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## LUTON TOWN V WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2023 | 3.00PM | KENILWORTH ROAD

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The views in this programme are not  
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# BRING THE NOISE!



# WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

And breathe. It's been a rollercoaster ride since we returned to the top-flight. After one of the busiest summers in recent memory on and off the pitch, we're now in a period of relative calm. Despite the result last time here against West Ham, how good was it to see Premier League at the Kenny? We'll have another 90 minutes of that today so enjoy the ride and get behind the boys. #COYH



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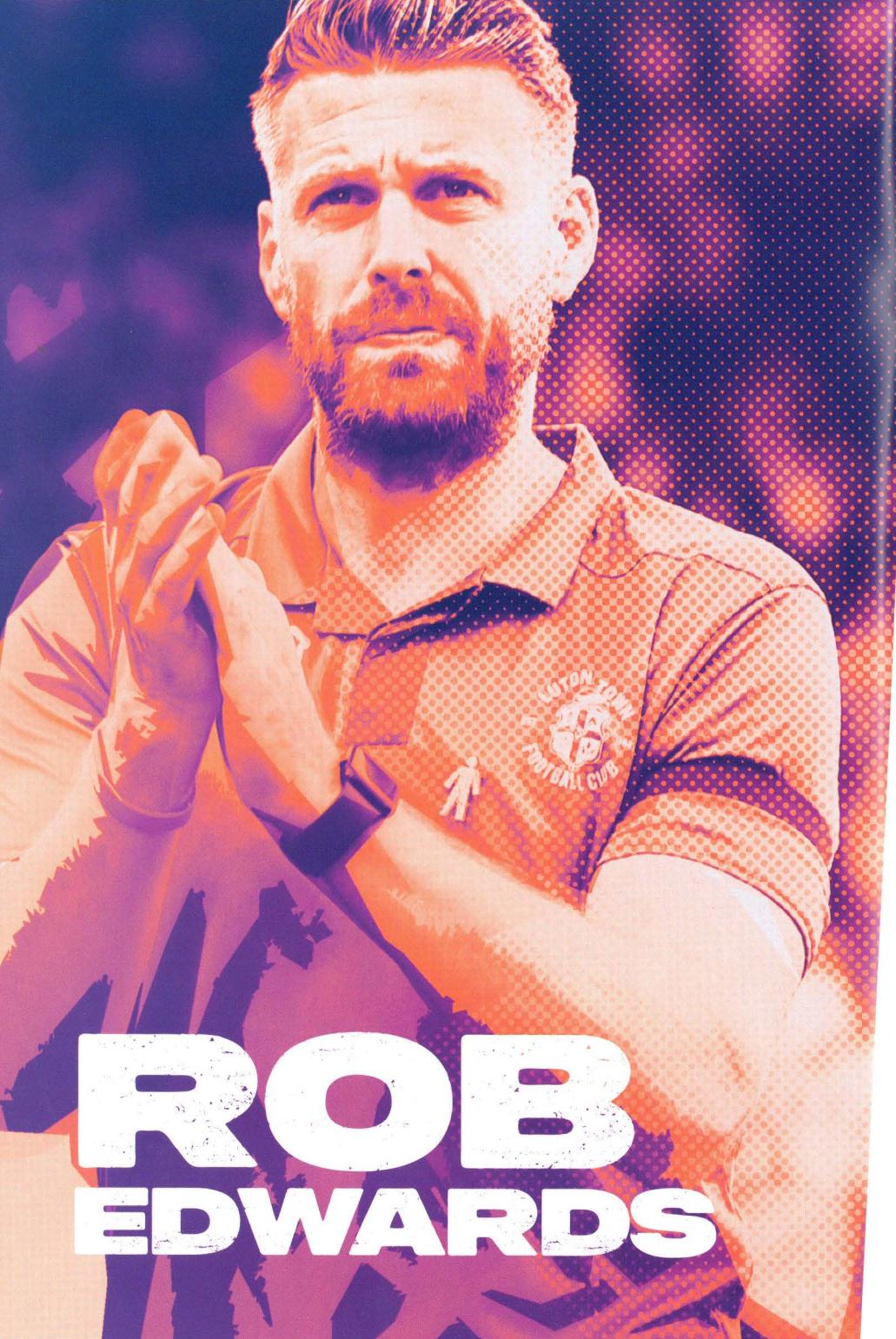
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# ROB EDWARDS

**Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for another big game. They're all big, aren't they? And, like them all, it's another one for us to enjoy, and it also represents an opportunity for us to register a positive result.**

It seems a while since our last home match here against West Ham when your support on the night was incredible. It was exactly the same at Fulham last Saturday and we are disappointed that we haven't been able to give you any points to cheer about yet.

I think everyone can agree that there has been improvement in terms of performance in each match we have played this season. Against West Ham we were competitive and created good chances. It was the same at Fulham – but even though the end result was not what we wanted, we have shown we have been able to create chances, which in this league, is not easy.

After the defeats to Brighton and Chelsea, we were more compact against West Ham. We didn't want to open the game up too soon but, watching back, I felt we could have been more aggressive in certain moments.

I thought it was a really good away performance at Fulham where we limited them to almost next to nothing. It was disappointing to concede the goal in the manner in which we did. It's hard to blame any one person but there's areas in which

we can be better as a defensive unit. Furthermore, we did not take one of our three good chances and we should have definitely had a penalty.

As I've said, I think we have seen an improvement in all four matches and I'm hoping we can see that again today against Wolves. They're a good team full of talented individuals, including Portuguese and Brazilian internationals, among others, so we are under no illusions of the challenge we will face.

We are at home, however, and we want to be able to show a positive attitude. We want to look like we are the aggressors and look like the team that is provoking the play.

We also want to give you something to cheer about, and we recognise the importance of the role you play, especially here at the Kenny. We know this wonderful old place gives us the best chance for us to pick up points and that's certainly what we will try and do today.

I'd like to welcome Gary O'Neil, his players and staff here too. It's a club I know very well having spent a long time as a player and then a coach and it will be nice to see a few familiar faces.

Thank you for your continued support. It means the world to us. Keep it up. 





## TOM LOCKYER

**It's good to be back at home. Sitting watching the West Ham game was frustrating for me personally but it was unbelievable to sit among you and back the boys from the stands.**

We deserved more out of the game in the end after Mads' goal got us back into it very late on. We created some decent chances, could have had a pen, but West Ham punished us in those key moments and that's the learning curve we are on right now.

There was more progression at Fulham on Saturday. We had a gameplan that we worked on over the international break and I think you can see we put that into effect.

However, it was a very sloppy goal from our point of view to concede, which becomes even more annoying because at the other end we had some big chances that we didn't put away.

It wasn't as if Fulham were carving us open, was it? I don't remember many times them getting in behind. We created more. And yeah, we should have had a penalty. I won't go into that in any more depth as I'll probably get my wrists slapped. But you know what I'm thinking.

Of course, there has been a noticeable difference in quality at this level. Compared to the Championship, mistakes get punished more at one end and, at the other, chances are harder to come by.



That's why we need to be more clinical in both boxes. It's coming. Match by match, there's been improvement.

But there will come a time when we need to stop saying that. Goals, results and points are what we want and we go in search of those elusive first points today against Wolves. We met in pre-season for an entertaining goalless draw but now on home turf we are confident of bringing everything we've learned from the first four games and get a positive result.

Finally, a massive thanks for your support at Fulham. You were incredible throughout and in particular at the end. We take nothing for granted but your backing has really touched us and believe me we all sense it during the games.

It was amazing to see you singing and shouting words of encouragement at the end at Craven Cottage. I think you knew we'd put in a real shift – we're just frustrated not to give you something to go home happy with.

Matches here are going to be vital if we're going to achieve our goal this season. I truly believe your noise inside this old place can generate an atmosphere which can put teams under pressure. We'll try and do our bit on the pitch, and hopefully together we can make this the fortress we want – and need – it to be.

Bring the noise and stick with us. 





## FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
GARY SWEET

**It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Kenilworth Road for our first Saturday 3pm home match in the Premier League – and indeed our first fixture played here on a Saturday afternoon since beating Swansea City in the Championship on 4th March.**

While we always relish a raucous night under the lights here, there will always be something special, something traditional, about 3pm Saturday afternoons here in front of our own supporters.

Our visitors today are Wolverhampton Wanderers, and I wish a warm welcome to everyone associated with those of an Old Gold persuasion who have made the trip down from the West Midlands.

Although this is our first league meeting with Wolves since 2007, we have of course more recent, happier memories with our Black Country visitors. Who can forget Alex Lawless' stunning winner in our FA Cup meeting back in 2013 when we were in the Conference and they were in the Championship.

Both clubs went on to win promotion the following season before going onto enjoy a sustained period of success, leading to today where we go head-to-head with

one another in the top-flight since the 1983/84 season.

We also share many mutual connections which I am sure you will read further about in today's programme. Rob Edwards served the Molineux club with great distinction as a player and a coach and, in that latter role, he also oversaw the development of one of our summer signings, Ryan Giles. Kevin Foley, another summer recruit of ours, is back for more where it all started for him as a player. Kev played in the Premier League with Wolves and we were all incredibly proud of his achievements as 'one of our own' went onto play at the highest level.

Rob, Kev and Ryan are all part of a group who are desperate to record those first ever Premier League points of the season this afternoon which we all believe are creeping ever so closer following the encouraging performances in recent weeks.

This week, David and I attended a Premier League shareholders' meeting where we took our (now) regular seat between Manchester City and Liverpool. Despite common conjecture, the level of professionalism and detail among the Premier League's executive is amazingly good.

One of the topics open for debate was the 'New Deal for Football', which includes a redistribution of funding between the Premier League, the EFL and leagues below. It won't come as any surprise that we remain fully behind a fairer distribution of funding within the game to provide greater sustainability for all clubs whilst also providing a more level playing field. This is despite sitting at the top table, which is where the funding would come from.

It may come as a surprise, however, to hear that a majority of Premier League clubs were also supportive of the initiative. Clearly, anything so complex as this will need time to resolve but it feels like it's now on track with an agreement potentially in sight.

A more challenging issue is how football at every level engages with the new, upcoming football regulator. Whilst we are broadly supportive of an independent regulator overseeing the game, we would have certain concerns about how deeply it may expect to engage with the day-to-day operation of the game.

Our last home league match versus West Ham represented a significant milestone for us. Not only was this our first home fixture in the top-flight since April 1992, but it was the first time since 1986 that we had a significant number of fans watching a league match from the



Bobbers Stand side of Kenilworth Road.

The project to ensure Kenilworth Road met the myriad of Premier League criteria was a Herculean task pressured by the stringent regulatory criteria we had to meet whilst, of course, complying with building control regulations and all be completed in a ridiculously tight schedule and in such a confined space.

Everyone involved had to shed blood, sweat and tears, going above and beyond all expectations to dexterously construct a mini masterpiece and in optimal contrast and harmony with our somewhat more vintage structure.

It is my duty and pleasure to thank all of the numerous contractors involved including Capital Sky, AND, Faithful & Gould, ESG Global, Momentum Engineering, Civic Engineers, FPM Facilities Services, TTL, Focus Rigging, Musco, Factotum, White Horse Contractors, Arena Stadium Solutions, Switchshop, Rybridge, OMM, Cristec and not ignoring the numerous smaller suppliers who all did us proud. Thank you one and all. ►

HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

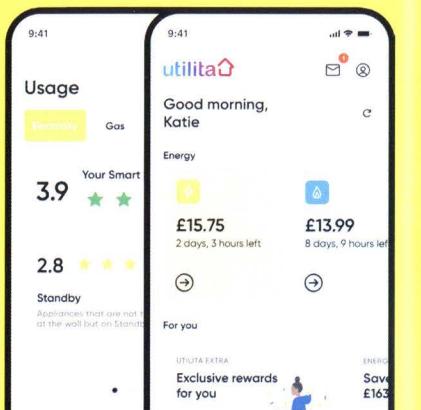
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You'll notice from that list that whilst we needed to refer to some national/international specialist contractors for certain items, such as floodlighting and steel structure, every other contributor was local with many of the – sometimes up to 250 per day – workers being Luton supporters.

I'd also like to thank all of our staff, of course, who have been magnificent in their resolve to just get the job done over the summer.

During the build period our total spend didn't deviate too far from racking up £1m per week, which perhaps demonstrates what a logistical military operation this has had to be and how different contractors (some of whom are competitors) showed that our team spirit exists off the pitch too.

Of course, it wasn't just the media facilities in a new Bobbers stand which we have improved. Indeed, there's still work ongoing as we have used this opportunity to facelift a few tired areas of our old ground. We hope you see the improvements, particularly to seating, hospitality areas and disabled facilities. One major benefit of us being so 'hands-on' during this project was that it served an excellent opportunity to be a valuable 'dry run' ahead of the next big push on Power Court, which, in the meantime, didn't get ignored – more on that next time.

I would like to extend an apology to anyone who has been, in any way, disadvantaged by any of the changes we've made. Some have been impossible to avoid as we have had no choice but to implement 50 new cameras and other spectator obstructions.

However, in other operational areas, we are confident that many of these slight challenges we've observed over the last couple of games will eventually settle, as we iron out some new idiosyncrasies in crowd movement and use of different entrances. Meanwhile, we thank you for your patience.

So far, your support has been nothing short of magnificent. It is greatly appreciated by each and every member on the board and you can see on the pitch after each game how much it means to the players and coaching staff. The ovation the players have received after each game, particularly at Chelsea, gave me goosebumps.

We're all in this together. We knew it wouldn't be easy. But we don't do things that easy way, do we? That's what makes this club, and you, the supporters, so special. That's something you can't buy. We know you will stick with us like you always have, whether it's West Ham, Wolves, Wrexham or Woking.

Keep it up today. It DOES make a difference.

Come on Luton!

Gary 

# AROUND TOWN

**Our first home match against West Ham was also transfer deadline day, so the beautiful chaos of our opening Premier League fixture here at Kenilworth Road saw us juggling a number of announcements of player activity.**

Arriving at Kenilworth Road is **Albert Sambi Lokonga**, who arrives for the rest of the season on-loan from Arsenal.

The 23-year-old is Rob Edwards' 12th summer signing made his debut at Fulham last weekend, adding to the Premier League experience that he accumulated with the Gunners and Crystal Palace, who impressed with on loan last term.

The all-action midfielder featured 15 times for the Gunners last season – most notably starting every game in their successful Europa League campaign.

Town boss Rob Edwards said: "It's an exciting signing, he comes with lots of Premier League experience and has brilliant pedigree. He knows and understands what we are about, he believes that he can help us and I think it's a really good fit. He's a midfielder who really looks after the ball, he gives us stability to play in a double pivot if needed, but he can also run on and play as a number eight."

He joins defender **Teden Mengi** as another new face at Kenilworth Road. Teden arrived on the Thursday before deadline day after leaving Manchester United.

On the 21-year-old centre-half Edwards said: "Teden is someone who we have been aware of for a long time – Richie Kyle's worked with him at the FA in the England age groups. He's a fantastic age and comes with great experience for

a young player. He's had an amazing education at Manchester United and he will help us in that outside centre-half position. He's a fantastic athlete, he's aggressive, excellent in one-v-ones and uses the ball well."

Those players departing on loan were Allan Campbell (Millwall), young pro Tyrelle Newton (Hemel), Louie Watson (Charlton), Dion Pereira (Sutton) and Admiral Muskwe (Exeter).

After being a substitute against West Ham, young defender Aidan Francis-Clarke penned a new professional contract and was subsequently loaned out to Dagenham and Redbridge.

The Club also said thank you and goodbye to Glen Rea and Matt Macey after their contracts were terminated by mutual consent.

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

Three of the Town's fixtures have new dates following consultation with the Premier League.

The Hatters postponed match with Burnley here has been found a new home, with the game kicking off at 7.30pm a week on Tuesday, 3rd October.

Due to Aston Villa's involvement in the UEFA Conference League, our game at Villa Park, originally scheduled for Saturday 21st October has now been put back until the Sunday with a 2pm kick-off.

Our home fixture with Liverpool has been selected for live television coverage and as a result has been moved to Sunday, 5th November with a 4.30pm kick-off.



## IN LOVING MEMORY

We have received the sad news that Hatters fans **Charlie Carter** and **Kevin Moore** have passed away.



### CHARLIE CARTER

Long-time Hatters fan and season-ticket holder Charlie passed away aged 74. Charlie,

whose greatest thrill was seeing the team promoted to the Premier League last season, passed away only days before he could watch our first home game. He and his wife Lyn had been married for more than 50 years. The seat he had always occupied next to his son Paul will remain empty in his memory for the rest of the season.



### KEVIN MOORE

Condolences go to the family of season ticket holder Kevin, who missed the Play-Off final due to cancer and passed away at the age of 63 in June. Kevin had been coming to games for over 40 years and leaves behind a family of Hatters fans in his wife Rosemary; sons Steve and Keith and brother David. Several of whom are in attendance this afternoon.

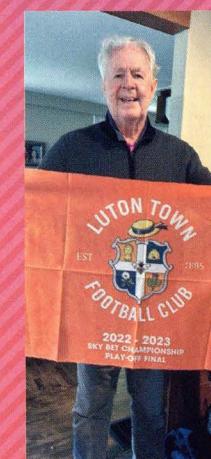
Rest in peace, Hatters x

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 81st birthday **Malcolm Ginsberg**. We're told he spent his youth supporting Spurs, but saw the light in the 1970s and has travelled

the UK watching his beloved Hatters with family and friends. Through Luton he met his wife Linda and they will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in the Eric Morecambe in December. Malcolm here is pictured with daughter Jackie and grandson Alex at Wembley.



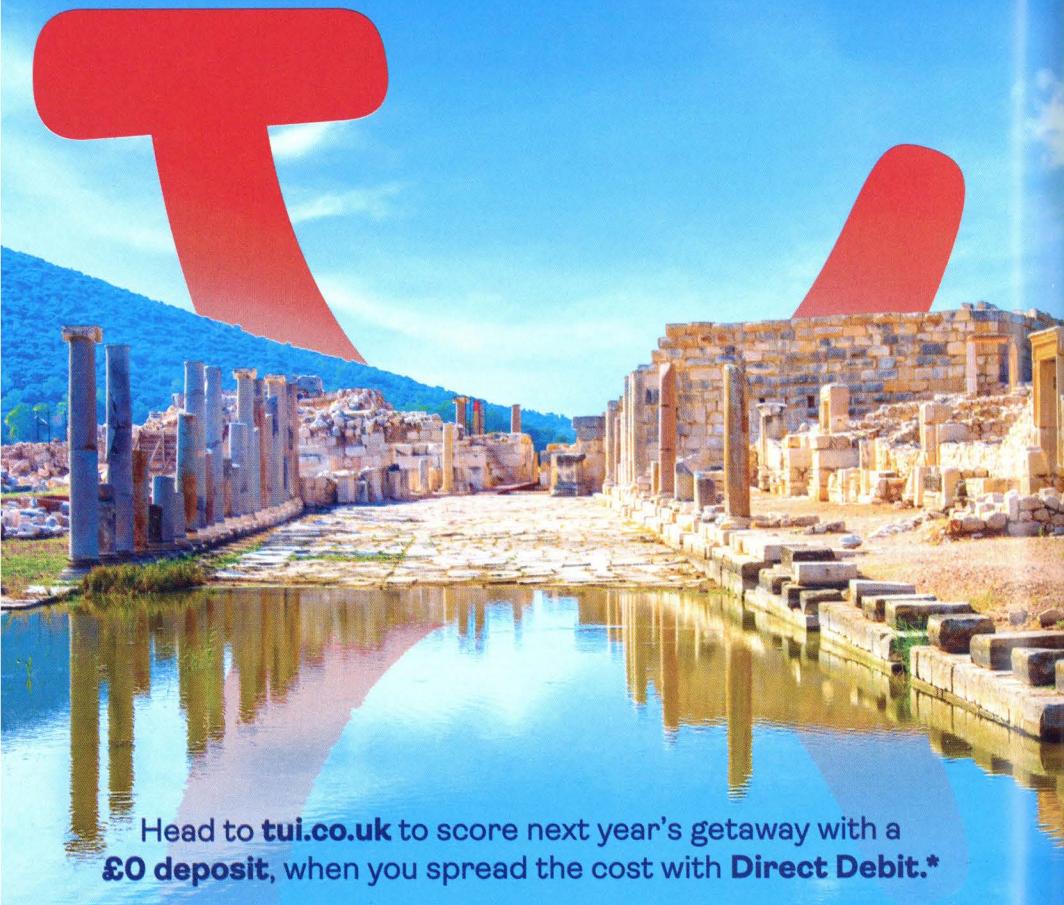
## WORLDWIDE HATTERS

Meet **Alan Buchanan**. He's the cousin and friend of Town fans Martin and Janet Bierton. Alan grew up in the area before moving to Mahone Bay in Nova Scotia, Canada. He remains an ardent follower of the Hatters via the internet, including the play-off final at Wembley.

Martin and Janet did the right thing and sent him a programme and a flag from the game. Nice one, Alan!



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**Kenilworth Road – 1st September 2023**

**Hatters:** Kaminski, Andersen, Burke, Bell, Giles (Kaboré 71), Doughty (Ogbene 78), Barkley (Ruddock Mpanzu 71), Chong (Woodrow 84), Nakamba, Morris, Adebayo (Brown 71).

**Hamers:** Areola, Coufal, Zouma, Aguerd, Emerson, Ward-Prowse, Alvarez, Bowen, Lucas Paquetá (Kudus 90+1), Benrahma (Fornals 72), Antonio (Ings 80)

#### SCORERS:

**Luton** – Andersen 90+2

**West Ham** – Bowen 37, Zouma 85

## HOME DEFEAT ON TOP-FLIGHT RETURN

The Town battled hard but came up short as Kenilworth Road's first top-flight game since April 1992 ended in defeat.

The Old Girl was deafening prior to proceedings and the players responded on the pitch, as Ross Barkley fired the first shot of the contest wide after just two minutes.

However, the Hammers began to take control of the game, and their persistence was rewarded in the 37th minute when Jarrod Bowen found space inside the box to head home Lucas Paquetá's cross.

Town responded brilliantly to the setback, creating a flurry of chances before half-time. They were almost level instantly in the 39th minute when Carlton Morris found his strike partner Elijah Adebayo in the box, however the 25-year-old could only fire over.

Not long after, Ryan Giles showed blistering pace to glide past Bowen on the left-hand side and deliver a fantastic cross, which was met by Morris and headed agonisingly over.

Early after the restart, the Hammers were denied by the first VAR check at Kenilworth Road when Emerson's goal was chalked off for offside.

Two big chances fell for either side just before the hour mark, as Bell had the ball nicked off him by James Ward-Prowse, who fired a delivery into the path of Said Benrahma, whose shot was blocked by Reece Burke on the line.

Then it was the Town's turn to go close, as Adebayo tried to latch onto a ball at the back-post, but the former Fulham man just couldn't quite sort his feet out and the chance went begging.

Morris came close to finding a leveller, firing over from close range and that proved costly as the Hammers doubled their lead in the 85th minute, when Kurt Zouma seemingly put the game out of reach, heading home Ward-Prowse's corner.

In the final moments, Mads Andersen's header pulled a goal back for the Town to set-up a grandstand finish, but a late, late leveller was not to come. 



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 MATCH REACTION

## WEST HAM REACTION

**It was a goal that will be remembered as the Hatters' first at Kenilworth Road in the Premier League but it was mixed feelings for goalscorer Mads Andersen.**

The Danish defender got on the end of Carlton Morris' header across goal to divert the ball home and reduce the deficit late on against West Ham in our last game here.

"I'm pleased but I'd be even happier if it was 1-0 and we won the game," said the 25-year-old centre-half.

"I'm happy of course with my goal, that's something I want to help the team with, contribute with, so hopefully there's more goals to come.

"It's a big achievement, but to be honest, I love defending so much I would rather have a clean sheet and that's just the truth."

Although it wasn't clear to the naked eye to many during the game, replays showed the Hatters may have had a shout for a late, late penalty after the ball struck James Ward-Prowse's arm in the dying moments.

"I haven't seen it back, I've heard it's a handball, but it's out of my control," said Andersen.

"I'm going to focus on what we control and if we see it in the game, we're going to shout and say 'hey it's a handball,' but I didn't see it."

"We cannot rely on those small VAR, we have to score our own goals and if we get a VAR penalty of something, yes we'll take it, but it is what it is."

Despite all of the late drama and ultimately the defeat, the Hatters' display saw further improvement following the games at Brighton and Chelsea.

"There's loads of positives I think, we kept them away from many chances, they were just very clinical on the ones they had," continued Andersen.

"We created a lot of chances to score, we did the basics better than we had done in the previous games, so loads of positives."

"This is not a sprint, it's a marathon and I'm sure you can see we're improving every game."

"The lads are going to keep on going, we're going to keep working hard in training and learning from the games."





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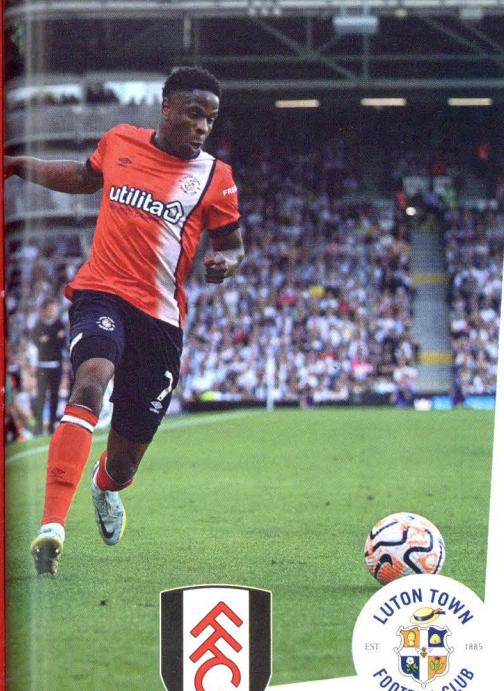
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Craven Cottage - 16th September 2023

**Hatters:** Kaminski; Kaboré, Bell, Burke (sub Woodrow 81), Andersen, Lockyer; Nakamba, Lokonga (sub Mpanzu 75), Chong (sub Adebayo 75) Morris (sub Ogbene 74), Brown (sub Dougherty 74). Subs not used: Krul, Berry, Mengi, Giles.

**Fulham:** Leno, Tete, Reed (sub Iwobi 62), Jimenez (sub Vinicius 62), Wilson (sub De Cordova-Reid 81), Ream, Pereira (sub Cairney 81), Willian (sub Bassey 90+1), Castagne, Palhinha, Diop.

Subs not used: Rodak, Ballo-Toure, Muniz, Francois.

## SCORERS:

Fulham – Vinicius 65

MATCH REPORT

## TOWN FALL TO NARROW DEFEAT

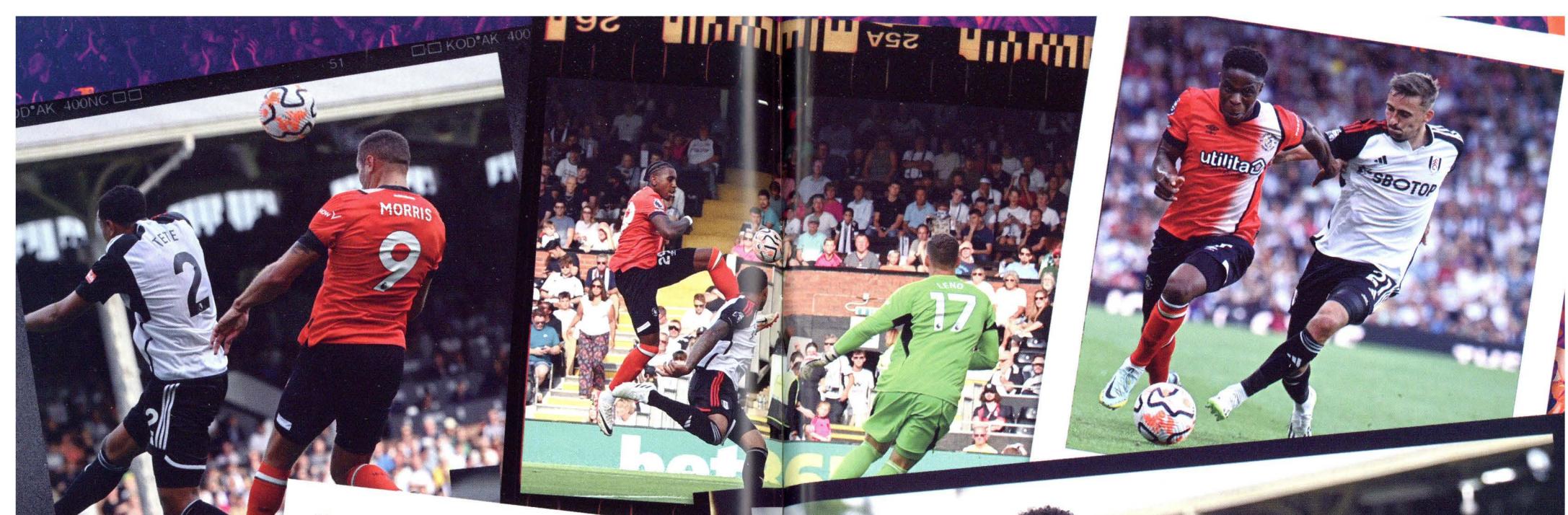
The Hatters came away from Craven Cottage with the feeling of what might have been after a solid display that on another day could have seen the celebration of a first point of the season in the Premier League. Perhaps even all three.

Growing into the game, Carlton Morris first went close, volleying a shot into the side netting on 25 minutes. Then, two minutes later, a real chance. Tahith Chong and debutant Albert Sambi Lokonga combined to send Issa Kaboré away down the right. The Burkina Faso international delivered an inch-perfect cross for Jacob Brown only for his bullet header to crash off the post.

The Town came out for the second half, shooting towards their noisy loyal faithful and two minutes after the restart that opening goal that's craved so dearly came within inches once more. This time Brown was the supplier, whipping a cross to the back-post to Amari'i Bell. The Jamaican international did brilliantly to be in the position to fashion a chance but couldn't find that crucial killer touch and Bernd Leno, the Fulham keeper, was relieved once more.

After that, a period of Fulham domination. But the game was flat on the hour, and home boss Marco Silva introduced Alex Iwobi and Carlos Vinicius on 62 minutes. Three minutes later the hosts were ahead. Willian raced down the left and dug out a cross that Thomas Kaminski got a glove to – but in doing so the ball rolled free to the newly introduced Vinicius to slam home from close range.

Behind, the Hatters rallied late on. Skipper Tom Lockyer denied the hosts a second with a great tackle before having the final chance for the Town with a header that flashed wide and with it hope of a first Premier League point was over.





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## PREMIER USER EXPERIENCE



# FULHAM REACTION

**Forward Jacob Brown insists the belief that runs through the Town squad has not been dented by 1-0 defeat at Fulham.**

Brown came closest to scoring for the Hatters on his first Premier League start, heading Issa Kaboré's cross against the post in the first half at Craven Cottage, before the same right-wing source presented Amari'i Bell and Tom Lockyer with opportunities after the break.

Town eventually succumbed to Cottagers' substitute Carlos Vinicius' close range effort midway through the second half, and Scotland international Brown said: "It's disappointing again, but we are progressing more and more each week and we can take confidence from that.

"The first three games before the international break were really tough and obviously it's a big step from last season, but we've been working really hard in training and you can see that in this performance.

"It was a really tight game and we've had bigger chances than them, and on another day it would have gone the other way."

Clearly the players were disappointed not to have taken something from the game, but the 25-year-old added: "There is a massive belief in the changing room. Like we've just said in there, I think apart from the result, we couldn't have asked for much more than that.

"We've done everything we worked on during the week, if my chance goes in obviously it's a different scoreline. But yes, the belief is high and we've just got to go on to next week."

Brown's first top-flight starting appearance came after several impressive displays from the bench, as well as his full Town debut against Gillingham in the Carabao Cup last month, in which he also scored his first goal for the club.

He proved a threat supporting striker Carlton Morris from a wide attacking position on the right, and asked whether he felt he'd done enough to retain his place in the team, he added: "I thought I did well, but obviously every game is different.

"We don't know what's needed for the next game and even if you have done well, you might not be playing because there are a lot of games coming up and we just need what's best for the next game."



# WELCOME WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

Today, the Town face Wolverhampton Wanderers at Kenilworth Road for Luton's second home match in the Premier League. Wolves have had a tough start to the season having played some quality sides already – similar to the Hatters.

Gary O'Neil's side travelled to Old Trafford for their first match of the season and lost 1-0 after a Raphael Varane header. Additionally, the game ended in controversy as Andre Onana took down Sasa Kalajdzic in the box late on, but no penalty was given.

After this, Wolves lost their first game of the season at Molineux following a 41 defeat to Brighton and Hove Albion. A rampant performance from the Seagulls saw Roberto De Zerbi's team win their first two matches of the season 4-1 – both wins were against the sides playing this afternoon.

Wolves responded well to this defeat and picked up their first win of the season. Kalajdzic scored the only goal against Everton as they left Goodison Park with three points.

A 5-0 win over Blackpool in the Carabao Cup was shortly followed by a 3-2 loss against Crystal Palace. Hee-Chan Hwang

and Matheus Cunha were on the score-sheet for Wolves, but it wasn't enough to get anything from the game.

Most recently, Wolves lost 3-1 at home against Liverpool despite a classy first half performance which saw them take the lead. The second half was not so good for Wolves as Liverpool took the game away from them.

Wolves have had quite the clear out over the summer. Some of these departures include Matheus Nunes joining Manchester City and Ruben Neves joining Al Hilal for big fees. Ryan Giles also permanently left the West Midlands to join the Town.

Pedro Neto has caught the eye of the league this season having already picked up four assists in five games. He has got an assist in his last three games for Wolves and will be one to keep an eye on today.

Luton manager Rob Edwards has also spent time of playing and managerial career playing for Wolves. Additionally, the two sides met in pre-season during early August with the game finishing a 0-0 draw.

A big welcome to everyone associated with the club making the journey to Kenilworth Road today.

# MEET THE WOLVES

## THE BOSS

**GARY O'NEIL.** Took over this summer after he was dismissed from Bournemouth last term having kept the Cherries in the top-flight. A midfielder as a player he made over 500 appearances, including spells at Portsmouth, Middlesbrough and West Ham.

## GOALKEEPER

**JOSE SA.** 2021 arrival from Olympiacos, the Portuguese keeper won player of the year at Molineux in his first season. Part of the Portugal side that went to the World Cup in Qatar.

## DEFENDERS

**RAYAN AIT NOURI.** French-born Algerian international left-back who joined from French outfit Angers – originally on loan – in 2020 before switching for £9.8m on a permanent deal a year later.

**CRAIG DAWSON.** Experienced centre-half with a wealth of top-flight experience who arrived in the summer from West Ham. Made over 200 appearances for West Brom and has also played for Rochdale.

**MAX KILMAN.** Wolves skipper who joined Wolves in 2018 from Maidenhead. The centre-half made his name in

non-league football, starting at Welling before joining the Magpies.

## NELSON SEMEDO.

**Portuguese** international right-back who joined from Barcelona in 2020. Began his career with Sintrense before joining Benfica where he won two league titles.

## MATT DOHERTY.

**Irish** international wing-back re-joined Wolves this summer. Moved to Molineux in 2010 where he spent 10 years making over 250 appearances before spells at Spurs and Atletico Madrid.

## MIDFIELDERS

**JOAO GOMES.** Young Brazilian central midfielder who signed in January from Flamengo for a deal worth €18.7m. Scored on his debut as a substitute in a 2-1 win over Southampton.

**MARIO LEMINA.** Former Marseille, Juventus, Southampton and Nice defensive midfielder who arrived in January this year. A Serie 1 winner with Juve, he is a regular starter for Gabon.

## ATTACKERS

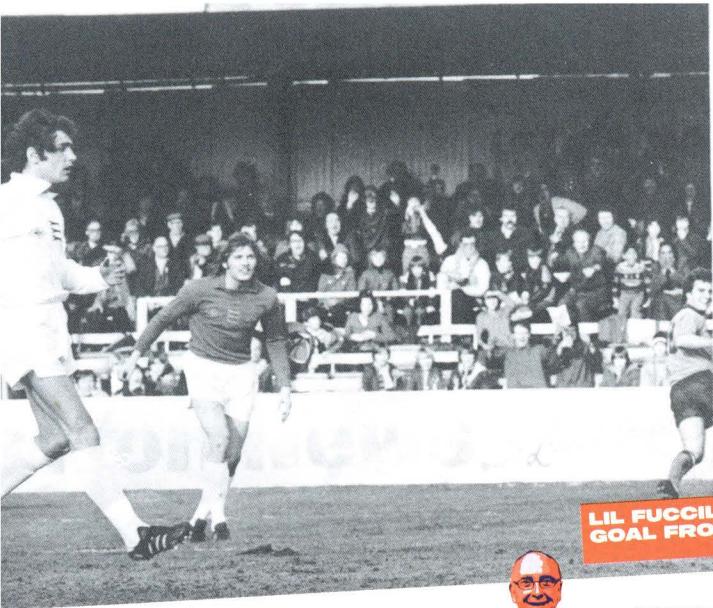
**FABIO SILVA.** Highly-rated forward who arrived at Molineux from Porto in 2020 as an 18-year-old for a club record £35m. The Portuguese youth international has also had spells on loan at Anderlecht and PSV.

**HEE-CHAN HWANG.** South Korea international who signed for Wolves in 2021 following a successful loan spell. Started his career in Austria with Red Bull Salzburg before joining Red Bull Leipzig in 2020.

**SASA KALAJDZIC.** Vienna-born striker who signed last summer from VfB Stuttgart. Tore his ACL on his debut but has made a full recovery and scored the winner at Everton in August this term.

**MATHEUS CUNHA.** Brazilian international attacker who arrived at Molineux from Atletico Madrid. Began his career in Switzerland with Sion before moves to Germany with RB Leipzig and Herta Berlin.

**PEDRO NETO.** Portugal international who has become one of Wolves' most exciting and dangerous attacking threats, having joined from Lazio in 2019. The attacker, who can operate on either wing, enjoyed his best season to date across 2020/21 as he was voted Player of the Season by both supporters and his team mates.



LIL FUCCILLO NETS THE SECOND GOAL FROM AN IMPOSSIBLE ANGLE

## CLASSIC MATCH



**HATTERS HISTORIAN  
ROGER WASH LOOKS BACK  
ON THE TIME THE  
HATTERS OVERTURNED  
PROMOTION-CHASING  
WOLVES AT A PACKED  
KENILWORTH ROAD**

### 5TH MARCH 1977 LUTON TOWN 2-0 WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

Following a defeat at Orient, to a single Laurie Cunningham goal, on Boxing Day 1976 the Town had dropped down to 14th spot in the old Division Two and looked set for a season of mediocrity or perhaps even worse.

It is difficult to see now what transformed the team into promotion possibilities over the next three months, but it was certainly one of those golden periods when you were more than proud to call yourself a Luton Town supporter.

After a convincing 4-0 win over Chelsea on a snow-bound Kenilworth Road pitch on 29th December it was back to normality

three days later when we went down 1-0 at Bristol Rovers in a game that should have been won easily. It came as a surprise therefore when in our next game a 3-0 win was recorded at Sheffield United in front of the Match of the Day cameras.

From then on we never looked back as win after win piled up with the settled team seemingly growing in stature with each match. Hull proved tough opponents at Kenilworth Road as they sat on an early lead, but last-gasp efforts from John Aston and Jimmy Husband secured the points and sent the frozen crowd of 8,455 home happy.

Burnley were the next visitors and the 2-0 victory does not adequately sum up the ease of a win which set the Town up for the toughest test so far in the mini-run – Brian

Clough's Nottingham Forest away. The home side had not been beaten at the City Ground since the early part of the season but a superb Luton performance saw the points come our way in a 2-1 win, which included a wonder goal from Aston who ran half the length of the pitch.

We were now up to sixth position with two home games to come which were both won. Blackburn were beaten 2-0 and then a highly rated Charlton side were seen off by the same score as the crowd rose to 11,645 to see Ron Futcher score the all-important goals.

A trip to Fulham was next on the agenda to take on a side that had won at Kenilworth Road in the autumn when George Best and Rodney Marsh were enjoying a purple period for the Cottagers. Best did not play in the return and Marsh turned out for the last time in Fulham colours as the Town won yet again with goals from Aston and Husband.

After seven straight wins it was starting to become serious, and a crowd of 19,200 gathered at Kenilworth Road to see a Wolves side that had gone 12 games undefeated and who were sitting in one of the promotion positions.

Wolves, relegated the previous season, were anxious for a quick return to Division One and overwhelmed the Town in the opening minutes, carving out five good opportunities before the crowd had settled into position.

Gradually, the Luton defence took control with Paul Futcher and John Faulkner snuffing out the dangerous Wolves strike force of John Richards and Alan Sunderland, while Brian Chambers and Lil Fuccillo cut out the threat posed by Willie Carr and Kenny Hibbitt. This left Alan West free to carry out his own probing for the Town with the result that forwards Husband, Aston and Ron Futcher, constantly interchanging positions,

started to cause problems for the Wolves rearguard.

The breakthrough came after 35 minutes when Ron Futcher rose to head on a free-kick from full-back Steve Buckley, with Husband first to react with a crisp half-volley past Gary Pierce in the Wolves goal.

Incredibly, the Town went 2-0 up 90 seconds later when Fuccillo, in a seemingly harmless position out on the wing, drifted inside with the ball and casually floated the ball over the head of Pierce from an impossible angle.

The crowd went wild and although Wolves stepped up the pressure after the break it was the Town who came nearest to scoring when Geoff Palmer threw himself full length to turn a shot from Ron Futcher round the post with his hand which went unnoticed by the referee.

Despite this, and with some fine saves by Milija Aleksić in the Luton goal, the scoreline remained unchanged and the Town found themselves up to fourth and putting extreme pressure on the leaders.

The unbeaten run continued for another four games before a narrow defeat at Southampton preceded a complete collapse over Easter. The Town eventually ended the season in sixth position while Wolves went up as champions.

That run had been fun while it lasted, though.

**TOWN: Aleksić, Price, Buckley, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, Chambers, West, Fuccillo, Husband, Ron Futcher (Geddis), Aston.**

**WOLVES: Pierce, Palmer, Parkin, Munro, McAlle, Daley, Hibbitt, Patching (Gould), Carr, Richards, Sunderland.**



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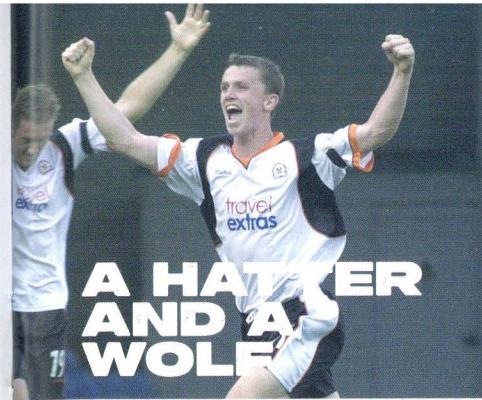
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## A HATTER AND A WOLF

One player to significantly represent both the orange and the old gold is a man who's involved today.

Kevin Foley graduated from the Town's academy and went on to play 166 times, helping Mike Newell's team to the League One title in 2004/05.

His performances caught the eye of Wolves, and he moved to Molineux in 2007 where he would go on to earn eight caps at senior level for the Republic of Ireland.

After spells in Denmark and back in England with Ipswich, Charlton and Coventry he then played briefly in non-league for Billericay before switching focus to coaching, joining the Town this summer as Transitional Coach.



## GREAT GAMES

The majority of the Hatters' seasons at non-league level – until John Still arrived in town – were blighted with inconsistency and the 2012/13 campaign was no different.

So the Town came into this FA Cup third round with Wolves in January 2013 having welcomed in the new year with a terrible 3-1 defeat at Woking in the Conference but that



## CULT HERO



FEATURING  
STEVE BULL



## CLASSIC KIT **RAVE**

Wolves were brave in 1992/93. They decided to design, produce and market their own kits and this was the result. Whether this can be classed as a classic remains to be seen (Wolves fans, let us know), but we would have loved to have been a fly on the wall for the brainstorming and creativity sessions, in the wake of the black geometric shapes scattered over the top of the OG OG.

## CULT HERO: STEVE BULL

Wolves have been blessed with many legendary players in their history. Billy Wright being one. However, it's difficult to look past a man who hit 306 goals in 561 games. Talismanic striker **Steve Bull** was signed from bitter arch rivals West Brom in 1986, and became the only player ever to score a half century of goals for his club in successive seasons. The Molineux faithful loved him not just for his ability to score goals from all angles and distance but because he never gave less than 100 per cent.



Jack pictured with former Wolves man Colin Cameron.

## VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD END

**THIS MIGHT BE THEIR SIXTH SUCCESSIVE SEASON IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE BUT LIFE IS NEVER DULL AT MOLINEUX, AS ARDENT WOLVES FAN JACK FINCH TELLS US**

From the minute he saw those 11 in old gold defeat Port Vale at Molineux in 1999 there was no turning back for Jack Finch.

Little did he know what would lie in store over the next 20 years that have seen Wolves plummet to League One, lose to a Conference team in the FA Cup (sorry, what?) and then rise to become one of the most exciting teams to watch in the country.

"It's been a bit of a rollercoaster," says Jack, now 32 and who's one of the lucky 1,000-odd Wanderers followers in the Oak Road end this afternoon. "But we've enjoyed some truly great days and took the Premier League like a duck to water when we came up."

Chinese investment has certainly nudged Wolves in the right direction after a period of mediocrity but the results have spoken for themselves.

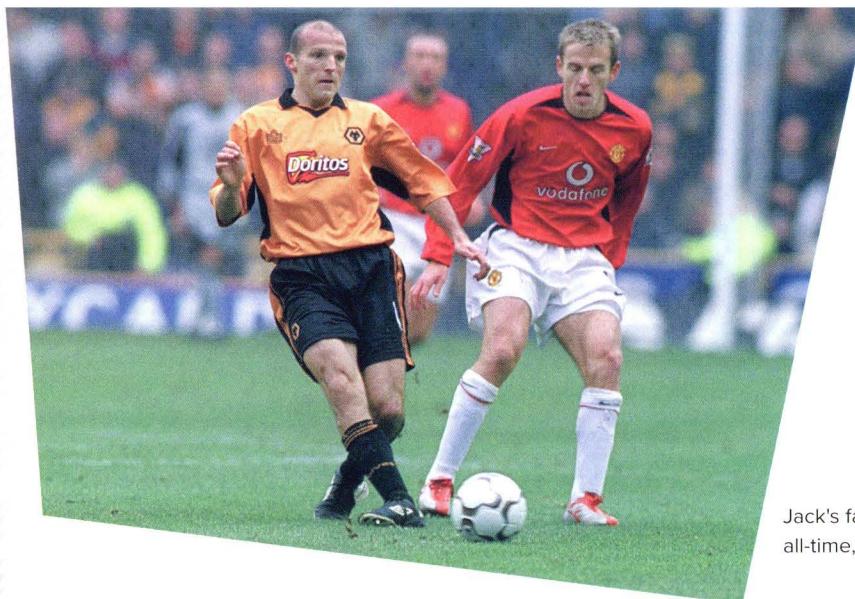
"Considering we were playing in League One in 2014 it's been great. With Nuno Espírito Santo we became

a well drilled outfit and were able to attract some tremendous players and our first season in the Premier League we finished seventh and qualified for Europe.

"For my generation it was new, exciting. We reached the Europa League quarter-final. It was just a shame for us that Covid hit, stadiums closed and instead of a full Molineux we couldn't get past Sevilla."

The good times always feel better after the bad ones. We could tell you that. For Wolves, relegation to third tier in 2013 acted as the perfect springboard to a return to the better times, which ultimately returned.

"It was an empty feeling, a bit of anger perhaps, when we went down to League One," says Jack, whose mum's side of the family support Black Country rivals West Brom. "But we took a breath and had a reset. We had three of four years of losing more than winning. We had the right man in Kenny Jackett – he certainly still doesn't get the credit he deserves – and the right players.



Jack's favourite player of all-time, Alex Rae.

"It was great to win most weeks, refreshing to visit grounds we'd not played at for ages; Colchester, Shrewsbury, Stevenage."

Given Wolves' ascent to the top-flight, Jack knows how tough it is coming into the Premier League with the odds stacked against you.

"My advice to Luton fans is just to stick with it and enjoy the ride," he says. "Make the most of those days, especially at Liverpool and Manchester United. Sometimes the 90 minutes might be the worst part of the day but don't let the game and the result spoil it.

"The beauty of sport is anything can happen. I've seen us win at Man Utd, Man City. Of course, there's a dose of realism, but don't be surprised that you'll be surprised this season."

**FAVOURITE GAME:** "It was a while ago but back in the FA Cup in 2003 we beat Newcastle 3-2. They were riding high in the Premier League and we were mid-table in the Championship. It was a proper FA Cup tie on a cold January day and I can still picture it. It was an unbelievable game that had it all: drama, goals, saves, tackles."

### MEMORIES OF LUTON v WOLVES:

"We were in the Championship and Luton were in the Conference. We kind of thought it 'could happen' but were confident it wouldn't. However, our attitude was bad, we were casual on the ball and Luton deserved to win. The manager was sacked before we'd even got home to Wolverhampton."

**FAVOURITE PLAYER:** "Alex Rae was a no nonsense, all-action midfielder who could pass, run, tackle and shoot. He had everything, never shirked a tackle and never took the easy option. If you had 11 Alex Raes in the team you wouldn't win every week but you'd love watching it."

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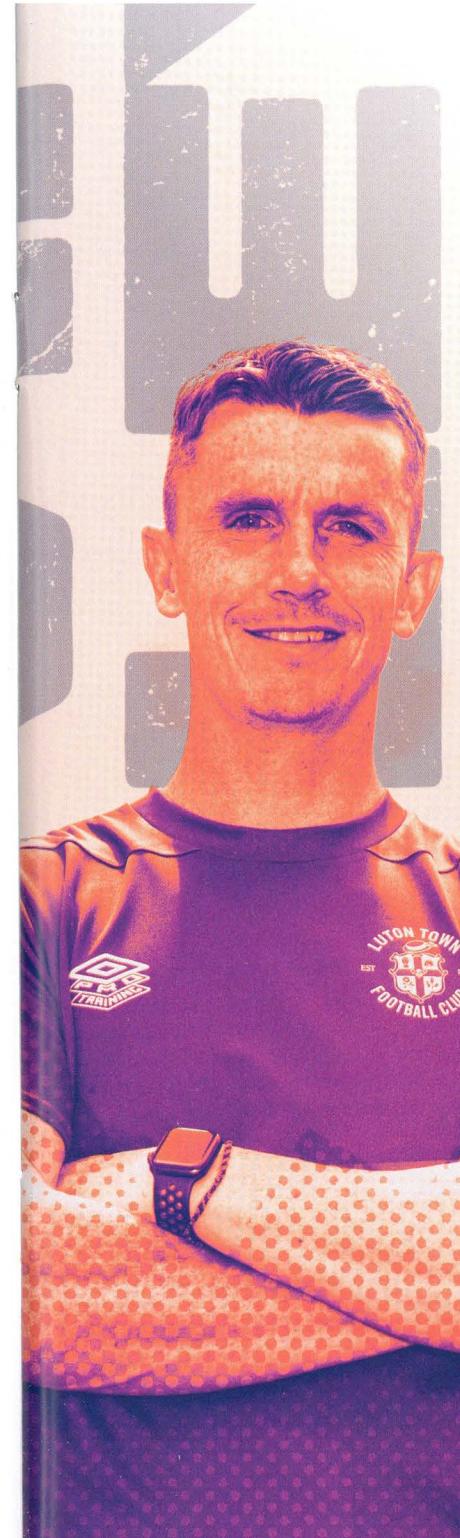


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## THE BIG INTERVIEW

**KEVIN FOLEY STARRED FOR BOTH THE HATTERS AND OUR VISITORS BUT NOW HE'S BACK ON FAMILIAR TERRITORY.**

**Everyone likes a hometown boy done good. For Kevin Foley that's not entirely true. Contrary to anything ever-written about him he is not a Lutonian.**

However, Luton was the place where the football bug was caught, and soon after kicking the ball around in the park, it wouldn't be long before Foley was outlining a career in the game.

"People think I was born in Luton, but I was born in London and moved to Luton when I was five," explains Foley, who rejoined the Hatters this summer as Transitional Coach. "I grew up in Luton, in Farley Hill, and I didn't really play football properly until I was eight or nine.

"I was playing for Barnfield Colts and was scouted to go on a six-week trial with Luton Town centre of excellence. Fortunately for me I was taken on at the age of nine by Paul Lowe.

"Lee Cowley was coaching and he taught me a lot. He'd be preparing us to be footballers, we were taught the basics; how to play on the back foot, how to pass the ball effectively. This was a really key thing for me in my younger years and I'm glad he's still here now. ▶



"At that time I never took anything for granted but half-way through my last year as an under-16 I was told I was going to be offered a two-year YTS deal and I was over the moon. I knew that the hard work was about to begin."

Within months of signing his scholarship, Foley, then 16, was given a rare chance in a reserve game by coach Brian Stein that would go on to shape his career.

"Growing up I would play up front, I know it's hard to believe but I would bang the goals in for fun! In the centre of excellence I was playing as a midfielder, and I had never played right-back before, I'd always played either central midfield or right midfield.

"Playing for the reserves was a huge thing because you'd be playing against bigger, better players. I slotted in okay and I really thrived on it. I came away from the game thinking I could go on and do for myself in that position. My aim from then on was to nail down a place at right-back."

Sooner or later, though, the first team chance did come along. After two appearances in the LDV Vans Trophy as a 17-year-old in 2002, he got his first taste of League action under Joe Kinnear with two substitute appearances late in the 2002/03 season in League 1.

Kinnear, though, departed in a dramatic summer off the field for the Town, leaving Foley and the club in limbo. One phone vote later, the Hatters had a new man at the helm in Mike Newell.

Foley began the 2003/04 campaign still unsigned and went onto play 37 times in all competitions, scoring twice. Not bad for an 18-year-old fresh out of the youth team who was beginning to make the right-back position his own.

"The end of the Joe era was a bit weird," recalls Foley. "Joe left, and Mike Newell came in. Mike was told he was working with limited resources and, with the club under a transfer embargo, it meant we couldn't sign anyone, me included."

"I was thrown in at right-back and for 75 per cent of that season I was basically playing as a third-year YTS earning less than £100 per week. Enoch Showumni was in the same boat, but playing for expenses. After he scored a hat-trick against Brentford we were both signed on professional forms and we were both understandably delighted, it was a magical feeling."

The Hatters finished that season in 10th place and nobody expected the following campaign to be anything other than another tilt at reaching the play-offs at best. Until they steamrollered the division, recording 98 points on their way to the title.

"At the start of the season after there was no real belief that we could win the league or even challenge for promotion," admits Foley. "As players you always want to better your previous season and in 2003/04 we finished just outside the play-offs so having a crack at the top six was our aim. We beat Oldham in the first game and won the next five."

"We were flying, but then lost three games on the bounce. I remember after losing to

Hull the manager sat us down. He showed us clips in which we did well and clips in which we didn't. He said: 'the wheels aren't coming off, don't worry, we just need to cut out these little mistakes'. There were no drastic measures after that and in the end we romped home."

The Town weren't given much of a chance in the second tier in 2005/06, especially as the fixture computer handed the Hatters an opening three-game schedule against teams relegated from the Premier League the season before: Crystal Palace, Southampton and Leeds – yet picked up seven points.

"I remember the Palace game because a lot was made of Andy Johnson deciding to stay after they were relegated," says Foley. "I was told before the game how Johnson would play, that he would stand off the post at set pieces, looking for the second ball. He was my man, I didn't listen to anything I was told, and after we couldn't clear a corner, Johnson pounced to score. It was my fault. It turned out to be a big lesson for me and I'll never forget that. Thankfully we won the game."

One abiding memory for Foley from that season in the Championship was the Town's epic FA Cup encounter with Liverpool in front of the live BBC cameras.

"Without a doubt the game of that season was the Liverpool cup tie," says Foley. "It was an incredible night. In the tunnel beforehand I was genuinely in awe standing next to Gerrard, Alonso and Carragher...they were the European Champions after all. I couldn't believe it. □

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"To go 3-1 up was unbelievable, it was out of this world. In the end we ran out of steam, I think we'd put so much effort into the game at that stage that the final 20 minutes took it out of us."

After a more-than-respectable 10th place finish in the Championship, the summer – and season – that followed was tough for Foley to take as the Town lost several key players which contributed to the first of three successive relegations that ultimately saw us slip out of the Football League.

"We lost Vine, Nico, Howard, Curtis. The spine of the team was gone and it really affected us. It was a strange season, Mike Newell was sacked and in came Kevin Blackwell. It was a new experience for me, I had never really seen that side of football before. A lot of questions went through my mind. Who will the new boss be? Will he like me? What formation will he play? Will he bring in his own players?"

But while Foley would still keep his place in the side under Blackwell, the Town drifted down to League 1, and the three-time young player of the year would soon be saying goodbye to Kenilworth Road.

"After relegation that season I still had a year left on my contract," continues Foley. "Before the first game of the season I was still at the club but Kevin Blackwell pulled me and told me that Wolves had put in an offer.

"I was nervous, I'd spent 12 years at Luton, and it had been a big part of my life. It all happened so quickly. I met Mick McCarthy

on Sunday, signed on Monday and made my debut against Bradford in the League Cup on Tuesday. I remember playing well the previous season at Wolves. I must have made a good impression.

"Moving away for the first time was a new experience. I learned a lot. We won promotion in 2009 to the Premier League. At that point I said to my agent that I felt I'd 'made it' after all, I was watching myself on Match of the Day!"

Foley's affections for the Hatters never diminished as he starred in the Premier League at Molineux, but it wasn't until 2013 that he got the return to Kenilworth Road he never thought was possible when the Town drew Wolves in the third round of the FA Cup.

"I was thinking that I might never make a return to Luton, especially with them out of the league at the time," he says. "I couldn't believe it when the draw was made.

"But the less said about the game the better...I played a nice little part in the Luton goal, shanking my clearance which led to the winner.

"It was strange walking through the main reception as an opposition player, but good to see familiar faces.

"Now, having such a history with Luton Town Football Club, growing up through the system, it's a bit of a dream to be able to come and work here now as a coach, and try and help the next generation come through." 

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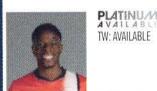
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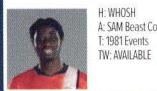
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H: AVAILABLE  
A:

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OUR FIRST HOME PREMIER LEAGUE GAME AGAINST WEST HAM UNITED SAW REECE BURKE NAMED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH BY SPONSORS W&W PLASTERING.

The defender received his trophy post-match in the Eric Morecambe Suite. We also had the pleasure of hosting five mascots for our historic first match at a new-look Kenilworth Road.

This afternoon we have the pleasure of welcoming Edmundson Electrical as our match sponsors. We hope you have an enjoyable day with us.

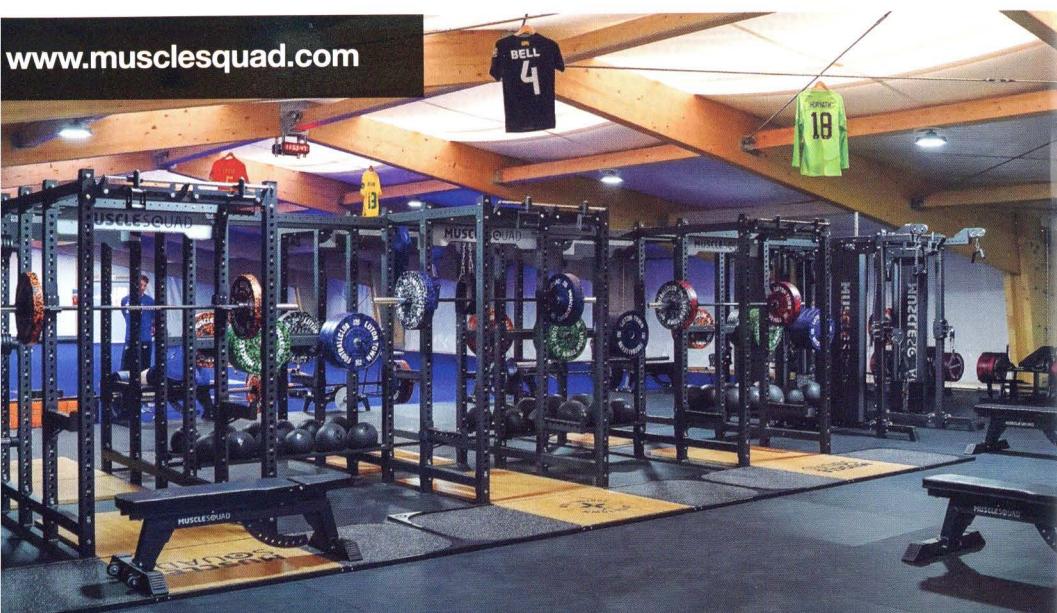
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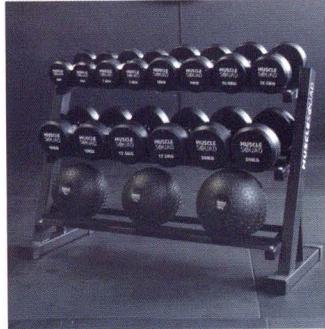
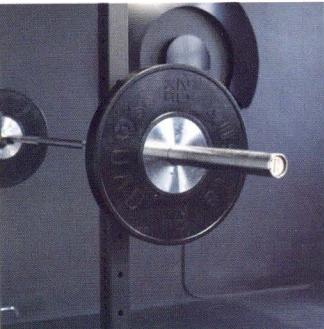
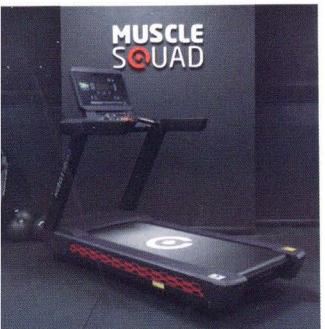
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# ON THIS DAY

## 23RD SEPTEMBER

Do any of these games strike a chord with you?

## THE RECORD

The Town's record on this day is an ugly one. Of the 24 matches we've played on this day in history, only five have been won and 10 have ended up in defeats. Not that this means a thing going into today's game. Our first, against Leicester Fosse back in 1899 was a goalless draw. Our last? A 1-0 win over Chesterfield here in League 2 in 2017, secured thanks to a goal from Danny Hylton. Bizarrely that victory ended a run of 12 matches without a win on this date.

## BEST OF THE REST

The Hatters and Wolves have history on this day in the record books but it's not much to shout about. The Town travelled to Molineux for a Division One (now Championship) clash in 1995 and played out a goalless draw in front of 23,659. The Hatters would end that season finishing bottom of the table while Wolves ended in 20th place, three points above the relegation zone.



## MEMORABLE MATCH!

**CHARLTON 4 - 4 LUTON.**

**23rd September 2003.**

This League Cup tie at the Valley was certainly one to remember, even if it did end in heartbreak for the Hatters hordes who made their way down to the capital.

With the Town leading 2-0 thanks to goals from Kevin Foley and David Bayliss, the Addicks, then playing in the Premier League, came back to level through Scott Parker and Kevin Lisbie.

A superb strike from loan hero Gary McSheffrey looked to have won the tie for the Hatters only for Paulo Di Canio to equalise at the death and take the tie to extra-time.

Charlton led for the first time in the tie when Claus Jensen scored early in extra-time but the Town fought back to take it to penalties when Chris Coyne equalised to make it four apiece.

The shootout saw 15 successful spot-kicks before Coyne saw his effort saved by future Hatter Dean Kiely to send Charlton through – but despite the disappointment, the Hatters were applauded off the field by their massed ranks of travelling fans.

**Town:** Beckwith, Boyce, Davis, Coyne, Bayliss, Foley, Brkovic, Hughes, Spring, Howard, McSheffrey. Subs used: Pitts, Leary, Hillier.



## THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Bob Morton walks the ball into the net for a very late winner against Wolves at Kenilworth Road in August 1956.

The protestations that Morton was offside went on long into the night, with Wolves manager Stan Cullis and Town director Tommy Hodgson needing to be pulled apart at one stage. Roger Wash 





# CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS YOU'LL NEVER SING THAT!

MEMBERS OF OUR CONFERENCE WINNING SEASON TEN YEARS  
AGO LOOK BACK ON A CAMPAIGN TO REMEMBER.

FIRST UP IS MIDFIELDER ALEX LAWLESS.



After a broken hand – yes we had to ask – not one but two consecutive play-off final defeats (yes that too) and being the target of supporters'

frustration, you could have excused Alex Lawless for throwing in the towel after a succession of set-backs in his Luton Town career.

Yet, as we know, the Welshman is not a man to give up easily. After winning Player of the Year in 2012/13, all of those disappointments and frustrations of the past were soon forgotten as the Town stormed to the title and returned to the Football League with Lawless at the heart of it.

"There were a lot of things that just happened," he says, looking back at his time with us philosophically. "But the ups and downs just made me want to succeed more, it never once put me off. No matter what happened in the hard times I never let my head drop or give up in training.

"Even when there's that feeling that the fans don't want you and the confidence is down, you just try to get your head down and overcome it and that's what happened.

"I felt the season before we won the league I was on a good trajectory; I was player of the year and played well even though the team wasn't getting the right results. At the start of the season I knew John Still wanted me, and that gave me confidence. Plus the fans were showing me more love, so it kind of snowballed and it became everything I ever wanted from the beginning.

"Winning promotion – and not through the play-offs – came at a time when everything

came together. I lived in the town with my wife, and she lived through these times with me too.

"So when we went up it was the justification of why we came down to Luton, why we moved, because I'd come here to win the league with Luton. After all we went through, it was just perfect."

The season itself only took off after a 2-0 defeat at Wrexham had seen the Town win just twice in their opening eight games.

It would be a 3-0 win over Dartford, on Lawless' first start of the campaign, which would kick-start a run that would all but crown promotion and our long-awaited return to the Football League.

"We didn't start great but I remember pre-season being really good. The fact we didn't have an extended season the year before with no play-offs, was probably a blessing in disguise in some weird way.

"It was all perfect timing. With John Still, and the players we brought in, we had come from a low point in the club's history and John brought everything together. Even though we didn't start well we knew amongst the squad that we had the opportunity to have a great season and once we started winning there was no looking back."

That unbeaten run was almost ended by Dartford at Princes Park in April 2014. 1-0 down with 10 minutes left the Town turned things around late on thanks to goals from Andre Gray and a certain Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu.

And it's that win that sticks out more than anything for Lawless as the three points further cemented their place at the top of the table with time – and games – running out for Town's rivals. ▶



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Alex in action in the 2011 play-off final  
against AFC Wimbledon

"For me that's a game that really stands out. It was a stage of the season where everyone wanted to beat us, especially at their place, but it was a really tough game and it wasn't going great.

"It epitomised that season – everyone remembers us blitzing teams 6-0 or 7-0 and dominating teams but it was games like this, where we'd grind out a win, which were massive and it felt massive on the pitch. There was this huge relief and for Pelly to be involved in that and to still be doing what he's doing now, it's just golden.

"By that stage you're in the mode where you don't feel like you're going to lose, and the opposition feel as though they won't beat you – and that kind of snowballs. As a squad we developed relationships in all areas of the pitch, had a stable team and we were able to really find our feet. There was plenty of competition – John Still made sure of that – and everyone was pushing each other. There were lots of factors behind our success but the momentum we got just kept us going.

"Of course the dressing room was really strong and full of great characters, strong characters – arguably the strongest dressing room I'd witnessed. If one of two players were down or lacking confidence, there was always someone there to lift

someone else and that was constant. And if it wasn't a player, then it would be John or the coaching staff, they were fabulous."

They say a week's a long time in football yet for the Town the past decade has flown by. Lawless, now 38 and lead coach for the Under-18s, realises how far the club has come in such a short space of time.

"In the world of football you just don't see this kind of thing happening. But in terms of the people at the club and what they want then I'm not surprised. I was as excited as anyone, especially watching us now on Match of the Day.

"Now, when it comes to my pathway, I always knew I wanted to go into coaching and never wanted to leave the club. For that to come to fruition, especially at a time when there's such a great vibe at the club, and to have a boss who I respected so much as a teammate in Paul Benson, it's dreamland."

---

*Alex Lawless was signed from York City, initially on-loan in 2010 and went onto make 203 appearances for the Hatters, scoring 22 goals. After spells with Yeovil, Leyton Orient and Ebbsfleet, he returned to Kenilworth Road as Assistant Professional Development Phase Coach last year before taking over control as Lead Under-18s Coach this summer. *

Background photo: A fraction of the boxes of negatives which have been searched.



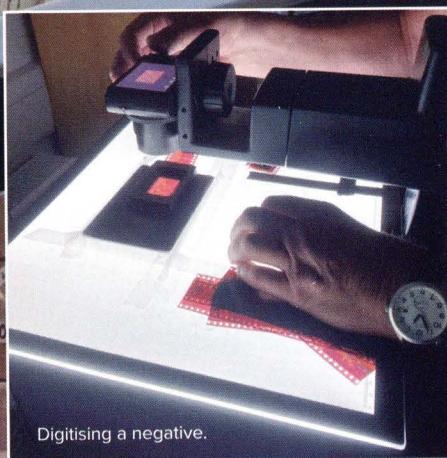
## HATTERS HERITAGE

For the last 14 months, a group of dedicated volunteers have been meeting every Friday at Wardown Museum to scour the collection of 1.5 million Luton News photographic glass plates and negatives.

We have been looking at each and every negative to find anything Luton Town with the result that a tremendous 72,342 images have been located, saved and put in season and game order, for future generations to enjoy. The best of these will be captioned and uploaded to the website, [hattersheritage.co.uk](http://hattersheritage.co.uk).

The website was launched in November 2020 with the intention to digitise every page of every programme, every match report and every photograph we possess. In addition, there are biographies and photos, where available, of every player making a first team competitive appearance since 1885 plus much more.

The website has already garnered praise from supporters of other clubs and a favourable write-up in the esteemed programme magazine *Programme Monthly*.



Digitising a negative.

Out of 128 competitive seasons, we only have 14 left to complete, with four of these to be uploaded to the website at the end of the month. We will then conduct a review of the seasons and add new photos plus better quality match reports where we can.

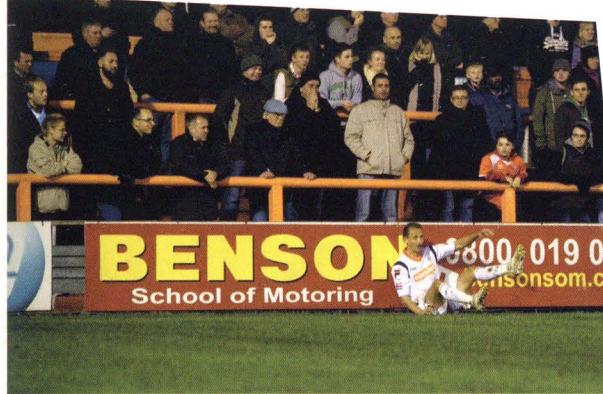
None of this would be possible but for the unpaid volunteers who have given up their time free of charge to ensure that the history and heritage of Luton Town Football Club is preserved long into the future.

We want the website to remain free to view but this means we need your help with the considerable cost of hosting the website plus insurance of the club memorabilia, storage and various licenses.

We are currently planning to revamp the website to make it more user friendly with new features. Please help us to give you the history by becoming a member or Patron – details are on the website. Your help is vital.

Roger Wash

Chairman – Hatters' Heritage



Paul Benson poses appropriately after scoring during our win at Braintree in November 2013



The Town come out in their special 125th anniversary kit against Bath City in 2010

## 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!

#### Part Two- B is for Barnet, Barrow, Bath City and Braintree Town.

We only met **Barnet** during our promotion season of 2013/14 and both games were played over the Christmas period. In the game at Barnet, which was won 2-1, midfield mainstay Jonathan Smith suffered a broken leg which was to effectively keep him out for the rest of the season. The home clash, a few days later, was played in impossibly wet conditions but again we came through 2-1 to see off the challenge of Edgar Davids' Bees.

**Barrow**, who we met regularly in Football League encounters in the 1960s, were our opponents during our first four years in the Conference. Our home record was pretty good with three wins and a draw including a hat-trick for Jon Shaw in a 6-0 Tuesday night win, but at the far-flung outpost in Cumbria we suffered two 1-0 defeats to follow two 1-0 victories. Holker Street was not a place to go to if you were expecting a goal-fest!

We were together with **Bath City** for two seasons during our non-League stint. We had played at Twerton Park before during Bristol Rovers' stay there and returned from our Conference clashes unbeaten. At home it was two straight wins with the first meeting coinciding with our 125th anniversary celebration.

We leave the worst memories until last. **Braintree Town** became our bogey side, even trying to spoil our promotion party with a 3-2 victory at Kenilworth Road when a Hatters win would have confirmed the championship in April 2014, leaving us to wait until the following midweek for results elsewhere to confirm our promotion.

Those unfortunate enough to witness the away defeats in April 2012 and February 2013 saw arguably two of our worst performances during our time in non-League. New managers Paul Buckle and John Still, who held watching briefs to the games, must have wondered what they were letting themselves in for.



## LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

**It was a great start to the week with Community Trust Director, Kerry Downes and Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds, visiting the first team squad at their training ground base at The Brache.**

A very powerful tool for the Trust is the impact of player visits on our programmes. In the past year we have had numerous appearances from members of the first team squad, as well as Rob Edwards, at programmes such as holiday camps, youth tournaments and other community events.

Our visit to The Brache involved a presentation to the squad on all of the different programmes that we run and our key objectives, before the players carried out their PFA player engagement survey, allowing the players the opportunity to identify specific programmes or causes they are passionate about.

Community Trust Business Manager, Adam Woulds, said: "We know we're incredibly lucky to have a football club that shares our passion and ethos for community.

"Whenever our players make an appearance at one of our events, they really go out of their way to make it a memorable experience for all of our participants. The community clearly means a lot to Rob and the club staff, and that gets fed down to the players. We know that not every club community trust or foundation gets the opportunity to present directly to the players, so we're incredibly grateful to the whole of the squad and staff who were so generous with their time."



## MINI HATTERS SESSIONS

We were delighted to launch our brand new Mini Hatters sessions at Queen Elizabeth School.

Mini Hatters is our fun football programme for 3 to 5 year-olds aimed at giving youngsters their first taste in football. As well as learning the basic skills they need to get started in the game, these sessions are all about making sure our youngsters enjoy themselves.

Our brand-new indoor base means we are now able to run these sessions all year round. Each week we will be handing out awards to three of our participants that display a great attitude, determination or improvement in their abilities. Congratulations to Oscar, Oscar and Maximilan for winning the Mini Hatter of the Week award this week. Great work!

We are currently full for this half term but will soon be opening bookings for the next sessions starting at the beginning of November. Please email [community@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:community@lutontown.co.uk) if you would like to add your details to our list so you get the first chance to book.



## WELCOME PUTTERIDGE HIGH!

**A very warm welcome to Putteridge High School, who have staff attending today's fixture.**

Putteridge High School have bought into the school's service that we offer, employing a full-time staff member from Luton Town FC Community Trust to work across their curriculum. While the trust do a lot of work in schools on PE and sports, there is also huge value in our staff using the power of football and the Hatters badge to engage with young people across all aspects of the curriculum.

Putteridge High School Deputy Head-teacher, Jeremy Heath, explained: "We are delighted to have welcomed our new Luton Town FC Community Trust School Officer, Aiden, this term and to be working so closely with the trust this year in supporting our students and the young people of Luton.

"Aiden has already made a remarkable start in mentoring and working alongside our students who require guidance and a positive outlet to support them with their progress both in and out of the classroom. The potential impact in raising the aspirations and wellbeing of our students alongside Luton Town Football Club Community Trust is something we are extremely excited about."

For further information about our school's programme please see [www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk](http://www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk) or email [community@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:community@lutontown.co.uk).

# The GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



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## YOUTH TEAM UPDATE LAWLESS' YOUNGSTERS BACK TO WINNING WAYS

A last-minute strike from Archie Shepherd ensured the Hatters Under-18 returned to winning ways in the Youth Alliance against Sutton United on Saturday.

Alex Lawless' side came into the game having lost back-to-back games in the league to Northampton and then in the cup to Cambridge.

But substitute Shepherd sparked scenes of celebration at the end of a tough encounter at Sutton when he raced into the box down the right and finished well, across goal and out of the reach of the home keeper.

Sutton themselves could have won it prior to the Hatters' final flourish but goalkeeper Cai Hockey denied the home side and it proved crucial as moments later Shepherd had the final say.

"It was really pleasing, especially after losing a few games recently," said Under-18 Lead Coach Lawless. "The boys have responded really well to recent disappointments and their patience was thoroughly rewarded."

"We kept going and were the better team and deserved to win. That said, Sutton had a late chance themselves and at that point it looked as though perhaps we had missed our opportunity for the three points."

Lawless was also pleased by the manner in which the whole squad pulled together in order to gain the three points.

"It was a performance and result thanks to the whole team – all four substitutes who came on had a really positive impact on the game. You could see how much it meant to the boys at the end, the relief and the joy after the previous two weeks of frustration."

"I must really give the boys credit because when you're in that mindset when you've lost a few games and been conceding goals sometimes that can play on your mind – however the boys dug in, never looked fazed whenever they missed a chance. They just kept going and their patience was rewarded at the end."

This afternoon the Town youngsters took on Stevenage at the Brache in the Youth Alliance and are at home again next weekend when they welcome Gillingham (kick-off 10.30am).



Under-18s Lead Coach Alex Lawless



## ACADEMY UPDATE WITH FOUNDATION PHASE COACH BILLY CARTER

### UNDER-9 PREMIER LEAGUE WELCOME FESTIVAL

Luton Town's under-9s experienced the club's first ever Premier League Welcome Festival over the weekend of the 9th and 10th September. The festival involved an overnight stay at Loughborough University with 3v3 games on the Saturday, and 7v7 games on the Sunday.

The boys performed brilliantly on the Saturday, more than competing against other Premier League sides. Displaying excellent one v one play, combinations and physical strength to outplay the opposition.

After the first day of fixtures the boys went back to the hotel to experience, for most of them, their first night away from their parents. The boys enjoyed a team meal, with two players birthdays falling over the weekend. As well as a competition for the best kept room with prizes for the winners.

Sunday brought the challenge of the 7v7 festival, with games against Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal and more. Again, the under-9s performed well to the end on what was a physically and mentally tiring weekend. A mix of results saw the boys win, draw and lose – all with competitive scorelines.

We feel very lucky to have had this experience, and hope for more to come in the future. The life lessons learned over one weekend have been invaluable. All of which I'm sure will be better prepared and less nervous for their next overnight stay out of their comfort zone. As well as a confidence boost to realise they can compete with the best in the country.

This has served as great practice for the under-9's first tour outside of England as they head to Lithuania for a tournament in November. Giving them an opportunity to play against the best boys across Europe, providing an excellent challenge so early in their journey.

## ACADEMY

## DEVELOPMENT SQUAD UPDATE

**Adrian Forbes was a proud man after the Club played its first match in the Premier League Cup against Chelsea on Tuesday night.**

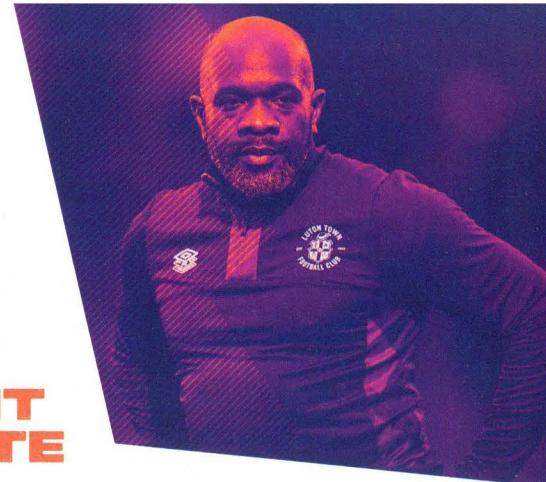
It was the Town's first foray into the under-21 competition and although his side went down 4-1 to the Blues, Forbes could take plenty of positives.

"I remember when I came to the Club four years ago, I identified that there was no buffer between the under-18s and the first team for players, like our boys here, to continue their development. It's another great step in the right direction for the Club as a whole.

"Three years ago this development squad didn't exist but here we are playing against Chelsea in the Premier League Cup and competing with them for large parts. It's something we can all be very proud of."

Millar Matthews-Lewis scored for the Hatters on the stroke of half-time, but it was not enough after Leo Castledine's double, Dylan Williams and Tyrique George netted for the hosts, two of which were late in the game.

There was plenty of Town representation in the stands, with Manager Rob Edwards, CEO



Gary Sweet, Chairman David Wilkinson and other members of the first-team staff all in attendance.

Forbes added: "I can't fault the boys, their approach was superb. Games like this will stand them in good stead, not just for future matches in this competition but also going forward in their careers.

"To have a competition of this size, for us to play some of these teams, is a learning experience for them. As we do not play in a development league this enables the boys to get competitive football and gives them the chance to learn how to manage games differently.

"I felt we managed the game really well. Of course there is disappointment that we lost 4-1, especially because it actually wasn't a 4-1-type of game."

Forbes' young Hatters travel north for their next Premier League Cup fixture, facing Leeds United at LNER Community Stadium on Friday 6th October.

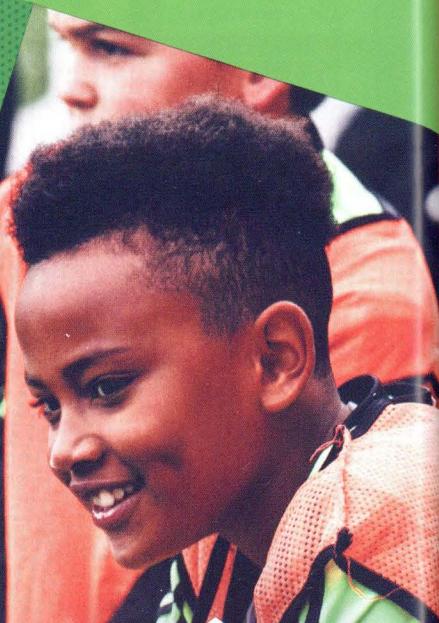


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ACADEMY

## THE NEXT GENERATION SPEAKS

**Charlie Emery doesn't care what league Luton play in. He just wants to play for us.**

The young centre-half has the next two years to realise that dream after becoming one of the 12 new scholars to sign on the dotted line for Alex Lawless' Under-18s.

Given the fact he joined the club as a six-year-old, means he's seen plenty over the past 10 years and been part of the journey from non-league to Premier League.

"What the club have achieved and how they have progressed has been amazing," he says. "It never bothered me when I first joined that they were in the Conference and sure, it's great we are in the Premier League now, but for me it doesn't matter what league we're in, I just want to play for Luton Town."

They are wise words from a defender who has had his own football journey over the past decade.

"I'm from Welynn but was playing for Wheathampstead Wanderers and I was there for a few months," he explains. "A few players were put forward to a trial and from that trial I was one of 12 out of 180 who got chosen.

"I began as a midfielder but now I think I've found myself as a centre-half. As a midfielder you wouldn't get much time on the ball but as a defender you do

and you're able to see the whole game. I think that really suits my game."

The academy leaves no stone unturned in their quest to unearth and develop the next footballers of the future and Charlie has loved every single minute of his education so far at The Brache.

"Coming through the academy has been great because we have had the opportunity to experience playing in tournaments abroad," he says, smiling. "Going away to different countries, seeing how different cultures play different styles of football, hearing different languages, it has been great for me.

"We're playing big teams like Bayern Munich and doing really well so those experiences have been important to my development."

Playing Youth Alliance league football each week is also an experience and the youth team's results in the past month have tested the resolve of Lawless' youngsters after losing back-to-back matches.

"We have really learned from those defeats," says Charlie. "Getting the win against Sutton last Saturday was good because now we want to stay like that and keep winning all the time. Losing wasn't nice."

"But as a group we're coming together and improving as we settle down and now we are looking forward to pushing on for the rest of the season."

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## GETTING TO KNOW... CHARLIE EMERY

**NAME** Charlie Emery

**DOB:** 12/1/2007

**Place of birth:** Welwyn Garden City

**Position(s)** Centre-back

**Year joined the academy/Luton Town:**

As an under-7

**What boots do you wear?** I wear Nike boots

**My aim for the season** is to have a really positive season to work on myself and the team to develop establish myself in the under 18s. Also to hopefully progress onto the under 21s to develop myself as an individual and as a team player.

**The proudest moment of career** so far was lifting the trophy with my team for winning the league and signing my scholarship.

In the playground, I used to be John Terry. I always loved putting in a good tackle and showing passion, aggression and leadership skills

**A career outside of football** for me would a physio to do something else in sport other than football because sport has always been my main passion and interest.

**Charlie Trustram** is my most talented teammate, he takes great free-kicks.

**Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to** most is Tom Lockyer. We play in the same position and I watch his games and highlights to take on his positives and put them into practice in my games and training sessions. He's such a great player to take ideas from and playing style and I also look up to him the most because he is a fantastic leader and a great captain.

**The best thing about Luton Town** is the environment in and around the club all the time when you go into training it's always a great, you feel at home and everyone gets treated with the same respect from the players to the coaches to the cleaners. This allows me to perform to my best every day and the fan base and the support and passion the fans show to the club is unreal and they always have the Kenny rocking and it really inspires me to hopefully play there one day and represent our club in the best way.

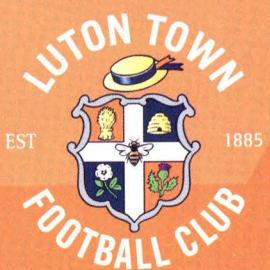


## THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Charlie is a super professional on and off the pitch. I think he's an ideal teammate because he looks out for other people - he is a young man who looks out for others more than himself sometimes and that is a great quality of his."

"He's very considerate and that is why throughout his time in the academy he has been named captain."

"On the pitch he's very much a player who would run through brick walls for you. He's brave, he gets blocks in and is not afraid of putting in a tackle."



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## LUTON TOWN LADIES

**Luton Town Ladies made the long journey to Ipswich on last Sunday to take on Needham Market under the sweltering sun.**

Needham Market finished just one point behind the Hatters last season and were the only opposition to put three goals past the Town and were undefeated going into this game, so fierce competition was on the cards.

However, from kick off Luton showed their prowess, scoring early on from Shanice Lewis, who scored a lovely lob from the out rushing Needham goalkeeper.

Things got better when a Fiona Buttigieg corner caused havoc in the area, new signing Amber Pearson on hand to knock the ball over the line! Luton continued to control the game and went in at half-time with two goals to their name.

After a much-needed recovery and cool down, the second half kicked off. Again it was Luton that dominated, breaking up Needham Market play in the middle of the park, waiting patiently to pounce. The Town's patience was rewarded in the 80th minute when Fiona Buttigieg swung a delightful corner in, beating everyone and finding the back of the net directly.

The Town then went into overdrive. Five minutes later new signing Sam Khan burst into the box, selflessly squaring to captain Jess McKay who slotted for the Hatters' fourth. But Luton weren't done yet and only two minutes later Shanice Lewis got her second and the Hatters fifth with an outstanding effort that found the top corner.

The Hatters wrapped up the game and had a joyous journey home with all three points, a clean sheet and five goals.

A delighted manager Rob Burton said: "We were professional, deadly and on top form for the entire 90 minutes. I take my hat off to all the players, to put themselves out there under that heat and conditions and still perform to that high of a standard. But we've still got plenty more in the tank, the season is just starting." 

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

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Real Bedford	5	5	0	0	21	3	18	15
2	Luton Town Ladies First	4	2	2	0	10	3	7	8
3	Haringey Borough FC First Women	3	2	1	0	13	5	8	7
4	Barking Women	4	2	1	1	10	9	1	7
5	Wroxham FC Women	4	2	0	2	19	9	10	6
6	Needham Market F.C. Womens	4	2	0	2	13	12	1	6
7	Bowers & Pitsea LFC First	4	1	2	1	8	8	0	5
8	Royston Town Women First	4	1	1	2	14	11	3	4
9	Stevenage FC Women First	4	1	1	2	10	11	-1	4
10	St Albans City FC Women First	4	1	1	2	7	9	-2	4
11	AFC Dunstable Women	4	0	1	3	3	16	-13	1
12	Kings Lynn Town FC Ladies	4	0	0	4	1	33	-32	0

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL\_Official

# LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

WITH PAUL STEPHENS, LTST BOARD MEMBER AND FSA LIAISON OFFICER

Twenty years ago, the roots of Luton Town Supporters' Trust were formed as TIL – Trust in Luton. Later to merge with the Supporters' Club as the unified voice of the fans, we were born out of extreme adversity, with the future of our club in real and grave danger.

Now, here we are in 2023 and Luton Town are in the Premier League. It seems like a dream!

During those 20 years, TIL/LTST has played a key role in saving the club from oblivion. It's been an incredible rollercoaster ride, with some absolute lows – including the loss of 40 points and our league status – but since 2020 became custodians we've had a club to be rightly proud of. Not just in what Luton Town have done but also the way the club have done it – from brilliant stewardship of the budget to leading the way on living wage – and handing LTST shares and image rights, to help protect the club and to give you, our loyal supporters, an active role in the club's future.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

LTST has developed too, supporting the move towards Power Court, canvassing fans to help us develop a clear strategy, becoming key participants in major initiatives like Fair Game – we were founder members – and being the only Supporters' Trust asked to present to the Government's Fan-Led Review of Football.

We continue to be deeply involved – more of



this during the season – and we believe this to be vitally important as all around us we see the rampant effects of greed and global politics seeping into our game, poor ownership leading to the demise of proud Town clubs like our own and football in crisis as the holy grail of the Premier League is pursued at all costs.

## YOUR CLUB, YOUR TRUST

Luton Town has done it – got there – the right way. And LTST has been with 2020 every step of the way. But we know that with our raised profile comes potential peril, and we need to stand strong together. That's where you come in.

As the one and only 'Sir' John Still famously said "the stronger the team, the stronger the team". The more supporters who join the Trust, the more we can do to help protect the future for the club, 2020, the town, its communities and our wider fanbase.

We're all proud of the 'togetherness' we show on and off the pitch – so please, if you haven't done so already, take just a minute or so to join us at the Trust. How? Simply visit [www.lutontownsupporterstrust.com/membership](http://www.lutontownsupporterstrust.com/membership) and follow the guidelines. It costs just £10 - £5 for concessions – a year, and it opens the door to all sorts of benefits and opportunities for involvement.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.**

# MEET THE FANS

## LUTON TOWN FANS Q&A WITH DAVE GORING

**How long have you supported Luton for?**

47 years. I went to my first game at the age of five. I am now 52.

**Where do you sit at home matches?**

I sit up in G block

**Who is your all-time favourite player and why?**

David Moss and Ricky Hill. The running down the wing of Moss made him one of my favourites while Ricky did things with the ball that I had never seen before.

**What does it mean to you to be a Luton fan?**

Being a Luton fan is like being a part of one big family.

**What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?**

Any win we get over that team from down the road! Apart from that the Raddy Antic day at Maine Road in 1983 as well as our three Wembley wins in 1988, 2009 and of course back in May. I enjoyed some of the non-league away games too.

**How has your support of Luton been seen by your friends (did they make fun of little old Luton etc)?**

I was always asked why I don't support a proper team.

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

A lot have changed their minds and are jealous that in just nine years we did it all going from the bottom to the top.

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

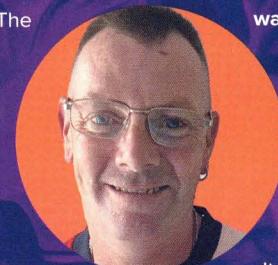
I'm not ashamed to admit that I cried. It was very emotional!

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

It is nice to be going to the stadiums like Stamford Bridge but for me, non-league was proper football with clubs and supporters deep rooted in the game.

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

Being us - little old Luton. Mixing it with the big boys and proving to the so-called experts who think that we shouldn't be at this level that we belong here. Hopefully we prove them all wrong and stay up.



# Fly to London by coach.

Travel from Luton Airport to London on one of our comfortable coaches.

With more buses at peak hours.

And with our comfy seats, onboard WI-FI and USB port, time will just fly by.

**£12 single, £18 return\* and £35 for a Family return ticket**



Book now at  
[greenline.co.uk](http://greenline.co.uk)

\*Return ticket to be used within 3 months

**GL** greenline



## WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

**As we welcome Wolverhampton Wanderers to Kenilworth Road for our third home game of the season, I think it's time to look back on our first season in the Championship. More specifically, our third home game back in the second tier.**

The game in question was our 2-1 victory over recently relegated Huddersfield Town. I remember going into the game with a few nerves, but I was still feeling good as we were coming off the back of a dismantling of Barnsley in a 3-1 victory at Oakwell. Being 10 years old at the time, I was mainly used to see us winning in League One and League Two, so it was quite the contrast watching us in our first season in the Championship.

Graeme Jones had named a solid team for the match with an exciting attack of James Collins, Harry Cornick and Kazenga LuLuLu.

Neither side could break the deadlock in the first half, but this soon changed in the second half. Under two minutes in, the Terriers took the lead after Karlan Grant managed to bundle the ball in for the away side. This was the third time in the last two away games where Luton had conceded early in the second half and I remember there was tension within the home end.

Soon after this, Luton were on the front foot and began dominating the game. James Bree's deflected cross down the left fell to James Collins who was tripped inside the box and a penalty was awarded. Collins

stepped up and smashed it into the bottom left corner to level the game.

This gave Luton the momentum the team needed, and it looked like only one team would go on and win the game. The pressure was building on the Huddersfield defence, and it felt like a matter of time until the Hatters took the lead.

Just under ten minutes after the equaliser, Cornick laid the ball off to Andrew Shinnie far from the goal. He turned past the defender before looping the ball into the left-side of the net much to the delight of the Luton fans.

This now set the home fans on a nervous 25-minute wait for that final whistle. The game returned to the state it was in during the first half and both sides were threatening.

Luton held on and got their second win in a row in the Championship. I remember walking out of the ground and couldn't believe we were adjusting to the league so well. If you told me, we would be in the Premier League playing West Ham at home in four years I would have laughed at you!

It is always nice to flashback and reminisce about games that have been mostly forgotten about. There are plenty of games in our rise up the leagues are still left to revisit this season, I hope this has brought back some memories.



## LUTON TOWN PREMIUM BUSINESS PARTNERS



## LUTON TOWN BUSINESS PARTNERS

KDW / financial planning



FUTURE AGENCY  
MUSIC · SPORTS · ENTERTAINMENT



# JUNIOR HATTERS TODAY'S MASCOTS



**AADYA MISTRY**

AGE: 7  
HOBBIES: SINGING, DANCING, PAINTING AND WATCHING LTFC

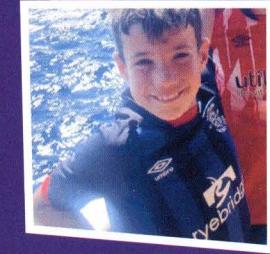
FAVOURITE PLAYERS:  
TOM LOCKYER, CARLTON MORRIS,  
PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU,  
ELIJAH ADEBAYO



**ALEXANDER BAKER-TRUELOVE**

AGE: 11  
FOOTBALL, RUGBY, SWIMMING, JUDO, CYCLING

FAVOURITE PLAYER:  
CARLTON MORRIS



**BEN TAYLOR**

AGE: 9  
HOBBIES: PLAYING FOOTBALL AND CRICKET AND WATCHING THE HATTERS

FAVOURITE PLAYER:  
CARLTON MORRIS



**LUKE O'DONNELL**

AGE: 12  
HOBBIES: FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL



**TAYLOR ANDERSON**

AGE: 8  
HOBBIES: PLAYING FOOTBALL, SWIMMING AND PLAYING NINTENDO



FAVOURITE PLAYERS: TOM LOCKYER, CARLTON MORRIS, ELIJAH ADEBAYO, DAN POTTS

# TICKET NEWS



## EXETER CITY V LUTON TOWN

Tuesday 26th September,  
kick-off 7:45pm. Carabao Cup  
Second Round

We have received an initial allocation of 769 tickets (369 Seats and 400 Terrace) for our fixture away to Exeter City on Tuesday 26th September.

### GENERAL SALE

Any remaining tickets will be available on Friday 15th September, online, over the phone and in person.

### Seats

Adult: £27.00, Seniors 65+: £24.00, Young Adults 18-23: £24.00, Under 18s: £13.00.

### Terrace

Adult: £20.00, Seniors 65+: £17.00, Young Adults 18-23: £17.00, Under 18s: £8.00.

Subject to availability, tickets will be available on the day to purchase with a slight increase.

Ambulant disabled supporters are charged their appropriate age category with a helper free of charge.

Wheelchair Disabled Supporters can book by calling Exeter City direct on 01392 411243 option 2 or email [tickets@ecfc.co.uk](mailto:tickets@ecfc.co.uk).



## EVERTON V LUTON TOWN

Premier League  
Saturday 30th September,  
kick-off 3pm

We have received an allocation of 2,976 tickets

for the fixture.

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters with no tickets available on the day at Goodison Park.

### Season card holders

Tickets are on sale at one per person online, using a client reference number or can be purchased via phone.

### Two-year Hatters Members

Subject to availability, any members who have held a membership for two seasons can book one ticket per person from 10am on Monday 25th September online, in person or by calling the ticket office.

### 2023/24 Hatters Members

Subject to availability, any members with a previous purchasing history can book one ticket per person from 10am on Tuesday 26th September online, in person or by calling the ticket office.

### New 2023/2024 Hatters Members

Subject to availability, tickets will go on sale on Thursday 28th September 10am at one per person to any supporter with a previous purchasing history and any member without a previous booking history.

### Prices

Adults £30, Seniors Over 65 £25.00, Under-18s £20.00. Obstructed views are reduced by £1.00

Ambulant and wheelchair fans will pay the relevant age-related price and are entitled to a personal assistant if in receipt of medium to high Disability Living Allowance.

# LET'S GO

**GOODISON PARK  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH  
KICK OFF: 3PM**

### WHERE?

Goodison is one of the UK's great old football stadia. It is therefore with genuine sadness that next Saturday will likely to be our last visit to this part of Liverpool as the Toffees are set to move to their new stadium at a site at Bramley-Moore docks next year. Opened 131 years ago, Goodison Park has hosted more top-flight football matches than any other. Hatters fans will be located in the two-tier Bullens Stand that runs the length of the pitch.

### HOW TO GET THERE.

As ever the Bobbers Travel Club are running a coach to Everton. Departing from Luton at 9am the fare is £35 for adults and £32 for concessions. Book your spot on the coach by calling 01234 856542. There is a proposed national rail strike planned for next weekend so we advise you to make alternative travel arrangements. If you're driving (probably best), the postcode you need is L4 4EL. Parking-wise, there is a car park in nearby Stanley Park which costs £10.

### UNHAPPY HUNTING GROUND.

The Hatters' record at Goodison doesn't make for pleasing reading. Town teams have struggled here in the past, winning just six of 25 matches with 16 of those games ending in defeat. You have to

go back to October 2006 for our last visit – a 4-0 League Cup defeat but you need to scroll back to September 1988 for our last victory. That day goals from Kingsley Black and David Oldfield secured a 2-0 win in the top-flight.

### THE FULHAM OF TODAY.

Sean Dyche, who took over at the end of last season and guided the Toffees to survival, has a job on his hands to prevent another relegation battle following their start to the season. Everton have taken just one point from their opening five games – that coming thanks to a 2-2 draw at Sheffield United. Last weekend saw the Blues lose out at home to Arsenal – a third successive defeat, all without scoring.

### WATCH OUT FOR.

Jordan Pickford. The England number one has been a mainstay in the Toffees team since joining the club from Sunderland in 2017. The 29-year-old has been capped 55 times by his country and has continued to impress between the sticks, winning player of the year twice, in 2017/18 and 2021/22. In February he penned a new deal to keep him at Goodison until 2028.

### DON'T MENTION.

Villa Park. 1985. FA Cup semi-final. The Town were five minutes away from an FA Cup final. A late goal. 1-1. A goal in extra-time. Cup dreams over.



THE TOFFEES



THE HATTERS



# MEMBERS



Call the Commercial Team on 01582 411622 or email [commercial@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:commercial@lutontown.co.uk) for information on memberships.



## INTRODUCING THE 2023/24 THIRD SHIRT

**THE LONG-AWAITED THIRD SHIRT IS HERE AND IT'S A HAT TIP TO KENILWORTH ROAD.**

To some it's the Kenny, to others the old girl.

To visitors, it's something rhythming with... oh forget it you know.

But in among the pillars, corrugated iron and plastic seats is a place we call home.

And our navy and pink shirt - inspired by our first ever colours and tailored by Umbro - will make its debut at Exeter next Tuesday, bares the aerial outline of Kenilworth Road from above.

Forget the memes, the online hate, she's ours to love and appreciate.

Shirts are now available to buy in store and online.

# Premier League

## ROUND-UP

**The Hatters are bottom of the table. Zero points and four straight defeats. Not since 2002/03 have we started a campaign with this form. Yet that season we finished mid-table in League One.**

We've conceded 10 goals, too. That's as many as five other teams, including Manchester United. With a game in hand, we're also one point from safety. Win today and the Hatters would go on level points with Wolves. Remarkable how a quick look at the league table can make things seem that little less dark, eh?

Burnley's draw at Forest on Monday night meant we're the only team yet to register a point this season. Fun fact: Crystal Palace lost their first seven games in the Premier League in 2017/18 but finished the campaign in 11th place.

At the top of the division, Manchester City have won all five games. Their latest success was a 3-1 victory at West Ham. Erling Haaland somehow squandered several chances but still managed to get on the scoresheet to

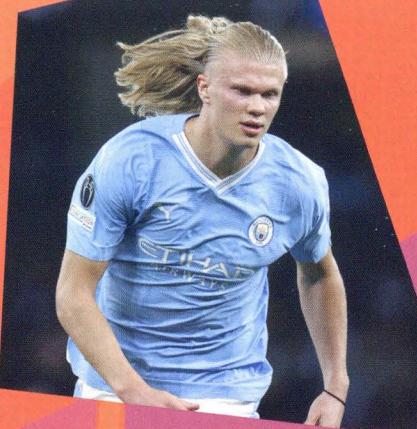
take his tally to seven for the season.

Spurs scored two injury-time goals to scupper Sheffield United's chances of a first win of the season. The Blades remain on one point. As do Everton after they went down 1-0 at Goodison against Arsenal, who remain unbeaten.

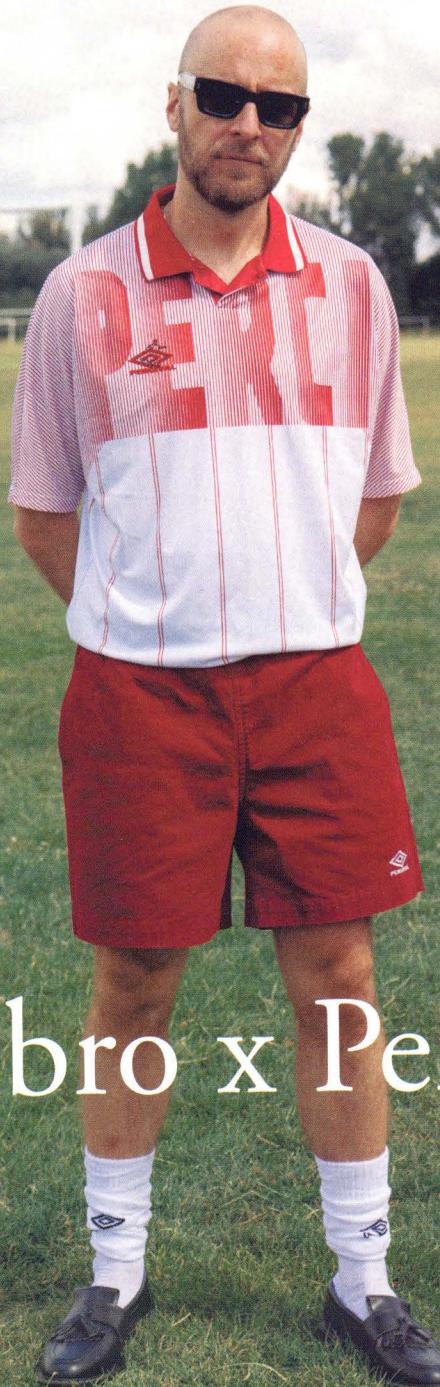
Liverpool are the fourth side who have yet to taste defeat so far this term following their comeback win against our visitors today, hitting three second-half goals to win for the fourth time this term.

Brighton's fine form continued – they've scored more goals than anyone else (15) – after the Seagulls cruised to a 3-1 win at Old Trafford against Manchester United.

There were plenty of late goals and drama at Villa Park as Aston Villa scored three times in the last 10 minutes to beat Crystal Palace. Elsewhere, Newcastle beat Brentford 1-0 and Bournemouth held Chelsea to a goalless draw at Dean Court (yes, it's sponsored by someone, but it'll always be Dean Court to us.)



Premier



Umbro x Percival

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## PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON							CAREER					
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		CARDS	TOTAL					
	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G		APPS	G				
Elijah Adebayo	3	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	3	(2)	0	0	0	114	32
Mads Andersen	3	(1)	1	1	(0)	0	4	(1)	1	1	0	5	1
Ross Barkley	2	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	3	0
Amari'i Bell	4	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	0	0	102	2
Luke Berry	0	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	1	0	166	24
Jacob Brown	1	(3)	0	1	(0)	1	2	(3)	1	1	0	5	1
Reece Burke	3	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	3	(1)	0	0	0	61	4
Allan Campbell	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	86	7
Tahith Chong	4	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	1	0	4	0
Jordan Clark	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	111	9
Alfie Doughty	1	(3)	0	1	(0)	1	2	(3)	1	0	0	40	3
Ryan Giles	3	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0	0	4	0
Issa Kabore	3	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	3	(2)	0	1	0	5	0
Thomas Kaminski	4	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	1	0	4	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0
Tom Lockyer	3	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	1	0	106	6
Sambi Lokonga	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0
Carlton Morris	4	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	0	0	55	21
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	1	(3)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(3)	0	0	0	375	23
Marvelous Nakamba	4	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	4	(1)	0	2	0	25	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	0	(4)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(4)	0	0	0	5	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	(3)	0	1	(0)	1	1	(3)	1	0	0	39	4

### DEBUT FOR SAMBI

A big Luton Town welcome to Albert Sambi Lokonga who became the 1,355th player to play a competitive first team match for the Hatters.



# 2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS



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

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	POS	SCORE	STARTING XI
SAT AUG 12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	3PM	A 18	L1-4	KAMINSKI KABORE KAMINSKI KRUL DOUGHTY KAMINSKI KABORE
FRI AUG 25	CHELSEA	8PM	A 19	L0-3	GILES GILES ANDERSEN BURKE ANDERSEN BURKE BURKE
TUE AUG 29	GILLINGHAM (CC)	7.45PM	H	W3-2	ANDERSEN DOUGHTY GILES ANDERSEN BURKE ANDERSEN
FRI SEP 1	WEST HAM UNITED	8PM	H 19	L1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES BURKE ANDERSEN LOCKER
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A 20	L0-1	KAMINSKI KABORE BELL BURKE LOCKER ANDERSEN
SAT SEP 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	H		
TUE SEP 26	EXETER CITY (CC)	7.45PM	A		
SAT SEP 30	EVERTON	3PM	A		
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12.30PM	H		
SAT OCT 3	BURNLEY	7.30PM	H		
SAT OCT 21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	A		
SUN OCT 29	ASTON VILLA	2PM	A		
SUN NOV 5	LIVERPOOL	4.30PM	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		

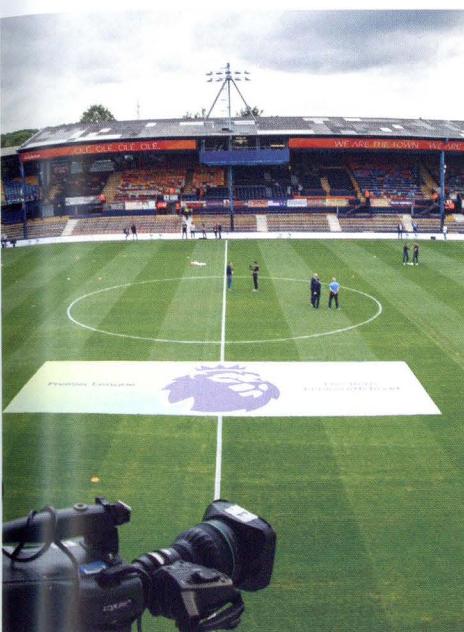
## Premier League

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



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## SUBSTITUTES

SHEA, FRANCIS CLARKE, BERRY, CAMPBELL, DOUGHERY, BROWN, MCFARRELL, OGBENE, WOODROW	31,872	3,001
DOUGHERY, ANDERSEN, RUDODI, K. MPANZU, OGBENE, BROWN, K. KRUL, BERRY, WOODROW, JOHNSON	39,893	3,054
SHEA, BURKE, JOHNSON, KABORE, BARKLEY, CHONG, NAKAMBA, ADEBAYO, MORRIS	9,468	1,058
KRUL, BERRY, BROWN, FRANCIS CLARKE, JOHNSON, KABORE, MPANZU, OGBENE, WOODROW	10,802	1,151
KRUL, ADEBAYO, BERRY, DOUGHERY, GILES, MENGI, LOKONGA, OGBENE, WOODROW	24,467	2,701

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

PALACE v FULHAM	
MAN CITY v FOREST	
BRENTFORD v EVERTON	
BURNLEY v MAN UTD	

## SUNDAY'S GAMES

ARSENAL v TOTTENHAM	
BRIGHTON v BOURNEMOUTH	
CHELSEA v VILLA	
LIVERPOOL v WEST HAM	
SHEFF UTD v NEWCASTLE	

## TOP SCORERS

HAALAND (MAN CITY) 7
FERGUSON (BRIGHTON) 4
EDOUARD (PALACE) 4
MBEUMO (BRENTFORD) 4



## HOLD THE BACK PAGE

Simon Oxley – BBC Three Counties Radio

**We are settling into our new commentary position on the Bobbers Stand gantry. It's a great view, although I have already purchased a long, thick winter coat just in case. In over 30 years I had never watched a game from that side of the ground. It was like moving house to across the road.**

I have experienced the Premier League since Luton's top-flight departure in 1992, but every year the media operation expands, and of course beyond all recognition from those days 31 years ago.

Back then the late Brian Swain was handing out actual telephones from his cupboard in the old press room to reporters carrying little more than a notebook and pen. Nobody was reporting for a website or updating social media, and Hatters fans had to wait until Wednesday to read about the game in a local paper. There were two – the Luton News and the Herald, with the Citizen having closed a few months before.

It was updates with the occasional commentary on BBC Radio Bedfordshire, and the same on Chiltern Radio, with coverage as well on London's Capital Gold. Plus, Brian could also be heard on the club's Soccerline telephone service.

As for seeing the goals, it might have been on Match of the Day or local ITV,

or you could wait for the end of season video. Watching them on your phone on your way home? That was Tomorrow's World stuff.

There are now so many platforms on which to debate the issues of the day, or indeed the hour. Following our promotion it was clear that the level of scrutiny would increase - it comes with the territory of being in the Premier League.

It's great to be televised around the world. As Luton Council has recognised, it can provide global exposure for the town. It can also be frustrating when people fail to see the bigger picture.

As I write these notes, a BBC colleague has again questioned the club's ambitions. It is certainly not the view across the BBC, and certainly not at BBC 3CR. But many of you now have the opportunity, via social media, to reply and express your views directly, and you are doing so. That is a positive of the new age, but I guess the ideal response is three points today. Equally, I think we can safely say that even if the club were to go down, we wouldn't be having points deducted for not paying wages. That's just one example, there are many more, and we all know them.

Hopefully the penny will drop elsewhere.

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## 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
15. TEDEN MENGI
16. REECE BURKE
17. PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU
18. JORDAN CLARK
19. JACOB BROWN
23. TIM KRUL
24. THOMAS KAMINSKI
26. RYAN GILES
28. ALBERT SAMBI LOKONGA
29. AMARI'I BELL
45. ALFIE DOUGHTY

## WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

1. JOSE SA
2. MATT DOHERTY
3. RAYAN AIT-NOURI
4. SANTIAGO BUENO
5. MARIO LEMINA
6. BOUBACAR TRAORE
7. PEDRO NETO
8. JOAO GOMES
9. FABIO SILVA
11. HEE CHAN HWANG
12. MATHEUS CUNHA
15. CRAIG DAWSON
17. HUGO BUENO
18. SASA KALAJDZIC
19. JONNY
20. TOMMY DOYLE
21. PABLO SARABIA
22. NELSON SEMEDO
23. MAXIMILIAN KILMAN
24. TOTI
25. DAN BENTLEY
27. JEAN-RICNER BELLEGARDE
30. ENSO GONZALEZ
32. JOE HODGE
40. TOM KING

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE - JOSH SMITH

ASSISTANT REFEREE - EDWARD SMART

ASSISTANT REFEREE - NICK GREENHALGH

FOURTH OFFICIAL - PETER BANKES

VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - JOHN BROOKS

ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - AKIL HOWSON