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LUTON TOWN V AFC BOURNEMOUTH

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2021-22
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GOAL!

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15.01.22 | KO: 12:30PM

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OUR TOWN - LUTON TOWN OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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THE MANAGER

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our first Sky Bet Championship game in five weeks.

It's an early start for the second weekend in a row, but after so long without a match and so much uncertainty around Covid and crowds in recent weeks, I think we're all just glad to be here to entertain the league leaders in front of a full house.

We had that here in our last home league game before the break, when Fulham arrived at the Kenny a point ahead of Bournemouth at the top.

I wrote that afternoon that we should have been in for our toughest test of the season so far, and we came through that as the side looking most likely to seal a win, but well worth the 1-1 draw we got that day, and I've heard it said many times since that the atmosphere inside the ground that afternoon was as good as it's been in the Championship.

It goes without saying then that today, with Bournemouth now a point clear of Fulham, we face our current biggest test of the season so far!

We left the Vitality Stadium in September disappointed not to have taken something from that game, so we have belief that we can test them again here on our own pitch, with our wonderful supporters right behind us.

We welcome Scott Parker, his staff, their squad and everyone who has

travelled up from the south coast, as well as the Sky Sports cameras who were last here for our win over Middlesbrough in early November.

It was later that month that we hosted them again to cover the 61 members of Luton Town staff's efforts for Prostate United, in support of Mick. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Sky and everyone else who helped raise awareness for Prostate Cancer UK – not to mention almost £30,000!

I was proud of our whole club, not just the football team, being showcased on a national scale because it is a real family here. That's why I'd also like to direct you to a fundraising page for one of our first team scouts, Ben Valentine, who took part then and is continuing to raise funds.

Ben is the husband of Holly – who many of you will know from our ticket office – and son-in-law of Peter Kemp, our site and facilities manager in title, but the man who we turn to for so many things at the club.

Ben is doing 'Run the Month: Marathon Edition' in which he will run a marathon a week throughout January for Prostate Cancer UK, and if you are able to support him, search for 'Ben's run for Prostate Cancer Support Mick' to find his fundraising page.

Please give it everything you've got again from the stands this afternoon. You can be the difference for us here in games like this that we all relish. Enjoy it and COYH!



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FOR US HERE
IN GAMES
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BIG MICK IS BACK!

Last Sunday's FA Cup third round tie with Harrogate saw the return to the Hatters dugout of assistant-manager Mick Harford, following his radiotherapy for prostate cancer.

The 62-year-old took time away from his full-time role following the away game at West Brom in August, when he began his treatment at UCLH in London.

Mick had spent the odd day at The Brache over recent weeks, but apart from watching the game at Nottingham Forest from the stand in November, last Sunday was the first time he had been at a home match and alongside Nathan Jones on the touchline having returned to full-time work.

He received three standing ovations from the Hatters fans inside the ground, first when leaving the field after the warm-up, again when he came out before kick-off alongside our former captain Alan Sheehan, who also returned to Kenilworth Road last week as first-team coach, and then again at full-time.

Afterwards, Mick spoke of that wonderful reception, saying: "I'm never shocked by these fans and the people of this football club. It's absolutely overwhelming and very emotional for me. Walking out here and getting that ovation, I want to say thank you to each and every Luton Town fan.

"It's unbelievable the way they've supported me, they've supported my family and the way the club and all the players, the staff and the board have got behind me. It's so appreciated.

"It's absolutely amazing and very kind of them, and I appreciate every voice who said what they did today. Our aim was to raise awareness for prostate cancer, and as a football club and myself, I think we've done that and today showed that we're in a good position to keep doing it."

Welcome back to work, Mick!

MICK HARFORD



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To celebrate this season's unique 'Legends' shirt, we're planting trees for Hatters fans. Get involved:

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FIXTURES UPDATE

With four games having been postponed over the festive period due to Covid, plus the Hatters' progress into round four of the Emirates FA Cup last weekend, a number of fixture rearrangements have been announced in recent days.

The first rescheduled match in the Sky Bet Championship takes place this Wednesday, 19th January, when the Town head to Reading for an 8pm kick-off, after the original date was postponed before Christmas. Please be aware that a live video stream of this match will NOT be available on iFollow.

The rearranged game with Bristol City from Boxing Day will be played at Kenilworth Road the following Tuesday, 25th January, with a 7.45pm kick-off.

Then we head to south Wales on Tuesday 1st February to take on Swansea City, in the game that was originally set to be played behind closed doors on 29th December. Hopefully supporters will be allowed back at sporting events in Wales, by that point, and ticket details will be shared in due course.

The FA Cup fourth round draw presented the Hatters with a trip to League One side Cambridge United on the weekend of February 4-7th, with date and kick-off time still to be confirmed at the time of going to print, with TV selections not yet made.

This means the Championship fixture scheduled at Peterborough on Saturday 5th February has had to be rearranged, and the Hatters will now travel to London Road on Tuesday 5th April.

Finally – for now – game at Coventry originally set for New Year's Day has been rearranged for Tuesday 8th March.

Tickets for this fixture remain valid for those who brought for the original date. Any supporters who wishes to obtain a refund on tickets purchased can do so by returning their tickets to the Ticket Office by Monday 7th March.

LOAN MOVES

A couple of the Town's promising young players have moved away on loan to gain further first-team experience in recent days.

Exciting winger Dion Pereira (*pictured above playing against Stevenage in the Carabao Cup earlier this season*) has moved to League Two side Bradford City until the end of the season, while right-back Avan Jones has joined our Non-League neighbours St Albans City on a youth loan.

This means that Avan is still eligible to feature for the Hatters development squad, while playing in the National League South for his loan club.

Fellow defender Corey Panter has returned from his loan at Scottish Premiership club Dundee, having made his full league debut for the Dens Park club against Aberdeen over the festive period.

FIXTURES UPDATE

LUTON TOWN - V - AFC BOURNEMOUTH
15/01/2022 | KENILWORTH ROAD



LUKE BERRY

BACK WITH A BANG!

WORDS: DAN BRIARD

Luke Berry is hoping to build on his successful return to the pitch and take that into today's Sky Bet Championship fixture against AFC Bournemouth.

The midfielder has been absent from the matchday squad since October when he suffered an injury in the home win versus Hull City, but relished the opportunity to be back out on the pitch at Kenilworth Road, especially after fearing the worse at the time.

"I've had a good two or three weeks of full training. I came back a bit earlier than expected and it was unfortunate the games were called off, but it worked in my favour to get up to speed.

“At the time of the injury, I thought I did it quite badly so I was worried, but luckily it was 10-12 weeks in the end. At the same time with the momentum the boys had, and I had, I thought we could get a good little run going, but it’s one of those things in football which is frustrating.”

Twenty-eight minutes into his return though, and normal service had resumed as Berry wrapped up proceedings after good wing-play from Fred Onyedinma, scoring his fifth goal in only eight matches.

But for the midfielder, it was about putting hours on the training ground into practice, explaining:

“I said to Fred if you get an opportunity on the wing, cut one back and luckily it went in just underneath the crossbar.

“I’ve been working a lot with Chris and the gaffer and I’m doing finishing sessions after training. We work on arriving in the box and it’s always that third man cut-back because I’m always in there. I always try and get double figures so if I can get that this season, I’ll be content.”

Additionally, the midfielder – who has a goal every 58 minutes this season – will benefit from the arrival of first-team coach and former team-mate Alan Sheehan in training, and said this about his return: “He was a real top player, and you can see he is going to be a real top coach. He has a great demeanor about him, he talks well and even though he’s only been in a week or so, you can see he is going to put more of a stamp on it, he’ll take more sessions and he will be really good.

“With him you could always tell that he had that aura about him. He used to take some meetings with us sometimes, and he speaks well, not like me!”

Sheehan was joined alongside Mick Harford in the Hatters’ dugout and Berry spoke about his impact with the players and how pleased he is to have the Luton legend back involved.

“He’s been dipping his toe in the last few weeks and now he’s back permanently. It’s really good to see him just to have a chat with him to see how he’s getting on. He’s a great presence to have around training.”

Ahead of today’s game, the Hatters will be hoping that history repeats itself and they will have a similar success rate against the league leaders, whom they were undefeated against last season.

Despite a month-long break because of match postponements prior to the FA Cup match last week, Berry is hoping that with the help of the

ferocious home crowd, they can continue where they left off in the league.

“I’ve never really had a month off like that in the middle of the season, it was a sort of like pre-season where you want to try and get a few games in, but we couldn’t play anyone because of covid. It was a really good chance to get some minutes in and hopefully we’re now fully at it against Bournemouth.

“Fulham were top of the league the last time we played in the league and now Bournemouth are, so we’re playing the two top teams on the trot. Hopefully we can have a good game, get the crowd going and get at them like we did last season when we drew against them at home. If we do the same again, then we should do well.

“There’s nothing better than playing here (Kenilworth Road),” the midfielder continued. “The atmosphere is great and hopefully it will be the same against Bournemouth, a real hostile atmosphere.”





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ALLAN CAMPBELL

Matchday routine?

Nothing out of the ordinary, but I always like to have a coffee before a game, which I make just before I leave the house and drink on my way in.

Superstitions?

I do three high knee jumps as I come onto the pitch to get me going. I know people have noticed me going off in between the main warm-up and shooting, but that's not a superstition - it's just that I've drank so much water I need the toilet!

Biggest influence?

My parents, Jacqueline and Cammy. They fly down here to watch me as much as they can - it's cheaper by plane than it is to drive, £60-£80 if they book in plenty of time!

Sporting hero?

Cristiano Ronaldo. Obviously his talent on the park, and how he lives his his life off it. He does whatever he can to be the best he can.

Best player you've played alongside?

James McFadden, I played with him near the end of his career, and he ended up coaching me at Motherwell too. In terms of what he's done both in Scotland and England, he was great to learn from.

Toughest opponent?

Phil Foden, playing for the U21s v England at Tynecastle. He was so hard to pick up, getting into

good areas. He was on the fringes of the City team at the time, but you could just tell he was going to be a huge star.

Most treasured possession?

The shirt from my Motherwell debut against Ross County, because that was the start of my professional career.

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

I'd probably get a trade as a brickie, an electrician, or something like that.

Best stadium played at?

As a Rangers fan, it has to be Ibrox. It's so loud with a full house there.

Something people may not know about you?

I have OCD. I like things in certain ways and if someone has moved things, like furniture, it plays with my mind!

Favourite song?

Dreams by Fleetwood Mac.

Favourite film?

Batman - The Dark Night.

Favourite meal?

Fillet steak.

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THE OPPOSITION

WORDS: RYAN PAYNE

After over a month away, Sky Bet Championship football returns to Kenilworth Road, with current league leaders AFC Bournemouth the visitors this afternoon. Scott Parker's side sit a point ahead of Fulham, with Blackburn Rovers four points behind.

Parker replaced Jonathan Woodgate as manager of the Cherries in the summer, and has made an impressive start to life at the Vitality Stadium. Bournemouth have only lost four times in the league so far this season, with all of those coming since the start of November.

They arrive at Kenilworth Road off the back of two successive victories, however, with a 1-0 win at QPR on December 27th followed by a 3-0 home success over Cardiff three days later.

Like the Hatters, Bournemouth were in Emirates FA Cup action last weekend, with the Cherries making it three straight wins in all competitions, running out 3-1 victors at Yeovil Town. Emiliano Marcondes netted a hat-trick at Huish Park to send them into Round Four, where they host Non-League side Boreham Wood.

December 2020 was Bournemouth's last visit to the Kenny, with the two sides playing out a goalless draw. In the reverse fixture the following month, a year ago tomorrow, a goal from Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall gave Nathan Jones' side a 1-0 win at the Vitality Stadium.

The Cherries have been active in the January transfer window already, bringing in two players. James Hill was signed from Fleetwood Town, with Ethan Laird arriving on loan from Manchester United. Steve Cook ended his ten-year stay with Cherries earlier this month, making the switch to Nottingham Forest.

Dominic Solanke has been Bournemouth's stand-out player so far this season, scoring 18 times in the Championship. He sits third in the Golden Boot race, behind Aleksandar Mitrovic and Ben Brereton Diaz. Jaidon Anthony has enjoyed a breakthrough campaign, scoring six times so far.

We welcome the Bournemouth supporters who have made the trip from the Vitality Stadium this afternoon, as well as our former defender Jack Stacey, who returns to Kenilworth Road for the first time.





THE GOALKEEPER: MARK TRAVERS

Born in Maynooth, Travers spent time at Irish clubs Confey, Luncan Athletic, Cherry Orchard and Shamrock Rovers as a youth. He joined Bournemouth in July 2016, aged 17, and was sent to Weymouth on loan, remarkably scoring with a free-kick from inside his own half on his senior debut and going on to make 23 appearances in the Southern Premier Division. The 22-year-old made his debut for the Cherries in a 1-0 win over Spurs in May 2019, and spent time on loan at Swindon in 2020/21. After the departure of Asmir Begovic, Travers became Bournemouth's first-choice goalkeeper for the 2021/22 season.



THE DEFENDER: GARY CAHILL

Experienced defender Cahill joined Bournemouth on a one-year deal in the summer, after two years at Crystal Palace. Cahill progressed through the Aston Villa academy, making 28 first-team appearances. After loan spells at Burnley and Sheffield United, he joined Bolton in 2008 and made 130 Premier League appearances for the Trotters. The 36-year-old then spent seven-and-a-half-years at Chelsea, winning two Premier League titles, two FA Cups, the League Cup, the Europa and Champions League. Cahill was also the club's captain after John Terry left, before departing Stamford Bridge in 2019.



THE MANAGER: SCOTT PARKER

As a player, Parker spent time at Charlton, Chelsea, Newcastle, West Ham, Spurs and Fulham, before going into coaching and management. His first role was at former club Spurs, coaching their U18 side. He later returned to Fulham, working under both Slavisa Jokanovic and Claudio Ranieri, before being appointed caretaker boss in February 2019, and permanently in the May. Parker guided Fulham into the Premier League via the play-offs in 2020, but was unable to keep them in the top flight. After the club's relegation, the 41-year-old joined Bournemouth as manager.



**ON THE RADAR:
AFC BOURNEMOUTH**

I N I T I A T E S T E



THE MIDFIELDER: PHILIP BILLING

Born in Copenhagen, Billing spent time at Esbjerg in his native Denmark, before making the move to Huddersfield in 2013 on a youth contract, later signing pro terms at the John Smith's Stadium. He made his debut for the Terries in a 2-0 loss against Leicester City in April 2014. During his time at Huddersfield, he made 91 appearances in all competitions, and was part of the side that won promotion into the Premier League. In July 2019, Billing made the switch to the South Coast to sign for Bournemouth. Since his move to the Cherries, the Danish international has made over 100 appearances in all competitions.



THE ATTACKER: JAIDON ANTHONY

Jaidon Anthony spent ten years in the academy at Arsenal, playing alongside the likes of Emile Smith Rowe and Reiss Nelson. He left the Gunners in 2016, later signing for Bournemouth after a successful trial. In January 2020, he joined Weymouth on loan. He made five appearances in the National League South for the Terras, scoring once. Anthony made his debut for Bournemouth in December 2020, appearing against Preston. Under Scott Parker, this season has seen the 22-year-old break into the first-team at the Vitality Stadium. So far this season, Anthony has netted six times in 25 appearances.

WATCH OUT FOR... DOMINIC SOLANKE

With 18 goals in the Championship to his name already this season, striker Dominic Solanke has had a very impressive campaign up to this point. Solanke began his career at Chelsea, and made his debut in the Champions League in a 6-0 win against Slovenian side Maribor. He later joined Vitesse on loan, scoring seven times in the Eredivisie. The striker then joined Liverpool, scoring once in 21 league appearances for the club. In January 2019, he moved to Bournemouth. Solanke has featured regularly for the Cherries, and scored 15 times in the Championship last season.



ON THE RADAR: AFC BOURNEMOUTH

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A HAT IN BOTH CAMPS

Jack Stacey makes his first return to Kenilworth Road this afternoon since being sold to then-Premier League Bournemouth in July 2019.

The right-back initially came to the Hatters' attention when on loan at Carlisle from Reading, scoring against the Town shortly after Nathan Jones had taken over as manager in 2016. He then signed for Exeter on a season-long deal, scoring a spectacular League Two play-off semi-final winner deep into injury-time to take the Grecians to Wembley, where they lost out in the final to Blackpool, who had beaten the Hatters.

Arriving at the Kenny in that summer of 2017 on a permanent transfer, the 21-year-old had the same intention as Jones and his Town squad - putting play-off heartbreak behind them to reach League One. The journey that followed was nothing short of sensational. With James Justin for competition on the right side of the Hatters' back four, Stacey made 45 appearances in all competitions as promotion was secured as runners-up.

The following campaign, he and Justin - by now playing on the left - flourished into Premier League-bound attacking full-backs as the Hatters, under Jones and then Mick Harford, romped to the League One title. Making a half-century of appearances in the famous diamond formation, Stacey was often the man to supply James Collins for his 25 goals, usually after Andrew Shinnie had assisted the assister, as the Town's free-flowing football secured second tier status.

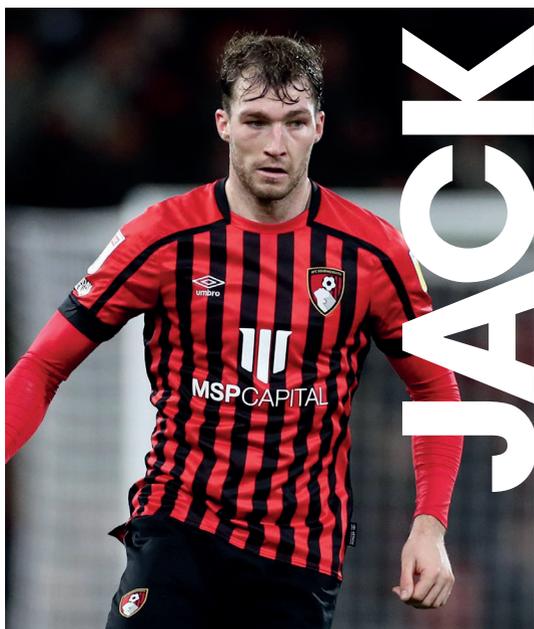
With Justin having already departed for Leicester City for a club record fee, Stacey was sold to top-flight Bournemouth for a huge profit on the undisclosed fee paid to Reading two years earlier. Having missed out on Bournemouth's behind closed doors visit to Luton last season through injury, the now 25-year-old will be guaranteed a warm reception this afternoon with Town fans back in the stadium. Welcome back, Stace!

LUTON TOWN (2017-2019)

APPEARANCES:	95
GOALS:	5

AFC BOURNEMOUTH (2019-PRESENT)

APPEARANCES:	74
GOALS:	1



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Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu slaloms through the Cherries defence.

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY

HATTERS 0 CHERRIES 0

19th December 2020. Championship.
Words: Roger Wash

LUTON TOWN:

Luton Town: Shea, Cranie, Lockyer, Bradley, Potts (Pearson), Norrington-Davies, Berry, Mpanzu, Dewsbury-Hall, Collins (Nombe), Hylton (Cornick).

AFC BOURNEMOUTH:

Begovic, Smith, Cook S, Simpson, Kelly, Lerma, Cook L, Billing (Rico), Brooks (Riquelme), Stanislas (Surridge), Solanke.

For the visit of Bournemouth, mid-table Hatters made three changes to the side that had just suffered a narrow and undeserved 1-0 defeat at Middlesbrough, which included Danny Hylton who was making his first start since October.

The Cherries, who had lost only twice in the Championship at that stage in the season, controlled the game at the start but could not engineer a clear-cut chance with only a free-kick from Junior Stanislas bringing about a comfortable save from Luton goalkeeper James Shea.

The Town then came more into the game with Leicester loanee Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall forcing a smart save from Asmir Begovic in the Bournemouth goal.

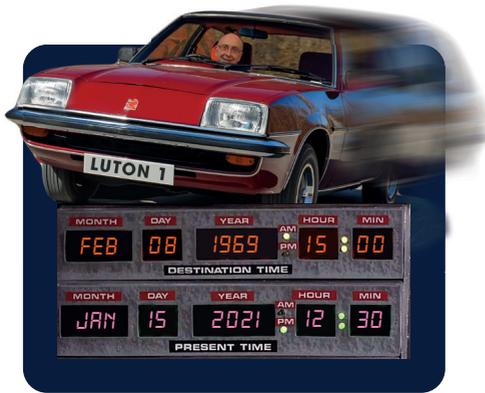
Hylton was then presented with the best chance of the first-half after Luke Berry played the ball into

his path, leading to Begovic pulling off a brilliant save when a goal seemed certain.

In the second period the Town took up the running with a cross from Dewsbury-Hall passing agonisingly between Hylton and fellow strike partner James Collins, before at the other end, Dominic Solanke glided a header wide from a long cross from Lloyd Kelly.

As the stalemate drew to a close, Dewsbury-Hall fired a blistering shot just over and young substitute Sam Nombe was played through with a presentable chance but saw his effort foiled by Begovic.

The final action saw Bournemouth's Jack Simpson almost deflect a Dewsbury-Hall cross into his own net.



MEMORY MATCH

**BOURNEMOUTH 0 LUTON TOWN 2
DIVISION THREE (NOW LEAGUE ONE).
8TH FEBRUARY 1969.**

WORDS: ROGER WASH

LUTON TOWN:

Davie, Dougan, Bannister, Slough, Branston, Moore, French, Lewis, Sheffield, Allen, Jardine.

BOURNEMOUTH:

Jones, Gulliver, Miller, White, Stocks, Longhorn, Bumstead, Pound, East, Bolton, Peters (Burns).

Following an extremely bright start to the 1968/69 season the Town's form began to dip as autumn turned to winter due, in the main, to a woeful away record. After avoiding defeat in the first three away games of the campaign, the Hatters then proceeded to lose the next seven, scoring only one goal in the process. It was only the home form that kept the Town up with the leaders over this period.

After yet another away defeat, at Hartlepool just before Christmas 1968, the news swept through the town that manager Allan Brown had resigned although, as it was later revealed, he had been asked to leave for 'disloyalty' after failing in an interview for the vacant manager's job at Leicester.

The Luton directors lost no time in appointing a

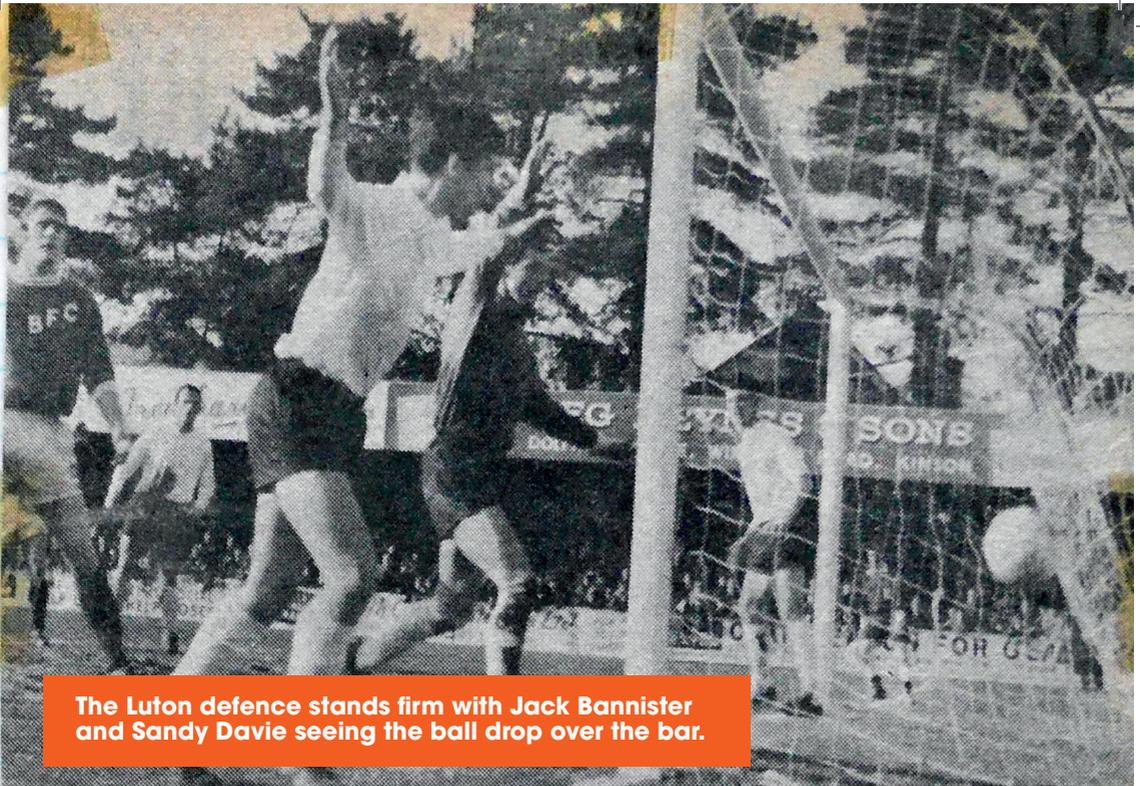
successor and the following day Alec Stock, recently deposed at QPR, was sitting behind the manager's desk at Kenilworth Road. "I am a man of no opinions until after the game tomorrow," said Stock as he prepared for the next day's home game against Plymouth.

Although the Town won comfortably 2-0, it could have been a lot more, as Argyle goalkeeper Pat Dunne played a blinder in front of the TV cameras and kept the score down to a realistic figure. Stock was happy with the start.

The real test of the new man's ability, however, was required in away games where confidence needed to be instilled immediately. Stock's first opportunity to see his team in action on foreign soil came just after Christmas at Northampton. In the first trip to the County Ground since 1936, a large Luton following boosted the attendance to 15,161 and they were not disappointed when two goals from Bruce Rioch secured the points. This Alec Stock is some manager, the supporters all thought!

Unfortunately, the honeymoon period did not last too long with the Hatters suffering defeat at lowly Shrewsbury and Crewe, bringing gloom and doom back to Kenilworth Road as even the most ardent supporter gave up any hopes of promotion.

In view of the away record, Luton supporters saw the next game on their travels as a formality for the home side. Bournemouth were challenging strongly for promotion, had led the table for a spell and had won 13 of their 15 games at Dean Court that season.



The Luton defence stands firm with Jack Bannister and Sandy Davie seeing the ball drop over the bar.

Snow had covered Luton the day before the game and we were surprised to hear, on turning up for the Bobbers coach, that the game was still on. I remember it took ages for the coach to get as far as London due to the number of abandoned vehicles on the snowbound M1, but on leaving the capital behind, the weather got better and we arrived in Bournemouth to find bright sunshine, although the pitch was bone hard.

The players had a harder time of it, having been told at one stage that the game was off and eventually battling their way through by train. Skipper Terry Branston and forward Brian Lewis arrived for the kick-off with only minutes to spare, having left their Midlands homes the previous evening!

With an injury weakened side, a horrific journey and a terrible away record you can probably work out what happened next!

With Fred Jardine and Laurie Sheffield recalled to the side because of the injury situation, the Town attacked with a purpose from the start and showed a determination that had been lacking from most of their away performances that season.

Most of the first half saw the Town pressing forward, and it was a minor miracle that the Bournemouth goal had remained intact when the interval whistle sounded.

The Cherries were obviously given a talking to by manager Freddie Cox at half-time and they came out with all guns blazing, but the Luton defence stood firm. The Town attacked on the break and were rewarded when Sheffield was set free by a clever Lewis pass on the hour, and his shot was in the net before Bournemouth goalkeeper Roger Jones could move.

The lead was doubled ten minutes later when Jardine was on hand to knock the ball home after a Lewis header had hit the bar. The game was out of Bournemouth's reach and the crowd of 9,253 was streaming out long before the final whistle.

The victory was worth four points to the Hatters as they moved up to fourth position in the table.

Could they keep it up?

MANAGING TO SUCCEED - AFC BOURNEMOUTH

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS profiles ten leading Bournemouth managers

HARRY KINGHORN

One of Cherries' finest servants, Harry Kinghorn had two spells as manager during 24 years at Dean Court. He was a goalkeeper with Arncliffe Rovers, Alloa, Leith and Sheffield Wednesday, then scouted for Arsenal and became Bournemouth's trainer-manager in June 1923. Appointed trainer on Leslie Knighton's arrival as manager in July 1925, he made an emergency appearance in Cherries' 0-0 draw at Brentford in March 1929. He took charge again in June 1939 and plotted Bournemouth's 1946 Third Division (South) Cup final triumph. Leaving in May 1947, he scouted for Portsmouth and died in Montrose in April 1955.

HARRY LOWE

Harry Lowe managed Cherries to the Third Division (South) runners-up slot in 1947-48. A former inside-forward, he was ever-present for Watford in 1931-32 and QPR in 1938-39, then scouted for Chelsea prior to becoming Guildford City's boss in July 1945. He succeeded Harry Kinghorn in charge of Bournemouth in July 1947 and made several shrewd signings, plotting consecutive promotion challenges. Dismissed in February 1950, he managed Yeovil Town for two years, then scouted for Watford and managed Cheshunt. He was director of a lampshade business in Pewsey, remaining in Wiltshire until his death in October 1988.

FREDDIE COX

Freddie Cox guided Cherries to the FA Cup sixth round in 1956-57. The winger played for Spurs before joining Arsenal in September 1949 and featured in their 1950 FA Cup final success, then was a finalist again in 1952. He reunited with Vic Buckingham at West Brom in July 1953 and helped plot their 1954 FA Cup final triumph.

Appointed Bournemouth's manager in April 1956, he left in August 1958 to manage Portsmouth, then steered Gillingham to the Fourth Division title in 1963-64. He returned to Cherries as manager from April 1965 until May 1970, then was a local newsagent until his death in August 1973.

BILL MCGARRY

Ex-England international right-half Bill McGarry had a successful spell as Cherries' player-manager. He impressed with Port Vale before joining Huddersfield in March 1951 and was ever-present in their 1952-53 promotion success. Also starring in their 1954-55 FA Cup run, he became Bournemouth's player-boss in March 1961 and plotted their 1961-62 promotion near-miss. He took charge of Watford in July 1963, then managed Ipswich to the Second Division title in 1967-68 and Wolves to League Cup final glory in 1974. Later managing Newcastle and Wolves again, he resided in South Africa until his death in March 2005.

JOHN BOND

John Bond plotted Bournemouth's 1970-71 promotion success during an exciting reign at Dean Court. A long-serving full-back with West Ham, he starred as they won the Second Division title in 1957-58 and FA Cup in 1964. He reunited with Frank O'Farrell at Torquay in January 1966 and helped win promotion, then coached Gillingham, becoming Bournemouth's manager in May 1970. Spearheaded by Ted MacDougall, Cherries nearly won promotion again in 1971-72. He left in November 1973 to manage Norwich, then managed Manchester City, Burnley, Swansea, Birmingham and Shrewsbury. He died in September 2012.

DAVID WEBB

Colourful manager David Webb guided AFC Bournemouth to promotion in 1981-82. The defender played for Leyton Orient and Southampton before joining Chelsea in February 1968, starring as they won the FA Cup in 1970 and ECWC in 1971. He followed Dave Sexton to QPR in July 1974, then had spells with Leicester and Derby prior to becoming Cherries' player-coach in May 1980. Appointed player-manager

seven months later, he left in December 1982 and later managed Torquay, then plotted two promotion campaigns at Southend. He then had spells in charge of Chelsea, Brentford, Yeovil and Southend again.

HARRY REDKNAPP

Harry Redknapp managed AFC Bournemouth to the Third Division title in 1986-87. Signing professional for West Ham in March 1964, the winger reunited with John Bond at Dean Court in August 1972 and scored five goals in 101 League games for Cherries. He later appeared for Seattle Sounders and rejoined Cherries as player-coach. Briefly caretaker-boss, he became manager in November 1983, plotting their 1984 Associate Members Cup final success and 1988-89 FA Cup run. He left in June 1992 and later managed West Ham, Portsmouth, Southampton, Pompey again, Spurs, QPR, Jordan and Birmingham.

MEL MACHIN

Mel Machin achieved success both as a player and manager at AFC Bournemouth. Previously with Port Vale and Gillingham, he reunited with John Bond at Dean Court in December 1970 and starred at right-back in Cherries' 1970-71 promotion campaign. He followed Bond to Norwich in December 1973 and was a League Cup finalist in 1975, becoming their chief coach. Appointed Manchester City's manager in May 1987, he was in charge of Barnsley before rejoining Cherries as manager in August 1994, guiding them to the 1998 Auto Windscreen Shield final. He was director of football for two years until August 2002.

SEAN O'DRISCOLL

Ex-Republic of Ireland international midfielder Sean O'Driscoll was both a player and manager at AFC Bournemouth. Initially with Alvechurch, he joined Fulham in November 1979 and helped win promotion in 1981-82. He joined Cherries in February 1984, starring as they won the Associate Members Cup in 1984 and Third Division title in 1986-87. Making a then club record 423 League appearances, he coached Cherries, becoming manager in August 2000. He plotted their 2002-03 promotion play-off success, leaving for

Doncaster in September 2006, then managed Crawley, Nottingham Forest, Bristol City and Walsall.

EDDIE HOWE

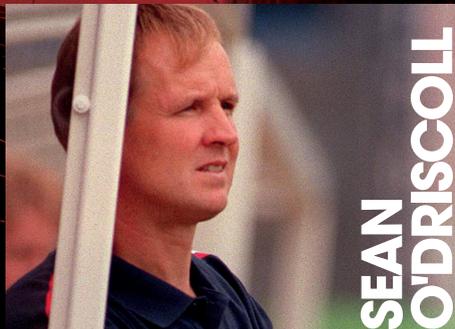
Former England U-21 central defender Eddie Howe took AFC Bournemouth from League Two to the Premier League during two spells as manager. He turned professional with Cherries in July 1996 and was twice 'Player of the Year', moving to Portsmouth for £400,000 in March 2002. He rejoined Cherries in August 2004 and netted 12 goals in 270 League games, becoming manager in January 2009. Plotting promotion in 2009-10, he left for Burnley in January 2011 but returned to manage Cherries from October 2012 until August 2020, guiding them to the Championship title in 2014-15. He is now Newcastle's boss.



EDDIE
HOWE



HARRY
REDKNAPP



SEAN
O'DRISCOLL



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MIKE SIMMONDS

Sports Editor, The Luton News

With the transfer window in full swing, fans of every club up and down the country will be keeping a keen eye on wherever they get their news to see just who their club are rumoured to be in for.

It will be the same for anyone of a Luton persuasion too, although you get the feeling that one of the best bits of business boss Nathan Jones can do not just in this window, but the next couple, will be keeping hold of a certain Elijah Adebayo.

It's not even 12 months yet since the forward joined for an undisclosed fee from Walsall, but he has quickly shown just why Town forked out what they did for him, with a rise that can only be described as meteoric.

He showed glimpses last term, quickly displacing James Collins as the focal point of Luton's front-line, off the mark against Millwall, before netting the kind of goal Town had been crying out for since their return to the second tier, a towering back post header in the comeback win over Sheffield Wednesday.

Adebayo proved he was happy to be Johnny-on-the-spot against Coventry, with another meaty header at Wycombe and then an astute first time finish at Bristol City, ending an impressive start to life at Kenilworth Road with five goals.

If he was using the half a season to get to grips with the new level, having not played above League Two previously, then this term the striker has taken it by the scruff of the neck, clearly relishing his role as the main man.

Up and running against Peterborough, he took a few games to net again, but since his double at Swansea on September 18, has not looked back, reaching double figures before Christmas. Becoming the quickest striker to do so in the second tier for Luton since Phil Gray back in 1992-93.

One of the most exciting things is that he is scoring all types of goals now too, with headers against Blackpool and Fulham, plus some astute footwork and clinical finish versus Middlesbrough.

Sunday's strike in the 4-0 win over Harrogate was a further case in point, with absolutely nothing on when he received Cameron Jerome's flick on 20 yards out, but a couple of touches later and the ball was in the bottom corner of the net.

Team-mate Kal Naismith insists Adebayo is already a Premier League striker in waiting, and it's hard to disagree. Pace, power, height, control and most importantly knowing where the goal is, it can't be long before he does make it to the top flight, as after all, he is magic, you know.

The ambitious Jones will hope that he achieves that status with the Hatters otherwise there promises to be plenty more nervous waits ahead until the sound of the window slamming shut for Town's supporters.



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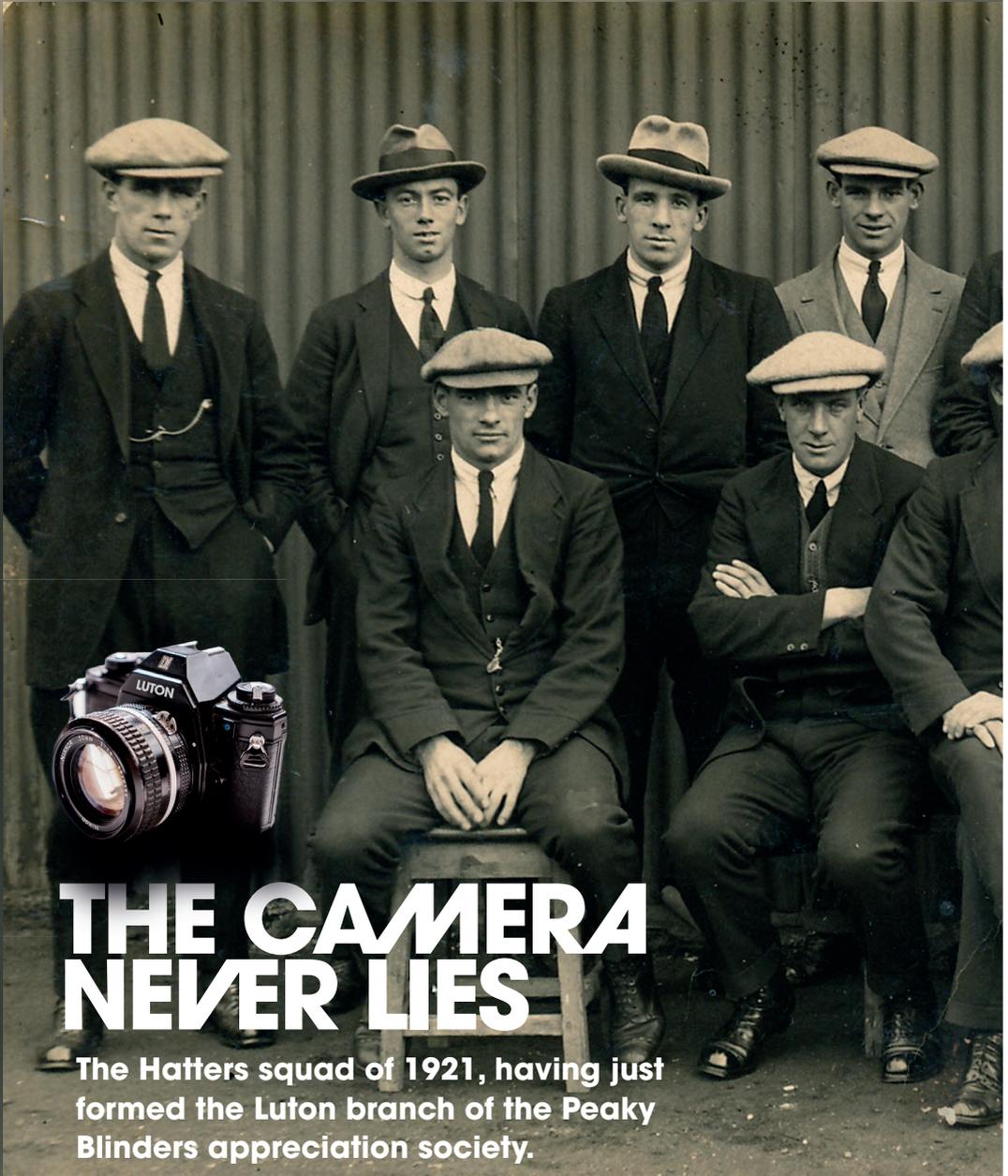


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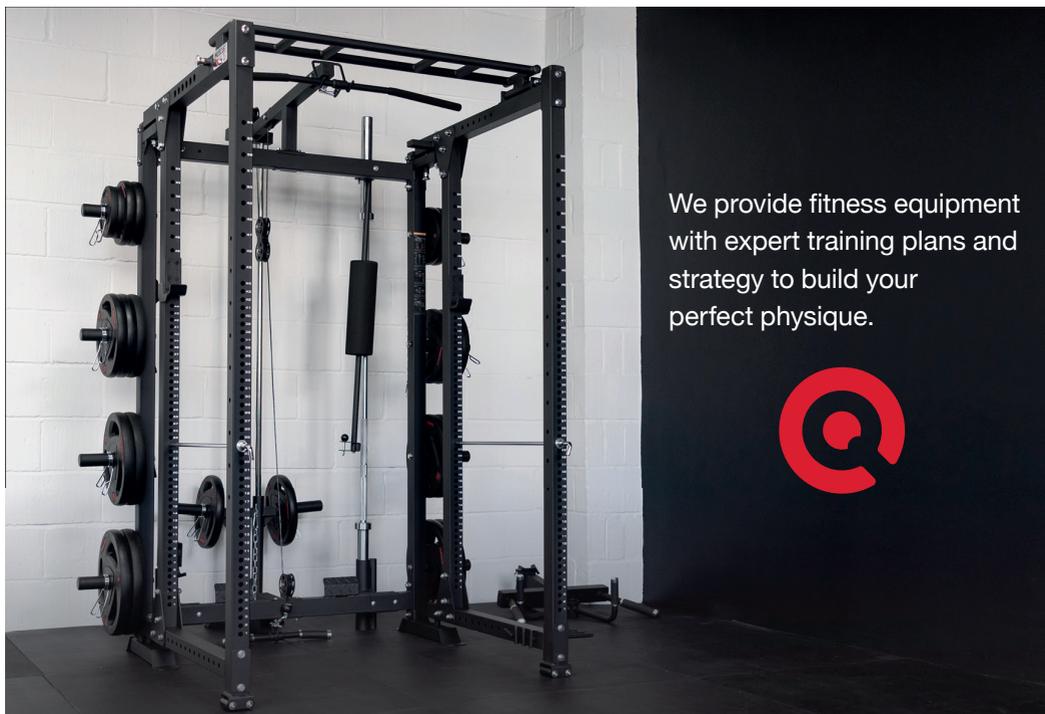
The Hatters squad of 1921, having just formed the Luton branch of the Peaky Blinders appreciation society.

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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DYLAN BHUNDIA

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'Sheehan, Sheehan, Sheehan' has been a familiar cry from the Kenilworth Road stands since the Irishman first graced its hallowed turf in January 2016.

It took new Town boss Nathan Jones just 16 days to secure his first signing in the form of Bradford City's left footed centre-half with Luton sitting in 17th place in League Two.

Fast forward six years and now those cries are directed at the dugout, where Luton's former captain now takes his place on the bench alongside Jones. It marks a journey that had a sense of inevitability about it after four phenomenal years at the club.

It didn't take long for Hatters fans to become well acquainted with their new man's sweet left foot. As the Hatters trailed on a cold Tuesday evening at home against Yeovil Town, it was Luton's new signing who stepped up to sweetly volley home from an acute angle, sticking the ball into the far stanchion and earning the Hatter a late point.

Whilst that proved to be the only goal of his initial loan spell at the club, it was quickly obvious that Luton had signed a defender with distribution that was above the level, with Sheehan's fired switches of play and dangerous set-pieces providing the foundation for Jones' Luton revolution.

But it wasn't Sheehan's contributions on the pitch that created an air of inevitability surrounding a future return to Kenilworth Road – after all, an array of talent and experience has passed through this part of Bedfordshire in recent years, but the

case of a possible Sheehan return felt different.

It's easy to forget that as club captain, Sheehan only made four league starts in Luton's League One title winning campaign. That statistic is even more surprising given that 3 of those 4 starts came in the opening 3 games of the season. But it was this period where Sheehan showed himself to be the type of leader and character that new manager Jones sought to build the club around in January 2016.

With the Hatters immersed in an unbeaten run that lasted from October to April, a centre-half pairing of new-signings Matty Pearson and Sonny Bradley that conceded just 37 goals in 43 games, and James Justin and Jack Stacey proving an unstoppable in the full-back positions, Luton's skipper could very easily have asked for a January move that would've guaranteed him game time. But the integrity and leadership qualities that he showed to place the collective ahead of the individual was a crucial cog in the Hatters going on to win promotion to the Championship.

Nathan Jones has always spoken about the importance of signing good characters as well as good players. With it now being the third time that Jones has signed Sheehan after a loan spell, permanent move, and now as a coach, it speaks volumes about how highly regarded he is by Jones and how much he adds to the environment at Kenilworth Road.

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ANDY AWFORD



Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's game versus AFC Bournemouth.

Development Squad

The Development Squad played their first competitive game since the 30th of November on Tuesday as we hosted Stevenage at Hitchin Town's Top Field.

Unfortunately, a late Stevenage goal saw us slip to a 1-0 defeat, however, the game provided positives as seven players from the first team squad started the game, and obviously a few of the younger players needed the minutes before we travel to Creasey Park next week to take on Dunstable Town in the Beds Senior Cup.

Kick-off at Creasey Park on Tuesday night is 7.45pm, with admission at £8 for adults, £3 for concessions.

Youth Team

The U18s fixtures restarted last weekend following the festive break, with a home game versus Stevenage. An entertaining 3-3 draw in very difficult conditions was a fair result.

Today we travelled to Southend United and have fixtures lined up against Portsmouth, Crystal Palace, Sutton United and AFC Bournemouth in the coming weeks as we build up to the League Cup Southern Area Cup Final away at AFC Wimbledon (date and venue still to be confirmed).

U15 EFL Floodlit Cup

Well done to the U15s who remain unbeaten in the EFL Floodlit Cup Group stage. A 4-2 win over Leyton Orient on Tuesday night at The Brache was our fourth game in a six-team group.

With one group game remaining away at Portsmouth, all is to play for as only the winners of each group progress to the knockout quarter finals.

Enjoy today's game - COYH!

Andy



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JACOB PINNINGTON

How did you get into football?

I started quite late, and I ended up joining a local team in Harpenden. I didn't enjoy football to begin with, so I was eight when I started playing which is considered quite late. I then joined Luton when I was under-15s and I've been here ever since.

Do you have a matchday routine?

The night before a game I make sure I make sure I have everything ready and usually I just wake up, have breakfast and get ready to go, I don't really have a proper routine.

If I have a good game doing a certain thing then I will try and do that for the next game as well. If I wear a certain pair of boots and I play well, then I will carry on with those.

Who is your favourite footballer and why?

Alexis Sanchez because I'm an Arsenal fan and when he signed he really got me into football. For my position, right-back, I like Kyle Walker.

What music are you into?

I like a lot of music, but hip-hop and pop mostly.

Favourite film?

I like The Pursuit of Happyness with Will Smith. I watch a lot of TV series on Netflix and my favourite is Prisonbreak.

What do you do to relax?

Usually I just listen to music and play PS4 with my mates. I play a lot of FIFA!

Biggest fear?

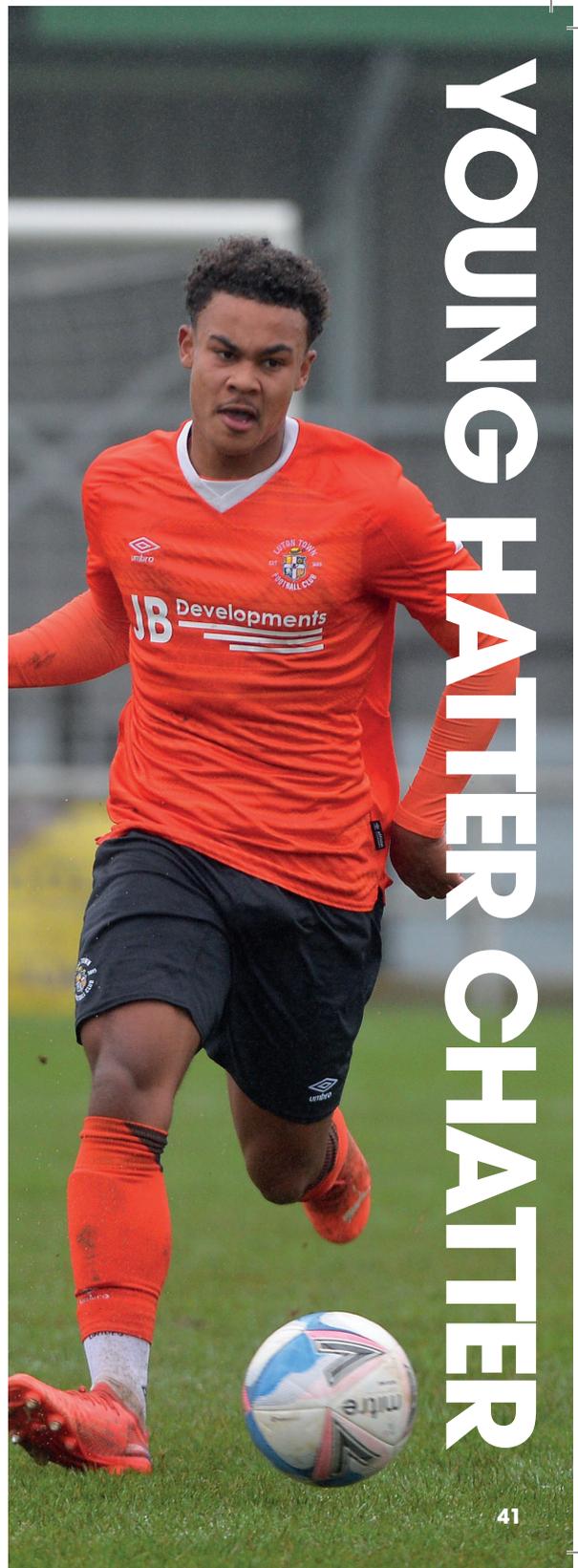
Probably being injured and therefore not being able to play football anymore because I don't really see myself doing anything else.

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

Super speed, so I have the ability to slow down and speed up time.

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

Probably my Playstation.



YOUNG HATTER CHATTER

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FAN PROFILE: ME, LUTON AND TRAINS!

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As first games go as a young Luton fan, attending the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final in 2009 was always bound to be an eye-opening spectacle for Callum and the reason why years later, he remains heavily invested in the club.

In contrasting situations at the time having been separated by 42 positions in the football pyramid, it was the Hatters who were victorious in a five-goal thriller at Wembley Stadium, thanks to a late winner from Claude Gnaka.

Luton fans will recollect that day fondly, and the same goes for Callum, who explained: "My dad got tickets from his friend at work, and it was the JPT final in 2009 against Scunthorpe United. He was lucky enough to get Club Wembley tickets of all tickets. We thought they were fake at first but then I went along to the game, and I fell in love with the club."

The love affair has since continued after that magical day at Wembley and Callum is now a regular at Kenilworth Road. But why Luton? What makes this club so special?

"Firstly, it is local to me, and everyone loves their local club. Two, I feel like it is a family. Where I sit

in the main stand, you are really close to the pitch and so you feel really connected to what's going on and everyone around is so friendly."

Aside from his passion for Luton Town, Callum enjoys spending time completing a somewhat unique challenge in visiting every train station in the UK and Ireland.

The mammoth task is one he was inspired to do after watching a YouTube documentary, he revealed.

"I started this over three years ago now," says Callum. "I began watching Geoff Marshall and his wife Vicki Pipe on YouTube.

"They made a documentary going to all the train stations in Britain and when I watched that, I wanted to do something similar and to hopefully one day say that I have been on the platform at every station.

"So far I have been to over 50 per cent of stations in England, but I still have plenty to visit in Wales and Scotland! I like travelling by train because they are quick, reliable and direct and I use Thameslink to travel to Luton games."



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD PRESENTED TO TRUST BY SIGHT CONCERN BEDFORDSHIRE

The Trust were delighted to welcome Sight Concern Bedfordshire to the Kenilworth Stadium just before the holidays to receive our Above and Beyond Award.

The award is reserved for organisations that have gone the extra mile to support the visually impaired community, and was presented by George Hogman from Sight Concern Bedfordshire and guide dog Yusuf, who behaved impeccably!

As part of our programme of walking groups, aimed at tackling loneliness in the community during lockdown, the Trust implemented a special walking group for blind and partially sighted individuals. Adam Woulds at the Trust said: "We knew this group had been impacted more than most by the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, and we saw the walking groups as the perfect way to get them back into physical activity and socialising, in a safe and secure environment."

Phylis, who volunteered each week, said: "We met up every Friday morning with Vicky and Adam

from the Trust and the visually impaired group to walk in Stockwood Park. Everyone benefited so much from the special mornings we had come rain or shine! The Community Trust staff's enthusiasm and passion helped everyone cope with the extremely difficult times they were having, especially those who felt isolated and forgotten about.

"Before the walking groups started, many of us had lost our confidence and hadn't left the house in months. The walking groups helped us all to feel safe again. The mental and physical health benefits were huge for all of us and it felt great to be back out again," said Christine Randall who was part of the visually impaired group.

Thanks to EFLT, DCMS and teamBeds&Luton for ensuring the walks still take place each week.





GIVE YOURSELF A NEW START FOR 2022!

FIT HATTERS MALE & FEMALE FREE PROGRAMME STARTING NEXT WEEK

We're on the Kenny concourse today continuing our recruitment campaign for the next two cohorts of Fit Hatters starting in the new year. It's an opportunity for you to make that change you keep promising yourself!

We completed our latest two cohorts just before Xmas with over 50 Fit Hatters achieving some really fantastic results across a number of underlying health issues. Fit Hatters is a free health programme for men and women aged 35-65 delivered by staff from the Hatters

Trust at the stadium. You can meet Hatters fans just like you, who want to lose weight, go behind the scenes at the club, learn about healthy eating and take part in an exercise programme. The main aims of the programme are to improve eating habits, cut down on alcohol and increase activity levels – one step at a time, while reducing weight and waistlines and importantly supporting each other to stay on track!

The 12-week programme comprises of 45 minutes looking at diet and lifestyle, and 45 minutes of activity sessions in the main stadium once a week, aiming to show participants how to eat better, be more active and importantly stay that way long term to achieve long-term improvements in weight loss, physical activity, diet and general wellbeing.

So, if you are aged 35-65 and want to lose weight and make a change, why not take inspiration from Dale, a previous Fit Hatter: "I lost 8kg on the 12 week programme which also brought my blood pressure under control. Meeting others like me encouraged me to make small changes in my lifestyle which have had a huge benefit and I've also made a couple of great friends."

Secure your FREE place on our new course by simply giving Tom Ford a call at the community offices on **01582 561 622** or email health@lutontown.co.uk for further information. Induction sessions will take place from next week with the female cohort starting next Wednesday 19th and male cohort the following evening on Thursday 19th January.



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LUTON TOWN LADIES

UNDER-8s RUN FOR BIG MICK!

The girls in the Luton Town Ladies Youth Under-8s have become the latest Hatters to join the fundraising effort for Prostate Cancer UK in support of our assistant-manager Mick Harford.

One of the proud parents, Paul Dockerill, explained: "My two daughters Ella (aged 8) and Evie (aged 5) are big Luton Town FC fans and were lucky enough to be mascots for their game against Cardiff City on the 27th November 2021. This was the game when Prostate Cancer UK was the official shirt sponsor for the match.

"Ella was aware and understood about prostate cancer, especially as she knew Mick Harford's story. Ella and Evie often join in with the chants "There's only one Micky Harford" on match days.

"We came across the 'Run the month' advert just after Christmas and Ella said she would like to take part to 'Help Mick Harford, remember Great Grandad John and help others'.

"Ella suggested it would be great to do it with her team, Luton Town Ladies Under 8s. We spoke with the parents and girls and quickly found out how many had been affected by prostate cancer. The girls and parents jumped on board straight away

and began their runs on the first day. The girls are so far averaging around 1 mile a day, with some completing a 2.7mile run last week.

"All of the girls only started playing football this season, yet have created a magnificent bond on and off the pitch. Some of the girls have only just turned seven, yet show such a great understanding of the world and want to help and support others in so many ways.

"For many adults, running a mile is a hard task, and I am sure you would agree how impressive it is to see 7 and 8 year olds taking on the challenge to raise awareness and money for this amazing charity."

The girls ran a mile together after their match last Saturday, and have already beaten their £500 fundraising target for the month.

If you would like to support them, and Prostate Cancer UK, please visit:

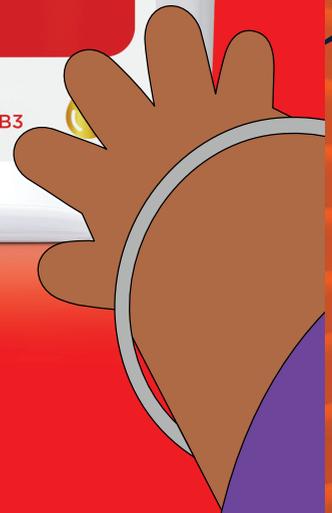
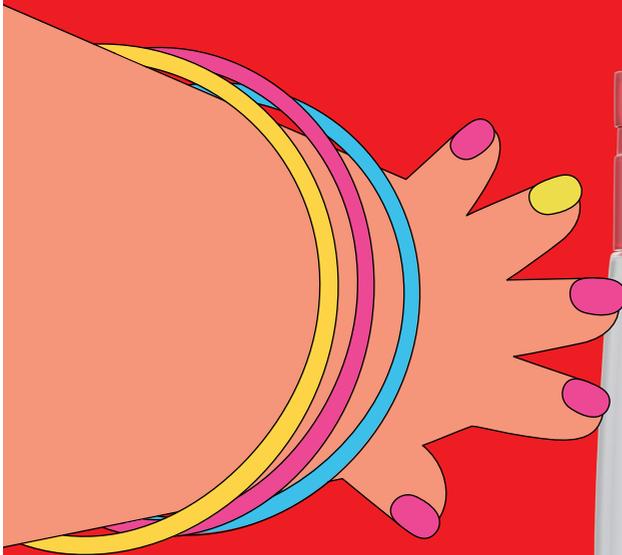
runthemothme.prostatecanceruk.org/fundraising/dockerills-run-the-month-challenge

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JUNIOR HATTERS



TODAY'S MASCOTS



ELODIE

NAME: Elodie Newman
AGE: 8
HOBBIES: Drama, Hockey & Netball
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Luke Berry



CHARLIE

NAME: Charlie Newman
AGE: 11
HOBBIES: Football, Cricket & Rugby
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Harry Cornick



JOZEF

NAME: Jozef Morgan
AGE: 10
HOBBIES: Football, Swimming, Lego & Chess
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Sonny Bradley



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Draws - 24
Cherries wins - 16
Manager: Scott Parker





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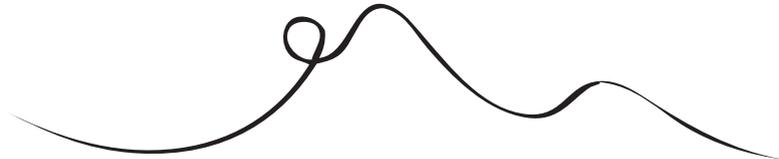
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4 LUTON TOWN 0 HARROGATE TOWN

Kenilworth Road – Sun 9th January 2022 -
Emirates FA Cup Third Round

Luton Town: Shea; Bree, Burke, Bradley (C), Naismith, Bell (Mpanzu 71'); Lansbury (Berry 60'), Clark (Onyedimma 71'), Mendes Gomes; Adebayo (Hylton 77'), Jerome (Campbell 61').

Harrogate Town: Oxley; Fallowfield (Burrell 52'), Sheron, McArdle, Page; Falkingham, Kerry, Diarra; Muldoon, Thomson; Armstrong.

Scorers:

Adebayo 18, Jerome 50, Naismith 82, Berry 88

“There was a lot of players out there who haven’t played in a month, some even longer because of injuries, but it was a good game for us because if it was a Championship game, we probably would have got punished.”

NATHAN JONES

KAL NAISMITH

Words: Dan Briard

Kal Naismith was delighted to dust the cobwebs off and return to action with an Emirates FA Cup third round win after a month away from the pitch.

After a slow start, Elijah Adebayo fired the Hatters into the lead on 18 minutes, and they found their rhythm in the latter stages to ensure the win against League Two opponents Harrogate Town, Naismith netting the third goal - his first of the season - with eight minutes left.

"It was a game we needed and credit to them, they are a good side, really well set-up and they're obviously going really well in the league," said Naismith. "They have a lot of good players, and they are coached really well. It was a great game for us, but I think what we had is the big man up top. There was nothing really in the game, but he gets it, turns, and finds the bottom corner.

"When you have that Premier League quality up top, that's what can happen. The game turned on that and to be fair, they were still in it even at two-nil, but we were able just to kill the game. The manager stressed before the game that it was just about winning. We knew we were going to be a bit rusty, we didn't perform to the level we can, but we've had a long time away so that is to be expected."

Further on Adebayo's impact, the defender said: "When you have a Premier League striker up top, and I don't say that lightly, I train with him day in and day out and I know what he can do, and he's at a great place to keep progressing and he will. He works really hard every day, he's a top, top player and that was brilliance, out of nothing."

The versatile Scot, who played centre-half, holding midfield and left-back during the 90 minutes, further spoke of the importance of training, especially ahead of today's Championship fixture against current league leaders AFC Bournemouth and a busy January schedule.

"We have to have another hard week of training and then improve on this but we can beat anyone on our day. We have unbelievable players all over the pitch, Bournemouth will know it will be a tough game and we will train well and look forward to it.

"It's a lot of games but that is what we want. Any player doesn't want to just train, train, train. They want games and personally I'm looking forward to the run that's coming up."



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	ADEBANO	
AUGUST																								
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	D 0-0	9,774	1,036	12	-	-	-	-	-	*				y							
SEPTEMBER																								
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Blackburn Rovers	D 2-2	11,241	810	12	-	-	-	-	-	*		b	y	b				c	2		
Wed 15	7.45pm	A	Bristol City	D 1-1	16,878	572	13	-	-	-	-	-	*	y					*	a	c	b	1	a
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Swansea City	D 3-3	9,721	831	14	1	-	-	-	-	*			y		c	b	1	a		2	
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	AFC Bournemouth	L 1-2	9,737	1,125	16	-	-	1	-	-	*					*	c	b				
Wed 29	7.45pm	H	Coventry City	W 5-0	9,805	1,032	9	1	-	-	-	-	*					c	2	a	1		2	
OCTOBER																								
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Huddersfield Town	D 0-0	9,977	1,009	13	-	-	-	-	-	*						y	a	c			
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Millwall	W 2-0	14,227	1,631	10	-	-	-	-	-	*	y		y			2	a	*		c	
Tue 19	7.45pm	A	Derby County	D 2-2	20,258	1,057	9	-	-	-	-	-	*			y	a		c		*		1	
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Hull City	W 1-0	9,999	793	5	-	-	-	-	-	*								a		1	
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Preston North End	L 0-2	11,059	989	10	-	1	-	-	-	*					a	b	c		*		
NOVEMBER																								
Wed 2	7.45pm	H	Middlesbrough	W 3-1	9,790	987	6	-	-	-	-	-	*	y	ya			1	*	1	b	b	1	
Sat 6	3.00pm	H	Stoke City	L 0-1	10,068	1,005	11	-	-	-	-	-	*						*	b	*			
Fri 19	7.45pm	A	QPR	L 0-2	15,062	2,452	11	-	-	-	-	-	*				y		a		*		y	
Tue 23	7.45pm	A	Nottingham Forest	D 0-0	25,715	1,418	11	-	-	-	1	-	*				y	*	a		c		*c	
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Cardiff City	L 1-2	9,987	1,032	14	-	-	-	-	-	*					y	c	b		b		
DECEMBER																								
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Blackpool	W 3-0	11,366	1,391	12	-	-	-	-	-	*					1				c	1	
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Fulham	D 1-1	9,992	1,029	12	-	-	-	-	-	*								*		1	
JANUARY																								
Sun 9	12.30pm	H	Harrogate Town (FAC3)	W 4-0	4,834	330	-	-	-	-	-	-	*		*	1		*		a	1	e	1e	
Sat 15	12.30pm	H	AFC Bournemouth																					
Wed 19	8.00pm	A	Reading																					
Sat 22	7.45pm	A	Sheffield United																					
Tue 25	7.45pm	H	Bristol City																					
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Blackburn Rovers																					
FEBRUARY																								
Tue 1	7.45pm	A	Swansea City																					
TBC	TBC	A	Cambridge United (FAC4)																					
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																					
MARCH																								
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Middlesbrough																					
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Coventry City																					
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	QPR																					
Wed 16	7.45pm	H	Preston North End																					
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Hull City																					
APRIL																								
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Millwall																					
Tue 5	7.45pm	A	Peterborough United																					
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																					
MAY																								
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

UP NEXT



- FORMED: 1871**
- NICKNAME: THE ROYALS**
- LAST SEASON: 7TH IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP**
- FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @READINGFC**
- COLOURS: BLUE & WHITE SHIRT, WHITE SHORTS**
- GROUND: MADEJSKI STADIUM**
- MANAGER: VELIJKO PAUNOVIC**

WHO?

The Royals have spent the last eight seasons competing in the Championship following relegation from England's top tier in 2013, qualifying for the play-offs once in 2017 resulting in a heart-breaking penalty defeat to Huddersfield Town. Reading's last piece of silverware came in 2012 as they were crowned Championship champions and won promotion to the Premier League.

GROUND?

Reading opened the Madejski Stadium in 1998, replacing Elm Park which had been their home ground for over 100 years. The Royals' home ground boasts a capacity of 24,161 and the Berkshire outfit have shared their ground with rugby union side London Irish since 2000.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

The two sides last met in April 2021, playing out a 0-0 at Kenilworth Road. The Royals came away with a 2-1 win in the reverse fixture on Boxing Day, with first half goals from Alfa Semedo and Tom McIntyre meaning that Kazenga LuaLua's late strike was only a consolation. The Hatters did beat the Royals in both cup competitions last season though, Jordan Clark's header sealing a 1-0 Carabao Cup second round win in Berkshire, before George Moncur netted an FA Cup third round winner at the Kenny in January.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

The Hatters signed former Reading defender Gabe Osho following his release from the club, with the youngster making 11 Championship appearances so far this term. Former Hatters full-back Jack Stacey signed for Luton from Reading in 2017, going on to win back-to-back promotions with the Town before moving to then-Premier League side Bournemouth.

Words: Dylan Bhundia

LUTON TOWN PLAYER STATISTICS

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	2020-21 SEASON										CAREER		
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		CARDS		TOTAL		APPS	G	
	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G	Y	R	APPS	G			
Elijah Adebayo	19	(1)	10	1	(0)	1	20	(1)	11	2	0	39	16
Saim Beckwith	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0
Amari' Bell	16	(1)	1	1	(0)	0	17	(1)	1	1	0	18	1
Luke Berry	6	(1)	4	0	(1)	1	6	(2)	5	0	0	130	19
Sonny Bradley	13	(1)	2	1	(0)	0	14	(1)	2	2	0	146	5
James Bree	22	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	23	(0)	0	4	0	92	1
Rreece Burke	9	(2)	0	1	(0)	0	10	(2)	0	0	0	12	0
Allan Campbell	10	(0)	0	0	(2)	0	10	(2)	0	3	0	12	0
Jordan Clark	12	(3)	2	1	(0)	0	13	(3)	2	1	0	55	5
Harry Cornick	18	(2)	7	0	(1)	0	18	(3)	7	1	0	190	30
Danny Hylton	0	(5)	1	0	(1)	0	0	(6)	1	0	0	154	59
Cameron Jerome	4	(1)	0	2	(0)	2	6	(10)	2	2	0	16	2
Peter Kioso	2	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(1)	0	0	0	7	0
Henri Lansbury	8	(8)	0	2	(0)	0	10	(8)	0	8	0	18	0
Elliott Lee	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	124	30
Tom Lockyer	14	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	15	(0)	0	2	0	38	0
Carlos Mendes Gomes	2	(5)	0	2	(0)	0	4	(5)	0	0	0	9	0
Pelly-Raddock Mpanzu	17	(2)	1	0	(1)	0	17	(3)	1	2	0	318	20
Admiral Muziwae	4	(0)	0	1	(0)	1	5	(9)	1	1	0	14	1
Kai Naismith	21	(0)	0	1	(0)	1	22	(0)	1	5	0	46	2
Fred Onyedima	6	(7)	2	0	(1)	0	6	(8)	2	1	0	14	2
Gabriel Osho	8	(3)	0	1	(0)	0	9	(3)	0	3	0	13	0
Dion Pereira	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	2	0
Dan Potts	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	1	0	178	11
Glen Rea	7	(4)	0	1	(0)	0	8	(4)	0	4	0	206	8
James Shea	3	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	0	0	90	0
Simon Sluga	19	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	19	(0)	0	1	0	94	0

2021-22 CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

#	Team	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Bournemouth	25	14	7	4	41	20	21	49
2	Fulham	24	14	6	4	58	19	39	48
3	Blackburn Rovers	25	13	7	5	43	28	15	46
4	West Bromwich Albion	25	11	9	5	31	19	12	42
5	Queens Park Rangers	24	12	5	7	37	30	7	41
6	Huddersfield Town	26	11	7	8	32	29	3	40
7	Middlesbrough	25	11	6	8	29	24	5	39
8	Stoke City	24	10	5	9	28	25	3	35
9	Nottingham Forest	25	9	7	9	32	28	4	34
10	Coventry City	23	9	7	7	29	27	2	34
11	Millwall	24	8	9	7	27	27	0	33
12	Blackpool	26	9	6	11	27	32	-5	33
13	Sheffield United	22	9	5	8	29	28	1	32
14	Preston North End	23	8	7	8	26	29	-3	31
15	Bristol City	25	8	6	11	30	39	-9	30
16	Luton Town	22	7	8	7	31	27	4	29
17	Swansea City	22	7	6	9	26	31	-5	27
18	Birmingham City	24	7	6	11	23	32	-9	27
19	Hull City	24	6	5	13	20	29	-9	23
20	Cardiff City	24	6	5	13	26	43	-17	23
21	Reading *	24	8	4	12	29	43	-14	22
22	Peterborough United	23	5	4	14	20	44	-24	19
23	Barnsley	24	2	8	14	16	36	-20	14
24	Derby County *	25	7	11	7	23	24	-1	11



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- 14 CARLOS MENDES GOMES
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- 28 ELLIOT THORPE
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