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LUTON TOWN V BURNLEY

TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2023 | 7.30PM | KENILWORTH ROAD

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

BRING THE NOISE!





WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

A big week of Premier League action here at the Kenny starts tonight under the lights. Is there anything better in life? Probably. But for the next few hours the only thing that matters is Premier League points as we welcome Burnley, last season's Championship champions, to LU4. Will it be tough? Sure. Will it be exciting? Definitely. So enjoy the ride and get the behind the lads. Come on Luton!



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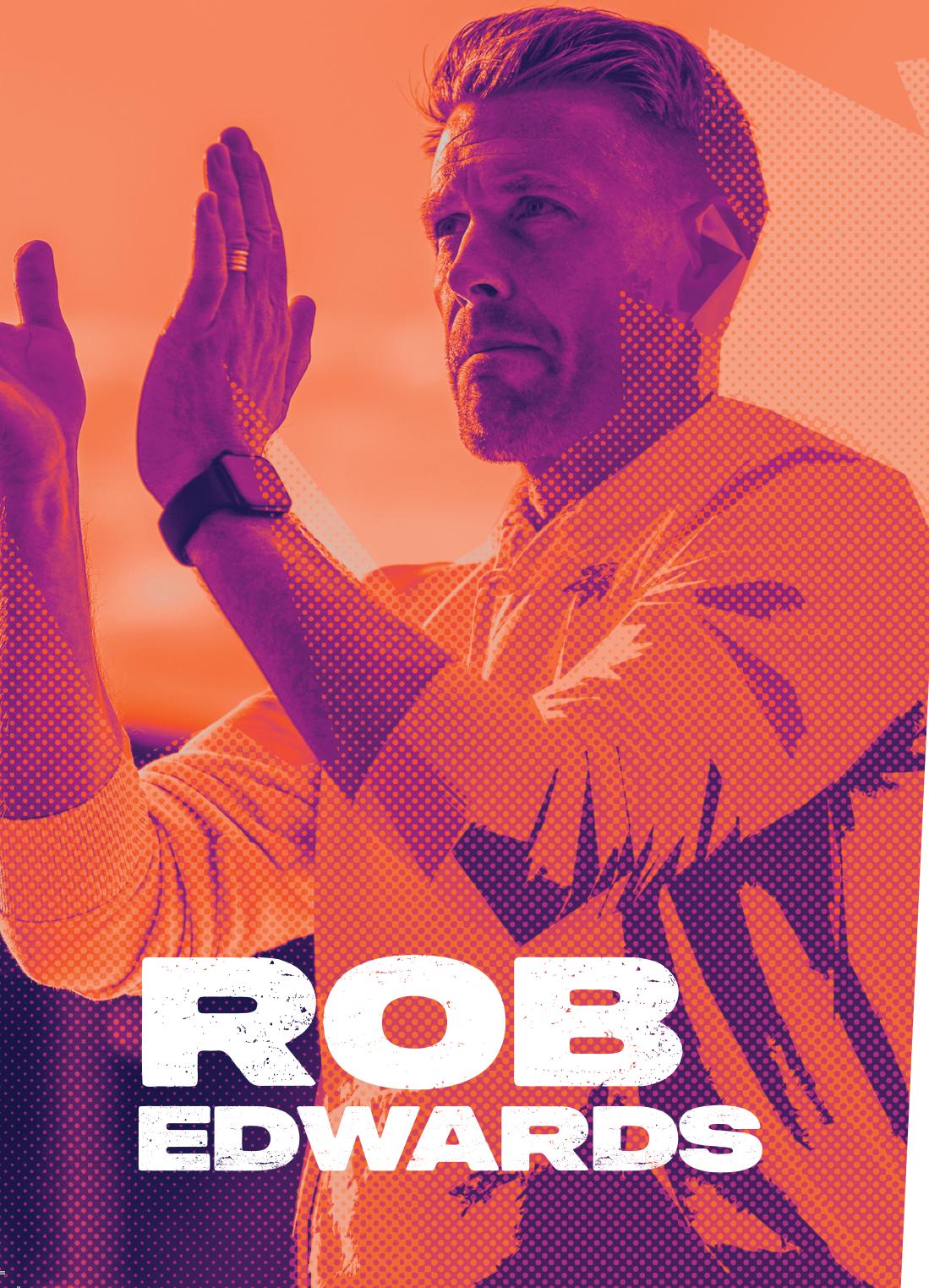
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**SEASON
SO FAR**

A man with short, light-colored hair and a beard is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a yellow button-down shirt with a graphic of a lightning bolt and a small American flag on the left chest. He has his right hand raised with the palm facing forward, and a gold ring is visible on his ring finger. His left hand is also raised, with the fingers slightly spread. The background is a warm, orange-toned gradient.

ROB EDWARDS

I would like to begin my notes tonight by extending my condolences to the family and friends of Mark Ledsom, whose sudden passing has saddened us all at the football club. Mark was a well-respected communications professional in our media team and he will be sadly missed. Our love and support goes out to those closest to him.

Everton also paid tribute to Mark at the weekend, which was a lovely touch, and therefore it was fitting we should earn our first Premier League victory at Goodison Park. That was for you, Mark.

I am sure he would have loved writing about our achievement at the weekend on what was an amazing and historic day for us. At a famous old ground, against a big, big club it was a special day. Any win in the Premier League is one to remember and the emotions at the end were something to savour. It was great to be able to share that with you at the end – those that travelled were fantastic throughout – and I know the players really enjoyed those celebrations. It really was a special moment.

After any important result it is important to build on it and tonight, under the lights here at the Kenny, we face a tough game against a Burnley side who ran away with the Championship title last season.

We welcome Vincent Kompany and his staff and players to Bedfordshire knowing that since the summer they have improved their squad further. They are playing with a clear identity and are dominating possession in matches. Any team that enjoys two-thirds of the ball against Manchester United are

a team to take very seriously and we're going to need to be ready for the challenge tonight. We're going to need to be ready to run and work hard – just as you need to do in any game.

These are my first notes since we picked up the first point in the Premier League against Wolves, a performance which we know deserved more. When you see what Wolves did at the weekend, against Manchester City, it further highlights just how competitive this league is and how hard every single game is.

At Exeter, we made ten changes – a decision I still stand by as the right one. Players needed game time and unfortunately for us, despite some good parts to the performance, we didn't do enough in the final third. However, when you see the impact the substitutes had at Goodison on Saturday, their contributions – like that of Teden Mengi – were vital, and that would not have been the case without their involvement down in Devon.

Finally, thank you for your continued unwavering support up and down the country in the past week, it really is appreciated. Tonight back here we need you to make this old place rock once more. Make 10,000 sound like 100,000. We want to back up Saturday's win so let's go and bring the noise.

Enjoy the game. 





TOM LOCKYER

What a great feeling Saturday was. We knew a lot of people had been writing us off. Luton this and Luton that. So it was nice in many ways to get those first three points in the Premier League. It feels great. The changing room was a very, very happy place at Goodison.

Personally it was great to put us in the lead with a wonderful poacher's finish! Nah to be fair, once their lad took that touch there was no way I wasn't closing it down, so I was delighted it got us in front and obviously really pleased to have got on the scoresheet in the Premier League. There are things you dream of that you sometimes think maybe won't happen but scoring in the top-flight is something nobody can now take away from me.

In fairness I was disappointed with a header moments before from a corner when I felt I really should have hit the target with but once we got our noses in front that character we showed last season was there for all to see. Carlton's finish was sublime and we're all delighted for him.

We conceded a real scrappy one just before half-time but in the second half I don't remember Thomas being called into much action. Not that I could see much. I took a whack on the eye and – you probably saw on Match of the Day the shiner underneath it – and it impaired my eyesight quite a bit so had to come off. Yet the lads dug in and showed all those tenacious qualities. It was a proper Luton Town away win.

That will give us all a taste. Everyone in that dressing room wants more. There's no point dwelling on what's happened on Saturday – even if we had lost, attention would have been immediately on tonight's game with Burnley. We were training on Sunday in preparation for what is another big game, one we're really relishing against a side who walked away with the Championship title last season.

Going back to the last time we were here at the Kenny we were held to a 1-1 draw with Wolves. It was good to get that first point of the season but we knew afterwards it was a performance that warranted more. Our first half showing in particular was very positive but we showed that determination in the second half to come back after conceding the opening goal.

A big thanks to those who travelled to Exeter. It's been long old week on the motorways for you, so on behalf of the group, we're sorry we didn't reward your loyalty with a result down there. I know it will have hurt you, just like it did us. Hopefully Saturday's result made up for it a little. We're not going to hide behind the 'concentrate on the league' stuff – we felt we could have gone deep into the competition but it was not to be.

So back to tonight. I feel like I've repeated myself a million times here, but we gotta push on. Saturday is done. We want to win again and build on the performances which, as you know, have been improving week in, week out since the start of the season.

Stick with us. Up the Hatters. 





FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH DIRECTOR STEPHEN BROWNE

Welcome to the Kenny on a Tuesday night, under the floodlights. There's nothing quite like it is there? It raises the hairs doesn't it, excitement everywhere!

A warm welcome to the Clarets and their supporters. Vincent Kompany has been doing a fantastic job with a brilliant season last term, and now with a team that have their eyes much further up the table that they are now – they have played some great teams so far so do not be fooled by league positions. In fact, I remember the days when we only looked at tables after ten or so games, and indeed they were not even printed in the press until game five at least. All we know for sure is that the Premier League will have twists and turns throughout the season.

Firstly, I would like to say on behalf of the Board and everyone at the Club that our deepest sympathies are with the family and friends of Mark Ledsom. He was so well known and liked by so many that we are heartbroken at the news of his passing. As a Club, we would also like to thank Everton and their supporters for their show of respect and the personal message sent from their Chairman Bill Kenwright, who himself is recovering from severe illness, for which we wish him well.

Now that the hype about the Kenny rebuild has calmed down, we can look around and see just what a media machine the Premier League is. The interest from all corners of the globe is hard to believe until you see it all in action.

Inevitably that means we get to hear, read, and see the complete gamut of views, opinions, and observations from a range of people who love the game. Some of the exposure the Club and the town have had makes my chest puff out and fills me with pride. Those who have watched us over the years understand just how much adversity our little patch of Bedfordshire has had to go through over the past couple of decades, and how far we have come. Those even more informed can see that a key part of our achievements is that we have done all this whilst staying firmly, and completely, united.

I think we can see by the reactions of so many people that even the top-line summary of our journey is remarkable. When you add to that the facts and details - real details - and the story just expands and becomes even more of an achievement. Some have even suggested that by merely playing in the world's top league from where we started we have



eclipsed previously lauded and amazing achievements such as Leicester's title win (and that's not taking anything away from their unique season). Wherever this ranks the key word in that previous sentence is 'we'.

WE have achieved so much and that includes the myriad of people that have helped along the way. Everyone added something. Every event, we learnt something. Every twist, we overcame. WE have done this - those present today, those present in the past, and those no longer with us to see this chapter.

Do we deserve to take our place in this league? Well, there is no doubt that this league only deserves the best clubs in the land, and it's an honour to be here. By the rules of the land, we achieved what was needed to be in this league. Now we are here, we are doing our best to learn, compete and treat the opportunity we have been given with the utmost respect. We respect the monies

we earned and, as you well know, that money will be put to excellent use on facilities and infrastructure that not only secures our Club for the long-term, but is also gives a legacy worthy of the world's best league. It will place us in a position where we can compete on a sustainable basis, and ensure the town get facilities that will be some of the best in the land.

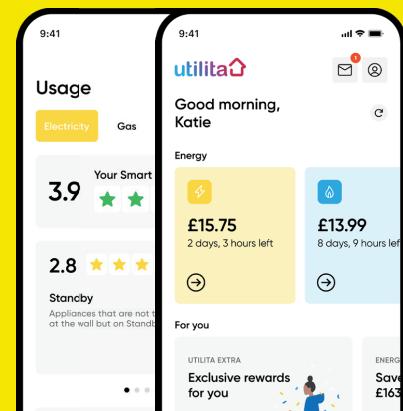
From game one, we knew it's impossible for us to lose. Whatever happens we will be winners. Take that all in...revel in it. We have earnt this, so enjoy it. Be proud at what we have achieved together. Of all and any previous seasons over the history of our great Club, THIS is the one for you to have fun without expectation or criticism.

By taking that position - and not suddenly becoming entitled or snippy at those in leagues lower - we stay us. That is what gives us the best chance of surprising a few in this league. We are unique...there is no one like us. ➤

HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

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proper smart.**





As Everton showed, we can compete. Wolves, Fulham...even West Ham, we were not far off getting rewards for our efforts. Everyone will keep learning and giving 100 per cent. The noise from the stands at every game has been IMMENSE. We are just as capable of getting points as the next team when we play to our strengths...courageous, honest, committed, bold, united – on and off the pitch.

And that's what will continue. A promotion does not change our principles. Nor does it change our objectives...sustainability, security, community: it's still business as usual.

All Luton fans over a certain age will recall being told so many times 'not to bother'. 'Non-league?', 'Sick club of football?', 'What's the point?'

Now we know the answer.

Onwards and upwards. The future has never looked brighter. The personnel that have joined us will yet again add to everything we are doing and move us forward. We are under no illusions as to the heights we need to reach, but whatever happens we are only winners. And we all know what happens when we've been written off before...

Sing, make that noise. Carry on showing the world just who Luton Town are!

COYH!

Stephen. 



REST IN PEACE, MARK LEDSOM

It was with immense sadness that the Club announced last week the sudden and tragic passing of our colleague, friend and Hatters supporter Mark Ledsom.

A professionally trained broadcaster and journalist with more than 20 years of experience in media, journalism and communications, Mark worked for some of the media industry's biggest broadcasters including Sky Sports, BBC and Thomson Reuters.

Since 2008, he worked in the field of corporate communications – starting at world football's governing body FIFA, where he launched and edited their new monthly four-language magazine. He returned to the UK in 2014 to manage communications for Transport Systems Catapult, a newly-created government-backed technology and innovation centre.

His influence had been seen during the Hatters' rise from non-league to the Premier League, offering the Club regular PR advice and guidance on a consultancy basis before committing to take his dream job by joining Luton Town's media team this summer as the Club recruited new talent in readiness for the Premier League.

In those few short weeks, Mark's passion for his work, the Club and the town left a lasting impression on colleagues who quickly warmed to him. He was proud to make his Luton Town press box debut in the club's first Premier League match at Brighton.

Heartbreakingly, less than a month after discovering he had cancer and just one day after he should have been celebrating his 50th birthday, Mark lost his brief but brave battle with the disease.

He leaves behind his wife, Louise, and three children – Max, Kurt and Anya – and the love and thoughts of all at the Club go to them all and his wider family, including his sister Jane, who is well-known among the Hatters fan base.

On Saturday, at Everton, manager Rob Edwards dedicated the victory in his memory, which had come after the home side had paid tribute to him in the press box by leaving a Toffees shirt and Luton scarf. It touched us all.

Rest in peace, Mark. 

UNI OF BEDS BECOME OFFICIAL EDUCATION PARTNER



The Club and the University of Bedfordshire are pleased to announce an expansion of their long-standing partnership which will see the University become the official education partner of the Club. The new agreement, which will bring a range of educational and career development opportunities for students, builds on the existing relationship between the two institutions which began more than a decade ago.

The partnership between the University and the Club will offer excellent career development opportunities and work experience for students studying on sports related courses such as Sport & Exercise Science and Sports Therapy & Rehabilitation, as well as other course areas including Business and Sports Journalism.

These will include field trips to the Hatters' training ground, and home match tickets for students from a select group of relevant courses such as BSc Football Coaching, which will allow them an insight into the behind-the-scenes workings of a Premier League football club.

Town Commercial Director Chris Bell said: "It's a really exciting time to expand the long and strong relationship between the Club and the University of Bedfordshire. We will be able to offer amazing experiences to students and staff to develop within a truly unique environment. We have a number of University of Beds alumni currently working for the Club in a different areas of the Club."

"As the Club continues to grow and develop with Power Court on the horizon this is a perfect time to deepen our excellent relationship with the University of Bedfordshire."

Adrian Dutch, Pro Vice Chancellor at the

University of Bedfordshire, said: "We are extremely excited and proud to be partnering with Luton Town Football Club to deliver this new educational programme that puts students right at the heart of the partnership.

"As two local cornerstone institutions, the University has enjoyed a great relationship with the Club for more than ten years and we are looking forward to building on this association as we launch a range of new opportunities and initiatives to enhance the student learning experience."

In tandem with the announcement of the new partnership, the University is also launching a unique new MBA in Business Administration (Sport Leadership and Management), delivered in collaboration between the School of Sport Science & Physical Activity and the University of Bedfordshire Business School, which will see further opportunities for students to get involved with the Club and develop valuable industry experience.

The new agreement will see the University of Bedfordshire's logo featured on the sleeve of training shirts for the men's, academy and ladies' teams, as well as retaining the existing advertising boards currently found at Kenilworth Road.



NEWEST HATTER

Another Hatter born into this world, Rudi Stephen Wilmott was born on the 18th September and will be attending future games with Grandad Steve and his mum Paige in the Oak Road. Congratulations to all involved.



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Kenilworth Road – 23rd September 2023

Hatters: Kaminski; Kaboré (sub Adebayo 85), Doughty (sub Giles 72), Burke, Lockyer, Bell; Nakamba, Lokonga (sub Mpanzu 57); Ogbene, Morris, Brown (sub Woodrow 72).

Sub not used: Krul, Andersen, Berry, Chong, Mengi.

Wolves: Sa, Semedo (sub H Bueno 84), Dawson, Kilman, Ait-Nouri (sub Toti 46), Lemina, Gomes (Doyle 90), Bellegarde, Neto, Hwang (sub Doherty 46), Cunha (sub Traore 7).

Sub not used: Bentley, Sarabia, Silva, Kalajdzic.

SCORERS:

Luton – Morris (pen) 65

Wolves – Neto 55

MATCH REPORT

HATTERS PICK UP FIRST PREMIER LEAGUE POINT

The Hatters are off the mark. How good does that sound?

The 'what might have been' that we came away from Craven Cottage from Fulham was evident here again as the Hatters showed character in a match full of emotions to level through Carlton Morris' penalty after coming behind against ten-man Wolves.

Rob Edwards' men were terrific in the first 25 minutes and on another day may have walked off the pitch at half-time ahead.

Chances soon came and on 10 minutes the woodwork – which had denied the Town at Fulham – was being cursed once more when Morris' brilliant curling shot from 20 yards thundered back off the goalframe. It deserved better.

A shot from Jacob Brown inside the box was then blocked and the attacker then saw a header plucked away by Wolves keeper Jose Sa as the Hatters upped the ante.

With half-time approaching you felt Wolves had ridden the storm. A flat period of 15 stop-start minutes came and went – and then Jean-Ricner Bellegarde did something silly, needlessly lashing out at Tom Lockyer after competing for the ball on halfway. Referee Smith was quick to brandish the red and following a VAR check, the Frenchman was heading for an early bath.

The Town sensed blood before the break. Chiedozie Ogbene was close to forcing one home before Albert Sambi Lokonga saw a shot saved by Sa.

After the restart the Hatters began with gusto again and Morris' near-post header was pawed away well by Sa.

Much has been made about the Town's need to take their chances as this higher level and on 50 minutes the Hatters' fears were realised with Pedro Neto beat Tom Lockyer and coolly finished past Thomas Kaminski to give the visitors the lead with their first shot of the game.

The Town wobbled a bit after that setback and Kaminski needed to be alert as Wolves pressed for quickfire second to deny Mario Lemina and then Max Kilman.

Heads cleared, the Hatters – with a man advantage – came again. And on 65 minutes they were level when Joao Gomes was adjudged to have handled in the box and after a VAR check, a penalty was given. Morris, ever reliable from the spot, sent Sa the wrong way and it gave the Town the final 25 minutes to find a winner their endeavours deserved.

Yet, for their possession only half-chances fell the Hatters' way as time ticked down. Ogbene had the ball in the net only to be denied by a tight offside call, and substitute Cauley Woodrow saw a shot locked at the death – and that was that. 





MATCH GALLERY

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WOLVES REACTION

Chiedozie Ogbene classed the draw with Wolves at Kenilworth Road as a step in the right direction for the Hatters as they continue to find their feet in the Premier League.

The Republic of Ireland international started for the first time in the league in a three-pronged attack, with himself and Jacob Brown flying forward in support of central striker Carlton Morris as the Hatters dominated the West Midlands side.

"I think the performance was very good," said the 26-year-old after Rob Edwards' side had collected the club's first-ever point in the Premier League. "We started on the front foot, put a lot of pressure towards their defence and put them on the back foot. We just need to be more clinical with the chances we created today."

"I haven't seen it back but I'm sure the defenders will be critical of themselves, conceding such a goal like that when you're on top. But I think overall, it's a step forward from where we've been, especially from the start of the season, and the mentality is if you can't win, you don't lose. And that's what we did today."

With Wolves reduced to ten men shortly before half-time when Jean-Ricner Bellegarde was sent off for kicking out at Tom Lockyer,

Ogbene admitted he and his team-mates did rue the opportunity not to turn the maiden point into a first victory of the season.

"Because of our mentality, we are on top from minute one, against ten men, we are obviously critical of ourselves. We did say that we need to be winning games like this today, against a good side, but we need to win games if we want to compete in this league. So overall it is good, but we're slightly disappointed not to come away with three points."

The summer signing from Rotherham took the positives, however.

"I think we have to use it as momentum," he added. "Wherever we go now, the bare minimum is not to get beat. I think if we can finish the game the way we started, we will give ourselves a right good chance in this league."

Ogbene had a late effort ruled out for offside, and after leaving the field on his full debut to cheers and his name being sung, the man known as Chieo reflected: "I was 100 per cent happy because I wanted to make a good first impressions of myself, to show them that I'm here and want to work hard for this team and this club. I was hoping to display my character today with my performance and I'm hoping I did that today."



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St James Park - 26th September 2023

Town: Krul; Doughty (sub Kabore 64), Mengi, Andersen, Johnson (sub Bell 64), Giles; Mpanzu, Chong (sub Brown 64), Berry; Woodrow (sub Ogbene 64), Adebayo (sub Morris 75).

Subs not used: Shea, Burke, Burger, Luker.

Exeter: Sinsalo, Mitchell, Aimson, Fitzwater (sub Sweeney 77), Hartridge, Jules, Watts (sub Cole 43), Carroll, Taylor (sub Cox 77), Harper (sub Kite 63), Scott (sub Wildschut 62).

Subs not used: Woods, Beardsmore, Borges, Richards.

SCORER:

Exeter – Mitchell 83



MATCH REPORT

EXETER DELIVER TOWN A CUP EXIT

The Hatters exited the Carabao Cup at the third round stage as League One side Exeter City caused an upset at St James Park with Deme Mitchell's late strike proving the difference between the two sides.

The early chances fell the Town's way with Luke Berry shooting over in the eighth minute before Cauley Woodrow rattled the outside of the post after ghosting into the box direct from an Alfie Doughty throw three minutes later.

Exeter's response was positive, James Scott collecting the ball halfway inside the Town half and whistling a shot just past Tim Krul's right post, before Mitchell cut in from the right flank and tested the Dutchman at his near post.

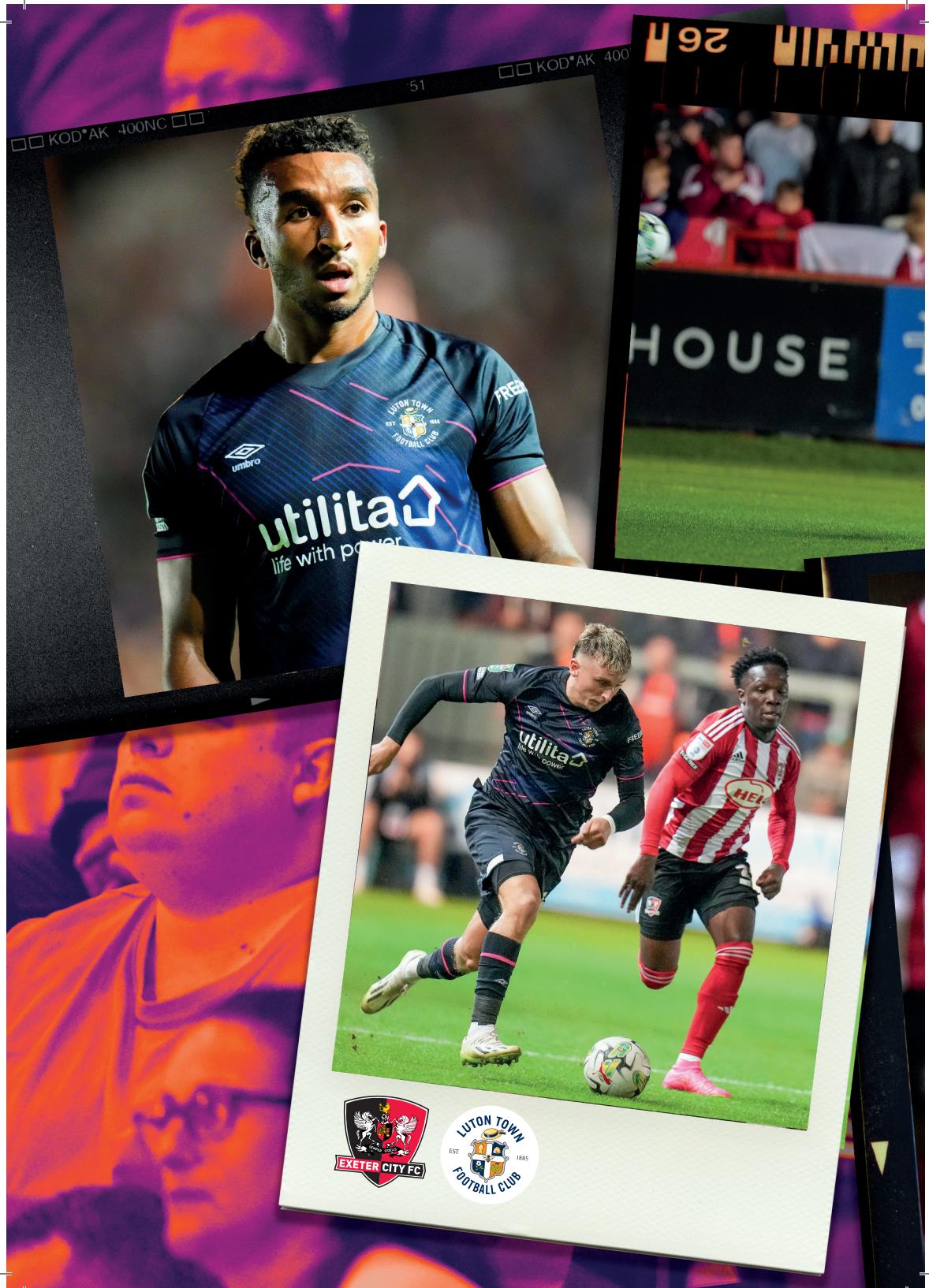
Town were always a threat, however, Mads Andersen heading a Doughty free-kick narrowly wide just before the half-hour, Berry and Elijah Adebayo saw quickfire volleys blocked in a goalmouth scramble.

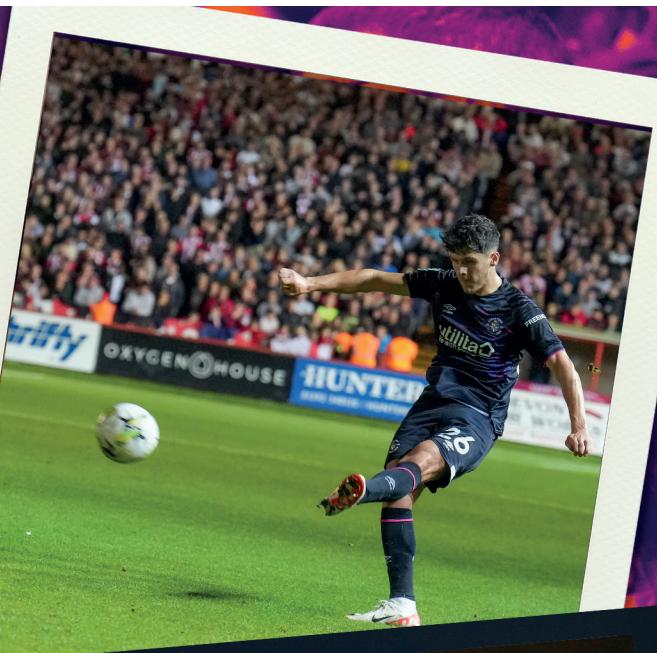
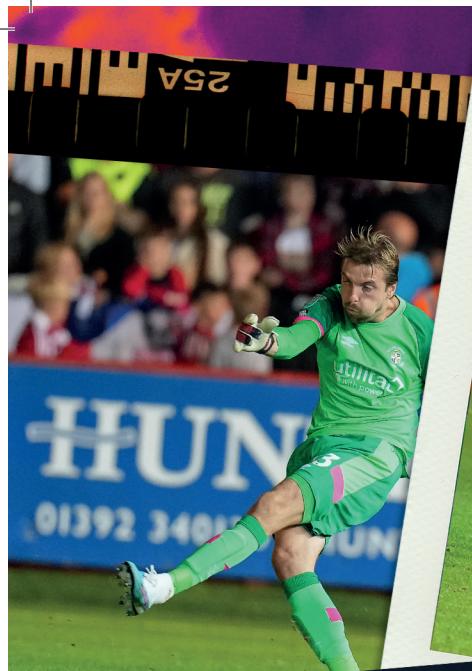
After the break Exeter upped the ante. Krul was called into action again on the hour as Mitchell raced down the right and the keeper's outstretched leg.

The Hatters began to enjoy more possession and chances soon came. Adebayo's stooping header from a Giles cross flew just wide, before Brown headed straight at Sinsalo.

As the Town made positive change in search of a winner, Carlton Morris was next to head a Giles delivery at goal, his effort cleared off the line before another pinpoint Giles cross found Brown once again, this time the Scotland forward's glancing header flying past the far post.

Just when the Town were threatening as the close stages neared, the hosts scored the winner when Yanic Wildschut's deep cross from the right found its way to Mitchell at the far post and the City forward rifled into the roof of the Town net.





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EXETER REACTION

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu spoke of his disappointment at not being able to progress into the fourth round of the Carabao Cup after a 1-0 defeat at League One side Exeter City last week.

The 29-year-old midfielder captained the Hatters at a sold-out St James Park, but couldn't inspire a late comeback from falling behind to Deme Mitchell's 83rd-minute goal for the Grecians.

"It was disappointing," said the Dr Congo International. "We felt we could come here and at least put in a good performance, and while it wasn't the worst performance, we thought we could have won, or at least created more chances.

"The quality from everyone in the final third wasn't as good as we'd have liked it to be and again, we didn't score a goal today.

"Off the back of having a positive result against Wolves the weekend before that, anyone else picked today needed to make a good account of ourselves, but cup games happen like that. We've got to bounce back."

Pelly has seen everything football can throw into the mix in his decade at Kenilworth Road, and now knows his side is a scalp for the likes of League One high-flyers Exeter.

"No-one likes to lose games, especially to lower league sides. But this is the cup, and sometimes that happens," he said. "Everyone is looking at themselves thinking, what more could we have done? Make runs into the box? Put quality crosses into the box? What more they could have done?

"But we can't be too disappointed because there are a lot more games to come, and our main objective this year was to stay in the Premier League. A good cup run would have given us confidence, but that's over now and we've got to keep strong and stick together.

"Everyone knows it's a long season. Hopefully we can get some wins and points on the board, and give the fans who came today something to cheer about. We know they cheer every week for us, but it's a lot easier when you're winning."

On those 708 "brilliant" fans who travelled to Devon, he added: "Exeter is not a close place on a Tuesday night for them to come. They are supporting us through thick and thin every week and we know that they are going to come out in their thousands.

"It's been great for us to know their support is there, but as I said before, if we score a couple of goals and win the game, they'll be cheering even louder than they have today."



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BRILLIANT HATTERS EARN FIRST PREMIER LEAGUE WIN

On 25th April 1992 the Hatters beat Aston Villa at Kenilworth Road. Little did we know it would be the last time the Town would win a game in England's top-flight.

Until Saturday. When it happened. 11,480 days later. At Goodison Park. The home of the nine-time champions of England, Everton.

Thanks to goals from two heroes of last season – captain Tom Lockyer and top goalscorer Carlton Morris – the Hatters ended that run. Three points at Everton, via Ebbsfleet in the Conference and Exeter, only last Tuesday.

Everton had plenty of half-chances throughout, but Thomas Kaminski was largely untroubled, and the magic began after 26 minutes when the Town opened the scoring for the first time this season in the Premier League. Morris' thumping header from a brilliant Alfie Doughty delivery hit the bar. Former Watford man Ashley Young desperately tried to hack clear the loose ball but he didn't count on Lockyer, closing him down – and the ball deflected off the skipper and into the goal.

It went from good to great six minutes later. And in some style. Doughty was again was the architect in devastating fashion, arching a beautiful, pin-point cross to the unmarked Morris as the back-post. The finish was first-time, graceful, clinical, unerring. His third goal of the season.

It had been the perfect, almost dream-like, first half for the Town but the Toffees gave themselves hope just before the break.

And what a mess of a goal it was on and off the field. The Hatters couldn't clear their lines from a left-wing cross and the ball was eventually prodded home by home forward Dominic Calvert-Lewin. A VAR check lasted several agonising minutes. In the press seats the screens showed several replays, and plenty of zooming in from various angles and body parts. The goal was given. The noise went up from the locals but the Town stood firm in the final moments of the first half to lead at the break.

Everton sensed they could take advantage in the second half but every long pass or ball that was launched forward but was dealt with by the Town defence, and met with a groan from the Goodison faithful.

Time ticked down. It was hard not to look at the clock. Everton, for all their endeavour, failed to call Kaminski into any meaningful action. The locals were not happy and all that was left was to hear the peep of Taylor's whistle and with it the acknowledgment that three Premier League points were – for the first time – heading to our Bedfordshire utopia.

1 - 2

Goodison Park - 30th September 2023

Toffees: Pickford, Young (sub Patterson 78), Tarkowski, Branthwaite, Mykolenko, Garner, Onana, Gueye (sub Harrison 46), McNeil (sub Danjuma 84), Doucoure (Beto 60), Calvert-Lewin.

Subs not used: Keane, Neves Virginia, Godfrey, Chermiti, Dobbin.

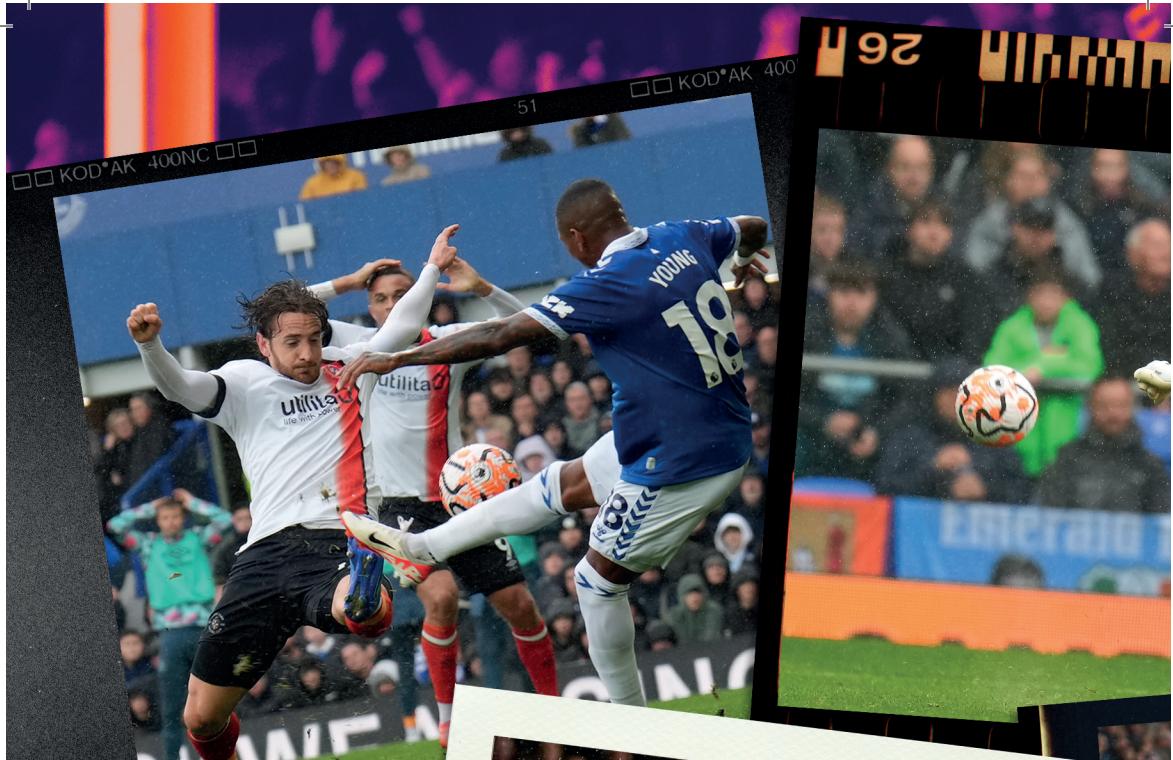
Hatters: Kaminski; Kaboré, Doughty (Woodrow 83), Burke (sub Andersen 46), Lockyer (sub Mengi 55), Bell; Nakamba, Mpanzu; Ogbene, Brown, Morris (sub Adebayo 78).

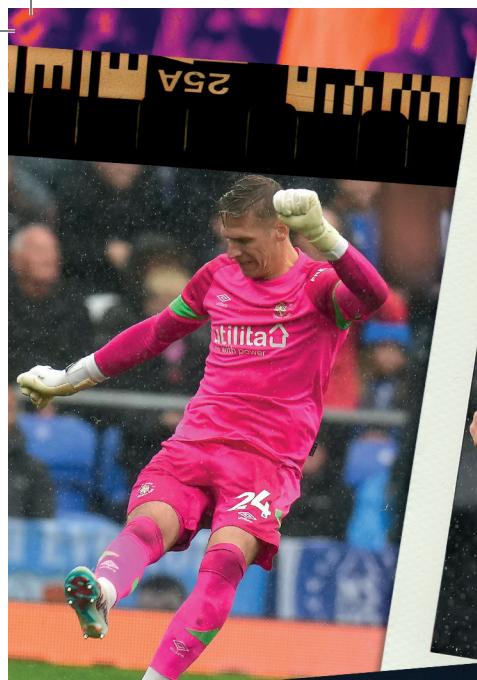
Subs not used: Krul, Berry, Chong, Giles, Johnson.

SCORERS:

Everton: Calvert-Lewin 41

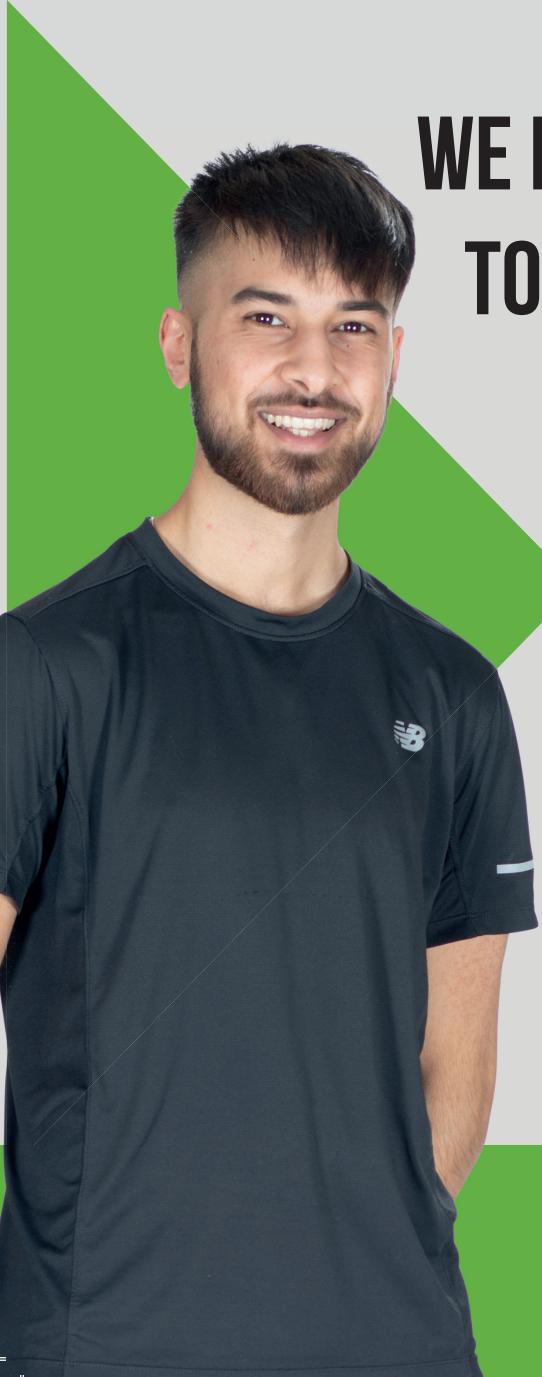
Luton: Lockyer 24, Morris 30







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EVERTON REACTION

Match-winner Carlton Morris paid tribute to the Town support after Saturday's 2-1 win over Everton secured our first Premier League win of the season.

The striker, who hit 20 goals last season to help the Hatters to promotion, scored his first from open play this term when slamming home a wonderful first-time finish to double the lead on the half-hour.

"It's a massive win and for us to be able to give that back to the fans, who have stuck with us so loyally, and go over to them at the end it means a lot.

"It brings a massive smile to my face to give them back what they deserve. They were there at Exeter – that's a long old trip, and we'll continue to pay them back as much as we can."

On his goal, the striker said: "It's good to get the first from open play, I don't want to be just a penalty merchant.

"It was important for us to score the first goal, we know we haven't been that prolific and haven't taken our chances this season so to score two quick goals, we executed the game plan perfectly."

The Hatters return to action tonight when Burnley visit Kenilworth Road with all eyes now on obtaining a first home win of the campaign.

"The games are coming thick and fast," said Morris. "It's another huge game, we'll have home advantage which we will relish.

"There were a lot of positives we can take from this, and there are things we need to learn too. But we're learning every game and hopefully we can continue that trend on Tuesday."

The creator of two of the goals, Alfie Doughty, whose deliveries at Goodison Park caused the hosts all kinds of problems throughout the game, is also hoping the Hatters can back the win up with one three points tonight against the Clares.

"That feeling after the game when that full-time whistle went, it was something that you can't really describe," said the left wing-back. "As you can see by all of our reactions, it meant so much to everyone and now our focus turns to Burnley on Tuesday.

"The win was coming, I think a lot of people could see it. The performances have been there regardless of what the score was, from the Brighton game to now it's completely different.

"That game today showed what we were doing every week in the Championship last season, getting the goals and then holding it out, making sure that ball doesn't go in our net so credit to everyone.

"We know what we are capable of as players, everyone knows that. Everyone can talk about us but all you have to see is that performance out there today, Goodison is a not an easy place to come to so for us to do that today was brilliant." 



WELCOME BURNLEY

Tonight, the Town welcome Burnley to Kenilworth Road for a crucial match under the lights. The Clarets were one of the three sides promoted from the Championship alongside Luton and Sheffield United and this is the first time two newly promoted sides face each other in the Premier League this season.

Burnley have also had a fairly rocky start to the season and opened their season back in the top-flight with a 3-0 home loss against Manchester City. This was followed by a 3-1 reverse against Aston Villa before beating Nottingham Forest 1-0 in the Carabao Cup.

The Clarets have already played two of the current top four in the league. One of which was a tough 5-2 loss against a well drilled Tottenham Hotspur side.

Vincent Kompany's side picked up their first point of the season away to Nottingham Forest just weeks after meeting in the cup. Zeki Amdouni put the Clarets ahead before a Callum Hudson Odoi equalizer meant the points were shared.

Burnley recently won again in the Carabao Cup but this time in the second round.

They beat Salford City 4-0 after a flurry of goals in the first half hour before a later Wilson Odobert strike.

The Clarets were busy in the summer and really bolstered the squad after winning the Championship. Dara O'Shea, Zeki Amdouni, James Trafford, Sander Berge, Wilson Odobert and former Aston Villa youngster Aaron Ramsey all made the switch to Turf Moor.

Burnley fans will have fond memories of their last trip to Kenilworth Road after a 1-0 win in a statement victory for Vincent Kompany's side. Ashley Barnes scored the only goal of the game from the spot as the Clarets came away from Kenilworth Road with all three points.

Vincent Kompany's team stormed to the Championship title last season and amassed a total of 101 points. A deserved promotion for a quality side who only lost three league games all season.

A big welcome to all those associated with the club who are making the journey to Bedfordshire this evening.

MEET THE CLARETS

THE BOSS



VINCENT KOMPANY. Four-time Premier League winner as a player, Kompany was appointed manager at Turf Moor in June 2022, arriving from Anderlecht, and guided the Clarets to the Championship title in his first season.

GOALKEEPER



JAMES TRAFFORD. The third-most expensive British goalkeeper in history, the 20-year-old stopper joined the club this summer from Manchester City after spending last season on-loan at Bolton.

DEFENDERS



AMEEN AL-DAKHIL. Young left-sided Belgian international defender who signed for the Clarets in the January transfer window from Belgian outfit Sint-Truiden.



JORDAN BEYER. German Under-21 international centre-half who arrived at Turf Moor initially on loan from Borussia Mönchengladbach before making the switch permanent this summer.



DARA O'SHEA. Republic of Ireland international defender Dara signed for the Clarets for £7m from Championship side West Brom this summer.

CONNOR ROBERTS. Welsh international right-back who arrived at Burnley in 2021 after six years with Swansea.



AARON RAMSEY. Highly rated English youth international attacking midfielder who signed for Burnley this summer for a fee of £14m from Aston Villa after impressive loan spells at Norwich and Middlesbrough last season.



SANDER BERGE. Norwegian international central midfielder who arrived this summer from Sheffield United after spending three productive seasons with Genk in the Belgian top-flight.



JOSH BROWNHILL. Former Preston and Bristol City midfielder Josh is the Clarets' vice-captain and has made over 100 appearances for the Clarets since joining in 2020.



JOSH CULLEN. Defensive midfielder Cullen joined the Clarets at the start of last season from Kompany's former club Anderlecht. Began his career at West Ham before loan spells at Bradford, Bolton and Charlton.



JOHANN BERG GUDMUNDSSON. Experienced Icelandic international midfielder who has been at Turf Moor since 2016. Started his career in Iceland before moves to AZ in the Netherlands and then Charlton.

ATTACKERS



ZEKI AMDOUNI. Young Swiss international forward who joined the Clarets on a five-year deal summer. Played his entire career in his homeland with spells at Etoile Carouge, Stade Lausanne and Lausanne-Sport.



MANUEL BENSON. Belgian winger who scored 11 league goals last season to help the Clarets to the Championship title. Joined last summer from Royal Antwerp and has also been on the books at Lierse and Genk.



LYLE FOSTER. South African striker who also arrived at Turf Moor from Belgium after a spell at Westerlo. Started his career with Orlando Pirates before moves to France with Monaco and Vitória de Guimarães in Portugal.



LUCA KOLEOSHO. 19-year-old US-born, Italian youth international frontman who joined the Clarets this summer from Spanish club Espanyol.

BREAD BREWMASTER



JOHN ASTON COOLY NETS
FROM THE SPOT



CLASSIC MATCH



CLUB HISTORIAN
ROGER WASH LOOKS
BACK AT THE TIME JOHN
ASTON RAN RINGS
AROUND THE CLARETS.

30TH SEPTEMBER 1972
LUTON TOWN 2-2 BURNLEY

As is always the case at the start of a new season, Luton supporters, ever the optimists, think that this is going to be their year. Some years though see the bright star of optimism shining just a little more brightly.

1972/73 was going to be one of those successful seasons. Alec Stock had resigned as Luton manager, to be replaced by Harry Haslam who had wasted no time in making changes on the playing field.

Ex-England full-back Bobby Thomson came on a free from Birmingham while big money, by Luton standards, had changed hands in bringing in Rodney Fern from Leicester.

We all thought he had earned his transfer following his brilliant performance for the Foxes against the Town in a 3-1 home thrashing a year before.

The most intriguing signing, however, was the enticing to Kenilworth Road of Manchester United winger, and star of the Reds' European Cup Final victory over Benfica, John Aston. It obviously helped that Haslam was an ex-United player and also a close friend of Aston's father who was then on the coaching staff at Old Trafford.

Aston starred in the pre-season 5-2 victory over Belgian first division side Royal Crossing at Kenilworth Road and with a heightened air of anticipation we headed off the Cardiff for the opening league game.

NUMBER 1 ON THIS DAY:
LEO SAYER
WHEN I NEED YOU



It was back to the drawing board 90 minutes later though as the Town went down 2-1 after taking the lead from an Aston penalty in the first half. Fern had the chance to put the Town two-up but blazed wildly over the bar before the Bluebirds took the game by the scruff of the neck and fought back.

Beaten but unbowed, the players had to effectively start their season again, but slowly began to climb the table. Inconsistency was the main problem with away wins at Orient, Nottingham Forest and Swindon and a home thumping of relegated Huddersfield, interspersed with our usual home defeat by Oxford and a 4-0 thrashing at Sheffield Wednesday.

Despite all this we were handily placed in fifth position in Division Two (now the Championship) when the early season leaders, Burnley, visited Kenilworth Road. The biggest crowd of the season, 12,197, turned up along with the Match of the Day cameras to see whether the Clarets' unbeaten run would come to an end. By the way the season had panned out so far we were either going to win by a hatful or suffer a severe beating!

Burnley took the game to the Town from the start and after an early miss from Paul Fletcher went into the lead in the third minute when a 25-yard snapshot from Welsh international Leighton James flew into the net past a bemused Willie Carrick who was deputising in the Luton goal for the injured Keith Barber for his Hatters debut.

Harry Haslam instructed the players to throw caution to the wind and on this occasion the plan seemed to work for we were level after 16 minutes when Aston coolly slotted the ball home from the penalty spot after a handling offence. The Burnley players moaned that

Doug Collins could not get out of the way of a fierce shot from Fern, but the referee was on the spot and waved away the protests.

The game developed into great end-to-end entertainment, fully justifying its top billing on Match of the Day and after a few near misses the Town took the lead just after half-time when Vic Halom took full advantage of a weak back pass from Clarets centre-half Colin Waldron to slot the ball home.

With Aston supplying accurate crosses and causing all sorts of problems for the Burnley defence we would have bet on the Town increasing their lead but inexplicably, with 20 minutes to go, the players seemed to think they had done enough.

Burnley took full advantage and pounded away at the Town defence and only a mixture of good goalkeeping and several hefty clearances maintained our lead. Unfortunately, with only two minutes left, James was given too much space by the two Luton defenders trailing him and he worked himself into a goalscoring position and made no mistake from just inside the area.

Not for the last time did 'Happy' Harry Haslam show the other side of his nature in the dressing room after the game. 

TOWN: Carrick, John Ryan, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Slough, Jim Ryan, Fern, Busby, Halom, Aston.

BURNLEY: Stevenson, Docherty, Newton, Dobson, Waldron, Thomson, Thomas (Nulty), Casper, Fletcher, Collins, James.



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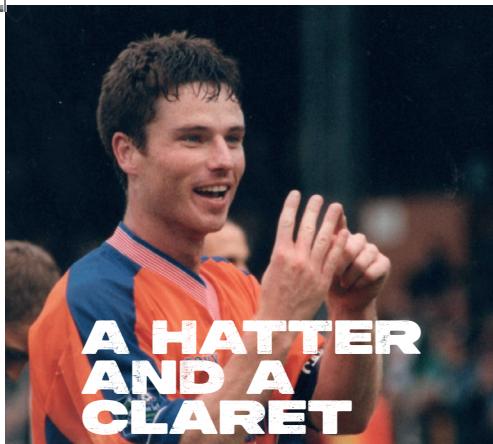
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A HATTER AND A CLARET

Although coming from the North-East, Steve Davis was a junior at Southampton but found first team opportunities hard to come by at the Dell so he accepted a £60,000 move to Burnley in 1991 where he became a crowd favourite, helping the Clarets to successive promotions.

A £750,000 cheque took him to Kenilworth Road in 1995 where his astute reading of the game and power in the air in both penalty areas made him indispensable in over three seasons at Luton.

Not only a colossus at the back, he was imperious up front, often thrown forward in attack in the dying stages and would often come up with vital goals. A solo goal against Hull stands out.

However, Town fans were gutted when an £800,000 bid from Burnley, and the player's desire to return, saw 'Stevo' move back to Turf Moor in December 1998.



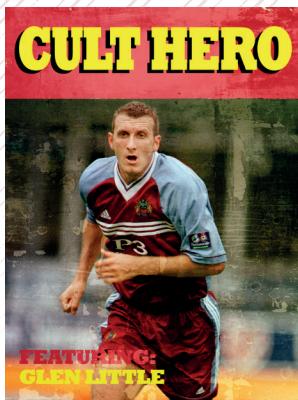
GREAT GAMES

The Clarets love a trip to Kenilworth Road. Since 1994 Burnley have won six of their last eight visits, losing just twice. So 'great games' for the Hatters against tonight's opposition are hard to come by. Burnley have won on their last three visits, including last season.

Conversely the Town have a decent record up at Turf Moor, losing once in their last 10 visits, winning three of those – the last a 2-0 Tuesday night win in today's League One equivalent in 2000 with goals from Alan White and Phil Gray.

CLASSIC KIT

The Clarets know a classic when they see one. Their 1991-1993 home strip was quintessentially mid-90s. A designer's experiment that turned out to be loved by everyone on the Bee Hole Land End, it was sponsored by Endsleigh (who else?) and made by Ribero. It was so revered they brought it to the 21st century, jazzing it up for last season and won the title. Nice.



CULT HERO: GLEN LITTLE

Who doesn't love a winger who doesn't look like a winger? Clarets fans adored Glen Little, a man who made the number seven shirt his own during his eight-season spell at Turf Moor. Signed from Glentoran in 1996 he is best remembered for coming on as a substitute in a League Cup tie against Spurs and turning the game on its head. The wing wizard would go on and play 283 times for the Clarets and scored 36 goals.



VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD END

LIKE THE TOWN, BURNLEY'S HISTORY IS LITTERED WITH EXHILARATING UPS AND DEPRESSING DOWNS – AS WE FOUND OUT TALKING TO CLARETS CLUB HISTORIAN SHAUN BORMAN

It says a lot when the club historian and proud Burnley fan of 50 years says last season's Championship title success is up there with the best moments he has witnessed in those years backing the Clarets.

Yet for Shaun Borman, Vincent Kompany's achievement of delivering instant promotion almost stands alone – not bad for a club that has won the top-flight title twice and an FA Cup.

“I would say that the 1972/73 season when we won the old second division championship was the best I’d seen us play but I think last season was better,” explains Shaun. “But having seen Burnley play in the old fourth division at some antiquated old grounds, it’s great to see us playing in the Premier League at these new stadiums, such as Arsenal and Spurs, and it’s wonderful to see your team playing there and playing well.

“We’ve got a young, exciting team who are all technically gifted on the ball, and you can see what Vincent Kompany is

trying to do. We just need that bit of luck. So far we’ve not had a good start but we’ve played a lot of the teams who I think will, or could, finish in the top six this season: Man City, Man Utd, Villa and Spurs.”

Shaun’s a passionate Claret. Literally bleeds the stuff. While the Town might be getting to grips with being back in the top-flight after years in the lower leagues, the Burnley historian embraces being in the big time.

“I’m on the fence,” he says when we ask him whether he prefers the ‘good old days’ or the glitz and glamour of the ‘best league in the world’.

“I always remember a few years ago my son said he’d rather see us in the Championship. Sure, he said, you’d win more often, but I said, what else?’. He said ‘with the ambition to get to the Premier League’. I didn’t see his point – you want to be in the top league.

“Having seen us almost go out of the league, see us financially broke to see us now, where we are, is fantastic. It brings a tear to my eye. Nobody



expected it. We won 3-2 at Chelsea, the reigning champions. We beat Man City at Turf Moor with Kompany in the team – these are special moments – just like they were for me when I had a tear in my eye when we won the Second Division title at Preston in 1973.

“You have to remember the bad days to enjoy the good days. Like Luton, we have been from the bottom – but there are some Burnley fans who haven’t seen us any lower than the Championship.”

Few realise the scale of Burnley’s achievements given the town’s geography and catchment area – something which gives Shaun immense pride.

“I was born in the area,” he says. “It’s a small town. We’re proud of the town and its history. It’s a poor mill town. Coming to watch Burnley was respite for those people in the 1800s and 1900s, getting out to see their team. It’s a passionate place, a population of 65,000 with 20,000 watching the club. It shows how much Burnley means to the town and the surrounding areas.”

We hear you, Shaun.

FAVOURITE GAME

“The play-off semi-final second leg against Plymouth at Home Park in 1994. In the first leg at Turf Moor, it was 0-0, they were the better team and when we came back for the second leg it seemed as if they were already booking their hotels and transport to Wembley for the final. We went 1-0 down but came back to win 3-1. It was almost a better feeling than the final itself, which we won against Stockport.”

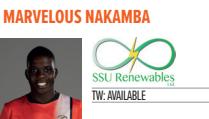
FAVOURITE PLAYER

“Peter Noble. A £35,000 buy from Swindon, he was a versatile player who was a born leader. He later had a sports shop in the town and I would often speak with him about his time with us. He was such a gentleman, so passionate about football, led by example and always gave 100 per cent.”

MEMORIES OF LUTON

“November 2005 at Kenilworth Road. Goalkeeper Brian Jensen was sent-off, midfielder John Spicer went in goal and we still won 3-2 and Ade Akinbiyi scored a hat-trick.”

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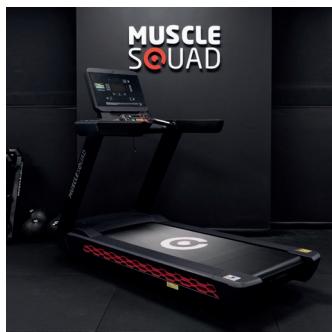
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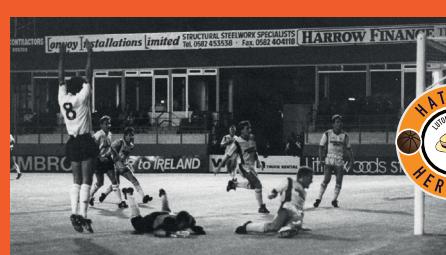
3RD OCTOBER
DO ANY OF THESE
GAMES STRIKE A
CHORD WITH YOU?

**IT'S A
GOOD DAY**

To be a Hatter. Well, in recent years anyway. Yes, the 3rd October has seen the Town win 11 of the 23 games played on this day in history since the first game (a 4-3 win over Swindon in the FA Cup in 1891, thanks for asking). However, it's our record in recent years that gets us hot under the collar. Of the last ten games, we have won eight, drawn one and lost one. The only defeat in this purple patch came at Kenilworth Road when we went down 4-1 to Portsmouth in 1992.

**BEST OF
THE REST**

The Hatters won last time out on this day, a 2-0 win over Wycombe here with Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu and Elliot Lee on target in 2020. We've also won our last three away fixtures played on this day – Hartlepool (4-1 in 2015), Fulham (3-1 in 1998) and Orient (3-0 in 1981). The not-so-best came at home to Wolves in 1959 when the Molineux club hit five past us on our own patch, in front of a 'on this day best' crowd of 22,908 who somehow squeezed into the old girl.



MEMORABLE WIN!

TOWN 7 - 2 MANSFIELD.

3rd October 1989.

We used to watch this League Cup tie back in wonder on an old VHS tape of the 1989/90 campaign, featuring commentary from a young Martin Tyler.

Under the lights, the bright yellow plastic pitch, the bright yellow Mansfield shirts. Just a lot of yellow. But also lots of goals. Just over 6,000 turned up and were treated to a feast of nine of them – seven of which the Town, holders of the competition, scored.

Danish striker Lars Elstrup hit three of them, beating Roy Wegerle's two. David Preece and John Dreyer also scored – and Mansfield even got two themselves.

Graham Rodger made his debut, too. We'd won the first leg 4-3 at Field Mill, so we needed calculators to work out the aggregate score.



**COMPARE
THE MARKET**

On this day in 1987 Mick Harford scored the Town's goal in a 1-1 draw against Manchester United in the top-flight at Kenilworth Road, ending United's winning start to the season. 22 of your English Football League Years later, the Hatters wouldn't even be in the league, they'd be relying on goals from Asa Hall and Ben Wright to earn a home win over Tamworth in the Conference in front of 6,297 – only 2,840 less than the crowd for the game with Big Mick and Man Utd. Our history is mad, isn't it?

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Happy Hatters parade all sorts of headgear before the FA Cup 4th round clash at Turf Moor in January 1935.

The Third Division Town had beaten Chelsea in the previous round but were to bow out of the competition following a 3-1 defeat to a strong Burnley side. Roger Wash 







CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS YOU'LL NEVER SING THAT!

**PAUL BENSON ANSWERED THE CALL FROM AN OLD FRIEND AND
WENT ON TO SCORE 18 GOALS TO HELP FIRE THE HATTERS
BACK TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE. HERE'S THE STRIKER'S TAKE
ON A HISTORIC SEASON TEN YEARS AGO**



Paul Benson says he would be a liar if he said he thought the Hatters would be in the Premier League ten years after he helped

us achieve that first step by lifting the Conference title in 2014.

"I always felt there was scope for this club to progress," he says as we start to reminisce about the season that kick-started it all. "I remember when I signed I had opportunities to stay in the Football League but I always felt the club was set up to get promoted and go up again and I wanted to be a part of that.

"Even though they were in the National League, it had the potential to play higher. I'd be a liar if I thought the club could go as a high as it has, though.

"However, the appeal for me was being part of that team that got the ball rolling, the wheels in motion. It wasn't really an issue dropping down to the National League for me, but there was potential to realise. What the club has achieved in the last ten years has been phenomenal and a testament to everyone who has carried that on. To see where we are is wonderful."

But back in the summer of 2013 the stars aligned. Benson was deemed surplus to requirements at Swindon and a man he knew well – one who knew a thing or two about the Conference – got in touch.

"I'd always had a good relationship with Stilly, the gaffer," smiles Benson. "He made

contact quite early on at the end of the previous season and it was clear that I wasn't going to be needed at Swindon. There was a change in ownership and in management and I fell massively out of favour.

"With Stilly he catches wind of these things, and as soon as he rang me I was interested. Once it was clear he wanted to sign me it was done quickly – although not quick enough as I missed the first five games.

"The offers in the Football League were at clubs that would have been in League Two for the next three-to-four years so the attraction of being part of a club that had ambitions of being in League One made it clear.

"To be reunited with a manager who I enjoyed a lot of success with at Dagenham, plus the backroom staff: Terry Harris, fitness coach Dave Richardson and Hakan Hayrettin, plus playing a system I fitted into... everything fell into place."

What didn't immediately fall into place were results. The Hatters initially struggled. This, a fifth season out of the league, had put pressure on those who knew the Club's past failures. But not Benson.

"It wasn't a sense of pressure you felt, but it was definitely an environment that you could tell where there was a lot of frustration and anxiety in the crowd," Benson explains. "You got a sense the supporters were annoyed with what had been served up previously, so you did feel in games that the fans were getting fed up with what they were seeing. It wasn't pressure you felt, it was the weight of expectation that the fans wanted better, especially in home games. □



"The fans backed me from day one, though, and that was unique for me because I never ever had that at any other club. They were great with me. They were definitely with the players, but just run-down with the situation they were in, frustrated with it being the fifth year out of the Football League. Perhaps they felt it was only going to be a short time down there and it hadn't materialised and now they were thinking 'how long are we going to be down here?'"

Soon things started to click. Benson's debut saw him win a penalty in a 2-0 win at Kidderminster before scoring his first goal for the club in the 3-0 victory at home to Dartford.

However, for Benson one of the crucial moments that sticks out – as it does for many – is the incident that saw a fan remonstrate with captain Ronnie Henry after the 3-2 win over Lincoln that saw the Town fight back from 2-1 down.

"I wasn't involved, I was in the stands, so I didn't know what was happening as Ronnie was coming off," recalls the striker. "But the way it was dealt with genius by Stilly. The guy came in, sat down with the gaffer and Ronnie, watched training. It could have gone the other way... an 'us' v 'them' situation. But that was the gaffer, he needed to unite everyone. We had the huddle, he liked that unity."

"It was great to connect with the supporters. In fact, one of our academy boys, Ollie Lynch, one of the first things he said to me was 'I was in the huddle once!' It was genius really, such a simple idea to unite everyone."

"Once that was sorted, I don't think we looked back."

And them some. It wasn't until the end of March that the Town would lose again. 27 matches unbeaten with Benson at the heart of it all and the Football League in touching distance.

"The gaffer found a side he could trust. There were important relationships on the pitch and stability in the line-up."

"You could almost pick seven or eight names of the 11 and that's important in any successful side, to build cohesion, especially at that level week in, week out. I had great relationships with the wide men and it showed and results, after a slow start, started to turn."

"We built ourselves into the season. We were grinding results out but then hit a patch around November, December, January when we won in real style and elegance. I remember beating Wrexham at home 5-0. Kidderminster six; Hereford seven; Nuneaton five. We were on another level. We were going into games not thinking if we were going to win, but by how many, such was the confidence we had."

"It was so easy. The players around me made it that simple. I used to love central midfielders running beyond me and Luke Guttridge had that ability; we had wingers who didn't too much with the ball."

"I think anyone could have played centre forward that season would have got 18 goals. It was a joy to play because the

players around me were so high on confidence and knew their jobs so well it played to my strengths... usually I'd be finishing off a glorious move."

The spirit of that season – from Still building a team on the pitch and reuniting a fractured fanbase off it – is something that Benson believes has lived on ever since.

"That's the culture of the club. Talk to the first team players now and they are so down to earth and humble," he says. "Those types of people, good people, who embrace the way this club is."

"Whether that's borne from that situation I don't know, but Gary Sweet is big on the culture of this club, but I think it highlights how important that season was; the moment with the fan especially."

"Of course, you've got to be producing on the pitch, there has to be a correlation on the pitch. Winning helps. When that marries in the stands, it goes hand in hand, and you get the buy in from the fans. When you give that extra on the pitch, the fans give extra which gives you extra and it's the perfect circle."

"It's probably why the club has where it's got to, everyone pushing themselves that one per cent."

Ten years on, Benson is one of those people who 'gets Luton'. A club he's taken to his heart and now is responsible for the next generation of good humans – and good players – as head of the Hatters' academy.

And he certainly doesn't downplay the importance of that season for him personally either.

"Luton was also a club which I felt would probably be my last step, and it fell at a good time. I was 33 pushing 34 and I felt good. I felt I could play longer, but felt conscious that it would be my last big club, and wanted that to be memorable."

"It's one of the proudest moments. I'm fortunate to have promotions at other clubs but the achievement of Luton getting into League Two ranks highest."

"It shouldn't have been difficult to get out of the Conference with Luton, so the expectation made our achievement all the better, being part of a team that gets over the line is massive for me."

"The players and staff before had shown it wasn't easy, and that's what I like... the success we had under massive expectation and delivering. It makes me proud." 



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Mark Cullen's late equaliser at Cambridge in 2014.

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 Three - C is for Cambridge United, Chester City and Crawley Town.

Cambridge United were one of six sides we played every season during our non-League stay. Our record at home during this period was reasonable, with only one defeat, but at the Abbey we enjoyed an unbeaten record with two of the games regarded as modern classics.

At the Abbey in September 2009, the Town were still smarting from a midweek 3-0 thumping at Wrexham and played well in the first period but found themselves two goals down at the interval and reduced to ten men after Liam Hatch was dismissed.

The remarkable second-half turnaround, with the Hatters netting four times through Kevin Gallen, with two, Rossi Jarvis and Jake Howells to eventually win 4-3, will live long in the memory. As will the 1-1 draw at Cambridge in the promotion season of 2013/14.



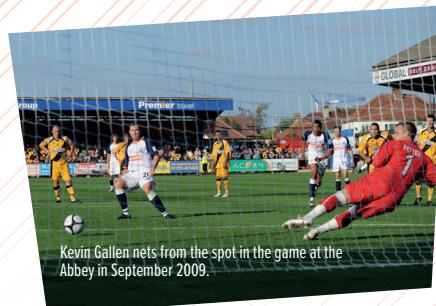
Cambridge had topped the table up until Christmas before the Town took over. The clash at the Abbey in March 2014 was seen as United's last chance to overhaul the Town and, leading 1-0 deep into added time, they were seemingly about to place great pressure on the Hatters.

The late, late volley from Mark Cullen to level the score was therefore seen as the night when we finally knew that five years of non-League football would shortly be over.

We played **Chester City** only during our promotion season with a 0-0 away draw followed by a nervous but eventually comfortable 3-0 home win as the campaign was drawing to a close. The sides clashed in 2009/10 but the two 0-0 draws were expunged from the records following Chester's liquidation and removal from the division.

Our 2-1 defeat at **Crawley Town** in 2009/10 was one of the low spots in the non-League years. A physically struggling Kevin Nicholls, in his last game for the club, could not prevent a dismal 2-1 defeat against limited opposition.

The following season saw a transformed Crawley who won the title off the back of a sudden influx of funds which enabled them to blow everyone else out of the water budget wise. A 1-1 draw at Crawley, with Alex Lawless on the scoresheet, as they were about to leave the division as champions, did not compensate for the last-minute winner they obtained at Luton earlier in the season.



Kevin Gallen nets from the spot in the game at the Abbey in September 2009.



LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

WELCOME THROUGH SPORT

Luton Town FC Community Trust are incredibly proud of the Welcome Through Sport programme that we have been running in the town since earlier this year.

This project delivers fun and inclusive football, cricket and social enrichment sessions to support refugees and asylum seekers that have recently arrived in Luton and surrounding areas. These weekly sessions are based in the Kingsway area of the town at 61 Football Club.

These sessions allow participants to keep fit, make friends and feel part of the local community to reduce social isolation. These safe and inclusive sessions, delivered by Community Trust coaches alongside our partners at Cricket East, provide a warm and welcoming environment to play a sport they love.

To date, we have had over 30 participants to each session, including a core group of regulars. We have had individuals from Sudan, Iran, Ukraine, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Albania, Eritrea, Bosnia and Tigre Province participate, offering much needed respite at a very challenging point in their lives.

The programme helps participants build social networks and supportive relationships, improving their mental wellbeing and helping each other navigate access to other support. One of our participants commented said: "I like to come here to play football, stay fit and meet people. Attending these sessions helps me to feel free. I feel like I belong here, this is my sport."

Luton Borough Council have also played a key role in the project, working with other local partners to ensure that all participants have access to kit, such as football boots and sportswear and have been delighted with the impact this has had on the

individuals that have attended. The positive impact has also been felt by our own staff, with one of the lead coaches, Shipaar Miah, commenting on the rapport he has built with the attendees: "It did not feel like I was the coach, but one of the participants. Being able to relate to them in various aspects of life was great and made the session exciting for myself and the participants."

For further information on this and other social inclusion initiatives run by the trust please contact community@lutontown.co.uk

HATTER CHATTER

Way back in 2020, Luton Town FC Community Trust explored ways of keeping our local communities connected throughout periods of lockdown and restrictions imposed during the pandemic. Out of this was born 'Hatter Chatter'.

This was a weekly group meeting held over Zoom every Monday morning to chat about the Hatters.

It meant supporters from all over the country, as well as internationally, were able to get together to discuss the games at a time when supporters weren't permitted to attend the matches.

Fast forward to over three years later and the group is still running! Regulars still enjoy dissecting the finer details of each game, as well as setting a theme for discussion each

week to spark discussion of their favourite Luton Town memories from the past.

From time to time, we have also been joined by special guests from the football club, including coaching staff, current players and club legends, who have spoken candidly about their experiences.

This gives our members a unique insight into their careers and what goes on behind the scenes. We are looking to arrange another special guest appearance in the coming weeks.

Gale, an original Hatter Chatter member living in Leicestershire, is in no doubt as to the benefits of the group.

"Hatter Chatter enabled me to feel connected with the football club during the period of virtual isolation and continues to do so now," she said. "No more so than when players and staff have given their time to join us. Being joined by the special guests gives us some real insight into them as people rather than the image we get on TV."

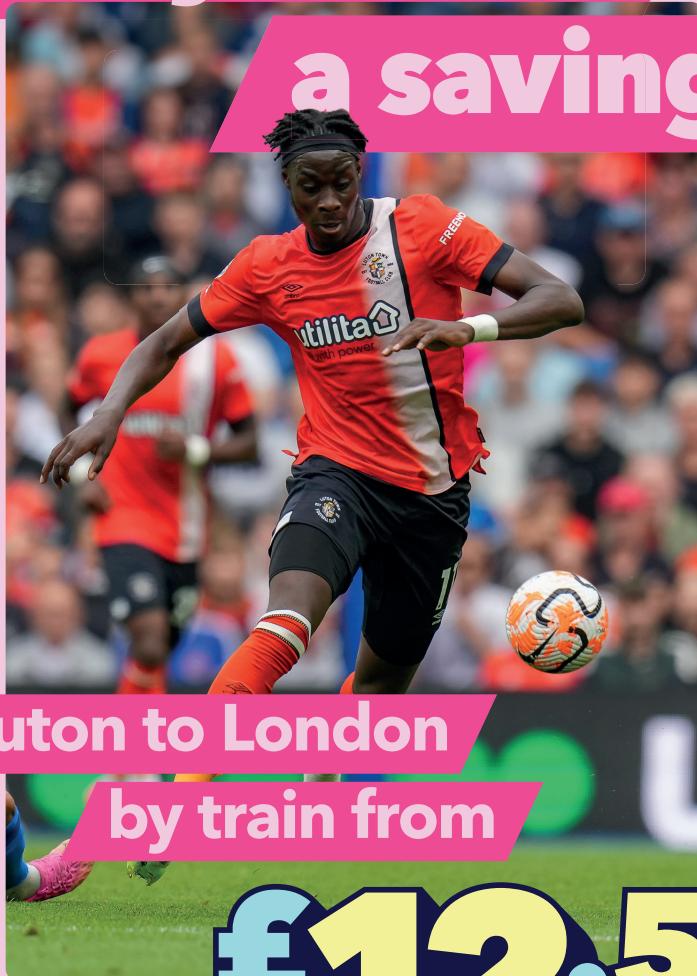
The Hatter Chatter group is always keen to welcome new members. There is no pressure to attend every week, or even to contribute verbally.

Some of our members prefer to just sit on the call and listen in, whilst others are happier getting involved in the conversation. To register your interest or to hear more about Hatter Chatter please email community@lutontown.co.uk or call the office on **01582 561622** and ask to speak to **Adam**.



The logo for Luton Town Football Club Community Trust. It features the club's crest, the text 'LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB' and 'COMMUNITY TRUST' with 'Charity No. 1123078' underneath. Below the crest are several logos: 'Luton's Best', 'Luton Town Community Trust', 'Luton Town FC', 'Professional Footballers Association', and 'Premier League'. At the bottom, the website 'www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk' and the Twitter handle 'X: @LTFC_Community' are listed.

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WE'RE WITH YOU

YOUTH TEAM UPDATE YOUNG TOWN SIDES EARN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST WEEK

It has been a mixed bag of results for the Town Under-18s since our last programme with Wolves.

Having returned to winning ways with a hard-fought win over Sutton United thanks to a last-minute goal, Alex Lawless' side have taken one point from their last two home matches in the Youth Alliance over the past two weeks.

On the morning of the Wolves game, Lawless' youngsters went down 1-0 to Stevenage at The Brache, succumbing to a late Boro winner despite having the better of the chances, including hitting the post.

There were more encouraging signs this weekend as the young Hatters came from a goal down to earn a valuable point in a 1-1 draw with Gillingham.

The Gills took the lead in the second half but the Town then missed an opportunity to level the score when missing a penalty.

However, the Hatters rallied and a fine team goal was finished by Charlie Trustram to earn Lawless' side a share of the spoils.

Lawless said: "Both of the last two games have been really tight and could have gone another way. Against Gillingham both sides had their share of the ball but we were the better team overall and had better chances so we really should have won."

There is no game this weekend for the Town in the Youth Alliance but Lawless' side are next in action away to AFC Wimbledon a week on Saturday.

Meanwhile the Town Development Squad were in action last Friday with a friendly against Bishop's Stortford.

Adrian Forbes' side went down 1-0 but they return to action this week in a bid to bounce back to winning ways.

After losing in their first Premier League Cup game to Chelsea last month, the Town Development Squad head north to face Leeds United on Friday evening. The game will be played at York City's LNER Community Stadium with a 7pm kick-off. If any Hatters fans are in the area that night, please get along to support the boys.





ACADEMY UPDATE WITH FOUNDATION PHASE COACH WITH OLLIE SHARPLES

Good evening and welcome to tonight's game. Firstly let me introduce myself, I have worked behind the scenes at the club since 2017 within the medical department.

What a journey the club and myself have been on since then, although since I started working part-time within the academy evening injury clinics, I cannot claim to have been responsible for any success associated with the first team and my arrival alongside the success of the club may, or may not, have been a coincidence!

I joined full-time in 2019 as a sports therapist leading the academy medical department. The club agreed to put me through a four-year part time physiotherapy course at the University of Salford. Something that I am hugely grateful to Gary Sweet and the club for putting me through.

This summer I have finally qualified as a physiotherapist. Let me tell you that four years is a long time, I would not have been able to achieve it without the support of all the staff and my family along the way. I

would like to thank the full-time and part-time staff who work within the academy medical department. I am hugely appreciative of all the brilliant work you do.

In addition, thank you to the medical staff within the first team, in particular Simon Parsell and Chris Phillips who have been instrumental in my development and supported me throughout my time here.

One example of this support being within my debut pitch side first team game. Blackburn Rovers away, September 2021, where let me tell you – not much more could have gone wrong.

It started the evening before the game with two players going down with illness overnight at the hotel, not a great start. We then lost another player in the warm-up. This was all alright though because Head of Medical Simon Parsell was there to explain all this to the manager.

Then came the game, sat next to supportive Simon. Now ideally you watch the game without needing to enter the pitch for anything significant. Obviously, this was not

ACADEMY

the case. Within the first ten minutes Allan Campbell was on the receiving end of a tackle which required a stretcher to remove him from the pitch and down the tunnel.

Of course, down the tunnel vanished Simon to look after Allan leaving me all alone on the bench for what was to be my baptism of fire, although the last-minute equaliser is something that I will fondly remember forever. To be fair it's been plain sailing since then only having to step in last minute for our play-off semi-final at the Stadium of Light, due to Chris Phillips' selfish decision to stay behind to look after his wife who was about to give birth, and assisting with the team at Wembley watching penalties from a certain hospital room.

Whilst I myself have developed; the academy has also gone from strength to strength. Within the academy we now have a fully functional development squad playing a variety of fixtures against a variety of opponents from men's teams to other category 1 and category 2 teams.

Having this squad allows us to try to bridge the physical gap between the first team and the U18s. Allowing us to see academy players making the first team bench and even more recently starting. Long may the academy continue to provide and develop players to support the first team.

Get behind the team today as you always do, nowhere has better or louder fans.

COYH! 



ACADEMY WHO'S WHO

Academy Manager: **Paul Benson**

Head of Academy Development: **Wayne Turner**

U9-16 Head of Coaching: **Dan Walder**

U21 Lead Coach: **Adrian Forbes**

U18 Lead Coach: **Alex Lawless**

Academy Operations Manager: **Dale Brunton**

Academy Administrator: **Emily Howes**

Youth Development Phase Lead Coach (15-16): **Craig Alcock**

Youth Development Phase Lead Coach (12-14): **Jack Cartwright**

Foundation Phase Lead Coach: **Billy Carter**

Head of Academy Recruitment: **Lee Cowley**

Academy Scout: **Kevin Thoburn**

Head of Education: **Kobie Dee**

Academy Safeguarding Manager: **Stuart Cornish**

Player Care Officer: **Wayne Polson**

Lead Academy Analyst: **Michael Malone**

Academy Head of Goalkeeping: **Albert Bell**

Academy Goalkeeping Coach: **Frank Atwell**

Senior Academy Physiotherapist (18-21): **Oliver Sharples**

Senior Academy Physiotherapist (12-16): **Connor Wright**

Lead Academy Sports Therapist: **Paige Simms**

Lead Academy Sports Scientist: **Daniel Taylor**

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JOSHUA PHILLIPS  H: Available A: Available T: Available	MARCUS DAWS  H: Available A: Available T: Available	JOE JOHNSON  H: Stacey Peck A: Available T: Available	

YOUTH U18 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

OPPONENT	DATE	SCORE	STARTING XI	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 5/8/23	A W 6-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 2/8/23	A W 4-1	THOMAS	GIWA	CHIGOZIE	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	WARREN
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 26/9/23	H L 1-2	TRIALIST	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	MARTINS	GIWA
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 9/9/23	H L 3-4	THOMAS	GIWA	HARVEY	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	SCOTT	MARTINS
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 16/9/23	A W 1-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
STEVENAGE	SAT 23/9/23	H L 0-1	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	SCOTT	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
GILLINGHAM	SAT 30/9/23	H D 1-1	TRIALIST A	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 14/10/23	A							
BRENTFORD	SAT 28/10/23	A							
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 4/11/23	H							
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 11/11/23	A							
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 18/11/23	H							
STEVENAGE	SAT 9/12/23	A							
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 16/12/23	A							
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 6/1/24	H							
GILLINGHAM	SAT 13/1/24	A							
BRENTFORD	SAT 20/1/24	H							
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 3/2/24	A							
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 10/2/24	H							

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD U21 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

GILLINGHAM	TUE 22/8/23	A W 4-3	TRIALIST A	FRANCIS-CLARKE	KAYIBANDA	JOHNSON	PINNINGTON	LUKER	WATSON
BRENTFORD B	TUE 29/8/23	A W 2-1	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	GIWA	PIESOLD	BURGER
CHELSEA	TUE 19/9/23	A L 1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS	BATESON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 6/10/23	A							
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	TUE 17/10/23	H							
KEMPSTON ROVERS	TUE 24/10/23	H							
COLCHESTER UNITED	MON 13/11/23	A							
CHELSEA	TUE 12/12/23	H							
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 19/1/24	A							
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 2/2/24	H							

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MATTHEW TAKWIRA	MAX SCOTT	OLIVER PIPA	SAM ANDERSON
			
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TATE XAVIER-JONES	TYRELL GIWA	WILL HOUGHTON	ZACHARIAS IOANNIDES
			
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SUBS

WARREN ⚽ ⚽	LORENTZEN-JONES ⚽ ⚽	XAVIER-JONES	HOUGHTON	TRURAM ⚽, TAKWIRA, IOANNIDES, ROBERTS-EDEMA, BOOTH
LORENTZEN-JONES ⚽	TRURAM	XAVIER-JONES ⚽ ⚽	TAKWIRA	MARTINS, IOANNIDES, HARVEY, ROUTH, DEAN, TRIALIST,
IOANNIDES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRURAM	XAVIER-JONES ⚽	PIPA, ODEJAH, HOUGHTON, HARVEY, WARREN,
TRURAM	LORENTZEN-JONES	XAVIER-JONES ⚽	HOUGHTON	WARREN, IOANNIDES, AKINYA, SHEPHERD, PIPA
IOANNIDES	XAVIER-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRURAM	BOOTH, ANDERSON, SHEPHERD ⚽, STITT, ROBERTS-EDEMA
STITT	ANDERSON	IOANNIDES	TRURAM	PIPA, TAKWIRA, MARTINS, BENAGR, SHEPHERD
IOANNIDES	ANDERSON	TRURAM ⚽	TRIALIST B	PIPA, TAKWIRA, HOUGHTON, SHEPHERD,

BURGER ⚽	NEWTON	TRIALIST B ⚽ ⚽	MCATEE	HORLICK, MATTHEWS-LEWIS, HERON, ALLEN, PIESOLD, LYNCH
LUKER ⚽	NEWTON	LYNCH	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HERON ⚽, PHILLIPS, BOOTH, PIPA, TRIALIST
LUKER	BURGER	MATTHEWS-LEWIS ⚽	DAWS	HOCKEY, HERON, ANDERSON, BENAGR, CHIGOZIE

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THE NEXT GENERATION SPEAKS

Will Haughton has barely kicked a ball in the past four years but you wouldn't know it from speaking to the 18-year-old striker.

Lockdowns and recurring hamstring injuries have meant the second-year scholar has struggled to get minutes in Town colours – yet his outlook in the face of adversity is refreshing as he enters what he says is the most important part of his career so far.

“It’s been really tough, especially during lockdown, but overall the hard things with the injuries have made me stronger as a person,” he says. “The worst thing was watching training – I wanted to be out there so much. Right now, I’m on a positive trajectory – I’m back playing more than I ever have for the past four years.

“I did have thoughts that my career would be over before it started. Lucky for me, I got offered my scholarship early. But when the same hamstring, my left one, went again I thought to myself ‘when is this ever going to end?’

“But at the end of last season, thanks to some injections paid for by the club, I came through it and have felt fine ever since and hopefully I am now over the worst of it.”

Given his bad luck with injuries, Haughton is grateful for the opportunity and the trust shown in him by the academy coaches and Under-18 boss Alex Lawless.

“It’s reassuring that they have faith in me, especially Alex has he has not seen much of me. A lot of my ability has been based on word of mouth from what has been seen in training over the past four years.

“Now the next few months are definitely going to be the most important of my life as a footballer. I’m aiming for my first professional contract and push on in the under-21s as long as I stay fit.

“I’m here for a reason, I know I’m good enough. I just need to show it on the pitch and believe myself.”

Haughton, who models his game on Leicester striker Jamie Vardy, says he’s proud to represent Luton Town as a Premier League club.

And his short-term aims are to help the youth team improve their results after a couple of recent defeats.

“The season hasn’t gone as well as we had hoped so far but as a team we are all positive group and confident we can turn it around,” he says. “There’s been games we should have, like against Stevenage, but we know we can do better.”

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- ✖ Drug use
- ✖ Discriminatory behaviour

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:

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

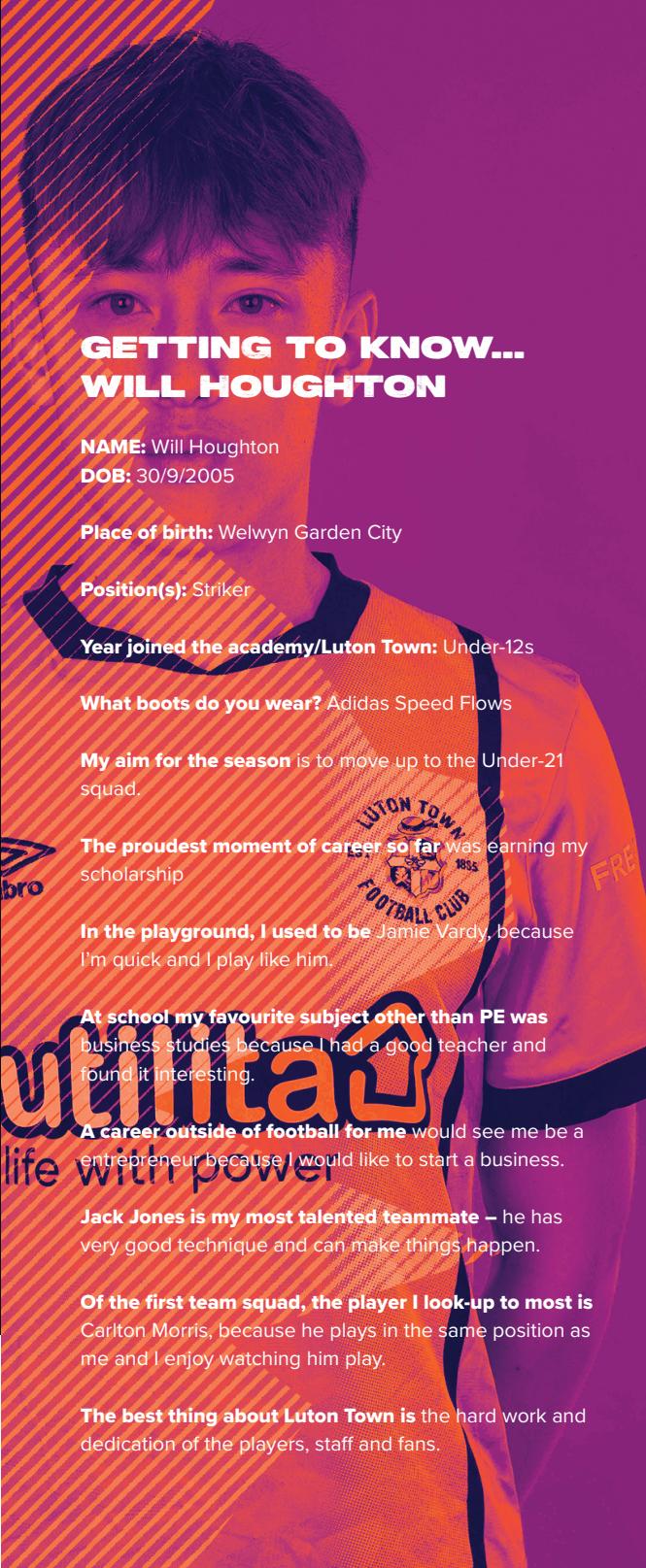
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Premier League



FSA.



GETTING TO KNOW... WILL HOUGHTON

NAME: Will Houghton

DOB: 30/9/2005

Place of birth: Welwyn Garden City

Position(s): Striker

Year joined the academy/Luton Town: Under-12s

What boots do you wear? Adidas Speed Flows

My aim for the season is to move up to the Under-21 squad.

The proudest moment of career so far was earning my scholarship

In the playground, I used to be Jamie Vardy, because I'm quick and I play like him.

At school my favourite subject other than PE was business studies because I had a good teacher and found it interesting.

A career outside of football for me would see me be a entrepreneur because I would like to start a business.

Jack Jones is my most talented teammate – he has very good technique and can make things happen.

Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is Carlton Morris, because he plays in the same position as me and I enjoy watching him play.

The best thing about Luton Town is the hard work and dedication of the players, staff and fans.



THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Will's not had the luxury of playing that many games over the years, he's had a recurring hamstring injury.

"He showed really good promise when he was younger. He's really quick, and lo and behold has had some hamstring injuries as he's grown older.

"So he hasn't played as many games as he would have liked over the past few years due to those injuries but what I would say is that his attitude has been amazing for someone who's had relentless disappointment.

"He's always worked super hard, stayed positive, does all his rehab work and it's been tough to watch when you see someone go through such disappointment.

"But he's worked hard, keeps coming back and hopefully now we'll see the best of a player who is a really quick forward who we think highly of."



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LUTON TOWN LADIES

Great start to the season for Luton Town Ladies Youth.

There is positivity in the air throughout the girls youth system including additional teams being added across the age groups from under-8s to under-18s.

New partnerships being formed with local schools for safe facilities has enabled the club to meet growth requirements needed in the ever-developing female game.

The current 15 squads have started really well for the season with many at the top of their respective leagues.

We are also seeing girls from the youth section moving through to the senior levels and gaining debuts in the Ladies 1st and Reserves.

Success came in numbers from our open invitation to training in the summer, having over 250 young ladies in attendance, with many signing up for the journey into competitive football.

At Luton Town Ladies we are always on lookout for additional talented players and coaches to join us.

Why not drop us a message at
LTLFCYT@outlook.com 

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL_Official

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

**WITH JUNE ADAMSON, LTST
CHARITY COORDINATOR**

**Hello, I'm June Adamson. I have served as
the charity coordinator for the Luton Town
Supporters' Trust for the past seven years.**

In my capacity, I facilitate communication and collaboration among the charity, club and supporters to create opportunities for fundraising and raising awareness.

Current charity

At the commencement of the 2021/22 season, the Trust sought a small, local charity to support. When Luton icon Mick Harford was diagnosed with prostate cancer, we were introduced to BPCSG (Beds Prostate Cancer Support Group).

Established in 2014 by a group of prostate cancer patients, BPCSG offers support and encouragement to all men and their families affected by prostate cancer. Their objectives encompass increasing awareness of prostate cancer across all age groups, offering support and advice to those dealing with prostate cancer, fundraising for the Prostate Cancer Unit at Bedford Hospital, and contributing towards the cost of PSA (prostate specific antigen) blood tests.

Our help so far

Upon our initial meeting, it became evident that supporting BPCSG was a no brainer. Since our collaboration began, we have organised two PSA Testing days in the Eric Morecambe Suite at Luton Town Football Club, and through matchday collections and various initiatives by Luton supporters raised over £6,000.

I recently had the privilege of announcing to them that the Luton Town Supporters' Trust has agreed to extend our partnership and support until the conclusion of the 2024/25 season—a decision that fills me with immense pride.

Jim Francis, BPCSG Treasurer said: "Please pass on and convey to all your board members and supporters our most sincere thanks and appreciation for this most splendid gesture.

"LTST have an admirable and long-standing reputation for representing and developing an influential relationship with the Club - and we as BPCSG have been most pleased to have been involved with a number of your board members, especially June Adamson who was especially helpful in co-ordinating and being the conduit for me to get access to Mick Harford - that access resulted in a most positive outcome, with Mick becoming our groups Patron."

Help us help BPCSG!

If you're interested in backing BPCSG, I'm eager to connect with you. Whether it's tackling a marathon or half marathon, taking a leap from the sky, or lending a hand as a volunteer for the charity during a future matchday collection, I'd love to hear from you.

Whatever you would like to do, please reach out via email at june.adamson@lutontownsupporterstrust.com.

Alternatively, if you prefer to contribute, you can donate through this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/luton-supporters-bpcsg>.

Enjoy the game tonight. 

MEET THE FANS

LUTON TOWN FANS Q&A

WITH LAURA WRIGHT

How long have you supported Luton for?

Nearly 30 years! I stupidly followed Man U as a small child as my dad supported them, but I soon came to my senses and became a firm Hatters fan when I started high school and went to my first Luton game. You can't beat the atmosphere at the Kenny; I think we will all be sad when we finally move. Thankfully my dad also saw sense and converted to the Hatters soon after!

Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

Now this is a hard one! I don't think I could choose just one. Mick Harford is a Town legend of course, and I think Pelly has sealed that status now too, but also players like McNulty, Nicholls, Benson and more recently Nakamba, Bradley and Lockyer. Too many to choose!

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

Everything, but proud mainly. We have been through a lot over the past two decades but we are a club like no other and we are always behind the boys and the manager, no matter what. You don't see that anywhere else. Who else gets applauded off the pitch when you lose? No-one.



What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

Another tough question! The obvious is our trip to Wembley in May and celebrating our promotion in the town centre on the Monday; it was an amazing weekend and I think it took about three months to come down from that high! However, I think I would have to choose 21st April 2014 when we played Forest Green Rovers at home and celebrated our promotion back into the Football League. I remember being on the pitch after the game and everyone was cheering and crying and then watching the lads lift the trophy and seeing what it meant to everyone was outstanding. Our club at its best!

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

Yes, I guess so and most people recognise the amazing journey we have been on but there are still some people who love to make fun of us and are now betting on us to get relegated this season. We know that we are here to enjoy the ride whatever happens and the benefit it has had and will bring to the club is the most important thing; it sets us up for success next season and beyond.

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

Genuinely, I just want to enjoy all the games now as it will be a great experience whether we win, lose or draw. I am looking forward to us playing Tottenham at the weekend as a lot of my family are Spurs fans.

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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

Today, I'm looking back to a special game under the lights in League Two. I'm not talking about the lights at Kenilworth Road, I'm talking about the ones at the County Ground in Swindon on Boxing Day in 2017 as Luton travelled to Wiltshire for a big match.

Previously in the season, Swindon left Bedfordshire with all three points after a convincing 3-0 win at Kenilworth Road. Nathan Jones' side were looking to right this wrong with a result in Swindon.

Jones had named a strong starting team for the match. This starting XI included two players who are still at the club in Dan Potts and Luke Berry. Starting in goal for Swindon was current Burnley goal-keeper, Lawrence Vigouroux.

The first half was a very dull one with neither side having many chances. The game was yet to spark into life, but this changed in the second half.

Within three minutes of the restart, Luton took the lead. James Collins received the ball on the right wing before chopping past his defender and curling the ball into the top left corner to put the Hatters ahead in style.

Things went from good to great soon after this as Danny Hylton doubled Luton's advantage. Some great work down the left wing meant a fizzing cross into the box found the head of Danny Hylton before finding the back of the net.

About ten minutes later, Luton put the game to bed with a third goal. After winning the ball back in midfield, a Danny Hylton pass was played wide to James Collins on the right. His low cross was turned into the net by Swindon defender Matthew Taylor who just couldn't quite keep the ball out.

It was soon 4-0 as things went from bad to worse for Swindon. The Robins defence couldn't deal with a long kick by Marek Stech and the ball fell to Harry Cornick who fired into the top-left corner from distance much to the delight of the travelling Hatters faithful.

Luton weren't quite done there as Nathan Jones' side managed to squeeze one more in before the end. Some neat work from James Collins and Elliot Lee meant the ball fell to Lee to strike from distance. His effort found the bottom right corner to finish Swindon off well and truly.

This was one of many statement victories by Luton as the Hatters went marching on. A perfect Box-ing Day present for all Luton fans. It was always a pleasure to watch that gem of a side under Nathan Jones play. I hope this has brought back some memories ahead of the game today! 

Words: Zac Neal



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JUNIOR HATTERS TONIGHT'S MASCOTS



**HAYDEN
MCSKIMMING**

AGE: 10

HOBBIES: POKEMON,
GAMING & FOOTBALL
FAVOURITE PLAYER:
TAHITH CHONG



FINLEY SMITH

AGE: 10

FOOTBALL
FAVOURITE PLAYER:
CARLTON MORRIS



ELLA WILLIAMSON

AGE: 8

HOBBIES: SWIMMING & DANCING
FAVOURITE PLAYER: MARVELOUS NAKAMBA

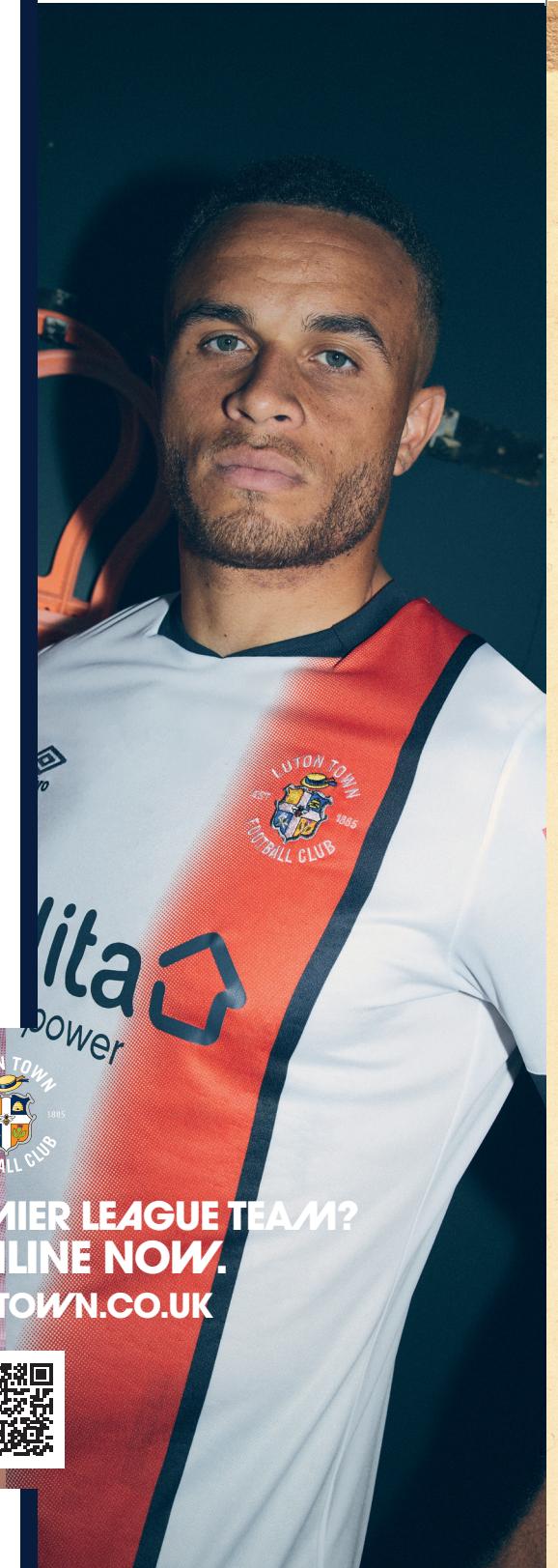


**GEORGIA
FREGAPANE**

AGE: 11

HOBBIES: FOOTBALL
FAVOURITE PLAYERS:
TOM LOCKER, ISSA KABORE,
RYAN GILES





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LET'S GO

KENILWORTH ROAD
SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH
KICK OFF: 12:30PM

WHO?

Tottenham Hotspur, aka the Spurs, or better still the Lilywhites. Founded 141 years ago, they are three years older than the Hatters. These days the club play their games at the 62,850-capacity Tottenham Hotspur Stadium which replaced their old home, White Hart Lane, which was knocked down to make way for their shiny new home. Their motto is *Audere est Facere* – meaning “to dare is to do”. They have won the league title twice and the FA Cup eight times. No player has scored more goals for them than Harry Kane's 280.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Those of a younger generation might think “Luton have neverrrr played Spurs” well, 81 meetings suggests otherwise, eh? Admittedly our last (proper – not including Checkatrade Trophy) meeting came in March 1992 (0-0 here in the top-flight) but our history with Tottenham goes way back. Our first meeting came in the FA Cup in 1895, after a 2-2 draw we won the replay 4-0. Spurs have the upper hand in previous meetings, winning 33 to the Town's 22. You have to go back to November 1987 for our last win – a 2-0 triumph in the top division.

THE SPURS OF TODAY

Not since 1960/61 have Tottenham won the top-flight title – a year they also won the double. However, in the last 15 seasons of the modern era, Spurs have finished in the top 10 on every occasion, finishing runners-up in 2016/17. The goals of Harry Kane also fired them to the Champions League final in 2019. They arrive at Kenilworth Road managed by Ange Postecoglou and in 2022 Spurs were the ninth-highest-earning football club in the world.

WATCH OUT FOR

Son Heung-min. The South Korean international is a star for club and country and arrived in North London in 2015 from Bayer Leverkusen for £22m. In each of the past seven seasons the forward has hit double figures, including a season's best 23 in 35 games in 2021/22. Also a creator, he forged a wonderful partnership with Kane but since the England man's departure to Bayern Munich, Son has led the line superbly. Off the pitch, he's a likeable fellow. According to his agent, such was his desire to make himself a success in Europe, he learned German by watching episodes of *SpongeBob SquarePants*. Believe us when we say German is hard at the best of times.



THE HATTERS



THE SPURS



MEMBERS

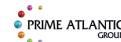


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TOWN TEASERS

Due to popular demand – put your football knowledge to the test and answer these Luton Town and football-related questions. Let us know how you do – you'll win no prizes, just our editor's utmost respect.

1. Joe Johnson made his full Luton debut at Exeter last but against whom did he make his debut in the Championship last season?
2. Which centre-half did the Town sign from Burnley in 1996 and sell back to the Clarets in 1998?
3. Which club's ground is closest to the River Mersey?
4. How many times have Luton beaten Burnley at Kenilworth Road since 2005 (the last six games)?
5. What is the nickname of Harrogate Town?
6. For which club did Tom Lockyer score for in the National League?
7. Which Luton player was sent-off on the first day of the 2013/14 season?
8. Who scored the Town's last penalty in the play-off final at Wembley against Coventry?
9. Which player scored the fastest hat-trick in Premier League history?
10. Which MLS Franchise does David Beckham own?

HOW DID YOU SCORE? TURN TO PAGE 81 FOR THE ANSWERS. NO CHEATING

8-10 SIMON PITTS. We'll have you co-commentating with Simon soon.

4-7 COURTNEY PITTS. Like a half-decent loan signing, not bad.

0-3 THE PITS. Either you're a Burnley fan or you're new to this.





Premier League

ROUND-UP

The Town's wonderful win at Everton moved us out of the bottom three on Saturday, with three sides – one of which are tonight's visitors now below us in the table.

The Clarets arrive at Kenilworth Road still searching for their first win of the campaign after going down at Newcastle. The Magpies followed up their 8-0 win over Sheffield United the previous week to move further up the table.

It was another defeat for Sheffield United this weekend after their 2-0 loss at West Ham, with David Moyes' Hammers continuing their good start to the season thanks to goals from Jarrod Bowen and Tomas Soucek.

Bournemouth have also played many of the top sides at the start of the campaign and their winless beginning to the season continued after coming undone 4-0 at home to Arsenal. The Gunners, who have yet to lose this term, never looked back after Bukayo Saka's opening goal.

Arguably the biggest shock of the weekend came at Molineux as Wolves, who the Town dominated here 10 days ago, beat reigning champions Manchester City. Having led through an own goal, City levelled and it

only seemed like one winner going into the final 30 minutes. However, Gary O'Neil's side proved everyone wrong and Hwang Lee-chan struck the winner to give those in gold all three points.

Two unbeaten records were on the line at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium as Tottenham met Liverpool. And in a blood and thunder encounter, it was Spurs who came out on top. The hosts led through Son Heung-min's opener only for Cody Gakpo to level. But Jurgen Klopp's Reds were reduced to nine men after Curtis Jones and Diogo Jota were sent-off. Just when it seemed the spoils would be shared, an own goal from Joel Matip in the sixth minute of injury time won the game for Spurs – who put their unbeaten record on the line here at Kenilworth Road on Saturday.

The biggest win of the weekend was reserved for Aston Villa, who put six past Brighton with striker Ollie Watkins hitting a hat-trick. Villa – who we travel to at the end of October – have now won their last ten successive home matches in the Premier League.

Meanwhile Crystal Palace earned a fine 1-0 win at Old Trafford against Manchester United thanks to a wonderful goal Joachim Andersen goal in the first half.





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PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON										CAREER		
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		CARDS		TOTAL				
	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G	Y	R	APPS	G			
	(APPS)	(G)	(APPS)	(G)	(APPS)	(G)	(Y)	(R)	(APPS)	(G)			
Elijah Adebayo	3	(3)	0	1	(1)	0	4	(4)	0	0	0	117	32
Mads Andersen	3	(2)	1	2	(0)	0	5	(2)	1	1	0	7	1
Ross Barkley	2	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	3	0
Amari'i Bell	6	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	7	(1)	0	0	0	105	2
Luke Berry	0	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	1	0	167	24
Jacob Brown	3	(3)	0	1	(1)	1	4	(4)	1	1	0	8	1
Reece Burke	5	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	5	(1)	0	0	0	63	4
Tahith Chong	4	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	2	0	5	0
Jordan Clark	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	111	9
Alfie Doughty	3	(3)	0	2	(0)	1	5	(3)	1	0	0	43	3
Ryan Giles	3	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	5	(1)	0	0	0	6	0
Joe Johnson	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	3	0
Issa Kabore	5	(1)	0	0	(2)	0	5	(3)	0	2	0	8	0
Thomas Kaminski	6	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	1	0	6	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Tom Lockyer	5	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	6	(0)	1	1	0	108	7
Sambi Lokonga	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Teden Mengi	0	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	1	0	2	0
Carlton Morris	6	(0)	3	0	(1)	0	6	(1)	3	0	0	58	23
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	2	(4)	0	2	(0)	0	4	(4)	0	0	0	378	23
Marvelous Nakamba	6	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	6	(1)	0	2	0	27	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	2	(4)	0	1	(1)	0	3	(5)	0	0	0	8	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
Cauley Woodrow	0	(5)	0	2	(0)	1	2	(5)	1	0	0	42	4



**FULL
DEBUT
FOR
JOHNSON**

Congratulations to 17-year-old academy graduate Joe Johnson who made his full debut for the Hatters in our Carabao Cup tie at Exeter. In doing so he became the youngest player to feature for the Town in the competition. Nice one, Joe!

2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	POS	SCORE	STARTING XI	KAMINSKI	KABORÉ	GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKYER	BELL
SAT AUG 12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	3PM	A 18	L 1-4							
FRI AUG 25	CHESLSEA	8PM	A 19	L 0-3	KAMINSKI	KABORÉ	GILES	BURKE	LOCKYER	BELL	
TUE AUG 29	GILLINGHAM (CC)	745PM	H -	W 3-2	KRUL	DOUGHTY	GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKYER	BELL	
FRI SEP 1	WEST HAM UNITED	8PM	H 19	L 1-2	KAMINSKI	DOUGHTY	GILES	BURKE	ANDERSEN	LOCKYER	BELL
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A 20	L 0-1	KAMINSKI	KABORÉ	BELL	BURKE	LOCKYER	ANDERSEN	
SAT SEP 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	H 18	D 1-1	KAMINSKI	KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	BURKE	LOCKYER	ANDERSEN	
TUE SEP 26	EXETER CITY (CC)	745PM	A -	L 0-1	KRUL	DOUGHTY	GILES	MENGI	ANDERSEN	JOHNSON	
SAT SEP 30	EVERTON	3PM	A 17	W 2-1	KAMINSKI	KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	BURKE	LOCKYER	BELL	
SAT OCT 3	BURNLEY	7.30PM	H								
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12.30PM	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	745PM	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	CHESLSEA	3PM	H								
SAT JAN 13	BURNLEY	3PM	A								
TUE JAN 30	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	745PM	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	745PM	A								
SAT APR 6	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	3PM	H								
SAT APR 13	MANCHESTER CITY	3PM	A								
SAT APR 20	BRENTFORD	3PM	H								
SAT APR 27	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	A								
SAT MAY 4	EVERTON	3PM	H								
SAT MAY 11	WEST HAM UNITED	3PM	A								
SUN MAY 19	FULHAM	4PM	H								

Premier League

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



[LUTONTOWN.CO.UK](http://lutontown.co.uk)

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



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

SUBSTITUTES										ATT	AWAY
NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS ⚽	ADEBAYO	Shea, Francis-Clarke, Berry, Campbell, Doughty, Brown, McAtee, Ogbene, Woodrow	31,872	3,001				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Doughty, Andersen, Ruddock-Mpanzu, Ogbene, Brown, Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Johnson	39,893	3,054				
MPANZU	BERRY	WOODROW	OGBENE	BROWN ⚽	Shea, Burke, Johnson, Kabore, Barkley, Chong, Nakamba, Adebayo, Morris	9,468	1,058				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Krul, Berry, Brown, Francis-Clarke, Johnson, Kabore, Mpanzu, Ogbene, Woodrow	10,802	1,151				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Adebayo, Berry, Doughty, Giles, Mengi, Mpanzu, Ogbene, Woodrow	24,467	2,701				
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OBENE	MORRIS	WOODROW	Krul, Adebayo, Andersen, Berry, Chong, Giles, Mengi, Mpanzu, Woodrow	10,893	1,091				
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Shea, Ogbene, Morris, Kabore, Burke, Brown, Bell, Burger, Luker	7,360	708				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OBENE	MORRIS ⚽	BROWN	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Mengi, Giles, Johnson	39,289	2,976				



SATURDAY'S GAMES

LUTON TOWN v TOTTENHAM	
BURNLEY v CHELSEA	
EVERTON v BOURNEMOUTH	
FULHAM v SHEFF UTD	
MAN UTD v BRENTFORD	
CRYSTAL PALACE v NOTT'M FOREST	

TOP SCORERS

HAALAND (MAN CITY) 8
SON HEUNG-MIN (SPURS) 6
BOWEN (WEST HAM) 5
WATKINS (VILLA) 4
SAKA (ARSENAL) 4
WILSON (NEWCASTLE) 4

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



1. Middleborough 2. Steve Davis 3. Stockport's Edgeley Park 4. Zero 5. The Sulphurites 6. Bristol Rovers 7. Steve McNulty 8. Dan Potts 9. Saudi Mane 10. Inter Miami.

11

12

13



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

With The Lutonian journalist James Cunliffe

“Whatever people say I am, that’s what I’m not.” Immortalised in popular culture by the 1960 film Saturday Night, Sunday Morning, and Arctic Monkeys’ smash-hit debut album, this sentence works wonders as a shield against the slings and arrows aimed at Luton Town.

After Everton, the monkey is off the Hatters' backs with that historic first-ever Premier League win. We know it had been coming, despite the sticks and stones.

What the English top-flight, the majority of its pundits and its followers (which is, frankly, weird because who supports a league?) have demonstrated is that they just do not understand this football club.

There's nothing to prove to people who have been hoodwinked by three decades of Premier League propaganda about its so-called status as the best in the world. The main metric for that assertion is almost always.... LOADSAMONEY!

Unwittingly, Luton were one of the clubs that ushered in this football as the poster child for rampant, unchecked capitalism, which has taken 31 years to leave its nasty taste in the mouth.

Take their millions, of course, but the Premier League cannot wrap its warped, one-track mind around the fact that cash can't buy what Luton Town has. Heart and soul!

Survival or relegation won't change that, but now, as the first newly-promoted club

to claim a victory in the division - which for a few days at least moved them just one point behind Chelsea's failing billion-pound project - this should be the stage where opinions start to change. Don't expect them to, mind you.

Mathematically illogical Christmas relegation prophecies, the Derby points total hypothesis, tired Oak Road memes, unhealthy preoccupations with budgets and Kool-Aid-drunk armchair tools on the other side of the world... it's all just noise.

That din is designed, consciously or not, to obscure from one fundamental principle - that the Luton way is a threat to the Premier League's perceived order of things. Not in the sense that Town will challenge Manchester City for their customary title in the so-called 'best league in the world' that no one else can seem to win, but proof that a meritocracy in football is still achievable.

Which is "one for all and all for one", when top-flight fans rallied, rightly, against the European Super League, but seemingly not when 'little old Luton' crash the party on the back of the greatest fairytale in football. New chapters pending.

So, just as actor Albert Finney famously uttered this column's opening line on celluloid, these Hatters will rail against people who claim to have got the measure of them.

And to borrow a terrace chant but make a small Luton lyrical tweak: "No-one gets us. We don't care".



THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports



LUTON TOWN

1. JAMES SHEA
2. GABE OSHO
3. DAN POTTS
4. TOM LOCKYER
5. MADS ANDERSEN
6. ROSS BARKLEY
7. CHIEDOZIE OGBENE
8. LUKE BERRY
9. CARLTON MORRIS
10. CAULEY WOODROW
11. ELIJAH ADEBAYO
12. ISSA KABORE
13. MARVELOUS NAKAMBA
14. TAHITH CHONG
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
38. JOE JOHNSON
45. ALFIE DOUGHTY



BURNLEY

- 1 JAMES TRAFFORD
- 2 DARA O'SHEA
- 3 CHARLIE TAYLOR
- 4 JACK CORK
- 5 JORDAN BEYER
- 6 CJ EGAN RILEY
- 7 JOHANN BERG GUDMUNDSSON
- 8 JOSH BROWNHILL
- 9 JAY RODRIGUEZ
- 10 MANUEL BENSON
- 14 CONNOR ROBERTS
- 15 NATHAN REDMOND
- 16 SANDER BERGE
- 17 LYÉ FOSTER
- 18 HJALMAR EKDAL
- 19 ANASS ZAROURY
- 20 DENIS FRANCHI
- 21 AARON RAMSEY
- 22 VITINHO
- 24 JOSH CULLEN
- 25 ZEKI AMDOUNI
- 26 SAMUEL BASTIEN
- 27 DARKO CHURLINOV
- 28 AMEEN AL-DAKHIL
- 29 LAWRENCE VIGOUROUX
- 30 LUCA KOLEOSHO
- 31 MIKE TRESOR
- 34 JACOB BRUUN LARSEN
- 42 HAN-NOAH MASSENGO
- 44 HANNES DELCROIX

MATCH OFFICIALS

- REFEREE - PETER BANKES
- ASSISTANT REFEREE - EDWARD SMART
- ASSISTANT REFEREE - SIMON LONG
- FOURTH OFFICIAL - JARRED GILLET
- VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - MICHAEL SALISBURY
- ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - ADRIAN HOLMES