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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2020-21

ISSUE #13 | LUTON TOWN V READING

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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Made in Luton. Printed by Bartham Press.
Edited by Stuart Hammonds
(stuart.hammonds@lutontown.co.uk).
Design by Ed Smith
Photography by Gareth Owen.

Thanks to contributors: Roger Wash, Ed Smith, Bradley Dixon,
Dan Briard, Simon Pitts, Andy Awford, Kevin Thoburn, Simon
Oxley, Ryan Payne and Dylan Bhundia.

Additional pictures: Rex Features, Prime Media Images
and Liam Smith.

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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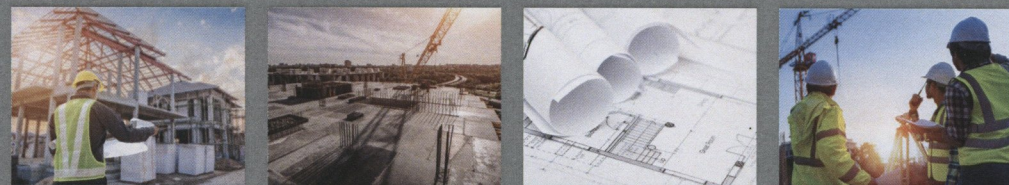
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THE MANAGER



NATHAN JONES

A belated happy new year to everyone as you sadly have to watch on from home again today, that's if you're a BT Sport subscriber, rather than being here with us at Kenilworth Road.

The disappointment of having to postpone last week's game against QPR meant that we weren't able to build on the Bristol City win here in our last match, but as we have become accustomed to seeing elsewhere this season, it was the safest thing at the time, having had positive Covid tests.

We desperately wanted to play but with it being New Year's Day and the EFL's official testing labs being closed, we couldn't get everyone tested and the results back in time for the game to go ahead.

We have been tested twice since then and we can say as safely as anyone is able to at any given time that we are coronavirus-free coming into this one as we turn our attentions to the FA Cup, and welcome Veljko Paunovic, his staff and their Reading players here today.

We've seen plenty of them already since the restart, and although I'm sure they

will say the same as us about preferring to face something different for that bit of FA Cup romance, we have had two closely contested matches so far this season and both sides will be out to make sure we're in the hat for the fourth round draw.

One thought that is constantly driving us on is that you have missed out on so much in 2020, and we want to be able to experience some more special occasions with you here in 2021 - whether that be in the league, or as a good Cup run progresses.

I want to thank you wholeheartedly for the support you have given us from afar in the nine matches that proved so memorable in the summer, and the 25 we've had so far in this helter-skelter season, as well as with your amazing season ticket contributions that have kept the club alive.

For two games we felt your energy and passion again inside this wonderful old stadium, and I can tell you now, it left an impression on not just those of us who know exactly what this place is like when it is full, but especially the players who haven't yet experienced it packed to the rafters.

To have gained 30 points in the Championship already is great, and even though we feel strongly that we should be sitting on a few more than that, there is so much to look forward to this year.

I know 2020 was tough for everyone, and this past week even worse with the latest lockdown introduced. But there is light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine being rolled out, so please stick to the rules, keep up the unbelievable support from home for now, and here's to a much healthier 2021!

Enjoy the game and stay safe.



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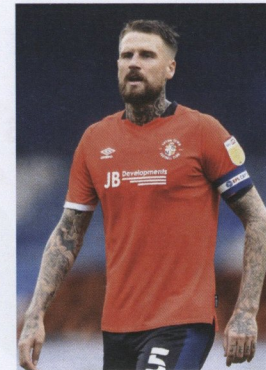
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CAPTAIN



SONNY BRADLEY

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a happy new year in circumstances that none of us have ever experienced before, but we all understand why.

The next few weeks may prove even tougher for us all with the latest lockdown, and on behalf of the whole squad here at Luton Town, we hope everyone stays as safe and as well as possible.

Please follow the rules and do what you can to look after yourselves, each other and of course, the NHS, who are doing such a fantastic job in circumstances no nurse or doctor could have imagined possible when they did their training.

I know first-hand what they are doing, with my family having been affected and needing their care and treatment during this pandemic, so please take every precaution you can to prevent the spread of the virus and help them cope in our hospitals.

Here at the club we have been relatively unaffected so far, and we've adhered to the protocols and measures that have been in place since restart in May.

These have been tightened again since

the positive test results were returned to forced last week's game against QPR to be postponed, and you will have read that having been tested twice this week in the build up to today's match, the squad and staff at all EFL clubs will go through this process every week from now on.

We are doing all we can to stay safe and cocooned in our own homes once we are away from The Brache, so we hope that we can continue to play our matches unaffected and carry on the good form from the first half of the season.

We've already had cup success over Reading this season in the Carabao, which was part of a good run in that competition that brought us a big home tie with Manchester United, though sadly we couldn't have fans at the game.

I'm often asked which game is the highlight of my career and although we've had some unbelievable occasions here, the one that always comes immediately to mind is the FA Cup third round tie at Anfield with Plymouth.

Hearing the Liverpool fans sing 'You'll Never Walk Alone' before that game is something that will live with me forever, and the fact we held them and earned a replay topped a perfect day.

It may be different this year, but the FA Cup is the greatest knockout competition in the world and although ourselves and Reading may be familiar foes, you only have to look at the Marine players preparing to take on Spurs to understand what it means.

We will be doing our very best to make sure we are in Monday's fourth and fifth round draws, so if you're able to watch the game today on BT Sport, enjoy it and thank you once again for your constant support from home.

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Thank You

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Words: Dan Briard

KIERNAN DEWSBURY-HALL

Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall was delighted to get his name on the scoresheet for the first time as a Luton Town player, scoring the winner in the 2-1 victory against Bristol City – the last match of 2020.

The Leicester loanee has earned rave reviews for his sensational performances during his time at Kenilworth Road thus far and scored his first goal on his 15th appearance for the club.

After Glen Rea had given the Hatters a one-goal lead in the first half, Bristol City hit back in the second period, before Dewsbury-Hall fired home from 25 yards – the decisive winner on the night.

"About time!" the 22-year-old admitted. "It has been coming. I'm happy to get myself my first goal and contribute to the team, obviously happy that Glen got on the end of my corner to get the assist. I just want to keep contributing and hopefully get a couple more now and I'll be happy."

Town quickly put the Boxing Day defeat against Reading behind them with a hard-fought victory in the last match of 2020, a view which the midfielder shared.

"We knew coming into this game we

needed three points to stay in touch with the play-offs and we're all delighted to get the three points. We know home is becoming a little bit of a fortress now, teams are coming here and not getting an easy game. To come away with the three points tonight is a great feeling for everybody.

"We were very disappointed coming out of the Reading game because we didn't feel as if we showed our true capabilities in the game. We knew today we needed to bounce back for ourselves and for the fans. We are happy to get three points and hopefully the fans are happy with that as well.

"No game is easy, no game you can just go in and think 'yeah we're going to walk through this', you have to earn the right to play and earn the right to get three points. I thought we did that tonight."

On a personal note, Dewsbury-Hall is pleased he has been able to show the Luton Town faithful what he is all about, especially after picking up his fifth Man of the Match award in six home matches.





(Continued from page 11)

"It has been great, the support from the fans, I just go into every game trying to do as well as I can for the team and it is really nice the fans see that and it is nice to get some recognition as well on a personal level. For a team it's nice to get the three points and that is the most important thing.

"I'm a player that has a lot of belief in myself, I believe I can do really well. I came here knowing that I really wanted to make an impact and a name for myself in this tough league. That was my aim to come here and do as well as possible, it's nice that I have come in, played a lot of games and really shown what I'm capable of.

"I believe now there is still a long time to go towards the end of the season, I can keep improving and really make

an impact for the team. I like to consider myself an all-round midfielder, I like to score goals and get assists. It is nice to get the first one and hopefully now I can keep building on that, I know I have the ability to score goals and that will give me a bit more confidence for the upcoming games."

Asked if he hopes to make a similar impact to Harvey Barnes at Leicester, who thrived on loan before returning to the King Power Stadium and impressing in the Premier League, the midfielder said: "I've seen what Harvey did, going through the loan system, going up the leagues and he made a real impact.

"Now everyone can see what he is doing in the Premier League so that is a big aim for me, I would like to think I can follow in the same footsteps he has gone.

"I went to Blackpool, now I'm at Luton and I'm really enjoying myself. It is a great club, a fantastic league and I think we're really performing well in the league.

"We consider ourselves a real stable Championship side now and we're just getting the confidence to push on now to try and become a top 12 Championship team, because we believe we are in the dressing room and I've come in to help contribute towards that, so long may it continue."

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THE PRESS BOX

BBC Three Counties commentator **SIMON OXLEY** looks back on a landmark year

In normal times we would be fondly recalling 2020, but we couldn't say "good riddance" quick enough just over a week ago, could we?

That summer night victory over Blackburn here in July should arguably rank alongside Maine Road in 1983 and the Baseball Ground in 1990 as among the greatest of escapes from relegation.

I was fortunate enough to be here, but looking back it still seems a surreal moment, with so few others here to celebrate and help to bring it all to life.

It almost seems a lifetime ago when we kicked off 2020 with a lunchtime start on New Year's Day itself at Millwall. Visits to the New Den aren't usually something you crave, but we'll take anything right now.

Amidst all the gloom around us there have been some highlights, including of course that escape from relegation back to League One. The win at Hull which set up that last-game decider is also a standout memory. This season saw the return of the Watford/Luton derby, and the brief return of fans which helped to inspire the excellent win over Norwich.

But the return which we will remember the most was that of Nathan Jones. They say you can never go back. They certainly say you can never go back after leaving like that. But 2020 was the year when we put normal to one side. In fact we didn't just put it to one side, we put normal in a box in the cupboard under the stairs and threw away the key.



2020 was supposed to be the year when all the plans of the club's custodians came to fruition – hence the name 2020. Now while Gary and his colleagues haven't yet opened the doors of a new stadium, their actions in the year of their name must still be loudly applauded. Years like the one just gone are when you earn your place around the boardroom table. Changes were decisive, financial management in the Championship 'mad house' appears sound, and despite the obvious impact of a pandemic we still have a club to play at that eagerly-anticipated stadium.

And of course there is the role in the community – staying in touch with your family of fans, but also helping those who might never have been, and may never come, but who don't deserve not to be able to eat a decent meal.

In many ways we welcome 2021 with open arms. Personally I'm looking forward to returning to commentary duties today after a Covid-enforced absence. But we should look back on 2020, not necessarily fondly, but certainly with pride.

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READING FC

FACT FILE



NICKNAME: The Royals

STADIUM: The Madejski Stadium

CAPACITY: 24,161

LEAGUE & FA CUP 19-20: 14th in the Championship / 5th Round

MANAGER: Veljko Paunovic

MILES FROM LUTON: 60 miles

LAST MEETING: Madejski Stadium, 26/12/20, 1-2, Championship

RECORD APPEARANCE HOLDER: Martin Hicks, 500 from 1978-91

RECORD SIGNING: George Puscas, around £8m - Inter Milan, 2019



THE MANAGER VELJKO PAUNOVIC

Former Serbia international Veljko Paunovic had a long-playing career, playing for the likes of Atletico Madrid, Hannover, Getafe, and Partizan, before ending his career in the US with Philadelphia Union.

The 43-year-old took his first steps into coaching with the Serbian national team, managing their Under-18s, Under-19s, and Under-20s across three years working with them, winning the 2015 Under-20s World Cup.

Paunovic's first job in club football was MLS side Chicago Fire, where he took over in 2015. The Serbian led the side to the play-offs in 2017.

After four years at Toyota Park, he left in 2019 and in August 2020, he replaced Mark Bowen as manager of Reading.

READING

ON THE RADAR

GOALKEEPER



**RAFAEL
CABRAL**

Brazilian goalkeeper Rafael Cabral started his career at Santos, going on to feature in 94 league games across a decade-long spell.

He then moved to Italy, signing for Serie A side Napoli. He made his debut in the Champions League against Arsenal, and spent five years in Naples.

The 30-year-old's next move was across Italy, as he joined Sampdoria. His spell at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris ended after one season, and in August 2019, he joined the Royals on a free transfer.

The goalkeeper is a senior international for Brazil, making his debut against the USA in 2012. He has three caps to his name.

DEFENDER



**MICHAEL
MORRISON**

Michael Morrison came through the academy at Cambridge United, and went on to become a regular for the then-Conference club. During his time in the U's first-team, he made over 100 league appearances.

Morrison then had a three-year spell at Leicester, helping the side win League One in 2009. His next club was Sheffield Wednesday, where he spent just over six months, before joining Charlton in the summer of 2011.

The 32-year-old then moved to Charlton, featuring regularly for the Addicks, before switching to Birmingham after a few seasons. In July 2019, he joined Reading on a two-year-deal.

MIDFIELD



**JOSH
LAURENT**

Playing in the academy sides of Redbridge and Wycombe earlier in his youth, Josh Laurent progressed through the system at QPR.

He then moved across London, signing for Brentford, with his only appearance coming in a League Cup tie. In February 2016, he moved to Hartlepool, and was a regular for the side in League Two. Laurent then spent 18 months at Wigan, and on loan at Bury.

The 25-year-old joined Shrewsbury in July 2018, and proved himself to be a key player for the Shrews. After two years at the club, he left for Reading.

STRIKER



**YAKOU
MEITE**

Born in Paris, striker Yakou Meite began his footballing career with Paris Saint-Germain, mostly featuring for the club's development sides. He made his one and only first team appearance in Ligue 1 against Guingamp in April 2016.

He joined Reading in July 2016, making 14 league appearances in his first season with the Royals. He would spend the following season on loan in Ligue 2 with Sochaux, before returning to the Madejski.

Meite has been a regular in the Reading team since returning from loan. Internationally, he has been capped by the Ivory Coast national side.



KEEP AN EYE ON...

LUCAS JOAO

Lucas Joao started his professional career in his native Portugal, breaking into the CD Nacional first team.

After three seasons with Nacional, and a loan to Mirandela, he left for Sheffield Wednesday in 2015. Joao spent four years with the Owls, making over 110 Championship appearances.

The 27-year-old joined Blackburn on loan for the second half of the 2016/17 season.

In August 2019, he swapped Sheffield Wednesday for Reading, joining for an undisclosed fee. He has two caps for the Portugal national side, making his debut against Russia in 2015.

Words: Ryan Payne



CLASSIC CLASH

**22.01.2000 | LUTON TOWN 3 READING 1
DIVISION TWO (NOW LEAGUE ONE)**

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS ARCHIVES...

Luton Manager Lennie Lawrence looked on the home clash with expensively assembled Reading as potentially the toughest of the season as he would be without six first team players through injury, with a late loan bid for Charlton youngster, Scott Parker, rebuffed.

As it turned out the 'Princes v Paupers' contest ended in a relatively comfortable 3-1 victory for the latter with Liam George, who had netted only one goal in the previous 13 games, bagging two to sink the Royals.

This was Reading's 13th game without a victory which was a new club record.

Pictured is Liam George netting the Town's third goal in the final minute.



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THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PAPER

Written by FLP executive editor **JOHN LYONS**

IT'S not easy to make the transition from one division to the next one up the ladder – and you only have to look at the league tables to see it.

Of the three sides promoted to the Premier League, only Leeds have really got to grips with the top-flight. After last weekend's fixtures both West Brom and Fulham were in the relegation zone and facing a real fight to secure their status in the second half of the season.

Both clubs were impressive in the Championship last term, but have found the step up in class in the Premier League tough to handle. Slaven Bilic was axed by West Brom and now veteran boss Sam Allardyce has the task of pulling off a rescue act, while Scott Parker will be desperate to stop Fulham sliding back down again.

It's a similar story in the Championship. Two of the sides promoted from League One last season – Rotherham and Wycombe – are in the drop zone. The Millers have been something of a yo-yo team in recent seasons and manager Paul Warne would no doubt love to establish them in the second tier.

They do have games in hand on the teams above them in the table and will fancy their chances of mixing it with some big-hitters.

Wycombe are another club who haven't got the resources of some of the division's heavyweights, but manager Gareth Ainsworth has prided himself on building a team with real spirit and togetherness.

That never-say-die attitude will stand them in good stead in their first season in the second tier and no doubt many neutrals will be hoping they can overcome the odds and maintain their position in football's pecking order.

Some critics argued that the Chairboys would already be cut adrift by now, but they have proven they are made of stern stuff and will be hungry to shock a few more sides before the end of the campaign.

At the time of writing, last term's League One champions Coventry are a healthy 16th in the table and you have to give manager Mark Robins a lot of credit for that. The former Manchester United striker has done a wonderful job at the Sky Blues helm, often in difficult circumstances, and doesn't tend to get the plaudits he deserves.

It can't be easy playing out of town at Birmingham, but Coventry continue to churn out results and show what they're made of.

Swindon won League Two last term, but currently lodge in the third tier relegation zone, while play-off winners Northampton are straining every sinew to keep out of the bottom four.

Plymouth have had a wobble but look as though they will be okay, while you have to give Crewe boss David Artell a pat on the back for putting the Railwaymen in the top ten after making the step up.

Overall, it's clear that going up is one thing, staying up is another.



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By club historian Roger Wash

The long awaited Hatters' Heritage website has now launched with more items being uploaded monthly – have a look on www.hattersheritage.co.uk

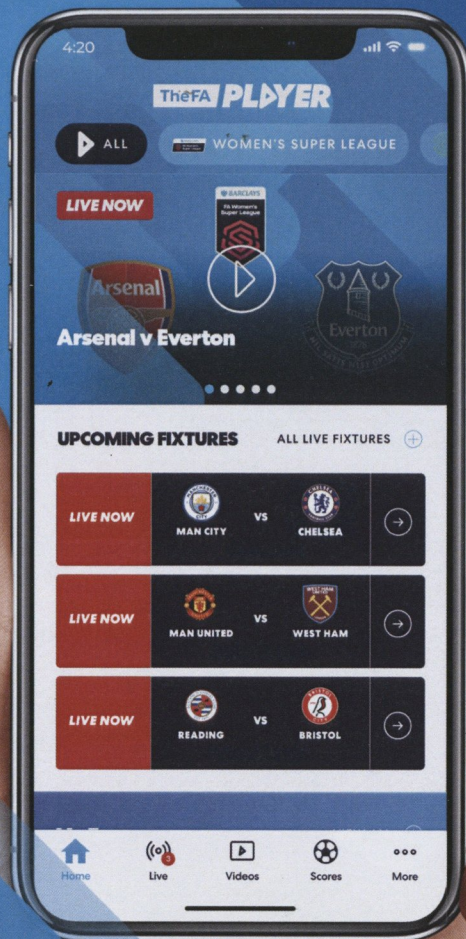
In turn, we aim to run a series throughout the season showcasing artefacts and memorabilia in our collection reflecting the club's rich history.

As it is the FA Cup, something from our only appearance in the final at Wembley in 1959 is appropriate. At a post-match dinner at the Piccadilly Hotel the club's directors presented female guests with an inscribed powder compact – 'the males receiving a cigarette lighter.

The powder compact is featured, complete with 1959 vintage powder!



Women's
Championship



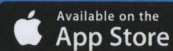
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The Luton players trudge off at the end of the FA Cup semi-final against Everton at Villa Park in 1985.

The Hatters undeservedly went down 2-1 after extra time in a game that still sticks in the craw almost 36 years on!

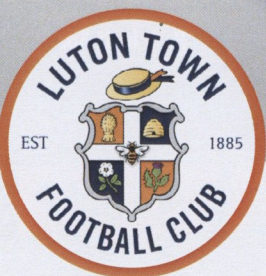
Roger Wash

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WELL DONE GLEN & KIERNAN!

The two goalscorers against Bristol City were named in the Sky Bet Championship team of the week, while Kiernan was also voted our Diamond Player of the Month for November and Glen was selected in WhoScored.com's team of December for the second tier. Great work, boys!



REST IN PEACE, PATRICIA PIPKIN

It saddens us deeply to hear of the passing of Patricia Pipkin, affectionately known as Pips, at the age of 89.

Pips was a passionate supporter of the Hatters for many years stretching back to the days of Bob Morton and Syd Owen.

In more recent years Ricky Hill was Pips' favourite player and she was so excited to meet him on a number of occasions.

Sadly dementia meant that Pips had not been able to attend matches in recent years. She had a season ticket with her son Ian in Block B of David Preece stand for a number of years. Those who sat near Pips will remember her allegiance to the team and her generosity with her bags of sweets!!

Pips spent the last two and a half years of her life at Castletroy Care Home in Bushmead, where she was cared for brilliantly. Despite her dementia there was always a COYH shout every match day!





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T: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd

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T: Available

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19 H: Tim Fordham
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HARRY LISTED



21 H: Craig Steeples
A: Available
T: Available
G: Available

KIERNAN DEWSBURY-HALL



22 H: Available
A: Available
T: Available

BRENDAN GALLOWAY



23 H: Available
A: Available
T: Available

RHYS NORRINGTON-DAVIES



24 H: WHOSH
A: Available
T: Available

KAZENGA LUALUA



25 H: Holly Valentine
A: WHOSH
T: Available

JAMES BREE



26 H: DLA Driving School
A: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd
T: Available

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27 H: Available
A: Available
T: Available

JOE MORRELL



28 H: J Block & Luton Awaydays
A: Available
T: Available

TIERNAN PARKER



31 H: Available
A: Bobbers Travel Club
T: Available

AVAN JONES



32 H: Available
A: Available
T: Available

SAM BECKWITH



33 H: David Boswell
A: Frank & Diane Woodward
T: Available

JAKE PECK



34 H: Available
A: Available
T: Available

COREY PANTER



35 H: Available
A: Available
T: Available

JOSH NEUFVILLE



37 H: Jackie Neufville
A: Lynn, Ben & Rhianon
T: Available

NATHAN JONES



H: Thompsons Chartered Accountants Bedford
A: Country Properties

MICK HARFORD



H: Carnoisneur Leasing
A: Carnoisneur Leasing

PAUL HART



H: Doug Knight
A: Available

SIMON PARSELL



H: Bobbers Travel Club
A: Available

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YOUTH TEAM

KEY: H: HOME | A: AWAY

JOSH ALLEN  H: Available A: Available	EDDIE CORBIT  H: Available A: Available	JACOB COWLER  H: Available A: Available	AIDAN FRANCIS  H: Available A: Available
JOSEPH HALSEY  H: Available A: Available	JAMESON HORLICK  H: Available A: Available G: SGW Goalkeeping	TRA LUCAS  H: Les Miller - Miller & Company A: Available	ED MCJANNET  H: Gill, Julie, Neil & Yvonne A: Available
MATTHEW MOLONEY  H: Blakeney Estates A: Available	TYRELLE NEWTON  H: Available A: Available	CALLUM NICOLSON  H: Available A: Available	CASEY PETTIT  H: Gill, Julie, Neil & Yvonne A: TV Sport Blogs
BEN STEVENS  H: Available A: Available	JOSHUA SWAN  H: Available A: Available	ADAM WEDD  H: JB Associates A: The Wedds	COREE WILSON  H: Liz Evans A: Available



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ACADEMY UPDATE

Dan Briard interviews TAFF RAHMAN, who has joined the Hatters academy on a placement as part of the Premier League's Professional Player to Coach scheme...

Football has been a huge part of Taff Rahman's life ever since he arrived in England from Bangladesh as a seven-year-old, and now he hopes to make a big impact at Luton Town.

Part of the Premier League's Professional Player to Coach Scheme, Taff will work as a coach with the Hatters' academy for the next 23 months as the EFL and the PFA Charity are working together to support more black and Asian players into full-time coaching roles.

"Football really started for me at a young age growing up in North West London," said Taff. "Coming over as a young Bangladeshi kid with limited English or at all any English. I just started playing football in primary school really, ended up joining up with a grass-roots club - Forest United in North West London. That was the building blocks for what followed."

Taff was picked up by Luton Town following his time playing grass-roots football and for his local district, before moving onto Queens Park Rangers, and then the Arsenal academy at the age of 12.

He was part of the Arsenal youth team

that won the FA Youth Cup in 2001, but he was released the following year and went into Non-League football, as well as starting his coaching career on the side.

It was perseverance that Taff believed saw him through hard times, explaining: "The desire to just keep on going was my big thing. I really wanted to excel and I never really let my head go down. Also, the support of a number of friends and family kept me going was the critical part of it."

His playing career was blighted by injury as he was forced to stop playing football at the age of 26.

"That's when I stopped playing because I did my knee for the third time and it was almost like I realised it was the right time to call it," he says. "Then I went down the coaching pathway."

"It was more so because of the injury and it came about by chance more than anything else. In that way it was something that I suppose it was just a secondary thing you tend to do when you are young."

"It was just a normal transition and I think I was very fortunate because somehow, I ended up doing a Level 1 course in 2004, and then went on to start coaching and playing semi-pro at the same time."

Taff was recognised for his superb coaching and community work in 2017, when he was awarded with Coach of the Year at the Asian football awards.

"I had worked in the academy system for quite some time as a part-time coach and also I was doing a lot of mentoring with young, Asian coaches, all coaches basically," says Taff.

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WE'RE WITH YOU



(Continued from page 32)

"Supporting young players from all backgrounds and at the same time, I was with the FA doing some of the FA coaching education, so I suppose in many ways it came about because of my contribution across the game within football as someone from an Asian heritage that was really trying to make a difference.

"It was a great opportunity to be recognised because there aren't many young Asian coaches that are in the industry I'm in, or doing what I'm doing. It was a great way to inspire the next generation across the country, from Luton to Birmingham, to the big hub cities."

Now involved in the coaching set-up with the Luton academy, there is plenty Taff hopes to achieve during his time at the club.

"There are a few different aspects really. One is to really get myself embedded within the club itself where I see myself developing in my coaching to my leadership skills.

"At the same time, being part of the bigger vision of where the club is going, building up a new training ground, going from category 3 to category 2. The wider aspects of it, really connecting with the Luton community, Luton is a town. Engrossing myself and making a difference not just at the club but within the town itself.

And during his time with Luton thus far, Taff admits it has been 'really positive'.

"What I have really enjoyed is the collective family feel there is at the club and how everyone is working together to

actually fulfil the vision of the club. The overall family feel has been really nice, everyone is wanting to help, everyone is wanting to support and that has been really, really heart-warming.

"My aim is to keep on developing, to build on my elite coaching skill sets and one day work towards becoming a head coach."

In addition to Taff, Adrian Forbes, Luton's head of coaching and professional player development, is pleased to be involved in the scheme.

"For me to be a black coach and give someone the opportunity to be part of the world I'm in and potentially follow my footsteps was an opportunity I wasn't prepared to turn down," Forbes says. "We've found a situation where the Premier League, PFA and EFL are on our side and are trying to almost break down some barriers and change the narrative around black and Asian coaches in the game.

"Our collective of Academy players is very diverse. It's important players can come in and know there's someone who will understand their culture, their upbringing."



DEFY EXPECTATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE



PRESS BOX EXTRA

Our Town contributor RYAN PAYNE recalls some of the highlights of 2020

As we enter 2021, and say goodbye to 2020, it's time to look back on the last 12 months. It's been a challenging time for everyone, and life as we know it has changed dramatically. It's been a crazy year for Luton Town too.

At the start of 2020, not many people would've thought that the Hatters would still be in the Sky Bet Championship. And yet, here we are. January 1st 2020, a loss away to Millwall sees Luton bottom of the Championship. The next 11 league games see the club stick to bottom place, with the occasional move up to 23rd. Things aren't looking good.

Then the world changes. A pandemic across the world changes everything. Everywhere was put into lockdown, and football was suspended. If the Championship had followed the decision made by League One and League Two, the club would have been relegated on PPG. But it would continue, with a difference – behind closed doors. That wasn't the only change at Luton, with Nathan Jones replacing Graeme Jones as manager in May.

The 2019/20 season resumed in June,

with Luton still in the relegation zone. Nine matches to claw themselves out of danger and remain in the second tier. The first three games saw Jones' side remain unbeaten, winning one and drawing two. A 5-0 loss to Reading followed, but it didn't leave any lasting effects.

A 2-0 win away to Huddersfield saw Luton climb off the bottom of the table after 43 games played. They followed that up with a draw at home to today's opponents, QPR. Then two wins in the final two games of the season saw the Hatters clinch safety, and finish in 19th place. One loss in the last nine games of the season saw Luton fight back against relegation and remain as a Championship club. Something that seemed almost impossible when the season resumed in June.

In the summer, Jones brought fresh faces to Kenilworth Road, with Jordan Clark, Tom Lockyer and Joe Morrell all joining permanently. The squad also welcomed James Bree back on a permanent basis, as well as the loan signings of Rhys Norring-Davies, Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall and Sam Nombe.

The new season started well, winning against Norwich in the Carabao Cup, as well as back-to-back wins in the first two league games. We also welcomed Man United to the Kenny, just a shame fans weren't there to pack the old place out.

But in December, 1,000 fans saw the 3-1 win against Norwich. And 10 days later, 2,000 supporters were in attendance as James Collins netted a hat-trick in a win against Preston. Hopefully, in the coming months, there will be even more.

2020 proved Luton Town are more than capable of big performances and big moments. It's a new year, and as the last 12 months have shown, you don't ever rule anything out with the Hatters.



LUTON 2 BRISTOL C 1

ATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2020 | KENILWORTH ROAD
OWN SCORERS: REA 17', DEWSBURY-HALL 68'
OBINS SCORER: BRADLEY (OG) 61'
TTENDANCE: BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

READ THE FULL MATCH REPORT, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.lutontown.co.uk



LUTON TOWN	BRISTOL CITY
SLUGA	BENTLEY
PEARSON	HUNT ▲ 76'
LOCKYER	VYNER
BRADLEY	KALAS
NORRINGTON-DAVIES	ROWE
REA ○ 17'	SEMENYO ■
MPANZU ▲ 64'	BAKINSON
DEWSBURY-HALL ○ 68'	NAGY
TUNNICLIFFE ■ ▲ 64'	MASSENGO ▲ 59'
CORNICK ▲ 84'	MARTIN
COLLINS	WELLS ▲ 88'
SUBSTITUTES ▲ ▲ ▲	
POTTS ▲ 64'	DIEDHIQIU ▲ 59'
HYLTON	O'LEARY
LEE	MARIAPPA ▲ 76'
MONCUR	MOORE
CLARK ▲ 84'	SMITH
ISTED	PEARSON
GALLOWAY	BELL ▲ 88'
LUALUA ▲ 64'	TOWLER
NOMBE	



Manager Nathan Jones was delighted with his side's hard-fought victory against Bristol City and credited the turnaround the squad have made this calendar year.

"Massive victory, especially after the away defeat," the gaffer began. "I know we had a wonderful draw here (against Bournemouth) but it was good to get back to winning ways.

"It was a big game for us tonight. A year ago we lost 3-0 away to these and this win takes us on to 30 points which is a big milestone as well, so early in the season.

"It's a big, big win for us and I thought we deserved it. We created more chances, had more possession and more shots on goal. And we missed the big chance of the game, so I'm delighted with the win because that is the most important thing.

"That is what we wanted to do, we wanted to be nowhere near where we were last year.

"Every little helps, we had a meeting on Monday and said after these two games, we batten down the hatches and by the time the QPR game finishes, we want our points tally to be more than 27 points, which was what we started the week on. First mission is accomplished, now can we get more?"

	LT	BC
POSSESSION:	45%	55%
SHOTS ON TARGET:	5	1
SHOTS OFF TARGET:	6	7
CORNERS:	6	3
FOULS:	15	11

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28.10.20 @ KO. 7.45PM

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UP NEXT



FORMED: 1882
NICKNAME: THE R'S
LAST SEASON: 13TH IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP
FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @QPR
COLOURS: BLUE & WHITE SHIRTS, WHITE SHORTS
GROUND: KIYAN PRINCE FOUNDATION STADIUM
MANAGER: MARK WARBURTON

WHO?

QPR have spent the last six seasons in the Championship after relegation from the Premier League in 2015; spending a third of this decade in England's top tier. The club's last piece of silverware came in 2011 as they earned promotion to the Premier League as champions, whilst the R's came close to winning the FA Cup in 1982, losing 1-0 to Spurs in a replay.

GROUND?

Formerly known as Loftus Road, QPR renamed their ground the Kiyan Prince Foundation Stadium in 2019. The Kiyan Prince Foundation was established in 2008 in memory of Kiyan Prince, a 15-year old QPR youth player who was fatally stabbed in 2006, to 'support young people embroiled in a downward spiral of urban violence.' You can find out more about the foundation and its work at www.thekpf.com

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

The two sides last met during the Championship restart last season, as the Hatters secured a point at Kenilworth Road to move a step closer to survival. In the reverse fixture last season, QPR ran out 3-2 winners after a concerted but unsuccessful fightback from the Hatters having trailed 3-0 within the opening 30 minutes.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Current Hatters Kazenga LuaLua and Martin Cranie both enjoyed loan spells at QPR in 2017 and 2016 respectively, with the former scoring one goal in 19 appearances at Loftus Road. Former Hatters Paul Walsh and Tony Thorpe also played for QPR, whilst current assistant coach Paul Hart managed QPR in a five-game spell in 2009/10, with Mick Harford as his assistant during the second of the Hatters legend's two spells coaching at the west London club.

Words: Dylan Bhundia

LUTON TOWN PLAYER STATISTICS

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	2020-21 SEASON										CAREER	
	LEAGUE					CUP					TOTAL	
	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G
Luke Berry	16	(3)	2	1	(0)	0	17	(3)	2	3	108	14
Stoney Bradley	20	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	23	(0)	0	2	113	3
James Bree	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	50	0
Jordan Clark	7	(0)	1	2	(1)	1	9	(0)	2	0	18	2
James Collins	17	(2)	6	1	(0)	3	18	(2)	9	2	159	68
Harry Cornick	14	(3)	0	1	(1)	0	15	(4)	0	1	145	22
Martin Cranie	15	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	16	(1)	0	5	42	2
Kieran Dewsbury Hall	13	(2)	1	0	(0)	0	13	(2)	1	1	15	1
Brendan Galloway	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	5	0
Danley Hyton	5	(5)	0	2	(0)	0	7	(5)	0	3	141	58
Peter Kizzo	0	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	1	3	0
Elliot Lee	8	(4)	1	1	(2)	0	9	(6)	1	0	122	30
Tom Lockyer	11	(2)	0	2	(0)	0	13	(2)	0	0	15	0
Kazenga LuaLua	1	(12)	1	2	(1)	0	3	(13)	1	3	75	7
George Moncur	7	(6)	2	2	(0)	0	9	(6)	2	0	49	9
Joe Morrell	3	(4)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(4)	0	0	7	0
Pelly-Roddock Mpanzu	18	(2)	2	1	(0)	0	19	(2)	2	4	273	19
Sam Nkomo	0	(4)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(4)	0	0	4	0
Rhys Norington Davies	16	(2)	0	3	(0)	0	19	(2)	0	2	21	0
Matty Pearson	19	(1)	2	1	(0)	0	20	(1)	2	1	116	10
Dan Potts	6	(2)	0	0	(0)	0	6	(2)	0	1	158	10
Glen Res	19	(0)	2	1	(0)	0	20	(0)	2	6	172	7
James Shea	7	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	10	(0)	0	1	85	0
Andrew Shinnie	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	106	10
Simon Sloga	15	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	15	(0)	0	0	49	0
Ryan Turner-Coffe	4	(5)	0	2	(0)	0	6	(5)	0	1	51	1

2020-21 CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

#	Team	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Norwich City	23	14	5	4	31	20	11	47
2	Swansea City	23	12	7	4	27	13	14	43
3	Bournemouth	22	11	8	3	37	18	19	38
4	Brentford	22	11	8	3	36	21	15	41
5	Reading	23	12	4	7	34	28	6	40
6	Watford	22	10	7	5	25	17	8	37
7	Middlesbrough	22	10	6	6	28	18	10	36
8	Stoke City	23	9	8	6	26	22	4	35
9	Barnsley	23	10	4	9	27	29	-2	34
10	Bristol City	22	10	3	9	23	24	-1	33
11	Blackburn Rovers	23	9	5	9	38	27	11	32
12	Preston North End	23	10	2	11	30	31	-1	32
13	Huddersfield Town	23	9	4	10	28	32	-4	31
14	Luton Town	22	8	6	8	20	24	-4	30
15	Cardiff City	22	8	5	9	29	25	4	29
16	Coventry City	23	6	8	9	22	31	-9	26
17	Millwall	21	5	10	6	18	20	-2	25
18	Birmingham City	23	5	8	10	17	29	-12	23
19	Nottingham Forest	23	5	7	11	16	26	-10	22
20	Queens Park Rangers	22	4	9	9	20	30	-10	21
21	Sheffield Wednesday *	23	6	7	10	15	23	-8	19
22	Derby County	22	4	7	11	14	24	-10	19
23	Rotherham United	20	4	4	12	19	29	-10	16
24	Wycombe Wanderers	23	3	6	14	16	35	-19	15

GAME CHANGER

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FOUNDATION



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FOR FOOTBALL



NATHAN JONES

JAMES SHEA	01
MARTIN CRANIE	02
DAN POTTS	03
RYAN TUNNICLIFFE	04
SONNY BRADLEY	05
MATTY PEARSON	06
HARRY CORNICK	07
LUKE BERRY	08
DANNY HYLTON	09
ELLIOT LEE	10
SIMON SLUGA	12
GEORGE MONCUR	14
GLEN REA	16
PELLEY-RUDDOCK MPANZU	17
JORDAN CLARK	18
JAMES COLLINS	19
HARRY ISTD	21
KIERNAN DEWSBURY-HALL	22
BRENDAN GALLOWAY	23
RHYS NORRINGTON-DAVIES	24
KAZENGA LUALUA	25
JAMES BREE	26
SAM NOMBE	27
JOE MORRELL	28
DION PEREIRA	30
AVAN JONES	32
SAM BECKWITH	33
JAKE PECK	34
COREY PANTER	35
GABRIEL OSHO	38

VELJKO PAUNOVIĆ

01	SAM WALKER
02	TOMAS ESTEVES
03	OMAR RICHARDS
04	MICHAEL MORRISON
05	TOM MCINTYRE
06	LIAM MOORE
07	MICHAEL OLISE
08	ANDY RINOMHOTA
09	SAM BALDOCK
10	JOHN SWIFT
11	YAKOU MEITE
14	OVIE EJARIA
15	LEWIS GIBSON
17	ANDY YIADOM
18	LUCAS JOAO
20	FELIPE ARARUNA
22	LUKE SOUTHWOOD
24	SONE ALUKO
28	JOSH LAURENT
29	TOM HOLMES
30	ALFA SEMEDO
33	RAFAEL CABRAL
34	DEJAN TETEK
35	IMARI SAMUELS
36	NELSON ABBEY
37	NAHUM MELVIN-LAMBERT
38	ETHAN BRISTOW
40	JOKULL ANDRESSON
47	GEORGE PUSCAS

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE - DARREN BOND | ASSISTANT REFEREE 1 - LEE VENAMORE
ASSISTANT REFEREE 2 - BHUPINDER GILL | FOURTH OFFICIAL - DECLAN BOURNE