Tonight’s game against Luton rekindles memories of some big matches over the years. Sam is fully aware of what the game means to the supporters.

“Even when we were in the

Conference a few years ago I know it was the game that the fans looked for: two big clubs in the Conference. But now we’re both in League One it’s even bigger. There’s more to play for and there’ll be a big crowd. It’s a big rivalry,



even though we’re not close geographically; there’s always been a rivalry between Oxford and Luton that over the years has been good to be involved in.”

And looking beyond tonight, how does Sam see the season panning out for himself?

“I got my opportunity on Tuesday and I don’t think I did myself any harm in terms of staking my claim to have more opportunities in the side, but that’s my aim and it’s been my aim since I was really young. When I first got into the first team I’ve had setback after setback, but my aim is to be playing every week for the team that I grew up with.

“I’ve never really had a sustained run in the side because of injuries; I’ve never really had just a niggle, when I’ve had injuries they’ve always been quite serious ones. I wish it would have been different obviously, but it is what it is. I’ve been through it and I’m proud of myself to have come through it by doing the right things and working hard and I’ve got to where I am now, being in and around the squad and playing against the best team in England. I now want to be playing in the first team as often as I can.”



On the Road

# BLUE MOON RISING

Chris Williams goes on the road to, er, Grenoble Road



**IT IS 1AM ON WEDNESDAY MORNING** and I am watching Sandi Toksvig in my pants. This is because I have dispatched my match suit and am uploading videos to iFollow while watching the Bake Off three hours after our game against Manchester City. It has been a long day.

Matchdays start at 9am, on the dot, at the stadium but by then I'd already taken up residency in my morning office (Costa Thame) where I became cocooned from the working day with no calls to field or media requests for lost passes, at least for half an hour. When I do rock up at the stadium, the rest of the staff are already hard at work and the final preparations are being put in place for that night's game.

In the main office, the Commercial

team are printing out running orders and sorting things out for later. Adam Harris is ill, Mrs Rosie's car has broken down, Claire Theobald is having to deal with a million things at once. Standard day. They have had a hectic three weeks but every seat in hospitality is sold, every box is full and now it's just a case of waiting. The general air throughout the day is of people waiting for their party to start and hoping everyone has a good day. A quick mention for Matt Everett, who has overseen all of this while also preparing for his wedding on Saturday. A fantastic effort.

Round in the ticket office, Sue and Christine are having a quiet day because all the tickets have been sold well in advance. Their problems today revolve around getting extra places for Wimbledon away but they are still having to deal with constant enquiries as to what time gates open, misplaced tickets and how many we have sold. I am given my usual friendly welcome and told where to go, bumping in to Mick Brown, who has dashed in with the press list for tonight: every seat full. Kathy Winstanley is getting the boardroom right and everyone is doing just fine without my help, so I don't offer any and retreat to the media cupboard to write up the match preview and a few stories for the website.

At midday I am joined by programme editor Martin Brodetsky, who has been out at a library delving into details for our 125th anniversary. Again, the programmes were delivered this morning, so he is already working on the Luton edition. Kath Faulkner breezes in and the social media



**"Adam Harris is ill, Mrs Rosie's car has broken down, Claire Theobald is having to deal with a million things at once. Standard day. They have had a hectic three weeks but every seat in hospitality is sold, every box is full and now it's just a case of waiting. The general air throughout the day is of people waiting for their party to start and hoping everyone has a good day."**

side of things starts to kick in. Liam Potter joins us and has been handed on a Bosman to the Safety Team; he sits in the control room and tweets about traffic and travel, working with the BBC and Ian Mixer's team of stewards to make sure everyone gets here OK.

There is a brief interlude when Mick and I are needed at the training ground. The players are starting to report, where they will have their pre-match meal, get final instructions and then come round to the ground for about 6pm. Once we get back to the ground I spot my son and heir along with the rest of the Ultras. These guys sometimes get a bad press but I want you all to know that today they have given up half a day at work to come in and place yellow and blue cards on the seats across the East Stand. It takes them about five hours and costs them a fortune. Next time anyone moans, then feel free to cut this paragraph out and keep it in your wallet to show them; they are a credit to the club and their efforts make a magnificent backdrop when the teams later come out of the tunnel.

Two hours before that, I am up in the press box watching the Ultras at work and sticking little white stickers onto the benches to let people know where to sit. The Times, Guardian and all the nationals are here. BBC Five Live are commentating live. Pitch International are broadcasting to the world - their engineers are running cables in every direction and camera operatives are settling in to place. Karl does live interviews with 5 Live, Sky Sports and the BBC



News, all between 6pm and 6.50, giving up his time gladly on a busy evening to talk up the club.

Julian Hitchman turns up and hosts the press area, making sure that everything runs smoothly, just like ambassadors Steve Basham and Jeremy Charles in the hospitality areas. Tonight's guest is David Oldfield, once of both teams (as well as tonight's visitors Luton) and one of the nice guys in football. I make sure I find time to find him and in doing so also run in to Jamie Cook. Peter Foley is here somewhere as well; once you get involved with Oxford United you are part of the family.

We print teamsheets and then, finally, I get to do the best part of the job. I get to sit and watch the game. The display is great, the fans are in place, the guests are all settled, and we get to enjoy a great night of football where Manchester City pay us huge respect by fielding the strongest team ever to play at the ground. At one point they bring on Raheem Sterling but leave

Kyle Walker on the bench! The only place we outclass them is in the celebrity fan stakes. They only have Noel Gallagher here. We have Timmy Mallett. Utterly 1-0 to the U's

The game and the post-match interviews fly past in a blur (sorry Noel). City have been respectful, easy to deal with and they take the time to contact me the next day and thank us for looking after them so well. We get similar messages to all areas of the club.

That's because when we get a big game like that, or tonight, we do the right things. There is an Oxford United way and although it is evolving and expanding as the club heads relentlessly upwards and becomes more and more professional, we have an identity and we take enormous pride in what we do. Not because it is our club but because it is yours...

Oh, and by the way, I have no idea who won the Bake Off. I was fast asleep on the sofa long before the show stopper, dreaming dreams of sky-blue biscuit chandeliers....



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Off the Ball

# MAD AT A HATTER

Chris Williams displays an uncharacteristic maturity

## IT'S WAR IN THE WILLIAMS HOUSEHOLD THIS EVENING.

I often mention my son on these pages because I feel guilty about dooming him to be an Oxford fan since an early age. First person onto the pitch as mascot at the very first game here, my companion at over 1,000 games since he was a kid; even the damned mascot is named after him (true fact).

But I rarely mention my two lovely daughters because that is a different sort of guilt. I had years of missing birthdays and important things like school assemblies and nativity plays. Football is a very poor reason to miss seeing your kids grow up. And yet somehow they have both grown up just about perfect despite my inattention. Well played Mrs W, all down to you.

Almost inevitably they have grown up hating football. I don't blame them - all they saw as girls was me coming back grumpy after losing away at somewhere like Barrow or Lewes. Yes, Lewes. Twice. I don't react that way if we lose these days, but I used to come back grumpy and then on my one day off, Sunday, go out and coach football before returning to prepare a bit of work on Sunday evening. Bad Father.

The consequence of this is that my girls have rebelled. One of them is dating a Spurs fan, the other, lord bless us all, is going out with a Luton fan. Grrrrrr. She's surely only doing that to annoy me? She knows if it was a Swindon fan she would have to move out, so this is the next step, right?

I tried my best to follow my father's example. He would shake hands with any poor lad daft

enough to date my sisters, but he would just hold on to that handshake long enough, while maintaining eye contact, for it to be uncomfortable. Both of my (now) brothers-in-law went through a rigorous vetting process. Indeed, one of them, who is into cars not football, confessed recently that when coming round to our house he had to buy 442 magazine and revise football before he tried to even attempt conversation with my father and me.

So I have tried to be tough but fair. Not with Aidan Hawtin who (he says accidentally) started exchanging messages with my girl and had to be warned off quite strongly. No, with this Hatter-supporting young man. I've had Danny Hylton send a message that I have passed on telling him to treat my daughter with respect, and my counterpart at Luton, the brilliant Stu Hammonds, helped me get a shirt signed for his 21st birthday, so I am being mature and trying to ignore the whole football rivalry thing, but I fear tonight is going to be bad. Hopefully for him.

So far so good: he is being respectful and I am slowly warming to him, but tonight is his biggest test so far. Jack, you are doing fine mate. Just accept defeat and ignore my dancing round the room showing you videos of that Jamie Cook/James Constable minute every time you come round our house. Just remember that's me being MATURE. Imagine if I just never grew up...

Chris Williams

**"...I used to come back grumpy and then on my one day off, Sunday, go out and coach football before returning to prepare a bit of work on Sunday evening. Bad Father."**

## Meet the Parents



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Academy: Uncovered

# RAISING EXPECTATIONS

A clear theme across the club over the last few months has been the drive to find ways of continually improving everything that we do – the idea of being “better tomorrow than we were yesterday.”

**MUCH HAS BEEN SAID** already about the club's high-quality new training ground at Horspath and, from an Academy point of view, it has been great to see our U18s and U23s based there now for the last few weeks. In a similar vein we are beginning to see the benefit of our enhanced investment in the Academy recruitment structure, which has already helped us to identify and sign a number of talented young players from across the region into our age-group squads. We now have a full-time Head of Academy Recruitment; three Lead Scouts working across the age-groups and a further network of eight Talent ID Scouts who are out every week watching local games: Category One Academy fixtures, and school and non-league competitions.

We know we have a lot of work ahead of us over the coming months to ensure the best local players play here at Oxford United. I would encourage everyone involved in football across the region to spread the word that we are a club that is committed to providing a real pathway for



talented youngsters to develop into high-quality young men who can represent our badge at the highest level.

I'd like to put on record my congratulations to Shandon Baptiste on being handed the captain's armband for the first team's game against Manchester City in the Carabao Cup. Not only is this a fantastic vote of confidence in him as a young man but it highlights once again that we have a manager who will give young players the opportunity to develop if they are good enough.

I have been in the professional game for over 20 years now and I can honestly say that I have never had a combination of Manager in Karl Robinson, Chief Executive (Niall McWilliams) and owner (Tiger) who are as supportive of youth development as we currently

have here at Oxford United. This shouldn't be underestimated and is another reason to be excited about the bright future here at the club.

Another of the steps forward we are making this year is looking to recognise and acknowledge elite performance within the Academy. With this in mind, this week I'd like to extend my congratulations to:

- Academy graduate Sam Long, who made his first start of the season against Manchester City earlier this week.
- 16-year-old centre-back Nico Jones, who was called up to the U23 squad for the first time away at Portsmouth.
- U23 midfielder Tsun Dai for his call-up to the provisional Hong Kong senior side for the October internationals.
- Our U15s, coached by Paddy O'Neale and Pablo Haysham, who went down to Championship side QPR last week and secured a positive result.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who took part in the 50/50 draw at the Walsall game. This initiative alone raised over £2,800 for the Academy and is part of the plans for the club's 125th Anniversary celebrations taking place around the Shrewsbury game on 27th October.

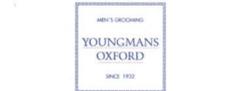
As an Academy, we are fiercely proud of our heritage here at Oxford United and for the club to agree to donate all profits from this event to the youth system here is a really significant statement of intent for which we are very grateful. I would encourage everyone to buy tickets, share the links and encourage businesses across the county to get on board for what promises to be the event of the year here in Oxfordshire.

Make sure you follow the Official Academy Twitter feed @AcademyOUFC to stay up to date with all the Youth Development news here at Oxford United.

**Proud History: Bright Future**  
**Dan Harris**  
 Head of Academy

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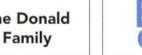
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### BOX HOLDERS



### Match Report

## U23S PUSH EXPERIENCED PORTSMOUTH SIDE CLOSE

Portsmouth U23s 2 Oxford United U23s 1

**A YOUNG OXFORD UNITED UNDER-23 SQUAD** travelled down to the south coast on Monday night to take on Portsmouth in their final game before starting their Premier League Cup campaign next week. Watched by U's owner Sumrith Thanakarnjanasuth, who had made the journey down to support the young Yellows, the game was another chance to impress for players looking to force their way into Karl Robinson's first-team squad.

Chris Allen's squad included six players from the under-18s side, who currently sit top of their league, with 16-year old centre back Nico Jones, a summer addition from Fulham, receiving his first call-up to the development squad.

Watched by Portsmouth manager Kenny Jackett and in front of a crowd of nearly 500, the home

side made the better of the early running without creating any clear-cut chances. Oxford-born Kyran Lofthouse, playing his second consecutive game for Chris Allen's side at right back, continued to quietly enhance his reputation with a performance of real maturity that belied the fact that he has just turned 18, while the Oxford front two of Harvey Bradbury and Dejon Noel-Williams posed a physical threat for the experienced Portsmouth back line.

Oxford's first real chance came midway through the first half when Owen James bent a left-footed free kick just over the bar from 25 yards, but it was the home side that opened the scoring on 36 minutes when first-team player Louis Dennis's shot from 20 yards beat Jack Stevens in the Oxford goal. Stevens, who has made a series of impressive performances in recent

weeks, will be disappointed not to have made the save but bounced back from his error to make a couple of decent stops as the half drew to a close.

Sixteen-year old centre-forward Slavi Spasov replaced Bradbury at half time and showed once again why he has a bright future at the club, causing problems for the Portsmouth centre backs from the outset. Aaron Heap, another local lad, captaining the side in midfield, was having an increasing influence on the game and Oxford soon carved out their first opportunity of the second period when a well-crafted cross from Albie Hopkins was met three yards out by Dejon Noel-Williams, who should have done better with his header, having beaten his marker to the ball. Noel-Williams made amends five minutes later however, when he rolled his man well before getting on the end of another ball in from the left to slide it past the Portsmouth goalkeeper for the equaliser.

With the game heading for a draw, Portsmouth striker Joe Mason, who has played a number of games for the first team, cut in from the flank and was bought down by an ill-timed tackle from Steven Johnson-Fikula to concede the penalty. Mason himself stepped up to score and secure a 2-1 win for the home side in what had been a closely matched and competitive run out.

While disappointed to lose the game, the young u23s side will have learnt a lot from playing against an experienced Portsmouth side and now turn their attention to an attractive looking game this Thursday night against Swansea City at Thame United's ASM Stadium (7pm) as they open up their Premier League Cup group fixtures.

**UNITED:** Thomas, Roberts, Haynes, Allen, Noble, Timms (Bent 58), Baker, Walklett, Stroem (Hennessey 58), Colley (Robertson 68), Beaver

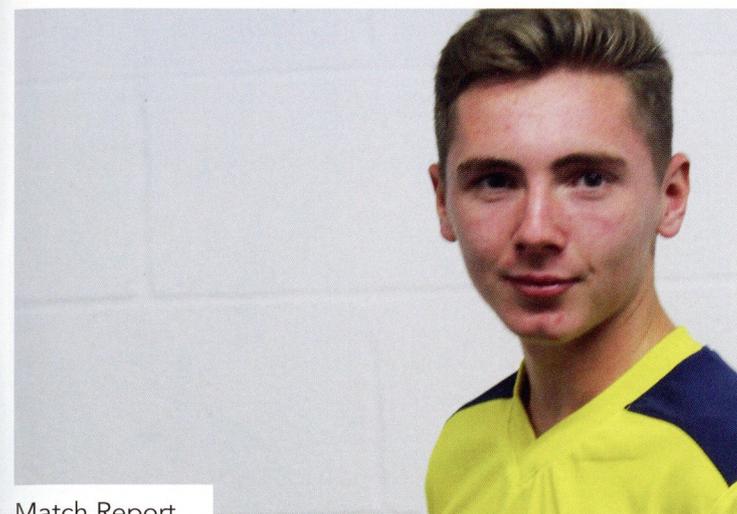


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Match Report

## UNDER 18S CONTINUE FANTASTIC RUN

Oxford United 3 Exeter City 0

Saturday 29th September | EFL Youth Alliance South West Division

**UNITED CONTINUED THEIR FINE FORM** in the Youth Alliance with a commanding win over Exeter City to remain top of the table.

Coach Leon Blackmore-Such told us: "Exeter are a really good academy with a good track record whose results speak for themselves, so we always prep well for it and we've always had good competitive games throughout the years. This game was no different and in the first half it was like a chess match, trying to work out who's doing what, with some tactical stuff behind it, which is nice for us coaches and the boys to get our heads around; it's not always about putting it into the channels and the basic side.

"They started brighter than us. I could feel in the warm-up that we were just slightly off it. For the first 15-20 minutes we were in our own half a lot without them ever having any clear-cut chances because we still kept good shape. But we have been starting well recently and were at home, so I expected us to be a bit more dominant early in the game.

"The first half ended goalless with nothing really in it. That's where the tactical side came into it: they had three in the middle, we had two, so we made a couple of changes just after half-time and in the second half I thought our boys grew into it physically and tactically. Kyran Lofthouse and Michael Elechi were a lot more effective, Owen was a problem all game with his energy just going past people and you know at some point he's going to produce something.

"Max caught the ball from a cross, threw it out to Owen who was deep in his own half and he carried it past three players into their box, had a shot that the keeper saved and Ryan Crooks put in the rebound.

**"The first half ended goalless with nothing really in it. That's where the tactical side came into it: they had three in the middle, we had two, so we made a couple of changes just after half-time and in the second half I thought our boys grew into it physically and tactically."**

You can do loads of tactical work but when you have players that can produce bits of individual magic it really does help you in terms of getting results in games.

"Going 1-0 up put us on the front foot and we then had a lot of better passages and the patterns we'd been working on came out, which is easier when you've got more confidence. We then had a passage of 19 or 20 passes and Ryan Crooks ends up shaping one from 20 yards out past the goalkeeper, for a really good goal.

"Then, from their throw-in, Jordan Edwards worked the thrower and then the second ball and Owen nicked the ball and showed good composure to beat the goalkeeper and at 3-0 the game's put to bed.

"We're finding ways to keep challenging this group because they're on a fantastic run, but there's always that element of wanting to get better. Their challenge isn't to win the youth-team league, it's to get into the U23s and the first team and develop themselves to be the best they can be."

**UNITED:** Harris, Niblett, Milton, Jones, Lofthouse, Elechi, McCreadie, Cowan (Chambers-Parillon), Crooks, James (Sampford), Spasov (Edwards)

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FUN

STOPS



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Match Report

## WOMEN BEAT LOUGHBOROUGH

Oxford United Women 4 Loughborough Foxes Women 2  
National League Southern Premier | Sunday 23rd September  
Ardley United FC | Att: 76

**OXFORD UNITED WOMEN CONTINUED THEIR GOOD FORM** with a 4-2 home win over Loughborough Foxes. Two goals from Flo Fyfe and strikes from Cat Beaver and Emily Allen earned the U's all three points.

Manager Liam Gilbert said:  
"It feels great to finally get our first home win, albeit at a different home venue at Ardley. It was a game where we were tested against a very well organised Loughborough side.

"We had to come from behind, deal with giving up a lead and defend an onslaught in the later stages. Sometimes you enjoy the wins more when you have to deal with adversity. Loughborough

played some really good football at times and had us under some intense pressure. We were able to react to this and saw the game out in a very professional manner.

"It is pleasing again that we have had three different goal scorers in a game. Flo Fyfe showed a brilliant reaction to being left out of the starting line-up against Gillingham by scoring two great goals. One she curled in the far corner from the corner of the box and the second was a first-time finish from an Emily Allen cross. Cat Beaver scored her first goal on her return to the club, the goal game from an Ellie Noble scramble that Cat was able to put in the roof of the net. The best

was saved for last where to quote one of the Oxford fans on Twitter it was 'a Tony Yeboah like finish' which put the game out of reach of Loughborough.

"Today's game showed people again the character that we have in this group; they didn't give up or drop their heads after giving up two goals. They dug in and fought for each other, there is a clear unity and the players again deserve all the credit for today's performance.

"Not just for winning but how they have gone about it. As a coaching team we put a game plan together that we thought would play to our strengths and they executed it superbly at times. There will always be things that we want to improve on but for me we are getting better every week and that's all I can ask for from the team."

**United:** Thomas, Roberts (Stroem 68), Haynes (c), Lynch, Bent, Beaver, Baker (Walklett 90), Noble, Allen, Fyfe, Allison (Timms 68)

# Advance

Sixth Form

## at The OXFORD Academy

Match Report

## A PULSATING START TO THE SEASON

OUFC Advance 'B' 2 Cheney School 2  
(Advance win on penalties)

ESFA U18 County Cup | Tuesday 18th September

**THE ADVANCE B TEAM KICKED OFF THEIR SEASON** with a pulsating home tie against local foe, Cheney School. Advance started the brighter of the two sides, with Jacob Ochola-Bolger and Kieran Clarke both looking sharp in central midfield and causing the Cheney defence some issues.

Despite the positive start from Advance, it was Cheney who took the lead following a clinical counter-attack; their robust central defenders absorbed an Advance attack before being the catalysts for their counter. As the half wore on, the Advance attacks were losing their potency, with fundamental basics being their pitfall and Cheney looking to push and find a

second before half-time.

A stern team-talk at half-time yielded almost immediate results with Advance piling on the pressure and Ochola-Bolger, Adjattor and Clarke all drew saves from the Cheney goalkeeper. It was Advance who scored next, with Clarke tucking the ball away following a flowing move down the right through Kinyata which resulted in a penalty box scramble. The ball eventually fell to Clarke who finished competently. Despite their hard work in getting back into the game, Advance let Cheney in again with some poor defending and following two saves from Brendan Wall, the second rebound found its way into the back of the net against the run of play.

**"A stern team-talk at half-time yielded almost immediate results with Advance piling on the pressure and Ochola-Bolger, Adjattor and Clarke all drew saves from the Cheney goalkeeper."**

Joining the programme slightly later than the rest of the students, and playing in his first game as an Advance student, Ochola-Bolger was demonstrating a dynamism and technical ability on the ball that Cheney were struggling to deal with, bringing two good saves out of the Cheney goalkeeper. With Ochola-Bolger's growing influence, Advance then scored for the second time following an excellent delivery from Clarke at a set piece. Another scramble ensued with the ball eventually falling to the feet of Ochola-Bolger who slammed it past the defenders and goalkeeper and into the back of the net. Advance were on top for the remainder of the game but failed to capitalise and score a winning goal. Just like England in the World Cup, Advance were going to penalties ...

In the shootout itself, Clarke got Advance off to the best possible start firing his penalty past the Cheney goalkeeper to make it 1-1. Sharif went next and smashed his penalty against the crossbar, giving Cheney an early 2-1 lead. The next two were scored by both sides with Moses and Matthews both netting to keep the pressure on Cheney. With a chance to win it, Cheney also smashed the crossbar and gave Advance the chance to take it to sudden death which was duly taken by Malak. After seven penalties each, and tied at 6-6, it was Brendan Wall who was the hero, saving Cheney's next penalty, leaving Mohab Migahed the chance to convert for the win. Calmness personified, Migahed slotted the ball away and Advance progressed to the next round.

**United:** B. Wall; L. Erdbeer, O. Malak, E. Matthews ©, A. Sharif; M. Migahed, J. Ochola-Bolger (1), K. Clarke (1); K. Kinyata, J. Adjattor, L. Sewell  
**Subs:** E. Moses, L. Gardiner, L. Barber, L. Smith, T. Amusaa, F. Stewart, J. Williams  
**Man of the Match:** Jacob Ochola-Bolger

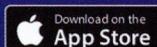
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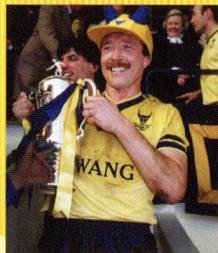
At just **£5\*** per magazine this will make a great addition to your OUFC memorabilia. £1 from each sale will go to the club's academy.

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**OXFORD UNITED  
IN THE COMMUNITY**



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## NEW SENSORY ROOM

A new sensory room is being trialled on match-days, as part of a joint project between Oxford United in the Community, OxVox and Jigsaw.

**THE ROOM, LOCATED IN THE SOUTH STAND UPPER**, has been designed to support people with autism and other sensory needs to create a safe and stress-free space.

First conceived by Jigsaw, an Oxford-based parent carer support group, the room has come into being thanks the OUFC Community Trust and funding from supporters' group OxVox.

Crowds and loud noises can be challenges for some; the room provides a calm space and includes light projectors, soft play items, sensory mats and special seating.

Kate Longworth, CEO of Oxford

United in the Community, said:

"A key part of our strategy is to support youngsters in our community and help them lead more fulfilled lives. This project is close to our hearts as it helps families bring their children to Oxford United matches and provides a nurturing environment for them to flourish. We're grateful to all of our partner organisations who have made this possible."

OxVox committee member Ali Wolfe said: "This seemed like a really good cause to support and a way of helping the community and ensuring more people feel comfortable coming to Oxford

United matches."

Hayley Nash, a volunteer for Jigsaw whose own 12-year-old son is a season ticket holder and has autism, will be one of the people on hand to support those using the room.

She said: "Looking around the stadium there are a lot of children with additional needs and this seemed to be something that was missing."

"My son gets quite emotional - he is really very passionate about the game.

"This is somewhere he can recharge and come back calmer and more chilled."

Any supporter who feels they would benefit from the space is welcome to use it before or during the game and should notify a steward or email [community@oufc.co.uk](mailto:community@oufc.co.uk) in advance.

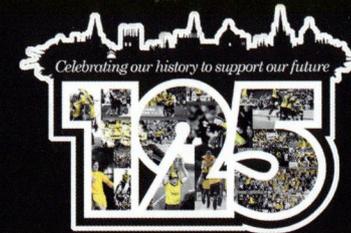
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## CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY TO SUPPORT OUR FUTURE

Oxford United are proud to celebrate their 125th Anniversary this year and we have a very special birthday present to thank the fans for the last century and a quarter of fantastic support.

**FORMED ON 27TH OCTOBER 1893** in The Britannia pub in Headington, our home match with Shrewsbury Town marks the exact day the club was formed, and this anniversary will be celebrated with two great events.

All adult prices that day will be reduced to just £12.50 in all areas of the stadium, saving up to £15.50 per ticket, and Under 7s pay just £1.25 - or can watch the game for FREE in the Family Area.

These ticket prices are available in advance of matchday only and, with demand expected to be high, we recommend booking early to secure your seats. See page 14 for full details.

The game will be a celebration of key moments in the club's history, and the stars of the past have all been invited to come back to the U's and help celebrate this

landmark event. There will be a 'Parade of the Decades' from the 1960s through to the current day before kick-off and many other special events on the day. We hope that as many fans as possible from far and wide can join us for this special celebratory matchday, and we are targeting a crowd of 10,125.

Tickets for this huge day are on sale NOW at [www.oufctickets.co.uk](http://www.oufctickets.co.uk) or by calling 01865 337533.

Later that evening we are inviting a specially selected group of club legends to join us at the Sheldonian Theatre and Bodleian Library for a fantastic black-tie event.

There are a very limited number of tickets available for fans to join us for the night, which will be hosted by Jim Rosenthal and include live interviews with the club legends, a drink and canapé reception at the world famous

Sheldonian Theatre, and a superb three-course meal in the Weston Library, followed by an auction of memorabilia.

Following the theme of the decades, companies or individuals can sponsor a decade and host the two legends from that decade on their table for the evening.

This night really will be celebrating our history to support our future, with all profits from the evening going directly into funding the Academy.

For full details of all the packages available, please contact the Commercial Team on 01865 337503 or 337513 or email [commercial@oufc.co.uk](mailto:commercial@oufc.co.uk).

*All proceeds raised by this fan initiative over and above the table cost will be put directly towards the Academy.*



## EFL SKY BET LEAGUE ONE TABLE 2018/19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1 Portsmouth	10	7	3	0	20	8	+12	24
2 Peterborough United	10	7	2	1	26	13	+13	23
3 Doncaster Rovers	10	6	3	1	18	9	+9	21
4 Sunderland	10	5	4	1	20	10	+10	19
5 Barnsley	9	5	3	1	18	6	+12	18
6 Charlton Athletic	10	5	3	2	15	11	+4	18
7 Walsall	10	5	3	2	14	12	+2	18
8 Accrington Stanley	10	4	5	1	13	11	+2	17
9 Blackpool	10	3	6	1	10	7	+3	15
10 Scunthorpe United	10	3	5	2	13	18	-5	14
11 Fleetwood Town	10	3	4	3	14	10	+4	13
<b>12 LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
13 Southend United	10	4	1	5	13	15	-2	13
14 Coventry City	10	3	3	4	8	11	-3	12
15 Burton Albion	9	3	2	4	10	11	-1	11
16 AFC Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	9	14	-5	11
17 Rochdale	10	3	2	5	15	23	-8	11
18 Bristol Rovers	10	2	3	5	9	11	-2	9
19 Shrewsbury Town	10	1	5	4	9	11	-2	8
20 Wycombe Wanderers	10	1	5	4	11	16	-5	8
21 Gillingham	10	2	2	6	13	20	-7	8
22 Bradford City	10	2	1	7	7	15	-8	7
<b>23 UNITED</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>5</b>
24 Plymouth Argyle	10	0	3	7	7	19	-12	3

## APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS 2018/19

	2018/19		All time OUF	
	App	Gl	Apps	Gl
1. Eastwood, Simon	1	0	115	0
2. Norman, Cameron	8	0	8	0
3. Garbutt, Luke	10 (1)	0	10 (1)	0
4. Dickie, Rob	7 (1)	0	22 (1)	1
5. Nelson, Curtis	12	0	76 (2)	4
6. Hanson, Jamie	7	0	7	0
7. Hall, Rob	1 (1)	0	58 (12)	17
8. Brannagan, Cameron	12 (1)	1	24 (1)	1
9. Smith, Sam	6 (7)	1	6 (7)	1
10. Browne, Marcus	6 (2)	2	6 (2)	2
11. Carruthers, Samir	1	0	1	0
12. Holmes, Ricky	8 (1)	3	8 (1)	3
13. Shearer, Scott	1	0	3	0
14. Ruffels, Josh	8 (4)	0	138 (44)	9
15. Mousinho, John	9	1	53	2
16. Whyte, Gavin	8 (2)	3	8 (2)	3
17. Henry, James	10 (4)	2	49 (13)	13
19. Mackie, Jamie	5 (4)	0	5 (4)	0
20. Obika, Jon	7 (7)	1	33 (21)	8
21. Napa, Malachi*	0	0	3 (14)	0
22. Raglan, Charlie	0	0	18	0
23. Long, Sam	2 (2)	0	21 (9)	1
25. Dai, Tsun	0	0	0	0
26. Baptiste, Shandon	8 (1)	1	8 (3)	1
27. Stevens, Jack	0	0	0	0
29. McMahon, Tony	4	0	4	0
41. Mitchell, Jonathan	12	0	12	0
43. Lopes, Fabio	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0
44. Spasov, Slavi	0 (1)	1	0 (1)	1

\*On loan to Macclesfield Town

DATE	OPPOSITION	RES	ATT	AWAY
<b>AUGUST</b>				
Saturday 4	Barnsley	L0-4	12,820	1,279
Saturday 11	<b>Fleetwood Town</b>	L0-2	6,629	87
Tuesday 14	<b>Coventry City (CC1)</b>	W2-0	3,551	1,003
Saturday 18	Portsmouth	L1-4**	18,093	1,312
Tuesday 21	<b>Accrington Stanley</b>	L2-3	5,748	118
Saturday 25	<b>Burton Albion</b>	W3-1	6,036	382
Tuesday 28	Newport County (CC2)	W3-0**	2,228	282
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
Saturday 1	Sunderland	D1-1	32,193	1,280
Tuesday 4	<b>Fulham U21 (CT)</b>	W3-0	1,116	76
Sunday 9	<b>Coventry City</b>	L1-2	7,519	774
Saturday 15	Wycombe Wanderers	D0-0	6,879	1,816
Saturday 22	<b>Walsall</b>	L1-2	6,080	658
Tuesday 25	<b>Manchester City (CC3)</b>	L0-3	11,956	1,247
Saturday 29	AFC Wimbledon	L1-2	4,068	618
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
Tuesday 2	<b>Luton Town</b>	19.45		ALL TICKET
Saturday 6	Southend United	15.00		
Tuesday 9	<b>Northampton Town (CT)</b>	19.45		
Saturday 13	<b>Plymouth Argyle</b>	15.00		
Saturday 20	Bristol Rovers	15.00		
Tuesday 23	Charlton Athletic	19.45		
Saturday 27	<b>Shrewsbury Town</b>	15.00		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
Saturday 3	Scunthorpe United	15.00		
Tuesday 6	Wycombe Wanderers (CT)	19.45		
Saturday 17	<b>Gillingham</b>	15.00		
Saturday 24	Bradford City	15.00		
Tuesday 27	<b>Rochdale</b>	19.45		
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
Saturday 8	Peterborough United	15.00		
Saturday 15	<b>Blackpool</b>	15.00		
Saturday 22	Doncaster Rovers	15.00		
Wednesday 26	<b>Southend United</b>	15.00		
Saturday 29	<b>Bristol Rovers</b>	15.00		ALL TICKET
<b>JANUARY</b>				
Tuesday 1	Plymouth Argyle	15.00		
Saturday 5	<b>Barnsley</b>	15.00		
Saturday 12	Fleetwood Town	15.00		
Saturday 19	<b>Portsmouth</b>	15.00		ALL TICKET
Saturday 26	Accrington Stanley	15.00		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
Saturday 2	Burton Albion	15.00		
Saturday 9	<b>Sunderland</b>	15.00		ALL TICKET
Saturday 16	<b>Peterborough United</b>	15.00		
Saturday 23	Blackpool	15.00		
<b>MARCH</b>				
Saturday 2	<b>Scunthorpe United</b>	15.00		
Saturday 9	Gillingham	15.00		
Tuesday 12	Rochdale	19.45		
Saturday 16	<b>Bradford City</b>	15.00		
Saturday 23	Coventry City	15.00		
Saturday 30	<b>Wycombe Wanderers</b>	15.00		
<b>APRIL</b>				
Saturday 6	Walsall	15.00		
Saturday 13	<b>AFC Wimbledon</b>	15.00		
Friday 19	<b>Charlton Athletic</b>	15.00		
Monday 22	Shrewsbury Town	15.00		
Saturday 27	<b>Doncaster Rovers</b>	15.00		
Saturday 4	Luton Town	17.30		

## TEAM

Eastwood, McMahon, Nelson, Dickie, Garbutt, Henry\*, Brannagan, Ruffels, Carruthers^, Mackie^, Obika Shearer, McMahon, Nelson, Dickie, Garbutt, Brannagan, Ruffels, Hall\*, Holmes, Mackie^, Smith Mitchell, Norman, Mousinho, Dickie, Garbutt, Brannagan, Baptiste, **WHYTE**\*, Henry\*, **BROWNE**^, Obika Mitchell, McMahon, Nelson, Dickie, Garbutt^, Hanson, Brannagan, Mackie, Baptiste\*, Browne, Smith\* Mitchell, Norman, Nelson, Mousinho, Ruffels, Hanson, Brannagan^, **WHYTE**, Henry\*, **BROWNE**^, Obika Mitchell, Norman, Nelson, **MOUSINHO**, Ruffels, Hanson, Brannagan, Whyte, **HENRY**, Browne\*, Smith^\* Mitchell, Norman, Dickie, Mousinho, Garbutt, Hanson, Ruffels, **WHYTE**, Obika\*, **BAPTISTE**, Smith\*

Mitchell, Norman, Nelson, Mousinho, Ruffels, Brannagan, Baptiste, **HOLMES**^, Henry, Browne, Mackie\* Mitchell, McMahon, Nelson, Dickie, Garbutt, Brannagan, Ruffels, Henry^, Lopes, **HOLMES**\*, **SMITH**• Mitchell, Norman, Nelson, Mousinho, Ruffels, Brannagan, Baptiste\*, Browne^, Henry, Holmes, Mackie\* Mitchell, Norman, Nelson, Mousinho, Garbutt, Brannagan^, Baptiste, Whyte, Henry\*, Holmes, Obika\* Mitchell, Norman, Nelson, Mousinho, Garbutt, Hanson\*, Baptiste, Whyte, **HENRY**, Holmes, Smith^ Mitchell, Long, Nelson, Dickie, Garbutt, Hanson\*, Baptiste, Brannagan^, Whyte, Holmes\*, Obika Mitchell, Long, Nelson, Mousinho, Garbutt, Hanson^, **BRANNAGAN**, Whyte\*, Henry, Holmes, Obika\*

## SUBS

Smith^, Hall\*, Whyte\*, Stevens, Norman, Mousinho, Raglan Browne^, Henry\*, Obika\*, Norman, Mousinho, Whyte Smith^, Lopes\*, Mackie^, Shearer, Ruffels, Raglan, McMahon Ruffels^, Henry\*, Obika\*, Shearer, Norman, Mousinho, Whyte Smith^, Mackie\*, Shearer, Garbutt, Dickie, Baptiste, McMahon Mackie^, **HOLMES**\*, Shearer, Dickie, Garbutt, Obika, McMahon Brannagan^, Henry\*, Long\*, Stevens, Raglan, Dai, Lopes

Whyte^, Obika\*, Shearer, Garbutt, Dickie, Smith, McMahon Long^, Obika\*, **SPASOV**\*, Shearer, Norman, Mackie, Raglan **OBIKA**\*, Garbutt\*, Smith\*, Shearer, Dickie, Long, Lopes Ruffels^, Smith\*, Browne\*, Shearer, Dickie, Raglan, Long Obika^, Ruffels\*, Dickie\*, Shearer, Raglan, Long Ruffels^, Henry\*, Smith\*, Shearer, Mousinho, Raglan, McMahon Baptiste^, Mackie\*, Smith\*, Shearer, Dickie, Ruffels, McMahon

# SINGHA

PROUD TO PARTNER WITH OXFORD UNITED

\*Own Goal



# TICKETS & TRAVEL

Tickets for all home and away games, for London Road Club coaches and for Oxford United Membership are available from [www.oufctickets.co.uk](http://www.oufctickets.co.uk) and from the ticket office by phone (01865 337533) and in person (9.30-5.30 Mon-Fri) and before home games)

Oxford United members receive £2 (adults) or £1 (concessions and juniors) off all home league games. Membership costs £15 Adults and £10 Concessions (Over 65, Under 21, Under 18). Become a U's Member or purchase your tickets at [www.oufctickets.co.uk](http://www.oufctickets.co.uk) or by calling the Ticket Office on 01865 337533.

## HOME GAMES

### NORTHAMPTON TOWN

Tuesday 9th October | 7.45pm | Checktrade Trophy  
**Prices:** Adults £10 | Over 65 £5 | 18-21 £5 | Under 18 £5  
 Under 13 £5 | Under 7 £1

**1893 Club:** Adults £20 | Over 65 £15 | 18-21 £15 | Under 18 £15  
 Under 13 £10 | Under 7 £10

### PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

Saturday 13th October | 3pm | Sky Bet League One

### SHREWSBURY TOWN

Saturday 27th October | 3pm | Sky Bet League One

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

Advance tickets in all general admission areas are priced at:

Adults £12.50 | Over 65 £8.00 | 18-21 £8.00  
 Under 18 £8.00 | Under 13 £5.00 (£1.25 in Family Area)  
 Under 7 £1.25 (FREE in Family Area)

Please note: with these special prices Yellow Card member prices will be as above with no further discount.

**1893 Club Member Guests:** Adults £20.00 | Over 65/18-21/Under 18 £15.00 | Under 13 £10.00

**1893 Club Day Tickets (non-1893 member guests):**

Adults £30.00 | Over 65/18-21/Under 18 £25.00  
 Under 13 £20.00

These ticket prices are available in advance of matchday only, and with demand expected to be high we recommend booking early to secure your seats.

## AWAY GAMES

### SOUTHEND UNITED

Saturday 6th October | 3pm  
 Roots Hall | SS2 6NQ  
 Tickets for this game are for sale online until 3pm on Tuesday 2nd October and in person or by phone until 3pm on Friday 5th October.

#### Prices

Adult:	£22
60 and over:	£15
Student (with valid ID):	£14
17-22:	£14
Disabled (with free carer)*:	£14
9-16:	£10
8 and under:	£4

\*NB There is an adult/senior concession price for disabled supporters. All other disabled supporters pay the age-relevant price with a complimentary carer ticket if required

#### London Road Club coaches

Depart stadium:	11am
Adult members:	£17
Adult non-members:	£19
U18 members:	£15
U18 non-members:	£17

### BRISTOL ROVERS

Saturday 20th October | 3pm  
 Memorial Stadium | BS7 0BF  
**ALL TICKET**

Tickets are on sale to season ticket holders only, one per season ticket, until 9.30am on Wednesday 3rd October, when they go on sale to Yellow Card members, one per member.

Subject to availability, tickets will go on general sale at 5.15pm on Friday 5th October online until 3pm on Tuesday 16th October and from 9.30am on Monday 8th October in person and by phone until 3pm on Friday 19th October.

#### Prices:

**Seats** - Adults £24 | Over 65 £20 | 16-21 £20  
 Under 16 £12 | Under 11 £7  
**Terrace** - Adults £20 | Over 65 £16 | 16-21 £16  
 Under 16 £12 | Under 11 £7  
**Wheelchair/ambulant disabled (seats only)**  
 Adults £13 | Over 65 £11 | 16-21 £11  
 Under 16 £9

#### London Road Club coaches

Depart stadium:	11:30am
Adult member:	£15
Adult non-member:	£17
Under-18 member:	£13
Under-18 non-member:	£15

U14s must be accompanied by an adult. No alcohol is permitted on the coaches.  
 Tickets can be purchased from [www.oufctickets.co.uk](http://www.oufctickets.co.uk) or in person and by phone (01865 337533) from the ticket office



## AROUND GRENOBLE ROAD GUIDE FOR VISITING SUPPORTERS



Welcome to all the Luton Town supporters, who have travelled 46 miles to be here tonight. We hope you enjoy the game.

## MATCH DAY TIMINGS

(for a 7.45pm kick-off)

9am	Club shop opens
5.45pm	Hospitality opens
6.15pm	Turnstiles open
6.45pm	Teams announced
7pm	Teams out to warm up
7.40pm	Teams enter the pitch
7.45pm	Kick off

## SUPPORTER LIAISON OFFICERS

Look out for our team of roving SLOs, who will be located around the perimeter of the ground. Feel free to ask them for directions or any other assistance.



## AT THE STADIUM

### VISITING SUPPORTERS

The stadium is seating only and no smoking (including no e-cigarettes). Away fans are seated in the North Stand along the side of the pitch. There is a ticket office adjacent to the away turnstiles in the North Stand where tickets are sold on the day (cash only) from 1.30pm (6.45pm for evening games). Supporters are not permitted to bring musical instruments into the ground.

### SUPPORTERS COACHES

Away coaches are generally parked at the rear of the North Stand in close proximity to the visitors' turnstiles and they are requested to depart within five minutes of the final whistle.

### CONCESSIONS

Hot food and drinks are available in the concourses and around the ground. This is a cash-only facility.

### PRE-MATCH FOOD

The Ozone Complex has Frankie and Benny's, Oxy Oriental, a chip shop and many more activities/facilities.

### CASH MACHINE

A cash machine is located beside the Vue cinema. Please note that there is a fee for using this machine.

### CLUB SHOP

If you're looking to bring home a souvenir from your trip to Oxford, you can do so from 10am on a matchday. The shop is located beside Park Club gym in the Ozone Leisure Centre across from the stadium and is open until kick-off and then for half an hour after the match on most match days.

### FEEDBACK

Here at Oxford United, we want to make your matchday experience as enjoyable as possible. We'd love to know your thoughts on how well we've achieved that goal and what you think we can do better to improve your experience (off the pitch) in future. Please e-mail our Supporter Liaison Officer Kath Faulkner on [kfaulkner@oufc.co.uk](mailto:kfaulkner@oufc.co.uk)



## Oxford United

**Head Coach:** Karl Robinson

Simon Eastwood	1	○
Cameron Norman	2	○
Luke Garbutt	3	○
Rob Dickie	4	○
Curtis Nelson	5	○
Jamie Hanson	6	○
Rob Hall	7	○
Cameron Brannagan	8	○
Sam Smith	9	○
Marcus Browne	10	○
Samir Carruthers	11	○
Ricky Holmes	12	○
Scott Shearer	13	○
Josh Ruffels	14	○
John Mousinho	15	○
Gavin Whyte	16	○
James Henry	17	○
Jamie Mackie	19	○
Jon Obika	20	○
Charlie Raglan	22	○
Sam Long	23	○
Tsun Dai	25	○
Shandon Baptiste	26	○
Jack Stevens	27	○
Manny Agboola	28	○
Tony McMahon	29	○
Jonathan Mitchell	41	○



## Luton Town

**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
○ 25	Kazenga Lua-Lua
○ 27	Aaron Jarvis
○ 28	Lloyd Jones
○ 34	Jack James
○ 35	Arthur Read
○ 36	James Shea
○ 37	Frankie Musonda
○ 40	Harry Isted
○ 44	Alan Sheehan

### Match Officials

Referee: Michael Salisbury  
Assistant referees: Darren Wilding and Joe Clark  
Fourth Official: Adam Crysell

### Next up for Luton Town Scunthorpe United (h)

Sky Bet League 1 • Saturday 6th October • Kick-off 3pm

**DISCRIMINATION:** Oxford United does not tolerate any form of discrimination. If you encounter any form of discriminatory behaviour please report it to your nearest steward and help make this stadium a safe and welcome environment for everybody. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. **SMOKING:** We would like to remind supporters that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the stadium. **STANDING:** Please could supporters remain seated during the game in order to ensure that other spectators do not have their views obstructed.