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DEAN KEATES

Good afternoon and welcome back to the Banks's Stadium for our final match of 2018, against Luton Town.

We asked for a reaction after the second-half performance at Bradford and got one in the match at Peterborough. We were positive, played on the front foot and had chances galore, missing a penalty and having two or three efforts cleared off the line. We were the better team for long periods and should have scored three or four goals, deserved the three points but paid the price for not taking our chances.

After the positive display at Peterborough, we failed to reach the same standards on Boxing Day against Bristol Rovers. We found ourselves 2-0 down early on but did create opportunities in the first half. Jon Guthrie hit the post, Josh Gordon pulled one back and Andy Cook won a lot of balls in the box, with a couple of shots being blocked. But the second half was nowhere near good enough – there was a lack of quality and today we will be looking for a reaction.

Luton are the most in-form team in the division right now and we are expecting a very difficult game.

They have continued their momentum from last season and are now up to second in the table.

We are determined to sign off the calendar year on a positive note after a mixed bag of results. Recent games have been very up and down, and we need to find a level of consistency. Decision making and consistency are massive in football; it's when you find that consistency and get momentum behind you that you start climbing the table. At the moment, we're having a good performance followed by an indifferent performance and then a bad one.

We need to go back to basics, cut out the mistakes and stop giving away silly goals. The players need to give 110% – for the football club and themselves. We're a wounded animal right now and the players need to go out and make sure they represent this club as well as they can.

Enjoy the game and a Happy New Year!

Dean



INTRODUCING SOME SIMPLE TOOLS

TO HELP YOU STAY IN CONTROL



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SOCIAL SADDLERS



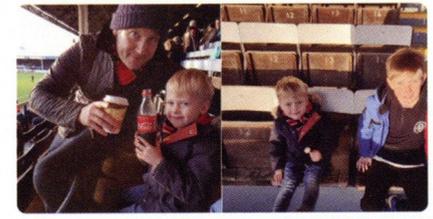
Kuldeep Singh
@KuldeepNHS
Look who I bumped into @WalsallHcareNHS ... its Swifty @WFCOfficial handing out gifts to patients!



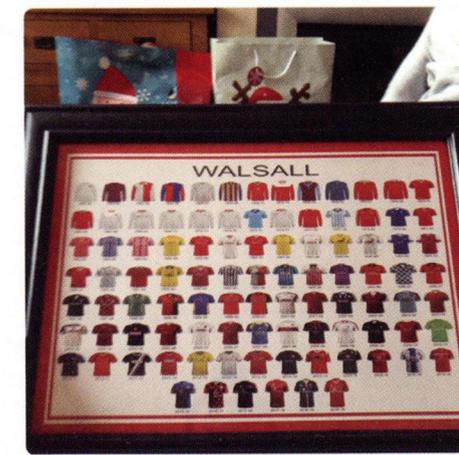
Walsall Healthcare
@WalsallHcareNHS
Thank you @WFCOfficial for making our patients' day when you visited bit.ly/2EEhbnw



Chris
@MarvAVFC
Great Day watching @WFCOfficial at P'boro with @pierresaddler and Joel. Didn't like the wooden seats but enjoyed seeing Joel at his first ever game!! Plus backed the 1-1 😊😊



Michael J
@MikeyJames1986
Top Christmas present goes to this beauty. @VitalWalsall @WFCOfficial #Saddlers #UTS



Andy Dakin
@groundhopper23
A little football nostalgia this morning, Fellows Park, @WFCOfficial from April 1989





KANE WILSON

Youngster **Kane Wilson** has played in four different positions for Walsall, most recently on the left wing in the draw at Peterborough. Predominately a right-back, the versatile 18-year-old has also featured at left-back and right wing since arriving on loan from neighbours West Brom in August. The Birmingham-born teenager has been in and out of the Saddlers team but believes he has learned plenty from his first experience of League One football...

So Kane, how are you finding your time with the Saddlers?

It's been up and down as I've been in and out of the side but I've enjoyed it. It's been a good learning experience for me.

What have you learned?

You've got to adapt to different things, different styles of play. League One is a step up from last year and it's a different style of football, a bit more on the floor. I've had to adapt in that way and with overcoming different things, whether it be getting criticism or praise.

What challenges have you had to overcome?

The challenge at Walsall has been not starting week in, week out. It's something I've had to adapt to. Sometimes when I was at Exeter last season I was in and out. It's been a good learning experience in terms of that. I've worked hard and the gaffer has recently put me in the team and shown trust in me.

You were recalled for the Peterborough match, how do you feel you did?

I played a different position and I thought I

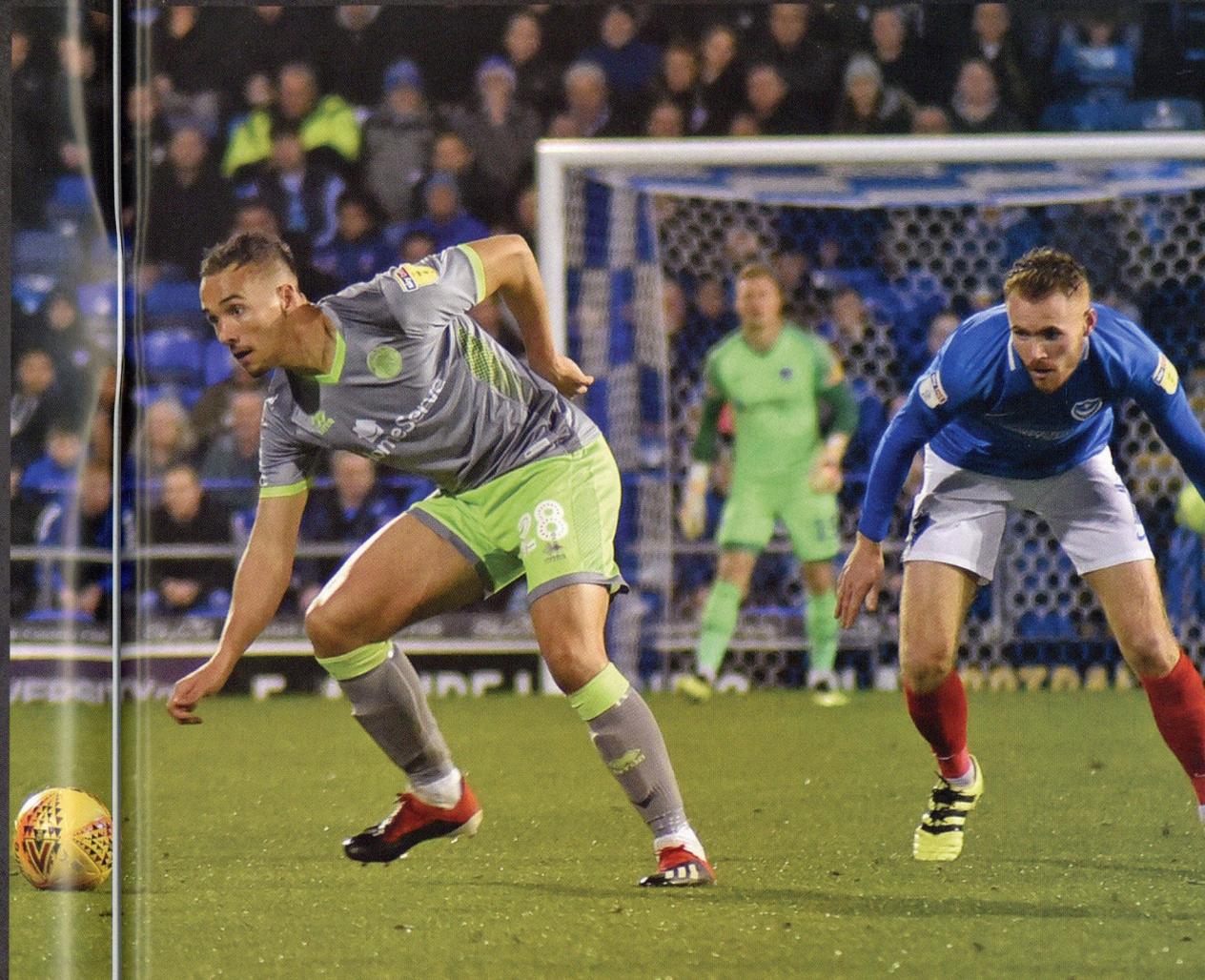
did quite well. The gaffer seemed to be positive with me during and after the game. That's all I can do – make sure I try my hardest for the team. We were unlucky not to get the three points but it was a good point away from home, even though it felt a bit like a loss because we should have won.

How did you find playing left midfield, somewhere we hadn't seen you play before?

I enjoyed it. It's different for me being on the other side of the pitch but it's something I've done in my career before. On loan at Exeter, I played there and in other similar positions, such as left wing-back, so it was something the gaffer knew I could do. He said before the game, 'just enjoy it, you've done it before, go out there and be you as a player'. I've always been able to play a few positions and be a versatile player.

Is that four positions you have played for Walsall now?

Yes, I've played four positions: right-back, left-back, right wing, left wing. I think I've played every position in the Football



"Crossing is something I've highlighted that I want to improve on, so is my decision making."

League, except goalkeeper! It's definitely a good trait to have, that I can play a lot of positions.

What would you class as your preferred position?

I'm probably as comfortable in all of them. The position I've played the most is right-back. I don't really have a preferred one – wherever the manager asks me to play, I'm happy to play there.

Where did you play when you were coming through the ranks at West Brom?

I played all over. I started as a centre-back, moved into central midfield and went onto right-back and played as a winger. I played everywhere for them! When I first went to Exeter, I started off at right-back and then quickly moved onto right wing-back/winger. Towards the end of my loan, the left wing-back got injured so I played a lot of games there. That's how the gaffer here realised I could play on that side of the pitch.

You really have played everywhere!

As long as I'm playing, that's all that really matters. I've got to thank the gaffer as he's always tried to get me on the pitch, whether that's at full-back or as a winger. He's always been very supportive and in training he's always trying to help me.

FACTFILE

SQUAD NO.

28

POSITION

RB

AGE

18

WFC APPS

19

WFC GOALS

0

What advice has Dean Keates given you?

He thinks I'm good going forward with my first touch and taking the full-back or winger out of the game. That's something he's always wanting me to do. That's a big part of what I've taken on board from the gaffer here, having more of a forward-thinking mentality.

How important is the attacking side of the game to you?

The attacking side is probably the most enjoyable for anyone. When you're attacking, you have freedom, you can do what you want. When you're defending, it's more regimented, but I feel I've learned to love that side of the game as well. I do enjoy the defensive side.

Where do you feel you most need to improve?

There are loads of areas. I feel I've got so much more to give. Crossing is something I've highlighted that I want to improve on, so is my decision making. Still only being 18, playing games will help with that. By playing games, hopefully everything else will take care of itself.

What have you learned from the other, more experienced defenders here at the club?

The defenders here really put their bodies on the line and wear their hearts on their sleeves. That's something I've looked up to since I've been here, especially from people like Nicky Devlin and Jon Guthrie.

You had opportunities to score in the games at Portsmouth and Peterborough, do you see yourself as a player who can chip in with goals?

One million per cent! I don't know how many shots I've had exactly but I tell the lads I'll have a shot a game, even when I'm playing at right-back. I always find myself shooting at goal!

You're still only 18, how beneficial is it to be getting all this experience at such a young age?

It's massive. To be 18 and already be in my second loan, as a right-back, is something almost unheard of. When I spoke to Darren Moore and West Brom, they said going on loan and playing games was the biggest thing I could do in terms of aiding my career.



"To be 18 and already be in my second loan, as a right-back, is something almost unheard of."

You were 16 when you made your first-team debut for the Baggies, what was that like?

It was crazy! Being on the bench in the Premier League and making my debut for West Brom in the cup, it was something you can only dream of. To get it all so young was quality. The manager at the time was Tony Pulis and he said he wanted me to get league experience. By the time I turned 17, I was already on my way to Exeter. It was a big step moving away so young, but something my mum and dad supported me to do. I had a really good time down there. Coming back to West Brom in pre-season, they said I should get more experience. The step up to League One was a big factor in

why I wanted to come to Walsall.

Are there any players you look up to?

Even though he doesn't play my position, Darren Fletcher helped me with taking that next step at West Brom. When I first came into the first-team set-up, he put an arm round me and told me what I needed to do to get in the team. He was a really great captain and I'll always look up to him because of the way he treated me.

Finally, what are you hoping to achieve during your time with the Saddlers?

I want to play more games and I really want Walsall to do as well as they can. It's a great family-orientated club, the fans are great and I want the club to kick on. If I can be part of that and help them, that'll be my dream. I'm a dreamer!

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1-1

22/12/18



MATCH REPORT

Luke Leahy's late penalty miss meant Walsall had to settle for a point at high-flying Peterborough.

In a bright start from the visitors, Jon Guthrie's towering header was blocked by Alex Woodyard on the line and Kane Wilson's volley deflected wide.

The Saddlers went ahead in first-half injury time when keeper Conor O'Malley failed to claim Leahy's long ball, with Nicky Devlin teeing up Isaiah Osbourne to nod home.

But Posh equalised straight after the restart as Ivan Toney headed in a Marcus Maddison corner.

Walsall finished strongly, with O'Malley keeping out Josh Gordon's close-range header and Kane Wilson putting the rebound wide.

O'Malley conceded a penalty after bringing down Devlin but made amends by saving Leahy's low effort, before producing a fine double stop to thwart Andy Cook.

MATCH STATS

POSSESSION

48 52

SHOTS

8 13

ON TARGET

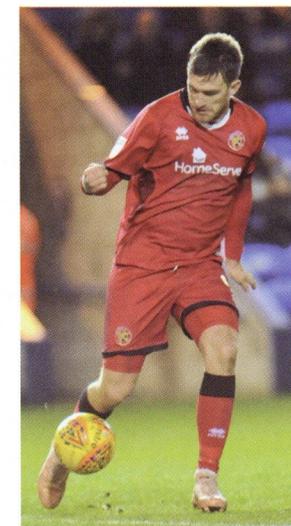
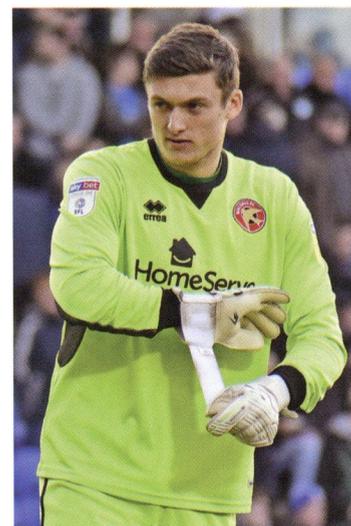
2 8

CORNERS

7 8

FOULS

7 17



THE TEAMS





1-3

26/12/18



MATCH REPORT

Walsall slumped to a disappointing Boxing Day defeat against managerless Bristol Rovers, who climbed out of the relegation zone.

Under caretaker boss Graham Coughlan, the Pirates established a two-goal lead inside ten minutes, with Alex Rodman making the first and scoring the second.

The ex-Shrewsbury winger crossed for Tom Lockyer to net from close range before powerfully volleying home Tareiq Holmes-Dennis' centre.

The Saddlers almost pulled one back when Jon Guthrie hit the post with a towering header from Nicky Devlin's delivery.

Kieron Morris twice went close before Josh Gordon halved the deficit on the stroke of half-time, hooking an improvised volley over his own shoulder from 12 yards.

But Rovers restored their two-goal cushion seven minutes after the restart, Holmes-Dennis calmly slotting home after good work from Alex Jakubiak.

MATCH STATS

POSSESSION

57 43

SHOTS

10 5

ON TARGET

3 4

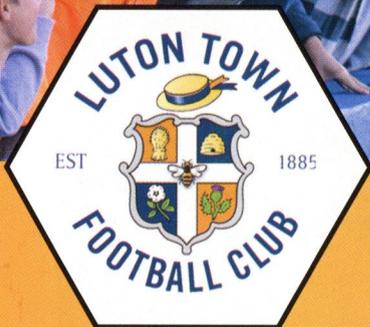
CORNERS

4 2

FOULS

13 13





LUTON TOWN FC

CLUB HONOURS

Second tier of English football: champions 1981/82; runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Third tier of English football: champions 1936/37 (South), 2004/05; runners-up 1935/36 (South), 1969/70

Fourth tier of English football: champions 1967/68; runners-up 2001/02, 2017/18

Fifth tier of English football: champions 2013/14; runners-up 2009/10

League Cup: winners 1987/88; runners-up 1988/89

FA Cup: runners-up 1958/59

Football League Trophy: winners 2008/09

Full Members' Cup: runners-up 1987/88

Nathan Jones' Luton are the form team in England, with 10 wins from their last 11 league games.

The run started with a 2-0 victory over Walsall in October and has seen them rise from tenth to second in League One, a point behind leaders Portsmouth.

The Hatters have certainly made an impression on their return to this level, after a decade outside the top three tiers of English football.

Kenilworth Road regulars endured plenty of hardship during that period, seeing their team relegated from the Football League altogether in 2009 after being deducted a record 30 points.

Regaining league status under John Still in 2014, Town reached the play-offs in Jones' first full season before securing promotion as League Two runners-up last term.

The opening three games of

2018/19 yielded a solitary point, but successive home wins over Southend and Shrewsbury got their season up and running.

Drawing three of their next five, the Bedfordshire club recorded victories over Oxford and Scunthorpe before losing 3-2 at Barnsley, leaving them in mid-table.

But the Hatters haven't looked back since, following up their Saddlers success with a 4-1 triumph over Accrington and a 2-0 win at AFC Wimbledon.

A goalless draw at Rochdale preceded their current magnificent run of seven successive victories, which has included 5-1 and 4-0 thrashings of Plymouth and Bradford.

The division's 47-goal top scorers, Town have won their last two matches by a 2-0 scoreline – at home to Burton and away to Scunthorpe on Boxing Day.



JACK STACEY

Named in the 2017/18 EFL League Two Team of the Season after scoring one goal in 45 appearances during Luton's promotion-winning campaign.

The 22-year-old turned professional with Reading in December 2013 and made his career debut in a 1-0 victory over Ipswich the following August.

The Bracknell-born right-back, who can also operate in midfield, played six times for the Royals and enjoyed loan spells at Barnet and Carlisle in 2015/16.

The following season was spent on loan at Exeter, where he made 38 appearances and helped the Grecians reach the League Two play-off final.

Moving to Kenilworth Road in June 2017, Stacey was crowned the Hatters' Young Player of the Season last term.



K3Y



GLEN REA

Former Republic of Ireland Under-21 international comfortable at centre-back or defensive midfield.

The 24-year-old began his career with Brighton but found first-team opportunities restricted, only making two appearances for his hometown club – both in the League Cup.

He moved on loan to Southend – the team against whom he made his senior debut in August 2015 – and then Luton, where he played ten games.

Rejoining the Hatters permanently in July 2016, Rea made 49 appearances in his first season and 50 in his second, with his 100th Town outing coming in February.



ELLIOT LEE

Durham-born forward already into double figures this season, scoring goals nine and ten in a 4-0 win over Bradford.

Graduating through the West Ham academy, the 24-year-old was handed his professional debut in an FA Cup tie at Manchester United in January 2013.

He had loan spells at Colchester, Southend, Blackpool and Luton, where he netted with his first touch in a 3-2 defeat at AFC Wimbledon, before signing for Barnsley.

With game time limited, Lee joined Town in July 2017 and marked his first league start with a brace in a 7-0 demolition of Cambridge.

He plundered 12 goals in 19 starts last term and has been in prolific form this campaign.

NATHAN JONES

The 45-year-old Welshman led Luton to the League Two play-offs in his first full season and then promotion in his second.

Previously first-team coach at Brighton, Jones took charge of the Hatters in January 2016 and has won over half of his 167 matches at the helm.

He was on Town's books as a youngster but left without making an appearance, later playing for Southend, Brighton and Yeovil.



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PLAYER BY PLAYER

POSITION	APPS	GLS	
GOALKEEPERS			
1 Marek Stech	47	0	Giant Czech Republic international shot-stopper who earned cult hero status at Yeovil after helping the Glovers gain promotion to the Championship in 2012/13.
36 James Shea	37	0	The 27-year-old lifted the FA Youth Cup at Arsenal and played for non-league Needham Market and Harrow Borough before winning promotion at AFC Wimbledon.
DEFENDERS			
2 James Justin	90	6	Born in Luton, the England U20 international produced a man-of-the display on his first start for the club – a 3-1 EFL Cup victory over Aston Villa in August 2016.
3 Dan Potts	108	9	Young Hammer of the Year at West Ham in 2011/12, the Barking-born left-back was one of five Town players named in the 2017/18 PFA Team of the Year.
5 Sonny Bradley	26	0	Player of the Year as Plymouth finished League Two runners-up in 2016/17, scoring 11 goals in 96 appearances overall during a two-year spell at Home Park.
6 Matthew Pearson	28	3	An ever-present as Accrington qualified for the 2015/16 League Two play-offs, the former Blackburn youngster joined Luton in June 2018 after a year at Barnsley.
21 Jack Senior	24	0	Halifax-born left-back signed from Huddersfield in August 2016 who made his professional debut in the Checkatrade Trophy against West Brom that October.
28 Lloyd Jones	6	0	Signed by Liverpool from Plymouth for £150,000, the 23-year-old had loan spells at Cheltenham, Accrington, Blackpool and Swindon before leaving for Luton.
44 Alan Sheehan	121	8	Town's captain enjoyed an exceptional 2017/18 campaign, winning Player of the Season and earning a place in the EFL and PFA League Two Teams of the Year.
MIDFIELDERS			
4 Alan McCormack	24	1	Vastly experienced 34-year-old Dubliner who was Player of the Year for Swindon's 2011/12 and Brentford's 2013/14 promotion-winning campaigns.
8 Luke Berry	43	8	Notched 64 goals in 255 appearances across two spells with hometown club Cambridge, winning the Conference Premier play-offs and FA Trophy in 2013/14.
11 Andrew Shinnie	58	8	Capped once by Scotland, the Aberdeen-born 29-year-old spent five years with Birmingham before moving to Luton in June following a successful loan spell.
17 Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	180	10	Joining the Hatters in 2013, initially on loan, the ex-West Ham academy graduate was a key member of Town's 2013/14 and 2017/18 promotion-winning sides.
18 Jorge Grant	22	4	The 24-year-old Nottingham Forest loanee has played 20 times for the Reds and had two loan spells at city neighbours Notts County, making 73 appearances.
35 Arthur Read	7	1	Penned his first professional deal as a first-year scholar in November 2016 and scored his maiden career goal in this month's EFL Trophy tie against Southend.
FORWARDS			
9 Danny Hylton	105	55	Top scorer two seasons running, the 29-year-old arrived from Oxford in July 2016 and was shortlisted for the 2017/18 League Two Player of the Year award.
14 Harry Cornick	66	12	Started out with non-league Christchurch before signing for Bournemouth, where he had temporary stints at Yeovil, Leyton Orient and Gillingham to name a few.
19 James Collins	71	29	Netted more than 150 career goals and achieved four promotions from League Two – two with Shrewsbury and one apiece with Northampton and Luton.
25 Kazenga LuaLua	10	1	Congolese winger who began his career with Newcastle and spent seven years at Brighton, making 185 appearances and lifting the 2010/11 League One title.
27 Aaron Jarvis	12	2	Caught the eye with hometown club Basingstoke, moving to Kenilworth Road in August 2017 and playing four matches on loan at Boreham Wood last season.



TOP BOYS



MALCOLM MACDONALD

Striker Malcolm Macdonald was capped 14 times by England after leaving Luton Town. Initially with Tonbridge, he joined Fulham in August 1968 and moved to Luton in July 1969. He was twice top scorer, including their 1969/70 promotion success when 'Player of the Year', and netted 49 goals in 88 league games before sold to Newcastle United for £180,000 in May 1971. An FA Cup finalist in 1974 and League Cup finalist in 1976, he joined Arsenal for £333,333 in August 1976 and was an FA Cup finalist again in 1978 before injury ended his career. He managed Fulham and Huddersfield and now works in the media.



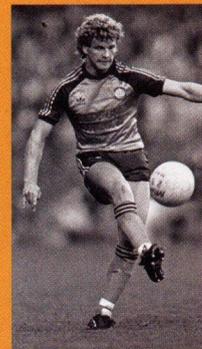
CHRIS NICHOLL

Northern Ireland international central defender Chris Nicholl was Luton Town's 'Player of the Year' in 1970/71. A former Burnley apprentice, he moved via Witton to Halifax Town in June 1968 and starred in their 1968/69 promotion success. He joined Luton in August 1969 and was a promotion winner in 1969/70, netting six goals in 97 league games before joining Aston Villa in March 1972. Helping win promotion in 1974/75, as well as featuring in two League Cup final triumphs, he joined Southampton in June 1977 and was a promotion winner again in 1977/78, then played for Grimsby before managing Saints and Walsall.



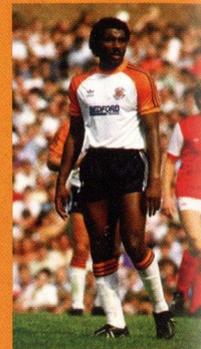
PAUL FUTCHER

Former England U21 central defender Paul Futcher was Luton Town's 'Player of the Year' in 1976/77 and 1977/78. He turned professional with his twin brother Ron at hometown Chester in January 1974, moving to Luton in a joint £100,000 deal in June 1974 and scoring once in 131 league outings. Sold to Manchester City for £350,000 in June 1978, he then had spells with Oldham and Derby prior to joining Barnsley in March 1984. He starred as they reached the FA Cup sixth round in 1984/85, moving to Halifax in July 1990. Later with Grimsby, he managed Darlington, Gresley and Southport. He died in November 2016.



KIRK STEPHENS

Attacking right-back Kirk Stephens was ever-present in Luton Town's 1981/82 Second Division title triumph. Initially with Nuneaton Borough, he helped them finish Southern League runners-up in 1974/75 and followed David Pleat to Kenilworth Road in June 1978. He was voted Luton's 'Player of the Year' in 1978/79 and 1983/84, scoring twice in 227 league games for the Hatters before moving to Coventry City in exchange for Ashley Grimes in August 1984. Later rejoining Nuneaton as player-manager after a knee injury ended his top-flight career, he also had a spell at Barnet and has since run the family building firm.



RICKY HILL

England international midfielder Ricky Hill was 'Player of the Year' when Luton Town won the Second Division title in 1981/82. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in May 1976, he was also 'Player of the Year' in 1980/81 and starred as Luton were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984/85. He also featured in two consecutive League Cup finals, including the Hatters' 1988 Wembley triumph, and netted 54 goals in 436 league games before moving to Le Havre in July 1989. Reuniting with David Pleat at Leicester City in August 1990 and later as a coach at Sheffield Wednesday and Spurs, he briefly rejoined Luton as manager.

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS profiles ten winners of Luton Town's 'Player of the Year' award



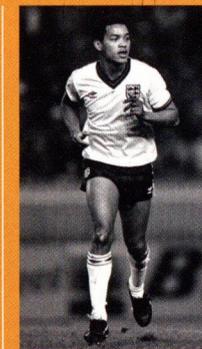
PAUL WALSH

England international striker Paul Walsh was capped five times while at Luton Town. Signing professional for Charlton Athletic in October 1979, he starred in their 1980/81 promotion success and moved to Luton in July 1982. He was 'Player of the Year' in 1982/83 and leading marksman in 1983/84, netting 24 goals in 80 First Division games for the Hatters before joining Liverpool in May 1984. Helping to win the League Championship in 1985/86, he joined Tottenham Hotspur in February 1988 and was an FA Cup winner in 1991. He later played for Portsmouth, Manchester City and Pompey again until injury curtailed his career.



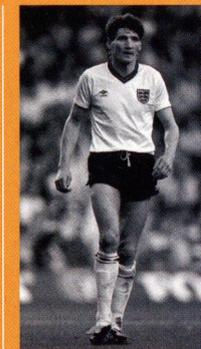
MAL DONAGHY

Northern Ireland international central defender Mal Donaghy gained a club record 58 caps while at Luton Town. He moved to Kenilworth Road from Larne in June 1978 and was ever-present as Luton won the Second Division title in 1981/82 and were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984/85. Voted 'Player of the Year' in 1985/86, he was an FA Cup semi-finalist again in 1987/88 and starred in that season's League Cup final triumph. He netted 16 goals in 410 league games prior to joining Manchester United for £650,000 in October 1988, then returned on loan, moving to Chelsea in August 1992. He has worked for the Irish FA.



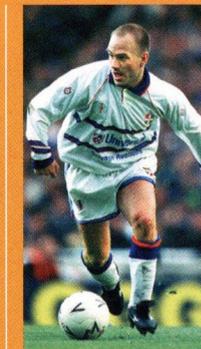
BRIAN STEIN

England international striker Brian Stein was Luton Town's 'Player of the Year' in 1987/88, scoring twice in that season's League Cup final triumph. Moving to Kenilworth Road in October 1977, he was leading marksman in Luton's 1981/82 Second Division success and also starred as they were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984/85 and 1987/88. He joined Caen in July 1988 and moved via Annecy back to Luton in July 1991. Voted 'Player of the Year' again in 1991/92, he netted 130 goals in 427 league games overall before joining Barnet in August 1992. His younger brother Mark also played for Luton.



MICK HARFORD

England international striker Mick Harford was Luton Town's 'Player of the Year' in 1988/89. Initially with Lincoln City, he played for Newcastle United, Bristol City and Birmingham City prior to joining Luton in December 1984. He starred as the Hatters were League Cup finalists in two consecutive seasons, including their 1988 Wembley triumph, also FA Cup semi-finalists on two occasions. Moving to Derby County in January 1990, he returned to Luton in September 1991. Joining Chelsea in August 1992, he then appeared for Sunderland, Coventry City and Wimbledon. He has since been coach and manager of Luton.



DAVID PREECE

England B international midfielder David Preece was 'Player of the Year' when Luton Town reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1993/94. Signing professional for Walsall in July 1980, he helped them reach the League Cup semi-finals in 1983/84 and joined Luton for £150,000 in December 1984. He appeared in two consecutive League Cup finals, including the Hatters' 1988 Wembley success, and was also 'Player of the Year' in 1991/92, netting 21 goals in 336 league games while at Kenilworth Road prior to joining Derby County in August 1995. Later player-coach at Cambridge United and Torquay United, he died in July 2007.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

WORDS: RYAN PRATT

L is for League Cup winners. On 24th April 1988, an army of 35,000 Luton supporters saw the Hatters win their first-ever major trophy at Wembley. A last-minute strike from Brian Stein – who also scored the opener – finally overcame Arsenal 3-2 at Wembley in a see-saw thriller. The Gunners led 2-1 when they were awarded a penalty, but Nigel Winterburn's effort was brilliantly saved by man-of-the-match Andy Dibble. Town came storming back, with Danny Wilson equalising before Stein's dramatic winner. Skipper Steve Foster had the honour of lifting the trophy for Ray Harford's side, who saw off Wigan, Coventry, Ipswich, Bradford and Oxford en route to Wembley glory.

U is for Unbeaten Run. The club embarked on a 19-game unbeaten run in the league from 8th April to 7th October in 1969. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Hatters won promotion during the 1969/70 season, finishing runners-up in the Third Division to reach the second tier. Under the guidance of Alec Stock, Town won 23, drew 14 and lost nine of their 46 league matches, finishing four points clear of third-placed Bristol Rovers and two behind champions Orient.

T is for Turner. Centre-forward Gordon Turner spent his entire 15-year professional career with Luton, emerging as a star player during his time at Kenilworth Road. Making his debut as a midfielder in December 1950, Turner was given the opportunity to play up front and began to score many goals, including a hat-trick in his fourth game. Over the next few seasons, Turner became Luton's star player, scoring 32 goals during the 1954/55 season as the Hatters secured top-flight football for the

first time. He helped Luton hold their own in the First Division and played his last Football League match in April 1964 – a 2-1 victory over Watford at Kenilworth Road. By his final game, he had scored 243 league goals for the club – 276 in all competitions – making him the club's all-time record goalscorer.

O is for Oldest-Ever Player. Former coach Trevor Peake is the oldest player to represent the club, at the age of 40 years and 222 days. He played 202 games for the Hatters, with his final career appearance coming as a second-half substitute in their 5-2 home defeat by Wrexham in September 1997. Earlier in his career, Peake spent four years at Lincoln and won the 1987 FA Cup with Coventry, for whom he scored seven goals in 336 appearances during a seven-year stint. He returned to the Sky Blues as Under-19s coach and was joint-caretaker manager with fellow former City player Steve Ogrizovic for the final game of the 2001/02 season. He is current assistant academy director of Leicester.

N is for Nathan Jones. Now the Hatters' manager, Jones started his playing career with Merthyr Tydfil in his native Wales before joining Luton for £10,000 in the summer of 1995. He failed to make a single league appearance for Town and played in Spain with Numancia and Badajoz before moving to Southend, making 99 league appearances. After a loan spell at Scarborough, Jones joined Brighton in 2000 and helped the Seagulls win the Third Division title in his first of five seasons with the club. That was followed by a seven-year spell at Yeovil, whom he captained to the 2007 League One play-off final. He turned his attentions to coaching, holding positions at Charlton and Brighton before returning to Kenilworth Road as manager. The Welshman had an immediate impact, establishing the Hatters as a force to be reckoned with in English football's fourth tier. Two years after being appointed manager, Jones led the club to promotion to League One, with Town securing a second-place finish in League Two last season.

T is for Transfer Record. The highest transfer fee paid by Town is £850,000 to Danish club Odense BK for Lars Elstrup in 1989. Playing at Kenilworth Road for two seasons, he soon settled and scored a total of 18 goals to keep Luton in the First Division during the 1990/91 campaign. After 60 league appearances in two years, Elstrup moved



back to Denmark to rejoin Odense, who only had to pay £200,000, despite him attaining an impressive goalscoring record in England. A striker, Elstrup netted 13 goals in 34 matches for his country and was a member of the Denmark team that won the 1992 European Championship. He also played in Holland for Feyenoord over the course of a 12-year playing career.

O is for Owen. Centre-back Syd Owen signed for Luton in June 1947 from Birmingham. He played 388 league games for the club – 423 in all competitions. After displaying his natural ability in the 1949/50 season, Owen was appointed captain by manager Dally Duncan. He earned three caps for England in 1954, being selected in that year's World Cup squad and appearing in the Three Lions' opening match – a 4-4 draw with Belgium. In 1959, his final season as a player, Owen was named the FWA Footballer of the Year. Owen was appointed Luton's player-manager that April, following Duncan's departure six months earlier, and took charge of the 1959 FA Cup final against Nottingham Forest, which the Reds won 2-1. As well as serving as manager for the match, he also captained the side from his position at centre-half. After less than a year in the job, Owen resigned and later became first-team coach of Leeds under Jack Taylor and then Don Revie throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The Whites enjoyed tremendous success during that period, lifting two league titles, as well as one FA Cup and one League Cup.

W is for Wins, wins, wins! The club's biggest win came in November 1914 – 15-0 over Great Yarmouth Town in the FA Cup. Their record league victory was 12-0 against Bristol Rovers in the Third Division South in April 1936, while the 7-2 mauling of Mansfield in 1989 remains their record League Cup triumph. They have won seven away games by a five-goal margin, their most recent such success being a 5-0 demolition of Swindon on Boxing Day last year. The Hatters registered 12 consecutive league wins during the 2001/02 promotion campaign, a run that spanned almost two months.

N is for Nickname Game. 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. The nickname was originally a variant on the now rarely seen straw plaiters. Supporters of the club are also called Hatters.





THE NUMBERS GAME

214,700 – Population of Luton from the 2011 census. The Bedfordshire town is situated on the River Lea in the south east of England, 30 miles northwest of London.

1885 – The club was formed on 11th April 1885 following the merger of local clubs Wanderers and Excelsior. They became professional in 1890, entering the Southern League in 1894 and then the Football League in 1897.

10,356 – Capacity of Kenilworth Road, the home of Luton since 1905. One of the oldest stadiums in the country, the ground is known for its unusual away supporters' entrance, which is situated in the middle of a row of terraced houses. The Hatters installed an artificial 'plastic pitch' and imposed a four-year ban on visiting fans during the late-1980s, a consequence of the infamous 1985 Kenilworth Road riot. Town have been looking to relocate to a new stadium for some time.

10 – Number of goals scored by Joe Payne against Bristol Rovers in a 12-0 Easter victory in April 1936. It remains a Football League record for the most goals scored in a game by an individual player. Payne's 55 goals that season helped secure promotion to Division Two.

562 – Bob Morton is the club's record appearance holder, playing 562 times for Luton from 1946 to 1964. Whether scoring goals up front or stopping them at wing-half, the versatile Morton was an ever-present in the team throughout his career as a Hatter.

1959 – The year Luton reached their first and only FA Cup final to date. The Hatters lost 2-1 to Nottingham Forest at Wembley, despite a goal from David Pacey, with defender Syd Owen both captaining and managing Town that day.

6 – The number of players to have scored more than 100 goals for the club: Gordon Turner, Andy Rennie, Brian Stein, Ernie Simms, Herbert Moody and Steve Howard.

58 – Defender Mal Donaghy earned 58 caps for Northern Ireland while at Luton between 1978 and 1988, making him the club's most capped player. He played 408 league games for the Hatters, popping up with 16 goals in his ten-year stay in Bedfordshire.

£3m – The biggest transfer fee received for a player came when centre-half Curtis Davies was snapped up by West Brom for £3m on transfer deadline day in August 2005. Davies made 62 appearances for Luton, scoring two goals after joining the club as a 16-year-old trialist.

54.2% – The percentage of games won by Richard Money during his time in charge of Luton between October 2009 and March 2011. Money managed the Saddlers to League Two title-winning glory during the 2006/07 season and was handed the Kenilworth Road reins 18 months after parting ways with the club. The now-63-year-old led Cambridge to a promotion and FA Trophy double in 2014 and recently took over at Hartlepool.

15 years, 199 days – The age of Connor Tomlinson when he made his first-team debut as a 92nd-minute substitute in a 2-1 EFL Trophy win over Gillingham in August 2016, making him Luton's youngest-ever player. The club had to gain permission from his headteacher beforehand!

92.3 – Number of miles from Luton's Kenilworth Road to the Banks's Stadium. We wish all visiting supporters a very warm welcome, a safe journey home and all the best for 2019!



WORDS: RYAN PRATT



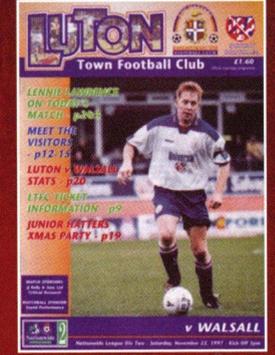
5th November 1968
Walsall 2
Luton 0

Goals from Jimmy Murray and Geoff Morris secured a fourth win of the season, stretching Walsall's unbeaten home run to seven games and condemning Luton to a fifth straight away defeat.



30th September 1969
Walsall 1
Luton 3

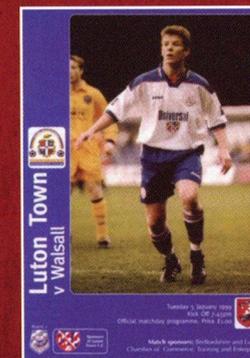
Alec Stock's Town maintained their unbeaten start to the Division Three season with victory in front of a season-best Fellows Park crowd of 7,567, despite an effort from Walsall's Colin Taylor.



22nd November 1997
Luton 0
Walsall 1

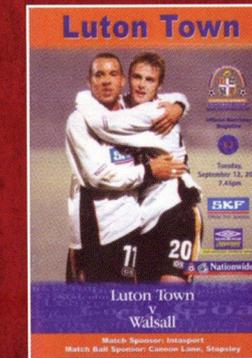
Jan Sorensen's side ended a run of six league matches without a win as John Hodge's 60th-minute goal – one of four he netted that season – earned Walsall victory at Kenilworth Road.

FLASHBACK



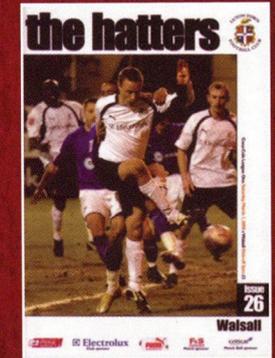
5th January 1999
Luton 0
Walsall 3

Andy Watson gave the Saddlers an early lead, with second-half strikes from Darren Wrack and Dean Keates guaranteeing Walsall's progression to the next round of the Football League Trophy.



12th September 2000
Luton 0
Walsall 0

Ray Graydon's promotion hopefuls drew a blank for the second game running after being held by lowly Luton at Kenilworth Road, leaving the hosts with just one win in seven matches.



1st March 2008
Luton 0
Walsall 1

Stefan Moore scored four minutes into his debut to give Richard Money's men back-to-back away victories, inflicting a tenth defeat in 12 league matches on the relegation-haunted Hatters.



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COMMUNITY STAND

Family Ticket (1 Parent/Guardian & 1 Junior) – £25.50, Extra Junior (To accompany a family ticket) – £12.50, Swifty's Squad Family Membership – £23.50, Adult – £23.50, Unaccompanied Junior (Over-12s) – £15.50, Senior Citizens – £17.50, Disabled Adult – £23.50, Disabled Senior – £17.50, Disabled Junior – £15.50, Carer – FREE, Junior (Family Ticket Upgrade for S/T Holders) – £12.50.

HOMESERVE STAND LOWER

Swifty's Squad Family Membership – £19.50, Adult – £19.50, Senior Citizens – £15.50, Unaccompanied Junior (Over-12s) – £15.50.

HOMESERVE STAND MIDDLE & UPPER

Family Ticket (1 Parent/Guardian & 1 Junior) – £25.50, Extra Junior (To accompany a family ticket) – £12.50, Swifty's Squad Family Membership – £23.50, Adult – £23.50, Senior Citizens – £17.50, Unaccompanied Junior (Over-12s) – £17.50, Junior (Family Ticket Upgrade for S/T holders) – £12.50.

CATEGORY B

MAIN STAND

1888 Seating & Lounge – £50, Adult – £22.50, Senior Citizens (J & K Only) – £17, Unaccompanied Junior (J & K Only – Over-12s) – £17, Junior (J & K – Family Ticket Upgrade for S/T Holders) – £11.

COMMUNITY STAND

Family Ticket (1 Parent/Guardian & 1 Junior) – £24, Extra Junior (To accompany a family ticket) – £11, Swifty's Squad Family Membership – £22, Adult – £22, Unaccompanied Junior (Over-12s) – £14, Senior Citizens – £16, Disabled Adult – £22, Disabled Senior – £16, Disabled Junior – £14, Carer – FREE, Junior (Family Ticket Upgrade for S/T Holders) – £11

HOMESERVE STAND LOWER

Swifty's Squad Family Membership – £18.50, Adult – £18.50, Senior Citizens – £14.50, Unaccompanied Junior (Over-12s) – £14.50

HOMESERVE STAND MIDDLE & UPPER

Family Ticket (1 Parent/Guardian & 1 Junior) – £24, Extra Junior (To accompany a family ticket) – £11, Swifty's Squad Family Membership – £22, Adult – £22, Senior Citizens – £16, Unaccompanied Junior (Over-12s) – £16, Junior (Family Ticket Upgrade for S/T holders) – £11



CHARLTON ATHLETIC (A)

Sky Bet League One
Tuesday 1st January – Kick-off 3.00pm

Prices: Adults – £21, Over-65s – £17, 18-21s – £17, Students – £12, Under-18s – £10, Under-11s – £5.

Disabled Supporters: Adults – £18, Over-65s – £15, Students – £12, Under-18s – £10, Under-11s – £5.
Tickets go off sale from the Banks's Stadium Ticket Office after today's game.



BOLTON WANDERERS (A)

Emirates FA Cup Third Round
Saturday 5th January – Kick-off 3.00pm

Prices: Adults – £15, Over-65s – £5, Under-18s – £5.

Disabled supporters pay the price applicable to their age category, with a carer free of charge if required.



SCUNTHORPE UNITED (H)

Sky Bet League One
Saturday 12th January – Kick-off 3.00pm

Tickets are on sale at the usual Category B prices (see column opposite). Prices increase on the day, so we advise supporters to purchase tickets in advance.



Ticket Office open Monday to Friday from 9.15am until 4.30pm, and from 10.00am on Saturday home matchdays.

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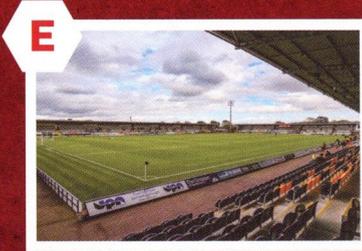
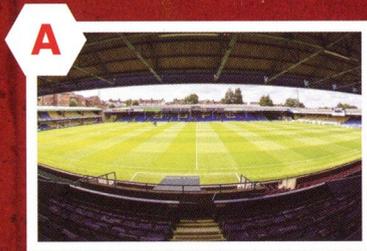
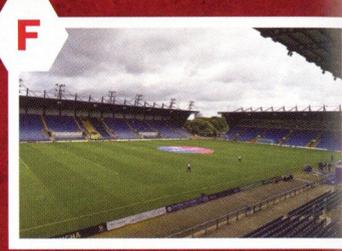
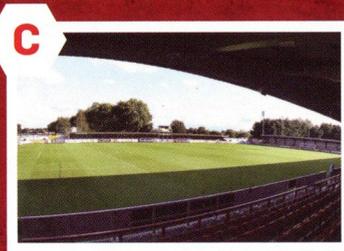


Today's Mascot



Name - Preston Butler
Age - 8
Favourite Player - Andy Cook

Name the eight away grounds Walsall have won at in 2018, the club that plays there and the scoreline!



The Big Walsall Quiz of 2018!

- The Saddlers kicked off 2018 with a 1-0 defeat away to which club?
- How many minutes into his debut did Julien Ngoy hit the winner against MK Dons?
- Against which club did Jon Guthrie score his first, and to date only, Walsall goal?
- Jack Fitzwater scored three goals last term, but against which club did he open his Saddlers account?
- Against which club did we record our biggest win of 2018 – 3-0 in March?
- Which player scored a second-half hat-trick in that particular match?
- How many goals in total did that player score for Walsall in 2017/18?
- Jon Whitney's final game was a 2-0 defeat against which club?
- Which club did Dean Keates leave to take over as Saddlers manager?
- A really easy one: who scored *that* goal in the vital 1-0 victory over Northampton?
- Survival was assured three days later, with a 1-1 draw against which club?
- By how many points did we avoid relegation?
- In what position did the Saddlers finish the 2017/18 season?
- Who was named our 2017/18 Player of the Season?
- Which player played every minute of every game in 2017/18?
- Summer signing Andy Cook helped which club win promotion to the EFL last season?
- From which club did Walsall sign Morgan Ferrier?
- Two Connors arrived on loan from Wolves in August – what are their surnames?
- Which player scored the first Saddlers goal of 2018/19?
- Against which club did Josh Ginnelly break his Walsall duck, in a Carabao Cup first-round tie?
- How many points did we take from our first five league games in 2018/19?
- Our first clean sheet of 2018/19 came in match eight – at home to which club?
- Which player scored a last-minute winner at Bristol Rovers in October?
- Which invited Under-21 team did the Saddlers beat 3-1 in the Checkatrade Trophy?
- Walsall beat Coventry to reach the FA Cup second round for the first time since what year?
- Which player scored the winning goal in that game – his first for Walsall?
- The Saddlers' one televised game of 2018 came against which team?
- Liam Kinsella's FA Cup winner at Sunderland was his second goal for the Saddlers, with both strikes coming against the same goalkeeper. Name him.
- How many times have the Saddlers faced Sunderland in 2018?
- Including today, how many competitive matches have we played in the whole of 2018?

ANSWERS: 1) Plymouth 2) Four 3) Blackpool 4) Blackburn 5) Southend 6) Erhun Ozturner 7) 17 8) Shrewsbury 9) Wrexham 10) George Dobson 11) Bradford 12) Two 13) 19th 14) Joe Edwards 15) Jon Guthrie 16) Tranmere 17) Boreham Wood 18) Johnson & Roman 19) Andy Cook 20) Tranmere 21) 13 22) Blackpool 23) Kieron Morris 24) Middlesbrough 25) 2015 26) Nicky Devlin 27) Fleetwood 28) Jon McLaughlin 29) Three times 30) 56

ANSWER: A) Roots Hall, Southend United, 3-0 B) Prenton Park, Tranmere Rovers, 3-1 C) Kingsmeadow, AFC Wimbledon, 3-1 D) Sportland, Rochdale, 2-1 E) Pirelli Stadium, Burton Albion, 2-1 F) Kassam Stadium, Oxford United, 2-1 G) Memorial Stadium, Bristol Rovers, 1-0 H) Stadium of Light, Sunderland, 1-0

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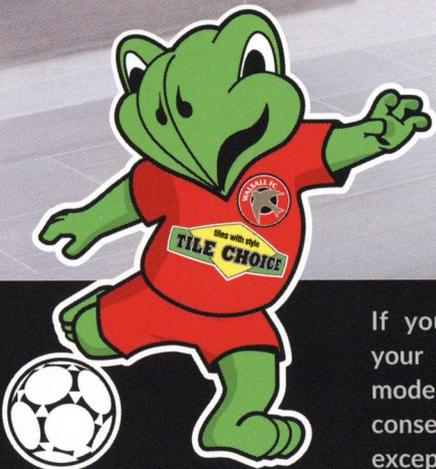
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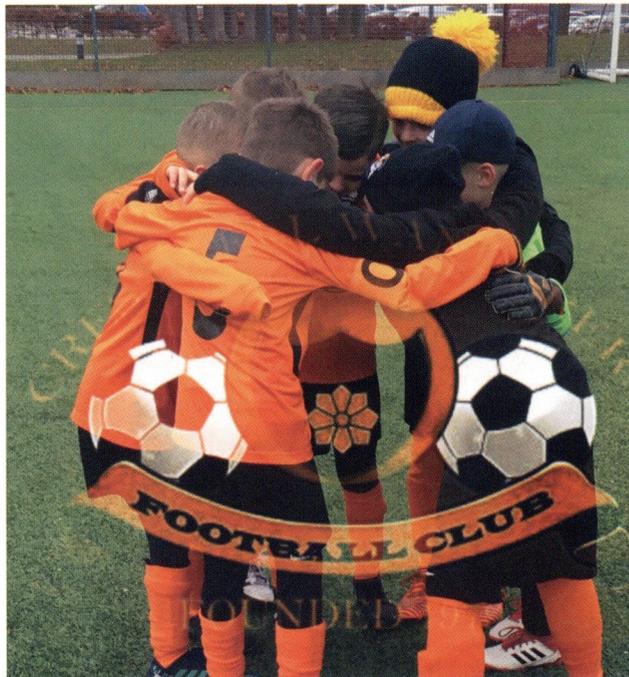
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Community

BALL BOYS AND FLAG BEARERS

Our ball boys and flag bearers this afternoon are from Cresswell Wanderers FC. Included in the flag bearer group is Preston Butler, who is celebrating his eighth birthday. Happy birthday from all at Cresswell and Walsall FC!



Walsall Happier You (WHY)

Are you aged over 35 and interested in getting fit and learning about ways you can stay healthy, while earning free football match tickets, winning prizes and meeting new people all in the comfort and safety of Walsall's Banks's Stadium.

WHY aims to bring together people to help raise awareness of lifestyle issues which increase your chances of having heart disease or a stroke, getting diabetes, kidney disease, dementia and what can be done to help you stay healthy.

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WalsallFCPP @WFCCP @phwalsall



Walsall Happier You (WHY) Schedule

Date	Session
Saturday 12 January	Sign up to the 14 week program and receive a FREE ticket for yourself and a guest to Walsall v Scunthorpe United
Wednesday 16 January	30-60 minute activity & walk
Wednesday 23 January	30 minute walk & 30 minute workshop on Healthy Foods
Saturday 26 January	Walk from Morrison's to Walsall v Wimbledon and receive 1 FREE match ticket (2 additional guest tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate)
Wednesday 30 January	30-60 minute activity & walk
Wednesday 6 February	30-60 minute activity & walk
Wednesday 13 February	30 minute walk & 30 minute workshop on The Importance of Being Active
Wednesday 20 February	30-60 minute activity & walk
Saturday 23 February	Walk from Morrison's to Walsall v Bradford City and receive 1 FREE match ticket (2 additional guest tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate)
Wednesday 27 February	30-60 minute activity & walk
Wednesday 6 March	30-60 minute activity & walk
Wednesday 13 March	30 minute walk & 30 minute workshop on General Healthy Lifestyle - A Footballer's Perspective (subject to player availability)
Wednesday 20 March	30-60 minute activity & walk
Saturday 23 March	Walk from Morrison's to Walsall v Barnsley and receive 1 FREE match ticket (2 additional guest tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate)
Wednesday 27 March	30 minute walk & 30 minute workshop on A Positive Outlook
Wednesday 3 April	30-60 minute activity & walk
Wednesday 10 April	30-60 minute activity & walk
Wednesday 17 April	30 minute walk & program celebration
Saturday 27 April	Walk from Morrison's to Walsall v Peterborough United and receive 1 FREE match ticket (2 additional guest tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate)



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Website - www.walsallfccp.co.uk

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WALSALL FC CHRISTMAS VISITS

Walsall FC players and staff headed to Fair Oaks Day Hospice and Walsall Manor Hospital this year to spread Christmas cheer.

Manager Dean Keates, along with assistant manager Andy Davies and other members of the Saddlers' backroom staff, visited the hospice at Walsall Palliative Care Centre.

They were joined by players George Dobson, Joe Edwards, Nicky Devlin and player-coach Russell Martin.

The Saddlers switched on the hospice's Christmas lights, meeting patients and their families and taking part in some festive activities.

The whole first-team squad then visited the Walsall Manor Hospital on 18th December.

The group met parents and staff on the paediatric wards, as well as handing out various Christmas gifts to children on the ward.

They also visited the elderly care ward to meet and take photos with some of the older patients and their families.

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year!



Baby changing facilities are available in the Savoy Lounge, the Main Stand and the Community Stand. Supporters in the HomeServe and University of Wolverhampton (Away) Stand should ask the nearest steward to be escorted to the Community Room.

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MICK KEARNS

A Legend's Column

The Boxing Day defeat to Bristol Rovers was disappointing to say the least – as poor a display as I have seen all season.

Rovers were poor but wanted it more, showed more desire and worked harder. Not for the first time, we started slowly and conceded two goals inside the first ten minutes, giving the Pirates something to protect.

At home, the onus is on you to play on the front foot and put the visiting team under pressure – but that didn't happen. We passed the ball too slowly and took too many touches in possession, having no tempo to our play.

We conceded three very poor goals – all at bad times. You'd think scoring on the stroke of half-time would have given the team a boost, but it didn't work out that way. I don't recall their keeper making a single save and, from the moment the third went in, there was no way back.

We were far too 'safe' in possession, always choosing the easy ball. There's nothing wrong with playing 'safe' when you're winning away from home, but when you're 2-0 down at home you've got to take more chances. It was indicative of a team lacking in confidence – and once we go behind, the belief appears to drain out of the players.

Individuals have got to look at themselves. Not enough players were on their game and I would question their commitment. We went out and fulfilled the fixture, but we didn't show enough desire and determination to win a football match. In the end, we got what we deserved.

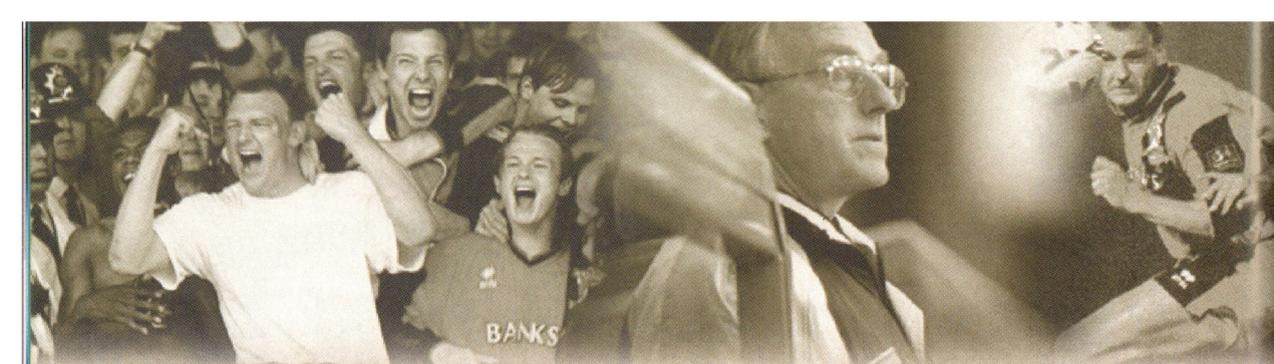
No player emerged with any credit. We conceded three bad goals defensively, the midfield created very little and up front we

didn't look dangerous. What made it all the more frustrating was the fact we went to Peterborough, a team challenging for the play-offs, and were the better team by a street. We also picked up a point against another promotion-chasing team in Barnsley and showed what we are capable of in the three games against Sunderland.

It's as if we raise our game against the teams above us and ease off against those below us. In a strange way, then, coming up against Luton today might actually be a good thing, and give us more edge to our game. But to be in with a chance, we must play with more determination, right from the first whistle, and not concede an early goal.

A response is needed and the next two games, against Luton today and Charlton on New Year's Day, are really tough. In January, we play Scunthorpe and Plymouth – two teams near the bottom – and we need to start picking up points to avoid being sucked into a relegation battle.





THE IMPROBABLES



To commemorate the 20th anniversary of our against-the-odds promotion campaign of 1998/99, we are speaking to the men who made it happen.

In the second of a two-part interview, Holly Hunt speaks to one of our greatest-ever managers, **Ray Graydon...**

An integral part of Ray Graydon's happy life in Bloxwich was a happy wife. Surprisingly, Mrs Graydon jumped at the chance of relocating back to the West Midlands!

"When I said I had a chance to go up to the Midlands – and my wife doesn't normally say anything like this – but she said, 'can we go tomorrow?'. She loved the Black Country people.

"Sue and I bought a house in Bloxwich because I got fed up of driving around all the time. What it did was put me right in front of all the Walsall supporters.

"If I walked across the road, there was always somebody there. If there was something they wanted to say about the weekend, they would say it. I loved all that. I'm not afraid to listen or speak to people."

Baptised 'Sir Ray' by fans, the former boss was a hit with all but one Saddlers supporter.

"A guy came down from the stands and called me every word in the alphabet. I leant over quietly and said, 'if you want to speak to me, you'll speak to me properly and I'll see you in the office on Tuesday afternoon'.

"I was there ready with my shirt and tie on. He came in and before he'd stepped into the office, he put his hand up and said he was so sorry. We had a conversation and I gave him all he wanted."

He eventually made his apologies as public as possible by dressing up in a giant bird costume!

"The following weekend, I was in the tunnel and Swifty the mascot came up to me, took his hat off and it was him from the office and said, 'Ray, I've just got a job here!'"

Popular with officials alike, Graydon prided himself on his treatment of referees, even sharing a beverage, whatever the decisions given.

"I wouldn't let anybody give referees a problem, no matter how many penalties were given against us. That took a lot of work to start this.

"When I went in, I asked Jeff [Bonser] for a fridge and an office. He asked why I wanted one and I said I wanted beers in the fridge so after every game I can offer the referee and linesman to come in.

"There was nobody else in the Football League or the world that would spend the amount of time I did looking after referees. It goes on the grapevine

and after about three months, every time I had a group of officials in, they were pleased to come to Walsall – it spread."

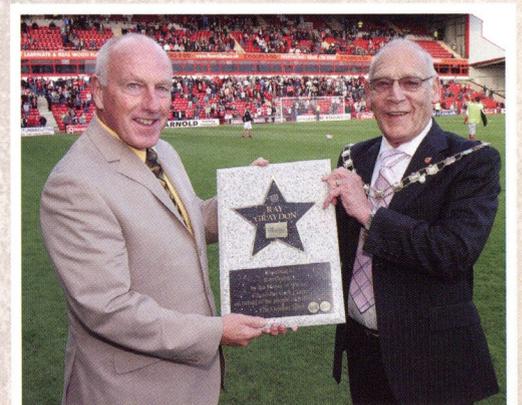
Graydon's Walsall extended a charitable hand to those in need and his own roots and solicitous nature took him back. Although he might have been better suited as a mechanic, as opposed to a manager!

"I've always been ready to help anyone I could. My mum and dad lived in a council house and their car broke down about 20 times driving from Bristol to Birmingham!

"There were a lot of times where we'd help people who were in trouble with money or medical stuff. I pulled my group of players together who weren't on a great deal themselves and asked them to put their hands in their pocket. Not once did they say no."

From humble beginnings to photo finishes, Graydon was congratulated first by a fellow knight-in-arms, who pipped him to the top spot in the Manager of the Season poll. However, one had their title bestowed upon him by royalty – the Black Country – and one by the Queen!

"At the end of the season, I went to the League Managers' Association gathering and the first person that came and spoke to little Ray Graydon was Sir Alex Ferguson. He walked straight up to me and said, 'Ray, you have done something that a million people couldn't have done'. I've never forgotten that."



What if...

David Preece hadn't moved to Luton Town?

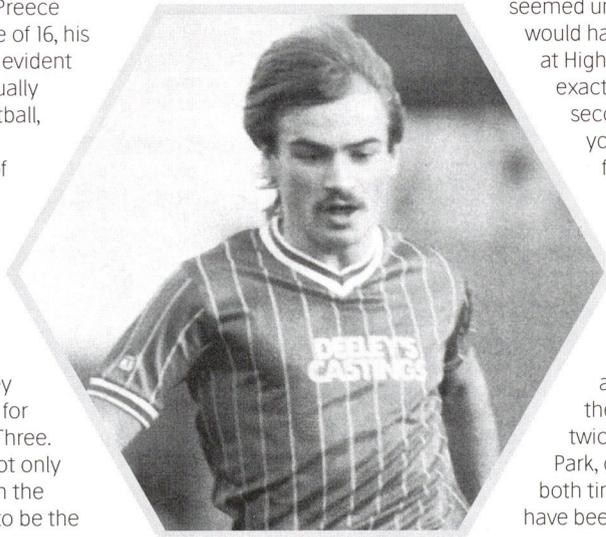
Simon Turner reflects on what Walsall could have achieved if he'd stayed...

When you're a Saddlers fan, the emergence of a brilliant youngster can often be a mixed blessing. On the one hand, it's a joy to watch a precocious teenager run rings around much more experienced professionals, unleashing their talent onto an unsuspecting world. But then comes the crushing realisation that they're just a little too good for Walsall, that they are destined to perform on a grander stage. Allan Clarke, David Kelly, Matty Fryatt, Scott Dann and Troy Deeney all started their careers in WS1 before seeking out the brighter lights. Another name that belongs on the list is that of the tigerish midfielder, David 'Mini' Preece.

The 'Mini' moniker is simple to explain. Standing at 5ft 6ins, Preece was not the most towering of footballers. But what he lacked in height he more than made up for with natural ability. Indeed, there are few better midfielders who have worn the Saddlers shirt, for Preece had it all. Possessing a wonderful left foot, he could carve passes through the tightest of defences. 'Mini' was also a battler, never afraid to mix it with much more fearsome looking opponents. And then there was his seemingly inexhaustible reserves of energy, helping to drive him over every square inch of the pitch, endlessly seeking out opportunities and snuffing out dangers.

A native of Bridgnorth, Preece came to Walsall at the age of 16, his burgeoning natural talent evident for all to see. He was gradually exposed to first-team football, before being selected for Walsall's opening fixture of the 1982/83 season. From that moment on, Preece never looked back. He missed only four games during the entire campaign, becoming a key part of the team that Alan Buckley was building to challenge for promotion from Division Three.

The following season not only defined Preece's time with the Saddlers, but also served to be the



launch pad for the next stage of his career. That was the campaign that witnessed Walsall's march to the semi-finals of the League Cup, with an away victory over Arsenal and a draw at Anfield against Liverpool being the highlights. The 20-year old's tireless displays were a major reason for Walsall's achievements and, inevitably, they got him noticed. Sadly, the home defeat to Liverpool in the second leg of the League Cup semi-final crushed Buckley's young side and their form disintegrated. They were top of the table when Wembley beckoned, but that heartbreak was simply too much for them to bear. Of the remaining 17 league fixtures, only five were won, three were drawn and nine were lost, dropping the club down to sixth place by the end of the season.

The 1984/85 campaign would be Preece's last at the club, though he would leave Saddlers fans with one more great memory before moving on. Once again, it took place in the League Cup. After defeating Swansea City 5-1 on aggregate in the first round, Buckley's side were drawn against Coventry City, with the tie to be played over two legs. The Sky Blues were a top-tier side at the time, so it came as no great surprise when they won the first leg at Fellows Park by two goals to one. A repeat of the previous

season's run in the competition seemed unlikely, given that Walsall would have to overturn the deficit at Highfield Road. Yet, that was exactly what they did. Three second-half goals, two from a young David Kelly and one from Richard O'Kelly, gave the Saddlers a famous victory, with the indefatigable Preece pulling the strings in midfield.

That triumph was nearly followed by another against Chelsea in the next round, with Walsall twice taking the lead at Fellows Park, only to be pegged back both times. There could easily have been a different outcome, with



the Saddlers controversially having a goal disallowed when they were 2-1 up. The West London side won the replay, and within the space of a few weeks Preece was gone, being transferred to Luton Town as striker Steve Elliott came the other way in part-exchange. The Bedfordshire club may reside in League One these days, but they were in the top flight back in the 1980s. It was the stage that Preece's talents deserved.

In the season before Preece arrived, Luton finished in 16th place in Division One, just three points above the relegation zone. After arriving in December 1984, Preece helped David Pleat's side to secure a 13th-place spot. Then, in his first full season at the club, Luton ended the campaign in ninth place, improving to a seventh-place finish a year later. Those were the glory years for Luton, and 'Mini' was right at the heart of it.

The pinnacle of Preece's career came in 1988. Fittingly, given his past heroics at Walsall, it came in the League Cup. Luton reached the final, but were up against the holders and favourites, Arsenal. In a scintillating game, the underdogs took an early lead, with Brian Stein scoring from a well-taken Preece free-kick. They kept their lead for most of the match, but two Arsenal goals in four minutes turned the final on its head. Then, with just ten minutes remaining, the Gunners were given a golden opportunity to seal the victory. They were awarded a penalty, but a fine save by Andy Dibble gave Luton hope once more. Within a couple of minutes, Luton scrambled an equaliser and then Stein scored the winner with almost the last kick of the game. Once again, David Preece had been the scourge of Arsenal.

And what of the club he left behind? Buckley's side coped well enough in the months immediately following Preece's departure, winning eight from nine games in

early 1985 and looking promotion contenders once more. But then came another end-of-season collapse, with a meagre couple of victories from the remaining 14 fixtures resulting in the Saddlers finishing in a disappointing 11th place. The 1985/86 campaign should have been the one where Buckley finally took Walsall up. His team started brilliantly, winning seven of their first nine fixtures to claim second place in the table. However, their performances then became horribly inconsistent, as demonstrated by a 6-3 mauling of Cardiff City being followed immediately by a 5-2 hammering away at Gillingham. The Saddlers were down to sixth place by the turn of the year and stayed there until the end of the season, missing out on promotion by nine points. It was a fine Saddlers team, but it was just missing something. Perhaps it was missing David Preece.

'Mini' went on to have an impressive career, spending much of it in the top flight with Luton, as well as playing three times for the England 'B' team. Tragically, he passed away in 2007, at the age of only 44. As a testament of how well remembered he is at Luton, one of the stands at Kenilworth Road is named after him. Preece was one of those Walsall players whose tail feathers were a little brighter than the rest and, who knows, maybe one of today's youngsters will follow in his footsteps. George Dobson, Liam Kinsella, the stage is yours...

Simon Turner is the author of 'If Only: An Alternative History of the Beautiful Game' published by Pitch Publishing. You can follow him on Twitter at @simonturner100

NAME GAME

WALSALL 3-1 LUTON

Can you name the starting XI from the Saddlers' 3-1 victory over Luton during our Ray Graydon-inspired 2000/01 play-off winning season, on 20th February 2001?



BEST



CAREER PERFORMANCE

Away at Man City in the Premier League when I was a young kid at

West Brom. It was a long time ago!



GROUND YOU'VE PLAYED AT

Wembley, in the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. It was an unbelievable stadium to play in.

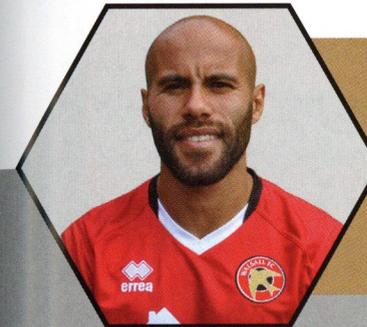
THING ABOUT BEING A FOOTBALLER

Being able to do something you love day in, day out. It's a great career.



FILM

Man on Fire – I love the way it's shot. I like action films and the acting is very good.



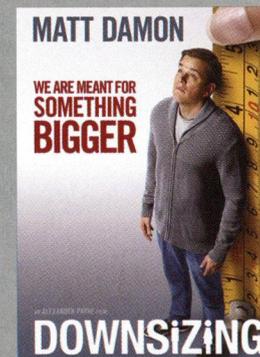
BEST & WORST with Adam Chambers...

FOOD

I don't eat pork so anything like bacon sandwiches aren't for me.

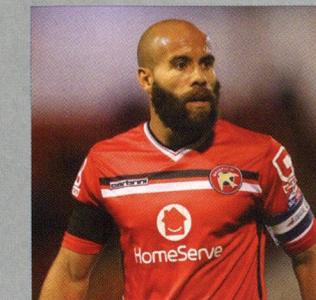
FILM

Downsizing with Matt Damon – terrible! I kept thinking there would be some sort of twist to save the film.



MISS

I can't remember the last time I had a shot! There was an unbelievable move away at Morecambe a few years back and it came to me one-on-one but I missed the target.



THING ABOUT BEING A FOOTBALLER

Injuries – not being able to train or play, it's difficult to deal with.

DRESSED AT THE CLUB

Maz Kouhyar with his camo tracksuits – it's like he's trying to hide from everyone!

BANTER IN THE DRESSING ROOM

Luke Leahy – he's always trying to do something to be funny. Occasionally he gets one right but the majority of the time it's not funny.



WORST

ANSWERS:
1 – Jimmy Walker, 3 – Ian Brightwell, 25 – Tony Barras, 15 – Ian Roper, 14 – Jorge Leitao, 19 – Paul Hall, 4 – Tom Bennett, 10 – Dean Keates, 27 – Pedro Matias, 11 – Brett Angell, 14 – Jorge Leitao.

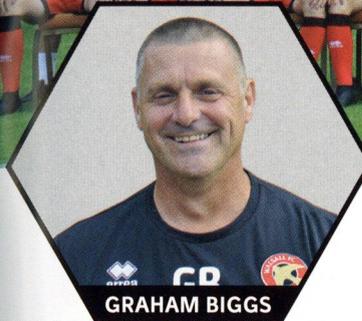
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AUGUST		
Sat 04	Fleetwood Town	A 1-1
Sat 11	Wigan Athletic	H 0-1
Sat 18	Port Vale	A 1-4
Sat 25	Doncaster (EFL Youth Alliance Cup)	H 1-2
SEPTEMBER		
Sat 01	Tranmere Rovers (EFL Youth Alliance Cup)	H 1-1
Sat 15	Shrewsbury	A 1-1
Sat 22	Preston North End	H 1-3
Sat 29	Blackpool	A 1-1
OCTOBER		
Sat 06	Lincoln City (EFL Youth Alliance Cup)	A 1-0
Fri 19	Notts County (FA Youth Cup)	H 1-2
Sat 27	Carlisle United	A 1-0
NOVEMBER		
Sat 17	Accrington Stanley	H 3-0
Tue 20	Rochdale	A 1-4
DECEMBER		
Sat 01	Morecambe	H 1-1
JANUARY		
Sat 05	Rochdale	H
Sat 12	Shrewsbury Town	H
Sat 19	Tranmere Rovers	A
Sat 26	Blackpool	H 12 Noon
FEBRUARY		
Sat 02	Wrexham	A
Sat 09	Preston North End	A
Sat 16	Bury	A
Sat 23	Shrewsbury Town	A
MARCH		
Sat 02	Carlisle United	H 12 Noon
Sat 16	Accrington Stanley	A 12 Noon
Sat 23	Bury	H
Sat 30	Wrexham	H
APRIL		
Sat 06	Morecambe	A 12 Noon
Tue 10	Rochdale	A
Sat 13	Fleetwood Town	H 12 Noon
Sat 27	Wigan Athletic	A
MAY		
Sat 04	Port Vale	H

From an Academy and development perspective, we have been pleased with the season so far.

Alfie Bates made his first-team debut in the Checktrade Trophy and was on the bench for the FA Cup tie at Sunderland. Alex McSkeane was also in the squad for the Checktrade, while Luke Little and Sam Leivesley were involved with the first team throughout pre-season.

Some of our 16 and 17-year-old boys have also played for the Development Squad, exposing them to real men's competitive football. The competitive side is missing from day-to-day school boy academy football, so having them experience that with the Under-23s can only bode well for the future.

Performances have been very good but, unfortunately, we haven't been able to convert them into results. We haven't

always had the rub of the green and our league position isn't helped by the fact we have only played ten games, while other teams have played up to 15. We have also had a bad run of luck with injuries, resulting in us losing half the squad and having to field Under-16 players. Performances have been there, but they've not been backed up by results.

We will be in over the festive period to keep the boys fresh. They will be doing some boxing and multi-sports at the University, and we've also arranged some friendlies to keep everyone ticking over, for when the league programme resumes on 5th January.

I would like to thank all Academy staff and the board of directors for their continued support, and I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Graham Biggs
Academy Manager

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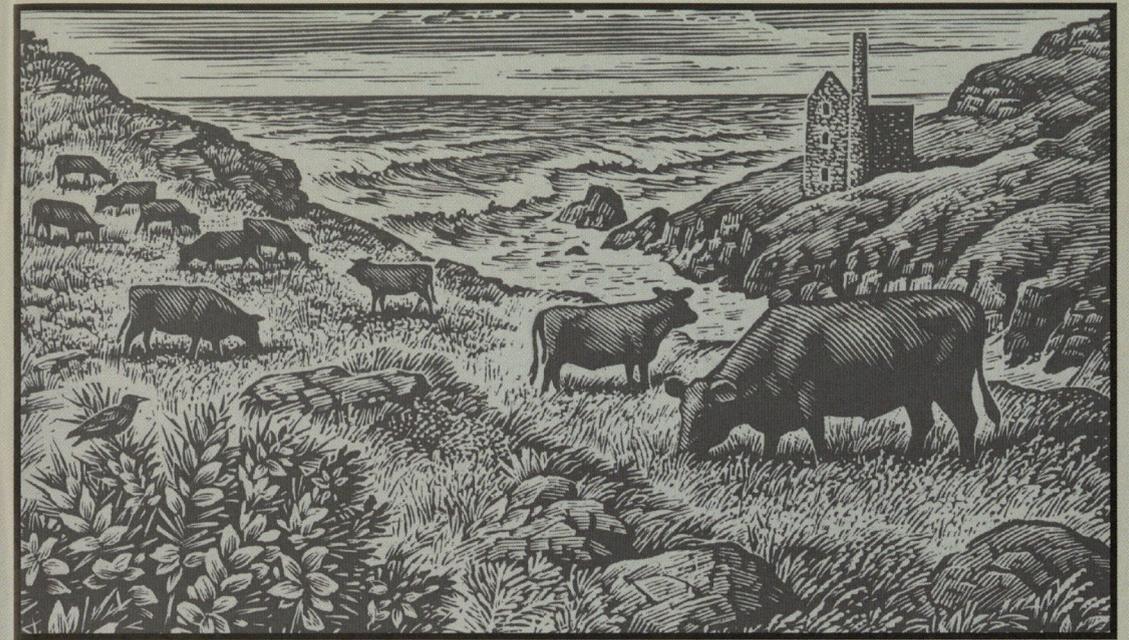
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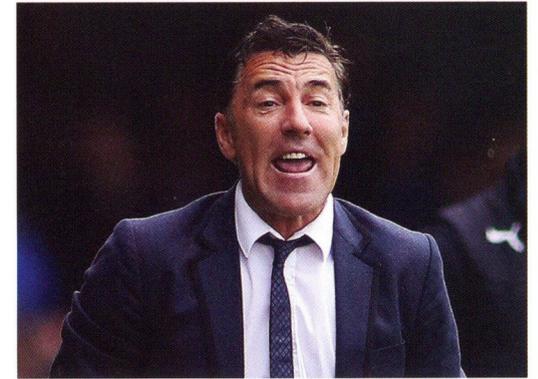
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We would like to thank Exceed Chemical Blacking for their support. We hope they enjoy their day at the Banks's Stadium and the Saddlers can bring them the three points.



DEAN SAUNDERS

We are hosting a Sporting Dinner with former Liverpool, Aston Villa and Wales striker Dean Saunders on Thursday 28th March.

Starting his career with his hometown club Swansea, the now-54-year-old won 75 caps for his country and was manager of Wrexham, Doncaster and Wolves.

Tickets are priced at just £40 per person, inclusive of a three-course meal.



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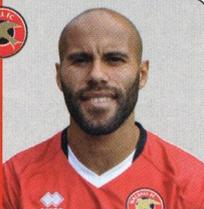
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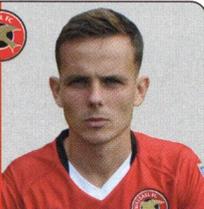
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Alan Miles

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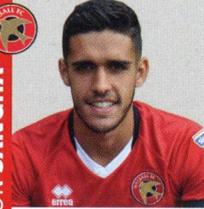
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KEY STATISTICS



TABLE AS OF 27/12/18

Pos	Team	HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts	
		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	W	D	L	GF			GA
1	Portsmouth	24	7	3	2	22	11	8	3	1	17	10	+18	51
2	Luton	24	10	2	0	31	9	5	3	4	16	13	+25	50
3	Sunderland	22	7	4	0	24	10	6	3	2	19	12	+21	46
4	Charlton	24	8	2	2	20	9	5	2	5	19	18	+12	43
5	Barnsley	23	6	5	0	17	7	6	1	5	21	14	+17	42
6	Peterborough	24	4	5	3	15	16	7	3	2	26	15	+10	41
7	Doncaster	24	6	4	2	19	13	5	2	5	20	18	+8	39
8	Blackpool	23	6	3	3	17	12	3	4	4	9	12	+2	34
9	Accrington	23	4	4	3	13	13	5	3	4	14	15	-1	34
10	Fleetwood	24	6	4	2	19	12	3	2	7	14	13	+8	33
11	Southend	24	5	1	6	19	14	5	1	6	11	16	0	32
12	Wycombe	24	6	3	3	18	13	2	5	5	16	22	-1	32
13	Coventry	24	5	3	4	12	11	4	2	6	13	18	-4	32
14	Walsall	24	4	3	5	14	20	4	4	4	11	17	-12	31
15	Burton	23	7	1	4	17	11	2	2	7	12	21	-3	30
16	Rochdale	24	4	2	6	13	19	4	4	4	20	24	-10	30
17	Gillingham	24	4	2	6	19	19	4	2	6	16	19	-3	28
18	Shrewsbury	24	6	4	2	17	11	1	3	8	11	20	-3	28
19	Oxford	24	6	0	6	20	15	0	8	4	11	21	-5	26
20	Bristol R	24	3	2	7	11	16	3	3	6	12	13	-6	23
21	Bradford	24	4	1	7	13	15	2	2	8	11	25	-16	21
22	AFC W'bleton	24	3	2	7	13	19	3	1	8	6	16	-16	21
23	Scunthorpe	24	2	4	6	17	29	3	2	7	12	22	-22	21
24	Plymouth	24	3	3	6	16	24	2	2	8	11	22	-19	20

PLAYER STATS 2018/19

	League		Cup		Season Total		WFC Total	
	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
1 Liam Roberts	24	0	4	0	28	0	56 (1)	0
2 Joe Edwards	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (2)	0	79 (5)	10
3 Luke Leahy	24	3	8	0	32	3	84	6
4 George Dobson	21 (1)	0	4	0	25 (1)	0	58 (15)	2
5 Jon Guthrie	24	0	6	0	30	0	82	1
6 Nicky Devlin	21 (1)	0	4 (1)	1	25 (2)	1	57 (6)	1
7 Adam Chambers	1	0	0	0	1	0	324 (7)	2
8 Kieron Morris	11 (5)	2	6 (2)	3	17 (7)	5	117 (52)	20
9 Andy Cook	19 (5)	5	5 (1)	4	24 (6)	9	24 (6)	9
10 Zeli Ismail	11 (5)	3	3 (2)	1	14 (7)	4	30 (11)	7
11 Josh Ginnelly	18 (3)	2	4	2	22 (3)	4	30 (9)	4
13 Chris Dunn	0	0	5	0	5	0	5	0
14 Kory Roberts	0	0	0	0	0	0	25 (3)	0
15 Liam Kinsella	9 (5)	0	6 (1)	1	15 (6)	1	56 (15)	2
16 Morgan Ferrier	19 (5)	3	5	1	24 (5)	4	24 (5)	4
17 Maz Kouhyar	0	0	3 (1)	1	3 (1)	1	15 (17)	3
18 Jordan Sangha	0	0	1	0	1	0	1 (2)	0
19 Mitch Candlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (8)	0
20 Connor Johnson	0	0	4	1	4	1	4	1
21 Callum Cockerill-Mollett	0	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	3 (1)	0
22 Tobias Hayles-Docherty	0	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (2)	0
24 Dan Vann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 Cameron Peters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Dylan Parker	0	0	1 (2)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (2)	0
27 Jack Fitzwater	17	0	6	1	23	1	39	4
28 Kane Wilson	5 (8)	0	6	0	11 (8)	0	11 (8)	0
29 Josh Gordon	11 (8)	2	7 (1)	2	18 (9)	4	18 (9)	4
30 Isaiah Osbourne	17	3	3	0	20	3	49 (3)	4
31 Connor Ronan	4 (7)	0	4	0	8 (7)	0	8 (7)	0
32 Alfie Bates	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	0
34 Russell Martin	8	0	3	0	11	0	11	0



FIXTURES

Saturday 29th December
 (Kick-off 3.00pm unless stated)

Oxford v Bristol Rovers (1.00pm)
 Accrington v Peterborough
 AFC Wimbledon v Blackpool
 Barnsley v Charlton
 Burton v Plymouth
 Coventry v Southend
 Fleetwood v Portsmouth
 Gillingham v Doncaster
 Rochdale v Bradford
 Scunthorpe v Wycombe
 Sunderland v Shrewsbury
Walsall v Luton

TOP SCORERS

Eaves Gillingham 14
 Henderson Rochdale 13
 Maja Sunderland 12
 Marquis Doncaster 12
 Grant Charlton 11
 Ladapo Plymouth 11
 Moore Barnsley 11
 Godden P'borough 10
 Lee Luton 10
 Taylor Charlton 10
 Collins Luton 9
 Madden Fleetwood 9

REFEREE



Ollie Yates

Yates has issued 65 yellow cards and three reds in the 21 games he has officiated so far this season. He has awarded six penalties, including two in his most recent assignment – Mansfield's 2-1 Boxing Day victory over Bury in League Two. Yates took charge of Luton's goalless draw at Rochdale last month, sending off Hatters striker Danny Hylton for violent conduct.



WALSALL FC 2018|19



DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	KO/RES	POS	ATT	AWAY																				
AUGUST																										
Sat 04	Plymouth Argyle	H	2-1	8	5,755	1,740	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy 1	Ismail	Dobson	Chambers	Ginnelly	Ferrier	Cook 1	Dunn	Wilson	Kinsella	Morris	Kouhyar	Candlin	Parker		
Sat 11	Scunthorpe United	A	1-1	8	4,331	394	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail 1	Dobson	Osbourne	Ginnelly	Ferrier	Cook	Dunn	Wilson	Kinsella	Morris	Kouhyar	Gordon	Candlin		
Tue 14	Tranmere Rovers (Carabao Cup R1)	A	3-1	N/A	3,817	355	Dunn	Wilson	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail 1	Dobson	Kinsella	Ginnelly 1	Ferrier 1	Cook	L Roberts	Devlin	Osbourne	Morris	Kouhyar	Gordon	Candlin		
Sat 18	Gillingham	H	2-1	4	4,361	332	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris 1	Dobson	Osbourne 1	Ginnelly	Ferrier 1	Cook	Dunn	Wilson	Kinsella	Sangha	Kouhyar	Gordon	Candlin		
Tue 21	AFC Wimbledon	A	3-1	4	3,887	244	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris 1	Dobson	Osbourne	Ginnelly	Ferrier	Cook 1	Dunn	Wilson	Kinsella	Sangha	Kouhyar	Gordon	Candlin		
Sat 25	Rochdale	A	2-1	4	3,080	566	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris 1	Dobson	Osbourne	Ginnelly 1	Ferrier	Cook	Dunn	Wilson	Kinsella	Ismail 1	Kouhyar	Gordon	Candlin		
Tue 28	Macclesfield (Carabao Cup R2)	H	3-3*	N/A	2,352	177	Dunn	Wilson	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris 1	Dobson	Kinsella	Kouhyar	Gordon 1	Cook 1	L Roberts	Devlin	C-Mollett	Sangha	Ferrier	Candlin	Parker		
SEPTEMBER																										
Sat 01	Blackpool	H	0-0	5	4,762	364	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris 1	Dobson	Osbourne	Ismail	Ferrier	Cook	Dunn	Wilson	C-Mollett	Kinsella	Kouhyar	Gordon	Parker		
Tue 04	Burton (EFL Trophy GS)	A	2-1	N/A	724	229	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Johnson	Wilson	Morris 1	Ronan	Sangha	Kouhyar	Gordon 1	Parker	Dunn	Guthrie	C-Mollett	Osbourne	Dobson	H-Docherty	Cook		
Sat 08	Barnsley	A	1-1	5	11,468	251	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Osbourne	Gordon	Dobson	Ronan	Ginnelly	Ferrier	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Sangha	Morris	Kouhyar	Cook 1		
Sat 15	Doncaster Rovers	H	1-4	6	4,726	496	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris 1	Osbourne	Dobson	Ginnelly	Cook	Ferrier 1	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Kinsella	Ronan	Ismail	Gordon		
Sat 22	Oxford United	A	2-1	5	6,080	658	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail 1	Osbourne	Dobson	Ginnelly	Gordon	Ferrier 1	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Kinsella	Ronan	Morris	Cook		
Sat 29	Accrington Stanley	H	0-1	7	4,257	233	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail	Osbourne	Dobson	Ginnelly	Gordon	Ferrier	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Kinsella	Ronan	Morris	Cook		
OCTOBER																										
Tue 02	Shrewsbury Town	H	0-0	7	4,555	806	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail	Osbourne	Dobson	Ginnelly	Cook	Ferrier	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Kinsella	Ronan	Morris	Gordon		
Sat 06	Bristol Rovers	A	1-0	5	7,768	468	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail	Kinsella	Dobson	Ginnelly	Cook	Ferrier	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Ronan	Kouhyar	Morris 1	Gordon		
Tue 09	M'broung U21s (EFL Trophy GS)	H	3-1	N/A	702	9	Dunn	Wilson	Johnson	Fitzwater 1	Leahy	Morris 1	Ronan	Bates	Kouhyar 1	Cook 1	Gordon	L Roberts	Guthrie	Devlin	Vann	Ismail	McSkeane	Parker		
Sat 20	Luton Town	A	0-2	8	8,953	504	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail	Kinsella	Dobson	Ginnelly	Cook	Ferrier	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Ronan	Osbourne	Morris	Gordon		
Tue 23	Southend United	A	0-3	12	5,603	137	L Roberts	Wilson	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Osbourne	Morris	Dobson	Ronan	Ginnelly	Ferrier	Dunn	Johnson	Devlin	Kinsella	Ismail	Cook	Gordon		
Sat 27	Wycombe Wanderers	H	3-2	9	4,265	589	L Roberts	Wilson	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Osbourne 1	Ronan	Dobson	Morris	Ferrier	Cook 1	Dunn	Johnson	Devlin	Kinsella	Ginnelly	Ismail	Gordon		
NOVEMBER																										
Sat 03	Burton Albion	H	1-3	10	5,297	559	L Roberts	Wilson	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Osbourne	Ronan	Dobson	Morris	Ferrier	Cook 1	Dunn	Johnson	Devlin	Kinsella	Ginnelly	Ismail	Gordon		
Tue 06	Charlton Athletic	H	0-2	11	3,719	328	L Roberts	Devlin	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Gordon	Osbourne	Dobson	Ginnelly	Ferrier	Cook	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Kinsella	Ronan	Ismail	Morris		
Sat 10	Coventry City (FA Cup R1)	H	3-2	N/A	4,760	2,665	L Roberts	Devlin 1	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail	Kinsella	Dobson	Ginnelly 1	Gordon	Cook 1	Dunn	Johnson	Ronan	Bates	Morris	Kouhyar	Parker		
Tue 13	Port Vale (EFL Trophy GS)	H	1-2	N/A	878	64	Dunn	Wilson	Johnson 1	Fitzwater	Leahy	Ismail	Bates	Ronan	Morris	Gordon	Ferrier	L Roberts	Guthrie	Devlin	Kinsella	McSkeane	Parker	Cook		
Sat 17	Fleetwood Town	A	0-0	11	3,090	338	L Roberts	Devlin	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail	Kinsella	Dobson	Ginnelly	Gordon	Cook	Dunn	Johnson	Fitzwater	Ronan	Ronan	Morris	Ferrier		
Sat 24	Sunderland	H	2-2	11	7,868	3,279	L Roberts	Devlin	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Ismail	Kinsella	Dobson	Ginnelly 1	Gordon 1	Cook	Dunn	Fitzwater	Wilson	Osbourne	Ronan	Morris	Ferrier		
Tue 27	Portsmouth	A	0-2	13	16,794	184	L Roberts	Devlin	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Wilson	Kinsella	Dobson	Ginnelly	Gordon	Ferrier	Dunn	Fitzwater	Johnson	Osbourne	Ronan	Morris	Cook		
DECEMBER																										
Sat 01	Sunderland (FA Cup R2)	H	1-1	N/A	3,140	948	L Roberts	Devlin	Johnson	Guthrie	Leahy	Osbourne	Dobson	Kinsella	Gordon	Cook 1	Ferrier	Dunn	Edwards	Ronan	Morris	Kouhyar	Ginnelly	Parker		
Wed 05	Shrewsbury (EFL Trophy R2)	A	1-2	N/A	1,857	239	Dunn	Fitzwater	Martin	Guthrie	Wilson	Kinsella	Osbourne	Leahy	Ronan	Morris 1	Ferrier	L Roberts	Devlin	Edwards	Ismail	Kouhyar	Cook	Gordon		
Sat 08	Coventry City	H	2-1	10	5,926	2,202	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy 2	Osbourne	Martin	Kinsella	Gordon	Cook	Ferrier	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Ronan	Morris	Ginnelly	Ismail		
Tue 11	Sunderland (FA Cup R2)	A	1-0	N/A	8,212	201	L Roberts	Devlin	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris	Kinsella 1	Osbourne	Ginnelly	Gordon	Ferrier	Dunn	Johnson	Edwards	Bates	Ronan	Kouhyar	Parker		
Sat 15	Bradford City	A	0-4	11	15,314	266	L Roberts	Devlin	Martin	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris	Kinsella	Osbourne	Ginnelly	Gordon	Cook	Dunn	Johnson	Fitzwater	Wilson	Edwards	Ronan	Ferrier		
Sat 22	Peterborough United	A	1-1	11	7,243	262	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy	Morris	Kinsella	Osbourne 1	Wilson	Gordon	Cook	Dunn	Johnson	Edwards	Dobson	Ronan	Ismail	Ferrier		
Wed 26	Bristol Rovers	H	1-3	14	5,069	846	L Roberts	Devlin	Fitzwater	Guthrie	Leahy 1	Morris	Kinsella	Dobson	Ismail	Gordon 1	Cook	Dunn	Johnson	Wilson	Edwards	Bates	Ronan	Ferrier		
Sat 29	Luton Town	H	15.00																							
JANUARY																										
Tue 01	Charlton Athletic	A	15.00																							
Sat 05	Bolton (FA Cup R3)	A	15.00																							
Sat 12	Scunthorpe United	H	15.00																							
Sat 19	Gillingham	A	15.00																							
Tue 22	Plymouth Argyle	A	15.00																							
Sat 26	AFC Wimbledon	H	15.00																							
FEBRUARY																										
Sat 02	Rochdale	H	15.00																							
Sat 09	Blackpool	A	15.00																							
Sat 16	Coventry City	A	15.00																							
Sat 23	Bradford City	H	15.00																							
Sat 30	Doncaster Rovers	A	15.00																							
MARCH																										
Sat 02	Burton Albion	A	15.00																							
Sat 09	Fleetwood Town	H	15.00																							
Tue 12	Portsmouth	H	19.45																							
Sat 16	Sunderland	A	15.00																							
Sat 23	Barnsley	H	15.00																							
Sat 30	Doncaster Rovers	A	15.00																							
APRIL																										
Sat 06	Oxford United	H	15.00																							
Sat 13	Accrington Stanley	A	15.00																							
Fri 19	Southend United	H	15.00																							
Mon 22	Wycombe Wanderers	A	15.00																							
Sat 27	Peterborough United	H	15.00																							
MAY																										
Sat 04	Shrewsbury Town	A	17.30																							

KEY: Scorer 1 Yellow Card ■ Red Card ■ 1st Sub 2nd Sub 3rd Sub *Lost 3-1 on penalties

STATS ZONE

With BBC WM's Saddlers reporter **Tom Marlow**



So, we've made it to the final game of 2018 – a calendar year that has brought us the drama of George Dobson's season-saving strike against Northampton, through to FA Cup excitement against Coventry and Sunderland. Read on for a final burst of stats until 2019, including a statistical summary of the past 12 months.

Saddlers' season so far

- On Christmas Day in their nine League One seasons this decade, Saddlers have been:
 - In the top half on five occasions (2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018)
 - In the bottom half on four occasions (2010, 2011, 2014, 2016)
- Saddlers haven't tasted defeat in their final match before Christmas Day for 16 years, since a 2-1 loss at Norwich on 21st December 2002
- Isaiah Osbourne had scored four times in his career before this season. His header at Peterborough means he's already got three this term
- Saddlers have been awarded four penalties in League One, scoring two (Ismail v Scunthorpe, Leahy v Coventry) and missing two (Cook v Plymouth, Leahy v Peterborough). They have conceded five penalties, with their opponents scoring three (Marquis – Doncaster, Kee – Accrington, Taylor – Charlton) and missing two (Kashket – Wycombe, Boyce – Burton)
- Saddlers recently faced three away games in a row (Sunderland – FA Cup, Bradford – league, Peterborough – league) for the first time since April 2016

Hatters Mad with recent form at Walsall

- Saddlers are unbeaten in their last four league meetings with Luton at the Banks's Stadium. They last tasted defeat to the Hatters in a league fixture – March 1998, when Run DMC vs Jason Nevins was at number one and Tony Blair was at number 10
- It's been six league matches and nearly 18 years since both sides scored in this fixture – a 3-1 Saddlers win in February 2001
- Two-thirds of Saddlers' goals against Luton in the 21st century have been scored by players who also have Aston Villa on their CV (Stefan Moore – 1-0 win in 2008; Paul Merson – 2-0 win in 2004; Tom Bennett

and Darren Byfield – 3-1 win in 2001)

- In Walsall's first four home matches against Luton in their history, they scored four (4-1 – April 1928), five (5-0 – January 1898), six (6-0 – February 1899) and seven (7-3 – February 1900)

2018 in focus

After the Luton fixture, Saddlers will have played **56 matches in all competitions in the calendar year of 2018... Up to and including the defeat to Bristol Rovers on Boxing Day:**

- Played 55, Won 19, Drawn 12, Lost 24
- Most common scoreline: 1-1 draw and 2-1 Walsall win (both six times)
- Highest scoring game: 6 goals (Walsall 4-2 Doncaster; Walsall 3-3 Macclesfield)
- Widest winning margin: 4 goals (Bradford 4-0 Walsall)
- Highest league position: 4th (August)
- Lowest league position: 19th (April)
- Most appearances: Luke Leahy (54 matches)
- Youngest player: Alfie Bates v Burton (17 years, 5 months)
- Oldest player: Adam Chambers v Plymouth (37 years, 8 months)
- Top scorer: Andy Cook (9 goals)
- Earliest Walsall goal: 6th minute (Jack Fitzwater v AFC Wimbledon)
- Latest Walsall goal: 90+4th minute (Kieron Morris v Bristol Rovers; Luke Leahy v Coventry)
- Most yellow cards: 10 – George Dobson
- Most red cards: 1 – Zeli Ismail, Connor Johnson
- Favourite opponent: Oxford, Coventry (2 wins)
- Highest attendance: 8,919 (v Northampton)
- Lowest attendance: 702 (v Middlesbrough U21s)
- Longest run without losing: 6 games (4th – 25th August)
- Longest run without a win: 6 games (13th November – 5th December)



This season, **BBC WM** continues its long relationship with Walsall Football Club, reporting on every game home and away and providing live commentaries via iFollow. Keep an eye on **@sportbbcw** for the latest Saddlers news, key interviews and match action, and remember to give Franksy a call and have your say on your club after the final whistle and every weekday from 5.30pm on **08081 00 99 56**.



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UNIVERSITY

University of Wolverhampton
Course enquiries 01902 322 222 wlv.ac.uk

WELDING

J Harper & Sons
Welding Fabrications Ltd
01922 478 419/01922 478 420

WINDOWS

Leamore Windows
www.leamorewindows.com
01922 473 737

ZIPES

Zipex UK Ltd
www.zipex.co.uk
0116 262 4988



WALSALL FC

Manager: Dean Keates

- Liam Roberts 01
- Joe Edwards 02
- Luke Leahy 03
- George Dobson 04
- Jon Guthrie 05
- Nicky Devlin 06
- Adam Chambers 07
- Kieron Morris 08
- Andy Cook 09
- Zeli Ismail 10
- Josh Ginnelly 11
- Chris Dunn 13
- Kory Roberts 14
- Liam Kinsella 15
- Morgan Ferrier 16
- Maz Kouhyar 17
- Jordan Sangha 18
- Mitch Candlin 19
- Connor Johnson 20
- Callum Cockerill-Mollett 21
- Tobias Hayles-Docherty 22
- Joe Slinn 23
- Dan Vann 24
- Cameron Peters 25
- Dylan Parker 26
- Jack Fitzwater 27
- Kane Wilson 28
- Josh Gordon 29
- Isaiah Osbourne 30
- Connor Ronan 31
- Alfie Bates 32
- Alex McSkeane 33
- Russell Martin 34



LUTON TOWN FC

Manager: Nathan Jones

- 01 Marek Stech
- 02 James Justin
- 03 Dan Potts
- 04 Alan McCormack
- 05 Sonny Bradley
- 06 Matty Pearson
- 07 Jack Stacey
- 08 Luke Berry
- 09 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 LuaLua
- 27 Aaron Jarvis
- 28 Lloyd Jones
- 34 Jack James
- 35 Arthur Read
- 36 James Shea
- 40 Harry Isted
- 44 Alan Sheehan

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:
Ollie Yates

Assistant Referee:
Michael Webb

Assistant Referee:
Matthew Smith

Fourth Official:
Grant Taylor



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