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LUTON TOWN V CRYSTAL PALACE

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2023 | 3.00PM | KENILWORTH ROAD



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

BRING THE NOISE!



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USED TO WRITE
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PROGRAMME.



WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

After entertaining Liverpool here last time out and after a trip to the Theatre of Dreams in our last Premier League outing, we couldn't more excited about returning home to Kenilworth Road this afternoon. The most intense period of the season is almost upon us and three important points are up for grabs as we welcome our visitors from South London this afternoon. So bring the noise and enjoy the game. Come on Luton!



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80 SEASON
SO FAR



ROB EDWARDS

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road after the international break for this important Premier League game against Crystal Palace.

The last time we were here together was for the Liverpool match which was a special night at the Kenny. We were really disappointed we didn't get the three points but it was a great occasion for everyone. The result was probably fair in the end, but given how tantalisingly close to all three points we were, it certainly was a bitter-sweet evening.

However, that performance once again showed how far we have come in such a small space of time already this season. To run a team of Liverpool's quality so close is credit to everyone involved and it is a mark of our standards that there was a slight tinge of disappointment that we couldn't hold on for the victory.

Our following game at Old Trafford was also a special occasion. For the lads to put in a shift such as they did against a team of the calibre of Manchester United was excellent, and the response we showed after going beyond was incredibly encouraging. There aren't many tougher assignments in the Premier League than that, so to come away just falling short gives us plenty of heart for the challenges that come ahead.

That of course includes today, as we welcome Roy Hodgson and his team

and staff to Kenilworth Road. Roy is a vastly experienced manager who has had an amazing career. Palace are a good team with several players who could play in most, if not all, teams in this division so we know we'll be in for a challenging afternoon.

We need to make sure we're right at it. Every Premier League team contains players who can cause you problems. This isn't the best domestic league in the world for nothing. Any team, whoever it is, are well coached and possess players who will make 90 minutes incredibly tough for you.

Palace stand in our way today in our quest for more points. We are under no illusions that we need to get more points on the board. We feel as though we are getting closer and the performances certainly suggest that. Now is the time for us to start turning these positive displays into cold, hard points. We will certainly be doing all we can this afternoon to do that.

Your support continues to be magnificent. The Kenny was rocking for the Liverpool game and at Old Trafford there was only one set of fans I could hear singing. We need your positivity and encouragement whenever we play, and I think you know now that it genuinely does help the lads.

So bring the noise, sing up and enjoy the game. 🥳





TOM LOCKYER

Today we embark on the start of a busy and hugely important period of the season – and we can't wait.

It's good to be back here at the Kenny after three weeks away since the Liverpool game. We came off the pitch that evening with mixed emotions after holding Jurgen Klopp's side to a 1-1 draw.

I'm not one for saying 'we'd have taken a point before the game'. Football doesn't work like that. When we were in a winning position there is no way you want anything less. However, what I will say is that I thought we were fantastic throughout the game, limiting a top-class team to few clear-cut opportunities.

Our goal was magnificent. It showcased many of qualities: defending a set-piece before springing on the counter-attack. We were all delighted with Tahith with the finish and the noise when the ball crossed the line was unbelievable.

Naturally we were all deflated when they equalised. It doesn't matter how often you experience it, conceding so late always, always hurts. Especially in these circumstances when we were so close to holding on for what would have been an important win.

It was, however, another valuable lesson of the ruthlessness of the Premier League. The same could be said of our last outing against Manchester


United at Old Trafford. Yeah, of course it's great to walk out and play at such an iconic venue for this club but it means nothing when you come off the pitch with nothing.

The frustrating part was knowing we had given them a game and only lost to a goal scored that came from a corner-kick. It's a real kick in the teeth when all the effort and concentration goes out of the window in one moment. We played well. We lost 1-0 at Manchester United. The positives are there but we are in a position that requires points. Playing well and losing still doesn't earn you any points.

Our performances, especially here at home, have certainly warranted more points than we have to currently show and that's a major frustration. Therefore it goes without saying that today we need a maximum return.

Crystal Palace will represent a tough obstacle. With an experienced manager and a squad packed with experience and some gifted young players, we know it is not going to be easy. I know you're probably bored of us saying that, but from what we've experienced so far the Premier League takes no prisoners.

We'll do all we can to ensure you go home happy come 5pm today and your relentless support from the stands can certainly help us achieve our goal.

The atmosphere for the Liverpool game was incredible. We heard you non-stop at Old Trafford. Your backing deserves to be rewarded with a big three points this afternoon but whatever happens, get behind us. 





FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN
DAVID WILKINSON

Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for today's game against Crystal Palace. As a bit of a traditionalist it's nice to have a kick-off on Saturday at 3pm.

We haven't faced Palace in the 2020 years, the last time being in March 2007 towards the end of our brief spell in the Championship when we went down 2-1 at Selhurst Park with two goals from Clinton Morrison and an own goal from Mark Hudson. We have played each other 57 times and have won 18, drawn 16 and lost 23.

The most memorable game for me was back in August 2005, our first game after promotion to the Championship when against all expectations we won 2-1 at Selhurst Park with goals from Steve Howard and Ahmet Brkovic. Andrew Johnson (remember him?) scored for them.

This afternoon we look forward to this game in the top-flight. This stop-start nature of this season has been frustrating to me and we now go into a manically intensive run up to Christmas. Seriously though, we feel privileged to be where we are pitting our wits against some of the top teams in the world and I suppose we have to expect to make some sacrifices.

We are excited about this afternoon's contest and look forward to hosting Steve Parish and his fellow directors, and Roy Hodgson and his talented squad. I'm sure it will be another fascinating tactical battle and let's hope we can emulate our teams of the recent past by getting a positive result at home.

There is little doubt that we are beginning to find our feet in this league having been in every one of the last four games against former Champions League winners with a chance, in every case, of a better result.

This week Gary and I took part in a Shareholders' Meeting of the Premier League. There was a full agenda covering a wide range of topics, the most newsworthy of which was the "New Deal for Football" and the topic of the incoming Regulator for Football having been recognised in the recent King's speech. I'm sure you're aware both are designed to help clubs become more sustainable, implement financial controls to protect a more level-playing field and make it more difficult for rogue ownership and poor management putting clubs at risk of going out of business often carrying the devastating effect on the communities they serve.



David and development squad captain Jake Burger prepare to lay wreaths on the pitch prior to our 4-1 draw with Liverpool the last time we played at Kenilworth Road

Clearly the details of the discussions are confidential and are continuing, but it's clear that the majority want a deal done. It is highly complicated and as you can imagine the diversity of opinion is extreme, largely because the clubs themselves are so different in their ownership model and financial muscle.

We have found that the debate is of high quality and the management of the meeting very professional, with all clubs being encouraged to have their say in a pleasingly democratic manner. As we are the only club with recent experience of the top five divisions, and with Gary in particular having made important connections in the EFL, his experience can be a valuable part of the discussions.

We feel confident that nobody will be completely happy with the eventual outcome, but it would seem wrong otherwise. There isn't anyone here who enjoys giving money away, but it is vital for the health of the pyramid. Having said that it is important that the deal achieves the result it is set up for, so it makes a bad situation better and the

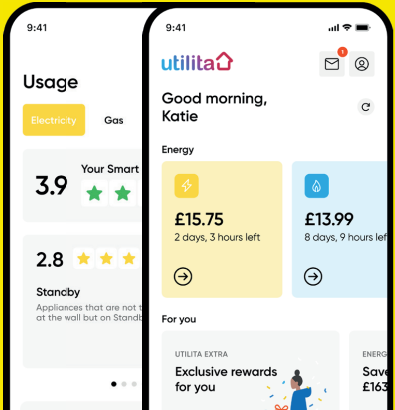
funds are used in the appropriate manner with tighter controls to prevent clubs from deviating from the rules. When you are dealing with 20 givers and hundreds of takers, it's impossible to please everyone and in this instance probably anyone, but it is so important for the future of our game that we get the best deal we can for everyone concerned.

The deal has momentum and will attract a great deal of interest over the coming months. There are good people with the best intentions working to achieve the desired result, and we feel confident of a positive outcome for the long-term benefit of our "beautiful game".

On a completely different note, and as it really is a matter of life and death, a more important one. A couple of weeks back I was invited to The Brache to meet Roseann Taylor, the mother of 18-year-old Azaan Kaleem, or AJ, who was stabbed to death in Luton in 2018, and members of the Beds Violence and Exploitation Unit (VERU) who are launching a new knife crime campaign called 'Just Drop It'. ▶

HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

SAVE LIKE
DAVE



Energy that's
proper smart.





Roseann Taylor pictured with Jacob Brown, Andros Townsend and Alfie Doughty

A number of our academy players sat in to listen to Roseann tell the story of how and why her son died. It was very moving. The boys then joined in a discussion asking questions and offering their take on it on camera as BBC Look East were covering the event.

Roseann now works with the VERU Youth intervention specialist team and said that having the backing and support of a Premier League club meant the campaign takes on a different dimension.

The official launch of the campaign was at Youthscape in Luton and there were contributions from the Crime Commissioner, the Police and Emergency medical experts highlighting the problem.

In the five years up to 2021, 1,800 people between the ages of ten and 24 have been treated in A&E in Bedfordshire alone for injuries resulting from assault.

This is not a new problem, but is a worsening one. It's 17 years since the youth player at QPR, Kiyan Prince, died from stab wounds. Perhaps what saddens me most is that there is so little known generally about

the problem. Awareness of it seems very generational and hopefully this campaign will draw more attention to it.

It was a shock to me to hear of the dangers and difficulties young people suffer on an almost daily basis and it seems important to get across how these crimes do not just affect the victims, but also the perpetrators and the families, friends and local community of both sides.

We are backing this campaign and hope that you will all support in whatever way you can.

Finally, and on a more cheery note, Lisa McEvoy, our fan engagement officer, is trekking in Madagascar for NOAH, our charity of the year. She has so far raised over £5,000. Well done her and good luck for the rest of her journey.

"We are all different. Don't judge, understand instead." – Roy Bennett.

Enjoy the game.

COME ON YOU HATTERS

David 🥰



HATTERS SUPPORT NEW ANTI-KNIFE CRIME CAMPAIGN

The Club have become the latest supporters of a major new anti-knife crime campaign for Bedfordshire.

First team players Andros Townsend, Jacob Brown and Alfie Doughty have shown their support with campaign merchandise in support of Just Drop It, a campaign led by the Bedfordshire Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU).

Members of the Town under-18s also received a talk from Roseann Taylor, whose story is the centrepiece of the campaign. The main campaign video tells the story of Azaan 'AJ' Kaleem, who was stabbed to death in Luton in 2018. His mum Roseann now works for the VERU's Youth Intervention Specialist team.

Roseann was on hand to meet the players and answer questions from the academy players. Hatters Chairman David Wilkinson said: "We are proud to support the VERU Just Drop It initiative to increase awareness of the widespread and unseen results of knife crime.

"It is not just the victims, but their family, friends, and local community along with everyone associated with the protagonists, who are affected by these terrible events.

"It seems that this is largely a generational issue, and we believe this initiative can help to draw the attention of the wider public to the problem and highlight that there are no winners. It is so sad to see the damage done to the lives of all those involved so all attempts to educate, support and protect should be encouraged."

We are among dozens of public services, education settings, charities and other organisations pledging their support to the Just Drop It campaign. For more information about the campaign visit bedsveru.org.



CHIEO WINS DIAMOND AWARD

The first winner of the Diamond Player of the Month for this season for the months of August and September is Chiedozie Ogbene.

The summer signing on a free transfer from Rotherham United collected 46 per cent of the vote, beating Alfie Doughty who was a close second.

Highlights of the Republic of Ireland international winger's first two months as a Town player were a starring performance as we collected our first Premier League point on his first league start against Wolves, before he played a key role in our first win at Everton a week later.

Diamond Season Ticket holder Les Miller was drawn to present the Trophy to Chieo in the Eric Morecambe Suite after our draw against Liverpool.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy Birthday to **Zac Neal** who turns 15 today. Zac is a fourth generation Luton fan and regular contributor to our matchday programme. Zac's hoping his special day will be made even more memorable with a first home win for the Town.



Happy birthday to **Mick Buxton**, a lifelong Luton fan who turns 80 today! Looking for a big win to celebrate! With love from Nickie, Angie, Pat and all your friends and family x

REST IN PEACE

The Club were saddened to hear of the passing of two ardent Hatters fans in recent weeks.



Many kind words have been said about **Kevin Thurlow** or Curlz as most of his friends referred to him as and justifiably so. He was also known

as "Curly in cloggy" – Kevin worked for a number of years in the Netherlands and on occasions watched the Town in clogs much to everyone's amusement.

Kevin was given three months to live at the end of April and was determined to go down fighting and after watching the Town win promotion to the Premier League it was his aim to see us earn three points in the top-flight, which he did at Everton.

Despite his severe suffering, he maintained a cheery demeanour throughout without complaining at all rather accepting his fate. His personality embodied generosity of spirit and kindness, and he lived life to the full particularly enjoying the company of his friends of which he had many.



Bill Ould was a life-long Town supporter and a member of the Luton Town Supporters' Club. Like us all, Bill was ecstatic that the Hatters won promotion

to the Premier League and had brought his grandchildren Luton shirts as they grew up. Sadly, Bill died suddenly at the age of 79, leaving behind his wife, three daughters and three grandchildren. The flowers at his funeral service were in Luton Town colours.

BLACK FRIDAY DEALS ENDS MONDAY



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HATTERS DENIED VICTORY BY LATE LIVERPOOL LEVeller

We've said all along the power of nights under the lights at Kenilworth Road can be special. Liverpool teams of old have suffered and struggled here. And they did again as a Town team battled, fought and timed their moments in offensive with power and purpose.

Like all games this season, the Town were always in it and that was in part down to a man-of-the-match performance from goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski.

The Town's number produced a string of fine saves to deny the visitors, with Darwin Nunez frustrated early on.

Yet the Hatters were well in the game in a breathless encounter that saw both sides attack at pace on the counter. If it wasn't Chiedozie Ogbene at one end it was the threat of Mohamed Salah at the other. The Egyptian firing over when well-placed on 21 minutes.

Kaminski did brilliantly to keep the score blank with a strong hand to deny Diogo Jota's firm strike but Town tails were certainly up at the break after Ross Barkley rifled just over.


In the second period, as the Town chased the lead, Ogbene bulldozed his way to goal, his square pass to Carlton Morris eventually ushered behind by a relieved Liverpool defence.

With 20 minutes left it should be been 1-0. Nunez somehow, unbelievably, blazing over with the goal gaping following Salah's knockdown.

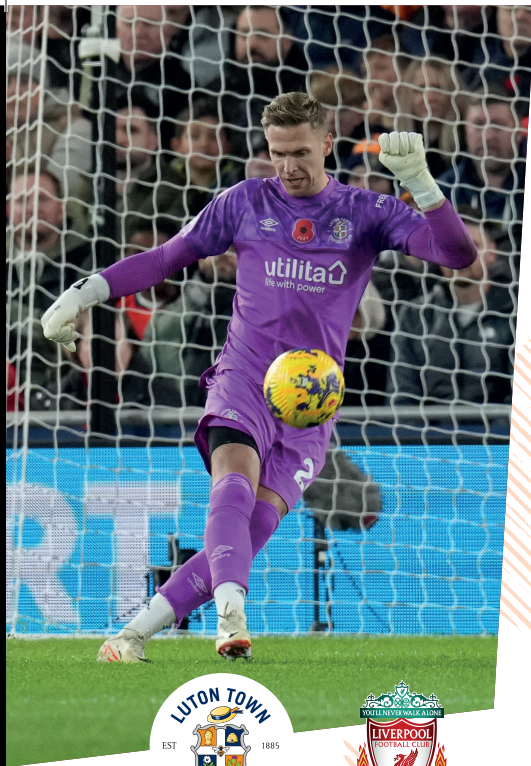
With ten minutes left pandemonium. Utter jubilation. Kenilworth Road was shaking.

Barkley's quick thinking sent Kaboré galloping away down the right. His cross from the right was on the money and Tahith Chong tucked home past Alisson to make it 1-0.

The Town knew they had ten minutes plus stoppage time to hang on. It was five minutes into the eight which were added that agonisingly, Liverpool found a way when Luis Diaz headed an equaliser beyond Kaminski.

You still felt there was still one last chance left in the remaining minutes and so it proved at the death when Kaboré found space in the box to warm the palms of Alisson – and that was that. 

15



1 - 1

Kenilworth Road – 5th November 2023

Town: Kaminski; Kaboré, Doughty, Lockyer, Osho, Mengi; Nakamba, Barkley, Ogbene (sub Brown 79), Townsend (sub Chong 61), Morris (sub Adebayo 75).

Subs not used: Krul, Mpanzu, Clark, Giles, Nelson, Luker.

Reds: Alisson, Alexander-Arnold, Konate, van Dijk, Gomez (sub Tsimikas 67), Gravenberch (sub Diaz 83), Mac Allister, Szoboszlai (sub Elliott 66), Salah, Nunez, Jota (sub Gakpo).

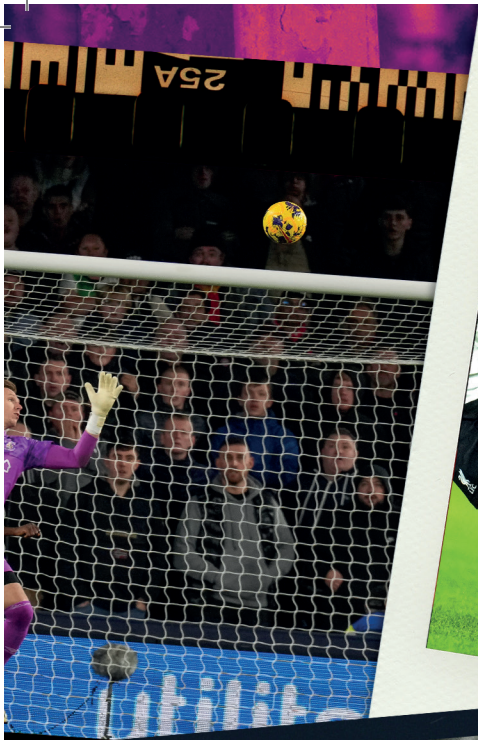
Sub not used: Endo, Matip, Doak, Kelleher, Quansah.

SCORERS:

Luton – Chong 60

Liverpool – Diaz 90+5





 MATCH GALLERY



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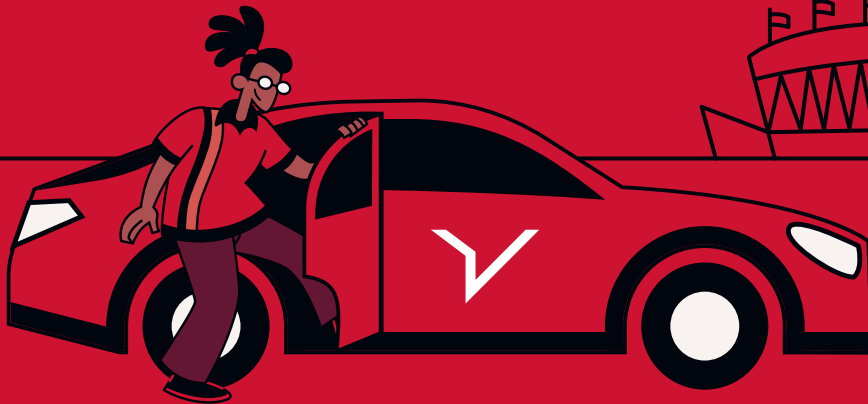
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CHONG REFLECTS ON LIVERPOOL DRAW

Town goalscorer Tahith Chong was proud of the Town's performance following the Premier League draw with Liverpool at Kenilworth Road.

Our number 14 came off the bench to score his first ever Premier League goal after joining us in the summer.

"I'm massively proud of the team," said Chong. "The way everyone performed was great. The fans were brilliant and really dragged us through the game.

"We were unfortunate not to get the three points, but Liverpool are a world class team and they were going to keep coming.


"The moment when I scored was amazing, I think it was deserved for the fans, the way that they supported us every week, even when results haven't been coming our way, that's brilliant for them.

"Every time you come off the bench for the team, you want to make an impact and help the team out anyway you can.

"Not only for me, but everyone whether you are on the bench or starting, everyone wants to play their part and it's so important that we have that.

"As a team, today it was my turn and next week it might be someone else. At Nottingham Forest it was Eli's turn to come off the bench, that's something important for us going forward just to try and help the team as much as you can.

"The goal doesn't happen for me if Ross doesn't do a brilliant turn, then Issa plays the perfect ball, but it was also everyone defending the corner too, so that's compliment to the boys. I wouldn't have scored without them.

"We have a great bunch of lads, everyone was so welcoming straight away. Even the staff and the way they prepare us for the games has been brilliant, we've grown and improved every single game and it's good to see." 





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TOWN FALL TO NARROW DEFEAT AT OLD TRAFFORD

Coming off the pitch to a raucous reception from their noisy 3,000 supporters, you sensed the Town were proud of their display, but in the end one – just one moment – was the difference.

The Town's first half showing was typical of their performances this season. Disciplined. Tidy. Resilient. A wall of white shirts stood in United's way.

Erik ten Hag's side would go in at the interval frustrated yet it could have been a different story had Thomas Kaminski's brilliant reactions not denied Rasmus Hojlund's close range chance.

Every passing minute saw the Town creep higher up the pitch and that resulted in Chiedozie Ogbene having the Town's first chance – shooting straight at Andre Onana on 22 minutes.

But 14 minutes later the Hatters were mighty close to leading at the Theatre of Dreams. Issa Kaboré flew down the right and his perfect cross was met by a thunderous leaping header from Carlton Morris. For a split-second it looked all the world 1-0 but Onana leapt to his left and a big left hand later and the ball was clear.

In the second half Andros Townsend shot over from distance, but shortly before the hour the Hatters' good work was undone when United led. A half-cleared corner was recycled by Marcus Rashford and, after his low cross was half-cleared, Victor Lindelof was on hand to bash the ball home from eight yards.

Observers might have fancied the Town to roll over. If anything, the Hatters took the game to United. Their passing remained forward-thinking. The only issue was a genuine threat in the final third was missing.

However, as they huffed and puffed the Town could not call Onana into a meaningful stop and it was left to Kaminski to have the final say with another great stop to deny Rashford adding a second in added time.

Eventually the full-time whistle would come to the home side's relief and the Hatters took in the applause from the travelling hordes, who'd sung themselves hoarse after an afternoon of non-stop singing.



1-0

Old Trafford – 11th November 2023

Red Devils: Onana, Dalot, Maguire, Lindelof, Reguilon (sub Varane 79), McTominay, Eriksen (sub Mount 40), Rashford, Bruno Fernandes, Garnancho (sub Antony 68), Hojlund (sub Martial 79).

Subs not used: Bayindir, Amrabat, Pellistri, Mainoo, Mejri.

Town: Kaminski, Doughty (sub Clark 73), Kaboré (sub Adebayo 86), Lockyer, Mengi, Osho, Nakamba (sub Mpanzu 85), Barkley, Ogbene (sub Giles 86), Townsend (sub Chong 60), Morris.

Subs not used: Krul, Berry, Brown, Nelson.

SCORER:

Manchester United – Lindelof 59







IT NETWORKING AND SECURITY

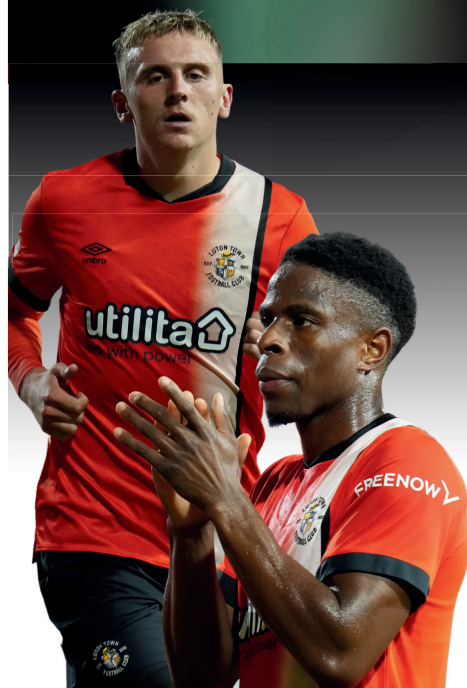
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LOCKYER LAMENTS UNITED LOSS

Like in many of the games this season the Hatters remained in the hunt for at least a point when they visited Old Trafford two weeks ago but despite a fine performance left empty-handed.

Of course, a 1-1 draw with Liverpool and a 1-0 defeat at Manchester United, on the face of it, seems like progress as the Hatters continue to get to the grips with the rigours of the Premier League.

However, for the Town squad, and for Tom Lockyer, the recent performances and results had that sense of 'what might have been' with the captain frustrated with the return despite two encouraging performances.

"You come to United, you're going to ride your luck at times, and we did. Tom has made a few great saves, we were more than in that game, so it's a frustrating one as it is another game with zero points," said the centre-half.

"If you look at the performances we put in against Liverpool and now United, if we can have a few more of them I'm sure we'll pick up a few points along the way."

Success in the Championship in recent seasons has been in part down to a solid defence. Defensive solidity from set-pieces a particular strength.

So with United's winner coming after the Town had failed to deal with a corner, Lockyer was understandably disappointed


with the manner in which Erik ten Haag's side opened the scoring at Old Trafford.

"The annoying thing for myself is it's a set-piece," said the skipper. "We lost at home to Spurs from a set-piece, you come to Old Trafford and you lose on a set-piece, which is frustrating.

"For all the talent these teams have got in their squads, to be losing via set-pieces is extremely frustrating.

"Defend one set-piece and get away nil-nil, I'd be delighted and so would all our fans.

"We'll try and cut them out, it starts on the training pitch, the old cliché.

"Work hard on the training pitch and all that, but believe me, we are putting it in and full focus now is on to Crystal Palace." 





WELCOME CRYSTAL PALACE

Today, we welcome Roy Hodgson's Crystal Palace side to Kenilworth Road for a huge game here in Bedfordshire. The Eagles have started the season well and sit 13th in the table.

Over the summer, the Eagles were active in the transfer market in reshuffled their squad. Jefferson Lerma, Matheus Franca, Dean Henderson and Rob Holding were all brought in to the team.

Palace started the season with a 1-0 win over Sheffield United at Bramall Lane and earnt a big three points on the opening day. Odsonne Edouard got the winner for Palace after 49 minutes.

This was followed by a 1-0 loss to Arsenal, a 1-1 draw with Brentford and a 3-2 win over Wolves. The Eagles had a very settled team and were sitting pretty by the start of September.

Palace picked up a notable 1-0 win against Manchester United at Old Trafford in late September thanks to a

Joachim Andersen goal. This sent out a statement to teams around them as they shook Old Trafford to the core.

After this, Palace had a poor string of results which included a 0-0 draw with Nottingham Forest, a 4-0 loss to Newcastle United and a 2-1 loss to Tottenham.

Then came another important win, this time at Turf Moor. Jeffrey Schlupp and Tyrick Mitchell were on the scoresheet to cause Burnley more misery.

The Eagles have since lost at home to Everton 3-2 in a thriller at Selhurst Park. Palace will be wanting to add more points to their tally today as they look to push on in the table.

Lastly, a massive welcome to everyone associated with Crystal Palace before the match, we hope you enjoy your time at Kenilworth Road.

MEET THE EAGLES

THE BOSS



ROY HODGSON. Former England boss and vastly experienced manager Roy cut his managerial teeth in 1976 in Sweden. The 76-year-old was LMA Manager of the Year in 2010 for his exploits with Fulham and has also managed, among others, Inter Milan and Liverpool.

GOALKEEPER



SAM JOHNSTONE. Free transfer arrival in the summer of 2022 from West Brom, Sam is currently a member of the England squad. A product of the Manchester United academy, the stopper had several loans before coming number one at the Hawthorns.

DEFENDERS



JOACHIM ANDERSEN. Denmark international centre-half Joachim joined the Eagles from Lyon in 2021. Began his career in the Netherlands with Twente and has also had two years with Sampdoria.



MARC GUEHI. England international defender who came through the ranks at Chelsea before signing for Palace in July 2021 for a reported £18m.



TYRICK MITCHELL. Former Brentford academy left-back Tyrick joined Palace in 2020 and has gone to establish himself as a regular in the Eagles' defence. Made his England debut in 2022.



JOEL WARD. Eagles skipper Joel can operate at either full-back or in a defensive midfield role. Started his career at Portsmouth before moving to Selhurst Park in 2012 and has now made over 300 league appearances.

MIDFIELDERS



NAOUIROU AHAMADA. Highly-rated young French midfielder Naouirou signed for Palace in January this year from Stuttgart for almost £10m having come through the ranks at Juventus without making an appearance.



CHEICK DOUCOURE. All action Mali international midfielder Cheik joined the Eagles in the summer of 2022 from Lens and went onto win the Player of the Year award in his first season.



EBERECHI EZE. Gifted Greenwich-born winger arrived at Selhurst Park in 2020 from London neighbours QPR for a reported £17m. The England international recently signed a new contract.



MICHAEL OLISE. Highly-rated attacking midfielder winger Michael joined the Eagles from Reading in 2021. Born in Hammersmith but has represented France at youth level.



WILL HUGHES. Reliable central midfielder Will has played over 350 senior games and is still only 28. Started his career at Derby before four years at Watford prior to joining Palace.



JEFFERSON LERMA. Colombia international midfielder who arrived at Selhurst Park on a free transfer from Bournemouth. Cost the Cherries £30m when signing from Levante in 2018.



JEFFREY SCHULPP. German-born Ghana international Jeffrey has been with Palace since signing from Leicester in 2017. Extremely versatile and can play in defence, midfield or on the wing.

ATTACKERS



JORDAN AYEW. Experienced winger or forward Jordan joined the Eagles from Swansea in 2019. Began his career at Marseille before moving to Lorient and then to England with Villa in 2015.



ODSONNE EDOUARD. Former PSG academy graduate Odsonne arrived at Selhurst Park in 2021 from Celtic. The French striker has five league goals to his name so far this season.



JEAN-PHILIPPE MATETA. Another French-born forward, Jean-Philippe signed for the Eagles in 2022 after a successful loan spell. Started his career with Chateauroux, before spells with Lyon and Mainz in Germany.



BARRY BUTLIN HEADS IN THE DECIDING GOAL 🏆

CLASSIC MATCH



CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS BACK AT THE TIME THE HATTERS WERE KINGS AT PALACE.

6TH OCTOBER 1973 CRYSTAL PALACE 1-2 LUTON TOWN

After an awful start to the 1973/74 season, when the Town went down 4-0 at Nottingham Forest, it was back to the drawing board for manager Harry Haslam.

The less than happy Harry had to cram in another bout of pre-season training in a week leading up to the visit of Carlisle to Kenilworth Road.

Remarkably, few changes were made to the side with goalkeeper Keith Barber dropped in favour of Graham Horn while out went one new signing, Peter Cruse, and in came another in the shape of the famously named Tom Finney who had been snapped up from

Crusaders in Northern Ireland.

Finney and his colleagues went goal mad against luckless Carlisle with the Hatters six up at the interval and eventually finishing up winning 6-1. The season had now started in earnest.

There was no stopping Finney, who scored in each of the next three games to add to the pair he netted against Carlisle, as the Town went on a long unbeaten run that saw them challenging leaders Middlesbrough at the top of the Division Two (now Championship).

After seven games, and following a brilliant 3-0 home win over Blackpool, Luton supporters suddenly began to believe they had



**NUMBER 1 ON THIS DAY:
EYE LEVEL
THE SIMON PARK ORCHESTRA**

a side that could finally achieve a top flight spot for the first time since 1960.

Firstly, the cash strapped Hatters had to take on, and beat, some teams with rather more financial backing if they wanted to achieve their promotion dream and none came much richer at the time than Crystal Palace.

Palace had been relegated from Division One at the end of the previous season after spending a small fortune on players, were managed by the larger-than-life Malcolm Allison and had picked up only two points in this, a campaign when they were expected to bounce back straight away.

Despite this their fans remained remarkably loyal and in fact crowds at Selhurst Park were actually increasing and 20,322 turned up for the Hatters visit thinking that their luck would turn eventually. The Town were without winger Jimmy Ryan who had suffered a back injury and, in his place, came forgotten man Gordon Hindson.

Ex-Newcastle winger Hindson had not played since the previous season and was out to prove a point putting in a superb display and giving the experienced Palace full-back Tony Taylor the runaround in a first half that saw plenty of endeavour but no end product.

The game moved up a gear in the second period with Palace forcing some good saves out of Horn before Peter Anderson opened the scoring in the 50th minute heading in a John Aston free-kick at the near post after Hindson had made a clever dummy run.

Palace levelled eight minutes later when ex-Swindon winger Don Rogers blasted in a spectacular effort, but the Town were back in front soon after when Hindson put

over an inch perfect cross for Barry Butlin to climb high and head home.

The Hatters made sure of the points by battenning down the hatches and on the final whistle Haslam went on the pitch to congratulate each player individually. The display at Forest only six weeks before seemed a lifetime away.

Palace manager Allison put on a brave front as he faced the press clutching his customary glass of champagne and puffing a Havana cigar. "That was our best performance of the season," he said. "I've got ability and so have the players. Judge me at the end of the season."

Palace were relegated to Division Three the following May, while the Town secured their place back in the top flight as runners-up. 🏆



TOWN: Horn, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Hindson, John Ryan, Butlin, Finney, Aston.

CRYSTAL PALACE: Hammond, Mulligan, Taylor, Cannon, Barry, Jefferies, Possee, Cooke (Swindlehurst), Whittle, Tambling, Rogers.

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A HATTER AND AN EAGLE

Aylesbury-born Emmerson Boyce was one of the many players to come through the Town's schools and youth development programme prior to signing YTS forms in the summer of 1995.

He made the breakthrough into the Hatters' league side at home to Lincoln in April 1999 before becoming a regular and crowd favourite during the following season.

A fast and reliable overlapping right back, 'Boyce' saw an offer from Premier League Crystal Palace in the summer of 2004 as too good to turn down and where he found himself catapulted into the first team earlier than expected following a series of injuries to established regulars, a place he held on to.

Emmerson made a big money move to Wigan in 2006 and skipped the side to the 2013 FA Cup final win over Manchester City. After a short spell at Blackpool, Emmerson rejoined Wigan as an academy coach.



**6TH AUGUST 2005.
PALACE 1-2 LUTON**

The Hatters' return to the second tier under Mike Newell in 2005 saw them return from Selhurst Park with all three points after a wonderful opening day of the campaign.

All eyes were on Palace, who had just been relegated from the Premier League, and their striker – Bedford-born Andrew Johnson, who had decided to stay and snubbing offers from top-flight suitors.

The Hatters continued from where they left off following their League One title romp with Steve Howard's thumping header from Kevin Nicholls' cross giving us the lead after Nicholls had earlier

seen a penalty saved.

Johnson showed why he was the talk of the Championship when equalising early in the second half and all of a sudden assumed Palace would go on and collect an easy three points.

However the Town deservedly had the final say when Ahmet Brkovic pounced on another Nicholls set-piece with 11 minutes left to give the vocal away following a trip to the capital to remember.



CLASSIC KIT

With distinctive red and blue stripes, Eagles fans have been spoiled with a colour scheme almost unrivalled in England football. When you think classic Palace kits, we see Ian Wright or Eric Young sporting a Bukta home shirt with 'Fly Virgin' or better still 'Fly Virgin to L.A.' emblazoned on the front. *chef's kiss*

HIGH FLYER



CULT HERO: AKI RIIHILAHTI

He might not be a name familiar to Town fans, but to those of an Eagles persuasion, **Aki Riihilahti's** exploits in the blue and red stripes will not be forgotten. The Finland international arrived at Selhurst Park in 2001 from Norwegian side Valarenga for just £200,000 and went onto make 178 appearances for the Eagles. Once named 'worst dressed player' by his teammates six seasons in a row the midfielder was part of the Palace side that won promotion to the top-flight in 2003/04.

Raddy Antic fires home the Town's first goal

David Moss, reliable from the spot

« HATTERS REWIND «

Club historian Roger Wash looks back on the day the Town and Palace played out a six-goal thriller

Crystal Palace 3-3 Luton Town 20th March 1982

The Town got off to a great start to the Division Two (now Championship) 1981/82 season winning their first three games at a canter to become early leaders.

After a couple of home set-backs all became right again with the thumping of old enemies Watford at Kenilworth Road and the team began to have that unbeatable look about it.

This 'swagger' was typified in the 6-0 win over Grimsby in mid-October followed by an easy 2-0 victory at Wrexham (where we had never won before) setting us up for a home game against Crystal Palace when we hoped to consolidate our position at the top.

Our starting line-up had remained virtually unchanged for the first dozen games of the campaign and we started confidently against a Palace side that was struggling at the wrong end of the table.

Setting out their stall early however, Palace had obviously come for a point and filtered back into defence at the first sign of danger.

When you had already lost six of your games by 1-0 at that stage in the season, playing a defensive game is dangerous and, as if to prove a point, after David Moss put the Town in front from the penalty spot after 30 minutes, that was the way the score was going to stay.

The penalty, earned when Steve Lovell fouled Steve White in the area, came at the end of a period of Town pressure which had seen Brian Stein go close on two occasions but, try as they might, they could not increase the lead as Palace continued to defend in depth.

The crowd of 11,712 went home reasonably happy with the Town's performance, realising that teams were going to come to Kenilworth Road and play defensively and hope for a breakaway at the other end. Palace had only one shot on target and that came from substitute David Price in the last minute.

The only low spot that afternoon was an injury to centre-half Mike Saxby who limped off after 70 minutes. Little did we know at the time that the knee injury caused by an innocuous turn in the penalty area would effectively end his football career.



Brian Stein heads the third from an angle

By the time of the return, the following March, the Town were going through a mini-crisis having gone three games without a win, including our first defeat for four months.

We were, however, still top of the table while Palace still were still down at the wrong end although they were heartened by a win at Chelsea the previous week.

This time negative thoughts went out of the window straight from the kick-off with both teams attacking with a will, and Palace opened the scoring after eight minutes when Neil Smillie was left free at the far post to meet a long cross.

The lead was short-lived though when Raddy Antic curled in a shot from the edge of the box four minutes later, only for Kevin Mabbutt, who had made his Palace debut at Luton earlier in the season, giving the advantage back to the Eagles by scoring right from the restart reacting first to a long ball over the top.

Back came the Town, and a minute later a strong run from White took him into the box where he was upended by Paul Hinshelwood. Moss duly dispatched his tenth penalty of the season to level the scores.

We eventually went ahead for the first time shortly before the interval when, following good work from both Antic and Ricky Hill, Stein was left with a free header at the far post. On the run of play we just about deserved to be ahead.

Palace started the second period in determined fashion and it was the Town's turn to defend in depth although the Eagles rarely looked like getting through to test Jake Findlay in the Luton goal.

An inspired substitution by Palace manager Steve Kember changed the game when he introduced winger Vince Hilaire, who was later to have a spell at Kenilworth Road, into the fray with 20 minutes remaining, and it was his trickery that set up the equaliser with Smillie hammering home his second goal of the game.

The final whistle went with the Town on the attack but the 3-3 scoreline was a fair one and both teams came off to a standing ovation in complete contrast to the reaction following the negative clash between the two sides the previous October.

To finish on a happy note, the Town went the rest of the season unbeaten and walked away with the championship.

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A full-page background image of Jordan Clark, a footballer, wearing a white Crystal Palace kit with orange accents. He is looking upwards and to the right with a focused expression. The image has a strong orange and purple color cast. The text 'THE BIG INTERVIEW' is in large, white, distressed block letters on the right. The name 'JORDAN CLARK' is written vertically in the same style across the center. A paragraph of text is on the right, and another paragraph is below it. The background also features some faint, diagonal lines and a 'utilitec' logo on the player's shirt.

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Having scored twice at Wembley in the Hatters' epic play-off final win over Coventry back in May, Jordan Clark had a long wait to finally make his first appearance in the top-flight after suffering a nasty ankle injury in the summer. This is his story to the top.

In April 2014, the Town's final game in the Conference saw John Still's side record a 1-0 win over Hyde. Alex Wall scored the winner. Jonathan Smith came on as a substitute in stoppage time to rapturous applause just four months after breaking his leg against Barnet. And in the Hyde line-up there was a 20-year-old lad from Barnsley called Jordan Clark.

Fast forward nine years and Clark had helped the Hatters win promotion to the Premier League, scoring the opening goal and in the triumphant shootout at Wembley. For the midfielder and the Town, it completed a remarkable rise from the depths of non-league to the top-flight in little less than a decade. ➤

For Clark, however, that success has not always been so smooth. Sometimes, that's life. Take this summer for instance when, just weeks before the start of the season, disaster struck.

"I tried to play a pass and got my foot trapped in the grass and went over on it," Clark says, looking back on that rain-soaked afternoon in Germany.

Ligaments in his ankles had snapped. The dream of that first appearance in the Premier League would have to be on hold.

It meant a long, hard, frustrating, time on the sidelines as the road to recovery began.

"I was lucky I didn't break anything or dislocate anything, just snapped one of my ligaments, which was not ideal but could have been worse," he continues, describing those initial moments.

"It was a killer. I was very emotional in the first week, especially being sat on my settee not being able to do anything.

"My girlfriend was having to run around for me as I couldn't do anything. I had to keep my leg up for 22 hours of the day, so that was a bit of a nightmare.

"At first I thought it was a six month injury, so I broke down in tears as you never know when you come back you might get little niggles and stuff.

"I didn't know if I would play a part this season, but then when they said three

months, you can keep cracking on with little things."

Suffering such a setback can be tough for anyone, let alone a professional sports person.

But what's where inner mental strength can make or break the rehabilitation process.

Sure, it was hard. But he had the benefit of good people around him. He knuckled down. Knew the hard work would pay off. Eventually, he thought to himself, he'd be rewarded.

"You're stuck in the gym so it's a bit harder, but then when you start to get out on the grass it starts to give you a bit of motivation," he says.

"You see the lads training and you think, a couple of weeks now and I should be back in there.

"My mentality was just like, I've got to do even more than what I can do as this level is unforgiving.

"The last thing I wanted to be was not fit and not stronger than I was previously, so that was the target I set.

"The physios, they're top men, I love them all to bits, and the sports sciences and strength and conditioning guys, I can't thank them enough.

"Football's funny, you get the highs of Wembley, do a whole pre-season and then the week before the first game you get ruptured ankle ligaments.

"So it was a bit of a kick in the teeth, it brings you back down to earth a little bit.

"It just makes you more hungry and when I've been watching the games, I've been like, I can't wait to get back, stamp my authority on the team and get back to how I was playing before I got injured."

So desperate to see his teammates do their thing in the top-flight, Clark wasted no time, catching every game he could – even sitting among the travelling Hatters fans at away games.

"I see how much it means to them now, being sat next to two or three thousand every week," he says.

"I felt like one of the fans myself going to pretty much every away game and following it with them.

"It just gives you a little taste of it and I don't want to let any of those people down who have travelled to the away games every week.

"You get a feel of what they want, they love their football and love the passion we've got on the pitch, so the fans are awesome.

"There's a lot of kids who travel up with their families, so it's always nice to give a little bit back to them.

"The conversations I've had with fans have been lovely and they're all nice people. ▶

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"It's better to be on the pitch I must admit, I've missed it a lot, but the fans are awesome, I can't speak highly enough of them.

"It's a bit harder, you're cheering them on and you're kicking every ball with the players when you're sat in the stands."

But, after Hyde, Accrington, Wembley and the injury at Bochum, the man former manager Nathan Jones once described as the "best free transfer in history" was back on the field – at the Theatre of Dreams, no less – coming on in the Town's defeat at Old Trafford two weeks ago.

A MOMENT TO SAVOUR.

"There's not many better places to make your Premier League debut, so I'm over the moon, apart from the result which is the disappointing thing," he says.

"During the game you don't think about it as you're in game mode, but the day before the game you start talking and you think 'wow, you've come so far.'

"I went on loan to Hyde from Barnsley, ten years ago, then I was at Accrington for four years, so it's been some journey.

"You've done the hard yards in non-league and then gone through League Two, League One and the Championship, so it's a crazy journey.

"You've just got to enjoy every minute of it really and not let it pass you by.

"My family been on the journey with me, so it's for them as well as me, especially my mum and dad who have been driving me round the country for years, since I was a little kid, so it was special for them as well."

It was to family in Barnsley that Clark headed for after the game at Old Trafford.

Today, Crystal Palace are in town and he will be hopeful of playing a part in front of the Kenilworth Road faithful that he was sitting amongst this season.

"I have missed playing a lot and it feels like a long three months I've been out but it's nice to be back now and hopefully I can put in a few performances to make the fans proud.

"I'm looking forward to the next one now against Palace, hopefully I can get on the pitch again and get the Kenny rocking.

"It's been some journey, I always dreamed it though." 🐢



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We also had the pleasure of hosting nine mascots for the game who enjoyed their experience at Kenilworth Road, who got to meet their favourite players pre-match before lining up with the captains and officials moments before kick-off.



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Saying thank you to the Town fans after his first match in charge at Middlesbrough



The moment of all moments



That first Premier League win at Everton



Main photo: proudly overseeing that first Premier League game at Brighton.

ROB EDWARDS – 12 MONTHS IN CHARGE

Town manager Rob Edwards described his emotions around his first game for the club and his first year at the helm.

The boss guided the Town to 18 wins in his first 365 days in charge and a successful Championship play-off campaign which ended with promotion to the Premier League.

“What a 12 months,” said Edwards. “We’ve been on such a brilliant journey already and we want to keep this going. We want this Premier League journey to keep on going as well, so it’s important that we all stick together and keep working really hard.

“We have been doing that and we will continue to do that. The players are amazing, they are a pleasure to work with every day, they constantly want to improve.

“I so want to do it for these supporters, I cannot thank the fans enough and I’d like to think we’ve been good for each other.

“As long as the fans enjoy having us around then we’ll keep working hard for them and this football club, then hopefully we can enjoy many more really good times together.”

Edwards claimed that he was nervous going into his first ever Luton Town game, which was away at Middlesbrough in December 2022, after being unsure on what his reception would be due to his previous role.

“Seeing the welcome sign from the away end made me feel a lot better because we had a few weeks to bed in, but I hadn’t met many fans yet.

“I was nervous because I came in after Nathan and obviously, I had been down the road as well, so there was a lot of apprehension at the time.

“So seeing the banner, seeing the fans applauding and welcoming us before kick-off was really special.”



Scan the QR code to watch the full hour-long feature with Rob and assistants Richie Kyle and Paul Trollope.

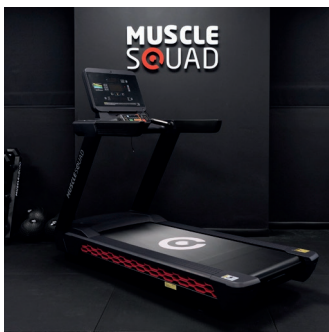
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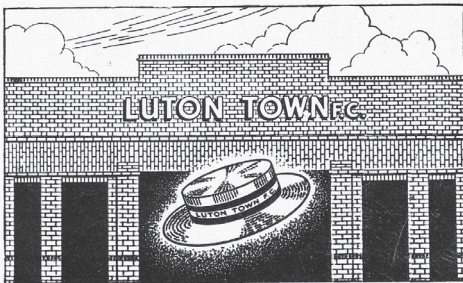
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ON THIS DAY



25TH NOVEMBER



MEMORABLE MATCH!

**TOWN 2 - 0 HALIFAX
25TH NOVEMBER 1967**

We'll level with you. 'Memorable' matches on this day, are few and far between – more on that elsewhere on this page.

However, one of the Town's few victories on this date came back in 1967, so we know there's only a select few you who were at Kenilworth Road to witness a 2-0 win over Halifax.

The victory courtesy of goals from Ian Buxton and John Moore, made it eight wins in a row. Alan Ball admitted afterwards he had planned to come for a point but only succeeded in denying the Town's star man at the time, Bruce Rioch, from getting on the scoresheet.

It proved to be a key win in a memorable season, as the Hatters would go on and win the Fourth Division title.

THE RECORD

We do not, of course, subscribe to curses or bad luck on a certain day. Just because the Town's record on 25th November is bad doesn't mean we expect to lose today.

However, for any fan who has attended any of our 18 matches on this day (which would be interesting, given our first match on this date was in 1893) can testify it's been a struggle. 12 of the 18 games have ended in defeat, with just five wins and one draw making up the numbers.

One of those wins came in that first game in 1893, as the Town saw off Norwich CEYMS - Church of England Young Men's Society, for those wondering. They currently played in the Anglian Combination Premier Division – level 11 in the pyramid – but on this day in 130 years ago the Hatters beat them 5-1 in an FA Cup qualifying round tie.

The Town saw off Reading 3-1 in 1907, Halifax in 1967 and Fulham in 1969 with the only draw coming before 32,763 fans at Roker Park against Sunderland.



LAST TIME OUT

After beating Fulham in 1969 the Hatters would have to wait 48 years before tasting victory on this day again when Nathan Jones took the Town to Crewe in League Two in 2017.

Second half goals from Danny Hylton and Luke Berry had the Hatters two goals to the good before a late Johnny Mullins own goal got the Railwaymen back into the game.

But Jones' side would hold on to keep their place at the top of the League Two table on goal difference and end the club's seven-match losing streak on 25th November. Here's hoping for another three points this afternoon.



THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Newly promoted to the Championship, the Hatters take on Crystal Palace, fresh from the top flight, at Selhurst Park on the opening day of the 2005/06 season.

The Town win 2-1 with a delighted Ahmet Brkovic signalling the winning goal.

Roger Wash





CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS YOU'LL NEVER SING THAT!

AFTER BEING AT KENILWORTH ROAD FOR TWO RELEGATIONS AND NUMEROUS FAILED PROMOTION BIDS, JAKE HOWELLS HAD EXTRA MOTIVATION TO HELP THE TOWN RETURN TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE AS CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS.



“It was a strange time and there were some dark days,” says Jake Howells, glancing at the Kenilworth Road pitch behind him.

“I would sit on the bus back from games, I was

18. Fans were around me. There was a lot of negative energy.”

He’s not painting a particular pleasant picture for someone who should have been relishing his dream of playing regular football for his local club.

An academy graduate thrust into the first team as a 17-year-old, the formative years of Howells’ professional career were unprecedented.

His debut against Huddersfield was the Hatters’ last game before relegation from League One. Two months later the Town were faced with a 30-point deduction in League Two. From youth team football to facing up to dropping out of the league entirely all in the space of 12 months. A situation like no other.

But it’s in moments like this where you learn the most about people. And about yourself. For all the Hatters’ predicaments, this was an opportunity for a fresh-faced left-footer to make his way in the game – one he would grab with both hands.

“I remember my debut, my shirt was too big for me, but to see my name on the back of it was my dream,” says Howells.

“I knew the club were struggling. But I was a young lad and saw it as a chance. I had senior pros like Kevin Nicolls and Sol Davis around me. I cleaned Sol’s boots but was sometimes keeping him out of the team which was strange.”

The campaign known to Town fans as the ‘minus-30 season’ would have tested the most seasoned pro. Yet the teenager stood up to the challenges that it brought.

“We were trying to build a squad. Trialist after trialist came in during pre-season. All I wanted to do was to play. When we signed Chris Martin on loan we thought ‘hold on, we can get out of this’.

“Physiologically it was very tough. We’d win but still be on minus points. It was very draining. I remember losing 5-1 at Darlington. It’s a long way from home and you’re thinking ‘how do we get out from this?’”

Despite the best efforts of a team constantly playing catch up, the deficit was too big to eat up.

The Town, eventually put out of their misery, could start life in the Conference free from the shackles of points deductions. However, a different challenge would lie in wait for Howells and the Hatters.

“The expectations went from ‘we’re getting relegated’ to ‘we have to win the league by 5-10 points,’” explains Howells.

“We’d go to away grounds that the club had never been to before. 2,000 Luton fans expecting us to win every game. But we just didn’t have the standard required.”

One season in non-league then became two, three, four and five. Among them back-to-back play-off final defeats. At no point, however, did he think about leaving for greener pastures.

“I never thought about jumping ship, I was so engrossed in my Luton Town journey,” Howells says honestly. “The club had supported me and gave me my platform.

“That said, the Wimbledon final hit me. Jason Walker’s last-minute header from my cross was inches away from going in. ➤

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It would have been such a relief off my shoulders. To miss out on penalties...

"Then, the following season, against York, an offside decision... it was just another challenge to overcome."

The seasons of dread begin to mount up in our minds as he chats chronologically through the campaigns. It's bordering on sadistic. Yet there is light at the end of the tunnel.

"All managers have different ways of doing things and then the following season John Still came in and got us back to basics," explains Jake as talk turns to 2013/14.

"One of his first sessions was purely the basics. He was all about the detail. 'Set pieces and dead balls, that's how you win leagues,' he would say. We weren't going to pass our way out of the division. We needed to be more direct but we had the players to play a bit lop-sided – Paul Benson was the focal point, Andre Gray was higher, Luke Guttridge was pulling the strings.

"Every game was amazing, especially at Kenilworth Road. We felt we'd score in every game. My tally was the best in a season – admittedly I was on penalties! – but I felt full of energy.



"Plus we had people like Steve McNulty and Ronnie Henry who had been there and done it. Seen everything you can imagine at this level. Small dressing rooms, horrible pitches. They knew going to Alfreton or Braintree wouldn't be a walkover."

Come the end of the season, and after overhauling long-time leaders Cambridge United, the Town were back in the Football League with 101 points and 102 goals crowning a magnificent and significant season.

After the years of hurt came a new feeling.


"Relief. The pressure I'd carried for so long, through all the bad times, was off. Seeing the fans on the bus those times... We knew the job the board were doing, rebuilding the club. I was proud to be part of it. To finally get the club back in the Football League was a great moment for everyone involved."

Jake's career at Kenilworth Road would end after two seasons back in the Football League at the end of the 2015/16 season. With 334 appearances for the Town under his belt, only 16 players have played more matches than him in the club's history.

"The only thing is that I never got a chance to come back and say goodbye or thank you," says Jake, with a regretful tone.

"But I am proud of what I achieved and my children will grow up seeing me scoring goals on YouTube and that's enough for me."

Now working for Foco – supplying merchandise for clubs including Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich – Howells is still involved in the game to some degree, although the use of his left foot has somewhat diminished.

"It keeps me busy," he says. "But I'd give anything to be back out on the pitch now." 



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Matthew Barnes-Homer hurdles Steve McNulty during the clash at Fleetwood in August 2010



Trophy presentation following the 4-1 win over Forest Green in April 2014

A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS

Part Six- F is for Fleetwood and Forest Green Rovers.

Fleetwood were a team that appeared in the Conference in 2010 and, backed by the money of the now disgraced Andy Pilley, were promoted to the Football League within two years.

Our first meeting was at Highbury in August 2010 and although we won 3-0 we were all taken to Fleetwood's centre-half who looked nothing like a svelte footballer but was mightily effective. Steve McNulty was, of course, to become a Hatters favourite, starring in our eventual promotion.

Fleetwood had boosted their squad by the time they won 3-1 at Kenilworth Road later that season and a, by now, Jamie Vardy inspired Cod Army won 2-1 here in 2011/12. With Fleetwood already promoted, our final game of the season was a 'must-win' at Highbury to sneak into the play-offs. Whether the home side were a little 'under the weather' or not an Andre Gray inspired Hatters won 2-0.

At the top of a steep hill and serving 'Badger Pasties' our favourite vegan club Forest Green

Rovers were with us throughout our five years in non-League. The drive to Nailsworth was a little different to what we were used to with leafy lanes and cows peering over fences replacing out of town industrial units and crippling traffic.

Our record against Forest Green was rather good with only one defeat suffered in ten meetings. Our 6-1 win at Kenilworth Road with five different goalscorers in October 2010 was a standout but the most memorable was our final clash in April 2014 which marked our last home game at non-League level.

The promotion celebration started badly with Forest Green netting a penalty on 22 minutes with the Town unable to get going in front of a capacity crowd – perhaps they were also 'under the weather'!

Gray won and scored a penalty just before the interval and after an ear bashing from manager John Still at half-time a more purposeful Town banged in three goals without reply in the second period to set up the presentation of the Skrill trophy at the end to seal a magnificent season. 🏆



LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

PREMIER LEAGUE PRIMARY STARS

As part of Luton Town FC Community Trust's school's delivery, we deliver Premier League Primary Stars in schools all across the town.

Premier League Primary Stars is the Premier League's primary school education programme. It uses the appeal of football and local football clubs to inspire children aged five to 11 to be active and develop essential skills.

The project supports teachers in building their pupils' confidence in key areas, including PSHE, Physical Education, Maths and English. Resources are created in collaboration with subject experts such as the National Literacy Trust and HSBC. Through Premier League Primary Stars, we as a community trust have worked with over 100 schools across Bedfordshire to:

- Enable children to take part in and enjoy more football, sport and physical activity.
- Support teachers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to deliver PE and sport.
- Help children gain the skills they need to reach their goals.
- Increase children's interest, understanding and confidence in English and Maths.

We have been really pleased to have been joined by HSBC to work alongside us in schools recently to help deliver budgeting and financial management workshops as part of our Premier League Primary Stars delivery.

The content of the workshops is adaptable for each age group and allows the young people the opportunity to think about how they'd manage their budget in a situation they can easily relate to.

One example used is a cup final taking place at Wembley stadium, the pupils are encouraged to consider and calculate costs of travel, food, tickets and merchandise. The interactive sessions encourage the young people to think about their decisions and the implications of their choices.

Andrew Byrne, Local Director for Luton, HSBC UK said: "Every young person should have the chance to learn and fulfil their true potential, which is why we are delighted to be working alongside Luton Town FC Community Trust, supporting children in Luton with financial understanding and wellbeing.

"Our Smart Money financial education programme is delivered across the UK to over half a million young people aged from three years old up to 25 years of age, helping them to build their money skills, avoid being caught out by fraudsters and inspire successful futures."

The partnership with HSBC has allowed us to provide key money skills and knowledge to children in central Luton. The impact of these sessions has been efficacious, providing expert knowledge and a drawing upon a wealth of experience from HSBC workers. These sessions are interactive,

story themed and provide key time for Q&A at the end. Most importantly, the children really enjoy them!

DEMENTIA PROJECT

Luton Town FC Community Trust are teaming up with the Alzheimer's Society to deliver free sessions at Kenilworth Road Stadium to those suffering from dementia as well as their carers.



In addition to providing information and guidance to attendees and signpost them towards other support services, there will also be the opportunity to take part in quizzes, have a tour around the stadium and

take a trip down memory lane for all the Hatters fans in attendance. The sessions will also allow individuals going through similar experiences the opportunity to make friends in a relaxed environment. The sessions will be attended by staff members from the Alzheimer's Society, Luton Town FC Community Trust and other key partners, including the NHS.

Community Trust Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds, commented: "We are really looking forward to welcoming the group to the stadium next week and working alongside the Alzheimer's Society. I hope these sessions will be enjoyable as well as offering valuable support to attendees and their carers."

The first session takes place at Kenilworth Road Stadium on Tuesday 28th November 1pm to 3pm. Places are completely free but are limited. Email luton@alzheimers.org.uk to reserve a place or call us at the office on 01582 561622.



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YOUTH TEAM BEAT DONS TO GO TOP

Four second half goals helped the Hatters Under-18s move to the top of the South Alliance table after a comprehensive 4-0 win over AFC Wimbledon at The Brache last Saturday morning.

A tight first half saw few chances for either side in an even encounter against a Dons side who came into the weekend as league leaders.

However it took Alex Lawless' side just seven minutes into the second half to take the lead when Jamie Odegah headed home Dominic Martin's cross.

The Town soon doubled their lead when Jack Lorentzen-Jones won the ball high up the pitch and finished well to make it 2-0.

Further chances for the Town came and went but with 15 minutes left it was three when Dylan Stitt fired past the Dons keeper following good work from Odejah down the right.

Stitt then completed the scoring on 82 minutes with the goal of the game, receiving the ball on the left-hand side of the penalty area and

whipping the ball into the corner for his second and the Town's fourth.

A happy Lawless said: "It was a good performance, especially in the second half, from the whole team. It was a battling display but we controlled possession, won our duels and were strong in the final third.

"We were ruthless – that was something we wanted to improve on in recent weeks and after scoring three last week and four this week, we have taken it up a notch.

"In the end we could have scored more goals but the four we scored were all real good ones. Overall it is a performance all the boys can be really satisfied with. We grinded them down and deserved the win."

Meanwhile, the young Hatters were drawn at home to Swindon Town in the third round of the FA Youth Cup. The date of the game, which will be played at Kenilworth Road, will be announced in due course.

The Town youngsters' next port of call in the Youth Alliance is the short trip to Stevenage a week on Saturday, 9th December.

Youth Alliance South East Division	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1. Luton Town U18	11	7	2	2	23	7	16	23
2. AFC Wimbledon U18	10	7	0	3	21	17	4	21
3. Stevenage U18	10	6	1	3	19	9	10	19
4. Sutton United U18	9	5	2	2	15	10	5	17
5. Cambridge United U18	11	4	2	5	22	26	-4	14
6. Northampton Town U18	9	4	0	5	12	12	0	12
7. Leyton Orient U18	11	3	3	5	14	21	-7	12
8. Gillingham U18	10	3	2	5	21	23	-2	11
9. Milton Keynes Dons U18	11	2	3	6	14	28	-14	9
10. Brentford U18	10	2	1	7	17	25	-8	7



Dylan Stitt scored twice against AFC Wimbledon

ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH WITH BILLY CARTER

This afternoon it gives us great pleasure to welcome our new under-9s to the club, who will be introduced to the crowd today.

Since entering the building the boys have been working exceptionally hard and bring a wide range of strengths, with no two players being the same. The groups have worked hard to improve each week, with some Premier League, category 1 academy scalps already taken.

JOE SAW

Joe is a creative distributing goal-keeper who likes to execute different passing techniques as well as being a great shot stopper.

JAKE ELLIS

Jake is a dominant defender who is equally composed when playing out from the back. A great leader and communicator too.

ASHER BANCROFT

Asher is a brilliant 1v1 defender who possesses a mix of nice agility and great timing of when to tackle – also a candidate for best hair in the group.

MATTHIAS AKINFENWA

Matthias is the latest Akinfenwa brother we have in our ranks! Defender Mattie has a strong frame paired with exciting ball striking.

JACOB LOPERA

Jacob is our latest edition to the group!. An exciting winger with wonderful attacking 1v1 qualities and a great end product.

ANDRE RUTT-BELGRAVE

Andre is a powerful winger who is dominant in 1v1 duels. A calm character in the group who leads by example

LORENZO HANSARD

Lorenzo is an intelligent midfielder who is able to adapt to different areas of the pitch. Lorenzo utilises his strong ball striking paired with cleverly defending 1v1.

RAAHUL DEB

Raahul relishes a 1v1 duel where he can use his power and ball mastery. Raahul can adapt to different areas of the pitch and still show his strengths in midfield.

PARKER BEALE

Midfielder Parker possesses good 1v1 quality and problem solves different ways to shift onto his left foot where he can shoot from range.

HENRY BYRNE

Another midfielder, Henry has a winning mentality which he uses to push those around him, paired with innovative ball striking on his left foot.



GUY MORGAN

Guy twists and turns with the ball really well and competes like a warrior. The midfielder has trademarked the quote “C’mon boys!” before every game.

MAX MULCAHY

Forward Max has an exciting turn of speed to run in behind defences and uses creative finishing techniques to beat the goalkeeper.

THEO CALLUM

Theo is an accomplished forward, technically very good and does his best bits with his back to goal, mixing up effective combinations with tight solo turns.

LOGAN HYLTON

Forward Logan is our youngest recruit this year who has a great understanding of combination play and shares the family energy of hunting down defenders. 🏆

TRUCE TOURNAMENT A ‘PRIVILEGED MOMENT’ FOR ACADEMY PLAYERS

Remembrance Sunday was a national opportunity to remember all those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. On 12th November Luton Town Under-12s travelled to Portsmouth to take part in the Under-12 Truce Cup against some of the top academies in the country.

Our boys were drawn in a group with the likes of Chelsea, Brighton, Fulham, Southampton and AFC Bournemouth. With whoever topping the group going through to the finals in Belgium.

Before the tournament started the Under-12 took part in a ceremony to remember the fallen on Armistice Day. With each club laying a wreath, reading the names of fallen service men who had represented the first team at each club and partaking in a minute's silence. The short ceremony was to unite our academy players and staff across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth.

The Under-12 showed some strong performances throughout the day starting with an excellent 2-0 win and performance against Brighton & Hove Albion then going on to draw their next four games 0-0 against Chelsea, Fulham, Southampton and Bournemouth. This meant the boys finished in third place overall in their group not having lost or conceded a goal all day.

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YOUTH U18 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

OPPONENT	DATE	SCORE	STARTING XI
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 5/8/23	A W 6-0	HOCKEY CHIGOZIE ⚽ HARVEY MARTINS BENAGR ROUTH EMERY
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 12/8/23	A W 4-1	THOMAS GIWA CHIGOZIE EMERY SCOTT BENAGR WARREN
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 26/8/23	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 W 2-1	HOCKEY GIWA BENAGR KAYIBANDAD EMERY CHIGOZIE WARREN
BRENTFORD	SAT 28/10/23	A D 0-0	HOCKEY CHIGOZIE BENAGR GREGORY EMERY ROUTH HARVEY
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 4/11/23	H W 1-0	PIPA GIWA BENAGR STITT EMERY ROUTH HARVEY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 11/11/23	A W 3-1	HOCKEY GIWA ⚽ HARVEY MARTINS KAYIBANDA ROUTH LORENTZEN-JONES
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 18/11/23	H W 4-0	HOCKEY GIWA HARVEY MARTINS CHIGOZIE KAYIBANDA LORENTZEN-JONES
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 L 1-4	HORLICK PINNINGTON PHILLIPS JOHNSON CHIGOZIE KAYIBANDA PIESOLD
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	TUE 17/10/23	H L 2-3	HORLICK PINNINGTON GIWA PIESOLD CHIGOZIE KAYIBANDA LUKER
KEMPSTON ROVERS	TUE 31/10/23	H W 8-0	TRIALIST CHIGOZIE LUKER ⚽ PIESOLD ⚽ PINNINGTON KAYIBANDA PHILLIPS
COLCHESTER UNITED	MON 13/11/23	A L 0-2	SHEA PINNINGTON KAYIBANDA CHIGOZIE PHILLIPS PIESOLD BURGER
CHELSEA	TUE 12/12/23	H	
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 19/1/24	A	
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 2/2/24	H	

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TRUSTRAM	LORENTZEN-JONES	XAVIER-JONES	HOUGHTON	WARREN, IOANNIDES, AKINYA, SHEPHERD, PIPA
IOANNIDES	XAVIER-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRUSTRAM	BOOTH, ANDERSON, SHEPHERD, STITT, ROBERTS-EDEMA
STITT	ANDERSON	IOANNIDES	TRUSTRAM	PIPA, TAKAWIRA, MARTINS, BENAGR, SHEPHERD
IOANNIDES	ANDERSON	TRUSTRAM	TRIALIST B	PIPA, TAKAWIRA, HOUGHTON, SHEPHERD
LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	ODEJAH, PIPA, STITT, HOUGHTON, HARVEY
LORENTZEN-JONES	ODEGAH	TRUSTRAM	HOUGHTON	ANDERSON, XAVIER-JONES, KIRBY, KAYIBANDA, PIPA
KIRBY	ODEGAH	LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	HOCKEY, HOUGHTON, XAVIER-JONES, MARTINS, AKINYA
N-JONES	HOUGHTON	SHEPHERD	ODEGAH	PIPA, XAVIER-JONES, ANDERSON, BENAGR, CHIGOZIE
N-JONES	ODEGAH	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA, SHEPHERD, BENAGR, ROUTH, HINCAPIE-ALFONSO
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
BURGER	LUKER	TOWNSEND	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HOCKEY, HERON, LYNCH, EMERY, TRUSTRAM
BURGER	LYNCH	TOWNSEND	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	NELSON, PHILLIPS, DAWS, HOUGHTON, LORENTZ-JONES
NELSON	LYNCH	BURGER	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HOCKEY, ANDERSON, EMERY, DAWS, LORENTZ-JONES
NELSON	LUKER	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	LYNCH	HORLICK, GIWA, DAWS, HERON, BENAGR

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The Town were represented across three continents during the final international break of 2023.

Starting in Africa for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, Marvelous Nakamba captained Zimbabwe to draws against Rwanda and Nigeria, who have had an 18-month suspension lifted by FIFA.

The Warriors currently sit fifth in a competitive Group C, with fixtures against Lesotho and South Africa to come in the next batch of qualifiers in summer 2024.

Issa Kaboré also featured in a World Cup qualifier for Burkina Faso but was injured after 45 minutes in their draw against Guinea-Bissau.

Moving to Europe, captain Tom Lockyer will need to go through the play-offs for Wales to qualify for Euro 2024.

The skipper did not feature in the draw at Armenia last week before

starting in the final group-stage match, where Wales missed out on automatic qualification when they were held to a controversial draw with Turkey.

Jacob Brown's Scotland had already secured automatic qualification for Euro 2024 last month, and our Scotsman started the final group stage game at Hampden Park against Norway.

Goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski was on the bench for Belgium across their wins against Serbia and Azerbaijan, while Chieo Ogbene did not feature for Republic of Ireland due to injury.

Joe Johnson's World Cup journey with England is over after the Young Lions crashed out following defeat to Uzbekistan in the Round of 16 on Wednesday morning.

Ryan Garry's side had won Group C after Johnson played 76 minutes in the late win against Iran before their shock knockout loss to Uzbekistan. 🇧🇪






DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR HAS NO PLACE IN OUR GAME.

**FOOTBALL HAS COME TOGETHER TO TOUGHEN MEASURES
ADDRESSING FAN BEHAVIOUR AT MATCHES**

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR:

- ✗ Entering the pitch without permission
- ✗ Smoke bombs and pyros
- ✗ Throwing objects
- ✗ Drug use
- ✗ Discriminatory behaviour

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:

-  Serious injury
-  Automatic club ban
-  Reported to the police
-  Criminal record
-  Education and employment at risk

**HELP US ENSURE MATCHES ARE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL
LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME.**





DEVELOPMENT SQUAD UPDATE FORBES TAKING THE POSITIVES

Adrian Forbes could take the encouragement from an otherwise frustrating night as his under-21s fell to 2-0 defeat to a physical Colchester side in the last Premier League Cup clash.

A young Town side, including several of the under-16s, competed well against their category 2 opponents but could not prevent a third straight defeat in the competition.

This season is the first a Luton Town under-21 team has played competitive football so, despite the set-back, Forbes was happy to put everything in perspective.

"You can always look at a game like that and little things we could have done differently to stop goals going in, but I've got to reflect on the game and look at the bigger picture," he said.

"I've said it before about this group, the team didn't even exist two or three years ago, so the fact we are now here in this competition, playing against Leeds, playing against Chelsea and against Colchester, and then inviting those three teams back to Kenilworth Road over the next three months, I think we've got to look at that and see the positives.

"We've got to look at the group and see the likes of James Shea playing for the team and getting minutes, Andros Townsend playing for the team and getting minutes, Gabe Osho playing for the team and getting minutes, so we've got to look at the bigger picture as well.

"We've got two Under-16s playing in the team, competing against 23-year-old men, and I just think it bodes so well for the future of the academy and the club. They weren't just making up the numbers in the group. They deserve to be here and they competed against

Colchester and I actually think they were pivotal to the performance.

"We are a category 3 academy and we don't get the opportunity to play in a league. Any games we play, other than the Beds Senior Cup and the Premier League Cup, we have to source our own fixtures, so we go through the season in effect playing the majority of our games as friendlies, whereas the likes of Colchester, Leeds and Chelsea are playing league fixtures every week, points to play for every week, so from a development point of view, that's something that we at Luton Town can't give them at this moment in time.

"But I will make sure over the next few weeks I am going to prepare those boys in the best way possible to go and compete against Chelsea, at home, then compete against Leeds and compete against Colchester, because those three teams still haven't seen the best of us yet."

The Town's next match in the competition, against Chelsea, takes place on Tuesday 12th December here at Kenilworth Road.

Tickets for this fixture will be available online only at www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown with unreserved seating in the Main Stand Enclosure.

Tickets need to be pre-booked by 3pm Monday 11th December. We recommend choosing digital tickets where possible.

For this fixture as per the published benefits for 2023/24 Season Card holders and Members entry will be free of charge however, a ticket still needs to be booked. 🏠



FC24



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LUTON TOWN LADIES

IN-FORM HATTERS SEE OFF HARINGEY BOROUGH

Luton Town Ladies made it four wins in five matches after defeating Haringey Borough FC Women 3-0 last weekend.

It was the ladies' first home game since the end of September and it was a positive start, with Elizabeth Sanders having an early chance which was caught by the Haringey goalkeeper.

The Hatters had their second chance of the game on the 15 minute mark. Amber Pearson was on the end of a Fi Buttigieg cross but the goalkeeper was equal to it and tipped the ball around the post.

The first substitutions of the game for Luton came just before the half-hour, with Andie Dickens and Shanice Lewis entering the pitch and it was almost instant impact from the substitutes as a Dickens cross fell to Lewis, who was unable to apply the finishing touch.

Haringey built up their first dangerous attack of the match, but a fantastic sliding challenge from Eleanor Wade prevented the Haringey striker from getting her shot off.

The Town almost took the lead moments before the break but Gabby Spillman saw her shot strike the post.

However, it took the Town just five minutes after half-time to break the deadlock through Sam Khan, who had been causing the Haringey defence all sorts of problems. A brilliant ball into the box from Spillman and an equally impressive flick from Jess McKay saw the ball fall to Khan, who slotted the ball home.

Almost immediately the Hatters doubled their lead through Elly Wade. The defender, who had stayed up from a corner, smashed the ball beyond the Haringey keeper, giving her no chance.

The chances continued to come and it was almost three goals in five minutes only for Lewis to shoot over the crossbar and Spillman, after winning a 50/50 with the Haringey goalkeeper, hammer an effort just wide of the target.

With 25 minutes left to play, the Town wrapped up the victory with Buttigieg deservedly getting her name on the scoresheet with a shot that found the bottom corner.

As time ticked down, goalkeeper Amy Butler left the pitch with two minutes to play to claim her clean sheet, enabling Leah Robinson to earn a valuable few minutes.

Attention now turns to the Women's FA Cup for the ladies, who travel to Enfield Town tomorrow, aiming to win a place in the third round. Kick-off is at 2pm at the QE11 Stadium, with entry £3 for adults and free for under-18s.

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL_Official



LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

WITH BOARD MEMBER HELEN GATWARD

This season still feels so surreal. Going to grounds such as Stamford Bridge, Villa Park and Old Trafford to watch my Luton Town... it's something I never dreamed of experiencing so soon.

It's definitely real, it's happening and, although results haven't all gone our way, I'm absolutely loving the experience. It's an unforgettable journey that I just want to enjoy, with it hopefully continuing next season too if all goes well.

We have really improved since that Brighton game so I'm hoping it won't be long before we start turning performances into points.

I've been a board member for the Trust for seven years now. I love being a part of the Trust, and with my day job of graphic design, it means I can bring my skills to many things that we use for the Trust.

I also organise the always popular and successful end of season presentation evening, which can be a lot of work when you also have a full-time job, but it is so rewarding on the night when you see everyone has had a good time.

I originally joined the Trust as a member as I understood the importance of 'the more members we have, the louder our voice is'.

With the Trust holding the clubs image rights, it means we won't let anyone change our logo, name, or even club colours, holding shares in the Club, and with the Trust is looking into ways of protecting

the future of Power Court, it means that having as many members as possible is so important, so if you aren't a member already, what are you waiting for? It's so easy to join! Go to our website and become a member.

Like you all, I'm hoping for our first three home points in the Premier League this afternoon, so enjoy the game, and carry on enjoying the rest of the season! COYH!

AGM

If you are a member you will know that it is our AGM this Thursday inside the John Moore Lounge at Kenilworth Road. The meeting begins at 7.30pm and when all of the Trust business is complete former Town player Jake Howells will join us for a Q&A. We hope to see you there or logged on via Zoom.

EVENING WITH JJ O'DONNELL

Another former Luton player joins us on Zoom on Monday night when Simon Pitts chats to JJ O'Donnell about this time with the Hatters, including that wonderful afternoon at Carrow Road in 2013 and much more.

The event begins at 7.30pm and tickets are still available on a 'pay what you like' basis at www.ticketsource.co.uk/luton-town-supporters-trust with all funds raised going to SoLYD.

With the nights getting colder this is a perfect excuse to stay in for an evening of Hatters chat. 🧣



MEET THE FANS

WITH TOWN SUPPORTER JOHN WARD

How long have you supported Luton for?

I have supported Luton since my dad took me to my first Luton game which was against Guiseley in the FA Cup in 2002.

Where do you sit at home matches?

I sit in the main stand enclosure block B

Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

My all-time favourite player is Kevin Nicholls. He was always a player that wore the shirt with pride and was a leader on the pitch.

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

Supporting Luton means everything to me. I am so proud to say I support Luton Town.

What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

I have two favourite memories. One was the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final win, which turned out to be the last game I went to with my dad before he passed away. Also the Championship play-off final game celebrating with all my three children in attendance.

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

It has been mixed really. Little old Luton are not so little now we are in the big league. But I always said to my son we would make it to the Premier League.

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

It was emotional seeing Luton in the first game in the Premier League. You had to pinch yourself to believe it was actually real. Such a surreal feeling.

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

It is a lot more tactical in the Premier League compared to the lower leagues. In the Premier League you don't get as much time on the ball. But I wouldn't change it for the world.

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

I am looking forward to just enjoying every game. I firmly believe we can stay in this league. Luton's journey is only just beginning. 🍌





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*Return ticket to be used
within 3 months





WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

It's a massive game here at Kenilworth Road here as Luton host Crystal Palace. As always, I will flashback to games in our rise up to the Premier League. Today, I will be rewinding back to a tough tie between us and Charlton Athletic back in 2019.

It was bound to be a thriller between two sides who were promoted from League One the season before. Lee Bowyer's Charlton side were well set up and sitting in a comfortable 13th place prior to the game whereas Luton were sat in 22nd.

The Hatters were coming off the back of a five-game losing streak and were in desperate need of a win. There was a sense in the air that something big was going to happen.

Before the game, Bowyer had named a strong side which included the likes of Conor Gallagher and Tom Lockyer. Alfie Doughty started on the bench for the Addicks but was subbed on later in the game.

For me personally, I was very excited for this one as it was my birthday the day before and I was hoping for a big birthday win. I was slightly on edge though as I was aware of Charlton's quality which saw them fly high earlier in the season.

The game got off to a bad start for Graeme Jones' side as Jonathan Leko put the away side ahead within seven minutes thanks to a Macauley Bonne assist. Things weren't looking great.

Twelve minutes later, the Hatters were back level thanks to a typical 'Pelly banger' as his strike flew into the bottom corner from distance and almost ripped the net off.


All Luton fans love it when Pelly scores so that buzz in the air returned as the team began to get on the front foot in the match. Neither side could find another before half time as the sides went in level at the interval.

Soon after the restart, Luton went ahead. Andrew Shinnie intercepted the ball from the defender and played it through to Izzy Brown and his smart finish found the back of the net for his first (and only) Luton goal.

The Hatters never looked like losing the game from this point and held on to a big three points under the lights. Luton now moved three points clear of the bottom three and into 20th place.

In the end, this win proved to be massive for Luton. Charlton were eventually relegated from the Championship on the final day whereas Luton stayed up ahead of the Addicks by three points.

This was almost four years ago to the day now as the match took place on 26th November. As for today, it is my 15th birthday so here's hoping for a win today! COYH!

Words by Zac Neal 



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SPECIAL PROJECTS





JUNIOR HATTERS TODAY'S MASCOTS

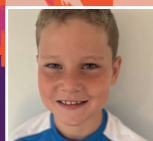


Beau Tibbs

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football

Favourite Player: Lockyer, Morris, Adebayo



Oliver James

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football & Rugby

Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer



George Morton

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football, Running, Roblox

Favourite Player: Ross Barkley



Tommy Ryan

Age: 10

Hobbies: Football, Hurling, Rugby

Favourite Player: Tahith Chong



Louie D'Archambaud

Age: 10

Hobbies: Playing Football and Rugby and practicing in the garden.

Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer



WELCOME TO OUR AWAY MASCOT!

Callum Rodgers

Age: 10

Hobbies: Football, Plays in goal for Life Foundation Performance Squad

Favourite Player: Jordan Ayew, Sam Johnson, Odsonne Édouard

TICKET NEWS



AFC BOURNEMOUTH V LUTON TOWN

Premier League
Saturday 16th December 2023,
kick-off 3pm

We have received an allocation
of 1,313 seats for our fixture at
Bournemouth.

Away Season Ticket holders

Supporters who have purchased an Away Season Ticket this season can receive one ticket for this fixture. Seats will be reserved, then payment will be taken, and your ticket will be dispatched on Friday 24th November unless otherwise advised.

If you do not require a ticket for this game, please email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk to advise.

All season card holders that attended 15 away league games last season

Tickets for this fixture go on sale to all Season Card holders who attended 15 away league games last season on Monday 27th November at 10am at one ticket per person, sales will be via the phone and in person only at this stage of the Sales Plan. This priority period will close on Tuesday 28th November at 3pm.

Diamond and Executive Season Card Holders who attended ten away league games last season

Any Diamond and Executive Member who attended ten away league games last season and has not obtained a ticket in Stage 1 of the plan can apply for a ticket on Thursday 30th November at 10am. These can again be ordered by phone and in person only. This priority period will close at 3pm on Friday 1st December.

Diamond and Executive Season Card holders

Any Diamond or Executive Season Card holder who has not obtained a ticket at previous stages of the Sales Plan can apply for a ticket on Monday 4th December at 10am. These tickets will be available online using your unique client reference number. They will also be available via phone or in person., subject to availability.

A further Sales Plan for Season Card holders will be released on Tuesday 5th December, subject to availability, when we have been able to review the Diamond / Executive uptake. This will detail dates of sale for Season Card holders and Members and General Sale.

Prices

- Adults £30 (restricted view £27 / severely restricted view £25.50)
- Under 21s £17 (restricted view £15.50 / severely restricted view £14.50)
- Seniors (Over 65) £17 (restricted view £15.50 / severely restricted view £14.50)
- Full-time students (valid proof of concession status to be produced on the turnstile. With a photo and expiry date £17 (restricted view £15.50 / severely restricted view £14.50)
- Luton Town Junior / Youth Season Card holders £7. Season Card must be produced at the turnstiles on entry.
- Wheelchair £5 (one personal assistant free of charge)
- Ambulant Disabled will pay the age-related price for their ticket. If requested, and in receipt of DLA (Middle or higher) or enhanced rate of PIP a Carer ticket is available.



LET'S GO

GTECH COMMUNITY STADIUM

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023

KICK OFF: 3:00PM

WHERE?

Hatters fans will be making their first ever trip to Gtech Community Stadium next weekend when the Town face Brentford. Opened in September 2020, the Bees' new stadium has hosted the Hatters once before – for a behind-closed-doors Championship fixture in January 2021. The 17,250-capacity stadium cost £70m and replaced the much-loved Griffin Park, the Bees' home since 1904.

HOW TO GET THERE

The train is probably the best option to reach the ground, as it is only 100 meters away from the Kew Bridge Station. Furthermore the ground is also connected very well to the London Underground system, as it is close to the Chiswick Park, Gunnersbury and Acton Town stations. Finally, the Bobbers Travel Club are running coaches to Brentford. For a midday departure from Luton, the fares are £24 for adults and £22 for concessions. Call 01234 856542 to book your spot.

OUR RECORD THERE

Meetings between the two clubs have been frequent over the years, dating back to the first meeting in 1901 – one which the Hatters won 1-0 in the Southern League. Overall the Town have won 16, drawn 13 and lost 27 of their visits to Brentford. The last time we went to Brentford in front of fans, we were thumped 7-0. The less said the better. However, our last win in this part of the world was a 2-0 FA Cup replay win in November 2007 thanks

to goals from centre halves Chris Coyne and Jaroslav Fojut. Not since September 1992 have we won at Brentford in a league encounter – 2-1 with goals from Julian James and Phil Gray.

THE BRENTFORD OF TODAY

Brentford are enjoying their third season in the Premier League having won promotion via the play-offs in 2020/21. In their first campaign in the top-flight since 1947, Thomas Frank's side finish 13th and they followed that up last term by finishing in ninth. So far this term, the Bees have been a model of consistency – they have won four, lost four and drawn four. At home, they've been beaten just once in six games, that coming against Everton.

WATCH OUT FOR

In the absence of centre forward Ivan Toney, Bryan Mbeumo has been the Bees' main source of goals, scoring six times in 12 games so far this term. The French-born attacker, who represented Cameroon at last year's World Cup, was signed by Thomas Frank for £5.8m when the Bees were still in the Championship. He scored 16 goals in debut season at Griffin Park, helping the club to play-offs, before coming an instrumental part of the side that won promotion to the top-flight.



VS



THE BEES

THE HATTERS



MEMBERS



Call the Commercial Team on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk for information on memberships.

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. Which Canadian scored on his Luton debut in a 3-2 defeat against Palace at Selhurst Park in 1993?
2. When the Hatters beat Palace 2-1 on the opening day of the 2005/06 season, who scored the Eagles' goal?
3. At which French club did Eagles striker Odsonne Edouard begin his career?
4. Which Football League team play their home games at Prenton Park?
5. Which player has set up the most goals in the Premier League this season, with seven assists?
6. From which club did the Town sign Jake Gray in 2016?
7. Against which team did the Hatters face in their last match in the Conference in 2014?
8. In which year did English football introduce three points for a win?
9. Which player has won the FA Cup more times than any other player?
10. Who took temporary charge of the Hatters in between John Still and Nathan Jones?

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 PITT. Like a half-decent loan signing, not bad.
0-3 THE PITS. Either you're a Palace fan or you're new to this.





Premier League

ROUND-UP

Back-to-back defeats for Tottenham Hotspur have meant there's been a change at the top of the Premier League – with an all too familiar name now sitting in first place.

Manchester City, who are aiming to become the first team in the Premier League era to win three titles in a row, sit one point clear of Liverpool after Pep Guardiola's side earned a point in one of the matches so far this season, the 4-4 draw against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

After earning a point at the death against us, Liverpool returned to winning ways last time out, beating Brentford 3-0 at Anfield to go into second place.

Arsenal sit third after beating Burnley, who are now bottom, 3-1 at Emirates Stadium while Tottenham lost for the second game in a row, with two late goals condemning Ange Postecoglou's side to a 2-1 defeat at Wolves.

One side showing no signs of stopping are Aston Villa, who earned their 13th successive home league win, by beating Fulham 3-1 at Villa Park. It was Fulham's third defeat in four matches as they slipped to 15th in the table.

West Ham defeated Nottingham Forest in a topsy-turvy 3-2 win at London Stadium, while Sheffield United moved off the foot of the table as they earned a hard-fought 1-1 draw at Brighton, who had Mahmoud Dahoud sent-off midway through the second half.

Our visitors this afternoon were on the receiving end of a 3-2 home defeat to Everton, who secured their third win in five matches. However, the Toffees now find themselves in the relegation zone after receiving a ten-point deduction from the Premier League for breaching financial rules.

After the Town lost at Manchester United, Bournemouth leapfrogged us in the standings following a fine home victory over Newcastle United.

TODAY'S GAMES

MANCHESTER CITY v LIVERPOOL (12.30PM)

BURNLEY v WEST HAM UNITED

NEWCASTLE UNITED v CHELSEA

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v BRIGHTON

SHEFFIELD UNITED v AFC BOURNEMOUTH

BRENTFORD v ARSENAL (5.30PM)

SUNDAY'S GAMES

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v ASTON VILLA (2PM)

EVERTON v MANCHESTER UNITED (4.30PM)

MONDAY'S GAME

FULHAM v WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (8PM)





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PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON											CAREER	
	LEAGUE			CUP			TOTAL		CARDS			TOTAL	
	APPS	G		APPS	G		APPS	G				APPS	G
Elijah Adebayo	4	(8)	2	1	(1)	0	5	(9)	2	0	0	123	34
Mads Andersen	4	(2)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(2)	1	1	0	8	1
Ross Barkley	5	(2)	0	0	(1)	0	5	(3)	0	0	0	8	0
Amari'i Bell	7	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	8	(1)	0	0	0	106	2
Luke Berry	0	(2)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	1	0	168	24
Jacob Brown	7	(4)	0	1	(1)	1	8	(5)	1	2	0	13	1
Reece Burke	7	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	7	(2)	0	1	0	66	4
Tahith Chong	5	(5)	1	1	(0)	0	6	(5)	1	3	0	11	1
Jordan Clark	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	112	9
Alfie Doughty	9	(3)	0	2	(0)	1	11	(3)	1	1	0	49	3
Ryan Giles	3	(3)	0	2	(0)	0	5	(3)	0	0	0	8	0
Joe Johnson	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	3	0
Issa Kabore	9	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	9	(4)	0	4	0	13	0
Thomas Kaminski	12	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	12	(0)	0	1	0	12	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Tom Lockyer	11	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	12	(0)	1	3	0	114	7
Sambi Lokonga	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Teden Mengi	5	(2)	0	1	(0)	0	6	(2)	0	1	0	8	0
Carlton Morris	12	(0)	3	0	(1)	0	12	(1)	3	1	0	64	23
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	5	(6)	0	2	(0)	0	7	(6)	0	0	0	383	23
Marvelous Nakamba	12	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	12	(1)	0	4	0	33	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	8	(4)	1	1	(1)	0	9	(5)	1	0	0	14	1
Gabriel Osho	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	65	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
Andros Townsend	2	(2)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	0	0	4	0
Cauley Woodrow	0	(7)	0	2	(0)	1	2	(7)	1	0	0	44	4



TOP FLIGHT DEBUT FOR CLARK

Congratulations to Town midfielder Jordan Clark after the 30-year-old made his first appearance in the Premier League and his first since scoring for the Hatters in the play-off final at Wembley in May. Here's to plenty more, Clicker!

2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	POS	SCORE	STARTING XI
SAT AUG 12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	3PM	A 18	L1-4	KAMINSKI KABORÉ GILES ANDERSEN LOCKYER BELL
FRI AUG 25	CHELSEA	8PM	A 19	L0-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ GILES BURKE LOCKYER BELL
TUE AUG 29	GILLINGHAM (CC)	7.45PM	H -	W 3-2	KRUL DOUGHTY GILES ANDERSEN LOCKYER BELL
FRI SEP 1	WEST HAM UNITED	8PM	H 19	L1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES BURKE ANDERSEN BELL
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A 20	L0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ BELL BURKE LOCKYER ANDERSEN
SAT SEP 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	H 18	D1-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY BURKE LOCKYER BELL
TUE SEP 26	EXETER CITY (CC)	7.45PM	A -	L0-1	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 17	L1-2	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER BELL
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12.30PM	H 17	L0-1	KAMINSKI BURKE DOUGHTY ANDERSEN LOCKYER OGBENE
SAT OCT 21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	A 17	D 2-2	KAMINSKI BURKE DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OGBENE
SUN OCT 29	ASTON VILLA	2PM	A 18	L1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SUN NOV 5	LIVERPOOL	4.30PM	H 17	D1-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT NOV 11	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	A 18	L0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT NOV 25	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	H		
SAT DEC 2	BRENTFORD	3PM	A		
TUE DEC 5	ARSENAL	8.15PM	H		
SUN DEC 10	MANCHESTER CITY	2PM	H		
SAT DEC 16	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	3PM	A		
SAT DEC 23	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	H		
TUE DEC 26	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	A		
SAT DEC 30	CHELSEA	12.30PM	H		
MON JAN 15	BURNLEY	7.45PM	A		
TUE JAN 30	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	7.45PM	H		
SAT FEB 3	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	A		
SAT FEB 10	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	H		
SAT FEB 17	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	H		
SAT FEB 24	LIVERPOOL	3PM	A		
SAT MAR 2	ASTON VILLA	3PM	H		
SAT MAR 9	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	A		
SAT MAR 16	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	H		
SAT MAR 30	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	3PM	A		
TUE APR 2	ARSENAL	7.45PM	A		
SAT APR 6	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	3PM	H		
SAT APR 13	MANCHESTER CITY	3PM	A		
SAT APR 20	BRENTFORD	3PM	H		
SAT APR 27	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	A		
SAT MAY 4	EVERTON	3PM	H		
SAT MAY 11	WEST HAM UNITED	3PM	A		
SUN MAY 19	FULHAM	4PM	H		

Premier League

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Manchester City	12	9	1	2	32	12	20	28
2	Liverpool	12	8	3	1	27	10	17	27
3	Arsenal	12	8	3	1	26	10	16	27
4	Tottenham Hotspur	12	8	2	2	24	15	9	26
5	Aston Villa	12	8	1	3	29	17	12	25
6	Manchester United	12	7	0	5	13	16	-3	21
7	Newcastle United	12	6	2	4	27	13	14	20
8	Brighton and Hove Albion	12	5	4	3	25	21	4	19
9	West Ham United	12	5	2	5	21	22	-1	17
10	Chelsea	12	4	4	4	21	16	5	16
11	Brentford	12	4	4	4	19	17	2	16
12	Wolverhampton Wanderers	12	4	3	5	16	20	-4	15
13	Crystal Palace	12	4	3	5	12	16	-4	15
14	Nottingham Forest	12	3	4	5	14	18	-4	13
15	Fulham	12	3	3	6	10	20	-10	12
16	Bournemouth	12	2	3	7	11	27	-16	9
17	Luton Town	12	1	3	8	10	22	-12	6
18	Sheffield United	12	1	2	9	10	31	-21	5
19	Everton*	12	4	2	6	14	17	-3	4
20	Burnley	12	1	1	10	9	30	-21	4

* Everton deducted 10 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability rules.



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	OGBENE	MORRIS ❖	BROWN	KRUL, ADEBAYO, ANDERSEN, BERRY, CHONG, GILES, MENGI, MPANZU, WOODROW	10,893	1,091				
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	SHEA, OGBENE, MORRIS, KABORE, BURKE, BROWN, BELL, BURGER, LUKER	7,360	708				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS ❖	BROWN	KRUL, ANDERSEN, BERRY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MENGI, GILES, JOHNSON	39,289	2,976				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, ANDERSEN, BERRY, BURKE, WOODROW, ADEBAYO ❖, CHONG, GILES, JOHNSON	10,918	1,126				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, BARKLEY, BERRY, WOODROW, KABORE, CHONG, MENGI, GILES, JOHNSON	10,929	1,151				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, OSHO, BARKLEY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO ❖, KABORE, GILES, TOWNSEND, LUKER	29,361	2,893				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MPANZU, GILES, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, LUKER	41,785	3,005				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUL, ADEBAYO, CHONG ❖, MPANZU, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON, LUKER	11,049	1,151				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUL, ADEBAYO, BERRY, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON	73,599	3,008				

Club Statement | FA fines Luton Town for discriminatory chant

Luton Town Football Club has been fined **£120,000**, warned as to its future conduct and issued with a two-year action plan by the Football Association.

The Club accepted a charge following abusive, offensive, homophobic, discriminatory chanting by supporters at the opening Premier League fixture of the season away to Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday 12th August.

As an inclusive, family-oriented Club, Luton Town abhors abusive chanting such as this and has a zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination of all kinds. It is not acceptable towards anyone in football or wider society, either in person or online.

Those involved were committing a criminal offence and anyone subsequently identified will be issued with a Club ban and face potential police investigation.

Luton Town has worked with supporters in recent seasons to help form the Rainbow Hatters supporters' group for members of the LGBTQ+ community, who meet regularly to share their experiences of watching the Hatters.

We will continue to promote the 'Love Football. Protect The Game' campaign, which this season has focused especially on fan behaviour, and will work further with supporter groups to educate and inform on all forms of discriminatory acts to ensure that watching Luton Town is a safe and welcoming experience for everyone.

Please email myvoice@lutontown.co.uk if you have any concerns or incidents to report at a Luton Town fixture.

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, email myvoice@lutontown.co.uk or download Kick It Out's free confidential reporting app on the App Store or Google Play.



TOWN TEASERS ANSWERS:
1: Geoff Aunger. 2: Andrew Johnson. 3: Paris Saint-Germain. 4: Tranmere Rovers. 5: Pedro Neto. 6: Crystal Palace. 7: Hyde. 8: 1981. 9: Ashley Cole (seven times). 10: Andy Awford.



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

With James Cunliffe – Editor, The Lutonian

Rejoice! For the next four months it's uninterrupted Luton Town.

For the last fortnight, the international break has been desperately dull. It may be an unpopular opinion, but I just don't care about England versus Malta and North Macedonia when they amount to glorified friendlies on account of the Three Lions already having qualified for Euro 2024.

And there have been far too many of those too. Friendlies, I mean.

Still, they're the perfect opportunity, you'd think, to try out some new things and new players, new ideas. With the current left back crisis, my interest would change significantly if Gareth Southgate called up Alfie Doughty, but so far... nothing.

Instead, it's been two long weeks of watching, from afar, who might come back injured.

With Chiedozie Ogbene ruled out of the Republic of Ireland's games it wasn't positive viewing. The pace ace has been a revelation this term for Town. And the improvements in Issa Kaboré over the last month have been impressive. I suspect the coaching is starting to pay off.

So, it will be a blow to our viewing pleasure if the pair are ruled out of today's clash against Crystal Palace. But let's rejoice that proper football is back, eh!

It's not been all bad, this international break. The ten-point penalty for Everton means Town start today outside of the Premier League's bottom three.

I honestly thought we'd left financial strife behind in the Championship, where so many of Luton's rivals were breaking the bank just to get their feet under the top table. Wrong as that is, what's all that for if not to be financially carefree once in the big league?

Then again the world's upside down when this country's longest-serving top-flight team can't make the moneybags league work for them, while Luton got pilloried for not splashing all of their newfound cash. So, drink in that Premier League table as you chuckle at the naysayers.

If only football could learn from Luton's lesson in the last decade. Failing that, it's high time for the introduction of an independent financial regulator.

I know it's not a particularly sexy subject but even the King said it should happen, so do heads roll if it doesn't? Anyway, if you want to watch or hear more about that then please let me direct you to the Luton Town Supporters' Trust Podcast, which this term has had a YouTube glow-up.

The previous six seasons, we'd been audio only, but now you can watch the longest-running Hatters podcast and what amounts to me finally putting my film and television Luton University degree to good use 20 years after I earned it!

It's never too late, kids! And the same goes for Gareth Southgate, football finance regulators and, most importantly, a maiden Premier League victory at the Kenny. 🏆



Premier
League

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports



LUTON TOWN

1. JAMES SHEA
2. GABE OSHO
3. DAN POTTS
4. TOM LOCKYER
5. MADSEN 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
30. ANDROS TOWNSEND
38. JOE JOHNSON
45. ALFIE DOUGHTY



CRYSTAL PALACE

1. SAM JOHNSTONE
2. JOEL WARD
3. TYRICK MITCHELL
4. ROB HOLDING
5. JAMES TOMKINS
6. MARC GUÉHI
7. MICHAEL OLISE
8. JEFFERSON LERMA
9. JORDAN AYEW
10. EBERECHI EZE
11. MATHEUS FRANÇA
14. JEAN-PHILIPPE MATETA
15. JEFFREY SCHLUPP
16. JOACHIM ANDERSEN
17. NATHANIEL CLYNE
19. WILL HUGHES
22. ODSOONNE ÉDOUARD
23. MALCOLM EBIOWEI
26. CHRIS RICHARDS
28. CHEICK DOUCOURÉ
29. NAOUIROU AHAMADA
30. DEAN HENDERSON
31. REMI MATTHEWS
36. NATHAN FERGUSON
44. JAÏRO RIEDEWALD
49. JESURUN RAK-SAKYI

MATCH OFFICIALS



REFEREE - JARRED GILLET
ASSISTANT REFEREE - JAMES MAINWARING
ASSISTANT REFEREE - MATTHEW WILKES
FOURTH OFFICIAL - JAMES LININGTON
VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - ROBERT JONES
ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - IAN HUSSIN