



ISSUE #2 | £4.00 | PREMIER LEAGUE

LUTON TOWN V WEST HAM UNITED

FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2023 | 8.00PM | KENILWORTH ROAD



FREENOW

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HONOURS

LEAGUE CUP

WINNERS 1988
RUNNERS-UP 1989

FA CUP

RUNNERS-UP 1959

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY

WINNERS 2008/09

SECOND DIVISION/ CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONS 1981/82
RUNNERS-UP 1954/55, 1973/74
PLAY-OFF WINNERS 2023/24

THIRD DIVISION/ LEAGUE ONE

CHAMPIONS 1936/37, 2004/05, 2018/19
RUNNERS-UP 1935/36, 1969/70

FOURTH DIVISION/ LEAGUE TWO

CHAMPIONS 1967/68
RUNNERS-UP 2001/02, 2017/18

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CHAMPIONS 2013/14

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The views in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club.

BRING THE NOISE!



NO AI WAS
USED TO WRITE
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PROGRAMME.



WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

After the blood, sweat and tears of last season and following a summer of changes on and off the field, the wait for the Premier League to come to Luton is over.

The work behind-the-scenes has been one helluva operation and in tonight's programme you'll be able to read all about it. Luton are back. But we were never really away though, were we? Enjoy the ride and bring the noise. #COYH



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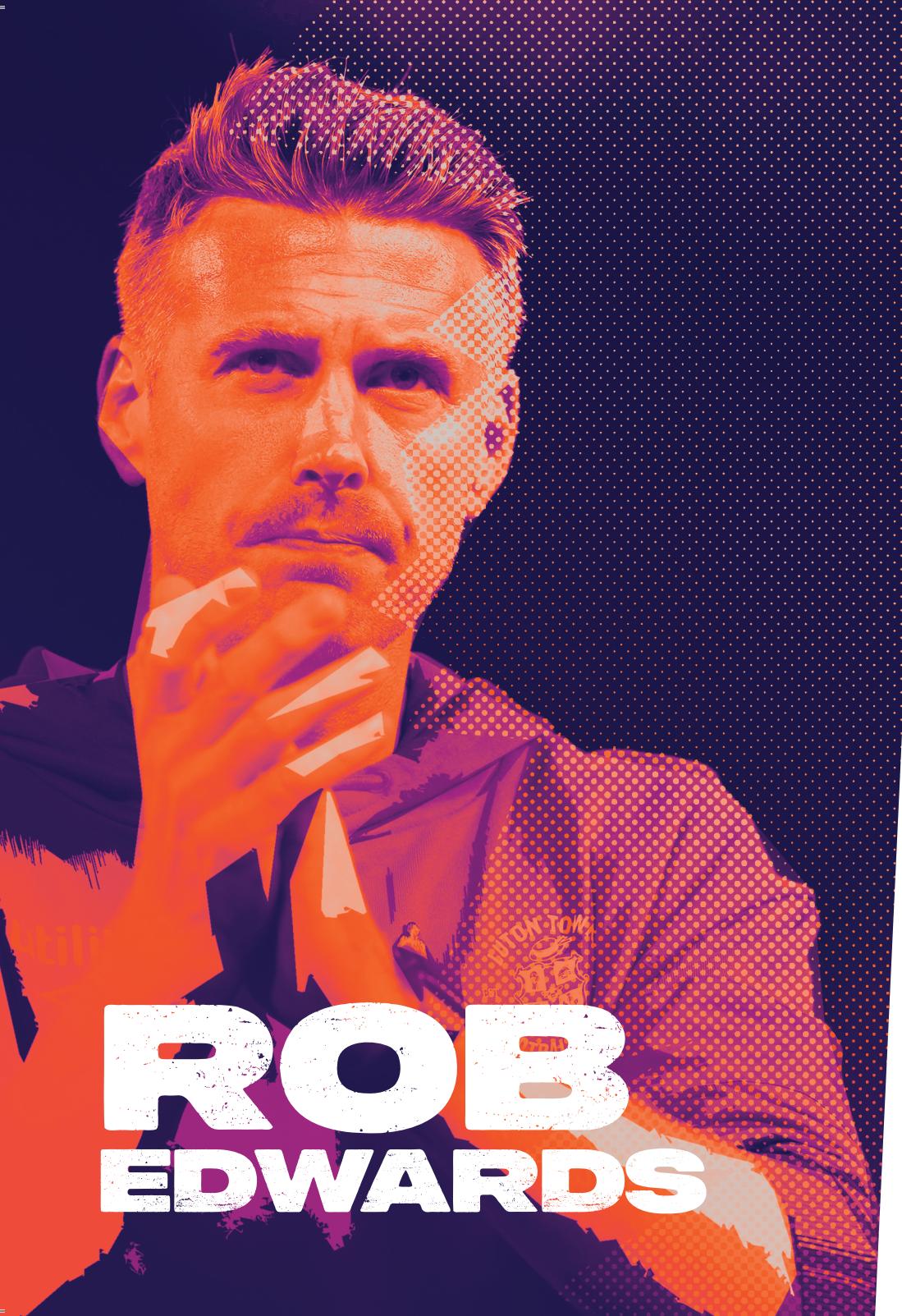
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ROB EDWARDS

I'm extremely proud to welcome you all to Kenilworth Road for this famous old ground's first ever Premier League fixture and first in the top-flight for over 30 years.

A huge well done and thank you to those who have been involved with the redevelopment of the Bobbers Stand. It looks wonderful.

The scale of the project given the executive boxes were pulled down after the play-off final is a feat in itself. I know there has been a lot of stress involved, so a massive shoutout to those who have gone above and beyond to get the project completed. My personal thanks also go to the local community for their patience and understanding during the summer when cranes and traffic interrupted their daily lives.

So that side of Kenilworth Road gives this place an extra dimension which we can use to our advantage – starting tonight. It's something you deserve after not only your support in recent times, but your loyalty stretching back generations. As I have alluded to several times in interviews, we are going to need your noise here to make this place rock. Lift the roof off. Scream your heads off. We saw last season what that could do for us and we're going to need that in every game over the next ten months.

Many thanks too, to those supporters who travelled to Brighton and Chelsea, it was truly special, and Chelsea in particular was astonishing. It reminded me of European Ultras at the end – something you don't

associate in this country. You could see how much it meant to everyone and I know the players really appreciated it.

But while I'm keen to thank you and urge you to keep that up, I know there's a job for us to do in order for you to shout about in terms of points. The players are working so, so hard, and they are learning with every game and daily on the training pitch. We are working hard to fix those little moments where we have faltered or been found out in the two games, matches where we have played against two very good teams away from home. We are – to put it simply – working hard to be better.

There's no getting away from the fact we've had a tough start but I'm excited and proud to be here and we aim to make tonight a special beginning to life here in the Premier League.

I wish a warm welcome to David Moyes and his staff and players and congratulate them on the fabulous achievement in the UEFA Conference League last season. They have carried on where they have left off and have earned wins over two teams we've lost to, so that shows the task in front of us tonight.

Stay with us and get behind us. We will need your noise.

Enjoy the ride. 
COYH





TOM LOCKYER

Premier League football at the Kenny. Here we go then. What a night this promises to be. I know Luton fans of all ages and backgrounds have been looking forward to this ever since the fixtures were released and I can tell you the squad have been just as pumped.

Under the lights with Sky Sports in town, against a team who have started the season so well. What a prospect. Occasions like these are why we all love football, aren't they? Whatever the outcome tonight, it will be a historic occasion and we hope to make it a memorable one.

So, with all that has been made about this place, it's time to get down to business. Forget the memes of the away end and all that – this famous old ground is in the Premier League because we earned it last season and we love playing our football here.

Our record at home towards the end of last season was magnificent with some unforgettable games that pushed us on to Wembley. Who can forget our derby win over those down the road in April? The noise that afternoon was incredible. We knew we owed you a performance after the result earlier in the season and we could feel from the emotions in the stands that you were with us then.

Then there was the Sunderland game. I already touched on this in my Gillingham notes on Tuesday but my word, what a night. The buzz you recreated



that evening was special. The roar that met each goal was deafening but there were moments when even the simplest block, kick or tackle were greeted with the most outrageous wall of noise. Madness!

Your backing in these games is evidence it helps. The 12th man cliché gets used a lot. It was no myth during these matches though. It was real; and we need the same again in each and every one of our 19 home games in the Premier League this season. This is our home and it's a place we need to make a fortress if we want to be able to fulfil our goal of staying in the top-flight.

Finally, I cannot end these notes without thanking you for the support we received at our first two away matches. It was incredible. The scenes at the end of both games were unbelievable. It's very rare for teams to be applauded off after losing in a league game, and at Chelsea especially the reception you gave us was humbling. It will live long in the memory of all of us, so thank you.

That's enough from me. Time to get on with it.

Bring the noise and stick with us.

Cheers.

Locks.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON

Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for our first ever home Premier League game.

Our visitors are West Ham, who we look forward to hosting at our newly refurbished Kenilworth Road stadium. It is a touch ironic that my first ever game as a supporter was against the same opponents, also in the top division, way back in 1958 when we celebrated a 4-1 victory.

We are this evening privileged to greet Alison Brittain, Chair of the Premier League, and Chief Executive Richard Masters, along with their guests and fellow directors, Matthew Brittain, Marc Watson, Tony Scholes and Neil Saunders.

The majority of changes we have made to the Kenny have been a requirement to satisfy press and media so that they can deliver the quality of product that is called for. This has meant the construction of a new gantry to house the many cameras necessary for broadcast and VAR and new and improved floodlights to ensure the desired picture quality. We have also had to construct a new media centre and presentational suite along with

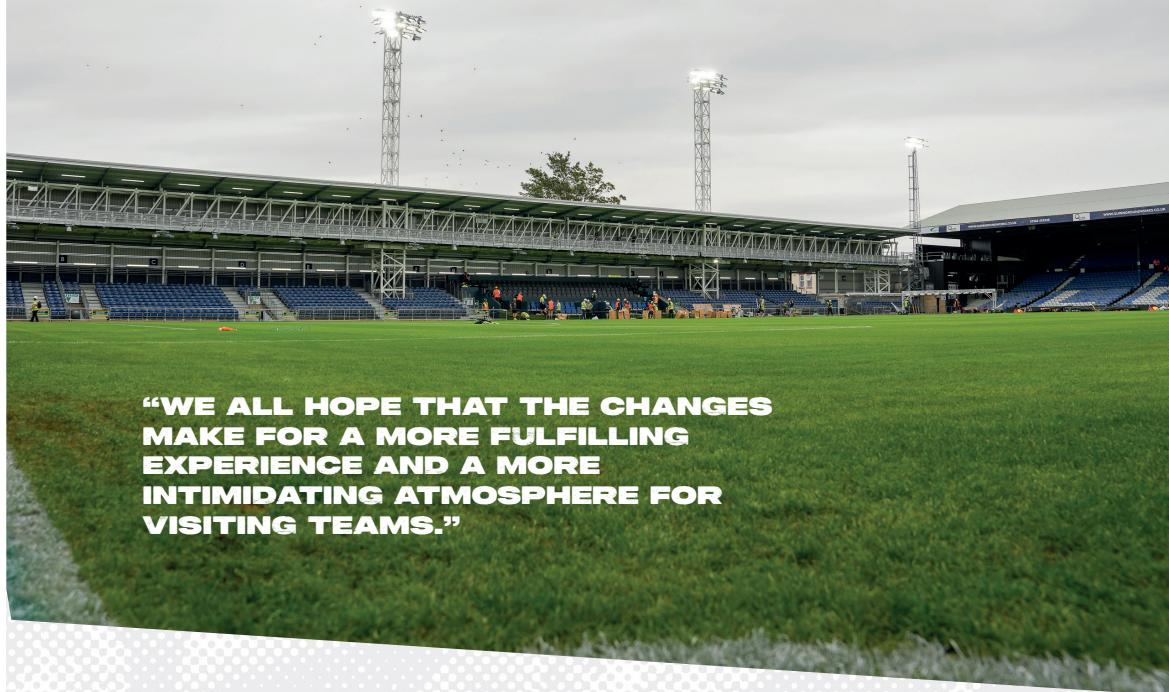
catering facilities for their staff and clear the Kenny apron to make room for outside broadcast trucks and equipment.

This work gave us the opportunity to look at improvements to other facilities within the stadium, some of which you'll see and some you won't.

Those which are immediately obvious are the demolition of the boxes and the installation of additional seating in the old Bobbers Stand, which enables us to eventually take our capacity up above 11,000. Less conspicuous are the internal changes where offices are being sacrificed for hospitality space. The majority of our staff have now moved offsite, near to the Brache training facility, which should make for a more efficient use of space compared to the "rabbit warren" at the Kenny.

All of this is an extremely expensive facelift, which would not have been possible without Premier League funding, but it does make that more feasible prior to our move to Power Court. We all hope that the changes make for a more fulfilling experience and a more intimidating atmosphere for visiting teams.





**“WE ALL HOPE THAT THE CHANGES
MAKE FOR A MORE FULFILLING
EXPERIENCE AND A MORE
INTIMIDATING ATMOSPHERE FOR
VISITING TEAMS.”**

It has been an extraordinary feat to have completed so much since the playoff win at the end of May. Thank you to everyone who has helped make it possible to transform this fabulous old ground in such a short space of time. It is quite amazing what has been achieved. We all owe a huge vote of thanks to all those who have got their hands dirty and spent 18-hour days to enable us to defy all the odds to be open for business so quickly.

We are under no illusions as to the challenge we are facing. It is uncomfortable having to mention the huge financial disparity in this competition, but it cannot be avoided. Pundits seem to expect £100m transfers, which become run of the

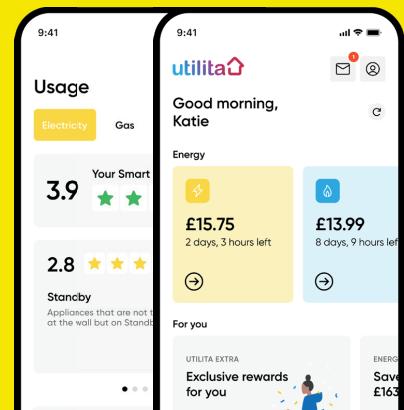
mill. I read today that spending in this window is expected to reach £2 billion, that's £2,000,000,000 of which our recent hosts, Chelsea, are reported to have made up around 20 per cent.

It is important to us that we keep our feet on the ground and remember who we are and treasure our place in football's history. Clearly, we owe it to the League and ourselves to do our best to be competitive in this most uneven of competitions, but not by putting our future at risk. We have been here before and are fully aware that the gap has widened enormously since we voted in favour of setting up the Premier League in 1992, but we are not fazed and will enjoy the challenge as we have all those we've faced over the past 15 years. ➤

HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

**SAVE LIKE
DAVE**

utilita 



**Energy that's
proper smart.**





Thank you for your support at Chelsea.

On behalf of us all welcome to those players and staff who have joined us this Summer and thank you and good luck to those who have moved on.

I'm writing this after suffering two away defeats in the League against Brighton and Chelsea and an enjoyable Carabao Cup victory against Gillingham.

It will obviously take time not only for our new recruits to gel, but also to get used to the different style, pace and quality of the division we are now in, but we have seen encouraging signs in all games so far and look forward to the challenges ahead.

Lastly on behalf of us all can I reiterate Gary's comments in a recent interview about you, our fans.

It was a genuinely humbling experience to observe the support you gave at Brighton and Chelsea, particularly the standing ovation after the 3-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge. It always makes us

long to be in there with you and brings a lump to the throat and a tear to the eye. It makes us appreciate that we are all together on the same journey and what a trip it has been so far!

With you behind us we can only get stronger. It really isn't all about money. Heart and soul and joy and love, Friendship, loyalty, excitement and commitment. So many emotions that don't need pound signs with loads of noughts after them.

"The problems of victory are more agreeable than the problems of defeat, but they are no less difficult." Winston Churchill.

Enjoy the game 

COYH

David

WELCOME HOME: IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW THIS SEASON

The Hatters are back at Kenilworth Road and my word have we missed it – our return to action saw almost a sell-out for the visit of Gillingham on Tuesday night.

The old girl has been a hive of activity since we won promotion to the Premier League in order to bring her up to speed and meet top-flight criteria.

It means there will be plenty of changes that supporters must know about this season – many which may change throughout the season.

ACCESS IN AND AROUND THE GROUND

The biggest change you will notice is on your approach to the Kenilworth Road end where a new concourse awaits with a new ticket office and food and drink stalls (further information below)

In a nutshell, access to your regular seat should not be affected.

Beech Path remains open for access pre-match as usual.

Fans who have tickets for the Bobbers Stand can only access this area from the turnstiles on Beech Path.

Supporters who have tickets for the Bobbers must access the turnstiles from Ivy Road, Beech Road, Ash Road and Kenilworth Road.

A new external stairwell outside the Kenilworth Road stand is for media access only and not for supporters' use.

You will notice a contractors' compound in Kenilworth Road, storing equipment to continue work on until works are completed.



FOOD AND DRINK

The Kenilworth Road concourse will now house three new concession stands.

These will be available to supporters pre-match and at half-time (until early in the second half) to those sitting in the main stand and Kenilworth Road end.

We're delighted to reveal the new food options as follows:

New partner The Kenny Henny – offering Southern Fried Chicken, loaded chips and vegetarian options with a Hatters-themed menu, which will also be shared with an area selling beer.

Norm's Caribbean shack – Norm's going nowhere! He's now got a new building, which he will share with Leighton Buzzard Brewery and Kelchner, a brewery from Ampthill.

An additional unit offering beer, soft drinks and crisps.

The Nick Owen bar is no longer available to supporters. However, the kiosk underneath the David Preece Stand has been flipped, with service hatches facing the concourse, serving beers, hot drinks and hot food.

All other catering areas will be open as usual.



TICKETING

A new matchday ticket office will be located on the Kenilworth Road concourse.

This will open three hours before kick-off to aid fans for collections

Ticket office in Oak Road, when open, will therefore close three hours before kick-off.

DISABLED SUPPORTERS

Two new areas for disabled fans have been created to increase the capacity for supporters; one in the Oak Road end for away supporters, plus one underneath the David Preece stand. This affectively doubles the amount of tickets available to disabled supporters.

CEO Gary Sweet said: "The last 13 weeks since Wembley have gone by in a flash. The work undertaken around the ground has been nothing short of miraculous. **WE TOWN!**"

"We have worked around the clock in order to get Kenilworth Road into the shape it is to welcome you back.

"While it has been a necessity to upgrade facilities for our friends in the media – we are now the proud owner of the longest gantry in the Premier League, seating 90 journalists and have constructed interview rooms and a TV studio – we have also invested in amenities for supporters in order to enhance their matchday experience and to compensate for the changes.

"Our thanks go to all residents and staff who have endured the last three months. Most importantly come and enjoy your evening – and thank you."



BOYS

MANAGER ROB EDWARDS AND THE HATTERS' RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN BUSY OVER THE SUMMER - AS WE WENT TO PRESS 10 NEW FACES HAVE ARRIVED AT KENILWORTH ROAD SINCE WE WERE PROMOTED TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE.

CHIEDOZIE OGBENE

The 26-year-old Republic of Ireland international forward became our first summer arrival, joining from Rotherham, after scoring nine goals and assisting four times in all competitions last season.

Nigeria-born Ogbene became the first African player to represent the Republic of Ireland when he earned his first cap in June 2021, and has scored four goals in 15 games for the Boys in Green.



Edwards: "We know we are going to need some real athleticism in the Premier League, and he knows how to use it. He's flexible, and he's going to be able to play through the middle as a forward, but also as a wide one, if we wanted to play with wide forwards. He can play a couple of positions."

Ogbene: "My journey is special to me. I come from Rotherham United, who I spent four seasons with and where I achieved some great things with some great people. But to be considered to be a Luton Town player with an opportunity to feature in the Premier League was an opportunity I couldn't turn down."

MADS ANDERSEN

The 25-year-old Danish centre-half signed for an undisclosed fee from Barnsley to be our second summer arrival.

Andersen came through the ranks at Danish Superliga club Brondby, where he made his professional debut and earned two caps for his country at Under-19 level.

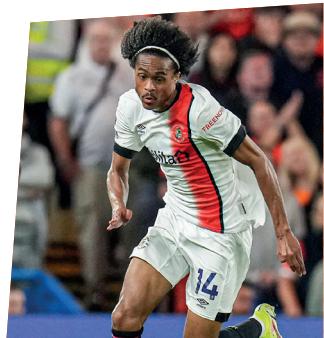


After a loan at second tier KB Hoge, he joined AC Horsens in 2017 and scored five goals in 32 appearances – enough to earn a move to south Yorkshire for a reported fee of £900,000 in 2019.

Edwards said: "He's someone who can play anywhere across that back three for us. He's a real good defender, someone who loves defending, and we like ours to be able to do that. But he can play, and there is room to grow, like with anyone we want to bring in and sign."

Andersen: "When I was younger I wrote on a piece of paper, 'Premier League', and stuck it on the fridge. I completely forgot about it, until my family told me, 'You put that on the fridge!'. So it's a proud moment for them as well."

MEET THE NEW BOYS



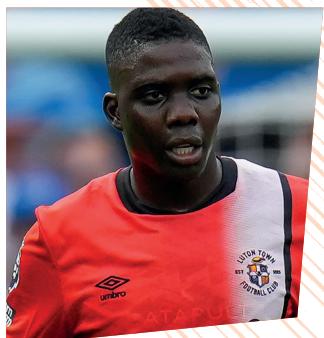
TAHITH CHONG

The 23-year-old midfielder joins the Town for an undisclosed fee from Birmingham City, having enjoyed a successful two-year spell at St Andrews.

A Dutch youth international, Chong is perhaps best known in these parts for his instrumental performance for the Blues in their 5-0 win over the Hatters at the Kenny in August 2021.

Edwards: "He gives us some real quality as well and with the ball, an end product. He's at a good age and he's going to keep improving. I think he's coming into a good environment that's going to help him do that, give him a platform that will help him take risks and be brave."

Chong: "For me the applause I received that day was the first time I'd experienced that and it's something that's stuck with me for a long time. That shows the fans' respect, and now that I'm here I'm excited to see them and look forward to gaining their trust."



MARVELOUS NAKAMBA

No stranger to Kenilworth Road, Marvelous signed for the Hatters permanently from Aston Villa after a hugely successful loan spell last season.

The Zimbabwe international midfielder, 29, scored in the Town's shootout win at Wembley against Coventry and comes with a wealth of experience, including that in the Premier League.

Edwards: "As a footballer, he was the glue that knitted us together. He allowed everyone to do their jobs. There were quotes out there last season saying it was like having three of him on the pitch at times – he covered every blade of grass."

Nakamba: "When I joined on loan, I felt love from everyone – the manager, the board, the staff, the players and the fans. I was welcomed as part of the family and that pushed me to give everything for this club and help achieve the goal we had last season, which we did."

ISSA KABORÉ

A right-sided defender, Kaboré arrives on a season-long loan from reigning Premier League champions Manchester City.

Only 22, the Town's latest addition has already won 28 caps for his native Burkina Faso, and spent last season on-loan at Ligue 1 Marseille, playing in the Champions League four times.

Edwards: "His attributes will help us. He's an athlete and I think he'll suit the way we want to play. He comes with a good level of experience and played 29 times in all competitions last year for a team that finished third in France, so we're very excited."

Kaboré: "I'm happy to be at Kenilworth Road. This is a great club with a fantastic history. I am looking forward to testing myself at Premier League level."



RYAN GILES

Left-sided defender and wing-back became signing number six after joining from Wolves, where he had graduated from the academy under the tutelage of Edwards.

The 23-year-old came to prominence in the Championship last season with Middlesbrough, registering 11 assists and creating many more chances as Boro reached the play-offs.

Edwards: "He's got electric pace, and I don't think I've ever seen anyone who can cross a ball on the run with the quality he can while at full speed. He's going to help us in those moments when we need to transition quickly, and he also possesses outstanding set-piece quality."



Giles: "I've reached the point that at my age that I've had a lot of loans and I feel those experiences have made me the player and the person I am today. Now this is a different direction, a new beginning, a new chapter. I thrive off creating chances and I can't wait to get to know my teammates and get the fans off their seats."



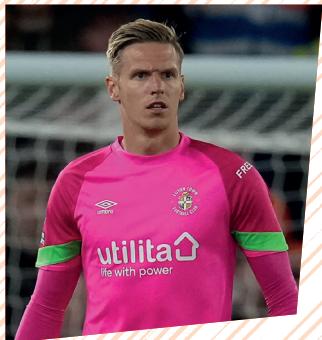
Live Happy

A large, solid red letter 'T' from the TUI logo, positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. It is partially overlaid by a white semi-transparent shape that follows the curve of the letter 'T' and extends downwards towards the horizon.A large, solid red letter 'U' from the TUI logo, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. It is partially overlaid by a white semi-transparent shape that follows the curve of the letter 'U' and extends upwards towards the horizon.

We're super proud to be sponsoring **Luton Town FC**, especially considering we have some top-level holidays taking off just down the road at **Luton Airport** this winter. We're talking big-name destinations like **Tenerife** and **Lanzarote**, as well as **Rhodes** and **Majorca**.

Head to **tui.co.uk** to score your winter getaway today.





THOMAS KAMINSKI

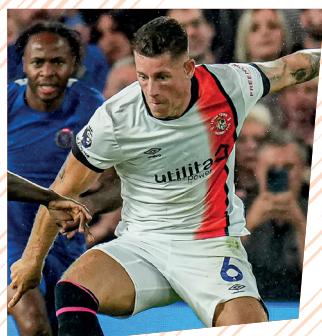
Belgian goalkeeper Kaminski arrives from Blackburn Rovers for an undisclosed fee following a successful three years at Ewood Park, which saw him win Player of the Year in his first season.

The 30-year-old has experienced European club and international football following spells with Anderlecht and Gent in his native Belgium.

Edwards: "He's a great person and he's a really good proactive goalkeeper, which at this level you're going

to need. He's sharp, he makes good saves and is alert in one-on-ones situations. Thomas not only brings us a really proactive level of goalkeeping but also he's an international footballer with Belgium so he brings that level of experience too."

Kaminski: "The Premier League is the best league in the world, to play in the Premier League is a dream for every footballer and it's unbelievable to be here. Knowing Luton's story and playing against them, it's a well organised team. You can see the togetherness on the pitch, I've spoke many times to Amari'i Bell who was my teammate at Blackburn and he called it home, so it gave me a great feeling about the club."



ROSS BARKLEY

England international midfielder Barkley has graced the top-flight over 200 times and is the proud owner of 33 caps for his country.

The 29-year-old is a former Everton academy graduate who signed for Chelsea for £15m and last season played in the top-flight in France with Nice.

Edwards said: "Ross brings loads of experience at the top level, has international experience and brings an x-factor. He gives us something different, he has that

ability to make something out of nothing and we need that in the Premier League. He's got all the tools required to make a difference for us."

Barkley: "Why Luton? Going from the Conference to the Premier League is a great story and for me personally to be back in the Premier League, it's great motivation. I'm still relatively young and over the last couple of years I've not played as much as I'd have liked so it's great to be here now as I've got a lot to show but I'm ready and feeling motivated."



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JACOB BROWN

Attacker Brown signed a permanent contract following a switch from Championship side Stoke City.

The 25-year-old is a Scottish international with six caps to his name and was voted as Stoke's Player of the Season in 2021/22.

Brown: "The journey the club has gone on and where it has come from, you can see how much it means to the players, the staff and the fans to be going into the Premier League. To be a part of that now, I'm buzzing for it, and I'm just going to work my hardest and give my all for the fans."



Edwards: "Jacob really suits the way we want to play. He has power, speed, athleticism, a really good engine to press and continually do that. He can score goals and we want him to be ruthless when he gets the opportunities. He can play in a number of different positions, too. We see him as a striker but if we were to change shape, he can play out wide."

TIM KRUL

Dutch international goalkeeper Tim Krul became the tenth new arrival of the summer after agreeing terms from Norwich City.

The 35-year-old, 6ft 2in stopper adds a wealth of Premier League experience, making 222 appearances in the top-flight for Newcastle United and Norwich.

Krul: "The story of Luton Town speaks for itself, the last nine years has been an amazing journey and I'm excited to join that journey. It's been a whirlwind for the club; I spoke to Carlton Morris and he spoke very highly about what's happening at this club."



Edwards said: "Tim's a leader and a top goalkeeper who is still very ambitious and very hungry. He wants to play. It's great to have someone of his level in the group with that ambition and to be that driven, and it's going to add great competition to the goalkeeper department, which is what we've wanted. He's a great guy, a proper bloke, who has an air of confidence, a good swagger and a belief about his ability, because he's been there and done it. He's played in the World Cup, has experience in the Premier League."

NEW DEALS!

A number of the Hatters squad committed their futures to the club by signing either fresh contracts or contract extensions over the summer.

Following the expiration of their contracts, the Club exercised the option for a further year for **Gabe Osho**, **Dan Potts** and **Elliot Thorpe**.

The Hatters then secured **Luke Berry** on a new contract, followed by **Amari'i Bell**, last season's top goalscorer **Carlton Morris** and **Cauley Woodrow**. **Reece Burke** and captain **Tom Lockyer** were next to sign extended deals, together with long-serving midfielder **Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu** and striker **Elijah Adebayo**.

OUT ON LOAN

Several of the Town's senior first team squad departed Kenilworth Road this summer for loan spells.

Goalkeeper **Jack Walton** signed for Dundee United; midfielder **Elliot Thorpe** joined League One Shrewsbury; attacker **Fred Onyedinma** moved to the Championship with Rotherham; striker **Joe Taylor** signed for Colchester; forward **Aribim Pepple** headed for Bromley in the National League; and striker **John McAtee** joined Barnsley.

THANK YOU AND GOODBYE

Ethan Horvath and **Cody Drameh** returned to their parent clubs following the end of their loan spells, while **Sonny Bradley**, **Henri Lansbury** and **Harry Isted** all left the Hatters following the expiration of their contracts.

Defender Bradley made 175 appearances for Luton Town and wore the captain's armband since the League One promotion season in 2018.

Midfielder Lansbury, 32, also left Kenilworth Road after joining the club at the start of the 2021/22 season. The Arsenal academy graduate made 48 appearances for the Hatters, scored a memorable screamer at Hull City back in September and contributed to two play-off campaigns.

Isted will also depart after six years, with the goalkeeper having joined the Hatters from Stoke before the start of the 2017/18 League Two promotion-winning campaign. The 26-year-old made six appearances for the Town, including against Chelsea in last season's Emirates FA Cup Fifth Round.

Attacker **Carlos Mendes Gomes** left for new pastures, agreeing terms to join League One side Bolton Wanderers for an undisclosed fee.

Luke Freeman also departed, leaving the club after a successful first half of last season was curtailed by injury. The midfielder scored two important goals, in wins over Cardiff and QPR.

MEET THE NEW BACKROOM BOYS



It wasn't just new players who were new to Kenilworth Road, as Edwards added to his backroom staff with a number of familiar faces.

First up was Luton-born **Kevin Foley** who returns to the club as Transitional Coach, working closely with young players progressing through the professional development stage of the Academy and into the first team.

A brand-new face in the building is **Andy Findlay** – a former colleague of Rob Edwards at Wolves – as Analyst Coach.

Findlay has most recently been working as Senior A-Squad Performance Analyst with Norway – helping the likes of Erling Haaland and Martin Odegaard while on international duty – but spent the first decade of his career rising through the ranks of British football with spells at Blackburn, Manchester City and Manchester United

Another familiar face to Town supporters was promoted to the senior first team staff as Set-Piece Coach.

Alan McCormack, (pictured) who helped the Hatters two promotions after signing from Brentford in 2017, returned to Kenilworth Road in 2021 to coach in the academy.

Initially working with the Under-13s up to development squad, last season the Irishman moved up to Under-18s Head Coach, adding to an impressive CV by masterminding EFL Youth Alliance South-East Division and Merit Youth League 1 title successes, as well as reaching the FA Youth Cup fourth round.





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4 - 1

The Amex Stadium - 12th August 2023

Seagulls: Steele, Milner (Veltman 79), van Hecke, Dunk, Estupiñán, Grob, Dahoud (Gilmour 74), March (Adingra 74), João Pedro (Enciso 88), Mitoma, Welbeck (Ferguson 78).

Hatters: Kaminski; Kaboré (Doughty 64), Giles, Andersen (Ogbene 76), Lockyer, Bell; Nakamba, Mpamvu (Woodrow 88), Chong (Berry 88); Morris, Adebayo (Brown 64)

SCORERS:

Brighton – March 36, João Pedro 71 pen, Adingra 85, Ferguson 90+5

Luton – Morris 81 pen

HATTERS MAKE HISTORY – BUT BRIGHTON TAKE THE POINTS

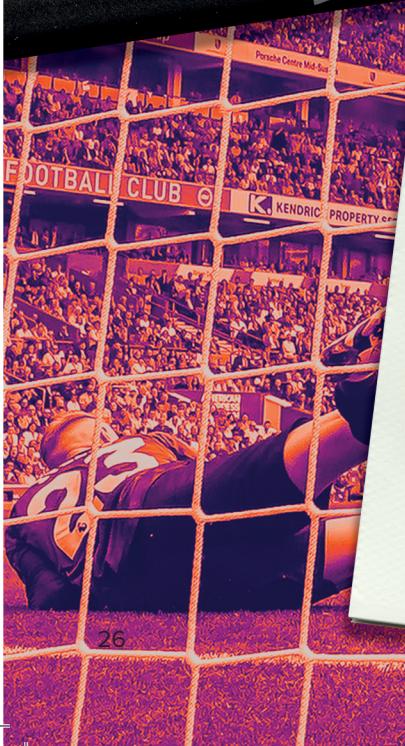
The Town celebrated their return to top-flight football – and their first ever appearance in the Premier League – with a trip to Brighton's Amex Stadium on the opening weekend of the new season.

Just 11 weeks after their historic Championship play-off final victory at Wembley, Rob Edwards' men ran out to a wall of noise as the sell-out away crowd of 3,001 Hatters fans made their appreciation clear on a fittingly sunny Sussex day.

While the supporters soaked up the sunshine, the players were soon soaking up plenty of pressure, as Brighton – sixth-place finishers last season – dominated possession. The Town held strong, however, and had several decent chances of their own, until ten minutes before the break, when Solly March headed the home side in front from a Kaoru Mitoma cross. João Pedro then made it 2-0, midway through the second half, scoring from the spot after Town captain Tom Lockyer was adjudged to have brought the Brazilian striker down in the box.

With nine minutes remaining, Luton were back in contention. A cross from new signing Jacob Brown was blocked by the elbow of Brighton skipper Lewis Dunk, causing referee David Coote to again point to the spot. Last season's top scorer, Carlton Morris, stepped up to take it and calmly sent Jason Steele the wrong way to score his – and the Town's – first ever Premier League goal.

Any hopes of a fairytale start were soon dashed, though, as Brighton struck back with two late goals. With just five minutes of regular time remaining, substitute Simon Adingra slotted home from close range. Eighteen-year-old Ireland international Evan Ferguson then slid onto a Pervis Estupiñán stoppage-time pass to complete a 4-1 scoreline that was somewhat harsh on the Hatters.





MATCH GALLERY





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BRIGHTON REACTION

Skipper Tom Lockyer said the team would take plenty of positives from their first taste of Premier League football, despite having to settle for an opening-day defeat at Brighton.

“It was never going to be easy, was it, but we were well in it,” said the Wales international. Two late Brighton goals then ensured a final 4-1 scoreline that was somewhat harsh on the Hatters.

“It’s a difficult one to take, but it just shows that you can’t give players at this level the chances that we did. The strikers are absolutely killing to get on the scoresheet at every opportunity they get, so you can’t give them gift-wrapped presents like that, because they will open them!”

Brighton took the lead through Solly March in the 36th minute but had to wait until the 71st minute before scoring a second from the penalty spot – after Lockyer was judged to have brought down João Pedro in the box.

“I thought the penalty was incredibly soft and I don’t know why the referee’s actually given it. It might have been the high arm but, apart from that, he was sliding into me,” said Lockyer on the incident.

“Having said that, we got a soft one at the other end so I don’t know if they cancelled each other out.”

That second penalty allowed Luton striker Carlton Morris to step up and calmly slot

home both his and the Hatters’ first ever Premier League goal.

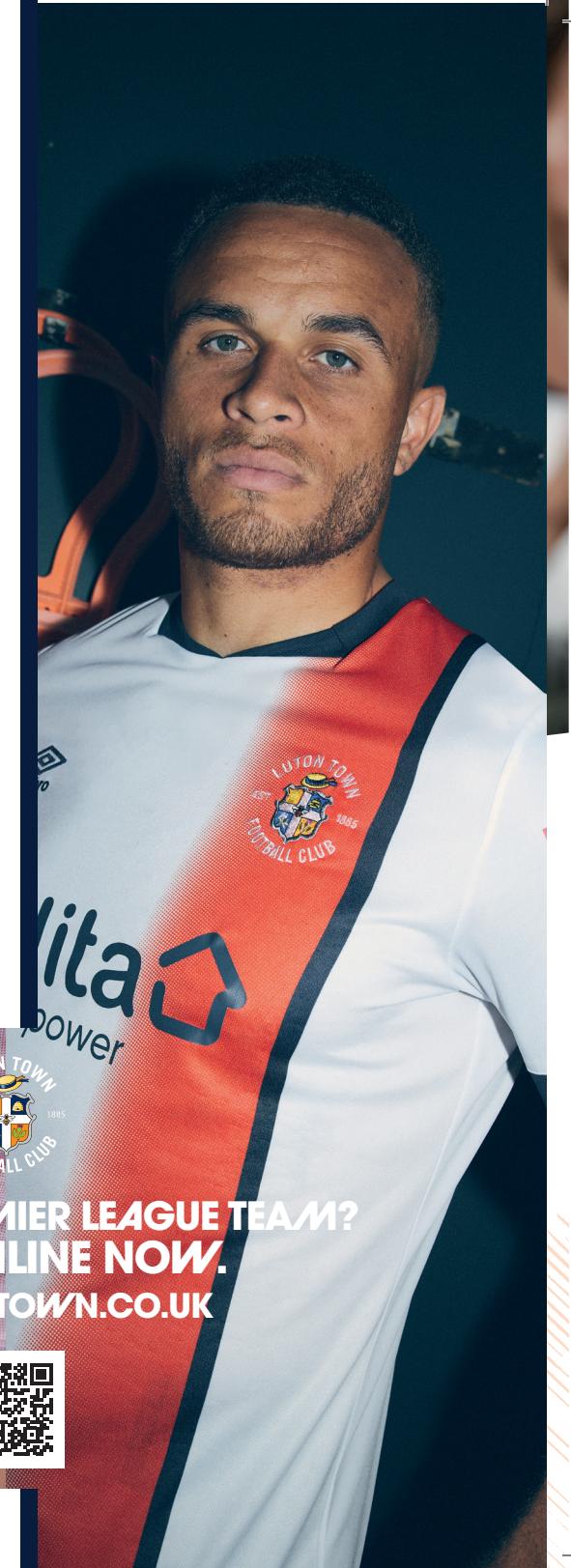
“It was amazing, wasn’t it, for him for him to get his first Premier League goal. We know Carlton’s strengths – he’s a fantastic player, and I think he was a bit unlucky not to get one or two more. He looked a threat all day and we’re going to need him all season, not just for his goals but also his work-rate off the ball so, yeah, really happy for him to get off the mark.”

Lockyer was also making history, as the first man to captain the Town in a Premier League encounter. It was all the more poignant given what happened in the Championship play-off final, when the Welshman collapsed in the eighth minute and was stretchered off – before later undergoing a minor heart operation.

“It is special, though obviously it is a little bit soured by the result. I don’t want to think about it too much, because at the end of the day we’re here to win games as a team, and it doesn’t really matter who’s got the armband on.”

“But it was really nice to be back out there playing in front of those fans on the biggest stage, and I’m really thankful, because there was a moment at the back end of last season when I thought that might not be the case.”

“The heart felt good – it was more my legs at the end!” 



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HATTERS LEAVE WITH HEADS HELD HIGH

The Town suffered their second successive away defeat in the Premier League following the loss to Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

The hosts opened the scoring early on through a spectacular solo effort from Raheem Sterling, who caused problems for the Hatters' defence all evening.

A second goal for Mauricio Pochettino's men came in the 68th minute when Sterling once again finished well from a Malo Gusto cross before a third goal came in the form of a Nicolas Jackson tap-in seven minutes later.

Yet the goals for the home side – who included recent £115m signing Moises Caicedo in the middle of midfield – did not tell the full story of a game in which the Town had their moments.

The Hatters certainly did not disgrace themselves – in fact in the second half, with the score at 1-0, Rob Edwards' side were more than holding their own in the pursuit of an equaliser.

They came close too just after the hour mark when a well-worked move fashioned an opportunity for Ryan Giles to drive a low, left-foot shot goalwards that stung the palms of home goalkeeper Robert Sánchez.

Being ruthless in both boxes is something Edwards said after the game the Town need to improve on and that was evident soon after that missed opportunity when Sterling pounced for his second just moments later.

Throughout the match the Hatters faithful of over 3,000 had sung their hearts out in the backing of the team, and that support continued well after the final whistle. As the Chelsea fans streamed out content with three points, the Town following stayed behind to salute their heroes' efforts with a wonderful, and emotional, display of defiance that will live long in the memory.



Stamford Bridge – 25th August 2023

Blues: Sánchez, Disasi, Thiago Silva, Colwill, Gusto, Chilwell (Maatsen 86); Gallagher, Caicedo, Sterling (Burstow 90+2), Fernández, Jackson (Ugochukwu 83).

Hatters: Kaminski; Kaboré (Doughty 70), Giles, Burke (Andersen 77), Locyker, Bell; Nakamba, Barkley (Mpanzu 77), Chong (Ogbene 77); Morris, Adebayo (Brown 70).

SCORERS:

Chelsea – Sterling 17, 68, Jackson 75





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CHELSEA REACTION

It may be a case of learning the hard way, but Carlton Morris insists he will continue to relish the lessons he is currently undertaking against international class defenders like Thiago Silva in Friday's game at Chelsea.

The former Norwich and Barnsley striker made history in the opening day fixture at Brighton by scoring the Town's first Premier League goal, and although his only sight of the target in the 3-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge was a second-half 25-yarder that flew well over the bar, he was not downhearted.

"It's a bit different for me, but I'm learning fast and when my chances come, I'm going to take them," said the 27-year-old when asked about coming up against the likes of Brazilian star Silva.

"We are quite resilient, our heads don't drop," he added about the team as whole. "We stay in the game, no matter the score. We have a lot of respect for the teams in this division, but we don't have any fear. We are not going to stop until the final whistle."

Morris says the Hatters will be fully prepared for more tests in the Premier League – starting tonight against West Ham.

"I fully support every single player in our dressing room and our coaching staff, I know we'll go on and get results this season," he told Sky Sports after last Friday's loss. "It's been a difficult start, a bit of a reality check for us really."

"This is the big time now, but that's what we play football for. I love it and can't wait to get going for the next one already."

He also paid tribute to the 3,000 travelling Town supporters who gave the players and staff a rousing ovation after the final whistle in south-west London.

"I want to say something about the fans," said Morris. "Honestly, the first two away games this season they have been unbelievable, absolutely outstanding."

"It puts a smile on my face even though it's a tough result, going over at the end there, they are absolutely bouncing and these people work hard to pay their hard-earned money to come and watch us play, so we are never going to give up, no matter what." 



WELCOME WEST HAM UNITED

BY ZAC NEAL

Tonight, the Town face West Ham United at Kenilworth Road for the first time in 29 years. The Hammers have begun the season in great form and have recorded two wins and a draw in their opening three matches.

The Irons travelled to AFC Bournemouth in their first game, and they drew 1-1 after a tight match at the Vitality Stadium. They later beat rivals Chelsea 3-1 at the London Stadium in a massive win for the Hammers. Nayef Aguerd, Michail Antonio and Lucas Paqueta were all on the scoresheet against the Blues.

Most recently, the Hammers won at Brighton 3-1 with new signing James Ward-Prowse scoring his first goal for the club. Jarrod Bowen and Antonio were also on target as they left the Amex Stadium with all three points.

This year has been a big one in West Ham's history as the Irons won their first piece of

European silverware. The Hammers beat Fiorentina 2-1 in the final of the UEFA Conference League thanks to a Said Benrahma penalty and a last-minute Jarrod Bowen winner.

Manager David Moyes has made some eye-catching summer signings so far. They signed Edson Alvarez, Ward-Prowse, Kostantinos Mavropanos and Mohamed Kudus. Alvarez and Kudus were both signed from Ajax, whereas Mavropanos joined from VFB Stuttgart and Ward-Prowse arrived from relegated Southampton.

The Town have a few former Hammers in their squad. Dan Potts, Reece Burke and Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu all spent time with West Ham at some point in their career.

On behalf of everyone at Luton Town, a big welcome to everyone associated with the London Stadium club to Kenilworth Road this evening.

MEET THE HAMMERS

THE BOSS



DAVID MOYES.

Vastly experienced manager now in his second spell in charge of the Hammers. Made

his name at Preston before enjoying 11 seasons of success at Everton. That led to a spell at Manchester United before jobs at Real Sociedad and Sunderland.

GOALKEEPER



ALPHONSE AREOLA.

French international Alphonse arrived from Fulham in 2021. Previously with PSG and Real Madrid, he helped the Iron to the Europa League semi-finals in 2022 before lifting the Conference League last term.

DEFENDERS

NAYEF AGUERD. Quick, elegant, left-sided defender who joined from Rennes last summer. Capped by Morocco at international level, helping them to the World Cup semi-final last winter.

VLADIMÍR COUFAL. Whole-hearted and versatile Czech international full-back who has become a fans' favourite since joining the Hammers from Slavia Prague in 2020.

EMERSON PALMIERI.

Decorated left-sided full-back or wing-back who joined in the summer of 2022. Previously with Roma and Chelsea, the defender has won a host of top European honours at club and international level.



KURT ZOUMA.

Central defender and France international who joined the Irons from Chelsea in 2021 where he won two Premier League titles and the Champions League.

MIDFIELDERS

PABLO FORNALS. Spanish international and creative playmaker who signed for the Hammers in June 2019. Came through the Malaga academy and joined the Iron from Villarreal.

LUCAS PAQUETÁ. Brazilian international who arrived at London Stadium for a reported £50m in August 2022 from Lyon. A technically superb and gifted midfielder, he also starred for Flamengo and AC Milan.

TOMÁŠ SOUČEK. Strong and physical Czech international who arrived in January 2020 from Slavia Prague, where he won two Czech league titles.

JAMES WARD-PROWSE.

Recent acquisition from Southampton after 343 Premier League appearances for the Saints. An England international and an expert from dead ball situations.

ATTACKERS



MICHAIL ANTONIO.

Long-serving forward who joined the Irons from Nottingham Forest in 2015. Worked his way up through non-league and EFL to now become the Hammers' all-time leading goalscorer.

SÄÏD BENRAHMA. Algerian international who signed from Brentford after 50 goal involvements in two seasons with the Bees. Scored the Hammers' opening goal in the Conference League final in June.



JARROD BOWEN.

The man who scored the winner against Fiorentina to give West Ham the European title. Joined in January 2020 from Hull and has played non-league football with Hereford as a teenager.

DANNY INGS. Proven Premier League frontman who signed in January this year from Aston Villa. An England international, he has scored goals for Bournemouth, Burnley, Villa and Southampton in the top-flight.

VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD END

WEST HAM FAN STELIOS KYRIACOS EXPLAINS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A HAMMERS FAN AND TALK ABOUT HIS LOVE FOR UPTON PARK AND ALAN DEVONSHIRE

Stelios Kyriacos is one of the lucky ones. A West Ham fan who has a ticket for Oak Road end tonight.

“It’s my first ever first to Kenilworth Road and I’m looking forward to it.”

Stelios has good reason to treat his experience here this evening with anticipation: it will transport him back to a time when football was different and remind him of the times he was watching his beloved Hammers at Upton Park.

“The last season at the old Boleyn Ground was incredible, I loved that place and that’s why I’m so excited for this game at Kenilworth Road,” he continues. “Upton Park was a compact ground, you were right on top of the players and the atmosphere was electric at times – and the one thing we miss with the new stadium. So it’ll be nice to come to an away game like this where we’ll be able to experience that again with Kenilworth Road begin similarly close to the pitch. We had a great time at Upton Park – it was a proper old-school fashioned football ground – you could reach out and touch the players and the players could hear what you shouted at them. It’ll be the same tonight and I’m looking forward to that.”

Although he was brought up in north west London and with no family ties to the club, Stelios chose the Hammers in the wake of

England’s 1966 World Cup triumph, given the number of Irons’ players in Alf Ramsey’s squad.

“Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst, Martin Peters... I thought to myself ‘I fancy being fans of them,’” he says. “We were also known as the Academy of Football and that sounded good to me. It was tough to get to games, travelling across London 40-50 years ago, and I’d often have to cover up my West Ham scarf until I’d passed King’s Cross.”

For Stelios, the Hammers’ reputation of bringing through their own players and playing “the West Ham way” has affected expectations over the years.

“The problem with us is there’s always that hope that we can get to the next level – there’s this perpetual feeling that we’re always the bridesmaids – a team that always threatens to deliver more,” he says. “We always want more. We’ve had success but we believe we can’t quite push on and build on that.”



**An aerial view of Upton Park's last match
for the visit of Manchester United**



"The best example of this was last season – we finished the season before in seventh and reached the Europa League semi-finals – but we were in a relegation battle for much of the season. Having spent £160m that summer our expectation was high but we never pushed on that seems to be our story.

"Also, given our tag of the 'Academy of Football' we've had so many players come through – the likes of Rio Ferdinand and Frank Lampard – but they've always moved on and there's this case of 'what might have been' had they stayed."

All said and done, though, life as a Hammers follower has parallels with that of Town fans: "a rollercoaster" says Stelios.

"Life is never dull supporting West Ham," he laughs. "For me though it's all about passion. There are friendships you build through the club. We are a family club and I would never want to use that – which I think we might if we were bought out by an oil barren or something."

FAVOURITE GAME:

"Our last at Upton Park against Manchester United. 1-0 up, 2-1 down. We won 3-2. The perfect ending to our time there. An incredible occasion. Prague for last season's Conference League final is also up there."

FAVOURITE PLAYER:

"Without a doubt, Alan Devonshire. He came out of nowhere from non-league. Had flair, style, grace, everything. If he played in the Premier League now he'd be worth £80m, no doubt."

MEMORIES OF LUTON:

"John Hartson played for both of us, didn't he? When we signed him he played up front with Paul Kitson and their goals saved us from relegation. Iain Dowie was another... he gave his all and if you do that, you'll get the love."

Stelios runs his own YouTube channel, check it out at youtube.com/westhamvoice

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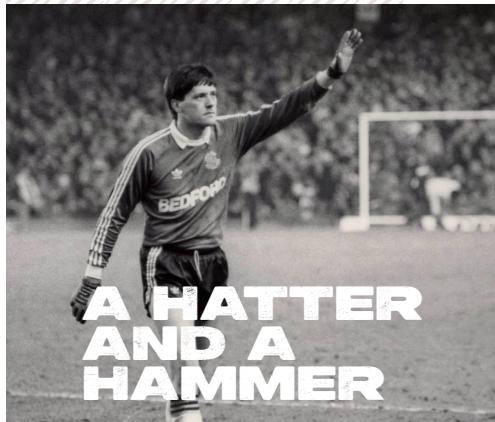


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A HATTER AND A HAMMER

A marvellous goalkeeper for nine different League clubs over a 20-year playing career, Les is warmly remembered at Luton where he made over 200 appearances in undoubtedly the best ever Hatters side in the club's history.

Although a Londoner, the brave, positive and loud goalkeeper started his career as an apprentice at Coventry before moving to Luton in 1983 for £120,000. He missed out on the 1988 Littlewoods Cup triumph through injury but was between the sticks for the Town at Wembley 12 months later.

After leaving Kenilworth Road for Manchester United, he added both an FA Cup winners medal and a European Cup Winners Cup medal to his collection.

Les finished his playing career back home at West Ham but sadly died in 2001 at the young age of 43.



GREAT GAMES

Many classic Luton games involve a 3-2 scoreline and the Town's meeting with West Ham on a cold spring night in 1994 at the old girl was no different.

With the prize an FA Cup semi-final at Wembley, the Hatters and the Hammers played out a memorable five-goal thriller in front of the Sky cameras. We'd take that again tonight.

Scott Oakes was the Town hero on this particular evening with an unforgettable treble that

fired David Pleat's side to the last four of the cup. Twice the Hatters led thanks to Oakes, only for the Hammers to level on both occasions. With the game delicately poised, Oakes capitalised on a mistake from Steve Potts (yes, that's Dan's dad) to bring the house down.

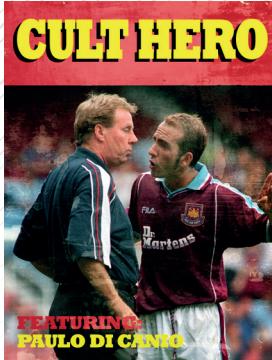
At the final whistle Oakes was mobbed by a small pitch invasion and held aloft as he took acclaim from the Town ranks. Oakes' dad Trevor was a member of the band Showaddywaddy, adding to our useless-knowledge-about-past-Luton-players database. You're welcome.



CLASSIC KIT



The Hammers' claret and blue colours lends itself to some belting kits. Like this one, the home shirt from 1989/90 effort from Bukta and sponsored by BAC Windows.



CULT HERO

Second in the list of the Hammers' all-time Premier League goalscorers is **Paolo Di Canio**. His 47 goals in 118 top-flight games only tells half the story of a man who cost the Irons just £1.5m. Scorer and creator, he was taken into the hearts of Hammers fans everywhere not just for his performances on the pitch but by just being Paolo.



MIKE SAXBY HEADS IN THE
TOWN'S SECOND GOAL

CLASSIC MATCH



**HATTERS HISTORIAN
ROGER WASH LOOKS
BACK ON THE TIME THE
HATTERS HUMBLED
THE HAMMERS
AT UPTON PARK**

**20TH OCTOBER 1979.
WEST HAM UNITED 1-2 LUTON TOWN**

David Pleat had not enjoyed his first full season in charge at Kenilworth Road.

His new look side had suffered injury crisis after injury crisis and by the spring of 1979 the Town looked odds on to be relegated to the old Division Three after a spell of nine years away.

Only the return to the side of a semi-fit David Moss and a string of own goals kindly conceded by the opposition as the season drew to a close, enabled the Hatters to struggle clear of the drop at the death.

Pleat had always said that the job of stabilising the side was likely to be a three-year exercise and having survived his first 12

months he wanted to push on, praying that he would enjoy a more injury free campaign.

Several fringe players were allowed to leave over the summer of 1979 leaving spaces for a couple of big money signings by Luton standards. Big centre-half Mike Saxby came from Mansfield for £200,000 and Republic of Ireland midfielder Tony Greasham was picked up from Orient for £150,000. Orient had originally wanted £350,000 for their star player but the canny Pleat, in one of the first transfer tribunals, played the system to his advantage which he was to do many times over the coming years.

The new season did not start particularly well with a two-leg defeat at the hands of



**NUMBER 1 ON THIS DAY:
LENA MARTELL
ONE DAY AT A TIME**

Gillingham in the League Cup and a dull home draw with Cambridge on the opening day.

Three days later came a 3-2 defeat at Bristol Rovers, with soon-to-be-a-Hatter Steve White scoring twice for the Pirates, and many Luton supporters were fearful that it was going to be another season of struggle.

Orient were then seen off 2-1 at Kenilworth Road in non-too convincing fashion before the Town faced a trip to bogey side Leicester, scene of a 3-0 hammering the season before.

Those Luton supporters who travelled to Filbert Street were amazed by the sudden transformation. Future champions and early pacesetters Leicester had taken the interest of the 'Match of the Day' cameras, but it was the Town who took the nation's eye with a commanding performance and a resounding 3-1 win.

After a 5-0 home win over newly promoted Swansea the following week the Town sat proudly on top of the Division Two (now Championship) table. At last David Pleat could feel vindicated regarding his attacking style of football although he would have been the first to agree that a settled, injury free squad helped his cause!

Although a couple of draws knocked the Hatters off top spot, fine home wins over Bristol Rovers, with wily veteran Bob Hatton netting a hat-trick, and Sunderland, with David Moss putting in a master show in front of the cameras, kept the team in the chasing pack.

What was sure to be a stern test was next up with a visit to highly fancied West Ham where the Town had not won in the League since 1953. The Hammers were on a six-game unbeaten run and a crowd of 25,079 gathered at Upton Park to see the run extended.

While the Hammers were without the likes of Trevor Brooking and Alan Devonshire the Town were missing the injured Hatton with Godfrey Ingram given a rare run out in his place.

Without an outlet up front, the Hatters needed to keep the ball on the floor at speed and for the first 45 minutes the passing was smooth and accurate and cut the West Ham defence to shreds. Full-back Kirk Stephens, on the overlap, went close with an angled drive as the Town marked their early superiority before the lead was taken in the 16th minute. A corner from Moss was sent to the far side of the penalty area where it was knocked back by Paul Price to Brian Stein who hooked in his first goal since the previous April.

Ingram then headed narrowly wide, before the lead was doubled on 35 minutes when a free-kick from Moss was headed home by Saxby who had lost his marker.

As expected, West Ham started the second half like an express train and put the Luton defence under a fair amount of pressure but just as the Hammers seemed to be running out of steam Paul Allen cracked in a spectacular drive for the home side from the edge of the area.

With everyone in the ground expecting West Ham to throw the kitchen sink at the Luton defence it was the Town who regained control and, although the Hammers fans did not approve of the constant back passing and 'management of the game', the two points were safely won and with the victory a place back at the top of the table. 

TOWN: Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, West, Stein, Ingram, Moss.

WEST HAM: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Martin, Bonds, Holland, Allen, Pike, Neighbour, Lansdowne, Cross.

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ON THIS DAY

1ST SEPTEMBER

Do any of these games strike a chord with you?

THE RECORD

Let's get one thing straight early on: just because a team has won more than it's lost or lost more than it's won on a certain day in history, doesn't mean that the sequence will follow suit. We're saying this as a caveat because the Hatters have only lost six in 30 times on 1st September in history. Omens are good, then – but it doesn't mean a thing. After all, the Town couldn't win any of five games on this day between 1898 and 1909. Two of those were defeats, so that's just four defeats in 25! Overall, it's won 13, drawn 11, lost six, scored 56 and conceded 40.



MEMORABLE WIN!

LUTON 6-1 CARLISLE. 1st SEPTEMBER 1973

The Hatters score at will, led by new signing from Crusaders, Tom Finney. The Town are 6-0 in front at the interval with John Aston's volley the pick of the bunch. Understandably, the Town are unable to continue the onslaught in the second half. Peter Anderson also grabs a brace while Barry Butlin is on target.

Town: Horn, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, John Ryan, Jimmy Ryan, Butlin, Finney, Aston.

TOP-FLIGHT TOWN

It might have escaped the attention of a few onlookers, but this season isn't the Town's first top-flight gig. The Hatters have played three times on this day in history, winning twice and losing once, don't you know.

In the first, back in 1956, the Hatters humbled Manchester City in the old First Division at Kenilworth Road. 21,648 witnessed the Town secure a 3-2 victory thanks to goals from Gordon Turner, Jim Pemberton and Jimmy Adam.

We'll say less about the 4-0 defeat at the Hawthorns against West Brom in 1984 but more on a 2-1 win against Southampton six years later. Denmark international striker Lars Elstrup steered home a Julian James pass before steering home from Tim Breaker's cross to make it 2-0. Although the Saints pulled one back the Hatters held on for an important three points on the road.



BEST OF THE REST

The Town drew 1-1 with Wycombe in League One in our last outing on this day in 2018, Matty Pearson on target.

Two matches took place in the Conference on this day and both were wins. A 3-0 success over Crawley in 2009 – including a George Pilkington brace – was followed three years later by a 4-1 win over Macclesfield. Stuart Fleetwood, Scott Rendell, Andre Gray and Jake Howells earned the Town a routine win over the Silkmen in 2012.

Another notable win came on this day in 1970 when a Malcolm Macdonald inspired Town earned a 4-0 win over Oxford in the Second Division (now Championship).

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

All eyes on the ball during the Kenilworth Road clash with the Hammers in September 1958. West Ham, newly promoted to the top-flight, were beaten 4-1 in front of a crowd of 25,715. Two goals from Gordon Turner and one each from Allan Brown and Dave Pacey maintained the Town's unbeaten start to the season. John Groves (left) and Allan Brown watch on with West Ham trio Ken Brown, John Bond and goalkeeper Ernie Gregory.





AROUND TOWN



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A very happy birthday to **Caolan Barrett**, who celebrates his 16th birthday tomorrow.

Lots of love from Dad.



Also a happy birthday to **Reece Nico Kenyon** who turns 15 tomorrow. His dad Elliott tells us this is Reece's 11th year as a season ticket holder – he first season the Town finished 99th in the football pyramid... and now look where we are.

We hope you've enjoyed the ride, Reece!



REST IN PEACE LES HAWES

The Hatters were saddened to hear the passing of long-time loyal Town fan Les Hawes before the semi-final second leg against Sunderland, here pictured.

"He had been going to Luton Town games for 78 years," says Matt McGrath, Les' nephew. "He started going when he was seven years old, living next to the ground in Ivy Road. My Uncle got my first season ticket when I was 8 (1984). We were both season ticket holders in the main stand enclosure. The photo I've attached is my uncle with my son, Ewan, at his first Luton game."

OUR PREMIER LEAGUE PROGRAMME

Given this is our first full edition of this season's programme – a welcome to you from the editorial team. If you have any shoutouts to include, feel free to email media@lutontown.co.uk.

WELCOME OUR SPONSORS FOR 2023/24

Over the summer we were delighted to announce three sponsorship agreements.

Utilita will adorn the front of the Town as front of shirt sponsors this season, with local food poverty and fuel charities are set to benefit.

The agreement will see Utilita's charity arm **Utilita Giving** donate £2 of every Hatters shirt sold this season to local charities, including Luton Foodbank.

The deal also represents the biggest sponsorship agreement in the Club's history and will see Utilita adorn the front of all three of the playing shirts.

Hatters CEO Gary Sweet said: "Loyal relationships in the world of football business can often be difficult to find and then preserve, so we are immensely proud to announce this agreement which will also aid three charities who undertake magnificent support to those in need in our local community.

"While this represents a landmark shirt sponsorship deal in our long history, we feel it is important to recognise the strength of the relationship we have fostered together with Utilita over the past eight years.

"Therefore, it gives us great pleasure in knowing that a partnership – which began in League Two – will continue in the top-flight next season."

Meanwhile, mobility super app **FREENOW** are the the Club's first official shirt sleeve sponsor and will have their name on the sleeves on the home, away and third shirts.

Finally, there will be a new, but familiar and local name across the front of the Hatters' training wear throughout the forthcoming Premier League season after the Club agreed a deal with global travel and leisure company **TUI**, to be training wear sponsors.

The Town's distinctive new training wear for 2023/24 will feature TUI's iconic smile logo across the front of the tops for training as well as those used during pre-match warm-ups. The deal extends across the Club's youth and women's teams.





Umbro x Percival

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CHANGES YOU NEED TO KNOW!



Plenty has changed inside Kenilworth Road on the pitch with 10 new faces, but what else is new for you to take note of this season?

Well, the rules of the game have been tweaked and it's important you know this before you begin to berate a poor linesman within earshot (yes, you in the enclosure).

The Premier League is aligning with the latest guidelines from the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

TIMEKEEPING

This is one thing you'll for sure notice. As you may have seen already, the clocks on scoreboards are running beyond the 90-minute mark. No longer do you need to look at your watch or set a timer on your phone to keep-up with the additional minutes added. Just look at the scoreboard. Good, eh?

The officials are also instructed to ensure a more accurate calculation of this added time – as well as improving the amount of time the ball is in play with the intention of cutting the amount of time wasting.

This means, when a goal is scored, or there are substitutes, injuries penalties or red cards, the watch is stopped.

FOULS, CHALLENGES AND OFFENSES

There will also be a tweak to the interpretation where a player commits a foul in their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (aka DOGSO) and leads to a penalty.

The referee will now issue a yellow card not only for when the offence was an attempt to play the ball, but also if it's "a challenge for the ball".

A red card will be shown in all other circumstances, such as holding, pulling, pushing – where there was no possibility to play the ball.

When it comes to the terms of offside, the IFAB and FIFA have also cleaned up the guidelines for determining what's "deliberate play" - i.e. when a defender is considered to be in control of the ball – whether this be passing, attempting to gain possession or clearing it.



New Premier League referee Tim Robinson.

When such "deliberate play" takes place – the attacking player in this instance will not be offside.

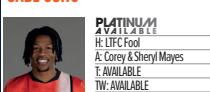
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GABE OSHO



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AVAILABLE
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A: Corey & Sheryl Mayes
T: AVAILABLE
TW: AVAILABLE

DAN POTTS



PLATINUM
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H: Douie Knight
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE
TW: AVAILABLE

TOM LOCKYER



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A: You'll Never Take the Maple
T: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd
TW: AVAILABLE

MADS ANDERSEN



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H: HIB Ltd

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A: Liz Evans
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TW: AVAILABLE

ALLAN CAMPBELL



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TIM KRUL



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THOMAS KAMINSKI



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RYAN GILES



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AMARI'I BELL



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MATT MACEY



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ALFIE DOUGHTY



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A:

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H: AVAILABLE
A:

SIMON PARSELL



H: Bobbers Travel Club
A:

A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS

The Hatters spent five seasons in the non-League wilderness after being cruelly relegated in 2009 until a final glorious promotion under John Still in 2014. All part of our rich history which should never be forgotten!

Regular opponents at Kenilworth Road over the years, **Aldershot** dropped back to non-league in 2013 just as we were finally about to escape. In the first clash in October that year at the Recreation Ground we went ahead twice in the first half only for the Shots to take advantage of uncharacteristic woeful defending to lead at the break.

It was left to substitute Shaun Whalley to win and convert a late penalty to level the score but it was seen as two points dropped at that stage in the season with Cambridge ten points ahead at the top.

By the time of the return in early April, The Town were closing in on the title, but Hatters fans had to wait until the 85th minute for Cameron McGeehan to net his first Luton goal and secure a valuable win.

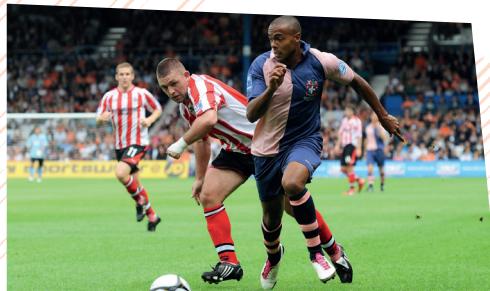
The Town met **Alfreton** in our final three seasons in non-League and despite winning all three home games comfortably we struggled in our first two visits to the Impact Arena, drawing 0-0 in 2011/12 and then suffering an embarrassing 3-0 defeat the following year. In the latter game, the Hatters were bullied and outfought by a physical side who had yet to win at home whereas we enjoyed a 100 per cent away record. The 768 Luton fans in a crowd of 1,392 were less than pleased!

All was forgotten as in the following season the Town scored four times in the opening 20 minutes in a display of fast attacking football that would have graced a far higher division. The final score was 5-0 and this time the 649 loyal Luton supporters went home happy.

We came up against **Altrincham** in our first two seasons out of the Football League. Goals from Tom Craddock and Alex Lawless secured two consecutive 1-0 away wins while at Kenilworth Road a 0-0 end of season home draw, as the team prepared for the play-offs, was followed by a narrow 2-1 win on the opening day of the following campaign. Debutant Zdenek Kroca and a late winner from Matthew Barnes-Homer got the season off to a winning start. 



A young Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu battles for the ball during the 5-0 win at Alfreton in December 2013



Matthew Barnes-Homer in action against Altrincham

LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

An update on an incredibly busy summer

While we're delighted to have football back at Kenilworth Road, it never really went away at Luton Town FC Community Trust, as we near the end of an action-packed summer.

Our coaches have been extremely busy delivering holiday camps to young people across Luton and the surrounding areas. Our holiday camps focus on allowing young people to play the sport they love in a positive, safe and supportive environment.

We welcome experienced players who would like to learn new skills and fine tune their technique, whilst simultaneously offering complete beginners the chance to play the game for the very first time.

There has certainly been a lot of excitement amongst the youngsters about the club's Premier League campaign, with a clear rise in the number of Hatters shirts on display!

Attendees of some of our camps had the added bonus of a visit from a television crew. ITV came to our Dunstable Camp to speak to Community Trust Director, Kerry Downes, about the excitement building in the community prior to the start of the season. Similarly, BBC spoke to several of our youngsters and Community Trust Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds about how much the club's successes on the pitch mean to the community.

In addition to our regular football camps, we have also been running government funded Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) camps. The HAF camps are part of a national programme, aimed at offering free activity and childcare provision over the school holidays for those in receipt of income related free school meals. In addition, every child has also received a free hot meal each day.

Community Trust Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds, said: "We take pride in the fact that our camps are open to all, whether you've been playing football for a few years or just taking your first steps in the game, everyone is welcome.

"We love creating a sense of community where everyone feels supported by our coaches, as well as their peers, and seeing new friendships form. The club's Premier League campaign has been a hot topic amongst our young people and it's clear to see how proud they are of the Hatters' achievements on the pitch."

Our camps will return for October half-term and will be bookable through the Community Trust website in the coming weeks
www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk.





NEW PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHED

Luton Town FC Community Trust and Queen Elizabeth School Luton are delighted to announce a new partnership.

As part of the partnership, Luton Town FC Community Trust will take on all curriculum football delivery for the whole school as well launching a new post-16 qualification for the school, the Education and Football Development programme.

Staff members from Luton Town FC Community Trust will be based at the school throughout term time, working with key stages 3 and 4.

Community Trust Director, Kerry Downes, said: "We're extremely excited to begin our partnership with Queen Elizabeth School. It's our privilege to work with a school that shares our passion and vision for high quality sports delivery. We are proud of the positive community impact our presence has led to in other settings.

"When coupled with the first-class sports facilities onsite, we are looking forward

to building upon the excellent reputation Queen Elizabeth School has for sports delivery."

The Post-16 Education and Football Development programme mirrors the qualification the trust already runs alongside Chalk Hills Academy, allowing students the opportunity to study A-Levels alongside football development.

The aim is to open up pathways for a wide range of career opportunities in the sports industry, as well as offering high level football coaching and taking part in fixtures against representative teams from other clubs, allowing our students the opportunity to reach their full potential on the pitch as well as off it.

There are still a few spaces available on our Education and Football Development programme, both at Queen Elizabeth School and Chalk Hills Academy. More information is available at www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk/post-16 or by emailing EFD@lutontown.co.uk

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YOUTH TEAM UPDATE

SEASON BEGINS WITH TWO WINS FROM THREE.

Six points and 11 goals has been the return for the Hatters Under-18s as Alex Lawless' side kicked off the new season with gusto in their quest to emulate last season's league and cup double.

In their opening match of the new campaign six second half goals saw off the challenge of Milton Keynes.

They opened the scoring early in the second half when centre back Christian Chigozie found the target. Midfielder Marcus Warren score twice in a ten-minute spell to get the lead to 3-0 and it was four when midfielder Jack Lorentzen-Jones capitalised on poor goalkeeping and substitute Charlie Trustram made it five with a close range rabona after aggressive pressing forced a defensive mistake. Lorentzen-Jones got his second and the Town's sixth with a powerful drive.

Coach Alex Lawless said: "We played like a team who worked for one another – something we really wanted and hence why we dominated the whole game. In the end ruthlessness was probably the most impressive, it's not often ten men are beaten 6-0."

There wasn't six goals but four more were added in a 4-1 win over Cambridge in their second game. Benedict Benagr opened the scoring and the lead was then doubled seven minutes before half-time when Tate Xavier-Jones found the target.

Hatters keeper Lucas Thomas kept Cambridge at bay with some fine saves and it was 3-0 on the hour when Matthew Takawira was fouled

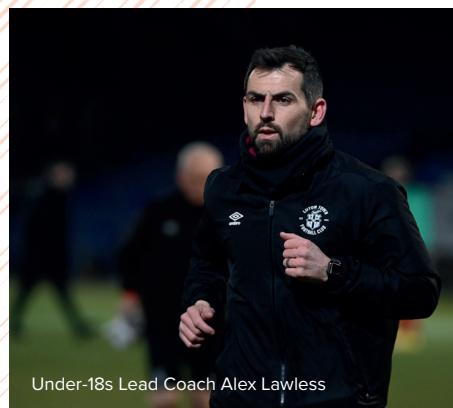
in the box and Xavier-Jones coolly dispatched the resultant penalty.

The U's pulled one back but the Town youngsters made the game safe when Lorentzen-Jones forced home at the near post.

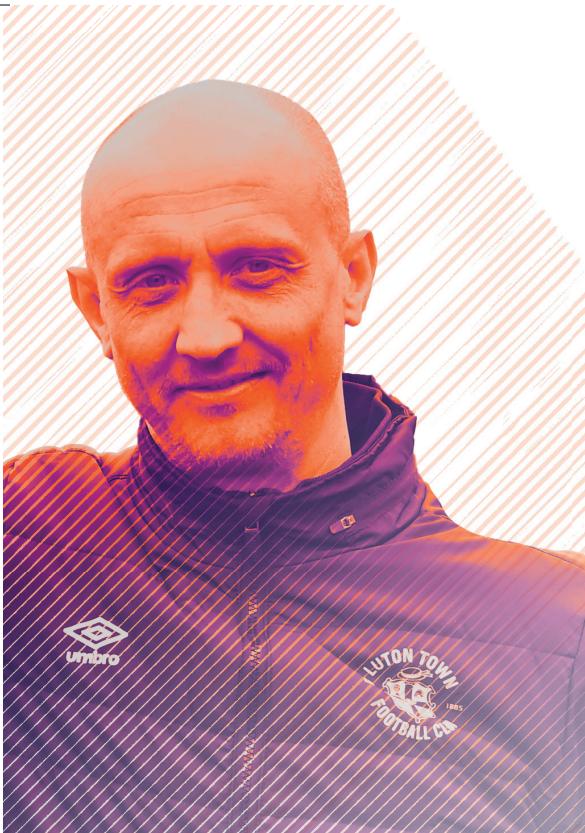
"It was another professional performance from the lads," said Lawless. "We wanted to continue where we left off from the previous game so I'm delighted that we were able to find the target four more times."

The winning run to start the season was ended last Saturday when the youngsters went down 2-1 to Northampton at the Brache. Xavier-Jones was on target for the Town – his third goal of the season.

Lawless' side are next action in the Youth Alliance away to Sutton on 16th September.



Under-18s Lead Coach Alex Lawless



ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH PAUL BENSON

Good evening everyone and welcome back to the first league game this season under the lights at the new look Kenilworth Road!

Like everyone associated with the club, I'm looking forward to tonight and hoping we can start our home campaign with three points. One of my first memories of watching live football was standing in the Oak Road end at Kenilworth Road as an away supporter following tonight's opponents! March 1994 was the date, as a spotty 14-year-old, I witnessed a Scott Oakes masterclass in an FA Cup sixth round replay, with the Hatters progressing into the next round with a 3-2 win! I remember the vociferous atmosphere vividly, something you always get at Kenilworth Road regardless of the attendance. That kind of atmosphere, and some, will be required at home this season. Not many sides will fancy playing here with the fans on top of them giving their full backing to the Hatters side.

To even be competing as equals with the likes of West Ham and Chelsea shows how far this club has come in recent years, an amazing achievement by all involved and thoroughly deserved. That day at Wembley in May will live long in my memory. My son was watching with me in the crowd, in only his second ever game of football, and by the end, like the rest of us he had tears of joy.

ACADEMY WHO'S WHO

Academy Manager: **Paul Benson**
Head of Academy Development: **Wayne Turner**
U9-16 Head of Coaching: **Dan Walder**
U21 Lead Coach: **Adrian Forbes**
U18 Lead Coach: **Alex Lawless**
Academy Operations Manager: **Dale Brunton**
Academy Administrator: **Emily Howes**
Youth Development Phase Lead Coach (15-16): **Craig Alcock**
Youth Development Phase Lead Coach (12-14): **Jack Cartwright**
Foundation Phase Lead Coach: **Billy Carter**
Head of Academy Recruitment: **Lee Cowley**
Academy Scout: **Kevin Thoburn**
Head of Education: **Kobie Dee**
Academy Safeguarding Manager: **Stuart Cornish**
Player Care Officer: **Wayne Polson**
Lead Academy Analyst: **Michael Malone**
Academy Head of Goalkeeping: **Albert Bell**
Academy Goalkeeping Coach: **Frank Atwell**
Senior Academy Physiotherapist (18-21): **Oliver Sharples**
Senior Academy Physiotherapist (12-16): **Connor Wright**
Lead Academy Sports Therapist: **Paige Simms**
Lead Academy Sports Scientist: **Daniel Taylor**

In terms of the Academy, our challenge became greater after the final whistle at Wembley. We are now working to produce Premier League quality players for our first team. In all honesty, that's what our aim has always been regardless of the league the first team are playing in, it just means our margin of error, (for getting a player in team) is now zero.

The benefits for the Academy have increased now we are a member of the elite. Entries into tournaments range from the Premier League Welcome Festival for our Under-9s, right up to the Under-21 Premier League Cup, where we have been drawn in a group alongside Chelsea and Leeds. We're looking forward to rubbing shoulders with Category 1 opposition as well as showcasing the talent we feel we have within our Academy, which is going from strength to strength, thanks to the wonderful backing from the board.

It's been great to welcome Kevin Foley back to the club. Having someone with a connection to Luton Town is something we have focused on for the last five years.

Going back to when I first came back to the Academy, I was the only coach who had previously played for the club and since then we have brought in Adrian Forbes (U21s coach), Alan McCormack (U18s coach, now successfully promoted to first team) and Alex Lawless (U18s coach) so it's something we are conscious of and the added bonus with Kev is that he has come through our Academy system so is brilliant for the kids to be able to tell his story.

He's also a brilliant coach and an even better person so we are very lucky to have him at the club. I must say congratulations to Alan McCormack on his promotion to the first team. While it's disappointing to lose him from the Academy it's great that his work has been recognised by the gaffer and it's no more than he deserves. His work rate and diligence within the Academy last year was second to none, having played with Macca I expected nothing less! The Academy's purpose in my opinion is not just creating

players for the first team, but also staff capable of progressing (which alongside Macca we have also seen our Academy Strength and Conditioning coach, Archie Johnson moved into the first team) so this is a sign we are doing something right at the moment.

The only silver lining in losing Macca was the opportunity to replace him with Alex Lawless. Laws, like Macca, has an amazing work ethic, is highly regarded by the Academy, and is the perfect replacement to lead our current group of under-18s.

Anyway, back to the game against West Ham and I hope it's another one that's added to the many 'classics' we've had at Kenilworth Road under the lights. Here's hoping someone in the starting eleven tonight can channel their inner Scott Oakes and produce some magic to help us claim a valuable three points!

COYH 

Benno

2023/24 ACADEMY FIXTURES & RESULTS

YOUTH U18

OPPONENT	RES	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 5/8/23 A	W 6-0	THOMAS	GIWA	CHIGOZIE	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 12/8/23 A	W 4-1	TRIALIST	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	WARREN
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 26/8/23 H	L 1-2					MARTINS	GIWA
CUP R2 TBC	SAT 9/9/23							
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 16/9/23 A							
STEVENAGE	SAT 23/9/23 H							
GILLINGHAM	SAT 30/9/23 H							
CUP R3 TBC	SAT 7/10/23							
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 14/10/23 A							
BRENTFORD	SAT 28/10/23 A							
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 4/11/23 H							
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 11/11/23 A							
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 18/11/23 H							
CUP R4 TBC	SAT 2/12/23							
STEVENAGE	SAT 9/12/23 A							
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 16/12/23 A							
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 6/1/24 H							
GILLINGHAM	SAT 13/1/24 A							
BRENTFORD	SAT 20/1/24 H							
CUP ASF	SAT 27/1/23							
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 3/2/24 A							
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 10/2/24 H							

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD U21

	TUE 22/8/23	A	W 4-3	TRIALIST A	FRANCIS-CLARKE	KAYIBANDA	JOHNSON	PINNINGTON	LUKER	WATSON
BRENTFORD B	TUE 29/8/23	A	W 2-1	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	GIWA	PIESOLD	BURGER
PETERBOROUGH UNITED	TUE 5/9/23	A								
QUEENS PARK RANGERS	TUE 12/9/23	A								
CHELSEA	TUE 19/9/23	A								
LEEDS UNITED	SUN 10/10/23	A								
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	TUE 17/10/23	H								
KEMPSTON ROVERS	TUE 24/10/23	H								
COLCHESTER UNITED	MON 13/11/23	A								
CHELSEA	TUE 12/12/23	H								
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 19/1/24	A								
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 2/2/24	H								

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD UPDATE WITH ADRIAN FORBES

It has been a very rewarding, challenging, and productive pre-Season for the U21 Development Squad.

Coming into the new season off the back of the first team getting promoted to the Premier League brought and new excitement to the players but also created the new challenge of developing the

players to a level to be able to perform and compete with Premier League players when and if they happen to get the call from Rob Edwards.

The players had seen their teammate Joe Johnson make his first team debut last season and all players came back to training were fresh in the knowledge that if they apply themselves in training and show the correct attitude and work ethic then opportunities can arise in the same way that they did for Joe.



ACADEMY

WARREN ⚽	LORENTZEN-JONES ⚽	XAVIER-JONES	HOUGHTON	SUBS
LORENTZEN-JONES ⚽	TRISTRAM	XAVIER-JONES ⚽	TAKAWIRA	TRISTRAM ⚽, TAKAWIRA, IOANNIDES, ROBERTS-DEEMA, BOOTH
IOANNIDES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRISTRAM	XAVIER-JONES ⚽	MARTINS, IOANNIDES, HARVEY, ROUTH, DEAN, TRIALIST, PIPA, ODEGAH, HOUGHTON, HARVEY, WARREN,

BURGER ⚽	NEWTON	TRIALIST B ⚽	MCATEE	HORLICK, MATTHEWS-LEWIS, HERON, ALLEN, PIESOLD, LYNCH
LUKER ⚽	NEWTON	LYNCH	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HERON ⚽, PHILLIPS, BOOTH, PIPA, TRIALIST

The academy coaching staff have been working hard with the players at The Brache to help them gain a good understanding of a new formation, this learning will bring them in line with the first and help with each player's transition into the first team environment when and if the opportunity arises.

Over the course, during pre-season we have tried to find the right mix of games for the players, that will hopefully test and stretch their development.

The squad has faced a variety of different opposition from non-league teams to Category 1 academy teams and this has thrown up a variety of different challenges and the results have also been varied.

Over the course of the pre-season schedule we have won seven games, losing three times and drawing once.

These games have been excellent for the players' development and has also given the coaching staff some key areas to work on both individually and as a team.

Getting the opportunity to test ourselves against the likes of Arsenal, Fulham and Brentford has been brilliant for all players and staff and the fact that we have pushed these teams closely for 90 minutes suggests that these players have a bright future. 



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THE NEXT GENERATION SPEAKS



Level-headed youth team defender Claude Kayibanda has his eyes on one thing only.

Come the end of this season Claude Kayibanda just wants to hear one simple word.

'Yes'.

The 17-year-old defender is in the second year of his scholarship in the Town Under-18s, yet talks like he's a senior pro with 200 appearances under his belt. He knows the reality that faces all academy players the world over – that one day, there might be a 'no'.

This season, though, he's going to do all he can to get the latest positive answer that has followed him throughout his career so far in the Town academy.

"I don't think any player is ever prepared for being told 'no,'" he tells us. "It'll always be a shock to many players, especially young academy players."

"I've been here since I was a 12-year-old. I've always been told 'yes'. That is something that motivates me here. To continue to get a yes and reach a stage where I'm a professional and training with the first team."

Kayibanda had only just turned 17 when the Town clinched promotion to the Premier League in May – the third promotion the youngster has experienced since joining the club.

"It's been insane really," he laughs. "To see the team's progression is amazing. We were in League Two when I arrived and now we're in the Prem! It's been great to see it unfold, being here on the inside and being involved."

"The changes I've seen and our rise up the leagues – like the stadium, the training facilities and the playing squad – has been a great experience for me, especially at such a young age. Knowing the history of this club, a club I could make my debut for, is inspiring."

"When we won promotion at Wembley I was getting a lot of messages from family and friends. 'You're Premier League player now!' they were saying. Of course, it is a great feeling to be an academy player at a Premier League club and I am proud to be associated with this club, knowing that I have been here since we were in League Two."

With Rob Edwards known for his track record of nurturing young talent with England under-16s, under-20s and during his time with Wolves, Claude is hoping he can catch the first team boss' eye this term.

"I've spoken to Rob before and he's a great manager," he says. "It's exciting that he has that experience with younger players. You saw in pre-season he took some under-21s to Slovenia and that is a big motivation for me."

"I think clubs would prefer to bring through academy players rather than sign players for x amount – so hopefully Rob can watch me and I can show him what I'm capable of... all in good time, though." 

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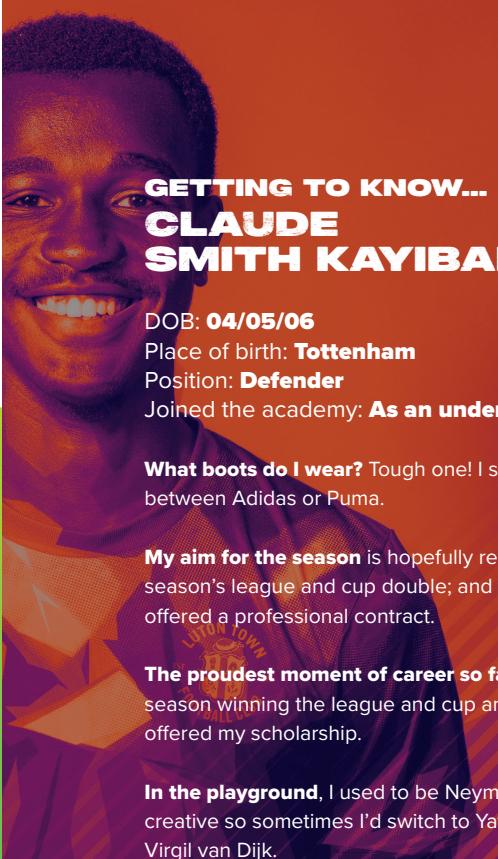
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GETTING TO KNOW...

CLAUDE SMITH KAYIBANDA

DOB: **04/05/06**

Place of birth: **Tottenham**

Position: **Defender**

Joined the academy: **As an under-13**

What boots do I wear? Tough one! I swap between Adidas or Puma.

My aim for the season is hopefully repeat last season's league and cup double; and to be offered a professional contract.

The proudest moment of career so far was Last season winning the league and cup and being offered my scholarship.

In the playground, I used to be Neymar. But I'm creative so sometimes I'd switch to Yaya Toure or Virgil van Dijk.

At school my favourite subject other than PE was maths. I'm not a nerd, but I'm good at it and I'm taking it A-Level.

A career outside of football would have to be down the maths route in either finance or statistics.

There's no way I can name one teammate of mine who is the most talented, they're all good in their own ways.

Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is Reece Burke. I clean his boots and we talk a lot about defending.

The best thing about Luton Town is how much of a community club it is, and how tight-knit the club is.

ACADEMY



THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Claude's a very reliable second-year scholar who has played a few times with the under-21s this summer with Adrian Forbes. We've challenged him to bring that back to the under-18s, which he's starting to do.

"He's aggressive and always wants to win his duels. His attitude, application and professionalism are really good. We named him the leader of the team because of those qualities. We demand that from all the players, but he's shown many, many times that he is a good leader for the rest of the boys."

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- ✖ Throwing objects
- ✖ Drug use
- ✖ Discriminatory behaviour

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- ➋ Automatic club ban
- ➌ Reported to the police
- ➍ Criminal record
- ➎ Education and employment at risk

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LUTON TOWN LADIES

The Hatters Ladies are aiming for promotion this season after narrowly missing out on that achievement last season, which saw them finish four points behind champions AFC Sudbury.

With the League and County Cup still fresh in the trophy cabinet, hopes are high of finishing top of the Eastern Region Women's Football League following a busy summer.

The squad has been bolstered by the signing of striker Sam Khan, who has returned to her hometown club after spending a couple of seasons in the National League.

"She will add goals, strength in the air and give us more options," said Ladies boss Nikki Baker.

Also rejoining the Town ranks is Rebecca Ferris, who has returned after being away at university. Ferris, will add strength in areas

across the field with her pace – whether that is in the back-line or as an attacking wing-back.

One new face in the Hatters squad this term will be Sandeep Tak. "Her major asset is her vision," Baker adds.

Baker has retained the bulk of the squad who went so close to promotion last season and has added to the squad with a number of players graduating from the successful Under-16 and Under-18 teams.

The opening game of the season saw the Town earn a point from a tough encounter at fellow promotion contenders Haringey Borough. The Hatters fell behind to a physical and experienced opposition but rallied in the second half to secure a draw thanks to Khan's goal. "We could have won it with some late chances," said Baker. "However, we settled for what could be an important point come the end of the season."

The second game of the season, at home to King's Lynn, was postponed as it clashed with the Women's World Cup Final but the Town are next in action this Sunday when they entertain Wroxham. All the Ladies' home games this season take place at Barton Rovers, and this weekend the action at Sharpenhoe Road kicks off at 2pm. 

Eastern Region Women's Football League Premier Division. League Table.

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Real Bedford	2	2	0	0	11	1	10	6
2	Wroxham FC Women	1	1	0	0	12	0	12	3
3	Barking Women	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3
4	Needham Market F.C. Womens	1	1	0	0	4	2	2	3
5	Bowers & Pitsea LFC First	1	1	0	0	4	3	1	3
6	Haringey Borough FC First Women	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
7	Luton Town Ladies First	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
8	Royston Town Women First	1	0	0	1	3	4	-1	0
9	St Albans City FC Women First	1	0	0	1	2	4	-2	0
10	Stevenage FC Women First	1	0	0	1	1	4	-3	0
11	AFC Dunstable Women	2	0	0	2	0	12	-12	0
12	Kings Lynn Town FC Ladies	1	0	0	1	0	12	-12	0

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL_Official

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST



WITH TRUST MEDIA OFFICER KEVIN HARPER

Wow! Here it is. The night we have waited 31 years for. Premier League football at the Kenny! Even though we've had two matches already this season it still feels a little surreal to type that!

It has been a tough start to the season but the boys are giving absolutely everything and our fortunes won't be determined by away matches at Brighton and Chelsea.

Just to be at those matches and seeing the boys walk out in the Premier League was special, but then there was the atmospheres created in the away end of both stadiums which were on another level. I left Stamford Bridge with my ears ringing from the noise, and I'm sure tonight will be no different!

Our support will be needed more than ever this season. We only need to think back to the last time we were all present here to remind ourselves of the impact we can have and tonight we need to be as loud, and possibly even louder – if that is possible – as we were against Sunderland and really give the boys a wall of noise to use to their advantage. Based on what we've produced so far this season I've no doubt we will rise to that challenge.

MEDIA UPDATE

Since that brilliant day at Wembley in May the profile of the club has gone through the roof.

Many of you will be inside Kenilworth Road for the first time since then and seeing the new Bobbers Stand in person. That is one of many changes the club has had to undertake, and it has been no different for the Trust.

My phone has been constantly ringing throughout the summer with media requests. I am always more than happy to shout about LTFC from the rooftops but even I didn't expect to be doing so to audiences as far and wide as America, Canada and even Australia!

However, I would much rather be doing that than us still being in the lower leagues and nobody being interested in us!

PODCAST

In keeping up with the added profile of the Trust, we have taken our popular podcast to a new level. It can now be seen in video format as well as audio via our YouTube channel and they will be coming at you thick and fast throughout the season.

Each Premier League game will have a preview and review podcast and we will have players as guests as ever and much more.

We will also be much more present on social media so if you haven't followed us search lutontownst and like or follow for all of our content!

Enjoy the game tonight. We all deserve this one. Be loud and proud as ever. 

MEET THE FANS

KEVIN HARPER TALKS TO HATTERS FAN AND TRUST MEMBER COLIN ADAMSON



Q. How long have you supported Luton for?

C.A. 33 years

Q. Where do you sit at home matches?

C.A. I have a season ticket in the Kenilworth Road Upper

Q. Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

C.A. Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu. He has been the engine of our team right through the leagues. An absolute legend who has completed football.

Q. What does it mean to you to be a Luton fan?

C.A. It is difficult to put into words. Luton Town is part of my DNA. The colours are part of the branding for my companies and I have an immense pride to have supported my club through the Conference years right up to where we are today.

Q. What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

C.A. It's hard to choose one, but that day at Wembley in May made all those journeys up and down the country with people that have become friends for life, to places our club should never have gone to, worth every single second.

I might have got a tad emotional too!

Q. How has your support of Luton been seen by your friends?

C.A. I think a lot of friends, although of course there's a fair share of banter,

have actually been quite jealous of how involved I've been with the club over the years, and respect people like us supporting home and away whatever the division while they're just watching their team on TV.

Q. Has it changed now that we are in the Premier League compared to say the Conference?

C.A. My phone went crazy with messages of congratulations the moment we won at Wembley. They had seen the places I'd tagged myself into on Facebook over the years and believe it is well deserved.

Q. What were your feelings when you saw Luton walk out in the Premier League for the first time?

C.A. Immense pride. Even a couple of games in I'm not sure if it's sunk in what is actually happening yet.

Q. How do the experiences of seeing Luton in the Premier League compare with the lower leagues?

C.A. It's mixed. I have immense pride and I haven't stopped smiling since May, but I must confess when I got on the Bobbers Travel Club coach for the trip to Brighton there was a feeling of "here we go again". Until I sat on a padded seat at Brighton!

Q. What are you most looking forward to for the rest of the season?

C.A. Whatever the results of the games and wherever we finish the season (by the way, I believe Luton will stay up and be a Premier League club next season too) I'm going to enjoy every single moment.



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DARCY**
AGE: 9
HOBBIES: FOOTBALL AND GAMING
FAVOURITE PLAYER:
ELIJAH ADEBAYO



**JODIE
HIGHNAM**
AGE: 10
HOBBIES: SWIMMING, PLAYING
FOOTBALL, SAILING, DOGS
FAVOURITE PLAYER:
CARLTON MORRIS



**RONNIE
DERRICK**
AGE: 9
HOBBIES: GOALKEEPER FOR LUTON
CELTIC YOUTH AND BARTON
ROVERS FC
FAVOURITE PLAYER: TOM LOCKYER



**TOBY
CANZANO**
AGE: 12
HOBBIES: FOOTBALL
FAVOURITE PLAYER:
CARLTON MORRIS



**ZACK
HAYWARD**
AGE: 11
HOBBIES: FOOTBALL, SPORTS IN
GENERAL
FAVOURITE PLAYER:
PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU





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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

In his first column of the season, young fan Zac Neal explains what it means to follow the Hatters in the Premier League

As we host our first ever Premier League game at Kenilworth Road, it is the perfect time to look back and remember how far we have come.

As a 14-year-old, I only remember a certain amount from going to matches so I heavily rely on stories from family and friends to learn about the history of the club. So, over this season, let's rewind and look back at the stories and things we have seen since we were relegated from the topflight.

My family have always been Luton fans and I believe I am the fifth generation of Hatters fans in my family. I began following Luton in League Two in 2016 and started attending matches regularly in January 2019 when I was ten. Since that first match, I have rarely missed a home game and go to as many away games as I can.

Most school aged Hatters fans will know, the most asked football-related question at school is 'Who's your Premier League team?'. I always used to have to respond with "I don't have one" but now I can say that I do.

It's also been funny to see those people who ask that question who support a 'big six' club turn towards Luton over the years.

For example, in League Two it wasn't very common in school to be a Luton fan but now every wants a season ticket and suddenly we are everyone's 'second team'. It's not a bad thing to see the support increase but just interesting to see people who didn't support Luton because we were in a lower league, now admitting that they do.

All Hatters fans will know what it means to support this club. There has been so much elation and devastation in our recent history. Luton Town is a club like no other and it's been a crazy journey following Luton over the years.

Another thing that makes this club so special is our home, Kenilworth Road. It's a bit of a cliché now as it's been in the headlines ever since we have been promoted to the Premier League, but I cannot wait to see this place host all the best teams and players in the world. Kenilworth Road has seen it all: promotions, relegations, wins and defeats and plenty of players and even more crazy moments.

This has been a bit of an introduction article for me; just a quick reflection on what Luton has meant to me. In future pieces I am going to dig little deeper and to reflect in a bit more detail on the standout memories from this recent unforgettable era in our club's history. COYH! 

TICKET NEWS



FULHAM v LUTON TOWN

Premier League

Saturday 16th September,
kick-off 3pm

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters with no tickets available on the day at Craven Cottage. We have received an allocation of 2,701 for this fixture.

SALES PLAN:

Away Season Ticket holders

Supporters who have purchased an Away Season Ticket this season can receive one ticket for this fixture.

Seats will be reserved, then payment will be taken, and your ticket will be dispatched on Wednesday 30th August unless otherwise advised. If you do not require a ticket for this game, please email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk to advise.

Diamond and Executive Season Card Holders

Tickets are now on sale to Diamond Season Card holders and Executive Season Card holders (Commercial Executive Members) at one ticket per person.

A further sales plan for Season Card holders will be released on Monday 4th September when we have been able to review the Diamond / Executive uptake. This will detail dates of sale for Season Card holders and Members and general sale.

Due to feedback received last season regarding allocated seats, please note we have separated the blocks into 'front rows', 'middle rows' and 'back rows. To assist all supporters' enjoyment of the game, if you intend to sit then please book in the 'front' section. This is now also highlighted when booking online.

Prices

Adults £30, seniors over 65 and 18-21-year-olds £25, 17 and under £20. Restricted view prices: Adults £28, seniors over 65 and 18-21-year-olds £23, 17 and under £18.

Disabled (higher middle DLA or PIP):
Adults £15, seniors over 65 and 18-21-year-olds £12.50, 17 and under £10.

COMING SOON



LUTON TOWN v WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

Premier League
Saturday 23rd September,
kick-off 3pm

Ticket information and a sales plan for this match at Kenilworth Road will be released in due course.

LET'S GO

CAVEN COTTAGE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH
KICK OFF: 3PM

WHERE?

Craven Cottage, home of the Cottagers. The less said about our last visit Thames-side the better. It was a score so heavy the brackets had to come out and the number spelt out. That was back in April 2022 – a day Fulham sealed and then celebrated the Championship title. Completely redeveloped from its old days, the Cottage remains, and a new Riverside Stand has just been opened – and very nice it looks, too.

HOW TO GET THERE.

A ticket plan for this fixture can be found on the opposite page, and more information will follow soon. If you're planning to get down to London for this one, it's usually best to take the train and the underground – Putney Bridge is the nearest tube station – a 15-minute walk. You can take the car and punch in SW6 6HH to your satnav, but good luck. And we know some of you have taken a boat too, so enjoy yourselves.

UNHAPPY HUNTING GROUND.

Craven Cottage isn't one for Town fans to have the fondest of memories. It's just six wins in 37 visits (although saying '16 per cent win rate' sounds better). In fact, any Hatters fan who visited matches at the Cottage between 1903 and 1964 saw 21 winless matches (D5, L16) before the Town finally tasted victory away to the Whites. You have to go back to October 1998 for our last success

there, a 3-1 win in the old Second Division (now League One). Goals from Phil Gray, Stuart Douglas and Steve Davis earned Lennie Lawrence's men victory.

THE FULHAM OF TODAY.

Since our last meeting, Fulham have been enjoying themselves in the top-flight. Marco Silva led the Cottagers to a 10th place finish in the Premier League – some 18 points above the relegation zone, losing just six times at home. The White have taken four points from their first three league this season, most recently earning a hard-fought point in a 2-2 draw at the Emirates Stadium against Arsenal. Silva's side opened the season with a 1-0 win at Everton before losing 3-0 at home to London rivals Brentford.

WATCH OUT FOR.

Raúl Jiménez. The striker arrived at the Cottage this summer aiming to rekindle a career that was derailed by injury. His Premier League goalscoring prowess saw him score 36 times in 86 games for Wolves prior to fracturing his skull in an incident against Arsenal in November 2020.

WE REMEMBER.

Malcolm Macdonald. We turned him from a defender into a centre-forward and the rest is history (ask your grandparents).



THE COTTAGERS

THE HATTERS



GILLINGHAM MASCOTS & MAN OF THE MATCH



We had the pleasure of two mascots to our game against Gillingham on Tuesday night and both Frankie Richards and Henry Hetherington enjoyed their time on the pitch with the players.

Also pictured is man-of-the-match Jacob Brown, who appeared in the Eric Morecambe Lounge post-match to receive his award and chat to supporters about his performance.



Our commercial packages make for an unforgettable matchday experience. To find out more about Mascots, match sponsorships and other opportunities, contact commercial@lutontown.co.uk

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND-UP

It's hard to believe that this time 10 years ago, as we prepared our programme in the National League (Skrill Premier, actually) we were writing about the hopes and dreams of the likes of Hyde, Salisbury and Tamworth.

Now, our league round-up page is United, West Ham, Liverpool, just like the old days in the 1980s and 1990s. And we're all for it.

So, after three rounds of the Premier League it is as you were: Manchester City are top. Just like they have been for the past three seasons (and five of the last six). Pep Guardiola's side are the only team in the division with a 100 per cent record with three wins from three after edging past Sheffield United last Sunday.

Our visitors this evening are one of four teams on seven points, with Tottenham, Liverpool and Arsenal lie behind second-place West Ham with two wins and one draw from their first three games.

Jurgen Klopp's Reds came back from a goal down to beat Newcastle with two late goals despite the fact they played almost an hour with ten men following the dismissal of Virgil van Dijk.

Brentford remain the only other unbeaten side in the top-flight, having taking five points from their three matches, which included a 3-0 win at Fulham.

The game of the weekend came at Old Trafford where Manchester United

came from two goals down to beat Nottingham Forest 3-2. The Tricky Trees (yes, we're using this nickname from now on) were two goals to the good after just four minutes but the Red Devils (old school nicknames all the way, by the way) stormed back with Bruno Fernandes' penalty completing the comeback.

At the other end of the table, the Hatters are one of four teams who have yet to register a point so far this season.

Everton sit bottom of the pile on goal difference following a 1-0 home defeat to Wolves while Sheffield United and Burnley – who lost at home to Aston Villa – are also on nil points.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

	Sheffield United v Everton (12:30)	
	Brentford v Bournemouth	
	Burnley v Tottenham	
	Chelsea v Forest	
	Man City v Fulham	
	Brighton v Newcastle (17:30)	

SUNDAY'S GAMES

	Palace v Wolves (14:00)	
	Liverpool v Villa (14:00)	
	Arsenal v Man Utd (16:30)	

TOP SCORERS

Awoniyi (Forest)	3
March (Brighton)	3
Haaland (Man City)	3
Mbeumo (Brentford)	3

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PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON								CAREER				
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL				CARDS	TOTAL			
	APPS		G	APPS		G	APPS		G	Y	R	APPS	G
Elijah Adebayo	2	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	112	32
Mads Andersen	1	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	1	0	3	0
Ross Barkley	1	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	0	0	2	0
Amari'i Bell	2	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	100	2
Luke Berry	0	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	1	0	166	24
Jacob Brown	0	(2)	0	1	(0)	1	1	(2)	1	1	0	3	1
Reece Burke	1	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	0	0	59	4
Allan Campbell	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	86	7
Tahith Chong	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Jordan Clark	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	111	9
Alfie Doughty	0	(2)	0	1	(0)	1	1	(2)	1	0	0	38	3
Ryan Giles	2	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	3	0
Issa Kabore	2	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	1	0	3	0
Thomas Kaminski	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0
Tom Lockyer	2	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	1	0	105	6
Matt Macey	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	14	0
Carlton Morris	2	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	1	0	0	53	21
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	1	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	373	23
Marvelous Nakamba	2	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	1	0	23	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	0	(2)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(2)	0	0	0	3	0
Gabriel Osho	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	62	3
Dan Potts	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	216	12
James Shea	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	107	0
Louie Watson	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	9	0
Cauley Woodrow	0	(1)	0	1	(0)	1	1	(1)	1	0	0	37	4



**100
UP
FOR
AMARI'I**

Many congratulations to Town defender Amari'i Bell after he made his 100th appearance in Hatters colours against Gillingham in midweek. The Jamaican international made his debut in the 3-0 win over Peterborough United in July 2021. Nice one, Amari'i!

2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	POS	SCORE	STARTING XI
SAT AUG 12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	3PM	A 18	L 1-4	KAMINSKI KABORE GILES ANDERSEN LOCKYER BELL
FRI AUG 25	CHELSEA	8PM	A 19	L 0-3	KAMINSKI KABORE BURKE ANDERSEN LOCKYER BELL GILES
TUE AUG 29	GILLINGHAM (CC)	7:45PM	H	W 3-2	KRUL BELL ANDERSEN LOCKYER DUGHOULD GILES
FRI SEP 1	WEST HAM UNITED	8PM	H		
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A		
SAT SEP 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	H		
SAT SEP 30	EVERTON	3PM	A		
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12:30PM	H		
SAT OCT 21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	A		
SAT OCT 28	ASTON VILLA	3PM	A		
SAT NOV 4	LIVERPOOL	3PM	H		
SAT NOV 11	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	A		
SAT NOV 25	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	H		
SAT DEC 2	BRENTFORD	3PM	A		
TUE DEC 5	ARSENAL	7:45PM	H		
SAT DEC 9	MANCHESTER CITY	3PM	H		
SAT DEC 16	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	3PM	A		
SAT DEC 23	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	H		
TUE DEC 26	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	A		
SAT DEC 30	CHELSEA	3PM	H		
SAT JAN 13	BURNLEY	3PM	A		
TUE JAN 30	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	7:45PM	H		
SAT FEB 3	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	A		
SAT FEB 10	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	H		
SAT FEB 17	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	H		
SAT FEB 24	LIVERPOOL	3PM	A		
SAT MAR 2	ASTON VILLA	3PM	H		
SAT MAR 9	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	A		
SAT MAR 16	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	H		
SAT MAR 30	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	3PM	A		
TUE APR 2	ARSENAL	7:45PM	A		
SAT APR 6	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	3PM	H		
SAT APR 13	MANCHESTER CITY	3PM	A		
SAT APR 20	BRENTFORD	3PM	H		
SAT APR 27	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	A		
SAT MAY 4	EVERTON	3PM	H		
SAT MAY 11	WEST HAM UNITED	3PM	A		
SUN MAY 19	FULHAM	4PM	H		

Premier League

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Manchester City	3	3	0	0	6	1	5	9
2	West Ham United	3	2	1	0	7	3	4	7
3	Tottenham Hotspur	3	2	1	0	6	2	4	7
4	Liverpool	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
5	Arsenal	3	2	1	0	5	3	2	7
6	Brighton and Hove Albion	3	2	0	1	9	5	4	6
7	Aston Villa	3	2	0	1	8	6	2	6
8	Manchester United	3	2	0	1	4	4	0	6
9	Brentford	3	1	2	0	6	3	3	5
10	Chelsea	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	4
11	Crystal Palace	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
12	Fulham	3	1	1	1	3	5	-2	4
13	Newcastle United	3	1	0	2	6	4	2	3
14	Nottingham Forest	3	1	0	2	5	6	-1	3
15	Wolverhampton Wanderers	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3
16	AFC Bournemouth	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1
17	Sheffield United	3	0	0	3	2	5	-3	0
18	Burnley	2	0	0	2	1	6	-5	0
19	Luton Town	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0
20	Everton	3	0	0	3	0	6	-6	0



LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

Visit the official club website for up-to-date news, ticket info, match reports, and live audio coverage via Hatters Player.



KEY: GOALSCORER ⚽ | 1ST SUB / 2ND SUB / 3RD SUB / 4TH SUB / 5TH SUB | ⚡ RED CARD | 🟨 YELLOW CARD

Luton Town vs West Ham United									
Matchday Information									
Lineups									
SUBSTITUTES					ATT		AWAY		
NAKAMBA NAKAMBA 🟨 RUDDOCK MPANZU					CHONG BARKLEY BERRY		MPANZU CHONG WOODROW		
MORRIS MORRIS OGENE					ADEBAYO ADEBAYO BROWN		DOUGHTY DOUGHTY, ANDERSEN, RUDDOCK-MPANZU OGENE, BROWN 🟨 KRIE, BERRY, WOODROW, JOHNSON		31,872 39,893 9,468
SHEA, FRANCIS-CLARKE, BERRY, CAMPBELL, DOUGHTY, BROWN, MCATEE, OGENE, WOODROW					3,001 3,054 1,058				
SHEA, BURKE, JOHNSON, KABORE, BARKLEY, CHONG, NAKAMBA, ADEBAYO, MORRIS									



TOWN THROUGH TO FACE EXETER IN CARABAO CUP

In their first match at Kenilworth Road this season, the Hatters booked their place in the third round of the Carabao Cup with a win over League Two Gillingham on Tuesday night.



Three really well-taken goals from Jacob Brown - his first for the club - Alfie Doughty - with an absolute beauty - and Cauley Woodrow had the Hatters in command.

At 2-0 and 3-1 the Gills rallied to make life uncomfortable for the Hatters but the Town were able to secure their place in the third round where they will travel to meet League One Exeter.

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



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HOLD THE BACK PAGE

Mike Simmonds – Luton News Sports Editor

I don't think there was any part of me who, when first stepping inside this great old ground to report on a Luton Town game back on 14th August, 2010, would have believed at the start of my 14th season covering the Hatters, it would be a Premier League clash.

That day the Hatters took on Altrincham in their first game of the Blue Square Bet Premier campaign under Richard Money.

Zdenek Kroca had put Town ahead on 22 minutes, with Damian Reeves levelling in the second period, home supporters eventually going home happy thanks to Matthew Barnes-Homer's late, late winner.

From there it was four more seasons in the Conference, including some trips to the likes of Southport and Barrow, while FA Trophy outings at Guiseley and Matlock were particularly memorable too.

Things started to turn once John Still took over, as with the non-league days finally over, and League Two negotiated thanks to Nathan Jones, I was perfectly happy in League One for a bit.

Town had other ideas though, Mick Harford sealing a second successive promotion to the Championship and Jones coming back in Covid times to keep them there.

One year of stability and then, as is the Luton way, they decided the second tier wasn't for them, having a crack at reaching the top-flight instead.

The first season led to play-off heartache against Huddersfield, but unbowed, they

had another go, and anyone who was at Wembley in May will never forget the scenes that followed that play-off penalty shoot-out win over Coventry City.

What it has done is quite transform the club beyond their wildest dreams, with money now there to finance the new ground at Power Court, allow Town to bolster their squad for the challenges ahead, and also update Kenilworth Road too.

Which leads me to another thing I thought I'd never see and that was the possibility of an unobscured view when watching the Hatters, which will happen in the new Bobbers Stand, plus Town going up against teams like West Ham United in a league game.

It's been a tough start, Brighton and Chelsea away is difficult for any side in the Premier League let alone a team who has just come up, but there are green shoots there.

Both Rob Edwards and his players, most of whom had never featured at this level before, are learning every game, and but for some late goals, might have got something from both matches.

Home is where the majority of sides who stay up get the points though, and if Town fans can reach the kinds of heights they did against Watford and Sunderland last year, there could be some famous scalps taken.

Whatever happens though, this is a season to enjoy, so make sure you do just, and let's see more ovations like at Stamford Bridge on Friday night, that anyone who was there will remember for a long, long time.



THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports



LUTON TOWN

1. JAMES SHEA
2. GABE OSHO
3. DAN POTTS
4. TOM LOCKYER
5. MADS ANDERSEN
6. ROSS BARKLEY
7. CHIEDOZIE OGBENE
8. LUKE BERRY
9. CARLTON MORRIS
10. CAULEY WOODROW
11. ELIJAH ADEBAYO
12. ISSA KABORE
13. MARVELOUS NAKAMBA
14. TAHITH CHONG
16. REECE BURKE
17. PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU
18. JORDAN CLARK
19. JACOB BROWN
20. LOUIE WATSON
22. ALLAN CAMPBELL
23. TIM KRUL
24. THOMAS KAMINSKI
26. RYAN GILES
29. AMARI'I BELL
33. MATT MACEY
45. ALFIE DOUGHTY

WEST HAM UNITED

1. ŁUKASZ FABIAŃSKI
2. BEN JOHNSON
3. AARON CRESSWELL
4. KURT ZOUMA
5. VLADIMÍR COUFAL
7. JAMES WARD-PROWSE
8. PABLO FORNALS
9. MICHAIL ANTONIO
10. LUCAS PAQUETÁ
14. MOHAMMED KUDUS
15. KONSTANTINOS MAVROPANOS
17. MAXWEL CORNET
18. DANNY INGS
19. EDSON ÁLVAREZ
20. JARROD BOWEN
21. ANGELO OGBONNA
22. SAÏD BENRAHMA
23. ALPHONSE AREOLA
24. THILO KEHRER
27. NAYEF AGUERD
28. TOMÁŠ SOUČEK
32. CONOR COVENTRY
33. EMERSON PALMIERI
45. DIVIN MUBAMA
49. JOSEPH ANANG

MATCH OFFICIALS

- ⌚ REFEREE - PAUL TIERNEY
- 🚩 ASSISTANT REFEREE - NEIL DAVIES
- 🚩 ASSISTANT REFEREE - SCOTT LEDGER
- ⌚ FOURTH OFFICIAL - CRAIG PAWSON
- ⌚ VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - JOHN BROOKS
- ⌚ ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - STEVEN MEREDITH