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**OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2021-22**  
**28.08.21 | KO: 3:00PM**  
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# THE MANAGER

**Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this afternoon's Sky Bet Championship fixture against Sheffield United.**

Firstly, I want to say a huge thank you for the support you gave myself and the players last week despite the way the Birmingham game progressed. It isn't often that I've had to hold my hands up and admit being embarrassed in my time as Luton Town manager, but that was one and I'm sorry for that.

The way you stuck with us all the way through was reassuring and nothing less than I'd have expected. We knew at half-time that if we got a goal back quickly, you'd be virtually sucking the second one in and we could come back. Unfortunately, after starting on the front foot, it went the other way.

We have had some fantastic occasions here over recent seasons, not least three weeks ago for the Peterborough game. Occasionally we've had one result that we quickly need to forget and get out of our systems.

When I look back at the League Two promotion winning season, the heavy early home defeats against Swindon and Coventry immediately spring to mind, along with the Reading game here soon after the Championship restart in 2019-20.

What has always happened after those bad results has been that we've gone on a long unbeaten run, that most recent one being the run that kept us

at this level when all outsiders had written us off. We have to see a similar reaction this time too, starting today.

This is a great group. They'd given everything at Barnsley four days earlier and got a wonderful result, but after Saturday we've had to regroup and all had a look at where we could have done better. We've analysed the game as we always do, and everyone is firmly focussed on putting things right.

It's been hugely positive that we have key players starting to return to full training. Their appearance on the grass is not only good for them, it boosts the others too, and they've all been right at it in training all week.

The great thing about football is that you quickly get a chance to put things right, and we want to head into the international break having done that this afternoon, positioned firmly in the top half of the table.

We know Sheffield United will present a very tough test. They have gained so much experience in the Premier League and although they've had a tricky start to life back in the Championship, they have a manager and many players who are hugely respected for their previous success in this division.

I welcome Slavisa Jokanovic - a man I know well and have great respect for - and wish him, his staff and their squad a safe journey back up the M1 after what we all hope will be an enjoyable game, but more so for everyone connected to Luton Town.

Sing your hearts out once again and keep right behind the boys. COYH!



**THE GREAT  
THING  
ABOUT  
FOOTBALL  
IS THAT YOU  
QUICKLY  
GET A  
CHANCE TO  
PUT THINGS  
RIGHT**

# NOTES FROM THE BOARDROOM

What a Luton Town rollercoaster ride of a start to the season we've had! An 18-month long slog up to the perfect peak of Peterborough and a capacity crowd back at Kenilworth Road. A swift slide at West Brom, followed by the gradual late rise leading to another level Yorkshire away performance three days later.

Yes, after two physical away trips in a few days came last Saturday's Brummie bump in the track, but I can assure you we've not derailed.

Disappointing though an emphatic home defeat is, we have to give credit where it's due to last week's opposition and, in equal measure, recognise that we are a team in transition with a longer-term objective. Whilst we pride ourselves on trying to improve each season, with so many personnel changes, a change in play and with a big squad age reduction, this season 'improvement' may be measured in more ways than our position in the table or points gained.

Not dissimilar to our opposition today, in Sheffield United, who have spent the past two years showing us that teams can make it from League One to the Premier League and have a real go. Credit to one of our old friends from the Conference days, Chris Wilder, for the brilliant job he did in bringing the good times back to his boyhood club.

We welcome the Blades, now under Slavisa Jokanovic, to Kenilworth Road for the first time in 15 years. Ironically, on that last visit they were already promoted and playing out the last game of the 2005-06 season before heading into the top division. We finished that match 10th in the Championship and would be delighted to replicate that this season. But we also know that the Blades will be seeking to get their own campaign going with a vengeance. With such individual quality in their side facing a home team seeking to right its wrongs from last week, we should be in for an entertaining game.

Among the Sheffield United ranks will be Rhys Norrington-Davies, who became an international footballer during his spell here last season but sadly didn't get to experience a packed Kenny as a home player before opting for a different loan in January. We offer Rhys a Luton welcome, as we do everyone who has travelled south, and thank him especially for his contribution over those 22 games.

With today being the last game before the first international break of the season and the last before the transfer deadline, and having had one of the busiest transfer windows in our custodianship, other than all our generous supporters who contributed, I have to thank everyone internally involved in our rigorous recruitment process, not least but including Phil Chapple and Jay Socik (who will have mixed emotions today, as a boyhood Blade) in more than ably supporting Nathan and Mick over the last few months.

I've mentioned before, but it's worth mentioning again, that the volume of man-hours it takes to successfully capture the right player for this club is mind-boggling and involves many trusted members of staff. It couldn't be further from how some supporters think it operates, but the process – which is in constant evolutionary design – has indeed landed some amazing footballers this summer with their future ahead of them.

Are we done yet? Maybe, maybe not. There's no type of player who we specifically need to complete our squad once everybody is up and running and, we clearly need to reduce our numbers a little before Tuesday's 11pm deadline, but we may be open to one special incoming announcement as other clubs look to offload.

As these are my first notes of the season it falls on me to update you with more news of our longer-term progress. As mentioned before, the single, most common question I get asked is



“How’s the new stadium coming along?”, especially of late when we’ve had to cope with a hugely changing environment after global pandemics, potential economic crises and massive shifts in consumer behaviour has forced a significant rethink on much of what we’re seeking to develop according to market demand.

To ease your mind, despite all this, I can confirm that developments plans for our new stadium at Power Court are progressing well and, despite a small hitch in time and some nominal compromises, is all on track. Being able to fund the construction of the stadium is paramount in our mind, of course – we simply cannot build if we haven’t got the money and, with costs on the rise, it isn’t loose change that’s going to make it happen.

The principle of funding deriving from our facilitating developments at Power Court and Newlands Park categorically remains, and I can inform you that we are making good progress on this front to the extent that we are in the process of concluding our first (of many, I hasten to add) freehold sale of one small plot of land to partner developers and future neighbours.

With our positive progress on other partnership prospects and having painstakingly scrutinised over a redesign of the stadium and surrounding public realm (a necessity brought about by a global pandemic and

behavioural change), we are now just about to embark upon a detailed planning stage for those elements, as I write. Whilst not the lengthy process our outline stage took, it largely is what it says on the tin – a very detailed design – and needs to be done fully and properly to ensure that we get the design right, don’t overspend, and save time and efficiency in construction.

I’ll provide more updates as we progress this process, but suffice to say that it really is an exciting phase of advancement as we study the various possible access routes, assignments of entrances, concourses, hospitality areas, players’ tunnel and back-of-house amenities as well as strategies for riverbanks and cycle-paths and placements of new sub-stations and smart car parks.

So, as we draw closer to the reality of our much long-awaited relocation, please savour every minute you can at our current home, starting today. Get behind the team as you always do. After so long without being able to shout and sing, this is your last chance for a couple of weeks so leave everything out there in the Enclosure, Main Stand, the Oak Road, Kenny and David Preece, and even in the Executive Boxes. Noise makes points.

With a third full house in a row showing that we are back to our old normal, let’s make it another Saturday afternoon to remember. Thank you for your support, enjoy the game and COME ON YOU RIP ROARING HATTERS!



**GARY SWEET**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
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# MARK CROWTHER: LUTON TOWN, CYCLING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Words: Dan Briard

**If you can, please support Mark and his three charities here -**

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MadHatterMarkAwayCycleChallenge>

**Luton supporters and football fans across the country have united in support of Mark Crowther, who is cycling to every Luton Town away match for the 2021-22 season, all in the name of charity!**

You may be familiar with Mark's name, but do you know the story behind his almighty charity challenge?

Well in case you don't, a Luton fan of 40 years combined the love for his club and his passion for cycling and vowed to cycle to every Town away match for the 2021-22 season. Crazy, right? The reasoning behind doing so, however, is to raise awareness for three specific charities along the way – Keech Hospice Care, CALM and Prostate Cancer UK.

But why those charities in particular? "We went through Covid, and I've had struggles with mental health, it was a really difficult time for me, and I wanted to do something to raise mental health awareness," said Mark.

"I have done work for Keech before and I wanted to continue that. For me, Luton have been a massive part of my life and also on the back of what Mick Harford is going through, I wanted to do it for a third charity and that is where Prostate Cancer came in."

The planning for such an event has been in the making for some six months before the 2021-22 season fixtures were announced and Mark

explained: "If me cycling around the country raises awareness and helps one person ask for help about mental illness, which I did, then it would be worth it. Same point, if it makes one person go and get tested for prostate cancer, and being over 50 I have tested, once again if it raises awareness then I think it would have been worthwhile."

For a man so open about his struggles with mental health, the long roads cycling on his own are made easy by the tremendous amounts of love and support he has received since embarking on the challenge in July.

"When I was at my lowest point, I was having counselling and a lot of it was suicidal tendencies and suicidal thoughts. They were irrational thoughts that I'm not worthy and no one would miss me. A lot of the challenges I do, I try to deflect it away from myself, focus on trying to support other people that need that help and for me, I don't know where I would be without having the counselling and having someone to talk to.

"It is nothing to be ashamed of if you're struggling, but the support that I got and how I have turned the corner, is a massive thing for me and I just want to be able to do that for other people. If they think 'why is a crazy guy cycling to football matches' but then realise why I'm doing it, if it helps one person reach out for help then for me, it would have been worthwhile."

Continuing, Mark admitted: "The support and encouragement is quite emotional because I don't





receive compliments easily. When I see comments on Twitter saying, 'you're a legend', I feel like you can't use that word for me, use it for the likes of Mick Harford! It doesn't feel right used on someone like me, I'm just a normal bloke trying to raise money and it is those sorts of things that make me smile."

The challenge thus far has taken him as far as Oakwell, which is the longest he has and will travel in one day this season.

"When I went to Barnsley, I did about 90 miles and I knew I still had 40 miles to go. Bearing in mind I was going into Yorkshire, I still had the hilliest part to come and I was really tired but seeing the messages come through on my phone really spurred me on and it is just incredible.

"The Bobbers Travel Club have been incredibly helpful because obviously I have to get home, so they get me and my bike home each night! And when the coach pulled into the services after the Barnsley game, the team coach also pulled up, and it's very random but at 1:30am in the morning, I am stood in the car park chatting to Harry Cornick and it was just like, wow!

"For me, I might get tired, might get rained on and I might get lost, it is all about the awareness, the charities, and the support. That is what's driving me on, and it is just going to be an adventure for the whole season."

All at Kenilworth Road and the wider football family are fully supportive of Mark and wish him all the very best for the rest of the challenge!



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# THE OPPOSITION

WORDS: RYAN PAYNE

**After two seasons in the Premier League, Sheffield United are back in the Sky Bet Championship for the 2021/22 season, and will look to bounce back straight back into the top flight of English football.**

It was a summer of change at Bramall Lane, with former Fulham boss Slavisa Jokanovic being appointed as the permanent successor to Chris Wilder, who left the club in March. Wilder departed the club during the 2020/21 season, with interim manager Paul Heckingbottom unable to save the Blades from relegation, eventually finishing bottom of the Premier League.

The squad has remained relatively untouched during the summer window, with only Ben Davies arriving so far. The defender signed on a season-long loan deal from Liverpool. Among those departing the club were Phil Jagielka, John Lundstram, Simon Moore, Jack Rodwell and Kean Bryan, with goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale joining Arsenal last week.

It's the first visit to Kenilworth Road in 15 years for Sheffield United, with their last coming in April 2006. The Championship fixture ended 1-1, where Ahmet Brkovic's goal was almost enough for a Hatters victory, only for a late equaliser from Michael Tonge.

Pre-season was short and sweet for the Blades, as they played two friendlies in build up to their

league campaign. Their first game saw United win 3-0 against Gibraltar side Europa Point, before a comfortable 4-0 win away at Doncaster Rovers.

Jokanovic's side have had a tough start to their campaign, losing their opening fixture at home to Birmingham City. They followed that 1-0 defeat up with a 0-0 draw away to Swansea City, before losing 4-0 at West Brom and 2-1 at home to Huddersfield. They progressed into the Carabao Cup third round in midweek though, coming from a goal down to beat Derby 2-1.

Despite the slow start in the league, there is more than enough quality in the Sheffield United side to have a successful campaign and with Jokanovic having experienced promotion out of the Championship with both Fulham and Watford, Blades fans will hope there will be a third time come May.







## THE GOALKEEPER: MICHAEL VERRIPS

Often the back-up to Aaron Ramsdale, Michael Verrips made his United debut in the Carabao Cup against Carlisle. He made his league debut against West Brom in August 2021. The 24-year-old spent time featuring for a number of clubs in the Netherlands, playing for the reserve sides of both FC Twente and Sparta Rotterdam. Verrips spent time on loan with Maastricht, before joining Belgian side Mechelen permanently. After a year in Belgium, the goalkeeper signed for Sheffield United. He spent the second half of the 2020/21 season on loan at Eredivisie side FC Emmen, before returning to Bramall Lane this summer.



## THE DEFENDER: CHRIS BASHAM

Chris Basham has been a Blade since 2014, and has gone onto make over 250 league appearances for the club. He came through the academy at Newcastle, before being released as a teenager. Basham then moved to Bolton, eventually breaking into the first-team and making 19 Premier League appearances for the club. In 2010, he signed for Blackpool and was a regular in the Seaside's defence. After three-and-a-half years at Bloomfield Road, the 33-year-old swapped Blackpool for Sheffield United. He was named as the club's Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year for the 2019/20 season.



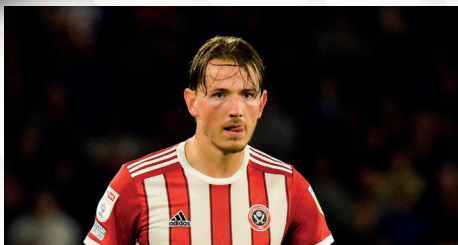
## THE MANAGER: SLAVISA JOKANOVIC

Slavisa Jokanovic is no stranger to the Championship – having guided both Watford and Fulham to promotion. Playing for the likes of Deportivo La Coruna and Chelsea during his playing days, the 53-year-old began his management career in his native Serbia with Partizan. He won two titles in Belgrade, before coaching spells at Muangthong United, Levski Sofia, and Hercules. Promotion with Watford followed, before a spell at Maccabi Tel Aviv. He added another promotion to his CV with Fulham, then managed Al-Gharafa, eventually joining Sheffield United this summer.



**ON THE RADAR:**  
**SHEFFIELD UTD**

I N I T I A T E S T E



## THE MIDFIELDER: SANDER BERGE

Norwegian international midfielder Sander Berge has been a United player since January 2020, joining from Genk in Belgium. Berge began his career coming through the youth system at Asker. He made his professional debut for the club in 2013, playing in Norway's 2. Divisjon. His performances eventually earned him a move to Tippeligaen side Valerenga. After impressing in Norway, Berge moved to Genk. During his time in Belgium, he won the Jupiler Pro League and the Belgian Super Cup both in 2019. After three years with Genk, he made the move to England to join Sheffield United.



## THE STRIKER: OLI MCBURNIE

Breaking through at Bradford City, Oli McBurnie made 15 league appearances for the Bantams, and spent time on loan at Chester. He left for Swansea City in 2015, and had loan spells at Newport County, Bristol Rovers and Barnsley, before a break-out 2018/19 season, where he scored 22 Championship goals for the Swans. His superb form in front of goal earned him a then-club record fee move to Sheffield United. McBurnie scored six times in the Premier League as the Blades finished 9th in the 2019/20 season. The following season saw the club relegated, with the striker unable to recapture his previous form.

## WATCH OUT FOR... RHIAN BREWSTER

A part of the Chelsea academy as a youngster, Rhian Brewster switched to Liverpool at the Under-14s age group, going onto feature four times for the Reds' first-team. During his time at Anfield, Brewster enjoyed a successful loan spell with Swansea, and scored 10 goals in 20 Championship appearances. In October 2020, United broke their transfer record again to bring in Brewster. He scored his first goal for the club against Carlisle in August 2021. Internationally, he was part of the England side that won the Under-17s World Cup in 2017, winning the competition's Golden Boot.



**ON THE RADAR:**  
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# A HAT IN BOTH CAMPS

A man who departed Kenilworth Road this summer, Martin Cranie also spent time as a Sheffield United player.

Born in Yeovil, Cranie came through the academy at Southampton. He made his debut for the Saints in the Premier League, featuring in a 4-0 defeat against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, but he had loan spells at both AFC Bournemouth and his hometown club. Cranie made 25 appearances in all competitions for Southampton, and departed the club for Portsmouth in June 2007.

The defender made a handful of appearances for Portsmouth, before joining QPR on loan. He also spent time during the 2008/09 season loan at Charlton Athletic, before returning in January 2009 and featured in the FA Cup for Pompey.

After two years at Fratton Park, Cranie moved to Coventry and became a regular in the City defence, making 114 appearances in the Championship across a three-year spell. His time with the club came to an end in 2012, and he signed for Barnsley.

He enjoyed regular football at Oakwell, and featured over 100 times for the Tykes in the league over three years, but swapped South Yorkshire for West Yorkshire and joined Huddersfield. Cranie was part of the Terriers side that won promotion into the Premier League, going onto make three appearances in the top flight.

In January 2018, Cranie joined Middlesbrough for a brief spell, before signing for Sheffield United. During his single season at Bramall Lane, he made 15 Championship appearances as the Blades won promotion to the Premier League.

Cranie's next move was to the Hatters, where he spent the next two seasons. In his first season at Kenilworth Road, he made 25 appearances in all competitions and scored twice. Last season, he also made 25 appearances in all competitions.

## LUTON TOWN (2019-2021)

APPEARANCES:	50
GOALS:	2

## SHEFFIELD UNITED (2018-2019)

APPEARANCES:	16
GOALS:	0



MARTIN CRANIE



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Ahmet Brkovic heads home the Town goal.

# LAST TIME AT THE KENNY

## LUTON TOWN:

Beresford, Barnett, Howard, Morgan (Nicholls), Keane, Brkovic, Showunmi, Edwards, Holmes (Bell), Feeney, Vine.

## SHEFFIELD UNITED:

Kenny, Armstrong, Morgan, Lucketti, Unsworth (Forte), Geary (Short), Jagielka, Tonge, Gillespie, Akinbiyi, Dyer (Francis).

## HATTERS 1 BLADES 1

22nd April 2006. Championship.

Words: Roger Wash

The Town had made a good fist of their first season back at second tier level since 1996, and sat comfortably in mid-table when welcoming already-promoted Sheffield United to Kenilworth Road for the last home game of the campaign.

The season had not been without its challenges. The loss of central defender Curtis Davies to Premiership West Brom for £3 million was a disappointment but no-one could begrudge him the move. Of more importance, though, was being deprived of the influential Kevin Nicholls, Chris Coyne and Paul Underwood for large chunks of the season.

A capacity crowd of 10,248, including Sean Bean, was there to see the Town missing seven players who would normally have expected to start and, not for the first time, needing to employ top scorer Steve Howard at centre-half.

The opening 45 minutes was dull with neither side troubling the goalkeepers, but in the second period United started the brighter, forcing four corners, but it was the Town who should have taken the lead on 53 minutes when Chris Armstrong cut down Rowan Vine in the area. Vine then proceeded to blast the spot-kick over the bar.

Vine's blushes were spared 20 minutes later when Ahmet Brkovic headed a picture goal from a deep David Bell cross.

Warren Feeney then had Blades keeper Paddy Kenny scrambling before came the biggest cheer of the afternoon when Nicholls, out since March and not expected to play again that season, entered the field as a late substitute.

Nicholls then proceeded to hit the bar, but in stoppage time came the sucker punch when Michael Tonge leveled the score with a free-kick, and with it an undeserved share of the spoils. 'That pretty much summed up our season,' said Luton manager Mike Newell afterwards. 'We dominated for large parts of the game, had chances to win it but didn't.'





# MEMORY MATCH

## LUTON TOWN 2 SHEFFIELD UNITED 0

**WORDS: ROGER WASH**

### LUTON TOWN (FIRST GAME)

Barber, Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, Husband, Hill, Deans, Fuccillo, Aston.

### LUTON TOWN (SECOND GAME)

Aleksic, Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, Husband, West, Ron Futcher, Fuccillo, Aston.

### SHEFFIELD UNITED (FIRST GAME):

Brown, Franks, Garner, Flynn, Colquhoun, Ludlam, McGeady, Woodward, Guthrie, Stainrod, Hamilton.

### SHEFFIELD UNITED (SECOND GAME):

Brown, Franks, Garner, Longhorn, Colquhoun, Faulkner, Woodward, Hamilton, Guthrie, Hamson, McKee.

It was looked on as a major achievement to finish the 1975/76 season in seventh position in the old Division Two, given all the financial problems facing the club at the time, and having got matters more or less sorted out behind the scenes, a push for promotion was hoped for in the new campaign.

Close season signings included Brian Gregory, a 20-year-old forward from Margate, and Jim McNichol, on a free from Ipswich. But many eyebrows were raised when Luton manager Harry Haslam paid £20,000 for ex-Scotland international John 'Dixie' Deans.

Although Deans had enjoyed four tremendous years at Celtic, scoring 83 league goals in only 110 appearances, he had fallen out of favour at Parkhead and his signing for the Town was seen as a major coup and partially made up for the disappointing loss of Peter Anderson, Adrian Alston and Andy King, who were all sold the previous season to satisfy the bank.

As if to prove that the Hatters had not changed from being regarded as a selling club, four days before the start of the new campaign defender John Ryan was transferred to Norwich for a £60,000 fee but, as was pointed out by Haslam, this left the way clear for another of the club's promising youngsters to stake his claim for a place in the first team.

The first game of the 1976/77 season saw newly-relegated Sheffield United visit Kenilworth Road, and the sun shone down on a crowd of 10,687 who turned up to have a look at Deans, who was making his debut in English football. Paul Price was handed the chance to make the right-back slot his own, while two other youngsters, Ricky Hill and Lil Fuccillo, were also out to make an impression coming in for Ron Futcher and Alan West, who were still in the United States having played there in the close season.

Although the Blades dominated the early play, their defenders were having increasing difficulty in holding Luton winger John Aston and as the



game wore on, the Town forward line, well serviced by Hill and Fuccillo from midfield, started creating chances and the game was as good as over in a ten minute spell mid-way through the second period when Deans scored twice.

Deans, who was short and squat and looked nothing like a footballer, was on hand to power home two headers, both laid on from crosses by Aston, and the crowd were cheering a new hero. Unfortunately, the honeymoon period did not last and by the time of the return game in January 1977, Deans had been farmed out on loan to Carlisle, never to return, after 14 appearances for the Town, one sending off, several internal indiscretions and only four more goals.

The Hatters had been remarkably inconsistent during the first half of the season and stood in 12th position in the table by the time of the visit to Bramall Lane. Good wins at places such as Wolverhampton, Burnley and Notts County had to be contrasted with hammerings at home by Fulham and Southampton.

As at Kenilworth Road, the Blades got off to a storming start and it was only an amazing reflex save from Luton goalkeeper Milija Aleksic that prevented Chris Guthrie from opening the scoring for the home side.

Straight after the save, the Town counter attacked with Ron Futcher and Jim Husband beating the offside trap. Blades goalkeeper Jim Brown could only parry Husband's shot and Futcher tapped the ball into an empty net.

The Town comfortably held on to their lead and on the half-hour scored number two when Husband hit home a spectacular 25 yard shot which supporters saw again (and again) later that evening on 'Match of the Day'.

The scoreline became even more emphatic when, with 15 minutes to go, Aston beat two defenders before crossing to Husband, who side-footed the ball past Brown from six yards.

Little did the Luton supporters know at the time that this game signalled the start of a run which saw the Town win ten and draw one of their next 11 games and narrowly fail to achieve promotion for the second year running.



# MANAGING TO SUCCEED - SHEFFIELD UNITED

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS profiles ten leading Sheffield United managers

## JOHN NICHOLSON

Long-serving secretary-manager John Nicholson guided Sheffield United to FA Cup final glory in 1902, 1915 and 1925. Born locally, he was secretary of Attercliffe and on the executive of the Sheffield FA, working as a clerk at a deputy coroner's office. He became secretary-manager of Sheffield United when the club became a limited company in May 1899, also taking them to the 1901 FA Cup final. Discovering several star players including Wally Hardinge, Billy Gillespie and Fred Tunstall, he twice led the Blades to fourth position in the top-flight, remaining in charge at Bramall Lane until his tragic death in April 1932.

## TEDDY DAVISON

Ex-England international goalkeeper Teddy Davison managed Sheffield United to the 1936 FA Cup final. He played for hometown Gateshead before joining Sheffield Wednesday in April 1908 and gave them fine service over 18 years. Appointed Mansfield Town's manager in June 1926, he took charge of Chesterfield in December 1927 and led them to the Third Division (North) title in 1930-31. He became Sheffield United's boss in June 1932 and also plotted promotion in 1938-39, returning to Chesterfield as manager between August 1952 and May 1958. Later their chief scout, he died in Sheffield in February 1971.

## REG FREEMAN

Reg Freeman managed Sheffield United to the Second Division title in 1952-53. A former right-back, he played for Wallasey Rovers, Harrowby, Northern Nomads and Oldham Athletic, moving to Middlesbrough in April 1923. He starred as Boro were Second Division champions in 1926-27 and 1928-29. Joining Rotherham United in August 1930, he became manager in January 1934, guiding them to Third Division (North) runners-up

in three successive seasons before they won the title in 1950-51. Appointed Sheffield United's boss in August 1952, he remained in charge of the Blades until his sudden death in August 1955.

## JOHN HARRIS

Long-serving manager John Harris guided Sheffield United to the top-flight in 1960-61 and 1970-71. A former centre-half, he played under his father Neil at Swansea and had spells at Spurs and Wolves before joining Chelsea in August 1945. He featured in their 1954-55 League Championship success, becoming Chester's player-boss in July 1956. Appointed Sheffield United's boss in April 1959, he steered them to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1960-61 and became the Blades' general manager in July 1968. He took charge of team affairs again from August 1969 until December 1973. Later serving Wednesday, he died in July 1988.

## KEN FURPHY

Ken Furphy managed Sheffield United to sixth place in the top-flight in 1974-75. Initially with Everton, the wing-half moved via Runcorn to Darlington in August 1953 and starred in their 1957-58 FA Cup run. He became Workington's player-boss in July 1962, plotting promotion in 1963-64 and successive Cup runs. Joining Watford as player-boss in November 1964, he led them to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1969-70 and moved to Blackburn in August 1971. He managed Sheffield United from December 1973 until October 1975. Later at New York Cosmos, Detroit Express and Washington Diplomats, he died in January 2015.

## IAN PORTERFIELD

Ian Porterfield managed Sheffield United to the Fourth Division title in 1981-82. Initially with Raith Rovers, the midfielder joined Sunderland in December 1967 and scored their winner in the 1973 FA Cup final. He reunited with Charlie Hurley at Reading in November 1976, then played for Sheffield Wednesday and became Rotherham United's manager in December 1979. Guiding them to the Third Division title in 1980-81, he took charge of Sheffield United in June 1981 and also plotted promotion in 1983-84. Sacked in March 1986, he managed Aberdeen, Reading, Chelsea and coached overseas. He died in September 2007.



## DAVE BASSETT

Dave Bassett managed Sheffield United to promotion in two consecutive seasons. The England Amateur midfielder helped Walton & Hersham win the Amateur Cup in 1973 and followed Allen Batsford to Wimbledon in July 1974. He assisted Dario Gradi before becoming their manager in January 1981. Plotting the Crazy Gang's meteoric rise to the top-flight, he took charge of Watford in May 1987. He managed Sheffield United from January 1988 until December 1995, leading them to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1992-93, then had spells at Crystal Palace, Nottingham Forest, Barnsley, Leicester and coached at several clubs.

## NEIL WARNOCK

Neil Warnock managed Sheffield United back to the Premier League in 2005-06. He was a winger with Chesterfield, Rotherham, Hartlepool, Scunthorpe, Aldershot, Barnsley, York and Crewe, then managed Burton and Scarborough before guiding Notts County to the top-flight. After spells in charge of Torquay, Huddersfield, Plymouth and Oldham, he became boss of hometown Blades in December 1999, taking them to both Cup semi-finals and the First Division play-off final in 2002-03. Leaving in May 2007, he has since managed Crystal Palace, QPR, Leeds United, Palace again, Rotherham, Cardiff City and Middlesbrough.

## NIGEL CLOUGH

Ex-England international striker Nigel Clough managed Sheffield United to the semi-finals of the FA Cup in 2013-14 and League Cup in 2014-15. Nottingham Forest's leading marksman six times under his father, Brian Clough, he helped twice win the League Cup before joining Liverpool in June

1993. He moved to Manchester City in January 1996 and became Burton Albion's player-manager in October 1998. Later in charge of Derby County, he managed Sheffield United from October 2013 until May 2015. He returned to Burton as manager, guiding them to the Championship in 2015-16. Now managing Mansfield Town.

## CHRIS WILDER

Chris Wilder managed Sheffield United to the League One title in 2016-17 and back to the top-flight in 2018-19. A former full-back, he began with Southampton and joined Sheffield United in August 1986, featuring in their rise under Dave Bassett. He moved to Rotherham United in July 1992, then Notts County, Bradford City, Sheffield United again, Brighton and Halifax Town. After managing Alfreton and Halifax, he managed Oxford United back into the Football League in 2009-10 and Northampton Town to the League Two title in 2015-16. He rejoined Sheffield United as manager from May 2016 until March 2021.



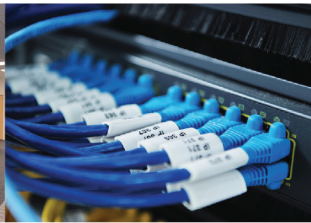
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# JORDAN CLARK

**Age: 27**

**Place Of Birth: Hoyland**

## **Biggest influence?**

My family, because of the sacrifices they have gone through to get me where I am today. Taking me to sessions when I was nine, through to 16 and then my partner now, Chelsea, who has sacrificed a lot, moving everywhere for me.

## **Sporting hero?**

Got quite a few. When I was younger David Beckham for Manchester United, he was one of my favourite players. I love Wayne Rooney, loved watching him play and everything about him. Then people like Michael Jordan, the mentality they have got. Then the biggest one – Cristiano Ronaldo. Any aspiring footballer has just got to look at his attitude, his work rate and desire to be the best at everything.

## **Best player you've played alongside?**

I'd have to say John Stones I think. He is one of my best pals and I come through with him when I was eight-years-old. To see him go from being a baby, playing in the Barnsley first-team and then kicking on again to Everton, then Manchester City and then recently England. It's unbelievable and to call him one of my mates, and to say I've grown up with him is quite special.

## **Toughest opponent?**

I'd say Omar Richards. Every time I got the ball he was so tight, he was quick, he was athletic, up and down, one of the toughest games I have had to be fair so I'd probably say him.

## **Most treasured possession?**

I got a signed shirt from Barnsley the first season I came through and being a Barnsley lad that was special. League Two medal with Accrington Stanley – being underdog all year, that was a good season. My Luton shirt last season, first season in the Championship. I worked so hard to get here so that is a treasured possession, I will always keep that.

## **What would you do if you weren't a footballer?**

I think I probably would have gone into something in the building industry. A lot of my mates have done that.

## **Best stadium played at?**

Stamford Bridge in the FA Cup last season, it's just a shame there were no supporters allowed. I'll have to pick two, because the London Stadium was good as well when I played there for Accrington in the Carabao Cup third round five years ago, mainly because the fans were in for that one.

## **Something people may not know about you?**

I would like to think I have a good voice. I like to get on the karaoke after a few beers!

## **Favourite film?**

Gladiator – that is a classic and probably my top. Also depends on my mood. If I want something funny, I'd go something like Step Brothers. A thriller, Trial by Fire, or something like Coach Carter.

## **Favourite meal?**

Sunday roast. I'm a Northern lad so I like a big plate, loads of gravy!



**I WOULD LIKE TO THINK I HAVE A GOOD VOICE...I LIKE TO GET ON THE KARAOKE AFTER A FEW BEERS!**





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## DYLAN BHUNDIA



**Football really is a game that stretches the emotional resilience of all of those involved. After Tuesday night's disciplined display at Barnsley to eke out as good a 1-0 victory on the road as one could get, the Hatters put in a performance four days later that made that win seem like a distant memory.**

The Hatters' midweek win in Yorkshire had all the hallmarks of a motivated, athletic and tactically intelligent group of players who could do the basics to win football matches. It didn't matter that Luton only had 30% of the ball.

The urgency to fight and willingness to put their bodies on the line was combined with a structured defensive display where everyone did their jobs and understood how their role interacted and supported with their team-mates – the method in which the Hatters stifled Barnsley's wing-backs in Callum Styles and Callum Brittain being the case in point.

So, after recording a strong victory on the road, the Hatters looked well set to return to home comforts and build some momentum going into the international break. What ensued was a difficult 90 minutes where the Hatters

looked a shadow of the side who beat Barnsley a few days before.

"Never too high, never too low," was one of the great John Still's many catchphrases that so often encapsulated the mood at Kenilworth Road, and that sentiment couldn't be more applicable than now. Losing 5-0 at home is hugely disappointing but earning six points from their opening four matches is a decent return for the Hatters, particularly given the volume of new faces and the absence of key players such as Sonny Bradley, Jordan Clark and Henri Lansbury.

The way that the fans reacted at half-time to the players as they trailed 2-0 showed that this group has the full belief and confidence of the fans. At clubs with less togetherness and spirit boos would have rung out, but the players were greeted at half-time by fans who wanted to be part of the solution and not the problem, getting behind the players and showing the confidence that they had in them. It's a stark contrast to the last time Birmingham were in town before the pandemic began.

This Luton squad showed what they were capable of on that midweek trip to Oakwell – it wasn't a fluke that the Hatters performed to that level. As Town fans know, football is a crazy game where inexplicable things can happen, but remaining on the straight and narrow and remembering how far this football club has come is the key to giving this young group of players the confidence that they deserve.

There's no questioning their ability to drive this club forwards.

[www.ltfcanalysis.wordpress.com](http://www.ltfcanalysis.wordpress.com)  
Twitter - @dylan\_bhundia







# THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Manager Dally Duncan doles out advice to (left to right) Bob Morton, Syd Owen and Wally Shanks during this break from training in the mid-1950s.

Roger Wash









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Now on to the important stuff – we are Luton mad and have been since our Dad took us in early 80s. We have passed that on to our sons who, unlike our memories of playing Liverpool, Man U and Arsenal (the 3-2 win in the Littlewoods Cup Final still the greatest day of my life) have witnessed some hard times (getting beat by Hyde at home). Our boys, now young men, never missed home games even on school nights when they were 5/6 years old.

So thank you firstly to the players for bringing the good times back. Mick Harford and Nathan Jones – we love you and what a job the board have done.

***What a team! What a club! This Town is going up.***

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# TODAY'S MATCH BALL SPONSOR



Our Matchball Sponsor today is Jonathan Miller, who is (belatedly) celebrating his 50th birthday, and is attending the game with friends and family. Jonathan's family have been Hatters fans from the the formation of the club in 1885, from his Great Grandfather, Walter who played professionally for the club in the 1889, 1890 and 1891 seasons, including three FA Cup appearances, and through each generation to his son Christopher.



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# ACADEMY UPDATE

Andy Awford



## U21s

The development squad travelled to Biggleswade Town on Tuesday night to take on the Southern League Premier Central side in what proved to be a very competitive 2-2 friendly draw.

In what was a good test for the youngsters, Ben Stevens and Callum Nicolson (*pictured*) twice put us in front either side of half-time, only for an experienced team to peg us back both times.

Next up the U21s travel to National League South club Slough Town on Tuesday, which is followed with a trip to Crystal Palace the following week.

## U18s

A real good competitive game versus Cambridge United, at our new matchday venue at the Bedford Campus of Bedfordshire University, saw Ben Stevens and Jake Burger on the scoresheet in a highly entertaining 2-2 draw.

We were at home again this morning as Gillingham travelled up from Kent to play us and with no game scheduled for next week (International Break), we look forward to regrouping and travelling down to Southend United the week after.

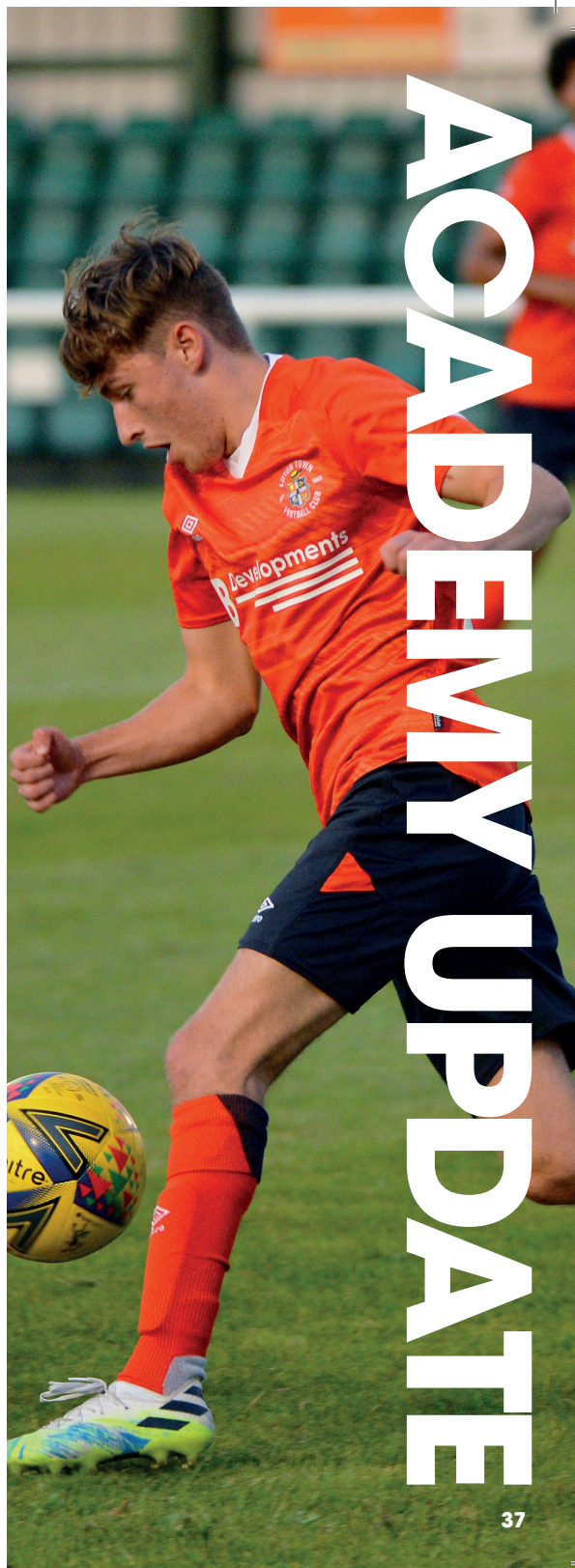
## Schoolboys

The schoolboys are now back in full flow following a nice break that recharged their batteries at the end of July/early August. Fixtures against Fulham, Charlton Athletic and West Ham United are scheduled over the coming weeks that will provide our young Academy boys with good stern tests.

## Ed McJannet

Finally, on behalf of everyone at the club, I would like to congratulate Ed McJannet who last week travelled to Hungary with the Republic of Ireland U18s for a double header.

Ed was delighted to be made captain and represented the club fantastically well in both games. The first game saw Ireland win 2-0 and the second was a 2-2 draw. Well done Ed, we are all tremendously proud of you.





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## CALLUM NICOLSON



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T: Available

## COREY PANTER



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A: Available  
T: Available

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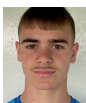
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## FORBESY ON BIGG DRAW

Words: Dan Briard



**Professional Player Development boss Adrian Forbes was impressed by the performance he oversaw from the Hatters' U21s in the draw against Biggleswade Town on Tuesday night.**

Up against a physical, senior team in the Southern League Premier Division Central Waders, the Hatters went ahead twice with goals from Ben Stevens and Callum Nicolson, before the hosts hit back both times.

Reflecting on the performance, Forbes said: "First and foremost it was great to have the opportunity for the development group to play against the likes of Biggleswade Town. It is obviously quite a young group that we have so from a development point of view it's a fantastic game.

"That also linked to the performance and the game plan that we had coming into the game, we knew we were going to be smaller than them, so we knew we had to pass and move the ball with quality and keep the ball on the floor, which I think we did.

"What really impressed me was the fact that the boys stuck to the process, they stuck to the game plan and ultimately that led to two good goals, one good finish by Ben Stevens and then Callum Nicolson scoring a penalty.

"I think if you look at it overall,

it's a really good performance with lots to take away and if you look at the group that have got 16-year-olds, 17-year-olds and 18-year-olds, I think it bodes well with what we're trying to do as a club. I would say the future is quite bright!"

Although it is more about player development than winning a match, Forbes did feel as if the players deserved that, after conceding a late equaliser at the Yvette Brewer Stadium.

"That is the disappointment. You look at how well they did play and for me, the lads deserved the win for the performance they put in but that is football. We will go back, look at it, analyse it, look at what we could have done differently to stop the two goals going in, we will go to the training ground, and we will work on it for sure.

"Hopefully our next game in a week or so, we can put those mistakes right and take the group forward again. Great learning for them, and that is what the development group is about, it says it in the term. There'll be plus points, there will be areas for development and that is what we're here to do."



ADRIAN FORBES



**I THINK IT BODES WELL WITH WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO AS A CLUB. I WOULD SAY THE FUTURE IS QUITE BRIGHT!**



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## AVAN JONES

### How did you get into football?

My first memory of football was at the age of eight, I joined a local team called Luton Old Boys, which is five minutes from me. I was there for a year and I scored 60 goals, then I had a trial with Luton at Under-9s and successfully I managed to get in from Under-9s until now.

### Do you have a matchday routine?

Before every game I like to play music. I don't really play the same, but I just do that to get me in the mood. I normally stick to just having two slices of toast and a banana, I have that every single time!

### Who is your favourite footballer and why?

When I was younger my favourite player was Cristiano Ronaldo, based on the fact that he is just an athlete. Everything he does is of the highest level but when I got older, my most recent idol is probably Trent Alexander-Arnold because he plays the same position as me and I can take some of the attacking aspects of him into my game.

### What music are you into?

Anything American I'm into it, I love their music. Lil Baby and Lil Durk I'd say are my favourites.

### Favourite film?

Rush Hour 2 – best film ever!

### What do you do to relax?

I play tennis, and I'd say I'm quite good at it to be fair. But most of the time I'm just at home playing PlayStation or seeing my mates.

### Biggest fear?

Definitely snakes. There is no chance you'd see me in I'm a Celebrity!

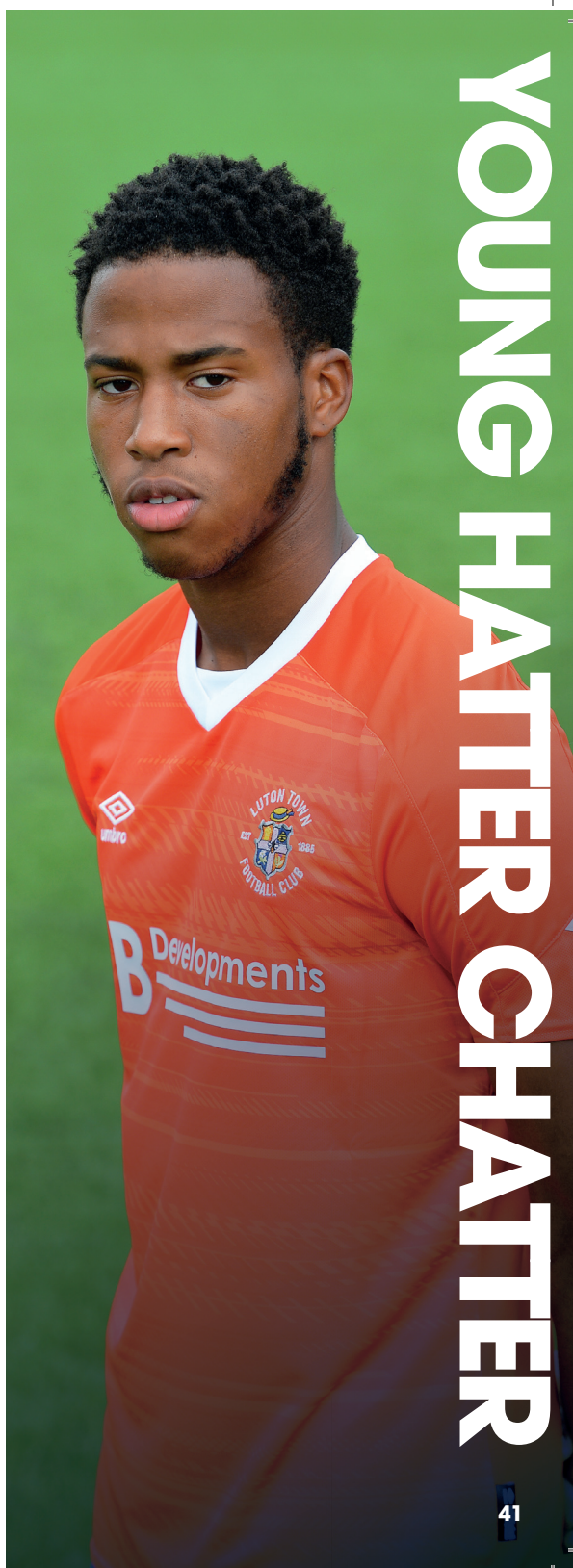
### If you had to have a superhero power, which one would you choose?

I would have to be invisible because you can't see what I'm doing!

### If you were stuck on a deserted island, what is the one thing you'd bring with you?

I'd probably take some essential snacks, something like Maryland cookies!

YOUNG HATTER CHATTER







Professional  
Footballers'  
Association



Premier  
League

# COMMUNITY TRUST IMPACT REPORT JAN 2020 – JUNE 2021

**Every year as a charitable trust we are required to produce an analysis of our impact to help us assess the effectiveness of our work and to look at the numerous projects we run to see if they both fit with our strategic aims but also achieve the outcomes we wanted to achieve.**

It's a simple way to demonstrate to our supporters and funders alike what we do and who we do it with. We receive significant sums of money from both the EFL Trust and the Premier League Charitable Fund and with that comes a high degree of accountability.

Looking back, it is very difficult to summarise the impact the pandemic has had in the past 18 months. No one could have anticipated a nation in lockdown and no doubt, the covid pandemic has been a game changer for society affecting every individual and organisation in different ways. For our charity, it tested our resilience and ability to adapt our delivery on many fronts.

Many face to face activities and projects were suspended, while new online ways of delivery were quickly put in place. Our staff proved incredibly versatile embracing different ways of delivering projects online, to maintain contact with as many participants as possible. Our Tackling Loneliness Together project, in particular, focused on supporting those isolating for many, many months with phone calls, emails and 'garden gate' chats while taking on the Council's click and deliver library book service, which resulted in 5,000 library books delivered in Luton.

As we head into a post pandemic future, our new strategy 'Reconnecting Communities 2021-2024' outlines how we will recover and how we are going to help people to overcome social challenges over the next four years and beyond. The diverse nature of our work often brings us into contact with those on the edge of society or those who are disengaged, lonely, live in poverty or live with

## SOME KEY STATISTICS:

**£1M** INVESTED IN LOCAL ECONOMY

**6,637** PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED

**75** SCHOOLS PARTNERS

**1,303** OVER 65'S SUPPORTED DURING LOCKDOWN

a disability. The pandemic will unquestionably have accentuated social divides and widened inequality.

In the meantime, our impact report represents a snapshot of the last 18 months or so and focuses on strategic projects that demonstrate core areas of our work in Sport & Health, Education and Inclusion. Our full Impact Report Jan 2020 – July 2021 is available online at:

[www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk/our-latest-impact-report](http://www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk/our-latest-impact-report)

As difficult as the last 18 months have been our new strategy available online here: [www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk/our-strategy](http://www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk/our-strategy) will help us achieve our mission to change lives through football and will ensure we continue to make a difference to all individuals, groups and communities who come into contact with the Club and Community Trust.

## SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMPS 2021

We thought last years camps were busy following lockdown and kids bursting to get on the playing fields, but this summer has surpassed last year by a significant margin. No doubt, the Club's continued success on the field is raising our profile, particularly in North Hertfordshire and into Buckinghamshire where, of course, lots of Lutonians have emigrated to! Even during some of the traditionally quiet weeks in August we have been reaching well over 350 youngsters a week across the three counties, from Bedford down to Harpenden and Biggleswade over to Leighton Buzzard. It's been fantastic and our aim is to make sure they all become Hatters in one way or another. We have one week to go in Beds & Herts and expect the total number of children to comfortably exceed 1,500 over the whole summer! Time for a rest for our hard working coaches – maybe!



## FOOTBALL BOOT DONATION TO LUTON ALLSTARS YOUTH FC

Just before the summer holidays, we held a successful boot collection at our five development centres across Luton and Bedfordshire and last week, just in time for the start of the grass-roots local leagues, we welcomed the chairman of Luton Allstars Youth FC, Kwasi Francis Edubatey and some of his boys to hand over 150 pairs of boots our boys had donated.

Luton Allstars have quickly grown to become the largest youth football club in Luton with over 30 boys and girls teams playing every week. Initially based at the old Brache Sparta ground in Dallow Road, Allstars draw the majority of their boys and girls from the less affluent parts of central Luton, with many not owning a decent pair of boots. We were delighted to make the donation and know this will make a difference to so many families facing poverty in our town.



COMMUNITY TRUST



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# JUNIOR HATTERS



## TODAY'S MASCOT



**KELSEY**

**NAME:** Kelsey Cook

**AGE:** 10

**HOBBIES:** Kelsey plays for Luton Town Ladies FC and is in the Player Development Squad for Norwich City FC.

**FAVOURITE PLAYERS:** Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu

### SHEFFIELD UNITED TINYSTATS

**Formed:** 1889

**Stadium:** Bramall Lane

**Capacity:** 32,050

**Last season:** 20TH (PL)

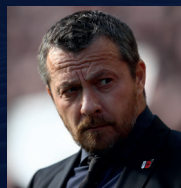
**Head to head with Luton:**

Luton wins - 15

Draws - 9

Blades wins - 18

**Manager:** Slaviša Jokanović



## CAN YOU SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES IN THE PICTURES BELOW?



# JUNIOR STATISTICIAN



VS



GOALS


SCORE

	-	
--	---	--

CARDS 


HATTERS XI


SUBS

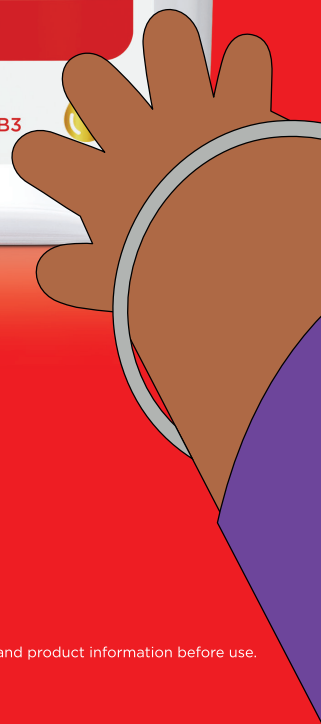
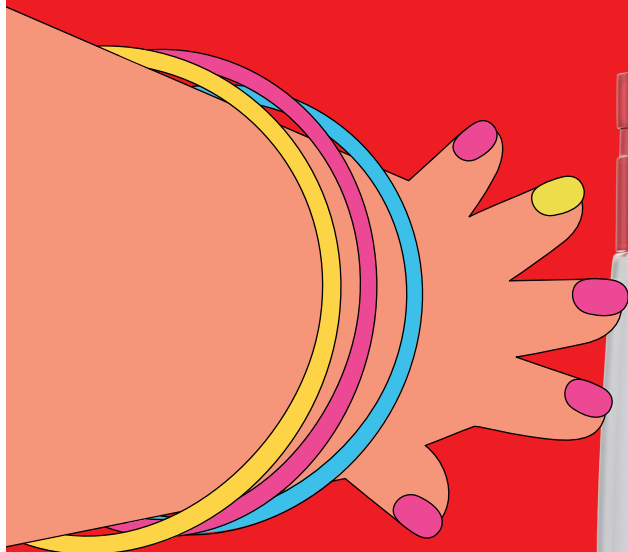

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YOUR MAN OF THE MATCH

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## LUTON LADIES

**After a positive pre-season the Hatters ladies went into the season opener away at Wroxham a fortnight ago feeling confident, having beaten them twice last year.**

In the lead up to the game a mixture of injuries and covid meant a shake-up of the squad, but five new players were handed their debuts.

Goalkeeper Hannah Payne started, after impressing during pre-season, pulling off some immense saves. Left winger Fi Constable was also given her league debut, along with young attacker Estelle Klausner. Sixteen-year-olds Lil Sanders and Chloe Tambula started on the bench but were given chances to impress in the second half.

The game started well for the Town and there were a few half chances at both ends, seeing a great save from Payne, before a Jess McKay shot was blocked. After 15 minutes, new signing Constable delivered a corner and midfielder Olivia Abraham (*pictured*) rose the highest, heading into the net to give her side the lead.

Just before half-time, Wroxham capitalised on a defensive error and equalised. Minutes later the game was turned on its head as the Wroxham striker was able to get a shot off from distance and Payne could do nothing as it sailed into the top corner.

After a frustrating half, the Hatters were determined to get themselves back in the game but it went from bad to worse as the home side managed

to get a third, and within minutes Town captain Jess McKay was sent off for a supposedly late tackle, a very controversial decision.

The Hatters dug in and without their skipper continued to try and get something back. This paid off after some hard work by substitute Funmi Babalola meant the keeper made a mistake under pressure and the ball fell to Abraham to grab her second of the game, giving her side a flicker of hope.

With 10 minutes to go and teenage debutant Sanders leading the line on her own, the Hatters continued to press for the equaliser. Constable was unlucky not to score as her free-kick clipped the bar, before Elly Wade headed a corner inches over the bar.

It just wasn't to be on the day and in the dying moments Wroxham added a fourth.

Head coach Steve Worrell said: "Today was disappointing and lots of decisions did not go our way. There were some positives to take away, but we need to be much better than this to compete. Five players made their league debuts for the first team and this was good to see. Goalkeeper Hannah Payne was outstanding again today, and we have lots of promise in the young players who were in the squad."

Congratulations to manager Nikki Baker, who gave birth to son Albert before last Sunday's game against St Ives Town Ladies.

Unfortunately, that game also ended in a second successive defeat to open the season, the Hatters going down 1-0.



**"It is a hard one to take but we have to take it on the chin. It is a tough league and if we play like that, then we have to face it. We weren't good enough."**





## 0 LUTON TOWN 5 BIRMINGHAM CITY

Kenilworth Road – Saturday 21st August 2021  
Sky Bet Championship

**Luton:** Sluga; Bree, Kioso (Rea 28), Lockyer, Naismith (C), Bell; Mpanzu, Campbell (Onyedimma 45); Muskwe; Cornick (Jerome 57), Adebayo.

**Birmingham:** Sarkic; Roberts, Dean (C), Pedersen; Colin, Woods, Sunjic, Bela; Chong (Sanchez 70), Hogan (Aneke 61), Jutkiewicz (Gardner 81)

### Scorers:

Roberts 7, Hogan 26,47, Gardner 84, Aneke 88

"I'm little bit embarrassed by the scoreline, but I'm very rarely embarrassed when I come in front of the cameras because this is a good group, and we have to make sure we learn from this and bounce back."

**NATHAN JONES**

## BIRMINGHAM REACTION

**Defender Kal Naismith believes that him and his team-mates 'owe supporters' this afternoon after last week's loss against Birmingham City.**

The 5-0 defeat at Kenilworth Road was the Town's heaviest home defeat since July last year and was uncharacteristic in front of the Hatters faithful, which prompted Naismith to say post-match:

"We need to apologise to the fans as even at two-nil down coming off, the noise from them was unbelievable.

"We said at half-time, the fans are still right behind us, it's not been good enough, go out and give them something to cheer about. The fans don't deserve that, so I feel we owe them one next week."

After a good midweek performance and win against Barnsley, there was optimism that Nathan Jones' side could continue their good start to the season but following a poor opening, Birmingham took complete control of the game and scored five without reply.

"It is a hard one to take but we have to take it on the chin. It is a tough league and if we play like that, then we have to face it. We weren't good enough.

"We have conceded five goals and it is not good enough. I always say that we defend as a whole team and attack as a team, it comes from the front as

well. So when we get clean sheets, everyone should be praised and when we concede five, it is not good.

"I feel we were outbattled which is disappointing because that never happens at this place, never happens at home. Even when I have played here with previous teams, you come here and it's a horrible, horrible game. Fair play, we will get beat against that happens, but not in that fashion."

The defender was eager to look ahead and is relishing the opportunity to try and put things right against Sheffield United, who come into the game at Kenilworth Road looking to pick up their first points of the season.

"You can always bounce back, you can never stay down there, you can never lay down and cry about it, the boys will be gutted tonight, gutted tomorrow. It will be a horrible weekend because it is just the worst feeling, but Monday, we will be back in training to pick ourselves up and go again.

"That is the good thing about football. It takes you to some bad lows, but you always have next week to go and put it right. If you look at the grand scheme of things, two wins and two losses, it's inconsistent but if we go and put it right against Sheffield United, then we go into the international break feeling good."

**Words: Dan Briard**



**"It is a hard one to take but we have to take it on the chin. It is a tough league and if we play like that, then we have to face it. We weren't good enough."**





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# FIXTURES 2021-22

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	PENALTY (F)	PENALTY (A)	OWN GOALS	SENT OFF	OPP. SENT OFF	SHEA	BREE	POTTS	NASMITH	BRADLEY	REA	CORNICK	BERRY	HYLTON	LEE	ADENAWO
<b>AUGUST</b>																							
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Peterborough United	W 3-0	10,019	1,032	2	-	-	-	-	-	*	y				*	1a				1
Tue 10	7.45pm	A	Stevenage (Carabao Cup R1)	D 2-2*	3,052	1,291		-	-	-	-	-		*				y	a			c	
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	West Bromwich Albion	L 2-3	23,283	1,433	11	-	-	1	-	-	*						1				d
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Barnsley	W 1-0	12,999	748	3	-	-	-	-	-						c	a	y		*	y
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Birmingham City	L 0-5	10,014	1,006	11	-	-	-	-	-						a	y	c		*	
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Sheffield United																				
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>																							
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Blackburn Rovers																				
Wed 15	7.45pm	A	Bristol City																				
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Swansea City																				
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	AFC Bournemouth																				
Wed 29	7.45pm	H	Coventry City																				
<b>OCTOBER</b>																							
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Huddersfield Town																				
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Millwall																				
Tue 19	7.45pm	A	Derby County																				
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Hull City																				
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Preston North End																				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>																							
Wed 2	7.45pm	H	Middlesbrough																				
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Stoke City																				
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	QPR																				
Tue 23	7.45pm	A	Nottingham Forest																				
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Cardiff City																				
<b>DECEMBER</b>																							
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Blackpool																				
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Fulham																				
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Reading																				
Sun 26	3.00pm	H	Bristol City																				
Wed 29	7.45pm	A	Swansea City																				
<b>JANUARY</b>																							
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Coventry City																				
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	AFC Bournemouth																				
Sat 22	7.45pm	A	Sheffield United																				
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Blackburn Rovers																				
<b>FEBRUARY</b>																							
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Peterborough United																				
Tue 8	7.45pm	H	Barnsley																				
Sat 12	3.00pm	A	Birmingham City																				
Sat 19	3.00pm	H	West Bromwich Albion																				
Wed 23	8.00pm	A	Stoke City																				
Sat 26	3.00pm	H	Derby County																				
<b>MARCH</b>																							
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Middlesbrough																				
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	QPR																				
Wed 16	7.45pm	H	Preston North End																				
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Hull City																				
<b>APRIL</b>																							
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Millwall																				
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Huddersfield Town																				
Fri 15	3.00pm	H	Nottingham Forest																				
Mon 18	3.00pm	A	Cardiff City																				
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Blackpool																				
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Fulham																				
<b>MAY</b>																							
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Reading																				

KEY:   Starting XI   Substitute • Unused sub **y**: yellow card **r**: red card **p**: penalty scorer **\***: penalty missed **•**: lost 0-3 on penalties

AUDITU	SLUGA	MENDES GOMES	LOCKYER	BURKE	MPANZU	CLARK	PEREIRA	KIOSO	ISTED	CAMPBELL	LANSBURY	ONWEDINMA	MUSKWE	BELL	OSHO	BECKWITH	JEROME	JONES	MCANNETT	SUB TIMES				SENT OFF		GOAL TIMES
1	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	29	32	33	35	36	37	a	b	c	d*	L#	O#	
L		b			c			*			c	1 b	a				*			78	82	85	-	-	-	30, 68, 71
d		*				b	*		*	c	y	a	1 b		y		1 a	*	*	72	72	79	-	-	-	2, 5, 26, 40
y		*	b		1	b	*	c		yc	a	a	b		y		d			46	60	74	89	-	-	5, 36, 66, 70, 98
		*						a	*	b		b	yc	1	b		a			69	88	90	-	-	-	4
		*						a	*	b		b			*		c			28	46	57	-	-	-	7, 26, 47, 84, 88



## CONGRATS LIAM!

Massive Congratulations to Liam on his marriage today to Brooke. After a delayed ceremony due to the pandemic this lifelong Hatter finally gets to marry his long-term partner this afternoon. All of his family and friends wish the couple a very happy life together –

James Stopford



## RIP PHIL GOODMAN

Phil was an avid Luton Town supporter after being brought by his Grandad to his first game at Kenilworth Road aged five.

He has been a season ticket holder for many many years since. Many other members of Phil's family including his sons Ricky, Robbie and grandson Cameron hold season tickets. He was so looking forward to returning to the ground this season but sadly passed away on August 2nd, aged 67. The picture attached was taken for his cardboard cut-out that was within the ground during the pandemic. He was a true legend to his family and family and appears on the Luton Town Legends shirt.



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



FORMED: 1875

NICKNAME: ROVERS

LAST SEASON: 15TH IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @ROVERS

COLOURS: BLUE &amp; WHITE SHIRTS, WHITE SHORTS

GROUND: EWOOD PARK

MANAGER: TONY MOWBRAY

## WHO?

Rovers have spent the last three seasons competing in the Championship after winning promotion from League One in 2018, recording a top-half finish in 2020. Rovers won the Premier League in 1995 and won the FA Cup six times between 1883 and 1928. They have started the current campaign by taking seven points from their opening four matches, beating Swansea and Nottingham Forest 2-1, with a 1-1 draw at Millwall and 2-1 home defeat to West Brom last Saturday leaving them ninth in the table going into this weekend.

## GROUND?

Blackburn have played their home fixtures at Ewood Park since its construction in 1882, before undergoing major development in 1994, transforming the ground into an all-seater stadium with a capacity of 31,000.

## HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?


The two sides last met at Ewood Park in January 2021, with Adam Armstrong's late winner stealing all three points for Rovers after a strong performance from the Hatters. The reverse fixture at Kenilworth Road ended in a 1-1 draw, whilst the Hatters sealed the Championship great escape in July 2020 with a 3-2 home victory.

## KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Former Hatters player and manager Mike Newell made 130 appearances at Ewood Park in a five-year spell at the club, whilst former US international Roy Wegerle played for Blackburn during the 1992/3 season after two seasons at Kenilworth Road. Our Littlewoods Cup-winning manager Ray Harford was assistant-manager to Kenny Dalglish when Blackburn won the Premier League title in 1994-95, before taking over the top job himself. Most recently, Amari'i Bell joined Town this summer after a three-and-a-half year stint with Rovers, in which he made 99 appearances and won promotion from League One.

Words: Dylan Bhundia

## LUTON TOWN PLAYER STATISTICS

	2020-21 SEASON										CAREER		
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		CARDS		TOTAL		APPS	G	
	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G			APPS	G			
Elijah Adebayo	4	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	1	0	22	6
Sam Beckwith	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0
Amari'i Bell	4	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	0	0	4	1
Luke Berry	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	122	14
Sunny Bradley	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	131	3
James Bree	4	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	1	0	73	1
Roscoe Burke	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0
Allan Campbell	3	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	3	(1)	0	1	0	4	0
Jordan Clark	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	41	3
Harry Cornick	3	(1)	2	0	(1)	0	3	(2)	2	1	0	174	25
Danny Hylton	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	148	58
Cameron Jerome	1	(2)	0	1	(0)	1	2	(2)	1	0	0	4	1
Peter Kioso	2	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(1)	0	0	0	7	0
Henri Lansbury	1	(2)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	2	0	4	0
Elliot Lee	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	124	30
Tom Lockyer	2	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	26	0
Carlos Mendes Gomes	0	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	0	0	2	0
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	4	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	0	0	302	20
Admiral Muckwe	2	(2)	0	1	(0)	1	3	(2)	1	1	0	5	1
Kai Naismith	4	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0	0	27	1
Fred Onyiah	2	(1)	1	0	(0)	0	2	(1)	1	0	0	3	1
Gabriel Osho	2	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(1)	0	2	0	5	0
Dion Pereira	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	2	0
Dan Potts	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	176	11
Glen Roa	0	(2)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(2)	0	2	0	197	8
James Shea	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	86	0
Simon Sluga	4	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0	0	79	0

## 2021-22 CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

#	Team	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Fulham	4	3	1	0	10	3	7	10
2	West Bromwich Albion	4	3	1	0	11	5	6	10
3	Stoke City	4	3	1	0	7	3	4	10
4	Coventry City	4	3	0	1	5	3	2	9
5	Queens Park Rangers	4	2	2	0	9	5	4	8
6	Cardiff City	4	2	2	0	8	4	4	8
7	Bournemouth	4	2	2	0	8	5	3	8
8	Birmingham City	4	2	1	1	6	2	4	7
9	Blackburn Rovers	4	2	1	1	6	5	1	7
10	Huddersfield Town	4	2	1	1	5	7	-2	7
11	Luton Town	4	2	0	2	6	8	-2	6
12	Middlesbrough	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5
13	Barnsley	4	1	2	1	4	4	0	5
14	Derby County	4	1	2	1	3	3	0	5
15	Bristol City	4	1	1	2	5	6	-1	4
16	Swansea City	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	4
17	Peterborough United	4	1	1	2	4	7	-3	4
18	Reading	4	1	0	3	7	9	-2	3
19	Hull City	4	1	0	3	4	7	-3	3
20	Preston North End	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	3
21	Millwall	4	0	2	2	4	7	-3	2
22	Blackpool	4	0	2	2	3	6	-3	2
23	Sheffield United	4	0	1	3	1	7	-6	1
24	Nottingham Forest	4	0	0	4	3	7	-4	0

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## NATHAN JONES

- 01 JAMES SHEA
- 02 JAMES BREE
- 03 DAN POTTS
- 04 KAL NAISMITH
- 05 SONNY BRADLEY
- 06 GLEN REA
- 07 HARRY CORNICK
- 08 LUKE BERRY
- 09 DANNY HYLTON
- 10 ELLIOT LEE
- 11 ELIJAH ADEBAYO
- 12 SIMON SLUGA
- 14 CARLOS MENDES GOMES
- 15 TOM LOCKYER
- 16 REECE BURKE
- 17 PELLY-RUDDOCK MPANZU
- 18 JORDAN CLARK
- 19 DION PEREIRA
- 20 PETER KIOSO
- 21 HARRY ISTED
- 22 ALLAN CAMPBELL
- 23 HENRI LANSBURY
- 24 FRED ONYEDINMA
- 26 ADMIRAL MUSKWE
- 29 AMARI'I BELL
- 32 GABRIEL OSHO
- 35 CAMERON JEROME



## SLAVISA JOKANOVIC

- 02 GEORGE BALDOCK
- 03 ENDA STEVENS
- 04 JOHN FLECK
- 05 JACK O'CONNELL
- 06 CHRIS BASHAM
- 07 RHIAN BREWSTER
- 08 SANDER BERGE
- 09 OLI MCBURNIE
- 10 BILLY SHARP
- 11 LYS MOUSSET
- 12 JOHN EGAN
- 13 MAX LOWE
- 14 OLIVER BURKE
- 15 LUKE FREEMAN
- 16 OLIVER NORWOOD
- 17 DAVID MCGOLDRICK
- 18 WES FODERINGHAM
- 19 JACK ROBINSON
- 20 JAYDEN BOGLE
- 21 MICHAEL VERRIPS
- 22 BEN DAVIES
- 23 BEN OSBORN
- 28 REGAN SLATER
- 30 ZAK BRUNT
- 31 JAKE EASTWOOD
- 32 TYLER SMITH
- 33 RHYS NORRINGTON-DAVIES
- 34 KYRON GORDON
- 35 KACPER LOPATA
- 36 DANIEL JEBBISON

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE  
**ANDY DAVIES**  
ASSISTANT REFEREE 1  
**AKIL HOWSON**  
ASSISTANT REFEREE 2  
**MARK POTTAGE**  
FOURTH OFFICIAL  
**NEIL HAIR**

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**FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD**  
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