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OFFICIAL LTFC MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
2018-19 SEASON | ISSUE #20
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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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

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

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THE MANAGER

MICK HARFORD

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this Sky Bet League One fixture with Wycombe Wanderers.

Wycombe are a side we know well and I've watched them a lot in my main role preparing for the two games we've had with them already this season in the league and FA Cup, so there will be plenty of familiarity this afternoon.

That stretches to the dugout too, as Joe Kinnear and I signed Gareth Ainsworth for Wimbledon many years ago, and I also worked with him at Queens Park Rangers. He's done a great job in his first permanent managerial role at Adams Park and I know he'll relish the opportunity to come here today to try to get a result.

Wycombe are within touching distance of the play-offs after a solid start to life at the higher level, and we respect the tough test that they always pose. I hope Gareth, his staff, the players and all officials and supporters who have made the relatively short journey have an enjoyable afternoon, but not too much, obviously.

I'm on record as saying how well we played in the last home game here against Portsmouth, in difficult conditions with the snow that fell throughout the night. I told the players to relish the opportunity to embrace a night under the lights here in front of a sell-out crowd, first v second, because we hope there won't be too many more with the new stadium in the pipeline.

They certainly did that, and I was absolutely delighted that they followed it up with a thoroughly professional performance to win 3-0 at Shrewsbury last Saturday. It was important to follow up the high of Portsmouth with a solid victory, and they certainly did that.

It was a real honour to be nominated for League One Manager of the Month, and congratulations to Stuart McCall on winning it. What it really said, however, was everything about the staff here and the players, and I'm so glad James Collins has won the Player of the Month award to emphasise what they've all done in recent weeks. As I'm quoted elsewhere in the programme on James' win, I know he'll thank the lads for helping him, and similarly I thank all the staff for their help in recent weeks.

Steve, Ini, Kev, Simon Parsell, Daz and all the medical team, Elliot and Luke – the sports scientists – Pete Booker and his analysts, Andy Awford and all the academy staff who are working so hard to help the first team perform to the levels they are. Thank you all.

Finally, let me welcome the new lads – Alex Baptiste, Jason Cummings and Aaron Connolly, when he's fit – who have come to bolster the squad for the run-in. They are all cracking lads who will contribute in their own way during their time with us.

So, here we go. Let's hear you again. The best fans in English football. That roar against Portsmouth – and the singing that started each time they pegged us back – helped us over the line. The lads loved it, so more of the same today please.

Enjoy the game. COYH!



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH FINANCE DIRECTOR **SIMON GIBB**

Hello and welcome to what should be another great game of football against our local rivals Wycombe in front of another sell-out crowd at Kenilworth Road.

Wycombe arrive on a run of five games without defeat and are sitting just off the play-off positions in ninth, with a neutral goal difference. They, of course, were promoted with ourselves last season having won in the play-off final at Wembley. They have made a couple of useful, young loan signings in the transfer window and come to us hoping to improve on the 1-1 draw at their ground early in the season.

Much, of course, has changed since those early games when we were finding our feet in this division.

We come into the game on the back of four cracking wins on the bounce and a team that is playing some of the best football witnessed at this old ground for many years.

Indeed, if we avoid defeat today we equal the club record for the longest number of Football League games unbeaten set half-a-century ago, when the Hatters went 19 matches without being beaten in two successive years – first between January and April 1968, and then again from the end of the 1968/69 campaign into 1969/70.

For those of you who were lucky enough to get a ticket for the Portsmouth game and braved the weather, I don't think many will disagree that our first half performance was truly stunning, perhaps only lacking the hatful of goals the performance deserved. To do that against one of the top sides in the division in difficult conditions and closely following the loss of the previous manager was superb!

Either side of that result, of course, they have also picked up two vital away wins and kept clean sheets in doing so. Mick Harford and the boys deserve enormous credit for carrying on as if nothing has

happened and we as a Board have been incredibly impressed by their attitudes.

The focus and quality on the pitch is thankfully being noticed and it is great to see Mick nominated for Sky Bet League One Manager of the Month and James Collins winning the Player of the Month award after a fantastic few weeks, not only thumping in the goals but with his excellent all-round contribution.

The success on the field left us a little nervous over the transfer deadline period as we anticipated interest in several players. It says a lot for the togetherness of the squad that despite potential disrupters, we managed to come through the January window with our core squad completely intact and with the addition of some high quality signings to further strengthen ourselves for the push to the end of the season.

It is great to welcome George Moncur who will add quality and experience, as well as some goal potential to the midfield and forward line, with loan signings George Thorne providing cover for Glen Rea, Alex Baptiste bringing defensive experience and finally Jason Cummings and Aaron Connolly, when he's fit, who are both talented forwards in their own right.

We also took the chance to loan out several players to gain important experience at other clubs, and we wish Akin Famewo all the very best as he departs to further his career at Norwich.

We remain very grateful to all of you who follow the lads across the country. We are also seeing that support on iFollow as the viewing figures for the live stream of the Portsmouth game were the highest ever recorded for a game in the EFL to date. Eighty



per cent of the funds from iFollow come back to the club, so thanks for doing your bit.

There was one really nice story in the media this week where an extremely thoughtful Shrewsbury steward helped disabled Hatters supporter

George Barnard – a wheelchair user – to get up and celebrate the three Luton goals. Shrewsbury subsequently made Loviu Ngozulu the man of the match – a decision we whole-heartedly support!

We recently reported in the programme how our own stewards were praised for their quick actions and kind-hearted nature by other clubs' supporters at games before Christmas, so it is great that our fans similarly acknowledge and share their positive experiences at other clubs.

With everything going on in January including the unexpected management change, transfer window, Power Court planning etc, we felt it was necessary to request a delay to the Newlands Park planning meeting. I am pleased to say that we have just had a new date confirmed by the council as 11th March 2019. As we know, this second part of the plans is vital if we are to deliver the stadium and complex we desire!

Of course we wouldn't have got this far without the overwhelming support of ourselves and the Luton community, for which we hope to repay that faith with a wonderful new set of facilities for the town.

We continue as a board to try to improve our facilities as well as our squad, and we have just signed off works to create a third training pitch for

the first team at The Brache. These improvements continue to make our facilities there closer and closer to Premier League quality.

As an endorsement to that strategy we have been selected as one of the potential training locations included in the UEFA Team Facilities Catalogue for international teams based in the UK for Euro 2020. Onwards and upwards!

It will be very busy again today so please try to pay by card at the catering outlets if you can as it speeds up queues, and as the season comes towards an exciting finale, tickets are running out fast. If you are quick you can secure the last few tickets for matches, and we still have limited hospitality packages available for some games.

Finally, we have a cracking nostalgic event that you shouldn't miss, with a full re-run of the JPT final when Mick led the team to Wembley glory against Scunthorpe in front of over 40,000 Hatters a decade ago.

Let's now concentrate on today's game. Your support has been great so far and we have another full house again, so let's get behind the boys and cheer them on to another victory. COYH!





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THE SKIPPER

Alan Sheehan

Here we go again - another packed house here at Kenilworth Road for yet another big game in our attempt to win promotion from Sky Bet League One.

We seem to be selling out every home game at the moment, and I read earlier in the week that the final day of the season is already sold out for the home sections of the ground.

That level of support is fantastic, and it's certainly helped the team on the pitch as shown by the fact we are unbeaten here in the league going back to last March.

The boys have been phenomenal in recent weeks. That first-half performance against Portsmouth was something else, the way the lads pressed and won the ball, then moved it around brilliantly on a difficult surface.

The weather added to what was a memorable night – the kind of old-school occasion under the floodlights that you are involved in football for. The atmosphere was unreal, and I managed to get on for the last few minutes to help see the game out, but the lads had already done the job. The character we showed to keep retaking the lead after they'd twice drawn level was immense.

It was crucial that we consolidated that win with another good result at Shrewsbury last Saturday, and thankfully enough, Collo just can't stop scoring at the moment.

We were giving him plenty of stick on Thursday as he was having his photos taken for the player of the month award, but no-one deserves it more. He could have been up for the award on more than one occasion already this season, but he

was phenomenal in January – and he couldn't have started February any better either, could he?

We're gutted that Mick didn't win the manager award, as that would have been thoroughly deserved too. The transition since he took over has been seamless and we're all desperate to do well for him and the rest of the staff.

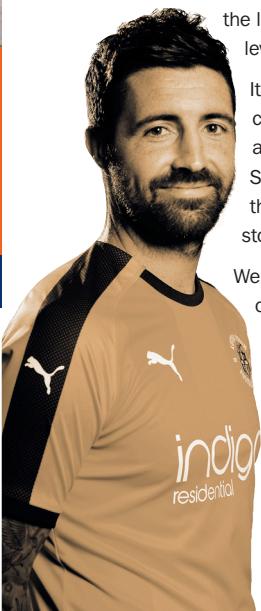
On behalf of the squad, we'd like to wish Mick a happy 60th birthday for Tuesday. I know he wouldn't have expected to spend it preparing us for a trip to Fleetwood, but I'm sure he'll remember this period for many years to come and hopefully we can deliver the ideal present this afternoon.

Congratulations also to James Justin, who (if selected!) is set to make his 100th appearance this afternoon. We all know what talent JJ has on the pitch, but he's a great lad off it too and it's been a pleasure to be alongside him as he's progressed from the youth team in my time here.

We've had a couple of additions to the squad since the Portsmouth game and both Alex and Jason have settled in well. We know that there is competition all over the pitch now and the extra bodies ensure we have that depth for the run-in, in case injuries or suspensions hit.

First we have to deal with Wycombe, though. We know we're in for a tough game, as we always are when we come up against them, but with your help from the stands, it could be another massive afternoon in our season.

Get behind the boys and enjoy the game!



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DEADLINE DEALS!

THREE IN, THREE OUT LAST THURSDAY...

It proved a busy transfer deadline day a week ago on Thursday, with the Hatters signing three players on loan and three heading out to gain valuable senior experience with other clubs.

Crucially, CEO Gary Sweet described it as a “Carlsberg” January transfer window, with the club not receiving “a single, formal bid” for any of our number of talented players who have helped steer the Hatters to the top of League One.

On deadline day itself we welcomed QPR defender Alex Baptiste, on his 33rd birthday, and 23-year-old Nottingham Forest striker Jason Cummings, who scored twice against us on loan at Peterborough earlier this season.

The twice-capped Scotland international is a former team-mate of James Collins and Andrew Shinnie at Hibernian, where he scored 69 goals in 124 starts before moving south of the border to join Forest in the summer of 2017. He spent the second half of last term on loan at Glasgow Rangers.

Baptiste came through the ranks at Mansfield Town, then won promotion to the Premier League with next club Blackpool before going on to play for Bolton, Blackburn, Middlesbrough, Sheffield United and Preston before joining QPR 18 months ago.

Now in his 17th season in professional football, he has over 500 appearances to his name and will bring vital experience to the Hatters dressing room.



The other ‘arrival’ was 19-year-old Brighton & Hove Albion forward Aaron Connolly, who also scored against the Town earlier this term in the Checkatrade Trophy. The Republic

of Ireland U19 international team-mate of Jack James – who is currently on loan at Havant & Waterlooville – won’t join the Town, however, until



he has recovered from a hamstring injury and had game time in the Brighton U23 side.

Departing the Kenny on a temporary basis were central defender Lloyd Jones, who joined boyhood club Plymouth Argyle, left-back Jack Senior, who made his debut as a second-half substitute from National League high-flyers Harrogate Town last Saturday, while striker Aaron Jarvis has joined Falkirk, aiming to help them avoid relegation from the Scottish Championship.

All the loan deals, both in and out, are to run until the end of the season. The other departure in deadline week was centre-half Akin Famewo, who was recalled from his loan at Grimsby and sold to Norwich City for an undisclosed fee.

Overall in January, we saw Jack James and Frankie Musonda join Havant & Waterlooville and Hemel Hempstead on loan, with George Moncur joining the Town on a permanent deal from Barnsley and George Thorne arriving on loan from Derby County.

We welcome all the new boys to the club, and wish all of our departures a successful time away from Kenilworth Road.

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COLLO IS LEAGUE ONE PLAYER OF THE MONTH!

Hatters striker James Collins has been named Sky Bet League One Player of the Month for January.

The 28-year-old netted six times in the opening month of the year and collected the trophy after beating off competition from Barnsley's Jacob Brown, Walsall's Andy Cook and Ruben Lameiras of Plymouth.

Collo said: "This is the first time I've won an award like this. I've been nominated a few times, so I'm delighted to finally get my name on one.

"That said, I wouldn't have been able to do it with the rest of the boys. Kazenga LuaLua, Jack Stacey and Luke Berry have been brilliant in setting up all my goals in January, but the rest of the team have been phenomenal.

"We've had a great month, remaining unbeaten, and that always helps when you're going into games because you're full of confidence. The other lads get as much credit as I do for this award, and Mick Harford, who fully deserved his nomination for manager of the month.

"What Mick does is he just fills you with confidence. He just tells you how good you are, how well you're playing and he just keeps things simple. That's what I like. I know what I need to do out on the pitch and if Mick's supporting me and right behind me, then that just gives me a license to go out there and do what I'm best at.

"January always seems to be a good month for me for some reason, I don't know what it is. I always try

to make sure I do things right over Christmas and the New Year, as it's a big period in the season, and that seems to pay off later in the month as well.

"We've made a great start to the year, but the main thing is that we keep winning games. If that means me scoring some more goals, then all the better, but I honestly don't mind who scores."

Mick was nominated for manager of the month but missed out to Scunthorpe's Stuart McCall. On his striker's award, though, the interim manager said: "James has had a brilliant January and it's all a consequence of his hard work, both on and off the pitch.

Credit

"On a match day he works tirelessly for the team in both penalty areas and in between, but he's also out there after training every day, honing his finishing and working on his fitness.

"James is a credit to himself. He's a prominent member of the dressing room and a really good influence on the other lads, who respect him greatly.

"I'm delighted for him as an individual, but I know he'll echo what I'm about to say, and that's that he wouldn't have been able to win this award without the rest of the team. They've all been first class in January."

From all at Kenilworth Road, well done Collo!

JJ'S CENTURY

As part of EFL Youth Development Week, former youth team manager Paul Driver pays tribute to James Justin ahead of his 100th senior appearance for the Hatters #RaisedInTheEFL

Firstly, can I say what a massive honour it is for me to get this chance to write about and pay tribute to one of the successful youth team group from three years back.

You always read about lads that have the right attitude, that are level headed and that get good guidance from those around them, but this is exactly the basis of why JJ, for me, was a definite for a scholarship very early in his U16 year, why he progressed and improved so much in his time with the Youth Team and why he has continued his improvement and been such a big success as a pro over the last two and a half seasons.

Although he played numerous times for me as an U16, you don't always get to see what a lad is like in terms of his attitude day in, day out. Some struggle with maintaining the professional side of things but from one of the first sessions we did in the off season before starting his scholarship, I got an early indication that JJ would give his all as he tried to defy an injury to complete a training run and I had to remove him for his own good. Others would have used it as an easy way out of the hard work needed to be in the right shape to tackle full-time football.

This continued throughout his two years with me, and I cannot remember him receiving a single fine for any of the misdemeanours we "punished" the youth teamers for, like lateness, failed hydration tests, missing kit etc. He was the model scholar in every aspect.

As the fans will already know, one of the big strengths with JJ is his ability to perform well, not only on a consistent basis, but also in a variety of



positions. We took him on as a midfield player but he "came out the other side" as a full-back who can also be effective as a wing-back, and is equally composed on either flank. At various times, he played in all those positions for us.

I remember a game away at Cambridge, a few months into his second year, when he played in the centre of midfield and, all of a sudden, it looked as if he was an over-aged player on the pitch, such was his strength, fitness and ability on the ball. It was at that point I knew we had something special on our hands and we had to push him on. From here, he put in a series of excellent performances at full-back in the big games and thoroughly deserved the pro contract he was rewarded with.

I am proud to be able to say that I have been involved in the development of one of the nicest young lads you will meet in the game and, JJ, I look forward to your 150th appearance for the Hatters – hopefully in the Championship next season!

COYH

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Stace takes us through the best XI players he has ever played alongside, with representatives from Exeter City, Reading and Barnet!

Christy Pym

Played with at: Exeter City

A former England Under-20 international.

When I was at Exeter he kept us in a lot of games, didn't make one mistake and was very good with his feet.

Chris Gunter

Played with at: Reading

Most capped Wales player of all time.

He was a seven out of ten every week, always consistent. Probably played about 70 games the season I was there with the Euros as well.

Jake Cooper

Played with at: Reading

He was in my youth team at Reading, we came through together. He was about 6ft 7in. I've never seen him lose a header. He had the left foot diag on lock.

Nathan Ake

Played with at: Reading

He was on loan at Reading from Chelsea.

He was a young lad then but he oozed class and I am not surprised to see what he's gone on to do.

Andy Yiadom

Played with at: Barnet

I was there for a month. He played about six different positions in that time. He was captain and has gone onto play in the Champ for Reading. He's done well.

Nathaniel Chalobah

Played with at: Reading

Another on loan from Chelsea. Very good on the ball, strong and he's gone onto play for England, so he's doing well for himself.

Ethan Ampadu

Played with at: Exeter City

When I made my debut for Exeter he was 15 and playing as if he was 25, now gone onto play for



Chelsea's first team. A very good player and mature beyond his years.

Andy Rinomhota

Played with at: Reading

He was in my youth team at Reading, he's just broken into the first team and I am sure that he will go onto play at a higher level. Wouldn't stop running for 90 minutes, very strong on the ball.

David Wheeler

Played with at: Exeter City

He was a massive part of the team when I was there. Scored about 20 goals with a combined distance of 20 yards, but anything that was in the box he was always there to finish off.

Andrija Novakovich

Played with at: Reading

A USA international. Went through the youth team together at Reading, probably my best friend in football. Got the best chop I have ever seen.

Ollie Watkins

Played with at: Exeter City

Another very good player from my season at Exeter who has gone onto do very well in the Championship.

[COMMERCIAL]

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Match sponsors today are John and Ann Chatterley, who have supported the club through the highs and lows over the

years and are Club Members in the John Moore Lounge. They are joined today by their son Philip, his wife Natalie and Oliver and William. Today they also welcome Hayley Pfeifer from the Dunstable Cake House and her family, together with Derek Vere from VERCO Office Furniture Limited and his guests from Wycombe. We hope that all our guests have an enjoyable time this afternoon but with Wycombe leaving the three points behind at Luton...COYH!

MATCH BALL SPONSOR: ALAN SOPER

Alan is a long serving season ticket holder and his finest memory of last season was the Notts County away match. Alan says the atmosphere was fantastic despite the 0-0 result, as 4,500 Hatters celebrated promotion. He is joined today by great friends who are all confident that Mick Hartford and the boys will achieve promotion this season!



TODAY'S MASCOTS



ARCHIE JAMES

Age: 7 | **School:** Ramsey Manor Lower School | **Hobbies:** Football, plays for Flitwick Eagles Under 8s
Favourite Player: James Collins
Who do you attend games with: Dad – Danny, James and brother Louis. He loves away games.



SAM TAYLOR

Age: 9
School: Ramsey Manor in Barton Le
Hobbies: Playing football and building lego
Favourite Player: Danny Hylton
Who do you attend games with: My dad Andrew



RICHARD CULLEY

Age: 60 | **Hobbies:** Football, I know the results of every Luton league game played since 1969, first match was May 13th 1967
Favourite Player: Danny Hylton
Who do you attend games with: Normally on my own, sometimes my wife accompanies me

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[OUR VISITORS]

WELCOME WYCOMBE WANDERERS



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

The rivalry between us and Wycombe has started to bubble over the past few years, with wins at each other's grounds last season giving both teams something to gloat about (although we think ours was slightly more enjoyable!). An Emirates FA Cup win for the Hatters in November over the Chairboys has further improved their record over the Adams Park based outfit.

It was a difficult start to life in the third tier for Wycombe this campaign, winning just one of their opening 11 games, but a dramatic turnaround in results has seen them climb up to ninth and to within a really good position to mount an assault for a play-off place.

Now on an unbeaten run of five games, of which three were victories, Gareth Ainsworth's side have been very good at home, picking up eight of their 11 league wins there, and although their games on the road haven't been quite as fruitful, they are still a difficult side to beat, with the likes of Sunderland and Portsmouth being held to a draw on their own turf.

Ainsworth had a few transfer dealings last month, notably losing Bryn Morris – who was on loan from Shrewsbury – being signed by promotion chasers Portsmouth, whilst former Hatter Craig Mackail-Smith joined Notts County on loan until the end of the season.

QPR's Charlie Owens and Manchester City's Luke Bolton have bolstered their ranks – the latter of which was a part of the England Under-20 team that won the Toulon Tournament in 2017.

They add to a team that has kept the same spine for a number of years, with Joe Jacobson, Matt Bloomfield and Nathan Tyson boasting nearly 25 years of football in a Wycombe shirt in their careers.

Formed in 1887, the Chairboys have played a large part of their history in Non-League football. They won promotion under Martin O'Neill to the Football League in 1993, winning successive promotions as they went up to the Second Division. They have remained in the EFL since and have bounced between the third and fourth tier in that time.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

LUTON WINS:	12
DRAWS:	10
WYCOMBE WINS:	5
LAST MEETING:	LUTON 1-0 WYCOMBE – NOVEMBER 2018

FACTFILE:

NICKNAME:	THE CHAIRBOYS
GROUND:	ADAMS PARK
MANAGER:	GARETH AINSWORTH
LAST SEASON:	3RD IN LEAGUE TWO



MEET THE SQUAD

THE GAFFER

Gareth Ainsworth

Age: 45

One of football's characters, Ainsworth has played in numerous bands including 'APA', made up of ex-Wimbledon team mates Chris Perry and Trond Andersen. The Rockstar come manager played across all four levels of the English pyramid before ending his career at Wycombe. The ex-QPR caretaker boss fully affirmed himself a Wycombe hero in 2013/14, steering the Buckinghamshire side away from relegation to retain their Football League status. Ainsworth secured his first promotion with the Chairboys last season, and this term has overseen them establishing themselves comfortably in the top half of the League One table so far.



THE STOPPER

Ryan Allsop

Age: 26

The goalkeeper has become a firm favourite as the number one choice in between the sticks for Wycombe this season, since joining following his release by Bournemouth in the summer. The Birmingham born keeper signed his first professional contract with West Bromwich Albion although he never actually made a senior appearance for the Baggies. A series of clubs followed including a brief spell at Icelandic club, Höttur before Allsop settled with the Cherries in 2013. A successful loan to Wycombe came in 2016 where the shot stopper made a brilliant impression. He became a permanent part of Ainsworth's side earlier in the year and has gone on to keep seven clean sheets in League One so far.



GOALKEEPER

YVES MA-KALAMBAY

Age: 32

The DR Congo international has played a mere seven minutes of football in League One so far this season when Ryan Allsop was sent off against Scunthorpe, but has appeared three times in cups.

DEFENDERS

SIDO JOMBATI

Age: 31

The Portuguese full back started out as a youngster for Sporting CP. He's played a lot of football in Non-League, helping Bath City win promotion to the conference with a play-off final win.

ANTHONY STEWART

Age: 26

A product of the Chairboys' youth system, Stewart signed his first professional deal in 2011. He also guided the club's U18 side to Youth Alliance Cup victory.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth is now the second longest serving manager in the top four divisions of English football, having been in charge at Adams Park since September 2012. His six-and-a-half year stint, so far, is 16 months less than Jim Bentley has been in the Morecambe hot-seat. Eddie Howe at Bournemouth and Sean Dyche at Burnley are next, just a few days behind.

[MEET THE SQUAD]



THE WALL

Joe Jacobson | Age: 31

The former Wales U21 captain began his career with Cardiff City but left the Bluebirds in 2007, to cross the Severn Bridge to join up with Bristol Rovers on loan, until it was made permanent in the summer of that year. In his first full season with the Pirates, the defender won Supporters'

Young Player of the Year as well as playing a part in the side's promotion to League

One. Jacobson has also made more than a century of league appearances for Shrewsbury Town, scoring seven goals in three seasons

before joining Wycombe in 2014. The experienced defender was involved 52 times last season, helping the Chairboys secure promotion with six goals. This term he already has five from just 32 appearances.

ADAM EL-ABD

AGE: 34

The current captain of Wanderers has been capped seven times for the Egyptian national side. A complete rock in the backline, making 43 appearances last season.

MICHAEL HARRIMAN

AGE: 26

One-time Hatters loanee, Harriman made his first Premier League start with QPR against Liverpool in 2012, defending against the likes of Steven Gerrard and Luis Suarez.

JASON MCCARTHY

AGE: 23

Returned to Adams Park with 31 seconds to spare on the deadline day clock in August this year. Previously Supporter's Player of the Year in 2015 while on loan from Southampton.

DARIUS CHARLES

AGE: 30

The defender became Ainsworth's first signing of the summer. A big player for AFC Wimbledon in their play-off winning campaign, also starting the final against Plymouth.

MIDFIELDERS

DOMINIC GAPE

AGE: 24

A fine campaign last term earned Gape Young Player of the Season, making 38 appearances and notching that winning goal away at Chesterfield which earned the Chairboys promotion.

MATT BLOOMFIELD

AGE: 34

Now in his 15th full season with Wanderers, 'Blooms' is part of the furniture at Adams Park, arriving on a free transfer from Ipswich Town back in 2003.

IN THE MIDDLE

Paris Cowan-Hall

Age: 28

Back for a second time at Wycombe, Cowan-Hall originally departed Adams Park for Millwall in 2015 after influencing Neil Harris into purchase. The talented winger rejoined the Chairboys in 2017, making a total of 39 appearances in all competitions last season. The 28-year-old went through a small run of exceptional form just after Christmas last season, scoring five in seven matches, even putting one past Marek Stech at Kenilworth Road to open the scoring in the Hatters' 3-2 defeat that evening. Cowan-Hall will be hoping to emulate his past at Kenilworth Road this afternoon, only netting four times in all competitions so far this term.



SAM SAUNDERS
AGE: 35

A creative midfielder who spent eight years with Brentford, most recently in the Championship. Scored one of Wycombe's three goals away at Norwich in the Chairboys' narrow EFL Cup defeat.


CURTIS THOMPSON
AGE: 25

Thompson finished last season on-loan at Wycombe from Notts County, eventually penning a permanent deal with the club in the summer. Has started 21 matches so far this campaign.

LUKE BOLTON
AGE: 19

Wycombe fended off higher-placed clubs in England last month, to sign the Manchester City winger on-loan until the end of the season. Caught Ainsworth's attention in a Checkatrade Trophy match.

STRIKERS
NATHAN TYSON
AGE: 36


Forced his way into the first team in November, appearing 12 times so far. Although only on the one goal this season, Tyson managed eight last term.

ALEX SAMUEL
AGE: 23

The Welshman began his career at Swansea City before signing a permanent deal at Stevenage in 2017. Wycombe signed the forward after he made an impact whilst on trial last summer.

SCOTT KASHKET
AGE: 22

Used more of an impact sub this season, Kashket has netted four times earlier on in the campaign. Described as a pacy striker, the youngster is highly rated at Adams Park.


WATCH OUT
Adebayo Akinfenwa
Age: 36

A complete man-mountain who can boss any defender off the ball, 'The Beast' is a real handful to deal with on the pitch. The forward who is reportedly capable of bench pressing more than 200kg, has played for a staggering amount of EFL clubs such as Swansea City, Millwall and Doncaster Rovers to name a few. Possibly his most famous goal came against Plymouth Argyle at Wembley in the League Two play-off final while he was an AFC Wimbledon player. The striker calmly converted a penalty in the 11th minute of injury-time to secure the victory as well as an iconic celebration, taking off his shirt to unveil the phrase Beast Mode on his thermal top. He's the Chairboys' top scorer with six goals so far this season.

IN NUMBERS...
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Miles from Kenilworth Road:
32
Year opened:
1990
Average crowd this season:
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Seasons in League One:
1

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Harry Cornick fires in goal number two watched by the shocked Adam El-Abd

THE LAST TIME WYCOMBE CAME TO TOWN

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REPORTS ON THE CHAIRBOYS LAST VISIT TO KENILWORTH ROAD

**10TH NOVEMBER 2018 • LUTON TOWN 2 WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0
FA CUP ROUND ONE**

After a challenging start to the season, the Town were now on a four-game unbeaten run as they looked to entertain Wycombe in the FA Cup first round.

The only change to the side from the previous week's goalless draw at Rochdale was the inclusion of Harry Cornick to replace Danny Hylton, who had been dismissed at Spotland.

The Hatters were out of the blocks quickly and efforts from Cornick, James Collins, Elliot Lee and Sonny Bradley were either just off target or well saved by Ryan Alsop in the Wycombe goal.

The all-important breakthrough goal came four minutes before the break when, after a slick passing move, Andrew Shinnie blasted the ball home off a post from 25 yards.

It was more of the same in the second period before the second goal came in unusual circumstances on 72 minutes.

Chairboys defender Adam El-Abd backheeled the ball to his goalkeeper without realising that Cornick was lurking. The lightning quick Cornick was on to the backpass in an instant and took the ball on before firing across Alsop and virtually sealing the Town's progression into the next round.

Wycombe manager Gareth Ainsworth admitted that the Hatters had been the better team but while the score was 1-0 there was always the hope of nicking something. The mistake, by the devastated El-Abd, had killed the game though.

Luton Town: Shea, Stacey, Pearson, Bradley, Justin, Rea Mpanzu, Shinnie (Grant 52), Lee (LuaLua 87), Cornick, Collins.

Wycombe Wanderers: Alsop, Jombati, Jacobson, Gape, El-Abd, Bean (Kashket 85), Cowan-Hall (Williams 69), Thompson, Onyedinma, Samuel (Mackail-Smith 69), McCarthy.

DEADLY DUOS

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

TONY HORSEMAN & KEITH SEARLE

Long-serving inside-forward Tony Horseman holds Wycombe Wanderers' appearance and goalscoring records. Born locally, he developed with Wallaby Sports before moving to Loakes Park in July 1961. He scored on his Wycombe debut against Oxford City three months later and helped win the Isthmian League title four times.

An Amateur Cup semi-finalist in 1972, he starred as Wycombe took Middlesbrough to an FA Cup third round replay in 1974-75 and was leading marksman on seven occasions. He netted 416 goals in 749 games for the Chairboys before joining Tring in July 1978, then had a spell with Flackwell Heath.

England Amateur international striker Keith Searle topped Wycombe Wanderers' goalscoring charts in three successive seasons. Previously with Wealdstone, Barnet and Wealdstone again, he moved to Loakes Park in July 1969 and returned from brief spells at Hayes and Hendon to help Wycombe win the Isthmian League title four times in five seasons.

He also starred as the Chairboys took Middlesbrough to an FA Cup third round replay in 1974-75, netting 124 goals in 249 games before joining Enfield in July 1975. Helping them twice win the Isthmian League title, he briefly played for Oxford City, settling in Milton Keynes.

MARK WEST & DAVE CARROLL

England Semi-Pro international striker Mark West was Wycombe Wanderers' leading marksman in six successive seasons, netting their winner in the 1991 FA Trophy final.

Born locally, he had spells with West Ham and Reading prior to joining Wycombe in December 1984 and helped to win promotion and the Hitachi Cup that season. He starred in their 1986-87 Vauxhall-Opel League title and 1992-93 Conference title triumphs, netting 122 goals in 281 League games for the Chairboys before joining Slough Town in July 1994. Later playing for Farnborough Town, he then had a spell as manager of Thame United.

Long-serving favourite Dave Carroll was a key figure in Wycombe Wanderers' successes under Martin O'Neill. He impressed with Ruislip Manor prior to joining Wycombe in July 1988 and was ever-present in 1989-90, then featured in the 1990-91 FA Cup run.

Helping the Chairboys win the FA Trophy in 1991, he starred in their 1992-93 Conference title and FA Trophy 'double' success and scored twice in the 1993-94 Third Division play-off final triumph. He was an FA Cup semi-finalist in 2000-01 and moved to Aldershot in March 2002. Later Windsor & Eton's player-boss, he is now manager of self storage firm Space Station.



Keith Scott

KEITH SCOTT & STEVE GUPPY

Striker Keith Scott was Wycombe Wanderers' top scorer three times including the 1992-93 Conference title and FA Trophy 'double' success. He had spells with Leicester United and Lincoln City prior to joining Wycombe in March 1991, scoring in that season's FA Trophy final triumph.

Moving to Swindon Town in November 1993, he then played for Stoke City and Norwich City before rejoining the Chairboys in March 1997.

He netted 74 goals in 159 League games overall prior to joining Reading in March 1999, then played for Colchester United, Dover, Scarborough, Leigh RMI, Dagenham & Redbridge and Windsor & Eton.

England Semi-Pro international winger Steve Guppy starred in Wycombe Wanderers' 1992-93 Conference title and FA Trophy 'double' triumph. A former Southampton trainee, he joined Wycombe in August 1989 and featured in their 1991 FA Trophy final success. He was a key figure in the Chairboys' 1993-94 Third Division play-off final triumph and netted 25 goals in 178 League games before joining Newcastle United in August 1994.

Moving via Port Vale to Leicester City in February 1997, the England international was a League Cup winner in 2000, then played for Celtic, Leeds United, Stoke City and Wycombe again.



Steve Guppy

TOMMY MOONEY & JERMAINE EASTER

Striker Tommy Mooney captained Wycombe Wanderers to the League Cup semi-finals in 2006-07. Initially with Aston Villa, he played for Scarborough and Southend United before joining Watford in March 1994. He starred as they twice won promotion and moved to Birmingham City in July 2001. Featuring in their 2001-02 First Division play-off final success, he joined Swindon Town in July 2003 and helped reach the Second Division play-offs in 2003-04.

He moved via Oxford United to Wycombe in July 2005 and netted 29 goals in 87 League games before joining Walsall in July 2007, then Marbella.

Welsh international striker Jermaine Easter was top scorer as Wycombe Wanderers reached the League Cup semi-finals in 2006-07, netting against Fulham, Charlton and Chelsea. A former Wolves trainee, he had spells with Hartlepool, Boston United and Stockport before joining Wycombe for £80,000 in January 2006. He played alongside Tommy Mooney as they reached the League Two play-offs in 2005-06 and was voted into the 2007 PFA League Two 'Team of the Year'.

Netting 21 goals in 59 League games, he joined Plymouth for £210,000 in October 2007, then MK Dons, Crystal Palace, Millwall and Bristol Rovers.



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TRICK OR TREATMENT

A HUMOROUS INSIGHT TO PHYSIO SIMON PARSELL'S WORK



I keep getting asked who's going to be the new manager? Are they giving it to Mick? The answer is, "I don't know". What I do know is that everyone has gelled and got on with the job that started in July and has carried on under Mick's guidance.

The sole aim is to get as many points as we can and see where that takes us. To be fair, Mick's lucky to be fit after the tackle from Sonny during the Portsmouth game. It was clearly a red, completely out of control, but it did prove Mick's knee replacement has worked.

Now I think it's time for a confession, and hopefully forgiveness, from my colleague Steve Rutter (Pictured with *Indigo Idiakoz*). When Steve joined us he would turn up every morning at the gates, press the buzzer and announce who he was and ask for access. Little did he know that the buzzer system came through to my office.

It was too good an opportunity to miss. Steve spoke to an Irish fella, a Scottish fella and a couple of other individuals. Each time access would be delayed and he was told he was not on the access list. After gaining entry he would come into the canteen and moan about the gate. It went on for some time. We did chuckle.

They say age is a number but unfortunately time does fly. Even more so when someone says Pelly has been at the club for five years and that James Justin has reached 100 games.

Add to that a young Potts joining us shortly after. It's like watching your kids grow up. New hair dos, girlfriend crises and other life experiences, like James getting his Volkswagen Scirocco and waving as he zoomed passed me.

Injury wise things are good and hopefully by the time we head to Fleetwood we will have Elliot Lee and Harry Cornick back in the squad ready for



action. It's good news for Harry as he has been down lately and a little jealous. With the arrival of George Moncur and his friendship with Elliot, Harry's relationship with Elliot has been put under pressure. True love will always come through.

Glen continues to make great progress and he even came out with the quote of the day: "Do they put plasters on the cuts before or after the surgery?" Bless him. It brightens your day up listening to the thoughts of Glen Rea.

Congratulations to George Thorne who has become a dad to a little girl called River. Let's hope things flow smoothly. Couldn't resist it.

Enjoy the game – COYH!



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THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY 2009

PART TWO

IN THIS OCCASIONAL SERIES, CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH RECOUNTS THE HATTERS' JOHNSTONE'S PAINT TROPHY CUP RUN

After beating Brentford on penalties at Kenilworth Road, then snatching a late winner at Walsall, the Town were now through to the Area Semi-Final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, where their opponents were to be Colchester United from the division above.

In the League, the cruel 30-point deduction was taking its toll and the Hatters were still rooted to the bottom of League Two on minus six points. In a normal season the Town would have been happily placed in mid-table.

A creditable 0-0 draw at table toppers Wycombe the Saturday before the Colchester clash failed to bring the crowds flocking to Kenilworth Road, and only 2,368 turned out to witness what proved to be an entertaining game.

In truth, Colchester should have been out of sight by half-time but a series of amazing misses and the woodwork kept the score level until Claude Gnakpa deflected a Wayne Andrews shot into the net for a fortuitous Town lead on 30 minutes.

The second period continued in the same vein with Colchester virtually camped in the Town half, but despite their superiority they could not find a way through.

Former Hatter Chris Coyne, back at Kenilworth Road for the first time since his forced sale, had a quiet night as the home side rarely threatened.

Despite all these scares the Hatters managed to hang on with the reward a two-legged Southern Area final against Brighton.

By the time of the first leg on January 20th, the Hatters were now on zero points but still bottom, seven points behind Bournemouth and had suffered an awful 5-1 defeat at Darlington the previous weekend, with manager Mick Harford branding his side's defending as 'shambolic' and 'unacceptable'.

Despite this, 511 Luton supporters made their way to the Withdean Stadium, swelling the crowd to 6,127, where this time the Town put on a disciplined defensive performance.

There were few chances in a scrappy encounter as the Hatters put in a gutsy and dogged display against their higher League opponents.

With Brighton running out of ideas towards the end, the Town sensed that perhaps they could return to Kenilworth Road for the second leg with a valuable goal, but despite a couple of fleeting opportunities manufactured by Claude Gnakpa, the game remained scoreless at the final whistle.

By the time of the second leg, which was played at Kenilworth Road on 17th February, the Town had picked up only two points from the four games played since the first clash, but at least were in credit on the points front!

Amidst a season of gloom the Luton public sensed a final hurrah with the Hatters being only 90 minutes from Wembley, and a crowd of 8,711 gathered under the Kenilworth Road lights.

The game got off to an amazing start when, after two minutes, a comical mix-up between Brighton defender Adam Virgo and his goalkeeper Michael Kuipers left Tom Craddock with the simple chance of stroking the ball into an empty net.

Luton centre-half Ian Roper headed a Rossi Jarvis free-kick just over as the Town belied their lowly status by forcing a stunned Brighton back.



Happy Hatters celebrate reaching Wembley

The Seagulls gradually came back into the game and on 20 minutes equalised completely against the run of play when, in a rare raid, Nicky Forster slammed the ball past Luton loanee goalkeeper Lewis Price.

Dominance

Roper went off injured soon after which meant a reshuffle in the Luton defence, but the Town still enjoyed the majority of the possession but could not force another goal.

Brighton defender and future Hatter Dave Livermore was then dismissed for a late tackle on Michael Spillane as the first half drew to a close, but try as they might the Town could not turn their subsequent possession and dominance in the second period into goals leaving the crowd to endure another penalty shoot-out.

For the second time in the competition it was left to a loanee goalkeeper to save the day, with this time Lewis Price becoming the hero, saving from Jason Jarrett and Chris Birchill to send the Town through to the new Wembley, where their opponents would be Scunthorpe who were challenging for an eventually successful promotion to the Championship.

Luton Town: Logan, Asafu-Adjaye, Howells, Spillane, Roper, Gnakpa, Jarvis, Keane (Beavan), Hall, Talbot (Martin), Andrews (McVeigh).

Colchester United: Gerken, Maybury, Heath (Coyne), Baldwin, White, Jackson, Izet, Hammond (Yeates), Wordsworth, Wasiu (Gillespie), Vernon.

Luton Town (first leg): Logan, Gnakpa, Asafu-Adjaye, Spillane, Davis, Keane, Jarvis, Hall, McVeigh (Howells), Talbot (Parkin), Martin

Brighton and Hove Albion (first leg): Sullivan, Whing, Hinshelwood, El-Abd, Cox (Mayo), Forster, McLeod (Livermore), Robinson (Loft), Fraser, Virgo, Elphick.

Luton Town (second leg): Price, Spillane, (Hall), Davis (Howells), Asafu-Adjaye, Roper (Charles), Keane, Jarvis, Gnakpa, Craddock, Martin, Parkin.

Brighton and Hove Albion (second leg): Kuipers, Whing, El-Abd, Cox (Elphick), Jarrett, Virgo, Livermore, Birchall, Fraser, Forster, Andrew (Cook).

ON THE CENTRE SPOT

Pelly-Ruddock
Mpanzu

We asked for your questions on our social media channels to put to the Hatters' longest serving player, and we'll kick off straight away with one to help anyone confused by the spelling of his name!



Instagram **@samwatt111** Where exactly should the hyphen go in your name? The club publishes it in the programme and on the website as Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, but if Ruddock and Mpanzu are both family surnames, surely it should be Pelly Ruddock-Mpanzu? Your first name isn't Pelly-Ruddock is it? Can you have a word? Cheers.

It is Pelly-hyphen-Ruddock. That is my christian name. Mpanzu is my surname. It's how it is on my passport and my driver's license, so yes, the club publish it right.

Twitter **@lewyj90** How does it feel to be the longest serving player and living embodiment of Luton Town's revival?

I am proud to be the longest serving player. I'm surprised I'm still here, but I just keep working hard and I'm happy at Luton, so if the club keep offering me new contracts I'm happy to sign them. It's a good achievement, but I haven't finished yet and hopefully

I can continue. The season I came we went onto win the Conference under John Still, having been deducted all those points a few years before, and we've kept going up and up and up. Now we're top of League One, we can't complain and obviously our main goal now is to stay there and get in the Championship. It's still hard, but we've got a good bunch of players and hopefully we can do that this season.

Facebook **John Ledridge** How did you feel dropping down from a Premier League club to a Conference club?

It was a big decision to make, and I'm not going to lie to you, I really didn't want to do it. I was like 'No, this isn't for me'. But I needed to get some games, and at the time Luton was the only option I had to go on loan, and I was up in the summer. Right now, it was a good decision because I've had almost 200 games, we're at the top of League One. In the end it boiled down to playing games. Even though it was Conference football, I needed to play – and Luton were doing well, second behind Cambridge before I came. Then we went on a good run and won the title. My advice to



The smile that lights up Kenilworth Road!

any young player would be get yourself out there and get recognised at whatever club. If you do well enough, you'll get picked up. When I got to Ely Way, I thought, 'This is real Non-League stuff – portakabins, the pitch wasn't great, no heating, this is mad.' But sometimes that's a footballer's life, you've got to go through the hard times.

Twitter @BedfordHatter What's been the main difference for you in terms of staying fit and consistency? Been excellent this season.

Staying fit is key, because you can get called upon at any time, just like I was. Once you stay fit, you can be consistent and you are always flying. You have always got to be mind-ready and body-ready. It goes hand-in-hand.

TIOT – How frustrating was it last season being out of the side, because you'd been playing well before getting that harsh red against Chesterfield?

It was harsh, but that's football, that's life. You've got to take it on the chin and keep it going. Obviously it was a red card and at the time, the team were doing well so you can't really complain, because the team are playing well and they aren't going to change a winning team. I had to bide my time and wait, and unfortunately Luke got injured, but someone has got to step up and that was me. I had a good run at the end of the season and it's continued into this season, so you've just got to keep it going and be mentally right until you're called upon.

Twitter @comeonhatters What happened towards the end of last season to give your game that extra 'bite'? We knew it was there and it's been a joy to watch :)

It was having the thought in my head that 'I can't let anyone take my position again'. I was determined, after being out for so long, I've got my chance and I've got to take it now – no-one's going to take my place, I'm going to try my hardest and play as well as I can for the team, and hopefully my performances have shown.

Twitter @DjGabyG Which is more dench? Dame Judy or your goal against Crewe?

Got to be my goal, hasn't it? She's a good actress, but I won goal of the month with that strike that went bins, so she can't complain! Sorry Judy.

Twitter @scottsmiley18 Xbox or PlayStation?

I was an Xbox man, but now PS4 has taken over.

Twitter @ngon1.nm Who is best at fifa in the club?

That nerd James Justin, my roomie – he's real good! I just watch him sometimes and wonder 'How did you do that?!' He's probably the best, but there's a group of us who play against each other. We had a little tournament the other week – new boy Georgie (Thorne), Ell, Shins, me – we had a little tournament, and we have a little portable machine that we play on the bus going to away games, so we like a little bit of competition.



CENTRE SPOT



@ZarBeck26 Couple here - Which game from your 191 appearances for the Town has given you the most pleasure and why? Then secondly, which has been your favourite goal scored for the Hatters to date?

There's a few; obviously Dartford away, when I scored and Andre scored to turn the game around. That was a good one. The Wycombe 4-1 at home was a great game, and obviously Portsmouth last week was fantastic. The Notts County one away, on the final day of last season when we took so many fans, was a great day. Second part of the question, I don't score that many but they are always bangers. The one at Dartford went in off the little stanchion on the left – I think it's still there!

@thicc_chungles How do you feel about the arrival of the new players?

Happy. No problem with that. Now we are pushing to try and get into the Champ, so bringing a couple of strikers and midfielders in, plus a defender, means we are going to get tested in every position. We've got a great squad now that's going to push us on, hopefully to promotion. We can't lay off now. Hopefully everyone gels and everyone plays their part and we have a great end to the season, then go off and enjoy the summer and come back and go again. You never know what can happen to any of us. We've got to see it out and the new players will help.

@CammyBayliss How does it feel to have started in every single league game so far? (Most minutes as well I believe!)

I was injured quite a bit before Nathan Jones came to the club, but him, Jared and all the staff helped me get fit and I haven't missed a minute this season. I used to have banter with Jared saying 'Any chance of you subbing me off?' But obviously it's good to get minutes in and hopefully continue that and keep playing well. That's the main focus, and I'll do my stuff in the gym to keep myself prepared, fit and when called upon, play games.

@grumpyboringdad When did you realise that you wanted to become a pro footballer?

Everyone wants to be a footballer, but not everyone makes it, so you've got to have that determination. You are watching football on TV as a kid and you want to be that, so from young I wanted to be a footballer and I'm glad I made it. Obviously I didn't get a pro contract straight away. I went into Non-League with Boreham Wood, but I made it through that way and luckily West Ham picked me up, and here I am at Luton. I was 15-16 at Boreham Wood. I went into the first team at 17, played maybe 20 games, and then West Ham signed me.



✉ @bulablenks What's the next planned hairstyle Pells?

You know what, I do not know! Whatever comes to mind, I just do it and I don't really care what people think. I'm going to do it for me and if people don't like it, it is what it is. But I'm going to try a different style. No harm in trying, it doesn't hurt anyone so I do it for me. What have I got planned next? No idea, people will have to wait and see...



The man's hairstyle and dress sense covered in one hit – Pelly just doesn't care what people think!

✉ @Richbow79 You came to the club as a defender, you have played a few positions since you have been here. What position would you say you are most comfortable in?

Midfield, up and down. Whatever formation we'll play in midfield, I'll play. I prefer to be an Eight, up and down, don't score many goals – I know that myself, and only Sonny Bradley is less prolific than me! But box-to-box midfield, I love it. Being a defender wasn't really me. I kept running out with the ball and losing it, and it did my head in, so those days are over!

✉ @JamesNicolson32 What are you planning for the next celebration?

We are missing a member – we are missing Harry Cornick, so me and JJ have got to think of something. We usually come together and think of something based on the NFL. Their celebrations are good, so that's what we look at.

✉ @abboway Best midfielder in League One apart from Luton players?

I've got to put Cam (McGeehan) up there, and Alex Mowatt alongside him in that Barnsley team. With George Moncur against us, they were untouchable.

✉ @BBeevor Who has the best "bantz" in the team?

Apart from me?! George Moncur is good. He's got a lot of bantz. He's settled in

well and I knew him from West Ham, so it's easy with me. There's half-a-dozen of us now who were at West Ham together – they all followed me!

✉ @Barringer_A Who's a better finisher, @awall_9 or @AndreGray7?

They both hit the ball very, very hard, but I'll have to go for Andre because he's gone into the Prem and done it.

✉ @callumLfc Do you still keep in contact with Andre Gray?

Yes, I still message him. He's had a couple of parties and family events, and me, Alex Wall, Jake Howells, Matthew Robinson and Lathaniel Rowe-Turner all go out and see each other.

✉ @callumLfc Can you remember much of the debut you had at Staines Town in the FA Trophy?

Yes I can. Centre-back with Joe Davis. It was a tough game and we brought them back here, and



Pelly after winning Goal of the Month award last April for his “banger” against Crewe!

the next game I played centre-mid. Heading? Not my game. I was trying to dribble out with the ball. It was a good introduction.

f Mick Rogers **Don't you get fed up getting whacked in the ankles every week with refs turning a blind eye?**

It's some people's game plan just to kick you, and that's football. You've just got to get on with it. If you don't want the ball, then they've won with their game plan, so you should always want the ball and if you get kicked, just get back up. Sometimes you've got to get mad, not do anything stupid, but battle through it and at the end of the game just shake his hand and hope that you've won. It's a battle and you've got to gt through it.

Twitter **@Pete_LTFC** **Who is the hardest player at LTFC?**

It's either Matty Pearson or Sonny Bradley, but more Sonny because he's a silent assassin. He's quiet, but you wouldn't want to mess with him.

Instagram **wiggle40** **Who is the best dressed player at the club?**

I'm probably not the best dressed. I dress how I want and then there are people who are concerned with how people dress, and are scared to dress well. I'll give best dressed to two people; Dan Potts and Andrew Shinnie. They are, as you say, pukka. They've got garms, I'll give them that.

Instagram **aidan5mith** **Could you see yourself becoming club captain one day?**

Oh! (*long deliberation*) I would like to say yes, but I am not a serious guy. I joke around too much and when it's time to be serious, I can't be – so people just wouldn't take me seriously, so probably not. But if it came down to it, I would try, but I'm the class clown so it's a bit mad.

Instagram **dan_andrews8** **Who is the best player you've played with at each level for Luton?**

Conference it has to be Andre Gray, he banged too many goals for us. Best in League Two was Paddy McCourt, a wonderful footballer. League One, this season, I can't pick one.

Instagram **pelly_ruddock_fan_page** **How would you describe your style of play?**

Driving forward with the ball. I pick it up, pass, pass and drive. Try to get the team up the pitch.

Instagram **joel.p._** **What has been your favourite stadium to play at in a Luton shirt?**

St James' Park. You don't realise how big the stands are until you get out there. It was just a shame that we couldn't get the result for the fans, because they were amazing that day. The ground was bouncing with Luton!

Twitter **@darraghflynn030** **Which player did you idolise growing up?**

As an Arsenal fan, it was Thierry Henry – but in football in general, it was Ronaldinho. The stuff that he could do – the tricks, strength, power, speed and dribbling ability was crazy.

[ROGER WASH]

THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY 1959

PART FOUR

IN THIS OCCASIONAL SERIES, CLUB HISTORIAN
ROGER WASH RECOUNTS THE HATTERS' 1959 FA CUP RUN

As we have seen previously, the Hatters started off on the road to Wembley in 1959 surrounded by indifference. Normally, the FA Cup competition attracted amongst the highest gates of the season to Kenilworth Road but, given the Town's form at the time, only 18,534 bothered to turn up for the Round Three home tie with Leeds which was won 5-1.

The crowds obviously began to increase as the Hatters advanced through the rounds and cup fever took over. By the time Blackpool were seen off in a quarter-final replay a record crowd of 30,069 had filled Kenilworth Road.

By beating Blackpool 1-0 in dramatic fashion the Town now found themselves through to the semi-finals for the first time in their 74-year history, where their opponents were to be Norwich from Division Three.

The Canaries would probably have been the Town's choice, had they been given one, although they commanded great respect having already knocked out the likes of Manchester United, Tottenham, Sheffield United and Cardiff on their epic journey from the first round.

The semi-final clash was scheduled for Stamford Bridge, Chelsea but Norwich objected to this choice of venue as the Hatters were playing there in a League match the previous week.

The game was then switched, amidst much confusion, to White Hart Lane, Tottenham and when the tickets were made available, only six days before the tie, the vast queue at Kenilworth Road was headed by a couple of coachloads of Norwich supporters!

The first half at White Hart Lane was totally one sided with the Town missing several good

opportunities to bury brave Norwich and finish the tie as a contest. For all their efforts, only an Allan Brown headed goal separated the two sides at the interval which was to prove insufficient.

The Canaries, with nothing to lose, threw caution to the wind in the second period and were rewarded for their exertions when ex-Hatter, Bobby Brennan, celebrating his 34th birthday, hit a tremendous right-foot volley past a flat-footed Ron Bayham in the Luton goal.

Breathtaking

The Town rallied after this set-back but could not find a way past Norwich reserve goalkeeper Sandy Kennon, who put on an inspired performance and rescued his side time and time again. His last-minute diving save from Luton winger Billy Bingham was truly breathtaking and enabled his side to earn a replay.

The re-match took place four days later at St Andrews, Birmingham, where this time the Canaries had much more of the play. An open goal miss by Jimmy Hill, the little Norwich inside-forward, on the stroke of half-time, sent the sides in level at the interval but in the second period one moment of First Division class turned the game.

A clever backheel from Bob Morton set up Bingham, who reacted in a flash and hammered the ball into the roof of the net. Although Norwich continued



Billy Bingham's shot rockets into the net and sends the Town to Wembley

to steam forward they could not force a way past Luton skipper Syd Owen and his determined fellow defenders.

Back on the ground where he started his professional career, 36-year-old Owen, playing his final season in football, was the rock upon which the wave upon wave of Norwich attacks foundered.

Finest

His reading of the game together with brilliantly timed interceptions and shrewd tackles saved half a dozen dangerous moments for the Town and produced probably his finest performance in a Luton shirt.

The Hatters hung on grimly and at the final whistle relieved supporters stormed on to the pitch and chaired off their heroes, while the dazed Norwich players were applauded off by their own disappointed fans who had seen their hopes of

being the first Third Division side to reach Wembley dashed at the final hurdle.

The last words were left to Owen who said: "This is a great day for me. In my last season as a professional footballer I have achieved one of football's most coveted honours – to captain a side at Wembley."

No-one, not even an upset Norwich manager, Archie Macaulay, could begrudge him that.

Luton Town: (both games) Baynham, McNally, Hawkes, Groves, Owen, Pacey, Bingham, Brown, Morton, Cummins, Gregory.

Norwich City: (both games) Kennon, Thurlow, Ashman, McCrohan, Butler, Crowe, Crossan, Allcock, Bly, Hill, Brennan.

TUESDAY 29TH JANUARY • KENILWORTH ROAD • SKY BET LEAGUE ONE • ATTENDANCE: 10,078 • AWAY: 1,033

LUTON TOWN 3 PORTSMOUTH 2

TOWN GOALS: COLLINS 39, 77 (PEN), MONCUR 86

PORTSMOUTH GOALS: CURTIS 52, BOGLE 79



SHEA
STACEY
PEARSON
BRADLEY
JUSTIN
MCCORMACK
MPANZU
SHINNIE (SHEEHAN 88)
BERRY (POTTS 73)
COLLINS
LUALUA (MONCUR 80)

SUBS NOT USED:

JONES
READ
TOMLINSON
ISTED

YELLOW CARDS:
PEARSON



MACGILLIVRAY
BROWN
WHATMOUGH
CLARKE
WALKES
NAYLOR
EVANS (DONOHUE 46)
LOWE
CURTIS
PITMAN (BOGLE 46)
MORRIS

SUBS NOT USED:

BASS
BURGESS
HAUNSTRUP
MAY
DENNIS
YELLOW CARDS:
DONOHUE
NAYLOR



HARFORD

"I'm very happy indeed, as you can see at the end with the celebrations we had with the players and the fans. I've got to take my hat off to the players, they've been absolutely brilliant since I took over the interim role and you saw in the first half, what a performance, a performance at that level which I've never seen in my entire career. They were absolutely superb in the first half and the game should have been out of sight in all fairness."

"But fair credit to Portsmouth, they hung in well, defended their box well, they got everything behind the ball and we couldn't break them down for the second or the third goal. They've come out second half and given us a real good game, and for me it just really, really showed the character amongst the boys here. We know of the talent of the bunch, but the character absolutely shone out this evening."



STORY OF THE MATCH

The Hatters ran out the victors in a stunning contest at a snowy Kenilworth Road as they saw off fellow promotion hopefuls Portsmouth, moving themselves five points clear at the top of the table.

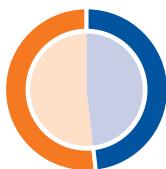
Town dominated the first half, playing some wonderful football and finally making the breakthrough just before half-time when Kazenga Luala found James Collins, who expertly found the bottom right corner from just inside the box.

Pompey were much improved after the break and

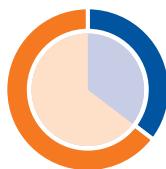
found an equaliser when Ronan Curtis curled in from the edge of the box.

Collins fired in from the penalty spot with just under 15 minutes to go after Luala had been tripped, before Omar Bogle grabbed a debut goal for the visitors two minutes later to restore parity.

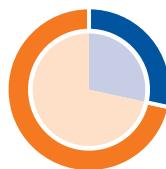
Substitute George Moncur then bent in a wonderful free-kick in the 86th minute, after he himself had been fouled, to secure a massive three points that sent Kenilworth Road into delirium.



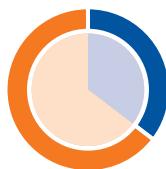
POSSESSION
56% | 44%



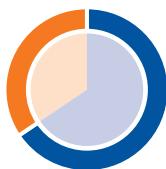
SHOTS ON TARGET
9 | 6



SHOTS OFF TARGET
5 | 2



CORNERS
6 | 8



FOULS
10 | 21



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MON-TARGET!

Midfielder George Moncur netted the winner in last week's stunning win over Portsmouth - his first goal for the Hatters in only his third substitute's appearance.

He told iFollow Hatters afterwards that as well as being delighted for himself to get off the mark so early in his Town career, following his transfer from Barnsley last month, he was more than happy with what he saw from the bench before his introduction.

"It was unbelievable," said Moncur. "I thought the boys in the first half, it was the best I've seen anyone at this level pass a team off the park.

"Portsmouth are a great side, and no disrespect to them, but the all-round performance and especially in the first half was unreal – it's the best I've seen."

On his winning goal, which came in the 86th minute after he had been fouled on the edge of the box, the 25-year-old added: "I was the one that won the free-kick, as I came in, I was nearly in on goal and I got taken down on the right hand side.

"A few of the lads were running by the ball and said 'Moncs, you have it', so I fancied it.

"Justin said 'What I'll do is I'll run over it', I think the keeper moved a bit to the left, and then I just managed to whip it round

and thankfully it found the corner so I was over the moon.

"It's a good strike but I'm trying to be a humble guy as you never should get ahead of yourself, but I'm really happy it's gone in and hopefully we can get another win on Saturday.

"That's the way it is in football, I've had some tough times and I've had some great times – and that goes right up there as a great time.

"I'm really happy with myself that I managed to get my first goal and hopefully I can continue to get more for the rest of the season."



SATURDAY 2ND FEBRUARY • MONTGOMERY WATERS STADIUM • SKY BET LEAGUE ONE • ATTENDANCE: 6,859 • AWAY: 1,334

SHREWSBURY 0 LUTON TOWN 3

TOWN GOALS : COLLINS 30, 69, PEARSON 53



James Collins nets the Hatters' opening goal



SHEA
STACEY
PEARSON
BRADLEY
JUSTIN
McCORMACK
(POTTS 78)
MPANZU
SHINNIE
BERRY (MONCUR 83)
COLLINS
LUALUA (HYLTON 70)

SUBS NOT USED:
BAPTISTE
CUMMINGS
SHEEHAN
ISTED

YELLOW CARDS:
MPANZU

ARNOLD
SADLER
DOCHERTY
CAMPBELL (PAYNE 63)
OKENABIRHIE
BOLTON
VINCEROT (WHALLEY 55)
WATERFALL
GOLBOURNE
NORBURN (LAURENT 76)
GRANT

SUBS NOT USED:
MITCHELL
WILLIAMS
HOLLOWAY
SEARS

YELLOW CARDS:
GRANT
DOCHERTY
GOLBOURNE

STORY OF THE MATCH

The Hatters began February with a win over Shrewsbury Town, although a 3-0 scoreline flattered Mick Harford's side.

The first real quality attack of the game saw James Collins find the back of the net against his former side after half an hour, when Luke Berry nodded down Alan McCormack's left-wing cross, with Collins smashing it past Steve Arnold.

Town had their second shortly after the restart when Matty Pearson's cross beat everyone including Arnold, flying over the keeper and into the back of the net, just inside the far post.

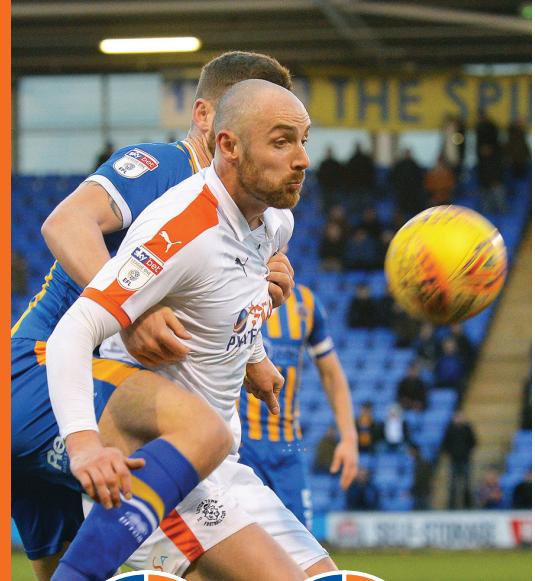
Then with 20 minutes to go Collins sealed the win after he was expertly found by Kazenga Luala – the former Crawley Town man managing to squirm the ball past Arnold under pressure.



HARFORD

"The scoreline says it's a convincing win and obviously, we're absolutely thrilled to keep a clean sheet. I thought it was a real, real professional performance on the back of a really hard January. We didn't play at our best, they made it very difficult for us, they matched our shape, the pitch wasn't in the best condition, but overall I thought it was a real professional performance from the players."

"They were excellent today in terms of second balls, winning their headers, and I think when the game settled down and we scored that second goal, we were in total control and thoroughly deserved to win the game."



POSSESSION
45% | 55%



SHOTS ON TARGET
8 | 7



SHOTS OFF TARGET
5 | 2



CORNERS
4 | 3



FOULS
20 | 11

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COOL COLLO EXTENDS SHREWS' STADIUM RECORD



James Collins was able to score a second brace in as many matches against Shrewsbury last week to become the division's top scorer on 18 goals for the season.

It was the forward's first match back at Montgomery Waters Meadow as an opposition player since his departure in 2016, with a mural of him painted on a wall in the stadium after two prolific spells with the club made him the record scorer on that ground.

Collins was thrilled to have netted two more goals there, but this time for the Hatters, who now sit six points clear at the top of the league.

He said: "This ground, this stadium and this club have been good to me over the years. I've had a lot of success, two promotions and a few goals so I'm delighted to come back, but I've come here as a Luton Town player and I think we did our job today.

"On a personal note, to score a couple of goals at my former club, it couldn't be any better. But the main thing today was getting those three points because we wanted to back up the great result we had in midweek. It's a difficult place to come, they've signed a lot of players in the week as well. The pitch isn't great, so I think the lads showed great character today to get the three points."

The forward has been on fire recently, scoring 14 goals in 14 league matches for the Town, with all 18 coming in his last 22 having not scored until September 29th.

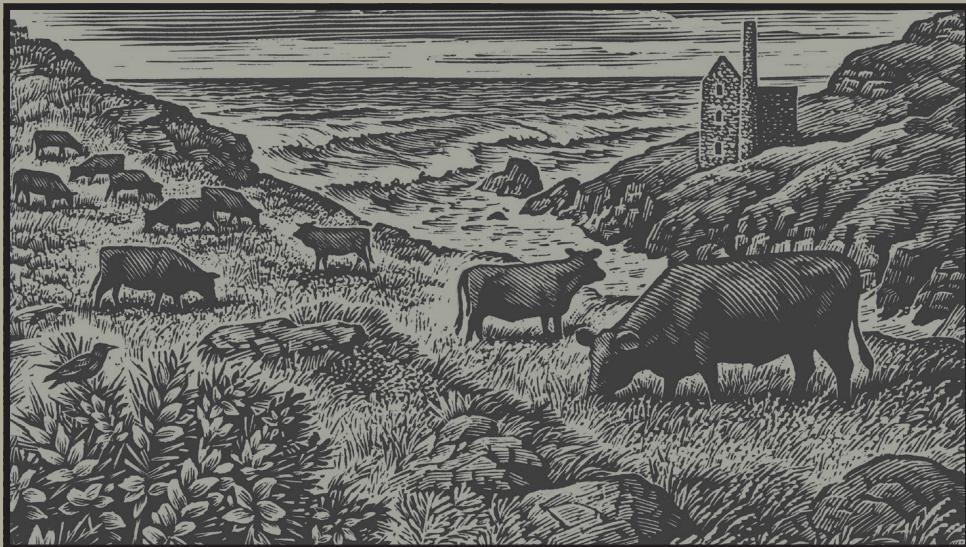
A lot of this is down to the whole squad working hard together according to Collins, who had nothing but praise for his team-mates.

He continued: "We showed great patience at times. If we were going to get any joy this afternoon it was down the left-hand side with Pelly and JJ. Macca has picked out Bezza brilliantly and Bezza has found me. He is deceptively very good in the air – I don't know if he's going for goal! – but he's managed to knock it down to me for a tap in.

"I also owe so much to Kaz over the last four or five games. He's so selfless, he commits people, he's so sharp and he's getting assist after assist so it would be nice for him to get a goal as well. But I'm really pleased that he is setting me up, he's so selfless and he's playing really well at the moment."

The striker is also looking forward to the last 15 matches of the season, having signed three new faces including his former Hibs team-mate, Jason Cummings.

He added: "He (Cummings) was excellent for Hibs when I left and then he got his move to Forest and then to Rangers and so on. He was great for Peterborough at the start of the season as well, so to add quality like that at this stage of the season could benefit everyone for Luton."



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TRAVELLER'S TALES

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

THE JOURNEY

On a freezing cold morning, the trip to Shrewsbury was pretty lengthy, but it was made much easier with the Bobbers giving everyone on the coach a free journey to celebrate their 40th anniversary. We eventually got to the New Meadow just after 2pm.

RATING: (OUT OF 5)

THE GROUND

This was my second trip to Shrewsbury's 'new' ground. I'm not a fan of this style of new build ground at all. It was soulless, in the middle of nowhere, and everything I know Power Court won't be when we move there. The facilities were ok but that was all it had going for it.

RATING:

THE FOOD

With the journey pretty bad, I only had time to grab something inside the ground for once. The food was decent enough, but it was pretty expensive and there was no burger option, which I thought was strange. No complaints with the hot dog that I had though.

RATING:

THE PROGRAMME

An 84-page programme was produced for this match with more than half of it being adverts. There were a few pages on the Town with James Collins highlighted as the star man. That was a bit of Nostradamus like predicting!

RATING:

THE MATCH

This was far from the Town's best performance, but such is the confidence we are playing with at the minute, we still eased to a 3-0 win. James Collins' opener was against the run of play but from that moment on we were always winning. James Justin nearly made it two on the stroke of half-time, but Matty Pearson's cross flew over the keeper and into the net shortly into the second half. Collins added his second to wrap up the points and there was still time for Danny Hylton and Justin to force fine saves from the Shrewsbury stopper, in what quickly became a romp for the Town. The scoreline probably didn't tell the whole story but we don't care!

RATING:

MAN OF THE MATCH

Alan McCormack crossed for Luke Berry to set up Collins' opener and that was one of a number of things the midfielder did well. Macca broke up play regularly and switched the ball to launch our own attacks at will. McCormack is playing so well at the minute that we have hardly missed Glen Rea. He was my man of the match.

SUMMARY

The journey home was as bad as the one there for one reason or another, but eventually I got in just after 9pm to see the goals again on TV! I'll happily take a poor journey for three points and moving six points clear at the top though! Well worth it!

OVERALL RATING: 11

YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS 18/19

TOBY BYRON  H: Gill, Julie, Neil & Yvonne A: AVAILABLE	JOSH NEUFVILLE  H: David and Joel Nicholls A: Derek & Madison Borino	COREY PANTER  H: Andrew J Finch A: AVAILABLE	TIERNAN PARKER  H: Gill, Julie, Neil & Yvonne A: Bobbers Travel Club G: AVAILABLE
JAKE PECK  H: DLA Driving School A: Mr & Mrs Bright	DREW RICHARDSON  H: RCP Parking A: Blakeney Estates	CONNOR TOMLINSON  H: LTFCool A: Michael & Vicki Wilson	JOSH BOORN  H: Andrew J Finch A: AVAILABLE
AYAN JONES  H: Middleton Bespoke Joinery A: AVAILABLE	JAMES HOLDEN  H: SS & C Technologies A: AVAILABLE G: AVAILABLE	RICO GRECO  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	LEWIS SWINDELLS  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE
JONAS KALONDA  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	SAM BECKWITH  H: David Boswell A: Frank and Diane Woodward	DEQUANE WILSON-BRAITHWAITE  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KIT SPONSORSHIPS, CONTACT OUR COMMERCIAL TEAM ON 01582 411622
ANDY AWFORD  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE	INIGO IDIAKEZ  H: RCP Parking A: Icknield Class of 96/97	NEXT UP: SAT 16 FEB AFC WIMBLEDON A KO 10:30AM SAT 23 FEB NORTHAMPTON TOWN H KO 11AM ELY WAY	

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Andrew Shinnie's HAT'S LIFE

Apple or Android?

Apple.

**Last person you called?**

My dad.

**Most famous person in your phone?**

Conor Benn.

Favourite food?

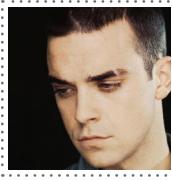
Italian – pasta dishes.

**Apple or rhubarb crumble?**

Apple.

Food you can't stand?

Tomatoes.

**Pet hate?**

Poor hygiene.

Cat or dog?

Dog.

Xbox or PlayStation?

PlayStation.

Karaoke song?

Angels – Robbie Williams.

Favourite artist?

The 1975.

**Top of your playlist?**

Belper – Gerry Cinnamon.

**Last holiday?**

Venice and Greece.

Can't miss on TV?

Made in Chelsea.

**Love Island or Peaky Blinders?**

Love Island.

**Favourite away ground?**

Ibrox.

Best moment in football?

Scotland debut.

Best player played with?

Steven Davis.

Room-mate?

Pottsy.

Instagram or Twitter?

Instagram.

Ibrox - Andrew's favourite away ground



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LUTON TOWN IN THE COMMUNITY

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE COHESION AWARD

Congratulations to the Trust's Community Operations Manager, Daniel Douglas, who last week received the Cohesion Choice Award at the Annual Bedfordshire Police 2019 awards.

The top award of the evening recognises an individual that has worked proactively on a number of significant community projects in the County over the past year, and who has supported the Police and community in multiple areas and projects as well as volunteering considerable time and effort to promote cohesion resulting in a significant positive impact to community relations.

A great tribute recognising Daniel's work, who Chief Inspector Hob Hoque described as 'a pillar of the community and a role model for all our communities'.

Congratulations also to Daniel's cohesion team of Wayne Polson, Vicky Farleigh and Kamran Khan, who were also nominated in the Sporting Stars category, recognising the importance of the work that goes on every night on some of Luton's most deprived estates bringing together young people through sport improving community cohesion and improving life chances.

Our early intervention work was also recognised in trying to divert young people away from crime and



anti-social behaviour as well as our regular activities and tournaments in school holidays.

A good night for the team as well as a deserved night off!

COULD YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY BECOMING A TRUSTEE OF THE LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST?

The Luton Town FC Community Trust is a registered charity that delivers sports activities, coaching and educational services to around 3,500 local residents each week.

Its main aim is to promote community participation in healthy recreational sport by providing high quality affordable activities that improve health, are

in the interests of social welfare and to provide a more active, healthy, socially inclusive and cohesive community in Luton and Bedfordshire.

The Trust seeks to engage with all members of our diverse community and recognises the power of football to be at the heart of all communities with the ability to make a positive difference to people's

[IN THE COMMUNITY]

lives through the provision of educational, sports, health and social cohesion services.

The Board of Trustees is looking to appoint up to two additional Trustees, who will complement the skills and experiences of the existing Board and provide strategic direction for the Trust and its growing portfolio of social projects. New Trustees will have a passion about increasing opportunities and will want to make a real difference for the local community. As we have a desire to recruit Trustees that reflect the make-up of the local community, we

would particularly welcome applications from under-represented groups as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

If you are interested email kevin.thoburn@lutontown.co.uk for a copy of the information and application pack.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role or application and selection process, please contact Kevin Thoburn, Head of Community Trust, at the Community office on **01582 561622**.

HATTERS TRUST YOUTH VOICE PROJECT

Children should be seen and not heard is a mantra that will be familiar with a certain generation – times have changed!

The Hatters Community Trust, along with partners Beds Police, are currently visiting six High Schools in Luton – Chalk Hills, Lea Manor, Stockwood Park, Icknield and Challney Boys – to discuss and listen to the views of 14 and 15-year-olds on knife and gang crime and the negative effects on community cohesion they are contributing around the Town.

The pupils from each school will be mentored over a four to six-week programme to produce a 10-15 minute power point presentation to channel their thoughts, feelings and ideas on the subject, which they will then present to a whole school assembly.

After a daunting in-house 'dress rehearsals' all six schools will then come to the stadium to compete in a 'Dragon's Den' presentation with a panel of influential decision makers in the Town that will pick our Luton Youth Voice champions of 2019.

As well as having a bit of competitive fun around a pretty serious subject, Youth Voice, is important to the Trust as it helps steer our operations – knowing what we are delivering is relevant to young people in the Town.

Listening and collecting ideas, opinions, attitudes and knowledge of young people as a collective body is an essential part of the Trust being more effective ensuring successful project delivery and relevant engagement with young people.



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COMMUNITY EXTRA

EXCITING NEW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP WITH LTFC ANNOUNCED

Luton Town Football Club and a local primary school are embarking on a wonderful new partnership in football for young children in the town.

Stopsley Community Primary School have joined forces with Luton Town Community Trust to give their children incredible opportunities that wouldn't usually be received in the normal PE, English and PSHE curriculum.

A new partnership package has been created where pupils at the school will work closely with the Community Trust in order to help this next generation of children aspire and be more aware of the importance of teamwork, health and achievement.

The children at Stopsley will be given tickets to Luton Town games and will be given the opportunity to be match mascots and flag bearers at Kenilworth Road.

The pupils will be involved with stadium visits as well as getting regular assemblies delivered by Community Trust staff and the football club's mascots.

All Stopsley pupils will become Junior Hatters, helping them learn about important values such as commitment, loyalty and success.

On 22nd January, goalkeeper Marek Stech and forward Harry Cornick visited the school to announce the start of this great partnership with a Question and Answer session.

The players spent time talking to Key Stage 2 pupils, enthusing the youngsters to dream big, stay active and achieve their dreams.



This is the first partnership of its kind in the town between club and school, and Headteacher Richard Fordham said: "It is great that Luton Town are so keen to get involved with local schools and offer such amazing opportunities to the young children.

"We are proud to support Luton Town and are looking forward to giving our pupils the chance to meet players, report on matches and continue their learning in such an exciting way.

"This is a great partnership and helps us develop the whole child, as well as encouraging our youngsters to aspire and be anything they want to be.'

James Hatch, Hatters School Manager, said: "A whole school approach over the full curriculum year allows us to plan a full calendar of regular events and allows the relationship to between Club and school grow which benefits everyone."

For any enquires please contact James Hatch at school.sport@lutontown.co.uk



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QUICK QUIZ! >>> _____ : Clue... the year Luton Town Football Club was established

JUNIOR HATTERS



INSTAGRAM:
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FOOTBALL CLUB



WYCOMBE TINY STATS

Formed: 1887
Stadium: Adams Park
Capacity: 9,122
Last season: 3rd (Lg. 2)
Head to head with Luton:
Luton wins - 12
Draws - 9
Wycombe wins - 5
Manager: Gareth Ainsworth



Alex Baptiste
D.O.B: 31/01/1986
Height: 180 cm
Position: Centre Half
Loaned From: QPR
Country: England
18/19 Goals So Far: 0

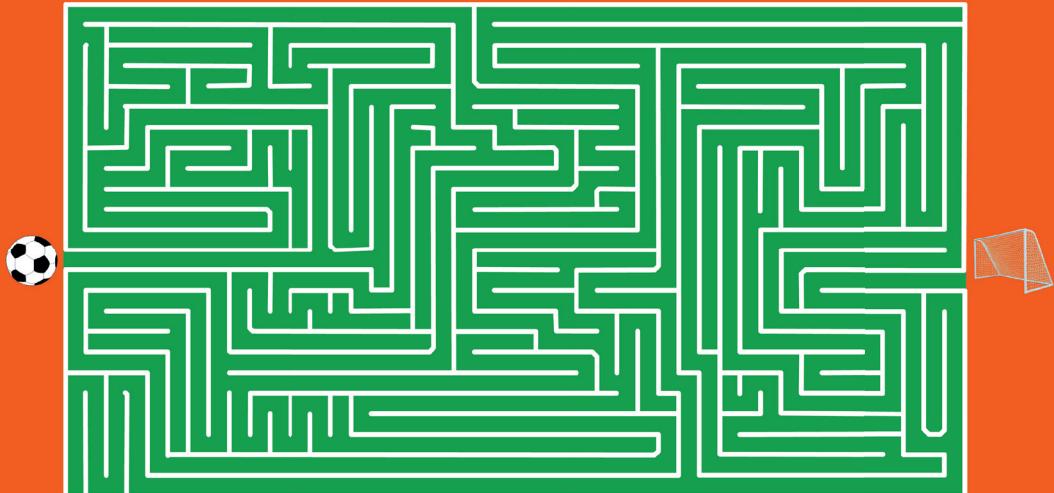


Jason Cummings
D.O.B: 01/08/1995
Height: 178 cm
Position: Striker
Loaned From: Forest
Country: Scotland
18/19 Goals So Far: 8



Aaron Connolly
D.O.B: 28/01/2000
Height: 180 cm
Position: Striker
Loaned From: Brighton
Country: Republic of Ireland
18/19 Goals So Far: 16

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LEAGUE LOOK

LEAGUE TABLE 2018/19										
		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
1	Luton Town	31	19	8	4	61	27	34	65	
2	Barnsley	30	17	8	5	53	26	27	59	
3	Portsmouth	30	17	7	6	50	31	19	58	
4	Sunderland	28	15	11	2	49	26	23	56	
5	Charlton Athletic	31	16	6	9	47	32	15	54	
6	Peterborough United	31	13	10	8	49	41	8	49	
7	Doncaster Rovers	29	13	8	8	52	38	14	47	
8	Blackpool	29	11	10	8	31	27	4	43	
9	Wycombe Wanderers	31	11	10	10	41	42	-1	43	
10	Fleetwood Town	31	11	9	11	42	34	8	42	
11	Coventry City	31	11	7	13	32	37	-5	40	
12	Southend United	30	12	2	16	39	37	2	38	
13	Burton Albion	30	10	8	12	39	39	0	38	
14	Scunthorpe United	31	10	7	14	38	56	-18	37	
15	Accrington Stanley	28	9	9	10	27	36	-9	36	
16	Plymouth Argyle	31	10	6	15	39	52	-13	36	
17	Walsall	30	9	8	13	34	47	-13	35	
18	Rochdale	31	9	7	15	38	62	-24	34	
19	Gillingham	30	9	6	15	40	49	-9	33	
20	Bristol Rovers	30	8	8	14	29	33	-4	32	
21	Oxford United	30	7	11	12	37	46	-9	32	
22	Bradford City	31	9	5	17	36	51	-15	32	
23	Shrewsbury Town	30	7	10	13	32	42	-10	31	
24	AFC Wimbledon	30	6	5	19	22	46	-24	23	

PLAYER STATS 2018/19										
THIS SEASON						LTFC CAREER TOT				
LEAGUE	APPs	GLS	CUP	APPs	GLS	TOTAL	APPs	GLS	DISP.	R
Luke Berry	4	(5)	1	2	(1)	0	6	(6)	1	0
Sonny Bradley	29	(1)	0	5	(0)	0	34	(1)	0	4
James Collins	29	(2)	18	4	(0)	0	33	(2)	18	6
Harry Cornick	13	(9)	5	5	(0)	2	18	(9)	7	0
Luke Gambin	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0
Jorge Grant	13	(4)	2	4	(1)	2	17	(5)	4	2
Danny Hylton	10	(7)	5	2	(1)	0	12	(8)	5	2
Harry Isted	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0
Jack James	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0
Aaron Jarvis	0	(4)	0	4	(2)	1	4	(6)	1	0
Jake Jervis	0	(2)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(2)	0	0
Lloyd Jones	0	(1)	0	3	(1)	0	3	(2)	0	1
James Justin	20	(8)	3	7	(2)	0	27	(10)	3	1
Elliot Lee	24	(0)	10	4	(1)	0	28	(1)	10	4
Kazenga Luuled	4	(8)	1	4	(2)	1	8	(10)	2	1
Alan McCormack	10	(2)	0	4	(0)	0	14	(2)	0	8
George Moncur	0	(4)	1	0	(0)	0	0	(4)	1	0
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	31	(0)	1	4	(2)	0	35	(2)	1	3
Frankie Musonda	0	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	0
Josh Neufville	0	(0)	0	0	(3)	0	0	(3)	0	0
Eunan O'Kane	0	(3)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(3)	0	0
Matty Pearson	31	(0)	5	6	(0)	0	37	(0)	5	1
Jake Peck	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Dan Potts	14	(5)	1	2	(0)	0	15	(7)	1	4
Glen Rea	20	(2)	1	4	(1)	0	24	(3)	1	5
Arthur Read	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	4	(0)	1	0
Jack Senior	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	1
James Shea	28	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	33	(0)	0	0
Alan Sheehan	3	(10)	0	4	(0)	1	7	(10)	1	1
Andrew Shinnie	25	(2)	4	6	(0)	1	31	(2)	5	6
Jack Stacey	30	(0)	2	5	(0)	0	35	(0)	2	2
Marek Stech	3	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	0
George Thorne	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Connor Tomlinson	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	2

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FIXTURES PILE-UP

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI				
AUGUST												
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth	L 0-1	19,018	2,392	21	Stech	Justin	Pearson	Sheehan	Potts
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Sunderland	D 1-1	10,059	1,047	19	Stech	Stacey	Pearson 1	Sheehan	Potts
Tue 14	8.00pm	A	West Bromwich Albion (CC R1)	L 0-1	10,404	1,175	-	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Peterborough United	L 1-3	8,016	2,209	22	Stech	Stacey	Pearson ●	Bradley	Sheehan
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Southend United	W 2-0	9,086	916	15	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Shrewsbury Town	W 3-2	8,518	379	10	Shea	Stacey 1	Pearson	Bradley	Potts
SEPTEMBER												
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers	D 1-1	6,072	1,702	9	Shea	Stacey	Pearson 1	Bradley	Potts
Tue 4	7.45pm	H	Brighton & Hove Albion U21 (CT)	W 2-1	1,318	44	-	Isted	Justin	Jones	Sheehan	Senior
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Doncaster Rovers	L 1-2	7,526	1,013	11	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Bristol Rovers	W 1-0	8,912	519	11	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Blackpool	D 0-0	4,124	1,382	12	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Charlton Athletic	D 2-2	9,502	1,032	12	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts
OCTOBER												
Tue 2	7.45pm	A	Oxford United	W 2-1	6,769	1,171	10	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts 1
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Scunthorpe United	W 3-2	8,682	432	8	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts ●
Tue 9	7.45pm	H	MK Dons (CT)	W 3-0	875	208	-	Isted	Justin	Rea	Sheehan 1	Senior
Sat 13	12.00pm	A	Barnsley	L 2-3	12,688	807	10	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts
Sat 20	3.00pm	H	Walsall	W 2-0	8,953	504	7	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Potts ●
Tue 23	7.45pm	H	Accrington Stanley	W 4-1	8,454	64	6	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon	W 2-0	4,202	751	5	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
NOVEMBER												
Sat 3	3.00pm	A	Rochdale	D 0-0	3,689	858	5	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers (FACR1)	W 2-0	5,343	786	-	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Tue 13	7.45pm	A	Peterborough United (CT)	L 1-2	2,017	254	-	Stech	James	Pearson	Jones	Sheehan
Sat 17	3.00pm	H	Plymouth Argyle	W 5-1	10,004	871	5	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin 1
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Gillingham	W 3-1	5,671	1,282	4	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Tue 27	7.45pm	H	Bradford City	W 4-0	8,568	298	3	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin 1
DECEMBER												
Sun 2	2.00pm	A	Bury (FACR2)	W 1-0	2,977	549	-	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Wed 5	7.45pm	H	Southend United (CT2)	D 1-1*	1,545	121	-	Stech	Musonda	Jones	Potts	Senior ●
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Fleetwood Town	W 2-0	8,528	81	2	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Sat 15	3.00pm	A	Coventry City	W 2-1	12,559	2,598	2	Shea	Stacey	Pearson 1	Bradley	Rea
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Burton Albion	W 2-0	9,538	173	2	Shea	Stacey 1	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Wed 26	3.00pm	A	Scunthorpe United	W 2-0	4,050	766	2	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Grant ●
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	Walsall	D 2-2	5,739	1,956	2	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
JANUARY												
Tue 1	3.00pm	H	Barnsley	D 0-0	9,926	845	2	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Sat 5	12.30pm	A	Sheffield Wednesday (FACR3)	D 0-0	16,974	4,219	-	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Sat 12	3.00pm	A	Sunderland	D 1-1	37,791	3,081	2	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Tue 15	7.45pm	H	Sheffield Wednesday (FACR3R)	L 0-1	9,259	1,473	-	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
Sat 19	3.00pm	H	Peterborough United	W 4-0	10,055	1,031	2	Shea	Stacey	Pearson ●	Bradley	Justin
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Southend United	W 1-0	8,460	2,037	1	Shea	Stacey	Pearson 1	Bradley	Justin
Tue 29	7.45pm	H	Portsmouth	W 3-2	10,078	1,033	1	Shea	Stacey	Pearson	Bradley	Justin
FEBRUARY												
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	W 3-0	6,859	1,334	1	Shea	Stacey	Pearson 1	Bradley	Justin
Sat 9	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers									
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Fleetwood Town									
Sun 24	12.00pm	H	Coventry City									
MARCH												
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Rochdale									
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle									
Tue 12	7.45pm	A	Bradford City									
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	Gillingham									
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Doncaster Rovers									
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Bristol Rovers									
APRIL												
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Blackpool									
Sat 13	3.00pm	A	Charlton Athletic									
Fri 19	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley									
Mon 22	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon									
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	Burton Albion									
MAY												
Sat 4	5.30pm	H	Oxford United									

TODAY'S SKY BET LEAGUE ONE FIXTURES

AFC Wimbledon v Burton Albion	Gillingham v Barnsley
Blackpool v Walsall	Luton Town v Wycombe Wanderers
Bradford City v Fleetwood Town	Oxford United v Sunderland
Bristol Rovers v Shrewsbury Town	Plymouth Argyle v Portsmouth
Charlton Athletic v Southend United	Rochdale v Coventry City
Doncaster Rovers v Peterborough United	Scunthorpe United v Accrington Stanley

*Lost 2-4 on penalties

WHO, WHEN AND WHERE THE HATTERS ARE PLAYING THIS SEASON

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

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





>> UP NEXT

> FLEETWOOD TOWN
> 16.02.19 > KO: 3pm

FORMED: 1908 | NICKNAME: THE COD ARMY | LAST SEASON: 14TH IN LEAGUE ONE | FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @FTFC | COLOURS: RED & WHITE | GROUND: HIGBURY STADIUM | MANAGER: JOEY BARTON

WHO?

It's difficult to talk about the Cod Army without mentioning their ridiculous climb up the leagues. A North West Counties League Division One side in 2004, they won six promotions in ten years to climb all the way up to League One, where they have resided since 2014.

The club has folded and begun again twice since its inception in 1908, spending a majority of their existence in the lower reaches of Non-League, mainly the Lancashire Combination League.

THE MANAGER

Joey Barton was handed his first job as a manager by chairman Andrew Pilley in the summer, after finishing his playing career with Burnley in 2017. Much was made of his appointment, but after an opening day defeat to AFC Wimbledon, the Cod Army went on a seven-game unbeaten run in the league. That run came to an end in mid-September and since then Fleetwood have been particularly inconsistent, not winning two consecutive games since October.

STADIUM - HIGBURY

Home to Fleetwood since 1934, Highbury has a capacity of just over 5,000. The ground – which for a time was also home to a speedway track – started to be redeveloped in 2007, with the final piece of work completed in 2011, meaning the work started just a season after they'd reached the Northern

Premier League Premier Division and finished when they were in the Conference.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Of our five meetings in total, Town have won on three occasions – including our 2-0 victory earlier on this campaign when a Harry Cornick strike and a Craig Morgan own goal secured the three points for the Hatters – with Fleetwood winning the other two.

RESULTS SO FAR

As we said above – so inconsistent. Knowing which side is going to turn up is genuinely hard to tell – they lost 1-0 at home to bottom side Wimbledon on the opening day and then went to Kingsmeadow and beat them 3-0. Lost to strugglers Bristol Rovers and Gillingham, but then inflicted heavy defeats on Doncaster Rovers home and away, as well as beating Charlton at Highbury. Yet to beat a side in the top four though.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Steve McNulty won promotion to the Football League as Fleetwood Town captain in 2011-12 before moving south to Kenilworth Road the following season, where he became a fans' favourite as he helped the Hatters to the Conference title in 2013-14. Macca played 125 times in all competitions for the Town before moving back to his native Merseyside to join Tranmere in 2015.

TICKETS

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



FLEETWOOD TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE | 3PM | SATURDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

Any remaining tickets are currently on sale and will be available to purchase until 2pm on Friday 15th February. Wheelchair users and ambulant disabled pay the relevant age-related price with a carer free of charge. All purchasers on any concessionary priced tickets (including ambulant disabled) may be asked for relevant documentation. **Terrace Prices:** Adult: £22.00, Over 65s: £17.00, Under 25s: £17.00, Under-16s: £7.00, Under-5s: Free. **Seat Prices** (Parkside South): Adult: £24.00, Over 65s: £19.00, Under-25s: £19.00, Under-16s: £9.00, Under-5s: Free.



COVENTRY CITY

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE | 12PM | SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

Tickets for this fixture are on sale from the Ticket Office at category A prices.

JAMES CROCKER



Luton's biggest fan (according to your wife Natalie) is turning 30! Happy Birthday, James. Love from all your friends and family.



ROCHDALE

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE | 3PM | SATURDAY 2ND MARCH

Tickets for this category C game are currently on sale.



PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE | 3PM | SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

Ticket information for this fixture will be released in due course.



GILLINGHAM

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE | 3PM | SATURDAY 16TH MARCH

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

NIGEL COOPER



We would like to wish a very happy birthday to Hatters supporter Nigel Cooper, who will be 70 on February 13th. We hope you enjoy your party, Nigel, and your sister Christine sends her love from Perth, Australia!

GET WELL SOON, BOB

Bob Dean, who is one of the Hatters oldest supporters at 94, has sadly fallen down in his flat and broken his shoulder. He is being cared for in the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

Despite being housebound and unable to get about, Bob, a former Royal Navy veteran and Vauxhall employee, is delighted with the Hatters' progress this season and will be checking the result as the afternoon goes on!

[MIKE SIMMONDS]



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

BY **MIKE SIMMONDS**,
LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Luton chief executive Gary Sweet wasn't far wrong when he stated 'if Carlsberg did transfer windows' after the deadline passed at Kenilworth Road last week.

For the Hatters not only strengthened their squad immeasurably with the addition of five potentially top notch players, they, just as importantly, also ensured that none of their highly sought after stars left the club either.

There had been the odd murmur surrounding James Justin's future, with the full-back quite rightly attracting attention from clubs higher up the echelon.

The Luton academy graduate is undoubtedly in the form of his life these days, barely putting a foot wrong, in what is supposedly his less preferred position at left-back.

On the other flank, Jack Stacey has had a stellar season, initially keeping Justin out of the side until Dan Potts' injury ensured a vacancy opened in the Town ranks.

He himself had reportedly been on the verge of a summer move to West Bromwich Albion, which thankfully broke down, as his consistently excellent displays have surely bumped up his value even more.

The likes of Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, Elliot Lee and Harry Cornick had all been mentioned with possible transfers away, such is the speculation surrounding January these days, but there was no movement out, barring Akin Famewo's departure to Norwich, the significance of that to be judged in the coming years.

Looking at the arrivals board, as interim boss Mick Harford has since stated, it was all about ensuring

Luton are well stocked in all areas for what could easily be a second successive promotion.

The two Georges, Moncur and Thorne, were already in the building prior to deadline day, with the former showing Town fans just what he can do with that memorable winner against Portsmouth recently.

The additions of Jason Cummings and Aaron Connolly, the latter when fit, should mean there is no let-up to Luton's attacking threat, with Danny Hylton available once more, Cornick and Lee to come back too.

Credit

Meanwhile, Alex Baptiste, described by Harford as a 'proper bloke', could be vital in adding his experience to the dressing room as that finishing line draws ever closer.

As Sweet also mentioned, Harford himself does deserve masses of credit for how he has led the club for the last month.

Becoming a manager once more hadn't been anywhere near his agenda, but he has flourished in the interim role that was thrust on him with the speed of Nathan Jones' departure.

Four wins from five and a manager of the month nomination as well, he's ensured Town haven't just maintained their momentum, but have gone about improving it to lead the table by six points going into today's game.

A top, top effort indeed.



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TEAMS



Manager: MICK HARFORD

- 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
- 12 Alex BAPTISTE
- 14 Harry CORNICK
- 16 Glen REA
- 17 Pelly-Ruddock MPANZU
- 19 James COLLINS
- 20 George MONCUR
- 23 Jason CUMMINGS
- 24 George THORNE
- 25 Kazenga LUALUA
- 35 Arthur READ
- 36 James SHEA
- 40 Harry ISTED
- 44 Alan SHEEHAN
- Aaron CONNOLLY

Manager: GARETH AINSWORTH

- 1 Ryan ALLSOP
- 2 Sido JOMBATI
- 3 Joe JACOBSON
- 4 Dominic GAPE
- 5 Anthony STEWART
- 6 Adam EL-ABD
- 8 Marcus BEAN
- 10 Matt BLOOMFIELD
- 11 Scott KASHKET
- 12 Paris COWAN-HALL
- 13 Cameron YATES
- 15 Charlie OWENS
- 16 Michael HARRIMAN
- 17 Luke BOLTON
- 18 Curtis THOMPSON
- 20 Adebayo AKINFENWA
- 21 Darius CHARLES
- 22 Nick FREEMAN
- 23 Nathan TYSON
- 25 Alex SAMUEL
- 26 Jason MCCARTHY

MATCH OFFICIALS

ANDY DAVIES
 DANIEL LEACH

DARREN BLUNDEN
 SAM PURKISS

NEXT HOME GAME:

COVENTRY CITY
(SKY BET LEAGUE ONE)

Sun 24th Feb 2019 | KO: 12pm

