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# LUTON TOWN V ARSENAL

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2023 | 8.15PM | KENILWORTH ROAD



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

# BRING THE NOISE!



NO A.I. WAS  
USED TO WRITE  
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PROGRAMME.





# WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

Does this game need any introduction? Well, for the purpose of filling this page it does! The Hatters welcome the league leaders, Arsenal, under the lights, on television, here at Kenilworth Road. For some of you, this will be the first time you will see the Town taking on the Gunners and if the last two home matches are anything to go by then we're in for a treat. So bring the noise and get behind the lads tonight. Come on Luton!



**05** ROB  
EDWARDS



**07** TOM  
LOCKYER



**08** FROM THE  
BOARDROOM



**26** WELCOME  
ARSENAL



**45** HATTERS  
HISTORY



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UPDATE



**80** SEASON  
SO FAR

A portrait of Rob Edwards, a man with short brown hair and a light beard, looking off to the side. He is wearing a dark navy blue quilted puffer jacket with a high collar and a drawstring waist. He is also wearing black Umbro gloves. The background is a dark, textured surface with a pattern of small, light-colored dots. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and jacket.

# ROB EDWARDS



**Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for a really exciting fixture as we host Arsenal, the Premier League leaders.**

I'd like to welcome everyone connected with Arsenal to Bedfordshire, in particular Mikel Arteta and his staff and players. Mikel and his team have done an amazing job so far this season and they are flying high. They are top of the league and playing some great football so tonight represents arguably our greatest challenge so far.

However if there's something I know, it's that our group of players can step up to big challenges and they, together with our staff, will have to do that if we are to get a positive result come 10pm this evening.

We've said all along, especially when we host some of the world's biggest clubs here at the Kenny, that these are the games, the nights, the weeks, we dreamt of when we won promotion. For many of you, having witnessed some dark days in this club's history, to be able to welcome Arsenal and then Manchester City – in the same week – might already seem incomprehensible. Yet here we are. So we have to savour it, and enjoy it. We will ensure that we will do all we can in order for you to leave the ground smiling come the final whistle.

I'm writing these notes the day after our 3-1 defeat at Brentford on Saturday. It was a tough afternoon and a match in which we didn't deserve anything from. We kept going towards the end but Thomas Frank's side were better on the day.

We've had a good debrief and know where we went wrong and where we have to

improve. Everyone knows that we need a good reaction tonight against Arsenal under the lights here.

The result and performance at Brentford was all the more frustrating after our fine home win over Crystal Palace which gave us our first home Premier League victory in our last home match.

It was a great feeling to be able to celebrate those three points after a great game of football and the wonderful performance that was capped by the way we won it late on.

I had said for many months that our performances in previous home games had warranted a better points return and now, having taken four points from our last two fixtures, we have go into tonight's game confident of building on that after the draw with Liverpool and the win over Crystal Palace.

Thank you again for your loyal support. It was freezing at Brentford on Saturday and the forecast is for another cold one tonight. We'll aim to keep you warm and happy with a performance you can be proud of.

Please continue to bring the noise, respect those around you in the crowd, and get behind us. We're going to need it – but we've shown already this season that if we're both at it, we're a match of any team in the Premier League.

Enjoy the game. 🥳







# TOM LOCKYER

**Arsenal at home under the lights at the Kenny. Mad really looking back at that sentence, isn't it. Without wishing to continually repeat myself every time we play a big side down here, it's what we all earned following last season's achievement.**

And gradually, as we thought before a ball was kicked this season, we are showing why we were anticipating the big boys coming to our place. We've made it tough for most of our visitors who have had to walk down our cramped tunnel before coming out onto our tight pitch with you within screaming earshot.

Our last two home games have shown that with four vital points. Of course in my last notes I touched on how disappointing it was to concede so late against Liverpool, so we knew – especially given how tough getting three points in the Premier League can be – that our match with Palace here was a big one. And we truly delivered. It was a great performance from everyone involved and I think those watching would agree we were full value for our victory.

The second half would have been a great watch for the neutral and I was so happy for everyone that we held on for the three points. I was delighted for Teden and Browney to get on the scoresheet and, yeah, we rode our luck at times, but you need that in any game, and the relief at the end knowing we'd secured that first home win was

there for all to see. It was a great feeling walking off the pitch celebrating with you.

Your support has been vital in ways you might not realise. On the face of it, your vocal backing has driven us on during games, it has been and intimidating for the opposition. Yet, for us the most special part of your support has the fact – no matter what the result – you have stayed with us, given us confidence, picked us up and inspired us to be better. Honestly, we appreciate it every time we walk onto the pitch and we never take it for granted.

We'll need all those elements tonight against an Arsenal side who visit our corner of Bedfordshire top of the table. It therefore represents our toughest assignment of the season. Therefore it goes without saying we need to bounce back from the frustration of Saturday's defeat at Brentford. For me personally it was disappointing to leave the field at half-time, and whether I am fit to be involved tonight remains to be seen.

We are a different animal here at home for reasons I've already mentioned but the lads and I feed off the atmosphere and love playing here so I'm looking forward to seeing us pit our wits against a team of Arsenal's quality knowing we will give any team a game on our own patch.

The brutal nature of the Premier League has been highlighted – thankfully – in games elsewhere this season and our results, and never-say-die attitude, give us plenty of confidence and reason to be positive this evening.

Get behind us like you always do and enjoy the game. 🏆





# FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
GARY SWEET

**Good evening and welcome one and all to Kenilworth Road for tonight's match with old adversaries, Arsenal.**

There will be many inside the ground for whom this fixture will be their first, yet over the course of our long and rich history, we have enjoyed many encounters against Arsenal. Supporters of an older generation will remember the times Arsenal were humbled; either here, like in our last league meeting in December 1991, or at Wembley, on our greatest of all days in 1988.

Today, the Gunners arrive top of the table and I wish warm greetings to our colleagues joining us from North London in the boardroom tonight, as well as the football staff who have worked wonders to give their fans a realistic hope of winning the Premier League title again.

Tonight then, we enter arguably the toughest pair of home fixtures in recent memory on the back of a wonderful home performance against Crystal Palace. After a steep learning curve, our home advantage really is starting to show where new players are feeling at home and our confidence is growing in front of an incredibly rapturous support.

Saturday's defeat at Brentford, however, was somewhat disappointing in contrast. A very disciplined performance in the first half

did exactly what it was intended to do only to be let down by a slow start to the second half. It's evidently clear where we need to improve and the staff and lads will be working hard to improve in those areas.

Of course, as newcomers to this league, the mountain is very steep and it will take time for us to find our footing on our ascent. Stepping back to observe our progress so far, it has to be acknowledged that our development in our physical outputs, our performances and our self-belief is all very encouraging as we remain firmly focussed on the very specific apex we need to reach this season.

Naturally, we remain obsessed with picking up points, and felt Saturday was a missed opportunity, certainly ahead of this coming week. But there is no reason why we can't sit here this time next week having accumulated more points than we have now, just as our home performance versus Liverpool proved.

At the end of the season, any new club surviving this league will have done so by picking up the odd point against opposition teams occupying the top five or six positions and our target shouldn't be any different.

These past few weeks and months have been a very important time for English football, which will hopefully all become increasingly evident to all over the next month or so.





You should all know that after the government's white paper and recent King's speech, the new regulator for football will become a reality with a phased introduction through parliament over the next year to 18 months.

Opinions within the game on the impact of the regulator are unsurprisingly mixed, polarising between some believing football in their world shouldn't require one, to a majority believing the football pyramid is becoming increasingly fragile without some form of overseeing authoritative protection.

Our view is that the involvement of a national regulator is a good thing as long as it doesn't become intrusion, which appears to be how it is shaping up.

Any regulator should be structured to protect the fabric of the game, any licensing criterion for clubs to adhere to in order for them to gain future protection and to oversee a more potent owners and directors qualification for clubs where, frankly, the current football authorities have always been legally powerless.

However, the line between authoritative supervision and intrusion will be fine. The Premier League, the FA and the EFL must be permitted to run the game – its operations, its rules and its own finances.

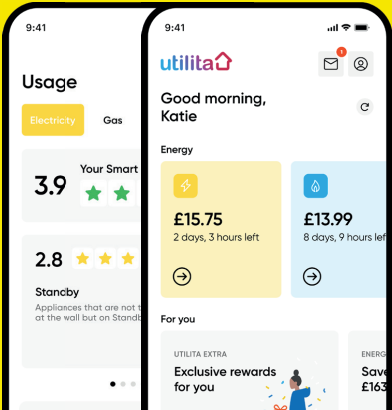
To demonstrate to the regulator that football can keep its own house in order a renegotiation between those three football authorities in this country has been taking place over the last couple of years to restructure financial distributions together with controls to prevent overspending. This agreement, once executed, will pass more money down the leagues but with spending caps to ensure that all clubs should be more sustainable going forward.

This may appear to be a dry topic for some, but it is possibly the biggest structural reform to our national game since we voted in favour of a Premier League breakaway almost 33 years ago.

Once made public we will share more of our thoughts on the matter. In the meantime, with our own sustainable rise over the last few years, we will be well-positioned to take advantage of this transition, if managed >

HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

SAVE LIKE  
DAVE



Energy that's  
proper smart.







carefully, to ensure that our progress continues soundly.

Turning attention back to tonight, this evening's game forms part of the Premier League's Rainbow Laces campaign, an initiative which is celebrating its ten year anniversary this season. It is important for us as a family club to make sure that Kenilworth Road and all of our club environments are those which feel welcome for anybody, and it's why we stand proudly alongside Stonewell in promoting equality and diversity.

Football has the power to bring us together, but the actions of a minority can also make life unbearable for others. As you may have read, we were fined £120,000 by the Football Association and warned to our future conduct after we accepted a charge following abusive, offensive, homophobic and discriminatory chanting by our supporters at Brighton on the opening day of the season.

As we mentioned in our statement, we abhor abusive chanting and adopt 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, and it is sad that our determined efforts on the pitch have been overshadowed by a minute minority watching from the stands.

We have 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, and you can read more about their work elsewhere in tonight's programme.

Tonight promises to be a special occasion and I am sure will bring a raucous, old fashioned atmosphere – one rarely seen in the Premier League.

So join me in wishing Rob and the lads all the best and get ready to raise the roof and show the watching world what we're all about for the right reasons.

Come on Luton! 🏆

Gary

# AROUND TOWN



## HATTERS TO HOST BOLTON IN FA CUP

The Hatters have been drawn at home to League One promotion chasers Bolton Wanderers in the third round of the FA Cup.

Ian Evatt's Trotters will visit Kenilworth Road the weekend of the 6th/7th January for a place in the fourth round.

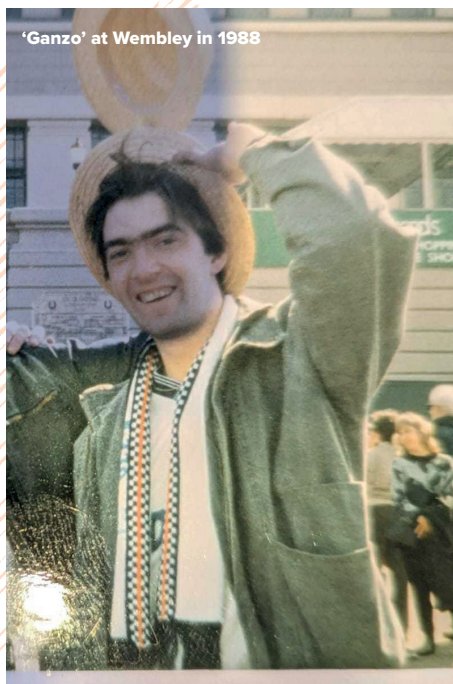
It will be the first time the two clubs have met since an FA Cup third round tie in the 1996/97 season. The Town held Wanderers to 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road with Marvin Johnson on target. However, it was Bolton that progressed to the next round after winning the replay 6-2 at Burnden Park.

Full ticket information will be announced in due course.

Further dates for you to take note of in your diaries, include two home fixtures for the development squad and youth team. A week tonight the Under-21s host Chelsea in the Premier League Cup (kick-off 7pm), before the Under-18s face Swindon Town in the third round of the FA Youth Cup on Friday 15th December (7pm). Tickets are available in advance, please see the official website or contact the ticket office for further information.

## REST IN PEACE, GANZO

Lifelong Hatter Bryan 'Ganzo' Gannon has sadly lost his battle against cancer, aged 62. Witty, intelligent and always great fun, Ganzo's love for Luton Town constantly shone through, whether that was in sending a set of kit to a village in Zambia, his legendary Ganzo International Tours (GIT!) including a memorable trip to Cesena in the Anglo-Italian Cup or many brilliant days out following the rip-roaring Hatters including Arsenal at Wembley. Much loved by Kath, Rhianne, Connor, Steve, family and friends.



'Ganzo' at Wembley in 1988





## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY LINDA & MALCOLM**

Huge congratulations to two ardent Town fans celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this week.

Linda and Malcolm Ginsberg have been lifelong Hatters supporters and they were joined by their family and friends at the Eric Morecambe Suite last Sunday to toast their golden wedding anniversary. Here's hoping for three points tonight to add to the celebrations!

## **DUO UP FOR MONTHLY AWARDS**

Town boss Rob Edwards and goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski have been nominated for a combined three awards for the month of November.

After holding Liverpool to a draw at Kenilworth Road and matching Manchester United for long spells in 1-0 defeat, the Hatters secured their first home win of the season by beating Crystal Palace.

Those results – and performances – have not gone unnoticed, and has

earned Edwards a nomination for the Premier League's Barclay's Manager of the Month. The manager faces competition for the award from Newcastle's Eddie Howe, Andoni Iraola of Bournemouth and Erik ten Hag of Manchester United.

Keeper Kaminski is in the line for two awards. The Belgian is one of six players – and only goalkeeper – to be shortlisted for the EA SPORTS Player of the Month award. No goalkeeper made more saves in November than the 31-year-old, with a number of the 15 saves particularly eye-catching across the three games.

One – or should we say two – of those saves has been nominated for the Castrol Save of the Month. Thomas' double-save to deny Eberechi Eze and Jeffrey Schlupp against Crystal Palace is in the running to win the award. It comes a month after his stop against Aston Villa was earned a nomination. Interestingly, one of the saves our goalkeeper faces competition for is one made against the Hatters – Andre Onana's excellent stop to deny Carlton Morris' goal-bound header is among the six stops in contention for November's prize.

Use the QR codes below to vote:

**THOMAS:**



**ROB:**





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## BRILLIANT HATTERS SECURE FIRST HOME PREMIER LEAGUE WIN

Hatters fans around Kenilworth Road were on their feet. Some were shouting, some were screaming. There were those who were whistling – howling even – and there were plenty frozen in silence, accepting they could do no more to influence the referee to blow the final whistle.

Eventually, at two minutes past five and after 13-and-a-half minutes of agonising injury time, that whistle came.


Relief and – for the first time at home this term – celebration. Goals from Teden Mengi and Jacob Brown gave the Hatters that elusive win on home soil after a breathless second half at the Old Girl.

Those baying for the full-time had every reason. Those who waited in silent anticipation were the same. For some they had never seen Luton Town win in the top-flight. Not for 11,537 days had the Hatters won here in Bedfordshire in the top division.

In a second half to remember – for its chaos, beauty and drama – the Town led when Alfie Doughty's left-wing corner found its way to Mengi at the backpost and he expertly guided home his first senior goal to cue pandemonium in the stands.

But two minutes later disaster struck. The feelgood factor around the place was ruthlessly cut by a moment of magic from Michael Olise. Straight from the restart, the winger flew down the right, cut inside and curled a wonderful shot beyond Thomas Kaminski, who had earlier repelled Palace with a number of smart stops. However, no keeper in the world was saving it as the Hatters cursed their luck.

To their credit the Hatters reset and went again and re-stored their advantage on 83 minutes. Chiedozie Ogbene delivered an inch-perfect cross into the heart of the Palace six-yard box. The pass caused the ultimate confusion in the Palace defence. They all asked questions: should we leave it? Should we clear it? Should Johnstone claim it? In the end, the indecision cost them and Brown made them pay.

Twelve additional minutes were added in which Palace hit the bar in the final minute of those but the Town held on to cue memorable scenes at the end and, importantly, three points. 

### Kenilworth Road – 25th November 2023

**Town:** Kaminski; Doughty, Bell, Lockyer (sub Brown 79), Mengi, Osho; Mpanzu (sub Clark 61), Barkley; Townsend (sub Chong 61), Ogbene, Morris (sub Adebayo 74).

**Subs not used:** Krul, Berry, Giles, Nelson, Luker.

**Palace:** Johnstone, Ward, Mitchell, Guehi, Olise, Lerma, Eze (sub Ayew 49), Schlupp (sub Ahamada 80), Andersen, Edouard (sub Mateta 80), Doucoure (sub Hughes 54).

**Sub not used:** Matthews, Holding, Ayew, Franca, Mateta, Clyne, Hughes, Richards, Ahamada.

### SCORERS:

**Town:** Mengi 72, Brown 83

**Palace:** Olise 74



2-1









 MATCH GALLERY



KODAK PORTRA 400

FREENOW



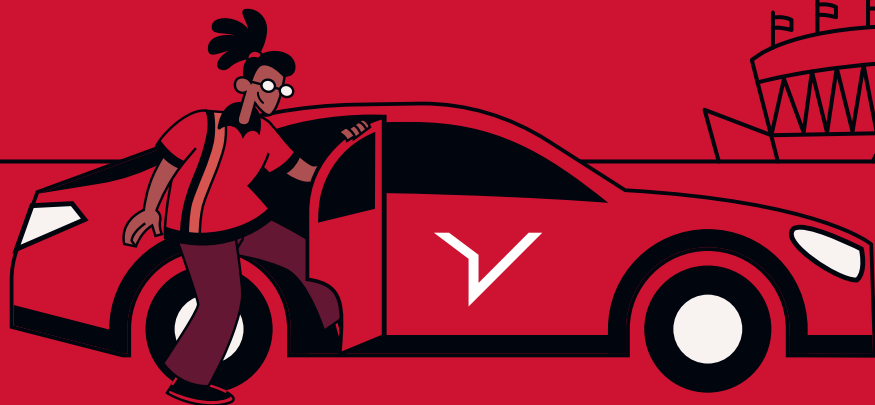
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# BROWN ON TOP OF THE WORLD

**Scotland international Jacob Brown netted his first-ever Premier League goal on his 250th career appearance during our win against Crystal Palace.**

"I'm on the top of the world," said Brown after scoring the winner against the Eagles.

"It's a crazy feeling, the three points was the main thing but for me to get my first Premier League goal was a great feeling.

"I think you could tell by the celebration that I didn't know what I was doing. The emotions were so high with the importance of the game and me wanting to get that first goal."

The frontman, who had scored earlier in the campaign in the Carabao Cup victory over Gillingham back in August, had extra cause for celebration having made his first start for Scotland in the week leading up to the Palace fixture.

"This week looking back has been one of the best weeks in my career," he said.

"It's been a week that I'll remember for a long time. To get my first start for Scotland, it was an unreal experience and a great feeling. It motivates me to do more, to keep working hard and keep getting this feeling throughout my career."

Brown's winner came after Palace had cancelled out Teden Mengi's earlier effort within minutes of the first goal.


On conceding so quickly after taking the lead, Brown said: "It's the same, everyone feels it, when the goal for us goes in, we all celebrate on the side as much as anyone on the pitch, same as the fans.

"So when they scored, it's disappointing, but we know we've just got to push on and luckily we got the winner.

"It's obviously frustrating as we've been in that position before and we have been working on just when we scored to compose ourselves. It's easier said than done, but the character we showed to then go and get the next goal and to hang on for the amount of time that we did, shows that we're ready for this league and we just want to keep pushing on."

The Hatters were first on BBC's Match of the Day with the dramatic second half clearly catching the eye of the programme's producers.

On prospect of seeing his goal on the Beeb's long-running show, Brown said: "I'm so buzzing, I'm going to watch it a few times, my missus will be fuming, I'll just be on my phone watching that all evening!

"We'll watch Match of the Day, but the main thing is the three points because as a team we're all just supporting each other. It's not about who scores, it's about getting the points and the team's performance, the staff as well. You can see we share that experience with the fans at the end, it means a lot to us." 



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## TOWN SLIP TO DEFEAT AT BRENTFORD

**A nightmare start to the second half helped condemn the Hatters to a defeat at Brentford.**

Having lost captain Tom Lockyer through injury at half-time, the Town conceded twice in a six-minute spell early in the second half to give the hosts a two-goal lead.

The Hatters, so often staying in games this season and scoring goals late in the final 15 minutes, added another to their tally when substitute Jacob Brown halved the deficit.

But the Bees made sure of victory with nine minutes left when Shandon Baptiste made it 3-1 to consign the Hatters to defeat.

The first half saw the Hatters defend well to keep the Bees at arms' length. Clear-cut chances were few and far between – especially for those supporting the Town with Carlton Morris relying on scraps.

Bryan Mbeumo had the hosts' first real effort that looked remotely dangerous on 37 minutes with a curling low shot that whistled just wide.

Getting to half-time goalless did not come without repercussions, however, as Lockyer remained on the turf inside the penalty area as the players headed for the dressing room and the skipper would not reappear for the second half and was replaced by Brown.

But with the Town still rearranging themselves in defence, it took Brentford four minutes after the restart to take the lead when Neal Maupay tucked home from close range after the Hatters failed to clear their lines.

And on 56 minutes the hosts doubled their lead. Mbeumo's corner was met by Ben Mee and the defender's header was deflected off striker Morris giving Thomas Kaminski no chance.

Chances for the Hatters remained slim but just as Brentford appeared to take their foot off the gas, out of the blue, substitute Brown finished well on his left foot from just inside the penalty area after Ross Barkley's through ball. 2-1 with 13 minutes left.

But hopes of a comeback similar to the draw at Nottingham Forest earlier in the campaign were dashed when the Bees made the game safe with eight minutes left when Baptiste found the net.

# 3-1

**Gtech Community Stadium –  
2nd December 2023**

**Bees:** Flekken, Pinnock, Norgaard, Maupay (sub Peart-Harris 90+2), Wissa, Onyeka, Mee, Mbeumo (sub Lewis-Potter 78), Ghoddos (sub Roerslev 77), Janelt, Yarmoliuk (sub Baptiste 70).

**Subs not used:** Stakosha, Goode, Zanka, Olakigbe, Angelini.

**Town:** Kaboré, Bell, Mengi (sub Giles 76), Lockyer (sub Brown 46), Osho; Mpanzu (sub Clark 60), Barkley; Ogbene (sub Townsend 60), Chong, Morris (sub Adebayo 60).

**Subs not used:** Krul, Berry, Johnson, Nelson.

### GOALS:

**Brentford** - Maupay 49, Mee 56, Baptiste 81

**Town** - Brown 77









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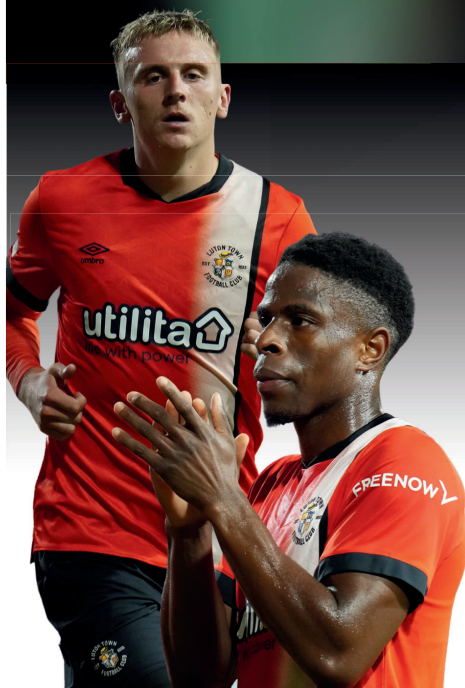
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# BELL HOPING FOR BOUNCEBACKABILITY

**Amari'i Bell urged the Hatters to bounce back from Saturday's "disappointing" defeat at Brentford when they entertain Premier League leaders Arsenal at Kenilworth Road tonight.**

Asked whether the atmosphere in the Town dressing room was good following the 3-1 loss at the Gtech Community Stadium, the Jamaica international said: "Yes, it's still positive. It's just one game.

"We know that we have to bounce back because obviously they are all key games, but we've got two big games against some good teams coming up, so we have to keep the right mentality."


The Hatters pulled a goal back to make it 2-1 with Jacob Brown's second goal in as many games, and after conceding a third to Shandon Baptiste in the 81st-minute, thought they had a lifeline when Tahith Chong headed an Andros Townsend cross home late on, only for a linesman's flag to correctly rule the effort out for offside.

"We showed that we we've got that never say die attitude, especially towards the end of the game, so it's important," said Bell. "It's disappointing that Chong's goal was offside, but we are still positive that we can keep on going to the final whistle."

After Tom Lockyer departed the action at half-time through injury and vice-captain Carlton Morris was substituted on the hour, Bell was handed the armband for the final half-an-hour.

It was the first time he had worn it since joining the Hatters from Blackburn Rovers in the summer of 2021, and he added: "(It was) the first time and despite the result, it was good for me. It was a good opportunity for me to be one of those leader players in the team."

Next come Mikel Arteta's Gunners and Pep Guardiola's England and European champions, Manchester City on Sunday at Kenilworth Road.

"We go into those two games with our heads held high, positive," said Bell. "We have to put today's game behind us and move on quickly because the next game is around the corner, and we need to show the right attitude." 





# WELCOME ARSENAL

**Tonight we welcome Mikel Arteta's strong Arsenal side to Kenilworth Road for a big game under the lights. After finishing runners-up in the Premier League last season, the Gunners have started the season well and are flying high at the top end of the table.**

Arsenal opened their account for the season with a comfortable 2-1 win over Nottingham Forest before beating Crystal Palace 1-0 in their next game. This was followed with a 2-2 draw with Fulham before an impressive 3-1 home victory over Manchester United.

Within just a few games of the season, it was clear Arsenal would be contenders yet again this season. They also got off to a great start in their return to the Champions League with an emphatic 4-0 win over PSV Eindhoven.

The Gunners picked up a solid point at home to local rivals Tottenham Hotspur following a 2-2 draw. Another big result after this was beating Manchester City 1-0 after a late deflected striker from Gabriel Martinelli. Arsenal yet again proving they are here to compete at the top of the table.

There were wins against Sevilla and Sheffield United before Arteta's side lost their unbeaten streak in the league after losing 1-0 to Newcastle United. The Gunners responded well to this with wins over Burnley and Brentford.

Arsenal have bolstered their squad further this season and were active in the summer transfer market. Kai Havertz, Jurrien Timber, Declan Rice and David Raya were all brought to the Emirates Stadium for the following campaign – Rice being the marquee signing for a fee of over £100m.

The Gunners possess some generational talent in their young side with emerging stars like Bukayo Saka, Martinelli and Martin Odegaard performing well each week.

Arteta's side have a very settled team full of players who know their roles within the team very well. The Gunners were only five points off the title last season and are well in the race to win it this year.

Lastly, a warm welcome to everyone associated with Arsenal, we hope you enjoy your time at Kenilworth Road.



# MEET THE GUNNERS

## THE BOSS



**MIKEL ARTETA.** The Spaniard graced the midfield of the Premier League for over a decade with Everton and then Arsenal before taking the managerial position with the Gunners in 2019, winning the FA Cup in his second season in charge.

## GOALKEEPER



**DAVID RAYA.** Stopper currently vying for the number one spot with Aaron Ramsdale. Barcelona-born, he began his professional career with Blackburn before moving to Brentford for £3m and is currently on-loan from the Bees.

## DEFENDERS



**GABRIEL.** Commanding Brazilian centre-half who joined the Gunners for a fee in the region of £27m from French club Lille in 2020.



**WILLIAM SALIBA.** French central defender William signed for Arsenal in 2019 from Saint-Etienne and has now established his position in the team following loans at Nice and Marseille.



**TAKEHIRO TOMIYASU.** Japan international who arrived at Emirates Stadium from Italian club Bologna in 2021. Originally moved from Japan to Belgium with Sint-Truiden.



**BEN WHITE.** Englishman Ben signed for the Gunners for £50m from Leeds in July 2021 following a string of impressive loan spells, including at Leeds, where he won the Championship in 2020.



**OLEKSANDR ZINCHENKO.** Left-sided defender, also capable of playing further forward, Ukrainian international Oleksandr signed from Manchester City for a reported £32m in July 2022.

## MIDFIELDERS



**KAI HAVERTZ.** German international Kai has a wealth of experience despite being just 24. Shot to prominence at Bayer Leverkusen, joining Chelsea in 2020 before switching across London this summer.



**JORGINHO.** Experienced Brazil-born Italian midfielder and another player who swapped Chelsea for Arsenal this summer. Also previously with Napoli, he won Euro 2020(!) with Italy.



**MARTIN ODEGAARD.** Gifted Norwegian playmaker and current Gunners captain who signed in 2021. Joined Real Madrid for €3 million aged just 16 before various loan spells up until signing for Arsenal.



**DECLAN RICE.** Summer signing from West Ham for a reported £100m to become the most expensive English player ever. Made over 200 Premier League appearances for the Hammers and made his England debut in 2019.



**LEANDRO TROSSARD.** Belgian international midfielder, who can also play in attack, who signed in the last January transfer window from Brighton. Started his career in Belgium with Genk.

## ATTACKERS



**EDDIE NKETIAH.** England forward with five goals already to his name in the Premier League this season. Made his Gunners debut in September 2017 in the Europa League and spent the first half of the 2019/20 season on loan at Leeds.



**GABRIEL JESUS.** Brazilian international forward who signed for the Gunners from Manchester City at the start of last season having won the Premier League title four times with the Citizens.



**GABRIEL MARTINELLI.** Another attacker from Brazil, Gabriel arrived at Emirates Stadium in 2019 shortly after his 18th birthday. Only 22, he has already surpassed 100 Premier League appearances.



**BUYAKO SAKA.** England international winger who came through the ranks at Emirates Stadium to become one of the Gunners' first names of the teamsheet. Made his England debut in October 2020 against Wales.



**SUBSTITUTE ASHLEY GRIMES CARRIES OFF MARK STEIN AT THE END**



# CLASSIC MATCH



**CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS BACK ON THE TIME THE TOWN FINALLY OVERCAME THE GUNNERS IN THE FA CUP**

## 5TH MARCH 1986 LUTON TOWN 3-0 ARSENAL. FA CUP 5TH ROUND 2ND REPLAY.

With the Town enjoying their best season since returning to the top flight in 1982, the time was ripe for a good run in the FA Cup in 1985/86.

Unlike the previous year, when the run through to the semi-final was set against a backdrop of a fight against relegation, matters on the pitch were now much more stable.

The road to Wembley started with a trip to Crystal Palace of Division Two (now the Championship) on a bog of a pitch which had been made worse by tenants Charlton playing on it the day before. In a tight contest, with the pitch a great leveller, the

Hatters finally won through 2-1 with goals from Brian Stein and David Preece.

The pitch was never going to be a leveller in the next round with the artificial surface at Kenilworth Road encouraging ball control and slick passing to feet. This meant that Bristol Rovers of Division Three (now League One) did not stand a chance with the Town running out comfortable 4-0 victors.

Next up was a home tie against Arsenal which had added spice due to the fiery and ill-tempered league meeting at Highbury between the sides a few weeks before. Record receipts of £60,000 were generated by a crowd of 15,799 who saw a pulsating contest finish 2-2 in a game the Town should have won. Ricky Hill gave the Town an early



**NUMBER 1 ON THIS DAY:  
CHAIN REACTION  
DIANA ROSS**



lead before Graham Rix levelled soon after. David Rocastle then put the Gunners ahead against the run of play before Mick Harford brought the score back to 2-2 six minutes from the break.

Try as they might the Hatters could not find a way through after the interval and only a magnificent block tackle by Arsenal's David O'Leary prevented Brian Stein from netting the winner.

The gloss was taken off the contest when Arsenal manager Don Howe accused the Hatters - and Mick Harford in particular - of "bludgeoning" tactics which filled the newspaper columns. Little mention was made of the injury to Brian Stein which would keep him out for several weeks.

The much-hyped replay was postponed due to the failure of the Highbury under-soil heating and when the game was eventually given the go ahead only four days remained before the quarter-finals were due to take place. In truth the replay should not have started as the Highbury pitch was treacherous and left the players slithering about on thick ice. If ever there was an advert for an artificial pitch!

No goals were scored in normal time and with extra time also remaining scoreless, the toss of a coin took the second replay back to Kenilworth Road only 48 hour later – the tie had to be fought to a finish.

Given the short notice, 13,251 still turned up at Kenilworth Road to witness the latest instalment which turned out to be another of those famous nights under the lights.

This time the Hatters were rewarded for their relentless attacking play with skipper Steve Foster opening the scoring with a half-volley on 23 minutes, Arsenal's David O'Leary putting through his own goal just after the interval and Mark Stein adding the

icing to the cake with a third ten minutes from time. Every man played to his fullest potential which gave rise to comments in the press that this was the best Luton performance since David Pleat took charge. Pleat did not disagree.

This time Don Howe, shortly to lose his job, agreed that the Town were worthy winners.

Sadly, the story does not have a happy ending as the quarter-final, against Everton, took place only three days later with another capacity crowd at Kenilworth Road witnessing a 2-2 draw with a tiring Town allowing a two-goal lead to slip. A single Gary Lineker strike settled the tie in the replay four days later at Goodison Park. 🏆



**TOWN:** Sealey, Johnson, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas, Hill, Nicholas, Preece, King, Harford, Mark Stein,

**ARSENAL:** Lukic, Anderson, O'Leary, Keown, Sansom, Williams, Rocastle, Allison, Hayes (Quinn), Nicholas, Mariner.

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**A HATTER AND A GUNNER**

Luton Town scout Cyril Beach recommended several Welsh youngsters to the Hatters with John Hartson another off the conveyor belt signing professional terms in December 1992.

Scoring on his League debut at the start of the following campaign, John's precocious talents came to the fore during the famous televised win over Newcastle in the FA Cup in February 1994.

The big clubs came sniffing around and Arsenal paid a record fee for a teenager of £2.5 million for the powerful striker in 1995 and became a regular for Wales and enjoyed several big money moves in both this country and Scotland.



**GREAT GAMES**

24TH APRIL 1988  
LUTON TOWN 3-2 ARSENAL

While there have been many memorable games with the Gunners down the years – admittedly none for a few years – it would be remiss to not tick this one on this page.

After 103 years of trying, and in copybook fashion, the Hatters finally won a major trophy in one of the most memorable Wembley

finals of all time, lifting the League Cup in this five-goal thriller.

The Hatters lead thanks to Brian Stein's early strike but in the second period Arsenal roar back to lead 2-1.

Andy Dibble's wonderful penalty save to deny Nigel Winterburn is the turning point and instead of behind 3-1 down the Hatters level through Danny Wilson's close-range header.

In a dramatic climax, Ashley Grimes crosses for Stein to finish brilliantly with all but the last kick of the game and the Town can celebrate what many still believe to be the greatest of great games.

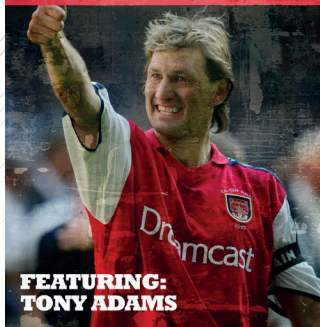


## CLASSIC KIT

They might be simple red and white colours but Arsenal players and fans have had some lovely kits to don over the years. Their 'bruised banana' away shirt is rightly revered – but we'll try not to focus on the yellow colours for obvious reasons. For whatever reason our eyes are constantly drawn to any Arsenal shirt with JVC on the front – but on this occasion and for something different, we'll plump with their 2005/06 offering. That season Arsenal wore a specially commissioned burgundy kit, a reference to the colour players wore back in the 1880s when the club was first formed. Close your eyes and you can still picture Thierry Henry scoring goals with a golden '14' on the back.

**FRENCH FANCY**

## CULT HERO



**FEATURING:  
TONY ADAMS**

## CULT HERO: TONY ADAMS

Where do you even start with this one? The list is endless. Boring selection, but is there a player or human being that embodies Arsenal, grit, determination and – importantly – a winning mentality than **Tony Adams**? Their very own captain fantastic, his leadership qualities helped the Gunners to the very top. A one-club man, Adams overcame his own personal issues off the pitch, but not once let that effect his performances on the pitch. A man who will forever remain in the hearts of Gunners fans.

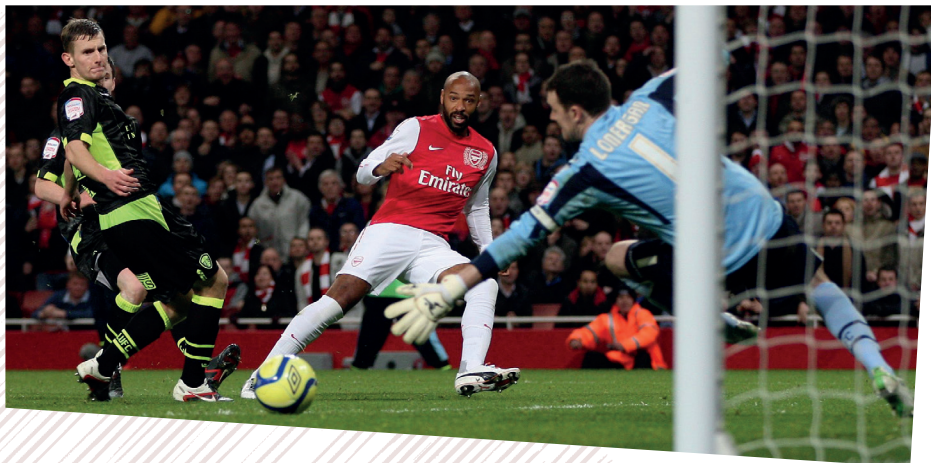


## VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD END

**WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE AN ARSENAL SUPPORTER THESE DAYS WHEN YOU WERE BROUGHT UP WATCHING THE INVINCIBLES? GUNNERS FANS LIAM ROWAN EXPLAINS.**

While our visitors Arsenal go into this fixture at the top of the Premier League table, it has been almost 20 years since their last title which has included highs and lows for 28-year-old Gunners fan Liam Rowan.





Seeing the Invincibles in his first-ever Arsenal game, a win against Fulham at Loftus Road in the penultimate game of the 2003/04 season, it has been a long wait to see his boyhood club see Premier League success again.

“I was born into supporting Arsenal,” says Liam, who has a season ticket on the halfway line at Emirates Stadium. “When I grew up all of my family were fans. I would wear my older brother’s kits when I was young and then at five years old, I was playing football, so I was watching Arsenal more on TV.

“My dad, brother and cousin are the main reason why. It did help that Arsenal were one of the best teams in the league when I was growing up.

“Thierry Henry was in his prime when I was young and I adored him, it helped when I was that age to follow a team when he was playing in it.”

One of Liam’s main memories of Arsène Wenger’s Arsenal growing up was their involvement in the 2006 Champions League final and the media frenzy surrounding the fixture in the days leading up to the final with Barcelona.

“I was in year six when we were in the Champions League final, at the time it

just felt like a massive game. Getting the newspapers on the way home from school and it was all building up to that game. Even though we didn’t win it, it was a highlight seeing us play on that stage.”

Liam described that other special memories supporting Arsenal over the last two decades have included the multiple FA Cup successes in the last decade and triumphing in many North London derbies at Emirates Stadium.

Regarding the strong start to this season, Liam believes that Manchester City are going to be tough to beat over 38 games, but this current Arsenal side can topple the current treble winners.

“This season we need to just keep doing what we’re doing, we have to stay within six points of Manchester City and be top or around the top by the end so we are in a position to capitalise if we can while trying to go as far as possible in the Champions League.

“The players we’ve got now are a lot better than the ones we’ve had for a long time. Mikel Arteta is a massive reason why we are able to believe we can hit those heights again.

“The players believe, and the fans believe. When you add that to the quality of players that we’ve got, then we’ve got a chance to be successful this season.”





## « HATTERS REWIND »

**Club historian Roger Wash looks back on the life and career of former Hatter and football pioneer Bill Julian.**

In 1989 I was invited to Enfield to spend a few hours in the company of a sprightly elderly gentleman Harry Julian, then well into his 90s, who recounted tales of his father, the celebrated Bill Julian who not only was the first professional captain of (Woolwich or Royal) Arsenal but also went on to become skipper of Luton in our early days of professionalism.

Born in Boston, Lincolnshire in 1866, and one of nine children, Bill joined the local Excelsiors club at the age of 18 and while starring in a friendly game against the then amateur Royal Arsenal in 1889, which his



side won 5-2, he was invited to play for the London side on promise of work at the munitions factory.

He went on to enjoy several good seasons at Arsenal during which time he picked up six medals and became captain at the time the club embraced professionalism. His son recalled stories of Bill playing against Baden-Powell (of Boy Scout fame) and also the most famous sportsman of the day CB Fry.

Luton Town, who had started paying their players just before those of by then Woolwich Arsenal, pulled off one of football's earliest 'deals' by offering more money to Julian to entice him to Bedfordshire in 1892.

Hatters secretary Isaac Smith carried out the negotiations for this coup but also managed to convince Julian that he should continue to live in Plumstead and also work at the munitions factory where he was employed as a steam hammer operative.

Not only were Luton picking up a 'star' footballer who would adequately take the place of the recently departed 'Hod'





Paul but also no outside job or house would need to be provided.

Bill was immediately made captain and the selection committee put their trust in him to deal with tactical and disciplinary aspects straight away. He was also encouraged to find out if any of the professionals at Arsenal, who now had a squad bloated by expensive Scottish imports, would fancy a trial at Luton. Tapping up is not new!

Julian had two seasons at Luton during which time, alongside such players as Arthur Taylor and Hugh Galbraith, the Town boasted one of the strongest sides in the south as confirmed by their 1-0 FA Cup win at Wembley Park against Old Westminsters in 1893. It was reported that after this great victory the triumphant team was greeted by a massive crowd of well wishers at Luton railway station.

Unfortunately, the ploy of Isaac Smith in saving money at Julian's expense rebounded when, after travelling 2,604 miles to play for Luton in season 1893/94 and also learning that the likes of Hugh Galbraith were on higher wages, the stalwart half-back asked for a transfer and accepted a move back to London to play for Tottenham.

After spells at Dartford and Shepherds Bush, Bill uprooted his family and spent six successful years coaching Haarlem FC in Holland and then watching as his son (Harry's brother Joe was also confusingly known as 'Bill') coached Roermondache to the Dutch championship on two occasions.

Bill senior moved back to England and worked at RSAF (Royal Small Arms Factory) in Enfield Lock before retiring, remaining in Enfield for the rest of his life. On his golden wedding anniversary in 1938 he appeared on the popular radio programme 'In Town Tonight' where he spoke of his life in football. The telegram sent by Luton Town on this occasion was among his son's mementoes.

Bill passed away in Enfield in 1957 at the age of 89.

The photo of Bill in his Luton Town strip in 1892 on this page reputedly hung in the 'marble halls' of Highbury – minus the iconic eight-pointed star Luton badge! 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

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# LET'S GO

**KENILWORTH ROAD**  
**SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2023**  
**KICK OFF: 2:00PM**

## WHO?

The reigning treble winners, Manchester City, are our next visitors to Kenilworth Road. Pep Guardiola's side swept all before them last season, winning Premier League, FA Cup and, for the first time in their history, the Champions League. This season they are aiming to make history by becoming the first team in English football to become champions four times in a row. They first won the Premier League in 2011/12 (Agüero and all that), their first championship since 1967/68.

## KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

The Town meet City at Kenilworth Road for the first time since a 1-1 draw in November 1998 with Gary Doherty scoring the Hatters goal. The Town are unbeaten in their last eight meetings between the two sides on Bedfordshire soil having won four and drawn, the last victory coming courtesy of a 3-1 League Cup triumph in November 1988. Overall, the record at the Kenny against City is 11 wins from 25. City have won six of those, but you have to go back to September 1980 for our visitors' last success here: a 2-1 win.

## THE CITY OF TODAY

Guardiola's side have begun the season in which they hope to make history in good form, but face competition for the Premier League crown with a number of sides this term. City began the campaign with six successive victories but have since won three of their last seven games prior to Saturday's game with Tottenham. Away from the Etihad, they have taken four points from a possible 12 in their last four trips on the road, losing at Wolves and Arsenal, beating Manchester United and drawing 4-4 at Chelsea.

## WATCH OUT FOR

All eyes will be on Erling Haaland as the Norway striker makes his first appearance at Kenilworth Road. The 23-year-old enjoyed a remarkable first season at the Etihad, scoring 52 goals in 53 matches in all competitions as City won the treble. He's already the leading scorer in the Premier League this time around with his career tally a mind-boggling 226 goals in 272 games. He started his career in Norway with spells at Bryne and Molde, before moving to Red Bull Salzburg in Austria. From there, a move to Borussia Dortmund saw his stock rise further before a £51m move to City in the summer of 2022.



**THE HATTERS**



**THE CITIZENS**



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## 23: TIM KRUL



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## 24: THOMAS KAMINSKI



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## 28: RYAN GILES



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## ROB EDWARDS



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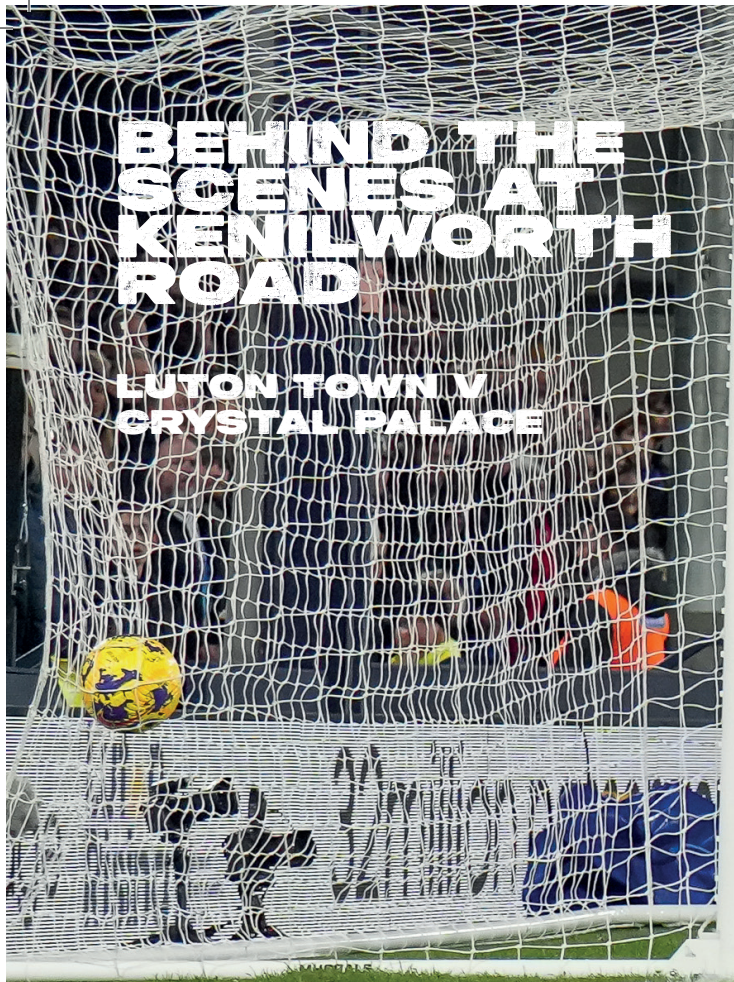


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LUTON TOWN V  
CRYSTAL PALACE









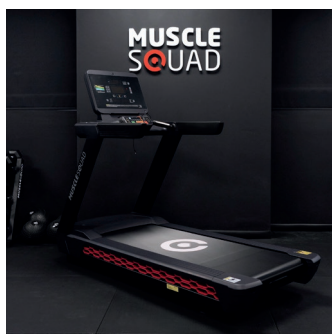
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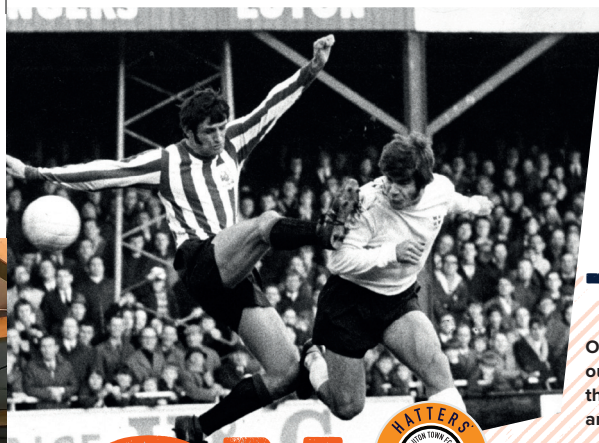
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# ON THIS DAY



**5TH DECEMBER**

## CLASSIC MATCH!

**TOWN 2-1 SHEFFIELD UNITED  
5TH DECEMBER 1970**

A top-of-the-table four-pointer sees the Town hold on to beat a Sheffield United side unbeaten in their last 16 league matches.

Striker Malcolm Macdonald put the Hatters in front and it was 2-0 when Jimmy Ryan doubled the Town's lead to send the majority of 20,000 crowd into raptures. Tony Currie reduces the Town's two-goal advantage from the spot after Jack Bannister trips Billy Dearden, and the Blades pressurise until the final whistle – but the Town hold on.

Town: Read, John Ryan, Bannister, Hoy, Nicholl, Slough, Jimmy Ryan, Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens.

## THE RECORD

Overall, Hatters teams from the past have come out winners more times than they have lost over the years – especially in the years between 1891 and 1970!

The Town won three of their first four and won in total seven of their first 11 matches played on 5th December but in the past eight games, Hatters teams have just won once, and that came against West Ham's kids in a Checkatrade Trophy tie in 2017.

In that first match in 1891, Clifton were beaten 3-0 in an FA Cup fourth qualifying round tie and 12 years later, Arsenal's London rivals Spurs were beaten at our old Dunstable Road ground in 1903 in the Southern League.

Another FA Cup win came on this day against Oxford City in 1914, and it wasn't until 1936 that the Town won their first Football League match played on 5th December when Aldershot were beaten 3-2 in Division Three (South) with Joe Payne scoring one of the Town's goals.

We had to wait on tenterhooks for our next game on this day – 17 years to be exact – when Bury were beaten 3-2 before a crowd of over 15,000 in 1953 with record appearance holder Bob Morton and record goalscorer Gordon Turner scoring two of the Town's goals.

Three years later, in what was the first match the Town had played on this date in the top division, the Hatters shared six goals against Leicester at Filbert Street.

The next win would come in an FA Cup tie against Gillingham in 1964, a Gordon Riddick goal giving the Town a 1-0 victory at Kenilworth Road.

Sheffield United were then seen off here in 1970 – more on that to the left – and then the wait for glory again on 5th December had to wait until the game against West Ham in 2017.

Among some of the games that saw the Town lose, included an infamous FA Cup defeat at home to Hull in 1998. The Tigers were bottom of the Football League at the time but headed back to Humberside with a 2-1 win, even despite a brilliant solo goal from the Hatters' Steve Davis.

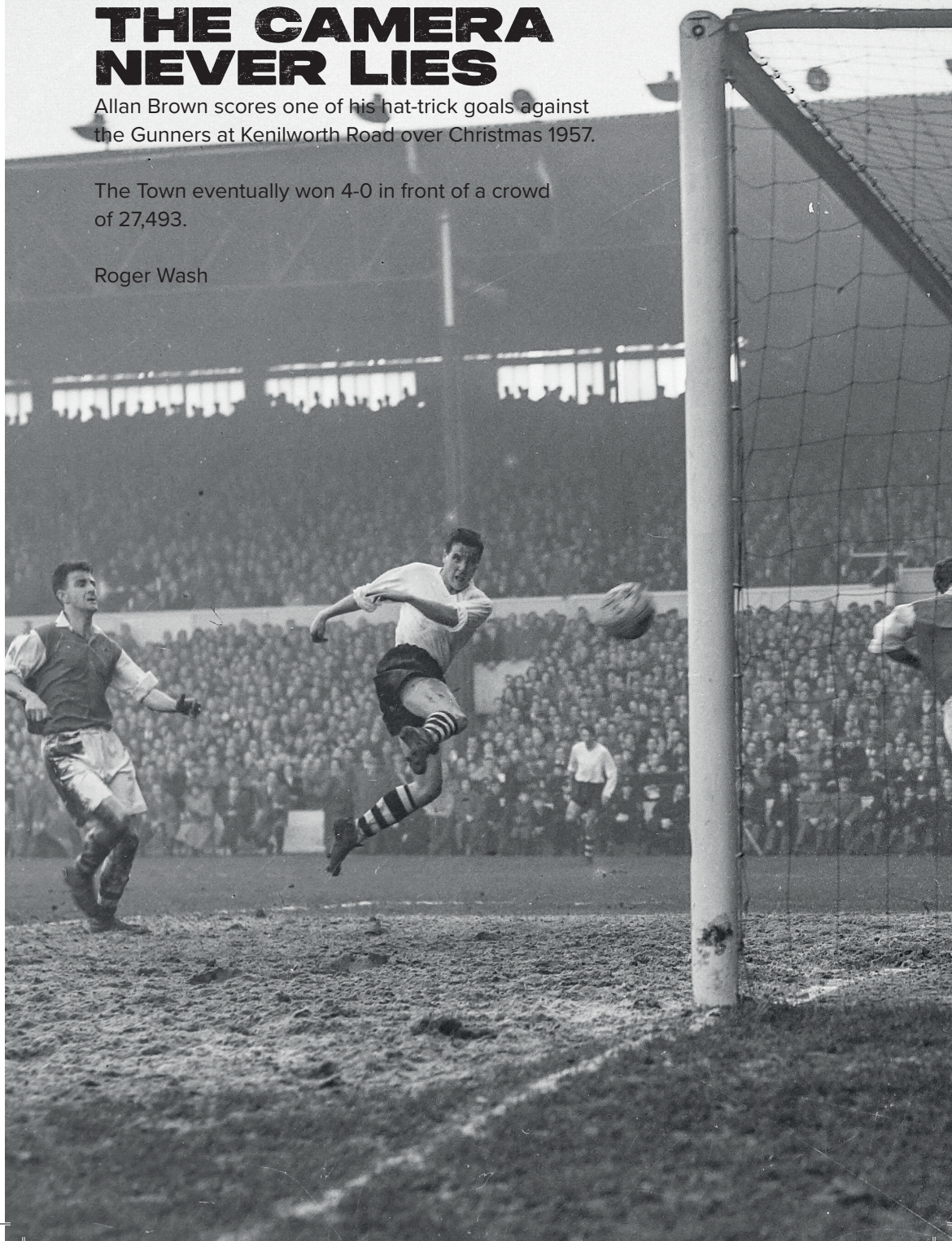


# THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Allan Brown scores one of his hat-trick goals against the Gunners at Kenilworth Road over Christmas 1957.

The Town eventually won 4-0 in front of a crowd of 27,493.

Roger Wash











# CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS YOU'LL NEVER SING THAT!

HE HOLDS A CLUB RECORD FOR THE MOST CLEAN SHEETS FOR A GOALKEEPER IN A SINGLE SEASON AND HE ADMITS HE ENJOY HAVING BARELY HAD ANYTHING TO DO BUT WATCH SOME GREAT FOOTBALL IN FRONT OF HIM AS THE TOWN WON THE CONFERENCE IN 2013/14. THERE IS, OF COURSE, ONLY ONE MARK TYLER.







**"I'm not being horrible," Mark Tyler says, honestly, seriously, "but I didn't want to come the season the club had points deductions."**

To be fair, who could blame him? The Hatters, unjustly on their way out of the league, were not the most appetising of propositions in the summer of 2008.

However, a year passed. Still out of favour at boyhood club Peterborough – where he was given his debut by a certain John Still at the age of 17 – the lure of Luton was eventually too hard to turn down once Mick Harford (there's a legendary theme here already) picked up the phone again 12 months later.

It was at that point that the love affair started. 297 appearances across the best part of seven years and, in 2013/14, that success that everybody connected with the club craved: promotion back to Football League.

As we all know, from the point Tyler signed to finally achieving that aim... took a little time, let's say. There were highs, lows, missed penalties and offside goals. Life for the goalkeeper at Kenilworth Road was never straightforward.

"I'd always been a number one and that's the main reason why I came to Luton," says Tyler, who left Peterborough as goalkeeping coach this summer and is now helping a friend's landscape gardening business. It's the first time in 30 years he's had his weekends free. "It's nice," he says.

"Yes, Luton were in the Conference," he continues. "But they were a big club in that

league, and we expected to come straight back up that year. The squad we had was a great one and we underachieved.

"The main reason now for joining was the atmosphere, though. Playing at the Kenny most weeks in front of the crowd was amazing. The crowd were right on top of you, it was a small pitch, as an away player it was always noisy for just 10,000; it was intimidating, it was the main reason for joining to experience that as a home player.

"I expected us to go up with the squad we had, but football's a funny old game. We were a big fish in that league and everyone wanted to beat us. The York semi-final in that first season was a killer."

The next two seasons saw the Town suffer back-to-back heartache in the finals, losing firstly to AFC Wimbledon and then to old foes York again.

However, despite the agony, Tyler wasn't going anywhere.

"The Wimbledon final was frustrating because we played them three times and didn't concede a goal. We had chances in the game and we played okay. But it was gut-wrenching. We took a lot of fans, as always, but I didn't watch them lift the trophy, I was straight into the dressing room. I was like 'get me out of here'.

"I still wanted to be there, I wanted to get Luton back into the Football League.

"As for York... This is where you need VAR! It was such a clear offside. I think for games like this, for such a big game, you should have a Football League referee. It was annoying because we started so well. Andre scored after three minutes and they scored ➡

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a good goal. I don't know what they couldn't see it. He was four yards in front of me. We all went to the linesman but he said, 'no, it's onside'. But that's football – you have to deal with these situations.

"But I absolutely had no intention of leaving after that. The great thing about that game was coming out of the tunnel, it was a sea of orange, the fans were unreal. It was heartbreaking to lose again but the 30,000 fans were immense... why would you want to leave?

"I always played with my heart on my sleeve. I'm not big headed with what I've done in my career. Yes, I've had some good games, I don't boast. My job was to keep the ball out the net. I had seven great years and wouldn't change it for the world. I probably played my best football there, I loved it."

The 2012/13 season saw the Hatters record their worst-ever finish in non-league, however, for Tyler the history-making victory over Norwich will live long in the memory with his family and friends there to witness the 1-0 win.

Manager Paul Buckle's tenure would come to an end only a few months after that epic

triumph, and it would be that man Still who would pick up the reins. It was an appointment that would go on to become a significant part of turning around the club's fortunes.

"John gave me my debut at Peterborough; he'd won the Conference so many times, he knew how to do it," says. "Fans perhaps didn't like his style early on, but it was effective. Andre Gray didn't start the first 10 games but still got 30 goals. It was an incredible season. We knew we were going to win every game, and never looked like losing.

"The stand out for me was Hereford away, we drew 0-0. It wasn't great, but Andre cleared two off the line. He did his job. It was little things like that. For me it was relaxing, we knew we'd score goals and we knew we could keep clean sheets. Steve McNulty was the best centre-back I'd ever played with. Ronnie Henry, the captain, the Barnet game will always stick out. It was the coldest game ever.

"The thing we were missing in previous seasons was consistency. Once we got on a roll there was no stopping us. John Still did such a good job to get us together as a ➤



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unit but he gave us the feeling we weren't going to lose. After the first 15 games we got into our stride, we got on our roll, and taking draws like we did at Hereford, kept us going and believing."

The Town kept a record 23 clean sheets that season – exactly half of the season – with the final one coming on the last day of the campaign at Hyde.

"John came to me, Macca and Scotty [Griffiths]. We were the three players that had played every game that season and asked us if we wanted to play in the last one.

"He knew what I was like. I wanted to play last game. Keep a clean sheet and break the record which we did and it was a proud moment.

"But that season was great. I was loving it. Some of the games, I'd come home and Cindy, my wife, would ask 'how did you get on?' I was like 'I didn't have much to do, but I watched a really nice game of football!'

"Everyone asked me whether or not I enjoyed being busy but it was a pleasure to watch the guys that season – some of the goals we scored were unreal."

Having played every minute of the season as the Town went up as champions, he played 31 times in the Football League the following campaign but after 27 games in 2015/16, Tyler's time at Kenilworth Road came to an end.

"Unfortunately I got injured in Nathan Jones' first match in charge and then I knew at that time that Peterborough wanted me back as a player/coach and it was the right decision at the time," he says

"I didn't want to keep playing and getting injured. Nathan then took the club to a different level, got them promoted, then he left and Mick took over and now Rob's come in and done a great job and hopefully everyone will stick together and help the club stay in the Premier League."

Nine years after being a part of the Town side that won the first, arguably hardest, promotion, Tyler watched on proudly as the Hatters were promoted to the top-flight at Wembley last May.

"I remember watching the play-off final and when Joe Taylor scored, thinking 'wow' – then for him to step up in the shootout was brilliant. But I was so pleased for the directors, Gary, David, Mike, they had been through the mill and stuck with it and got their rewards.

"It's brilliant. It's great seeing them in the Premier League.

"The greatest news is Pelly. It's great to see, we knew he had quality, he was too good for each league.

"He got brought down a peg or two when he came in but he's full of life, he's an enthusiastic person, a great footballer and he deserves every success and long may it continue." 🏆

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Liam Hatch heads home against Grays in 2009



Paul Benson nets the winner at Grimsby, and with it promotion, in 2014

# A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

**HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS**

## Part Seven - G is for Gateshead, Grays and Grimsby.

**Gateshead** were one of the few clubs we met every season during our stay in non-League. Our 5-1 win at Kenilworth Road in October 2011 is a stand-out with both Jake Howells and Jamie Hand each scoring twice as we extended an unbeaten run to four.

At the Gateshead International Stadium, which was basically an athletics track with a football pitch in the middle, our record was less impressive. Our first visit was in January 2010 where the hardy souls from Luton froze to death out in the open and could hardly raise a cheer when an own goal from Heed goalkeeper Paul Farman settled the game. At least we could see the bright lights of St James' Park, Newcastle twinkling in the distance!

Arguably our worst result in non-League came against Gateshead. In April 2013 we travelled to Carlisle, where Gateshead were playing their home games because of a sub-standard pitch at the International Stadium, and went down 5-1 in front of a crowd of 382 – the lowest for a competitive match in our history. Results like this make the upward trajectory of the Town that much sweeter.

**Grays Athletic** were in trouble on and off the pitch when we met them in 2009/10. We knew we were in non-League when travelling to Bridge Road where one side of the ground was built into a block of flats. We won 2-0 that day and followed it up with a 6-0 home victory, with Kevin Gallen bagging a hat-trick, before they resigned from the Conference and ended up in the Isthmian League Division One North the following season.

**Grimsby Town** are, of course, old adversaries going back to our ill-fated stay in the Football League back in Victorian times. We met the Mariners in all but our first season in non-League when our record can be described as mixed.

We didn't lose at home but drew three of the four games, while at Blundell Park we suffered a heavy 4-1 defeat in 2012/13 but won through a single Tommy Wright (remember him?) goal the previous season.

I think that all the Luton supporters present at our 2-1 win at Blundell Park in March 2014 knew finally that we were about to step back to the Football League after five years away. And so it proved when you work the matches back – given the points difference at the end of the season, the win at Grimsby was the one that effectively secured promotion. 🏆



# LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

## NEW FACES AT THE COMMUNITY TRUST

**Two of the latest recruits for Luton Town FC Community Trust are Hafizul and Naheed. Both are 18 years of age and first came to us as participants on our Premier League Kicks programme.**

Premier League Kicks offers young people the opportunity to take part in free, structured football sessions in the evenings across the town, but also aims to deliver vital life skills workshops to participants as well as boosting employment opportunities.

Both Hafizul and Naheed showed an excellent level of maturity and expressed an interest in developing their skills as coaches. Through the Community Trust

the pair undertook their FA Level 1 in Football Coaching and benefited from being mentored by our coaches.

All the training was provided free of charge with the hope that they could work for us, but knowing that it would improve their all-round employment prospects.

Both have been keen to work across numerous different projects to ensure a broad range of experiences. They started by working on Premier League Kicks, but then moved on very quickly to leading their own groups on our holiday camps.

Most recently the pair have taken on leading our Mini Hatters sessions for 3-5 year olds, and are doing an excellent job. They're clearly enjoying themselves too.



Hafizul said: "I have two favourite moments, one is the first Premier League Kicks session I ever worked at because all of the participants that knew me were surprised to see me in the Luton Town FC tracksuit, and I remember one participant was asking the other coaches if he could have a job too.

"The other experience was working on summer camps, because I got on very well with all of the kids. It was very fun and rewarding to see the kids enjoying themselves. My ambition within the trust is to continue working and take on more projects and keep growing as a coach."

Community Trust Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds, has been delighted with the progress both have made so quickly into their careers.

He said: "Hafizul and Naheed are great role models. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing the journey of an individual from participant into member of staff.

"They're both setting such a great example to other Premier Leagues Kicks participants, who can now see there is a potential route into employment for those that show the right attitude and desire. Both of them have made such a great start to working with

us and have the potential to become excellent coaches if that's the route they choose to follow.

"They're becoming such confident, well round individuals and great communicators, so I'm sure they'll succeed in whichever path they take."

Both Hafizul and Naheed are Hatters fans and live just a stone's throw from Kenilworth Road, so the performances on the pitch in the last few years have been a joy to watch, with Naheed reminiscing over last season's dramatic ending.

"My fondest memories of watching the club was the journey to the play-off final. Each match played, made me excited for the next one," said Naheed.

"The challenge was of mountain level, but I still had faith in them. The greatest memory I have is the final and the atmosphere. I was watching the match and it was an indescribable feeling.

"As the match finished with a neck and neck penalty shootout, and Luton won, I never felt such a feeling before and that's all been given to me by this club."

Naheed also had some great advice for other young people interested in getting involved in coaching.

"As someone who is not technically gifted in the sport, and who never got many opportunities, it is easy to assume that the dream to take football on was dying out for me.

"When the chance and idea of becoming a coach came up, it felt like a second chance but in a different way than I imagined. Never give up on that dream and do not hesitate to become a coach. I would not have this journey any other way. That, is what I am truly grateful for."



# ACADEMY UPDATE

## WITH HEAD OF ACADEMY SPORTS SCIENCE DANIEL TAYLOR

**Players in the Premier League are strong and quick, the games fast and intense. The physical demands of an elite player are continually growing and that is the setting in which our first team now tests itself on a weekly basis.**

Therein lies the test for the Academy – to produce players who are capable of not only coping with those demands, but able to excel within them.

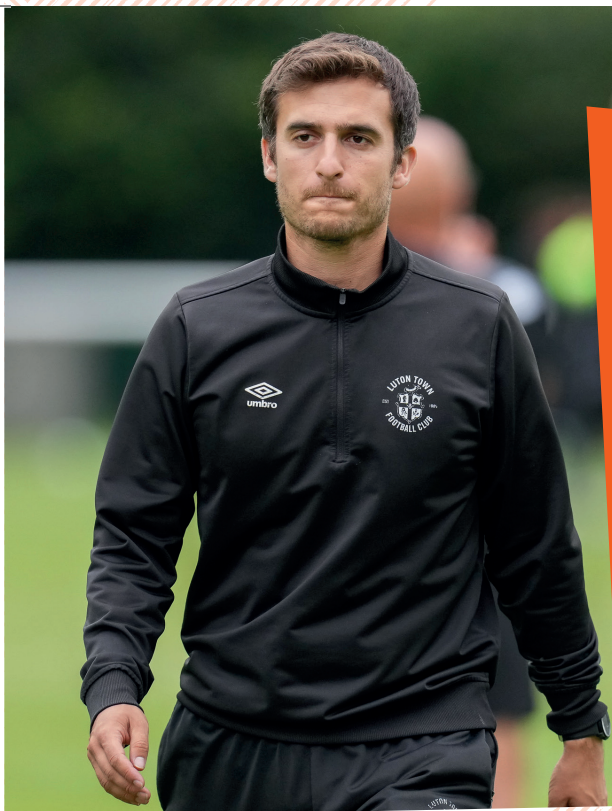
In our pursuit of reaching those levels the Academy Sport Science programme consists of two arms – the integrated programme and the support programme.

The integrated programme is where we work with coaching staff to try and incorporate physical development within football sessions. How better to maximise time spent with players than improving our player's physical capabilities while also working on technical or tactical aspects? This involves discussing drill types, player numbers, pitch sizes etc. to try and hit different physical qualities. For example, is it a small area day where we want players to work with really high, but shorter bursts of intensity, such as 3v3 small sided games, or is it a bigger area day where we want players to show they can maintain intensity over longer periods of time, such as 11v11 tactical work?

We then have our support programme which is the physical work we do on top of the football. Before our under-18 and 21 players even hit the pitch this work begins with 'activations,' a 15-minute session in which we work on a different topic each day, whether that be running mechanics for more efficient sprinting, plyometrics to improve power or footwork to get players sharp ahead of match day. Pitch sessions then start with a warmup again with a different theme dependant on the day including our max speed days where the boys vie for the title of 'Speed King.' Post sessions it is into the gym to develop strength and power.

Player progress is tracked continually. In the under-18 and 21s, daily wellbeing questionnaires are completed to give insight into their readiness for the training ahead. GPS units are worn for every session or match to monitor what they have done. Who worked hard? Who can work harder?! It also allows us to analyse and reflect on our sessions. Did it hit the physical targets that we set? Does it prepare them for the demands of matches and the first team? What can we do better next time? Through the season we fitness test the players for power, strength, speed, change of direction and aerobic capacity (the dreaded 1km time trial). This all gives us a picture of the players' development and what they need to improve, but also provides us with feedback as to the success of the programme.





## ACADEMY WHO'S WHO

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

This support filters down to our schoolboy programme (under-9-16s), with all age groups fitness tested and the under-12s-16s receiving direct sport science sessions through the week. The aim is to increase the level of the players before they come into the full-time programme, then we can push those players who progress to even greater heights.

Jared Roberts-Smith and the first team sport science department have done a brilliant job of ensuring the first team have been prepared for the increasing demands they have faced this season and are continually pushing to get even better.

In the Academy the challenge is to try and keep up with that progress. It has been great to see several squad appearances from Academy players, but we want more. Staffing is increasing – Ria Tailor has joined this season as Academy Sport Science Intern and Oliver Jones has recently joined as Assistant Academy Sport Scientist to provide greater support for our schoolboy age groups – and we are always looking at ways we can continue to develop our programme.

As an Academy we keep pushing to get better, in the sport science department the key focus is how do we make our players fitter, faster and stronger. 🏊‍♂️

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## Joe Johnson



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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 (BSC)	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
BEDFORD TOWN (BSC)	TUE 28/11/23	H W 2-0	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	BENAGR	PIESOLD	TOMPkins	FRANCIS-CLARK	HERON
CHELSEA	TUE 12/12/23	H							
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 19/1/24	A							
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 2/2/24	H							



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## DYLAN STITT



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A: AVAILABLE  
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## OLIVER PIPA



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## SAM ANDERSON



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## TATE XAVIER-JONES



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## TYRELL GIWA



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A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

## WILL HOUGHTON



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T: AVAILABLE

## ZACHARIAS IOANNIDES



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IOANNIDES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA, ODEGAH, HOUGHTON, HARVEY, WARREN
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
BURGER	ALLEN	PHILLIPS	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	ANDERSON, CAMIS, BARNEY, KAYIBANDA

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**The Hatters and the Premier League and its clubs are celebrating Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign at all fixtures between 2 and 7 December, demonstrating their ongoing support for LGBTQ+ inclusion.**

This provides an opportunity to focus on the year-round equality and inclusion work that takes place, as the League and clubs use their platforms to encourage discussion and demonstrate allyship.

Together with the support of the Luton Town Supporters' Trust, 200 rainbow laces will be distributed to fans this evening.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Rainbow Laces, with the theme of 'Let's Lace Up to Keep It Up'.

During the campaign window, rainbow armbands will be worn by captains across all 20 games, with Rainbow Laces branding also widely visible within stadiums throughout the period.

To support the ten-year anniversary of the Rainbow Laces campaign, the League has launched a new free educational resource, which is being made available to more than 18,900 schools through the Premier League Primary Stars programme. 'Rainbow Laces – Stand in someone else's shoes' gives students the opportunity to talk about the importance of LGBTQ+ inclusion in sport and beyond.

Pupils will learn about the Rainbow Laces campaign, how to be an ally, and then demonstrate active allyship to the LGBTQ+ community, as well as looking at the history of football's involvement with Rainbow Laces.

The Premier League also provides resources to engage young people on topics such as building stronger communities free from



homophobic, transphobic and biphobic language. These sessions are delivered by clubs in their communities through the Premier League Kicks and Inspires programmes.

The Premier League Fans Fund provides grants to clubs across the Premier League, EFL, National League, FA Women's Super League and Women's Championship to support a range of fan-focused projects. This is focused on schemes for diverse communities, including LGBTQ+ communities.

Clubs undertake a wide variety of projects and initiatives to ensure equality and inclusion are central to all areas of their operations. Through the Premier League Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Standard (PLEDIS), the League supports all 20 Premier League clubs, and a number of EFL clubs, to embed effective and meaningful policy and practices to build a culture in which LGBTQ+ people feel that they belong. This includes providing staff training and encouraging strong, visible leadership on LGBTQ+ themes.

The League continues to work with clubs to promote the reporting mechanisms that are in place for incidents of discrimination, within stadiums and online. Fans who experience or witness discrimination while at a Premier League match should contact the nearest steward or police officer, or report it by using clubs' confidential text services.

Fans can also report online discriminatory abuse they see targeted at Premier League players, managers, coaches, match officials and their families directly at [www.premierleague.com/reportracism](http://www.premierleague.com/reportracism). Each incident will be investigated by the League's dedicated reporting team.






# 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.**





# RAINBOW HATTERS

WITH DAVID STRONELL



Since the launch of Rainbow Hatters last year it's been a busy time for us within the club and the move into the Premier League is brilliant not only

for the club but all of us within the LGBTQI+ community, with the extra support and expertise that established clubs can help in increasing the presence of us into 2024.

The Rainbow Hatters will in 2024 look to build on the knowledge of the other organisations throughout the premier league to have a larger presence within the club.

The LGBTQI community still struggle be able to feel welcome at some games and it's important that all supporters make a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. No supporters should feel that they are not welcome at football games and I ask all supporters to become allies in helping to stamp out all forms of discrimination within the football scene.

The football community still only have one out player in the whole of the professional pyramid, and creating a supportive atmosphere for fans will hopefully encourage any players to be themselves.

Regardless of race colour or sexuality we are all football fans and want to enjoy the match day experience.

I encourage all of you tonight when the players come out wearing their rainbow laces to reflect on the difficulties that many face and the reasons why these kind of games are still needed.

In 2024 Rainbow Hatters will be making a larger impact working with the supporters' trust at the club and will continue to build on the excellent relationship we have built with the club in the last year. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Luton Town Supporters' Trust that provided additional rainbow laces which will be distributed.

If you would like to stay update to date with the Rainbow Hatters please email [ltfcrainbowhatters@gmail.com](mailto:ltfcrainbowhatters@gmail.com) or follow us on the new X, formally Twitter, handle of @Rainbowhatters1 this is open to any members of the LGBTQI community, allies or any Hatters supporters.

Please do reach out directly to myself at any matches or to the above email if you would like to discuss and matters in full confidence.

Now let's go get three points! COYH! 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



# FC24



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# LUTON TOWN LADIES

## LUTON TOWN LADIES REACH THIRD ROUND OF THE FA CUP AFTER EIGHT- GOAL THRILLER

Luton Town ladies have progressed to the third round of the FA Cup after defeating Enfield Town Ladies last weekend

Manager Rob Burton made three changes from the convincing 3-0 win last time out against Haringey Borough.

Enfield started on the front foot, dictating the play for a majority of the first half. They had an early chance four minutes in, which flew high over the crossbar.

The pressure continued to build as Enfield had a succession of corners, which was eventually halted by Amy Butler who caught the ball well.

It was then time for Luton to hit back after a superb bit of play from Shanice Lewis, who gets the ball to Amber Pearson, but her low driven shot flew wide of the post.

After half-an-hour everyone in the ground thought the Town had an opener. An inswinging corner from Fiona Buttigieg narrowly missed the top corner of the Enfield goal.

After a slow start to the game, the Hatters wanted to make an instant impact in the second half. Not even 60 seconds were on the clock when the Town had a penalty after Gabriella Spillman was clipped just inside the area. With all the pressure on her, Jess McKay converted her penalty and Luton led.

The joy was short lived, however, as five minutes later, Enfield equalised after a well worked set piece saw a shot squeeze home at the near post.

Quite remarkably, one minute after the equal-



iser, the Hatters were back in front through McKay again. Pearson sent a magnificent ball over the top and McKay finished brilliantly.

The Town looked to finish the game off quick as, within minutes of the second goal, they had a third through Spillman. Samira Khan's great headed flick found Lewis, who burst down the right hand side to send a ball towards Spillman who tucked away.

With an hour played, Luton had four. Khan got her second in as many games, lobbing the goalkeeper with a fine header.

With 15 minutes left to play, Enfield received a lifeline to make the score 4-2 before pulling another one back, scoring directly from a free-kick, leaving the Town to hang on to a one-goal lead for the final five minutes.

There was even more drama at the end as Enfield were reduced to ten players after a dangerous foul on Leyah Maddix, but the referee opted for a second yellow, rather than a straight red card.

With a player advantage the Town made the game safe when Buttigieg struck to seal a victory and a place in the third round of the FA Cup where they will where they will face either Bristol Rovers or Keynsham Town at home.

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL\_Official



# LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

## WITH MEDIA OFFICER KEVIN HARPER

**What a season it has been already. We have been treated to some wonderful highs, great moments and a couple of gut punches but it would not be Luton Town if it didn't come with highs and lows! Hopefully there are a lot more highs than lows to come between now and the end of May.**

So Luton versus Arsenal. No Town supporter needs reminding of one special piece of history in this fixture and it is impossible to think of this match without memories of that famous afternoon on 24th April, 1988 flooding back. Obviously things are a lot different now but what we would all give for a 3-2 win this evening!

When the fixtures came out this was always a week which jumped off the page with Arsenal tonight and then the European champions coming to the Kenny on Sunday afternoon. It was weeks like these that we all dreamed of as we were making the climb back through the divisions and they are very much games to get fully behind the boys and see what they can do.

I penned the first Trust column this season and mentioned how the media interest has ramped up and I can report that remains the case. In the last month alone I have done interviews for Anglia TV, BBC Football Focus and even the Financial Times as well as appearing on a couple of opposition podcasts all spreading the good name of Luton Town.

It was the Trust AGM last week. I wasn't up for election this time which means I will continue

to represent our members for another year and hopefully more after that.

On the evening I did host a Q&A with former Town player Jake Howells. Jake was a very pleasant guest who was very open and honest. I particularly enjoyed chatting to him about Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu on what was the tenth anniversary of the debut of the Luton midfielder. Hats off to Pelly for such a wonderful achievement. Hopefully he can crown the milestone with one of his famous bangers tonight!

## AGM

A number of Trust members attended our latest AGM which was held inside the John Moore Lounge here at Kenilworth Road last Thursday. To find out who was elected onto the board, head to the report on our website.

Our thanks go to Jake who was an excellent guest for our post-meeting Q&A.

## PODCAST

With seven matches in December, our popular podcast is going to be coming thick and fast this month! If you subscribe to wherever you listen or watch the podcast you will be notified when each episode drops.

If you haven't already subscribed to our YouTube channel please do so as the more subscribers we have the bigger our reach can be.

If you'd like to be involved in the podcast, either by appearing on it, or raising a subject of discussion, email me at [media@lutontownsupporterstrust.com](mailto:media@lutontownsupporterstrust.com).





# MEET THE FANS

## WITH TOWN SUPPORTER DAN BARRATT-DAVIS

### How long have you supported Luton for?

Since my dad took me to my first game aged nine in 1994 for the opening game against West Bromwich Albion. We drew 1-1.

### Where do you sit at home matches?

I sit in the main stand enclosure, having sat in Main stand Block F for a number of years, I wanted less stairs and a better view!

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

For me Steve Davis, purely because as a kid to me a goalscoring centre-back was unheard of and I felt he was a brilliant and consistent defender who led the side well even if we weren't as good back then.

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

I was hooked from the moment I entered the ground as a young nine-year-old, it's everything. Having moved from the area back in 1999 when I was 14, it only fuelled the passion, as well as one or two things that have happened to the club since. Most importantly it is a family club, and one that is brilliantly run.

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

There has been a lot! Beating Leicester away in 2005 was particularly good as my dad was in the home end with my siblings when Ahmet Brkovic scored that overhead kick. The Johnstone's Paint Trophy win, given everything that was against us, meant it was a proper Luton win. Promotion to the Premier League was an out of body experience bettered only by the birth of my son.



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

I live in Coventry and before that I've lived in Lincolnshire and Towcester so I'm used to being teased about it! They have all gone quiet now though!

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

Most are very complimentary about the last few years, I think we are respected a lot more, though I still hear about the Oak Road entrance almost daily. Most modern fans would class the Kenny as a Conference ground which makes them look silly.

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

Pride, given the years of torture we've had through the Kohler years of being skint, to going out of the league, to coming back up and achieving what many said was the impossible dream. I didn't think I could be more proud to be a Hatter until it sunk in that we are in the big time.

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

It's different, I found lower league fans would talk more and certainly more respectful than some Premier League opposition we've had so far. The football is different in many ways and the grounds are obviously noticeably different. The atmosphere at some grounds in the home ends this season have been rubbish in comparison to some lower league away days.

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

Continuing the experience of being a Premier League club, we've shown already we can mix it with the big boys and I remain cautiously optimistic we can stay in this division. I'm also aiming to tick off a few more grounds this year too. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



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# WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

**Its yet another big game here at Kenilworth Road in the Premier League as we welcome Arsenal to Bedfordshire. As always, I will flashback to a game in our rise to this position. Today, we are rewinding back to our match against Hull City deep into the 2019/20 season.**

As we all remember, that season was interrupted due to the pandemic. During the pause, Nathan Jones returned to the club to try and steer the club to safety following a poor season under a different Jones.

Once football had returned, Nathan Jones had got Luton's tails back up and the great escape was beginning to look more possible with every game. With two matches to go, the Hatters were two points from safety and needed to pick up maximum points to have the best shot at staying up.

Luton's opposition on the day was Hull City. The Tigers were struggling even more than Luton and were bottom of the table – a loss against the Hatters would effectively relegate the Tigers as the goal difference deficit would be near impossible to overcome.

As we know, fans could not be in attendance due to COVID-19 restrictions and the Hatters faithful had to watch the match at home.

It was a cagey affair as expected and Hull were tough to break down. The Tigers were focusing on staying strong

defensively as they knew a loss could be fatal.

During the second half, Luton were knocking on the door, but it wasn't quite happening. There were lots of close calls but neither side could make the breakthrough and things were looking worrying.

With five minutes left on the clock, Cameron Carter-Vickers played a simple pass to Kazenga LuaLua near the halfway line. It was at this point where LuaLua took matters into his own hands and decided it was his time to shine.

LuaLua ran past defender after defender before rifling the ball into the bottom corner of the Hull City goal to send the Hatters into crazy celebrations – LuaLua doing his signature acrobatics to top this off. This could be the goal to relegate Hull and put Luton one win away from survival.

The last few minutes after the goal were agony and felt like they went on forever. Eventually, the game ended, and the Town were one win from survival.

This was a huge win for the Hatters which enabled Nathan Jones' side to beat Blackburn Rovers on the final day of the season and avoid the drop.

It's another big game tonight – let's be loud and proud. 

COYH



# LUTON TOWN BUSINESS PARTNERS

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# JUNIOR HATTERS TONIGHT'S MASCOTS

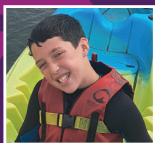


**Amir Shuheeb**

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football & Gaming

Favourite Player: Tahith Chong



**Jack McHugh**

Age: 11

Hobbies: Playing football, Xbox and bike rides

Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer & Ross Barkley



**Orson Pettengell**

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football, Hockey, Art, Board Games

Favourite Player: Tahith Chong, Carlton Morris, Issa Kabore



**Name: Scarlett Soper**

Age: 8

Hobbies: Playing Football & Watching Luton

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



**Archie Royle**

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football, Fifa, Running

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



**Chloe Wallis**

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football & Netball

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris

# TICKET NEWS



## **LUTON TOWN V NEWCASTLE UNITED PREMIER LEAGUE**

Saturday 23rd December,  
kick-off 3pm

### **FULL SALES PLAN**

#### **Diamond Season Card Holders**

From 10am on Friday 1st December Diamond Season Card holders can book a ticket for a guest using one of their Diamond vouchers. They can book via email or can also book via phone or in person. The Ticket Office hold a list of Diamond Voucher usage and will advise if vouchers usage is not available.

#### **Two-year Hatters Members**

On Thursday 7th December those supporters that have held a Hatters Membership for last season and this season will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture.

You will be able to book online using your unique client reference number or via phone or in person from the Ticket Office. We recommend you choose to receive your tickets digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone.

Collection of tickets is available, however, we advise you to collect in advance of the match day if possible. If unable to do this, we strongly recommend you arrive early to avoid queues at the Ticket Office and at turnstiles. We will offer postage of tickets ordered at this stage of the Sales plan, however, recommend digital tickets as a better option due to the time post appears to be taking currently in some areas.

#### **Hatters Members 23/24 (with a previous purchasing history)**

On Monday 11th December November new 2023/24 Hatters Members with a previous pur-

chasing history will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture online using your unique client reference number.

You will also be able to book by phone 10am until 3pm. If ordering online or by phone, we recommend you choose to receive your tickets digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. Collection of tickets is available, however, we advise you to collect in advance of the match day if possible.

If unable to do this, we strongly recommend you arrive early to avoid queues at the Ticket Office and at turnstiles.

We will offer postage of tickets ordered at this stage of the Sales plan, however, recommend digital tickets as a better option due to the time post appears to be taking currently in some areas.

#### **General Sale (with purchasing history) or Hatters Members (without a previous purchasing history)**

Subject to availability, on Thursday 14th December tickets will be available on General Sale (to supporters with a previous purchasing history) or new Members (without history). Supporters falling into these categories will be able to book online using your unique client reference number. At this stage, Season Tickets holders can also book additional tickets but all tickets will need to be assigned to an individual registered on the database.

You can choose to receive your tickets either digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. Collection from Luton Town Ticket Office is also available, but we strongly recommend tickets are collected before the day of the game.

#### **The category A prices for this fixture are as follows:**

Adults £36, Seniors and Young Adults £30,  
Golden Seniors and Under-19 £27, Under-17s £18,  
Under-10 £15.





**LUTON TOWN  
V CHELSEA  
PREMIER LEAGUE**

Saturday 30th December,  
kick-off 12.30pm

**FULL SALES PLAN**

**Diamond Season Card Holders**

From 10am on Friday 1st December Diamond Season Card holders can book a ticket for a guest using one of their Diamond vouchers. They can book via email or can also book via phone or in person. The Ticket Office hold a list of Diamond Voucher usage and will advise if vouchers usage is not available.

**Two-year Hatters Members**

On Thursday 7th December those supporters that have held a Hatters Membership for last season and this season will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture.

You will be able to book online using your unique client reference number or via phone or in person from the Ticket Office. We recommend you choose to receive your tickets digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone.

Collection of tickets is available, however, we advise you to collect in advance of the match day if possible. If unable to do this, we strongly recommend you arrive early to avoid queues at the Ticket Office and at turnstiles. We will offer postage of tickets ordered at this stage of the Sales plan, however, recommend digital tickets as a better option due to the time post appears to be taking currently in some areas.

**Hatters Members 23/24 (with a previous purchasing history)**

On Tuesday 12th December new 2023/24 Hatters Members with a previous purchasing history will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture online using your unique client reference number.

You will also be able to book by phone 10am until 3pm. If ordering online or by phone, we recommend you choose to receive your tickets digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. Collection of tickets is available, however, we advise you to collect in advance of the match day if possible.

If unable to do this, we strongly recommend you arrive early to avoid queues at the Ticket Office and at turnstiles.

We will offer postage of tickets ordered at this stage of the Sales plan, however, recommend digital tickets as a better option due to the time post appears to be taking currently in some areas.

**General Sale (with purchasing history) or Hatters Members (without a previous purchasing history)**

Subject to availability, on Thursday 14th December tickets will be available on General Sale (to supporters with a previous purchasing history) or new Members (without history). Supporters falling into these categories will be able to book online using your unique client reference number. At this stage, Season Tickets holders can also book additional tickets but all tickets will need to be assigned to an individual registered on the database.

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**The category A prices for this fixture are as follows:**

Adults £36, Seniors and Young Adults £30, Golden Seniors and Under-19 £27, Under-17s £18, Under-10 £15.



# MEMBERS



Call the Commercial Team on 01582 411622 or email  
[commercial@lutontown.co.uk](mailto: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 Luton Town player scored the winning goal in our Littlewoods Cup final victory against Arsenal in 1988?
2. In that match, who was the Gunners captain that made 669 club appearances?
3. Gabriel Magalhães signed for Arsenal in 2020 from which French club?
4. Which Hatter has made the most tackles in the Premier League so far this season?
5. Which Luton Town player made their 50th appearance for the club in our last home game against Crystal Palace?
6. Which two clubs have secured the most promotions from the Championship to the Premier League?
7. How many times did the Town beat a team by four or more goals in the 2017/18 League Two promotion-winning season?
8. Which current Arsenal player played at Kenilworth Road for AFC Wimbledon in 2019?
9. Who is currently 12th place in the Bundesliga?
10. Which England player has recently beaten a goal scoring record previously held by Cristiano Ronaldo?

**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 Gunners fan or you're new to this.







# Premier League



## ROUND-UP

**Our visitors tonight arrive at Kenilworth Road on top of the Premier League table after a dramatic week-end of matches.**

Mikel Arteta's side were made to sweat late on, but got the job done against Wolves to continue their recent good form which has seen them win four of their last five games.

Headlines were made on Sunday as 24 goals were scored across the five games, with the Gunners' title rivals Manchester City dropping points late on in a six-goal thriller against Spurs.

Tottenham led only for City to lead 2-1 and 3-2 before a late Dejan Kulusevski header earned Ange Postecoglou's side a point. Pep Guardiola's Citizens, who visit Kenilworth Road on Sunday, sit third in the table, three points behind the Gunners. Spurs lie fifth, six points away from their North London rivals.

Liverpool's game with Fulham saw seven goals, with Jurgen Klopp's Reds coming out on top in a ding-dong affair at Anfield. With three minutes left, the Londoners led 3-2 but late goals from Wataru Endo and Trent Alexander-Arnold sealed a dramatic victory. Klopp's side are now two points off the top.

Aston Villa sit in fourth place after they earned a late point at Bournemouth thanks to Ollie Watkins' last-minute equaliser in a 2-2 draw.

Sunday's goalfest also included Chelsea's thrilling 3-2 win over Brighton made more remarkable by the fact the Blues played the entire second half with ten men following the dismissal of Conor Gallagher.

West Ham drew 1-1 with Crystal Palace in Sunday's other game, while on Saturday Newcastle saw off Manchester United 1-0 thanks to Anthony Gordon's strike early in the second half.

At the other end of the table, Burnley celebrated their first home Premier League win of the season, dismantling fellow strugglers Sheffield United 5-0 at Turf Moor.

Everton, also in the bottom three, earned an important three points with a 1-0 win at Nottingham Forest. The Toffees and Claret's both closed the gap on the Hatters, who sit just outside the relegation zone, to two points.

A man with a beard and sunglasses stands on a grassy field. He is wearing a short-sleeved polo shirt with a red and white striped pattern, red shorts, white socks, and black loafers. The background shows a grassy field with soccer goals and trees under a cloudy sky.

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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	(10)	2	1	(1)	0	5	(11)	2	1	0	125		34	
Mads Andersen	4	(2)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(2)	1	1	0	8		1	
Ross Barkley	7	(2)	0	0	(1)	0	7	(3)	0	1	0	10		0	
Amari'I Bell	9	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	10	(1)	0	0	0	108		2	
Luke Berry	0	(2)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	1	0	168		24	
Jacob Brown	7	(6)	2	1	(1)	1	8	(7)	3	2	0	15		3	
Reece Burke	7	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	7	(2)	0	1	0	66		4	
Tahith Chong	6	(6)	1	1	(0)	0	7	(6)	1	4	0	13		1	
Jordan Clark	0	(3)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(3)	0	1	0	114		9	
Alfie Doughty	10	(3)	0	2	(0)	1	12	(3)	1	1	0	50		3	
Ryan Giles	3	(4)	0	2	(0)	0	5	(4)	0	0	0	9		0	
Joe Johnson	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	3		0	
Issa Kabore	10	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	10	(4)	0	4	0	14		0	
Thomas Kaminski	14	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	14	(0)	0	3	0	14		0	
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2		0	
Tom Lockyer	13	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	14	(0)	1	4	0	116		7	
Sambi Lokonga	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2		0	
Teden Mengi	7	(2)	1	1	(0)	0	8	(2)	1	1	0	10		1	
Carlton Morris	14	(0)	3	0	(1)	0	14	(1)	3	1	0	66		23	
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	7	(6)	0	2	(0)	0	9	(6)	0	0	0	385		23	
Marvelous Nakamba	12	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	12	(1)	0	4	0	33		0	
Chiedozie Ogbene	10	(4)	1	1	(1)	0	11	(5)	1	0	0	16		1	
Gabriel Osho	5	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	1	0	67		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	3	(3)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(3)	0	0	0	6		0	
Cauley Woodrow	0	(7)	0	2	(0)	1	2	(7)	1	0	0	44		4	

# 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 LOCKYER 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 17	W 2-1	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY BELL MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT DEC 2	BRENTFORD	3PM	A 17	L1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ BELL MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
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	Arsenal	14	10	3	1	29	11	18	33
2	Liverpool	14	9	4	1	32	14	18	31
3	Manchester City	14	9	3	2	36	16	20	30
4	Aston Villa	14	9	2	3	33	20	13	29
5	Tottenham Hotspur	14	8	3	3	28	20	8	27
6	Newcastle United	14	8	2	4	32	14	18	26
7	Manchester United	14	8	0	6	16	17	-1	24
8	Brighton and Hove Albion	14	6	4	4	30	26	4	22
9	West Ham United	14	6	3	5	24	24	0	21
10	Chelsea	14	5	4	5	25	22	3	19
11	Brentford	14	5	4	5	22	19	3	19
12	Crystal Palace	14	4	4	6	14	19	-5	16
13	Wolverhampton Wanderers	14	4	3	7	19	25	-6	15
14	Fulham	14	4	3	7	16	26	-10	15
15	Nottingham Forest	14	3	4	7	16	22	-6	13
16	Bournemouth	14	3	4	7	16	30	-14	13
17	Luton Town	14	2	3	9	13	26	-13	9
18	Everton *	14	5	2	7	15	20	-5	7
19	Burnley	14	2	1	11	15	32	-17	7
20	Sheffield United	14	1	2	11	11	39	-28	5

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



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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, KRUIL, 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	KRUIL, BERRY, BROWN, FRANCIS-CLARKE, JOHNSON, KABORE, MPANZU, OGBENE, WOODROW	10,802	1,151				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUIL, ADEBAYO, BERRY, DOUGHTY, GILES, MENGI, MPANZU, OGBENE, WOODROW	24,467	2,701				
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OGBENE	MORRIS ❖	BROWN	KRUIL, 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	KRUIL, ANDERSEN, BERRY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MENGI, GILES, JOHNSON	39,289	2,976				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUIL, ANDERSEN, BERRY, BURKE, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, GILES, JOHNSON	10,918	1,126				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUIL, BARKLEY, BERRY, WOODROW, KABORE, CHONG, MENGI, GILES, JOHNSON	10,929	1,151				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUIL, OSHO, BARKLEY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, KABORE, GILES, TOWNSEND, LUKER	29,361	2,893				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUIL, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MPANZU, GILES, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, LUKER	41,785	3,005				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUIL, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON, LUKER	11,049	1,151				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUIL, ADEBAYO, BERRY, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON	73,599	3,008				
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUIL, BERRY, ADEBAYO, CHONG, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON, LUKER	11,029	1,149				
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	CHONG	KRUIL, ADEBAYO, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, NELSON	17,075	1,725				

## TUESDAY'S MATCH

WOLVES v BURNLEY

## WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES

BRIGHTON v BRENTFORD

CRYSTAL PALACE v BOURNEMOUTH

FULHAM v FOREST

SHEFF UTD v LIVERPOOL

VILLA v MAN CITY

MAN UTD v CHELSEA

## THURSDAY'S MATCHES

EVERTON v NEWCASTLE

SPURS v WEST HAM



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.



1: Brian Stein, 2: Tony Adams, 3: Ilija, 4: Marvellous Nakambanda, 5: Alfie Doughty, 6: Norwich City and West Bromwich Albion with five each, 7: Four times, Yeovil, Stevenage, Cambridge and Swindon, 8: Aaron Ramsdale, 9: Vfl Bochum, 10: Jude Bellingham. Most goals scored in his first 15 games for Real Madrid.

## TOWN TEASERS ANSWERS:



## HOLD THE BACK PAGE

With Faye Carruthers

**As a Luton fan of a certain generation, when you think about Arsenal, you think about Wembley in 1988 and the club's greatest ever triumph. For the younger generation of Hatters fans, Arsenal is Saka, Rice, Martinelli, and Luton's biggest achievement was earning the right to play against teams like them in the Premier League. I'll let you argue amongst yourselves.**

My point is that it's a match that's been on everyone's radar since the fixtures were released in July. To have it under the lights and in front of the cameras with top billing is exactly what it deserves. The home momentum is there now after securing our first three points at Kenilworth Road and we know the role we can play.

Tonight's game is streaming on Amazon Prime Video and I was invited down to the training ground to do a slightly different pre-match interview for our coverage. We wanted to get a feel of how much the club has changed since our non-league days by speaking to the man who's celebrating ten years with the club this week, Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, and our newest addition, Andros Townsend, who's fitted into the set-up seamlessly.

They were a joy to chat to, relaxed and easy in each other's company and focused on the job in hand - keeping Luton in the Premier League.

I'm lucky enough to visit many training grounds as part of my job, but as a fan, it was a real treat to have a tour around the Brache. The gym facilities in particular are incredible, but what struck me most was the vibe around the place. It sounds odd to say, but training grounds aren't always like that, and this was way before the cameras started rolling. Watching the players interact amongst themselves and the staff was fascinating. Everyone seemed to enjoy each other's company and you could see the togetherness of the group.

Competition is never far away though, especially when it comes to the Luton Town branded pool table in the recreation area - Pelly is currently on a losing streak with Elijah schooling him with the cue. And yes - the chalk is orange! There's also a wheel of fortune which players have to spin if they're late. Fines range from having to breakdance for two minutes in front of teammates to delivering their life story in a presentation!

Thanks to the fabulous chefs for my breakfast omelette - best food in the Premier League according to Rob Edwards and I have to agree! The players will need that fuel - and all our energy tonight against a top Arsenal side, but like we have for Spurs, Liverpool and Crystal Palace, let's make Kenilworth Road as tough a place to come as any.

COYH! 🐢





Premier  
League

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## LUTON TOWN

1. JAMES SHEA
2. GABE OSHO
3. DAN POTTS
4. TOM LOCKYER
5. MADDS 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 MENGİ
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



## ARSENAL

1. AARON RAMSDALE
2. WILLIAM SALIBA
3. BEN WHITE
5. THOMAS PARTEY
6. GABRIEL
7. BUKAYO SAKA
8. MARTIN ØDEGAARD
9. GABRIEL JESUS
10. EMILE SMITH ROWE
11. GABRIEL MARTINELLI
12. JURRIËN TIMBER
14. EDDIE NKETIAH
15. JAKUB KIWIOR
17. CÉDRIC SOARES
18. TAKEHIRO TOMIYASU
19. LEANDRO TROSSARD
20. JORGINHO
21. FÁBIO VIEIRA
22. DAVID RAYA
24. REISS NELSON
25. MOHAMED ELENY
29. KAI HAVERTZ
31. KARL HEIN
35. OLEKSANDR ZINCHENKO
41. DECLAN RICE

## MATCH OFFICIALS



- REFEREE - SAM BARROTT  
ASSISTANT REFEREE - HARRY LENNARD  
ASSISTANT REFEREE - NICK HOPTON  
FOURTH OFFICIAL - JAMES LININGTON  
VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - CHRISTOPHER KAVANAGH  
ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - LEE BETTS