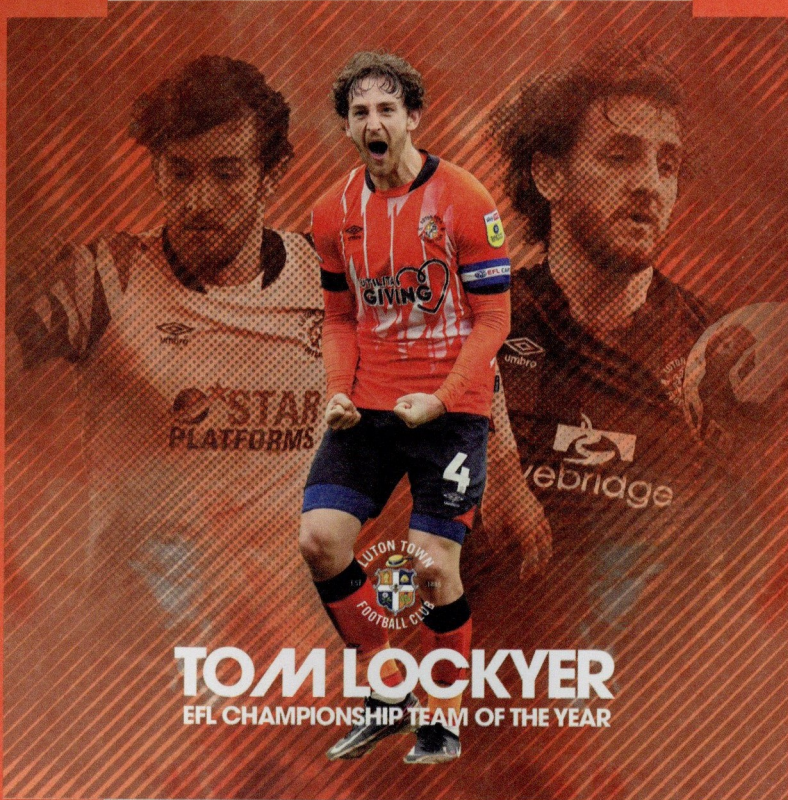




LUTON TOWN V MIDDLESBROUGH
MONDAY APRIL 24TH 2023 | KENILWORTH ROAD



TOM LOCKYER
EFL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM OF THE YEAR

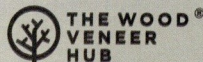
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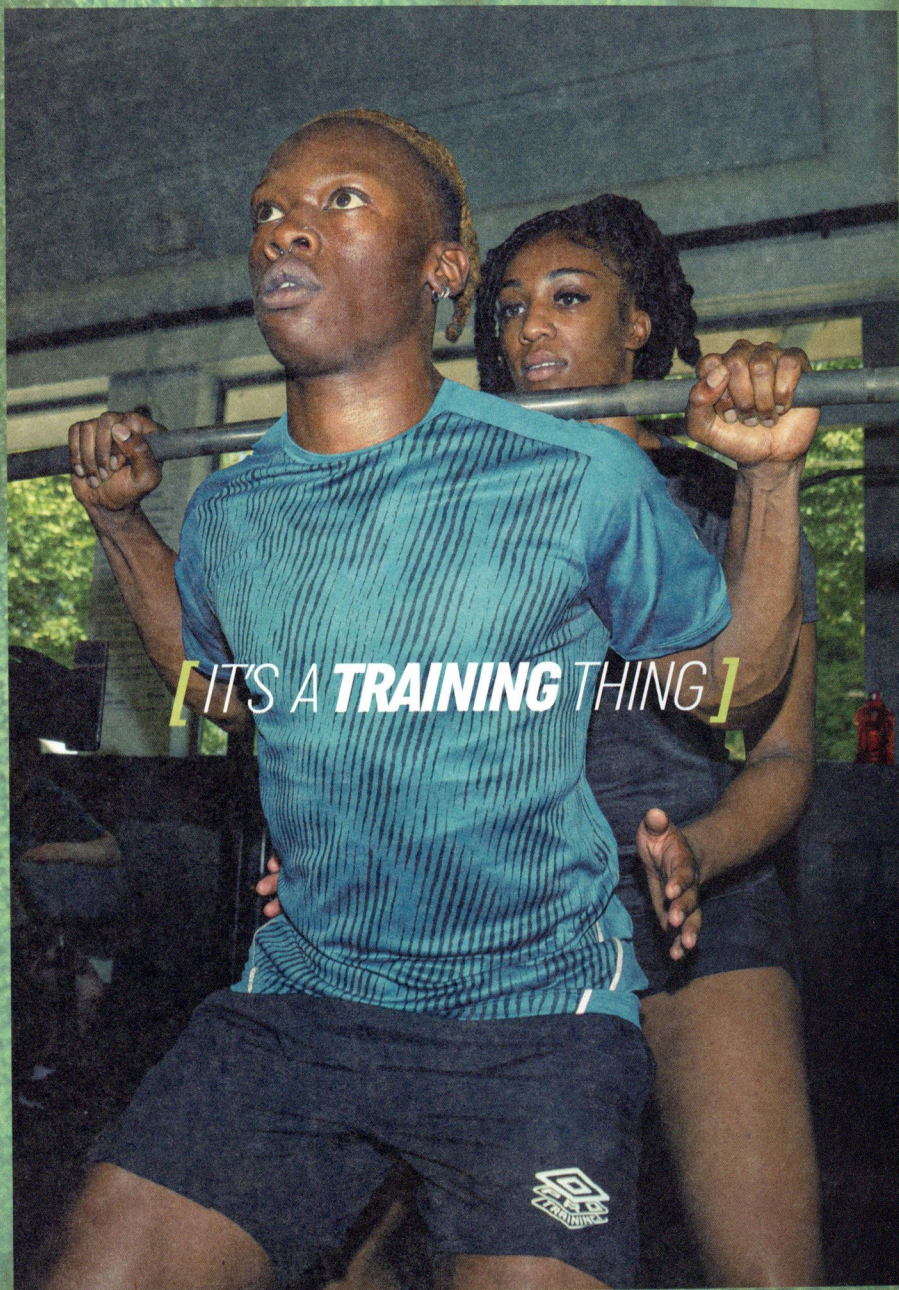
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Marvelous Nakamba picked up his Diamond Player of the Month award for March following the Easter Monday win over Blackpool at Kenilworth Road.

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OUR TOWN - LUTON TOWN OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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ROB EDWARDS



LUTON TOWN v MIDDLESBROUGH
MONDAY APRIL 24TH 2023 | KENILWORTH ROAD

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GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR A MOUTH-WATERING GAME AGAINST MIDDLESBROUGH.

It doesn't get much more exciting than a game between two sides in the play-off places at this stage of the season, under the lights. Sky will be thinking they've picked a good one here, I'm sure!

While we are both already assured of our place in the play-offs, we also have one eye on Sheffield United above us and we'll continue to keep our foot down in pursuit of them until it's mathematically impossible to get that automatic promotion spot. I'm sure Boro will be the same.

I'd like to welcome everyone who has travelled south, including their fans, officials, players, staff and manager Michael Carrick, who has done a fantastic job since taking over last October. Their qualification for the play-offs is well deserved after the difficult start to the season they had.

I was so proud of our players in midweek for fighting back again to earn the point at Reading, a side who are battling for their lives and giving everything. I loved the fact that the lads were actually a bit flat in the dressing room, having not been able to force the winner. They had played some wonderful football, as they had in the win at Rotherham, and we told them that we need to treat the next three matches

as play-off matches. Yes, we want to catch Sheffield United, who have had a fantastic season at the top with Burnley, the best team in the division by a mile and we congratulate Vincent Kompany and his side on their achievement.

But for us to nail a play-off place with three games still to play is a massive achievement in itself and something that should be celebrated by everyone at the club. It's a sign of how hard everyone has worked, all the way through from the board, to the players, the football staff, everyone who works club on a daily basis and on a matchday – and of course, you, our brilliant supporters.

Middlesbrough and Blackburn are potential opponents if it is to be the play-offs, so essentially these next two Mondays – three including the Bank Holiday game here against Hull – are perfect dress rehearsals for us to prepare well and maintain the momentum we have on an 11-match unbeaten run.

I cannot emphasise enough how much of a role you guys have to play in that, as you have continuously throughout the season. To have over 2,000 at Rotherham and almost the same at Reading on Wednesday was amazing, and to say you were in good voice doesn't do it justice. I've been blown away by the support you give us both here and on the road, and the players love hearing you singing their names.

One of them, Tom Lockyer, deserves all our congratulations on his place in the Championship Team of the Season. Locks has been outstanding for us and his inclusion is something to celebrate.

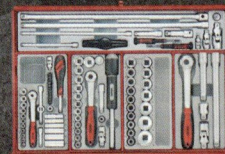
These special times don't come around every season, so let the whole country know tonight what Luton Town is about and let's embrace the situation we are in, together.

Thank you so much – and COYH!



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FROM THE BOARDROOM

DAVID WILKINSON
Chairman



Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for tonight's visit of Middlesbrough for the penultimate home game of the season proper. Of course, we know now that we have another home game in the play-offs in three weeks, but we still don't know our opponents or when we are playing.

Rob's first game as manager, after the World Cup break was at the Riverside against today's visitors, and we were unluckily beaten by the odd goal in injury time. Since then both teams have been on tremendous form, Boro losing just four out of 20 in the Championship, and us only twice. Michael Carrick is enjoying an impressive debut as a manager and has a quality squad that has cost a fair bit to assemble.

Seeing as it is more than possible that we'll be playing each other again in a few weeks and, if we do, it could be in the Final, it adds even more interest to this match. The two of us are guaranteed to be in the play-offs now and await with interest the result of the battle for the final two places. It looks as though that is going to go down to the wire and may not be known before the last game of the season, as nine clubs are technically still in the hunt.

Wednesday's draw at Reading means that we have now finished higher in the pyramid in each of the last seven seasons – a magnificent effort. From our forced low point in the Conference we have risen 76 places. It has been an incredible achievement and is still underestimated by many.

I don't know whether you read Rod Liddle in the Sunday Times, but my attention was drawn to his article last week from which I quote. I should say first that Mr Liddle is a Millwall fan.

"Rob Edwards has done a rather wonderful job at Luton and my guess is that Watford fans are probably wondering why their club got rid of him in September. (The answer is: that's what Watford do.) His side are nasty, physical, combative, obdurate and in Carlton Morris and Elijah Adebayo have two of the most lethal strikers in the division: both were cheap as chips. If Luton do go up they will have to rebuild almost their

entire ground – not worth the effort lads."

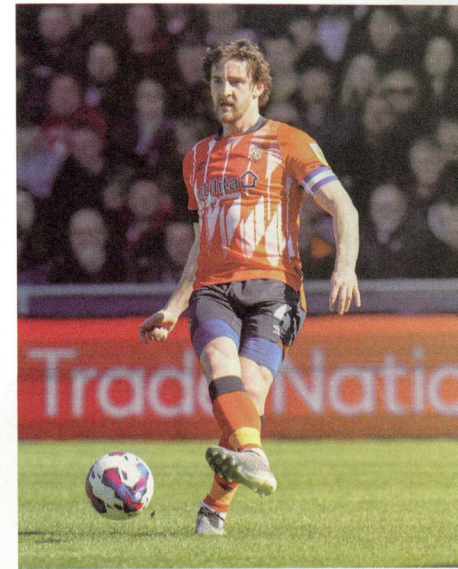
It brings to mind that "the price of success is to bear the criticism of envy", and I'm sure he doesn't need reminding what a season or more in the Premier league is worth?

It is a philosophical conundrum to see ourselves as others do, and a fascinating one particularly in football.

When we reflect on the 15 years 2020 have been caretakers of this club, it is sometimes hard to appreciate that, as it's 32 years since we have been in the top division, no one under 40 will have seen it and some people's first experience could be seeing us in the Conference. Of course, I bristle when we are called a tinpot club because I've seen us competing against the best in the old first division and in Wembley finals. Little old Kenilworth Road has hosted them all, and prior to the introduction of all-seater stadia had a capacity of 30,000.

Football has changed so much over the years and not always for the better. Facilities have improved, pitches are more like carpets than mudbaths, hospitality offerings threaten Michelin star quality, but soulless bowls are not always the panacea.

As we are seeing as a result of the current Premier League audit, requirements for TV and media are mind-boggling and we are only too aware in designing our new stadium



how difficult it is to dovetail that with an atmospheric stadium. However, we are determined to do the best we can under current regulations to make Power Court a destination of attraction, character and excitement.

Temporarily the Kenny will have to be modified to suit broadcasters and Premier League requirements if we are promoted; if we are not, it won't.

During the past month we have been privileged to attend, and indeed host, several iftars celebrating Ramadan, as well as visiting our local Madinah Mosque and hearing about the Islamic religion and seeing the wonderful work the Muslim community carries out in our town. We hope that, as neighbours, we can continue to develop strong relations. We understood that some people living in the streets around the ground had never been inside Kenilworth Road – I hope we can put that right very soon.

I'd like to congratulate Tom Lockyer on his inclusion in the Championship Team of the Season, and our fellow fan Les Miller on making the three-person shortlist for Supporter of the Season at the EFL Awards. At the time of writing, we don't know if Les has been successful or not, but he is one of our hardest-working supporters with the Trust and the Bobbers Travel Club, so thank you for all you do, Les. Your nomination is so deserved.

Finally, can I personally thank everyone who has helped to get us where we are today. Gary, my fellow investors and directors, past and present managers and coaches, past and present players, past and present staff and most importantly, past and present fans.

Everyone involved has either been a lesson or an inspiration – thank you.

"Do not share your thoughts with people who think that what you are thinking is not worth thinking" - Michael Bassey Johnson.

Enjoy the game

COYH
David

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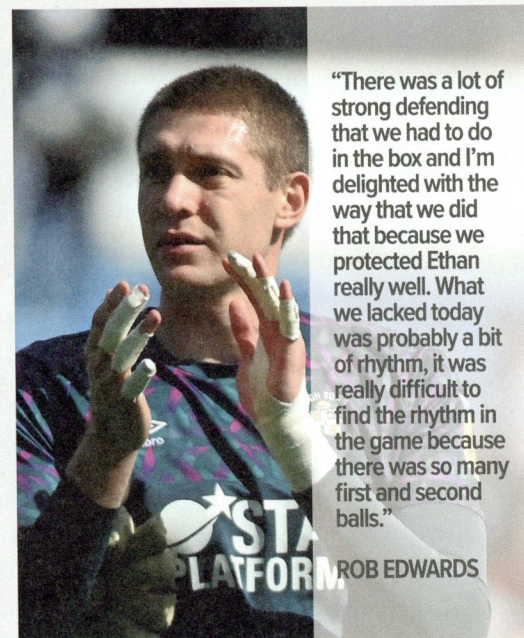


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**MATCH
ACTION**

LUTON TOWN v MIDDLESBROUGH
MONDAY APRIL 24TH 2023 | KENILWORTH ROAD



"There was a lot of strong defending that we had to do in the box and I'm delighted with the way that we did that because we protected Ethan really well. What we lacked today was probably a bit of rhythm, it was really difficult to find the rhythm in the game because there was so many first and second balls."

ROB EDWARDS



0 MILLWALL 0 LUTON TOWN

The Den – Fri 7th April 2023

Lions: Long; McNamara, Cooper, Hutchinson (C) (Malone 82'), Wallace; Saville, Leonard (Shackleton 88'); Flemming; Voglsammer (Esse 82'); Burke (Mitchell 83'), Bradshaw.

Hatters: Horvath; Drameh, Osho, Lockyer (C), Bell, Doughty; Nakamba, Mpanzu, Campbell (Woodrow 87); Morris, Adebayo.

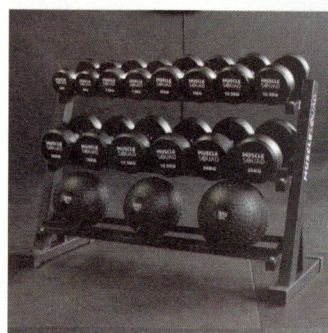
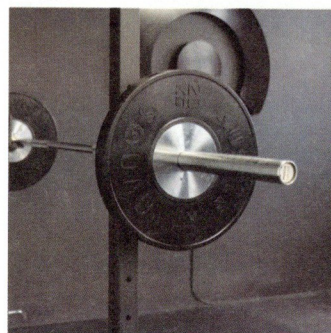
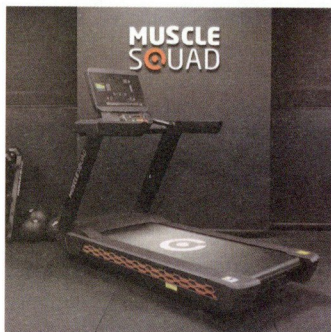
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MATCH ACTION

LUTON TOWN v MIDDLESBROUGH
MONDAY APRIL 24TH 2023 | KENILWORTH ROAD



"The first goal I took a touch, so I was going to chop him because he came out steaming so I said 'nah let me slap this in the top bins' and it went in! It's good to get two goals, three points is the main thing."

**PELLEY-RUDDOCK
MPANZU**



3 LUTON TOWN 1 BLACKPOOL

Kenilworth Road – Mon 10th April 2023

Hatters: Horvath; Drameh, Burke, Lockyer (C), Bell, Doughty (Freeman 86'); Nakamba, Mpanzu (Bradley 90+2), Campbell (Berry 63'); Morris, Adebayo (Woodrow 63').

Seasiders: Maxwell; Lyons, Nelson (C), Thorniley, Husband; Carey (Dougall 75'), Fiorini (Poveda 75'), Hamilton; Anderson (Connolly 63'), Rogers, Bowler.

Scorers:

LT - Mpanzu (45+2', 77'), Morris (72');
BP - Lyons (29')

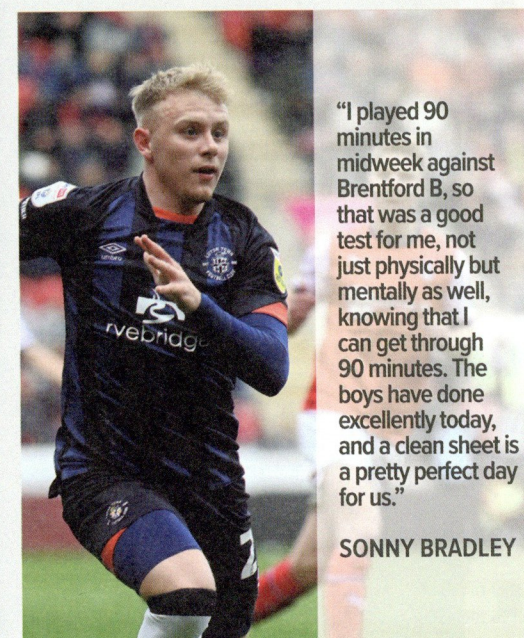
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MATCH ACTION

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"I played 90 minutes in midweek against Brentford B, so that was a good test for me, not just physically but mentally as well, knowing that I can get through 90 minutes. The boys have done excellently today, and a clean sheet is a pretty perfect day for us."

SONNY BRADLEY



0 ROTHERHAM UTD 2 LUTON TOWN

Kenilworth Road – Sat 1st April 2023

Millers: Vickers, Harding, Coventry (Rathbone 52'), Fosu (Wood 68'), Huggill (C), Ogbene, Lindsay, Peltier (Bramall 58'), Humphreys, Hjelde (Quina 52'), Blackett (Kelly 68').

Hatters: Horvath, Drameh, Burke (Freeman 86'), Lockyer, Bradley (C), Bell, Nakamba, Mpanzu, Campbell, Morris (Taylor 66'), Woodrow (Berry 70').

Scorers:

Morris 45', Woodrow 47'

Middlesbrough at home, live on Sky, will always bring back one of my best memories in football when I scored our first goal back in the Championship – and my first for Luton Town – in that 3-3 Friday night draw back in August 2019.

The roof came off that night and although we didn't get the win we wanted to kick-off a season that proved to be a fight right to the end, with the Great Escape completed on the final day behind closed doors, the atmosphere was everything we have grown to love about playing at this fantastic old stadium.

Now we're coming towards the end of our fourth season at this level, it's amazing to see how far we've come and on a personal front, it's great for me to be able to contribute again back out on the pitch.

Any professional would rather be fit and playing as opposed to being injured, and the past five months has been frustrating and difficult physically and mentally, because I wasn't sure initially if I'd be back at all this season when I first did it.

Even after the scans, there wasn't ligament damage, but there was enough damage in there to potentially keep me out for a good amount of time – potentially the rest of the season. So I've done well to strengthen it, and working with the medical and sports science teams, we've done a lot of work and they have helped me get back quicker.

I'd like to say thank you to every single one of them, because I feel like I'm in a place now where I'm fit and I'm strong, and I'm ready to contribute. I've probably been ready for a few weeks but

because of how well we've been doing, how many clean sheets we've been keeping and our back three of Gabe, Locks and Belly have been incredible over the past four or five weeks before I came back in, I've only really come back in because of injuries – I know that.

But like any successful team, it requires the full squad. We know what and I think, when we look back at last season, everyone knows that we weren't at full strength going into the play-offs, and ultimately if we are honest about it, I think it probably cost us. But this season I feel that we look fitter, we look stronger, we've got more bodies in there to step in and help us out, so hopefully we can go not one step further, but two steps further and achieve our dream.

As supporters, I think you know how important you will be in helping us do that. The noise in the Watford game was unreal and I understand it is hard to replicate that derby day atmosphere, but if somehow we can reach anywhere near that atmosphere in the next couple of games here – three if it proves to be play-offs – it is certainly going to be a difficult place to play for the opposition, and a wonderful place to play for us as Luton players.

I know people say it all the time, but our fans are incredible, home and away. You see stats popping up on social media about how many fans have travelled from each team in the Championship and we always seem to be right up there when it comes to our travelling support.

You are loud, you get behind the boys, and as much as I loved hearing my name sung again up at Rotherham, we've got some new songs this season which I know the lads are enjoying. It's a really good one for the manager, and Locks, Carlton and Marvelous' one, which is catchy as well.

It is always nice for fans to really back the players, and I think you understand just as much as us that we are doing really well to be in the position we are in against some massive clubs. Fans know we are in a good place, and I think they appreciate how hard everyone is working, not only the players, but you recognise how hard the staff are working, the physio department, the media team, everyone is playing their part.

It's been a different sort of season with the World Cup split, and it feels like it's been a really long season, but at no point has anyone ever downed tools.

We had a dream at the start, when we had an ambition to get promoted out of the division. We sat down as a group and the manager at the time said 'Look, what do you want to do?' We said we wanted to get promoted, and no matter how we do it, we should want to get promoted.

Last season we finished in the play-offs and got knocked out by Huddersfield, despite what I thought was us being the better team over two legs. This season, and absolutely no disrespect to anyone who was here last season, I think we are a better group of players. We've got more pace, more power, we look stronger.

So if I was a Luton fan, I would have real belief that the club can get promotion and get into the Premier League. But we all know that we are going to need every player, every fan, everyone who works here – everyone from now until the end of the season has just got to put their foot to the floor and we are going to absolutely go for it.

I said it last year at the kit sponsors' end of season dinner that all we can do is promise you that we will give you 100 per cent of our effort, from now until the end of the season, and we will do our best to make Luton Town Football Club a Premier League outfit.

Thank you for your brilliant support, both personally and for the team. COYH!



SONNY BRADLEY



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THEIR TOWN

By Zac Neal



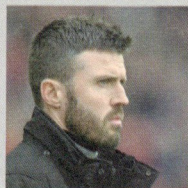
Today, our opposition is Middlesbrough. Known universally as Boro, the Teesside club have been enjoying a brilliant season so far as they have guaranteed play-off qualification while, like the Hatters, still having a mathematical chance of catching Sheffield United in the race for automatic promotion.

They didn't start the season well under Chris Wilder and due to poor form, he was sacked in early October with Boro third from bottom of the Championship. He was replaced by new manager Michael Carrick and this appointment changed their season for the better, the former Manchester United and England midfielder leading them to 18 wins and three draws from his 28 matches in charge so far.

Former Arsenal striker Chuba Akpom has been in inspired form under Carrick and is the Championship's leading scorer on 28 goals, despite not even being given a squad number at the start of the campaign. The 27-year-old has 29 in all competitions, 25 of which have come under Carrick.

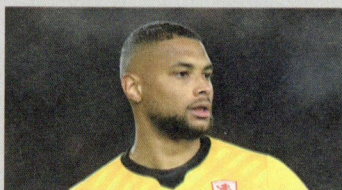
Aston Villa loanees Cameron Archer and Aaron Ramsey have also been thriving recently in a free-scoring side, as they have a combined 19 goals since joining in January. Boro's two most recent matches have seen them beat play-off contenders Norwich 5-1 and Hull 3-1, both at home, as they recovered from a run of three games without a win.

Boro arrive in Bedfordshire tonight sitting a point below the Town in fourth, with Coventry keeper Ben Wilson's late equaliser at Blackburn on Wednesday securing their play-off spot at the same time as Town.



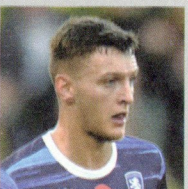
MICHAEL CARRICK

MANAGER | 41-year-old manager Michael Carrick retired from his illustrious playing career in 2018, making 524 appearances across 5 different clubs. Carrick played for West Ham, Swindon, Birmingham, Tottenham, and Manchester United. Carrick began his managing career in 2018, when he became United's assistant head coach. He became the caretaker at Old Trafford in 2021 before joining Middlesbrough, resurrecting the north-east side's promotion hopes since taking over last October.



ZACK STEFFEN

GK | Steffen began his professional career with German club SC Freiburg before moving to MLS side Columbus Crew. In 2019, he was signed by Manchester City, where he served as a back-up goalkeeper. Being at City he has been loaned out twice, to teams such as Düsseldorf and Boro. He has also represented the United States national team, earning 29 caps. With Middlesbrough this season, 28-year-old Steffen has made 39 appearances.

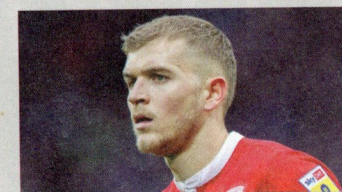
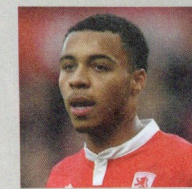


DAEL FRY

DEF | 25-year-old Fry started his career in Middlesbrough's youth system and through time earned himself a place in the first team. Fry joined Boro's academy in 2007 and made his senior debut for the club in 2015. He spent a short loan spell at Rotherham United in 2016, but has since become a regular in the first team at the Riverside, making 185 appearances in all competitions. Fry has also represented England at Under-21 level, playing 11 times.

CAMERON ARCHER

ONE TO WATCH | Cameron Archer started his career at Aston Villa's academy before joining Solihull Moors on loan in October 2020, where he made 26 appearances and scored four goals. Archer returned to Villa and made his senior debut in 2021. He joined Preston on loan in 2022, where he impressed with seven goals in 20 appearances, before joining Middlesbrough on a similar basis in January. He has had a big impact at the Riverside, scoring nine in 17 games so far.



RILEY MCGREE

MID | Australian McGree began his professional career with Adelaide United in the A-League, where he made 40 appearances and scored 11 goals. McGree had stints at Club Brugge in Belgium, Charlotte FC in America and Birmingham City in the Championship before joining Middlesbrough in January 2022. So far, he has made 47 appearances for the club and has scored eight times. He also has 15 caps and one goal for his country, for whom he played in the Qatar World Cup.

CHUBA AKPOM

ATT | 27-year-old Chuba Akpom began his youth career at Arsenal before making his first team debut in 2013. Akpom has also had loan spells at Brentford, Coventry City, Nottingham Forest, Hull City, Brighton and the Belgium side Sint-Truiden. Upon returning to Arsenal from Belgium, Akpom joined Greek side PAOK. He joined Boro in September 2020 and is the top scorer in the Championship this season, with 28 goals.



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LUTON TOWN v MIDDLESBROUGH
MONDAY APRIL 24TH 2023 | KENILWORTH ROAD

Under the spotlight is a player with a connection to both the Hatters and today's visitors, with club historian ROGER WASH looking back at their first and last appearances for the Town.

Born in Pegswood in January 1921, strong, stocky striker George joined Middlesbrough from Netherton in 1939 and banged in a remarkable 125 goals in 168 games for Boro during the war years.

In peacetime, George moved to Newcastle for £4,650 in September 1946 and assisted the Magpies to promotion to the top flight two years later before Luton broke their transfer record to take him to Kenilworth Road for £11,500 in October 1949.

A month after joining the Hatters he scored four goals in eight minutes during a 5-2 home win over Blackburn. His experience then helped the Town get through a couple of sticky seasons as they built for the future.

Job done, George transferred to Millwall in August 1952 where he continued to bang in goals before moving across London to Brentford two years later. He finished his playing career at Bedford before going back to Newcastle where he lived until passing away in 1995.

FIRST GAME: LUTON TOWN 1 LEICESTER 0 8/10/1949

In a bid to shore up a faltering season the Town gave debuts to two forwards, Peter Walsh who was signed from Dundalk in the summer and George Stobbart.

It was the former who made it a dream debut, scoring the only goal of the game with a fierce shot from just inside the area in front of a Kenilworth Road crowd of 20,816.

LAST GAME: LUTON 4 BARNESLEY 2 3/5/1952

An end of season affair in front of only 8,789, the lowest Saturday crowd of the campaign, saw the game spark into life in the first period with six goals scored. Hugh McJarrow with two, Bert Mitchell and George Stobbart, on his last appearance for the Town, all netted for the Hatters against two replies from Barnsley.

The contest petered out in the second half with no further goals scored, but the Town could look back at a successful season, reaching the quarter-finals of the FA Cup and finishing eighth in Division Two, their highest position since the War.

FIRST AND LAST

**GEORGE
STOBBART**



HATTERS TALES

WITH ROGER WASH
CLUB HISTORIAN

LENNON PRACTISES THE DARK ARTS

After many years of talking behind the scenes the die was finally cast when the First Division of the Southern League became Division Three of the Football League in 1920.

The Town had a reasonable side at the time with Ernie Simms back to his pre-war best banging in goals for fun aided by clever winger Louis Bookman and the larger than life inside-forward Allan Mathieson. A final position of ninth in 1920/21 was a pleasing start to this, the club's first season back in the Football League after their failed attempt to make a name for themselves during three seasons in Division Two in the late 1890s.

On top of this the 1920/21 season saw the Town embark on a record breaking run in the FA Cup which began away at Division Two side Rotherham County, predecessors to today's Rotherham United, in the sixth qualifying round, and many eyebrows were raised when a 3-1 victory was recorded with Simms bagging a hat-trick.

The reward was a home game against Division Two leaders, Birmingham City in the first round proper and a crowd of 12,700, narrowly beating the record set against Liverpool in the FA Cup the previous year, was present to see

Alf Tirrell assumes the 'Lennon' position in the Preston Cup tie



Simms and Bookman score the goals in a 2-1 win. The game was not without its controversy, however, as when Birmingham were awarded a penalty, Luton full-back George Lennon stood by one of the goalposts and watched as Blue's Jack Jones hammered the spot-kick wide.

The Birmingham directors complained long and loud at the end of the game and threatened to take the matter to the FA.

The premier football publication of the time, the rather pompous 'Athletic News', took up the story and if you ignore the rather flowery language it can be precisised as follows:- 'The

grounds for the protest were that while the penalty kick was being taken the referee allowed Lennon to stand on the goal line close to the goalpost. Surely this would be disconcerting to the kicker and contrary to Law 17, which states that all players except the kicker and the goalkeeper should be outside the penalty area and that a player going behind the goal line close to the goalpost is deliberately leaving the field without permission and whilst on the goal line he is not outside the penalty area.'

The 'Luton News' picked up the story with some relish, 'While we are not at all disposed to argue with our dictatorial contemporary on the question of law, it is worthy of note that before you start arguing law you want to be correct on facts.'

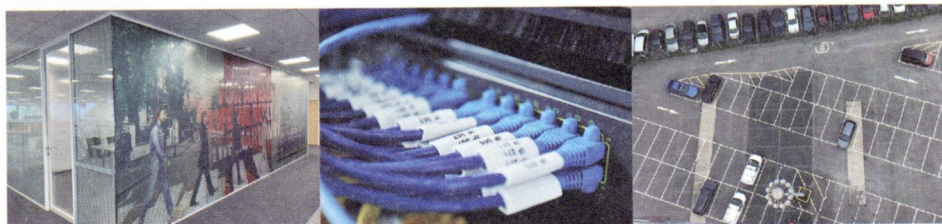
'While it is true that at one time Lennon was leaning against the goal post, the referee indicated he should stand away from the post and behind the line. Lennon did as he was told and was therefore neither inside the penalty area or off the field without the referee's permission. Furthermore, the Birmingham players had the chance to complain to the referee that they were being disadvantaged which they did not take.'

As it turned out no formal complaint was made, with the Birmingham press seeing it a blessing that Blues were out of the Cup and could now 'concentrate on the League' which they did, winning the championship at the season's end.

The matter seems to have been brushed under the carpet as far as the Town were concerned, although the referee did eventually receive a censure from the Football Association and, as there appears to be no further instance of a player distracting a penalty taker in such a way, it can only be assumed that the laws were tightened

In any event the Town were through to the second round and were drawn to play at Second Division South Shields where a record crowd of 21,003 gathered at the Horsley Hill ground. The players had stayed at a Whitley Bay hotel over the previous week and, suitably relaxed, tore apart their more illustrious opponents with Harry Higginbotham opening

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HATTERS TALES

WITH ROGER WASH
CLUB HISTORIAN

the scoring against his old club in an eventual 4-0 win.

Matters were now getting serious as the Town were through to the last 16 for the first time in their history. The draw pitched the Town against top flight Preston at Kenilworth Road and immediately it was announced that parts of the ground were to be made all ticket as cup fever swept through the streets.

Preston, previous winners of the competition, had thrashed Watford in the previous round and were strong favourites to see off another side from two divisions below. The supporters of Luton Town thought differently, however, and turned up in their thousands to see this David versus Goliath contest and when the turnstiles stopped clicking it was revealed that all previous gate records had not only been beaten but they had been smashed out of sight. The final figure was 17,754 beating the previous best by over 5,000 and it is difficult to see how they could have fitted into the ground as it was then.

The only area with crash barriers, erected before the Birmingham tie, was the clinker banking behind the Kenilworth Road goal although they were not up to much as one gave way before the start of the match, such was the crush, as did part of the fence around the pitch. Supporters were perched on roofs and up telegraph poles and some 25 people with Lane stand (Bobbers side of the ground) tickets could not get through the crowd

to take their positions. It is a miracle that no-one was injured or even killed in those far off days before Health and Safety legislation.

The game itself was a cracker with England international centre-half Joe McCall cancelling out Ernie Simms in a breathless contest which moved rapidly from end to end. The Town had more chances but could only put away two with both goals coming from Harry Higginbotham while at the other end Preston had four efforts with striker Tommy Roberts netting three of them and hitting the bar with the other.

The pressmen at the game bemoaned Luton's luck, but the experience and intelligence of the first division men finally won through. The Town were, meanwhile, left to count record receipt of £2,226/5/3 (£2,226.26).



LUTON'S CUP-TIE TEAM SEASON 1920-21.

Luton Town 1920/21.

Back row (left to right): Semple, Lennon, Bailey, Tirrell, Roe.
Middle row (left to right): Hoar, Molyneux, Parker, Lamb, Bookman.
Front row (left to right): Higginbotham, Simms, Butcher.
Inset: Trainer Billy Lawson.



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MARVELOUS NAKAMBA

Words: Kevin Harper

He is already loved by fans, thought of very highly by his manager and adored by his team-mates.

Marvelous Nakamba has played in the Premier League, the Champions League in his time at Club Brugge, where he was a team-mate of fellow loanee Ethan Horvath, and 26 times for his native Zimbabwe.

He is now very much a part of a promotion push in the Championship at Kenilworth Road, where he has immediately settled in and made the sort of impression usually reserved for special players.

Prior to the Rotherham United match, the midfielder on loan from Aston Villa was a guest on the Luton Town Supporters' Trust podcast where he was quick to thank everyone for making him feel so welcome so quickly and confessed to enjoying life in LU4.

"So far so good! The welcome has been fantastic from the fans, from the club, from my team-mates, from the technical staff associated with the club and from the people higher up, the welcome was fantastic. They are all helping me and pushing me to give everything for the club."

And give everything for the club he has.

His first appearance in a Town shirt was as a substitute in the win over Stoke City in February, with him making his first start a week later away to Coventry City, and he has been an ever-present under Rob Edwards since then.

Generally when loan spells are remembered by Luton fans the periods in a Town shirt of Rory Allen, Cameron Carter-Vickers and Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall are prominent in the recollections, while the likes of Rowan Vine, Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu, Cameron McGeehan and Andrew Shinnie all won promotion while on loan, before going on to become permanent signings.

The on-loan Aston Villa midfielder has already made a similar impact to those named above in just over two months in Bedfordshire, with his persona every bit as positive as the performances he has produced on the pitch, helping the Hatters to a run of 11 matches without defeat and play-off qualification after a win at Rotherham and draw at Reading.

His combative displays, balanced with a calm assurance and a touch of class have already earned him the Diamond Player of the Month award for March, while he was the sponsors' choice for Man of the Match in the 3-1 win over Blackpool on Easter Monday.

Nakamba was very quick to praise the fans for the reception they have given him and believes that he, and his team-mates, are giving them the performances that their support deserves.

"I think the fans have been pushing the team and deserve what the players have been giving back to them. Every time they are right behind us in the games, especially at home where they come in their numbers, they push the club."

The man who brought the 29-year-old to the club was reserved for special praise also.

"The boss has been straightforward with me so far. He pushes everyone and is someone who is open. He is there for everyone. He is more than a coach. He is always demanding everyone to get better and better."

Nakamba is a laid back individual who takes everything in his stride. Simplicity is very much the foundation of his success and that has allowed him

to settle into Championship football and pick up the pace of it very quickly.

"There is a difference between the Champions League, national team and the Championship," he says. "As football players we just have to be as good as our opponent. I always tell myself that it is just football. It is a different league but the game is still the same."

The other key to the success of the midfielder is the hard work he puts in away from the matches, as he reflected upon when asked just how he is able to cover the ground so smoothly and so relentlessly.

"All I can say is to be there at the right times, it comes naturally. Also I always work on it when I do extra training, when I'm at home having extra training and when I am shown clips by the staff.

"I think with the talent I was blessed with it comes naturally. My position is becoming more athletic. I am a player who wants to give everything for the club, sometimes it is good and other times not so but I am happy it is good so far."

The highlight of Nakamba's spell at Kenilworth Road so far was the win over rivals Watford, a match which the midfielder realised the importance of, especially in the week leading up to it.

"I started to know about that game about a week before it. I knew the fans were sad when they lost the first game so I knew we had to give everything for the fans and the club. Everyone was excited about that game coming into training and when I checked the history of the game it gave me extra motivation to do well."

The man who proudly wears the number 13 shirt was a key figure in the 2-0 victory, making a Championship season high 10 tackles in the contest, but despite playing such an important role, the African was able to take in the incredible noise when Allan Campbell struck to secure the win.

"The noise was fantastic. It was in the last minute of the game. Seeing the full crowd excited I was so happy for the fans. We did well to give the fans that extra belief in the team and give them the result they wanted."



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The on-loan star is not just special on the pitch, he is an incredible person away from it too and is doing amazing work back home in Zimbabwe, where his poor background has humbled him enough to set up his own foundation and make a real difference.

The Marvelous Nakamba Foundation was launched in June 2022 and was devised to help underprivileged people in Zimbabwe achieve their dreams, whether that is athletically or academically.

On the Foundation, a proud Nakamba explained its importance and significance to him.

'I wanted to help children to believe and show them that it is possible. With dedication and hard work, just because we have a poor background does not mean you cannot achieve your dream.'

'Also to try and help them because sometimes they cannot afford what we would consider as basics, so I have to help them so they can focus on achieving their dream. Whether it is the academic side or the football side I just try to help children and give them the confidence to achieve their dream. Whether your background is poor or not, there is light at the end for them.'

Back in Luton, Nakamba is playing a starring role in a promotion push, one which could see the Hatters complete the journey from non-league to Premier League in just nine seasons.

Sometimes when a player goes out on loan a campaign can fizzle out, however that is not the case here at Luton and the Zimbabwean is relishing the situation he and his team-mates are in.

'I think it is exciting times for everyone, the fans and the players. We have to keep giving everything we can for the fans. As players we are all enjoying the position we are in. I think everyone is enjoying it and we really appreciate the support we are getting.'

While enjoying his involvement in trying to get the club promoted, there was a strong message ahead of the run-in.

'We are taking each game as it comes. We just have to continue giving everything. Each and every game is a final for us. We have to keep pushing and demanding of ourselves, to fight for everything that is there. It is a good thing to be in the position that we are in and we have to give everything as a club to achieve a special thing.'

In the 11-game unbeaten run, the Hatters have picked up 25 points from a possible 33 available, a run which is adjudged to be promotion form.

If that can be sustained and promotion achieved, Nakamba will be firmly lodged in the Luton history, and that would be just marvellous.



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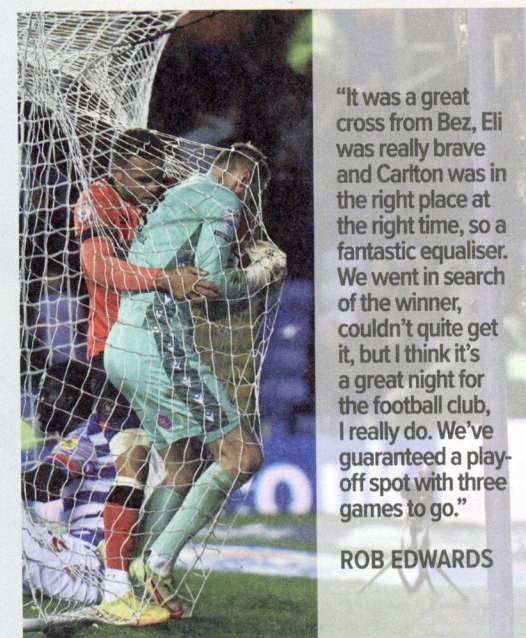
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MATCH ACTION

LUTON TOWN v MIDDLESBROUGH
MONDAY APRIL 24TH 2023 | KENILWORTH ROAD



"It was a great cross from Bez, Eli was really brave and Carlton was in the right place at the right time, so a fantastic equaliser. We went in search of the winner, couldn't quite get it, but I think it's a great night for the football club, I really do. We've guaranteed a play-off spot with three games to go."

ROB EDWARDS



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CODY DRAHEH

Hatters defender Cody Drameh believes that "we need to finish on a high" in the remaining three Championship games ahead of the play-offs.

Speaking after the draw at Reading, the wing-back on loan from Leeds United said the game "was a bit disappointing today", adding: "I thought we could have played a bit better, especially in the first half where we were really sloppy. But as the manager (Rob Edwards) said, we've secured our play-off spot and we're really happy with that. It's 11 games unbeaten, so there's a lot of positives today."

"We've got such high standards for ourselves. It showed a lot of character today to come back into the game. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the win, but we came back and showed a lot of spirit. The manager said to just keep our form going, we're peaking at the right time in the season, so we need to keep that unbeaten run going."

Since Drameh came into the side in January, the Hatters have conceded from open play in just one game out of their last 16. Andy Carroll's towering header from a corner opened the scoring, and Drameh believes the Hatters need to "keep improving" on their impressive defensive record.

"Some of the lads were saying, once he (Carroll) gets a run-up, then there's not really much you can do. It was a bit unfortunate to concede that type of goal, but we have to just keep improving, look at the analysis and get better from it."

Hatters top-scorer Carlton Morris found a late equaliser and Drameh believes the confidence within the squad contributed to finding that goal.

"I think we're all confident in our ability and we should have been playing better, we have high standards and we just had to keep going to get the goal," he said.

"We would have loved to be closer to the automatic spots", Drameh said regarding the promotion chase. "We just have to keep the momentum going, keep the run going and hopefully go all the way. It's going to be tough for all the teams that are in the play-offs but we need to keep doing our simple things, keep the grit, keep the togetherness and just keep going."

Drameh believes his loan spell at Kenilworth Road so far has been hugely beneficial and has provided him time on the pitch and new experiences. "It's been great," he said. "Some of the fans' reactions are really nice to see and the team have welcomed me in really well as well as the supporters, so thank you to them. I just needed minutes and experience, playing with these types of players, playing with the manager, it's been great for my development."

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ALAN McCORMACK

UNDER-18 LEAD COACH

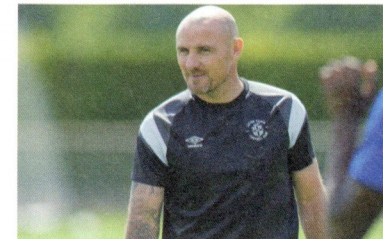
Good afternoon Hatters. It's been a positive year for our U18s, with an EFL Youth Alliance South East division title and a run to the fifth round of the FA Youth Cup, where we narrowly exited the competition after defeat to Preston North End.

Since arriving as the new U18 lead coach, the players have been excellent in their attitude towards what we, as coaches, wanted to implement. This season the players have been adopting a 4-diamond-2 formation which requires high technical, tactical and physical levels throughout. This new style of play made for some challenges to all, but each player worked extremely hard to learn, and the results showed.

Performances have been extremely rewarding. We won the title well, winning 18 and losing two, scoring 84 while only conceding 12. We had a brilliant FA Youth Cup run, beating Birmingham 6-0 and QPR 3-1 before being narrowly beaten 3-2 by Preston in a closely-fought game. The performance throughout made us staff incredibly proud of the lads and even though we lost that game, sometimes in football you need to have moments of hurt to grow even more.

This year's new introduction has seen Alex Lawless come in and take on the role of Individual Learning Development coach. Alex has assisted Adrian Forbes and myself within games, but has been highly productive with the players to heighten their technical and tactical knowledge in a 1-to-1 coaching environment.

Alex has to lead this throughout the year, and it has given the players an excellent platform to enable them to enhance their performances. For those that have seen some games this year, it's evident that these sessions show the players



have taken on the information from both myself and Alex, worked relentlessly at it and are now showcasing this within games.

This has allowed players to compete when opportunities to train with first team presents itself. This season we have had Zack Nelson, Jayden Luker, Joe Johnson and Axel Piesold all involved with first team matchday squads. Credit to those players for their performances, and their call-ups were thoroughly deserved. Our job is to produce players for the first team and we are committed to delivering as many players as possible as we grow.

At the time of writing this, we are currently second in the Merit League 1 with three games to go. With many of our players going on to now represent the U21 squad, we now get to prepare our U16s and first year scholars for next season while also remaining competitive in our league.

For now, though, it's been an absolute pleasure to represent this club as a coach, and I thank all the staff and players for their hard work and commitment throughout the season. Without this, we would not be performing as well as we are.

Enjoy the game and 'Come on you Hatters!'

Mac

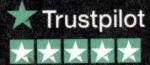


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**LUTON
LADIES**

1 LUTON TOWN LADIES 1 WROXHAM FC WOMEN

It was a disappointing day at the office for Luton Ladies on Sunday as they dropped two vital points to mid-table Wroxham.

Luton started the brighter of the two and only ten minutes in they broke the deadlock, Adi Milton providing a great cross and Tsaianne Leander (pictured) providing a fantastic touch and finish to find her third goal in two games.

Wroxham looked to answer back four minutes later, but their shot was sliced high and wide and the game then hit stalemate as Luton struggled to break the Wroxham defence down.

Wroxham were awarded a dubious penalty with 24 minutes on the clock, but the effort clattered the crossbar and Luton cleared their lines well on the rebound.

Luton had chances in the first half, Leander putting a header wide of the mark, Tanya Blacksley also coming close to converting a corner.

But the best chance fell to Andie Dickens, who on 39 minutes went on an incredible solo run, beating three defenders before firing her shot against the inside of the post. Her effort deflected back into play and was subsequently cleared.

The second half saw the Luton defence called in to action more, Blacksley, Maria Taylor and Lilac Wilson all providing vital tackles throughout.

On 57 minutes, Luton had their best chance of the game when Leander broke through on goal in a one-v-one with the

keeper. She looked to round the keeper for a tap-in, but it was read well by the Wroxham shot stopper, who rushed out with a sliding tackle.

The game looked to peter out, Wroxham having the odd counter attack but Luton's defence did well to deal with it until a lapse in concentration gave Wroxham their clear cut chance when a through ball was squared for Hannah Waters to tap in to level the game in the 86th minute.

Luton almost answered back from kick-off, but Shakeela Hussain's effort flew over the crossbar and Luton's flare faded.

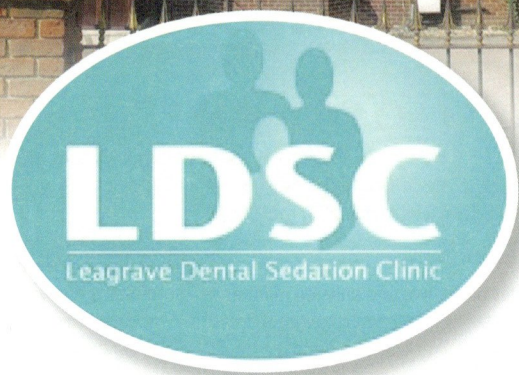
Player of the match was awarded to left-sided midfielder Fiona Constable for her incredible work rate, desire and distribution.

Manager Rob Burton said: "Our season is far from over, we have a quarter-final next weekend and the county cup final the following Wednesday. I'm expecting the ladies to bounce back quickly and chase the silverware that is in front of them."

Luton were back in action at home yesterday (Sunday 23rd April) as they replayed with Colney Heath in the quarter-final of the League Cup, before taking on Bedford Ladies in the County Cup final on Wednesday (26th April), 7.30pm kick-off at Stotfold FC.

PHOTO: Duncan James





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LUTON TOWN COMMUNITY TRUST



VICTORY FOR LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST KICKS SQUAD!

Monday 3rd April marked the first Premier League Regional Kicks Cup in Norwich City's fantastic football facility, The Nest. Luton Town FC Community Trust was represented by an Under-16 mixed and an Under-16 girls squad, in what was an enjoyable and entertaining day for all involved. On offer, was the opportunity to move on to the National Premier League Kicks Cup Finals, taking place in July.

Our squads were made up of players exclusively from our Premier League Kicks programme. Luton Town FC Community Trust is one of 90 club community organisations funded to run weekly Premier Leagues Kicks sessions, supporting young people to achieve their potential in Luton. We run Kicks sessions across the town in targeted areas, tackling anti-social behaviour, offering educational workshops and routes into employment for young people in our communities.

During the tournament both of our squads remained undefeated during the group stages, scoring a combined total of more than 60 goals in the process. As the games went on, confidence from both teams increased and was highlighted through their excellent teamwork. Both teams did Luton Town FC Community Trust proud and put in performances well worthy of wearing the shirt and representing the Hatters. Huge congratulations go to our Under-16 Mixed team who were crowned the regional champions after beating Stevenage in the final 7-0. Unfortunately, our Under-16 girls lost

in the final to Norwich City, however they can be extremely proud of what they achieved on the day with some excellent performances.

A member of the winning mixed squad was rightfully proud of their achievements: "I've had such a great day! From the coach journey here, to scoring a goal in the final. Before today I'd never played in a competitive match, and now I've got a winner's medal! We're all buzzing and looking forward to going to the national finals now!"

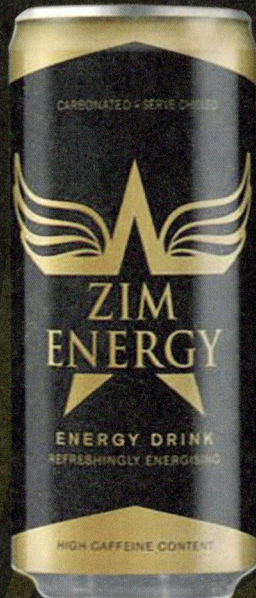
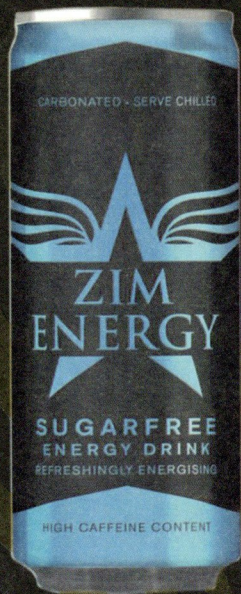
As well as taking part in the tournament, the groups took part in two workshops on topics including First Aid Football Injuries by British Red Cross and Sustainability & Stewardship run by Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

For further information regarding Premier League Kicks contact Daniel.Douglas@lutontown.co.uk





ZIM ENERGY

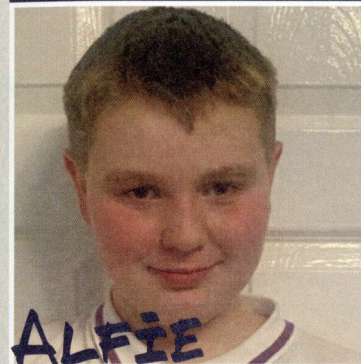


REFRESHINGLY ENERGISING

JUNIOR HATTERS



TODAY'S MASCOT



ALFIE

NAME: Alfie Miller-Stevens

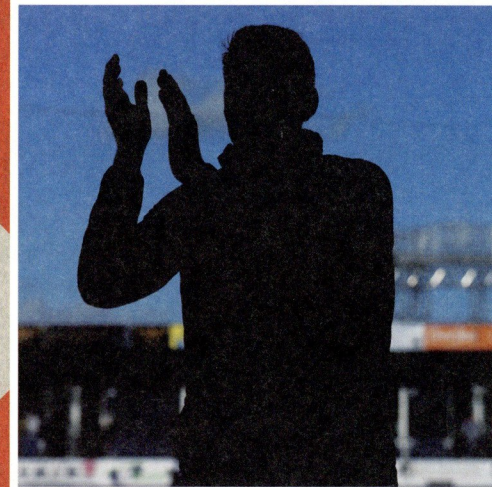
AGE: 12

HOBBIES: Football and video games.

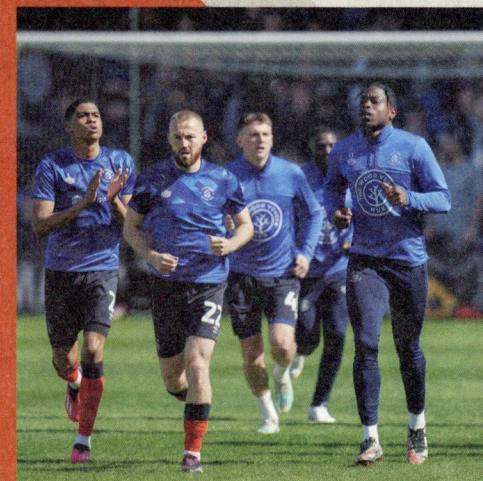
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Carlton Morris

HIDDEN HATTER

Can you tell which Hatter
is hidden below?



CAN YOU SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES IN THE PICTURES BELOW?

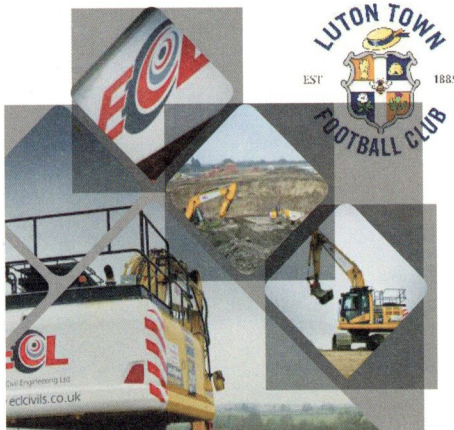


Hidden Hatter: Rob Edwards



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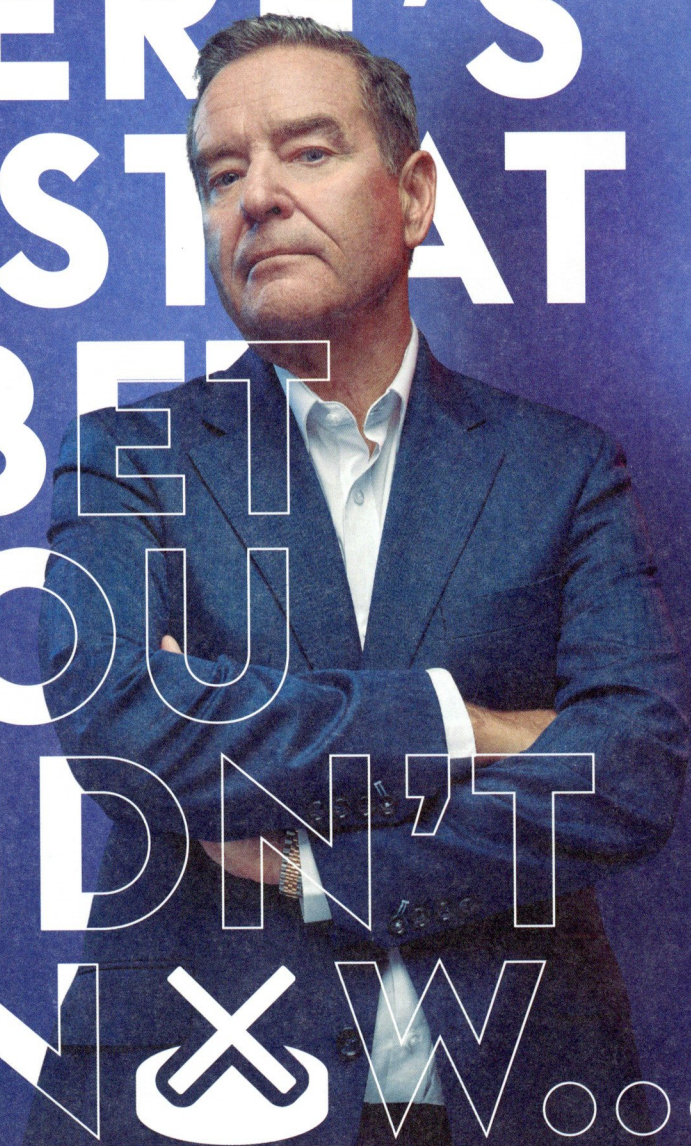
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CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	MACEY, LOCKYER, CORNICK, WOODROW, LANSBURY, PEREIRA, JEROME	9,921	1,032	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	CORNICK	ADEBAYO	MACEY, LOCKYER, BERRY, MORRIS, WOODROW, LANSBURY, BURKE	19,628	1,026	
WATSON	BERRY	WOODROW	JEROME	MUSKWE	ISTED, CORNICK, MORRIS, THORPE, OSHO, WILLIAMS, ALLEN, PETTIT, NELSON	3,827	207	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	MACEY, LOCKYER, WOODROW, WATSON, THORPE, OSHO, JEROME	9,740	895	
CAMPBELL	OSHO	WOODROW	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	MACEY, LOCKYER, MUSKWE, CLARK, THORPE, FREEMAN, JEROME	17,329	718	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	MUSKWE	ADEBAYO	MACEY, BERRY, MORRIS, WOODROW, THORPE, OSHO, JEROME	16,323	609	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	MACEY, BERRY, WOODROW, MUSKWE, ONYEDINMA, OSHO, JEROME	9,882	1,031	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	MACEY, BERRY, WOODROW, LANSBURY, ONYEDINMA, OSHO, JEROME	17,202	421	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	MACEY, BRADLEY, CORNICK, BERRY, WOODROW, ONYEDINMA, JEROME	9,885	1,035	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	MORRIS	CORNICK	MACEY, LOCKYER, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, LANSBURY, BELL, JEROME	9,546	1,028	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	LANSBURY	MORRIS	WOODROW	ISTED, WATSON, ONYEDINMA, FREEMAN, OSHO, JEROME, DOUGHTY	9,839	712	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	LANSBURY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, MPANZU, ONYEDINMA, OSHO, JEROME, DOUGHTY	15,730	544	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	LANSBURY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, BRADLEY, CORNICK, MPANZU, PETTIT, NELSON, DOUGHTY	9,073	308	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	LANSBURY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, BERRY, MPANZU, ONYEDINMA, FREEMAN, DOUGHTY	21,550	1,385	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	LANSBURY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, BERRY, ONYEDINMA, FREEMAN, JEROME, DOUGHTY	10,011	1,038	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	DOUGHTY	MORRIS	CORNICK	ISTED, BRADLEY, BERRY, ADEBAYO, LANSBURY, FREEMAN, JEROME	25,846	1,182	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	FREEMAN	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, POTTS, CORNICK, BERRY, WATSON, OSHO, JEROME	19,282	1,954	
CAMPBELL	CLARK	LANSBURY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, BRADLEY, CORNICK, BERRY, MPANZU, FREEMAN, JEROME	10,060	1,032	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	DOUGHTY	CORNICK	ADEBAYO	ISTED, BERRY, MORRIS, WATSON, FREEMAN, JEROME, PETTIT	9,620	926	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	BERRY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, WATSON, FREEMAN, JEROME, PETTIT, LAWLESS	11,452	1,208	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	CORNICK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	MACEY, BERRY, WATSON, FREEMAN, JEROME, PETTIT, DOUGHTY	18,095	784	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, BERRY, WATSON, FREEMAN, WILLIAMS, PETTIT	10,071	1,040	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, BERRY, WATSON, FREEMAN, PETTIT, JEROME	23,187	463	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, BERRY, WOODROW, FREEMAN, JEROME, PETTIT	9,831	1,039	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	CORNICK	ISTED, BERRY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, WATSON, FREEMAN, JEROME	16,030	1,562	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	WATSON	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, BERRY, WOODROW, BURKE, JEROME, PETTIT	18,333	638	
CAMPBELL	WATSON	WOODROW	MORRIS	CORNICK	ISTED, BERRY, ADEBAYO, MPANZU, THORPE, JEROME, PETTIT, DOUGHTY, LUKER	5,660	290	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	ISTED, CORNICK, WOODROW, BURKE, WATSON, OSHO, JEROME	10,069	1,042	
CAMPBELL	WATSON	CLARK	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	ISTED, POTTS, LOCKYER, CORNICK, BERRY, MPANZU, THORPE, JEROME, PETTIT	5,668	191	
WATSON	MPANZU	CLARK	CORNICK	ADEBAYO	ISTED, BERRY, BURKE, CAMPBELL, ONYEDINMA, JEROME, DOUGHTY	11,125	1,005	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	CLARK	CORNICK	ADEBAYO	ISTED, BERRY, MORRIS, WOODROW, BURKE, WATSON, ONYEDINMA, THORPE, NELSON	8,552	1,473	
CLARK	MPANZU	WOODROW	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	WALTON, BERRY, WATSON, CAMPBELL, ONYEDINMA, THORPE, OSHO	9,031	544	
CAMPBELL	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, BERRY, WOODROW, NAKAMBA, ONYEDINMA, TAYLOR, OSHO	10,031	1,021	
CAMPBELL	WATSON	BERRY	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	SHEA, MORRIS, BURKE, MPANZU, CLARK, PEPPE, DOUGHTY, PIESOLD, JOHNSON	7,051	466	
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, BERRY, WOODROW, LANSBURY, CAMPBELL, ONYEDINMA, TAYLOR	20,366	2,843	
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, POTTS, BERRY, WOODROW, LANSBURY, CAMPBELL, TAYLOR	13,903	457	
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, POTTS, BERRY, WOODROW, CAMPBELL, TAYLOR, DOUGHTY	10,066	1,026	
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, BERRY, WOODROW, WATSON, CAMPBELL, ONYEDINMA, TAYLOR	16,866	1,838	
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, BRADLEY, BERRY, WOODROW, CAMPBELL, ONYEDINMA, TAYLOR	10,060	1,032	
NAKAMBA	CAMPBELL	CLARK	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, BRADLEY, BERRY, WOODROW, MPANZU, ONYEDINMA, TAYLOR	10,072	1,031	
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CAMPBELL	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, BRADLEY, BERRY, WOODROW, LANSBURY, MUSKWE, TAYLOR	28,406	1,717	
NAKAMBA	CAMPBELL	BERRY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	SHEA, WOODROW, LANSBURY, BURKE, WATSON, ONYEDINMA, TAYLOR	9,899	858	
NAKAMBA								



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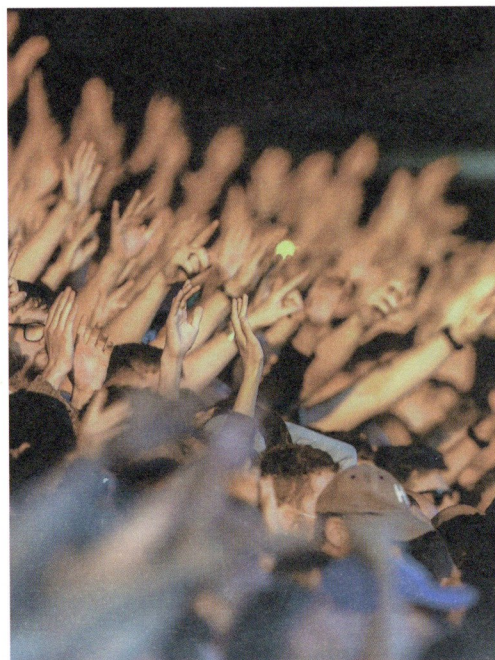
A message about anti-social and criminal behaviour

To mark the new season, we want to make you aware of new measures being taken across all of football to ensure everyone can have a safe and enjoyable experience. We are supporting strong action from the FA, Premier League and EFL to tackle anti-social and criminal behaviours that put all of us at risk.

This reflects the seriousness of the risks to fans and staff – pyros can burn at 2000 degrees Celsius and cause lifechanging injuries, while entering the pitch endangers players, managers and match officials.

We know those who commit these illegal acts do not represent the majority of supporters.

#LoveFootball #ProtectTheGame



SUPPORT ST JOE'S IN SUNDAY CUP FINAL!

St Joseph's will take on Aigburth Arms of Liverpool in the FA Sunday Cup Final at Pride Park on Sunday 30th April, 2pm kick-off.

To reach this Final once is an achievement in itself, to reach it a record seven times is an incredible feat and a record that is unlikely to be beaten, St Joe's got to four finals in successive years in the early 1990s, winning twice and losing twice on penalties which makes St Joseph's the most successful team in the history of the competition.

St Joes have a long-standing affiliation with LTFC, some of our former players are; Kingsley Black, Kerry Dixon, Zema Abbey and David Green, and currently pulling on the shirt, former LTFC midfielder Adam Watkins.

If you can, please support your local grass-roots team in what is the showpiece final for grass-roots Sunday football in this country.

Tickets are on sale now on the Derby County website <https://www.dcf.co.uk/toptix/en-gb/categories/home> and are priced at £5 each.

For more information please check out our Twitter account @StJoesSun

PLAYER STATISTICS

	2022-23 SEASON											CAREER			
	LEAGUE			CUP			TOTAL					CARDS		TOTAL	
	APPS		G	APPS		G	APPS		G				APPS		G
Elijah Adebayo	37	(3)	7	3	(1)	2	40	(4)	9	9	0	104		31	
Amari'i Bell	41	(1)	1	4	(0)	0	45	(1)	1	2	1	92		2	
Luke Berry	3	(15)	3	2	(2)	0	5	(17)	3	2	0	159		24	
Sonny Bradley	11	(5)	0	0	(0)	0	11	(5)	0	3	0	172		6	
James Bree	27	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	29	(0)	0	3	0	143		2	
Reece Burke	15	(4)	2	3	(0)	0	18	(4)	2	4	0	54		4	
Allan Campbell	36	(3)	3	4	(0)	0	40	(3)	3	5	0	82		7	
Jordan Clark	32	(3)	2	2	(1)	1	34	(4)	3	4	0	105		8	
Harry Cornick	7	(12)	1	2	(2)	1	9	(14)	2	1	0	235		38	
Alfie Doughty	22	(3)	2	2	(2)	0	24	(5)	2	10	0	29		2	
Cody Drameh	14	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	14	(0)	0	4	0	14		0	
Luke Freeman	9	(14)	2	0	(0)	0	9	(14)	2	2	0	23		2	
Ethan Horvath	42	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	46	(0)	0	0	0	46		0	
Harry Isted	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	6		0	
Cameron Jerome	0	(21)	1	1	(2)	0	1	(23)	1	0	0	61		6	
Henri Lansbury	6	(3)	1	1	(0)	0	7	(3)	1	2	0	47		1	
Tom Lockyer	37	(0)	1	3	(1)	1	40	(1)	2	6	1	97		3	
Matt Macey	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	14		0	
Carlos Mendes Gomes	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	1	1	(0)	1	0	0	15		2	
Carlton Morris	39	(3)	19	1	(3)	0	40	(6)	19	11	0	46		19	
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	23	(5)	3	1	(3)	0	24	(8)	3	4	0	365		23	
Admiral Muskwe	1	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	26		2	
Marevelous Nakamba	14	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	14	(1)	0	2	0	15		0	
Fred Onyedinnma	5	(10)	0	1	(1)	0	6	(11)	0	2	0	48		3	
Gabriel Osho	21	(5)	2	4	(1)	0	25	(6)	2	3	2	58		2	
Dion Pereira	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	3		0	
Dan Potts	23	(0)	1	2	(0)	0	25	(0)	1	4	0	213		12	
Glen Rea	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	207		8	
James Shea	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	106		0	
Joe Taylor	0	(3)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(3)	0	0	0	3		0	
Elliot Thorpe	0	(2)	0	1	(1)	0	1	(3)	0	0	0	5		0	
Louie Watson	2	(2)	0	4	(0)	0	6	(2)	0	1	0	8		0	
Josh Williams	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1		0	
Caulley Woodrow	5	(22)	2	4	(1)	1	9	(23)	3	3	0	35		3	

THE LAST WORD

JAMES CUNLIFFE
Editor, The Lutonian



Some of us have never had it so good!

A certain vintage have, sure, and I was even alive for Town's halcyon decade in the top flight, but you've never heard about the baby genius whose first words were to recite the 1981/82 Second Division title-winning team... because it didn't happen.

For my living memory, the class of 2023 is as good as it's been - and that's saying something for the last nine years we've enjoyed.

I'll take your John Stills, Mick Harfords, Nathan Joneses, back-to-back promotions, 27-game-League-One-winning teams, last day Great Escapes, and I'll bank those in Strike It Lucky 90s gameshow style. Those memories are ours, safe, whatever happens.

But, for the level Luton are playing at, with their 11-game unbeaten streak and a Championship play-off place already certain with three games to go, Rob Edwards' side is the best I've had the privilege of watching and writing about.

Thankfully, this football club has provided us plenty of chances to debate our definition of the best of times.

As a cub reporter, I thought I'd struggle to top when I popped my Kenilworth Road press box cherry. Wrong. Even if the 2006 2-0 Championship victory over Queens Park Rangers came journalistically gift-wrapped in controversial sub-plots, with the aftermath of Mike Newell's bung-gate revelations and, similar noises from then Rangers boss Ian Holloway. His was also a typically bonkers press conference flanked by his wife in an ankle-length fur coat.

I caught the bug, of course, but then a few years later I was stood in the same room with Big Mick after the crushing confirmation that Town's 89-year stay in the Football League was over. That's the rollercoaster.

Not only are the Hatters now back where they belong, but luck's got nothing to do with it. The Carlton Morris-inspired point at Reading that reeled in the play-offs was the latest culmination of a proper football club continually living up to their 'progress' mantra.

While it cannot be overstated how big an achievement it is to have already matched last term's 75 points, it's only the start of what we now all hope will be a super six games to see dreams come true. Tonight against Middlesbrough could even be a dress rehearsal for the biggest game in Town's history. Well, since the last one, anyway.

A record-breaking return to the top-flight from non-league? Yes please! One last chance for this glorious old stadium to shake it with the 'big boys' and rile pampered Premier League prima donnas, piled in through the back gardens of Oak Road? Even better! I've got just the vein for the tantalising pure proper football snark of it all.

Cherish these days because some of us have never had it so good. But if we've learned anything, it's that the best of times can always get better.



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ROB EDWARDS

- 01 JAMES SHEA
- 02 CODY DRAMEH
- 03 DAN POTTS
- 04 TOM LOCKYER
- 05 SONNY BRADLEY
- 08 LUKE BERRY
- 09 CARLTON MORRIS
- 10 CAULEY WOODROW
- 11 ELIJAH ADEBAYO
- 12 HENRI LANSBURY
- 13 MARVELOUS NAKAMBA
- 15 ADMIRAL MUSKWE
- 16 REECE BURKE
- 17 PELLY-RUDDOCK MPANZU
- 18 JORDAN CLARK
- 20 LOUIE WATSON
- 22 ALLAN CAMPBELL
- 23 FRED ONYEDINMA
- 24 JACK WALTON
- 25 JOE TAYLOR
- 27 ARIBIM PEPPL
- 28 ELLIOT THORPE
- 29 AMARI'I BELL
- 30 LUKE FREEMAN
- 32 GABE OSHO
- 34 ETHAN HORVATH
- 45 ALFIE DOUGHTY

MICHAEL CARRICK

- 01 ZACK STEFFEN (GK)
- 02 ISAIAH JONES
- 03 RYAN GILES
- 04 ALEX MOWATT
- 05 MATT CLARKE
- 06 DAEL FRY
- 07 DAN BARLASER
- 08 RILEY MCGREE
- 09 RODRIGO MUNIZ
- 10 CAMERON ARCHER
- 11 AARON RAMSEY
- 14 TOMMY SMITH
- 15 ANFERNEE DIJKSTEEL
- 16 JONNY HOWSON
- 17 PADDY MCNAIR
- 21 MARCUS FORSS
- 23 LIAM ROBERTS (GK)
- 25 MATT CROOKS
- 26 DARRAGH LENIHAN
- 27 MARC BOLA
- 28 LUKE DANIELS (GK)
- 29 CHUBA AKPOM
- 30 HAYDEN HACKNEY
- 44 PHARRELL WILLIS

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: **GRAHAM SCOTT**
ASSISTANT REFEREE 1: **MARK SCHOLES**
ASSISTANT REFEREE 2: **DANIEL ROBATHAN**
FOURTH OFFICIAL: **ANDY WOOLMER**

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