

LUTONTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB  
THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL SUPPORTERS



ISSUE #10 | £4.00 | PREMIER LEAGUE

## LUTON TOWN v NEWCASTLE UNITED

SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2023 | 3PM | KENILWORTH ROAD



MATCHBALL SPONSOR:



## HONOURS

### LEAGUE CUP

WINNERS 1988

RUNNERS-UP 1989

### FA CUP

RUNNERS-UP 1959

### FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY

WINNERS 2008/09

### SECOND DIVISION/ CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONS 1981/82

RUNNERS-UP 1954/55, 1973/74

PLAY-OFF WINNERS 2022/23

### THIRD DIVISION/ LEAGUE ONE

CHAMPIONS 1936/37, 2004/05, 2018/19

RUNNERS-UP 1935/36, 1969/70

### FOURTH DIVISION/ LEAGUE TWO

CHAMPIONS 1967/68

RUNNERS-UP 2001/02, 2017/18

### CONFERENCE PREMIER

CHAMPIONS 2013/14

## DIRECTORS & SHAREHOLDERS

Chairman: **David Wilkinson**

Chief Executive Officer: **Gary Sweet**

Directors: **Paul Ballantyne, Stephen Browne,**

**Bob Curson, Mike Herrick, Rob Stringer CBE**

Shareholders: **Kailesh Karavadra,**

**Luton Town Supporters' Trust**

## FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

First Team Manager: **Rob Edwards**

Assistant Managers: **Paul Trollope, Richie Kyle**

First Team Analyst Coach: **Andy Findlay**

Chief Recruitment Officer: **Mick Harford**

Team Operations Manager: **Kevin Dearden**

Head of Goalkeeping: **Kevin Pilkington**

Head of Performance: **Jared Roberts-Smith**

Head of Scouting Operations: **Phil Chapple**

Head of Recruitment Analysis: **Jay Socik**

Head of Medical: **Simon Parsell**

## CLUB OPERATIONS

Operations Director: **James Mooney**

Finance Director: **Tom Schofield**

Commercial Director: **Chris Bell**

Club Secretary: **Chris Clark**

Head of Press & Communications: **Stuart Hammonds**

## VICE PRESIDENTS

**Richard Banks, Gary Chamberlain, Ian Gazeley,**

**Doug Knight, Ben Banks, Emma Banks**



### OFFICIAL PROGRAMME MADE IN LUTON.

Print: Bartham Press.

Editor: Andrew Barringer. Design: Ed Smith.

Photography: Dave Horn. Additional photos:

Shutterstock. Statistics: Simon Pitts.

Contributors: Roger Wash, Stuart Hammonds, Dec O'Reilly, Zac Neal, Bradley Dixon and Geoff Doyle.

With thanks to: The media department at Newcastle United and **Adam Pearson**.

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

# BRING THE NOISE!



NO AI WAS  
USED TO WRITE  
TEXT IN THE  
DESIGN OF THIS  
PROGRAMME.



# WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

Last weekend, at Bournemouth, football took a distant backseat. Our primary thoughts and prayers were, and still are, with Tom Lockyer and his family and friends. He is our captain, leader, teammate, colleague and friend and it goes without saying it was a difficult time for many of us who witnessed what happened. Today, and with Christmas just around the corner – putting the importance of Premier League points to one side – we ask you to show love and support to those who need it, whether that's your immediate family or the fan sitting behind you. Get behind the boys. Come on Luton x



**05** ROB  
EDWARDS



**08** FROM THE  
BOARDROOM



**26** WELCOME  
NEWCASTLE UNITED



**45** HATTERS  
HISTORY



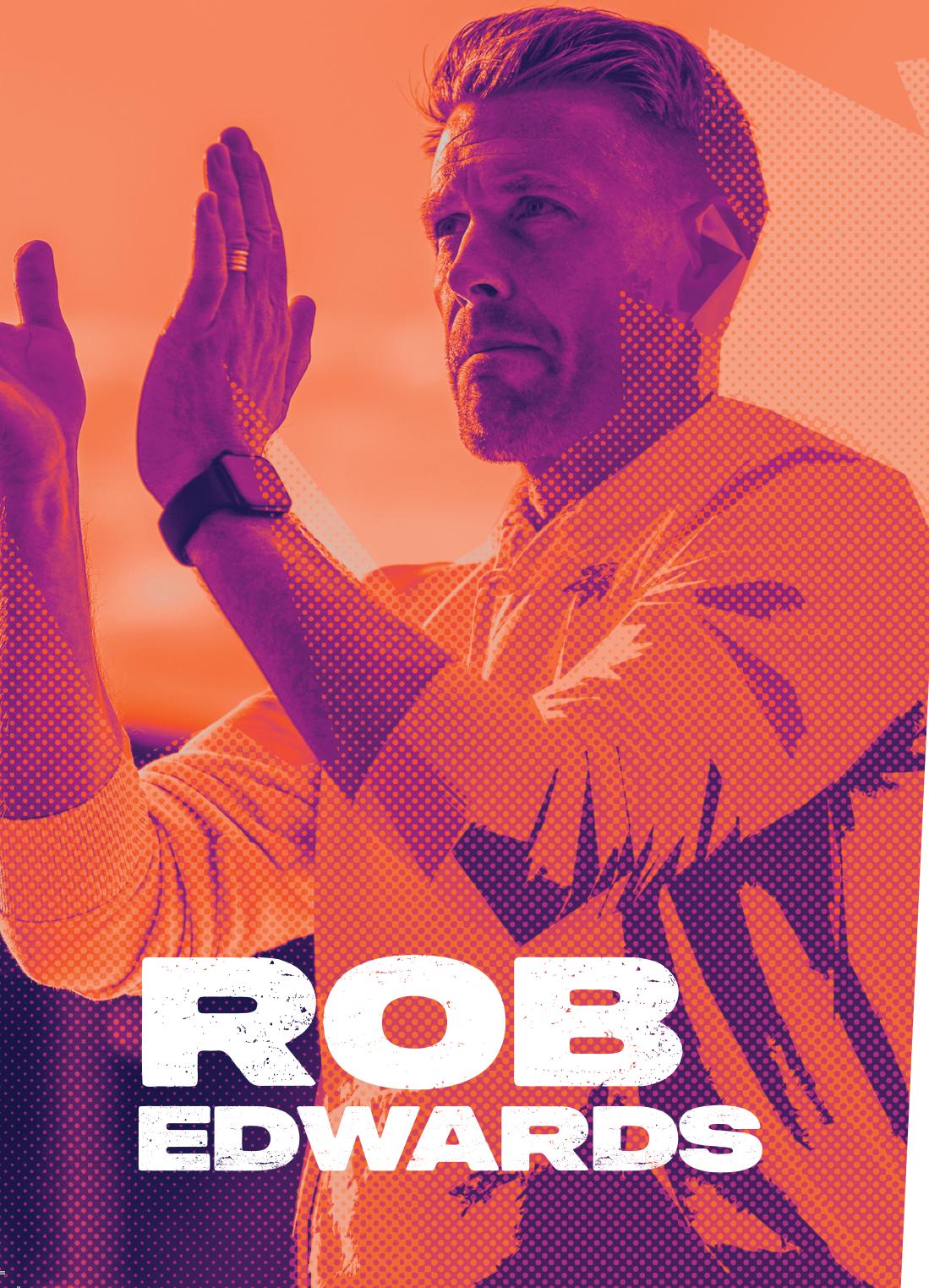
**58** ACADEMY  
UPDATE



**68** NEWS FROM THE  
SUPPORTERS' TRUST



**80** SEASON  
SO FAR

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

# ROB EDWARDS

**Last Saturday was a really scary moment for everyone involved, especially for those who were at Bournemouth. It was probably the most scared I've been in my life.**

A cardiac arrest is not something I've witnessed before which made it all the more difficult for me to deal with. I know Locks went down at Wembley but that was something entirely different.

Our medical team of Simon, Chris and Amos, plus Bournemouth's medical staff and the emergency response team, saved Locks' life. That's what they did. For that, I will always be eternally grateful. And I am sure his family and friends are too.

It's during moments like this that it makes you think about what's important in life: health and family. Football is important, but not that important. I was certainly in no fit state to carry on thinking about another 30 minutes of a football match.

There might have been some people that could, there might be some that couldn't. However, I believe the right decision was made. I would like to thank Simon Hooper and the officials, the Bournemouth manager, Andoni Iraola, his staff and players plus everyone at Bournemouth – especially their supporters – for how they dealt with the situation. I think both sets of supporters were incredible, and I think there is now a unique bond between the two clubs.

Now, at the time of writing, Locks' has just had his operation and is safe and well at home and I feel better knowing that he's there now. All I care about is his health and wellbeing.

Thank you to those medics who were incredible. Every single decision they got spot on in the most under pressure of situations with everyone in the world

watching. The amount of messages the club has received, from managers and players at other clubs, as well as supporters, has been very touching.

We had already planned a few days off after the Bournemouth game, so it gave us all a bit of time to digest it before training resumed. We had a meeting in the morning to go through a few things and the boys were in good spirits and trained well.

It feels weird now talking about a football match to be honest. But here we are, and today we have a Premier League game against a Newcastle United side who I'd like to welcome to Kenilworth Road. They are a team who have done unbelievably well under the guidance of Eddie Howe.

Eddie is a manager I greatly respect, and a shining light for British managers and coaches. What he has achieved at St James' Park has been fantastic, so we know we're in for a tough challenge today.

This afternoon will be an emotional day. We will be without our captain, our leader, and we're not sure for how long. But what I do know is that we want to make today a special one.

We want to get a result for Tom. Of course we would want to get a result anyway – and we don't want to make it all about us where all of a sudden there's a greater cause to fight for. Locks would want us to do it for the team anyway.

So, it will be an emotional day. But there's a job to do.

Thank you so much for your support, especially last weekend, and with the messages the club have received since.

As always, get behind us and bring the noise. 



# GET WELL

**The club have received thousands of messages of goodwill on social media, as well as a stream of emails and letters, to Locks. Here's a very small selection of those. Thank you to everyone for their kind words.**

**AFC Bournemouth via X**

We're relieved to hear Tom is responsive.

Our thoughts will continue to be with Tom and his family at this time. We'd like to thank all the medical staff for their quick action as well as everyone inside the stadium for their support and unity during a difficult moment.

**Coventry City via X**

Our thoughts are with Luton Town defender Tom Lockyer, as well as his family and friends. Get well soon, Tom.

**Newcastle United via X**

Our thoughts are with you, Tom.



**Dominic Solanke via X**

Thoughts and prayers to Tom and his family. Happy to hear he's now stable and hope he recovers well. 🙏❤️

**British Heart Foundation on X**

We're sending our thoughts and best wishes to Luton Town footballer Tom Lockyer and his family.

**Wales via X**

Our thoughts are with Tom Lockyer and his family ❤️  
Diolch to the medical staff for their quick response and treatment.

**Premier League via X**

Our thoughts are with Tom, his family, and team-mates ❤️

**Fabrice Muamba via X**

Wishing you a speedy recovery, Tom Lockyer. It's great to hear you are responsive and alert. Rest up and God willing you recover well. Thinking of you and your family today 🙏❤️

**UEFA via X**

❤️ We're all with you, Tom.

**Joe Taylor via X**

We're all with you Locks, our leader ❤️

**Bristol Rovers via X**

Praying for you, Tom ❤️

**Max Aarons via X**

Thoughts and prayers are with Tom Lockyer and his family 🙏❤️

**Christian Eriksen via video interview**

I've read and seen what's happened and I hope he's okay, takes his time, is in a healthy way and his family are there to support him. I cross my fingers that he's fine.

# SOON TOM

## **Darrell Clarke via LinkedIn**

Sending all my prayers and love to Tom Lockyer, my captain at Bristol Rovers. Managed a lot of players in my time as Manager but Tom was no doubt the best professional, I have managed. A true leader and gentleman.

Stay Strong Tom. ❤

## **Luton Town Ladies via X**

All our thoughts are with Tom Lockyer tonight and all at Luton Town ❤

## **Luton Town Supporters Trust via X**

Stay strong Tommy. Our thoughts are with you ❤.

As they are with all of our players, supporters and staff members who had to witness those distressing scenes. Give each other a hug and support each other. We're all with you ❤

## **Rio Ferdinand via X**

Thoughts with Tom & his family ❤

## **VfL Bochum via X**

Everyone at VfL Bochum is with you, Tom ❤

## **John Terry via X**

Praying for Tom Lockyer ❤️🙏

## **Charlton Athletic via X**

All our thoughts are with you, Tom ❤

## **Everton via X**

Wishing you a full and swift recovery,

Tom. The thoughts and best wishes from everybody at Everton are with you. ❤

## **Sheffield Wednesday via X**

Sending our best wishes to Tom for a speedy recovery ❤

## **Olympique de Marseille via X**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom, we wish him a speedy recovery ❤️❤

## **Arsenal via X**

Our thoughts are with Tom Lockyer at this time ❤

## **La Liga via X**

Wishing you all the best, Tom ❤

## **Chelsea via X**

The thoughts of everyone at Chelsea FC are with you, Tom. ❤

## **Harry Toffolo on X**

Tom Lockyer we are thinking of you mate ❤

## **Utilita Football on X**

Sending our love to Tom, his family and everyone connected to Luton Town Football Club. ❤



# FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
GARY SWEET

**Seven days ago, we headed to down to the South Coast full of optimism. Having just gone toe-to-toe with last season's treble-winners and runners-up, giving first Arsenal and then Manchester City a competitive game to remember at Kenilworth Road, we were looking forward to yet another tough fixture against a team whose form had pushed them clear of the relegation zone.**

What would then happen in the second half immediately overshadowed our hope of picking up a point or three, and made the game of football seem irrelevant. I do not wish to over-exaggerate the genuine, life-threatening concern we all had for Tom in those moments and our heartfelt thanks go to everyone involved, particularly our own medical staff, in the rapid response and the treatment administered which, most likely, saved Tom's life.

As we mentioned in a statement published on Thursday, Tom has been discharged from hospital following a successful procedure that saw him have an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator device fitted to prevent

a repeat of Saturday's incident. He has now started a lengthy period of rehabilitation from the comfort of his own home and our wishes – like those we received from the football family around the world – are with Tom and his family.

Our friends at Bournemouth were wonderful in the circumstances. Away from the incident itself, the levels of care and respect were magnificent. The genuine concern shown towards ourselves from the tunnel to the press box and the boardroom, as well as to our own supporters around the ground, was heart-warming and will not be forgotten.

It's so heartening to see the compassion from every corner of the game at this time, which will help Tom begin his rehabilitation and will assist our lads, knowing they are supported.

At whatever level, we have always prided ourselves on the duty of care and attention we give our players and staff with our primary focus on the fitness, conditioning and strength of our squad, but much more investment has recently been put into our physical recovery.



We also recognise the importance of supporting the mental wellbeing of our players and staff involved so, with the brilliant supporting work of Sporting Chance, we have given those affected an opportunity to open up about the incident.

As you may imagine, as a Club and as individuals, we have reflected deeply on the events of last week and, as a Club we are immensely proud of the processes our good people follow in order to make our environments as supportive as possible, and which is why we never compromise on the level of capability of our specialist consultants.

Occasionally, we are reminded that there are more important things in life than three points.

However, despite the circumstances, our players and staff have reacted professionally and respectfully in their conduct this week as they returned to training, without their captain, in order to prepare for this afternoon's game.

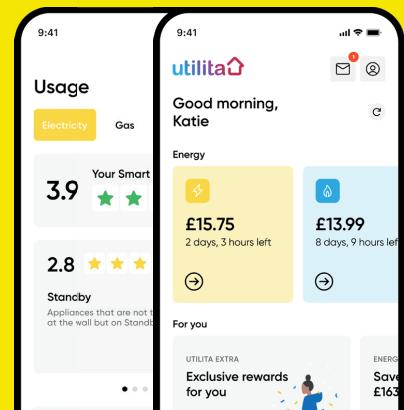
Their attitude has been incredible, to a man. Our job now is to make sure that we can harness our unity and make ourselves and Tom proud by being as competitive as we possibly can in today's Premier League encounter with Newcastle United.

We welcome everybody associated with our visitors today and wish them all a safe journey back to Tyneside. It's hard to believe this will be the first time we have hosted the Magpies since that epic FA Cup replay under the lights ➤

HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

**SAVE LIKE  
DAVE**

utilita 



**Energy that's  
proper smart.**





here in 1994, when goals from John Hartson and Scott Oakes earned us a famous win. More recently, for our last meeting, we travelled to St James' Park as a League Two club for another FA Cup tie in which we gave our Premier League opponents a scare, especially in the second half.

Among their travelling party today is Graeme Jones, who I wish to extend a warm return to Kenilworth Road. Graeme's career has demonstrated what a top-class coach he is, and Eddie Howe and his team are lucky to have a man of his talents on the coaching staff. His efforts during his short spell with us, in our first season back in the second tier, were not without real difficulties, but he remained incredibly professional and remains incredibly respected by us in the boardroom.

Welcome back, Graeme!

Today, we'll be entertained by the band from the Salvation Army, whose first visit for four years will remind us of the wonderful service they offer the vulnerable, so please give generously to their collection.

As we approach the time of year where our attention turns to family and loved ones, please check on those close to you and embrace your time together.

Meanwhile, today, make yourselves heard, loud and proud for our captain!

Merry Christmas one and all.



## WELCOME THE SALVATION ARMY BAND



It would not be Christmas at Kenilworth Road without a visit from the Salvation Army Band, who will be playing their repertoire of festive numbers before kick-off and at half-time today.

As usual their traditional bucket collection will be held, with every penny raised going exclusively to the Salvation Army's work in Luton, supporting the toy appeal, funding Christmas hampers and aiding in opening on Boxing Day to provide hot meals for the homeless and vulnerable in Luton.

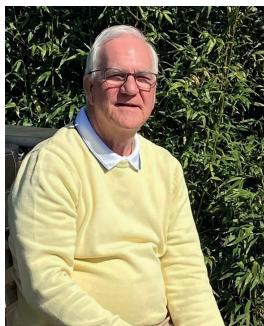
The impact of the collection will have is immeasurable, and hundreds of people will have a better Christmas because of LTFC and the Salvation Army.

To donate, scan the QR code.



## REST IN PEACE

Loyal Hatters fan **Dave McBain** sadly passed away on Wednesday 22nd November. He had been a supporter of the club since he moved to Luton back in 1971. He had battled with cancer throughout the past few years but still fought to make it to enjoy that day at Wembley in the summer. He will be sorely missed by all his friends in Block E.



Life-long Town supporter **Malcolm Davies** was born within earshot of the Kenny and he watched the Hatters for 60 years. Home and away; with mates, his wife Susan, his children and his grandchildren too. His optimism, which you need to have as an LTFC fan, was infectious. To the friends and fans around him and sometimes spilled onto the pitch also...he never wavered. Unfortunately, on the 13th October aged 72 he sadly passed away. There may be an empty seat in the Kenilworth Road end, but for sure, he'll still be cheering from wherever he is watching now. RIP Malcolm.



## WE'RE THINKING OF YOU, ROBERT

We were contacted by Samantha Wenn regarding the illness of her father, Town supporter **Robert Wenn**.

Samantha said: "My father was diagnosed with terminal MDS, three years ago. Luton Town has been his life. Before his diagnosis he would attend each home and away game for many years with his diamond season ticket and was part of the Bobbers Club, who would bring the box of sandwiches for the fans on the coach. However, since his illness he unfortunately stopped attending the matches. He lived for coming to the matches and I know it now upsets him that he can no longer attend."

Currently in hospital receiving treatment, we hope this message lifts Robert's spirits. We're all thinking of you Robert.



Proud sponsors of **Luton Town FC**. Get your break in the back of the net with our great-value getaways to **Majorca** from **London Luton Airport** next summer. Sandy coves? Fam-friendly resorts? Beachfront bars? Now that's what we call a hat-trick.

Pop into your local **TUI Store** for more info, or visit [tui.co.uk](http://tui.co.uk).



All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk). TUI is a trading name of TUI UK Limited, a member of the TUI Group. Registered office: Wigmore House, Wigmore Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 9TN. Registered in England No: 2830117. ATOL 2524, ABTA V5126.



## BRAVE TOWN RUN CHAMPIONS CLOSE

For the second time in a week the Hatters came oh-so close to earning a point against one of the best teams in the land.

For long spells Pep Guardiola's stars found it difficult to get to grips with the hard work and endeavour of the 11 men in orange facing them and the measurements of a compact pitch.

City had plenty of the ball throughout – and plenty of decent chances too – and the Hatters can take heart from running a team close that swept all before them last season.

The Hatters had Thomas Kaminski to thank for a series of good stops to deny City. After 80 seconds the Belgian needed to be alert to deny Bernardo Silva and then flung himself out to his right to keep out a top-corner-bound effort from Rodri on 19 minutes.

Eight minutes later, as City continued to hunt the opener, Kaminski did it again, a superb strong arm keeping out Phil Foden's fierce low drive.

As the visitors toiled, the Town sensed an opportunity and, as half-time approached, the old ground was rocking when they took the lead. Superb play from Ross Barkley sent Alfie Doughty and Andros Townsend flying down the right, the latter then composing himself to dig out a wonderfully deep cross that had City in trouble. It was another ball into the box of real quality and Elijah Adebayo profited, leaping the tallest to nod the ball past Ederson to shake every corner of the ground.

After the restart City kept coming as the Hatters tried to keep Guardiola's men at bay. Ruben Dias saw a shot cannon back off the crossbar shortly before the hour. And then, on 62 minutes, they were level when Bernardo Silva swept home a beautiful curling shot beyond the out-stretched arm of Kaminski.

Two minutes later the turnaround was complete as it was 2-1 to the visitors. The Hatters appealed in vain for a handball on the half-way line as City attacked, but the whistle would not come. Julian Alvarez raced down the right and put a pass on a plate for Jack Grealish to slot past Kaminski.

Trailing, the Town attempted to rally, yet City kept the ball and their composure to see the game out – and that was that, the life strangled out of Rob Edwards' men after that two-goal burst.



# 1 - 2

**Kenilworth Road – 10th December 2023**

**Town:** Kaminski; Doughty, Giles (sub Chong 84), Lockyer (sub Clark 90), Mengi, Bell; Nakamba (sub Lokonga 72), Barkley; Townsend (sub Morris 72), Brown, Adebayo.

**Subs not used:** Krul, Andersen, Berry, Mpaznu, Johnson.

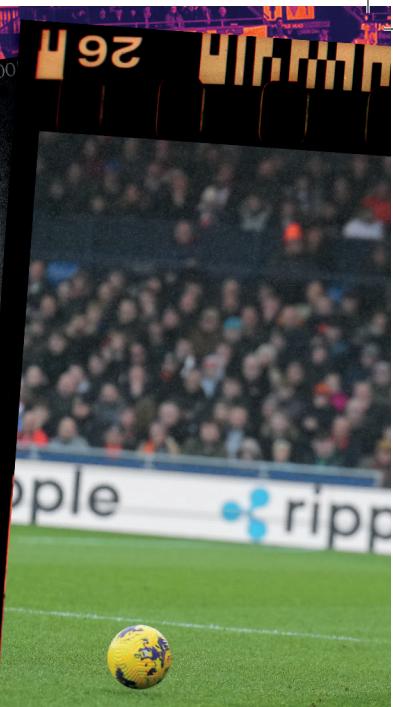
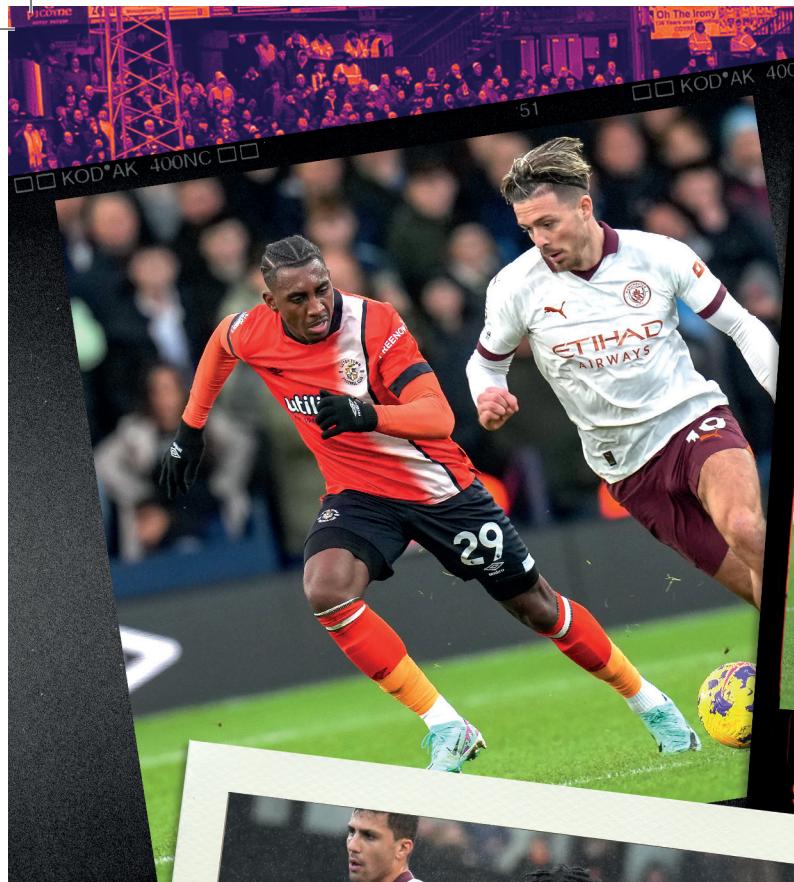
**City:** Ederson, Walker, Dias, Ake, Kovacic (sub Nunes 83), Grealish, Rodri, Alvarez, Silva, Gvardiol (sub Stones 69), Foden (sub Akanji 90+3).

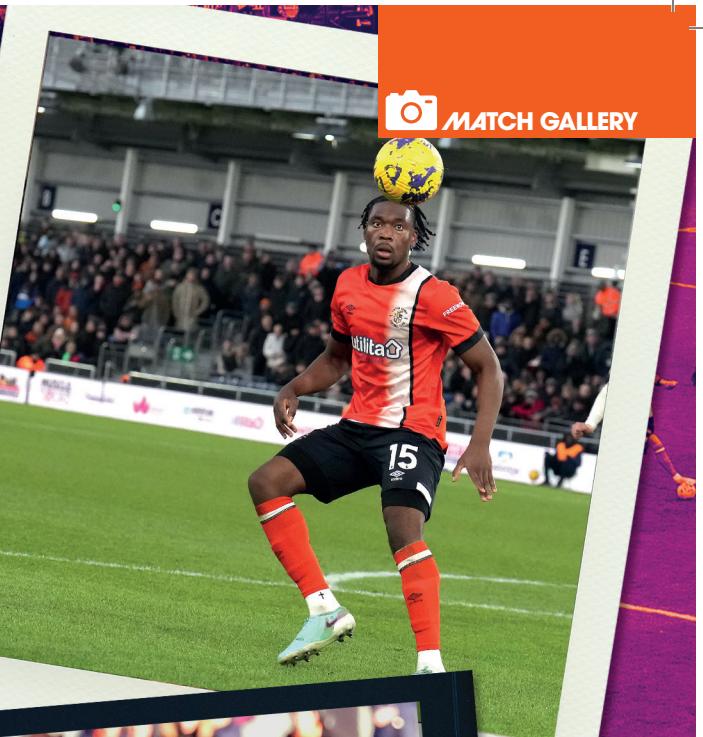
**Subs not used:** Ortega, Carson, Phillips, Gomez, Bobb, Lewis.

### SCORERS:

**Town:** Adebayo 45+

**City:** Bernardo Silva 62, Grealish 64







# FROM THE STADIUM SEAT TO YOUR TAXI SEAT

**50% OFF YOUR FIRST  
2 TRIPS WITH CODE:**

**LUTON**



**DOWNLOAD FREENOW**





# HAPPY ADEBAYO BACK AMONG THE GOALS

**Elijah Adebayo might have scored two goals in a week against two of the best teams in Europe – but he would have happily traded them for points in the Premier League instead.**

The Hatters striker was a constant menace against Arsenal and Manchester City, adding to his top-flight tally with goals that brought a deafening noise to Kenilworth Road.

Yet despite leading in both games the Hatters could not hold on in either match and ultimately would leave the pitch with disappointment and no points to show for their determined efforts.

“It’s great to score but I’d probably prefer the points,” said the frontman.

“The gaffer has trusted me to play and I hope I’ve repaid him with the goals. He’d probably prefer the points like the rest of the team, though.

“I know I can score goals, I’ve just got to keep getting in the right areas and be calm when the opportunities arise.”

On the performance in the 2-1 defeat to last season’s treble winners, Adebayo added: “We gave as good as we got for large amounts of the game.

“We knew when we went in front it was going to be even tougher to keep the lead.

“But I’m so proud of the way we went after them, to go toe-to-toe with them for large amounts of the game.

“It’s flat in the dressing room; the boys are disappointed, but we’ve got to take some confidence from the last two games and push on.”

The Hatters might not have taken a point across the two games but the performances, especially at Kenilworth Road, certainly bode well for the remainder of the season.

“Any team that comes here, we’ve got to play like that,” added Adebayo.

“We showed that we can fight; the boys have got the desire and willingness to keep learning and want to win. Those results will come.”

The former Walsall man was restored to the starting XI for the game against Arsenal and rewarded the manager with two goals to add to the two he scored against Burnley and Nottingham Forest when appearing as a substitute.

And the centre-forward reflected on his time out of the team.

He said: “When you’re not in the side, it’s tough. You’ve got to come on and try to affect the game in a positive way and for me, whether I’m starting or on the bench it’s about being positive in everything I do.”

“Being out of the side was tough, those couple of weeks were tough and the gaffer’s put me in and I just hope that I’ve repaid him with two goals in a week. Me and the gaffer and everyone else would have preferred the points.

“We know it was going to be tough playing Arsenal and Man City in the same week, but so proud of the boys for how they went about the game for large amounts of it.” 



# FIRST NAME ON THE TEAM SHEET

BUILD YOUR  
ULTIMATE TOOLKIT



SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFO

📞 015257 11500

✉️ [SALES1@TENGTOOLS.COM](mailto:SALES1@TENGTOOLS.COM)

🌐 [WWW.TENGTOOLS.COM](http://WWW.TENGTOOLS.COM)

FIND YOUR LOCAL DEALER: [TENGTOOLS.COM/FIND-A-STOCKIST](http://TENGTOOLS.COM/FIND-A-STOCKIST)

Get organised™



# BROWN: EVERYONE'S CONFIDENT RIGHT NOW

**Jacob Brown hailed teammate Elijah Adebayo after the striker's header put the Hatters ahead against Manchester City – and believes the forward players are thriving on confidence going into the festive period.**

Adebayo's effort sent the Town into the break a goal to the good against the reigning champions, and it was reward for a fine disciplined first half against Pep Guardiola's side.

"Everyone's feeling confident and it's nice to be getting the goals. Eli's doing really well at the minute and he deserves the goals that he's getting," said Brown.

"He's working hard, getting in the right positions and taking his chances, so as forward players, we're confident at the minute.

"We've just got to keep working and the results will come. You can see from the performances, if you look back to the start of the season to see how quickly we've progressed and got better as a team.

"We just need to keep working on that and we know we can improve even more, so hopefully the next few games we can show it."

Brown was photographed dropping to his knees in celebration following the goal and the Scotland international said: "It was just relief as I thought we played so well in the first half.

"Sometimes you don't always get what you deserve, whereas there, to get that goal just before half-time, we deserved it.

"It was such a good feeling, I think I was just tired as well. I dropped to my knees, but again, we went in at half-time leading and again games in the future we need to work on that and go at them for the next half."

The game was Brown's second start in a week, having come on and scored as a substitute in the defeat at Brentford.

The summer signing from Stoke added: "Whenever I'm in the team I just want to work hard and when the gaffer sets the gameplan, then it's about everyone doing that to the best of their ability.

"If I'm starting or on the bench I'm just going to give my all until the minute I come off." 





## BEHIND THE SCENES: LUTON v MANCHESTER CITY





**2018/19**  
**League One**  
**Champions**



**2019/20**  
**19th, Championship**  
*Heroic last-day escape!*



**2020/21**  
**12th, Championship**



**2021/22**  
**6th, Championship**



**2022/23**  
**Promoted to the**  
*Premier League!*



# **STAR PLATFORMS** **A SPONSORSHIP** **SUCCESS STORY**



**01582 297050**  
[info@starplatforms.co.uk](mailto:info@starplatforms.co.uk)  
[starplatforms.co.uk](http://starplatforms.co.uk)

 **STARPLATFORMS**  
POWERED ACCESS HIRE, SALES & TRAINING

# KITS FROM THE PAST

**In a new feature, Town fan and shirt collector David Foxen looks back on great shirts from our past. First up, the away shirt used between 1984 and 1987.**

We were absolutely spoilt for kits during the period of 1984 to 1987 seasons with both the home, away and third being absolutely stunning.

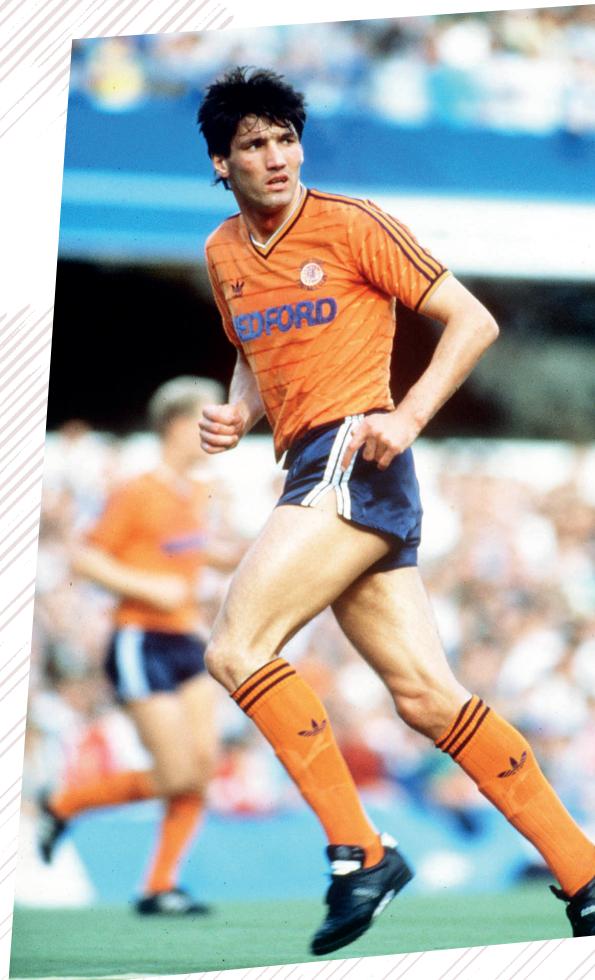
These were our penultimate selection of shirts manufactured by Adidas before the switch to Umbro in 1989, and boy did Adidas do a wonderful job. The away shirt is a real favourite of mine, and one that continues to elude me in joining my vast Luton shirt collection.

The away shirt is a beautiful orange, with slight, shiny accents (almost like ribbons) wrapping themselves around the shirt in a horizontal pattern. The legendary Adidas Trefoil is stitched onto the right breast of the shirt, with the iconic 1980's Luton badge embroidered on the left – a real 80s combination and reminder of the good old days for those Hatters fans who witnessed the likes of Ricky Hill, Brian Stein and Mick Harford.

This was before the introduction of sleeve patches to represent the league the club played in, so the sleeves remained empty. From those lucky enough to have a players shirt with a number on the back, I understand that the number is stitched on the shirt all around the number to ensure it has been securely attached to it. Again, a far cry from modern day heat-pressed name and number sets.

If this wonderful shirt couldn't get any better, the classic 'Bedford' sponsor adorns the front, in a big, bold, proud font. The Adidas three stripes are black on this shirt and run

down both sleeves and circle the cuffs, and accentuates the "V Neck" collar to make the shirt really pop and stand out. The colours really work well and complement each other. It is an incredibly rare shirt, and not widely known about. I hope you've fallen in love with this shirt now too!





# WELCOME NEWCASTLE UNITED

**Today the Hatters welcome North-East giants Newcastle United to Kenilworth Road. Newcastle have been in a rough patch of form lately but have still had a very strong season so far.**

The Magpies started the season with an astounding 5-1 win over a very strong Aston Villa side. Alexander Isak bagged a brace as well as goals from Sandro Tonali, Callum Wilson and Harvey Barnes.

This big win was followed by a string of three league defeats against Manchester City, Liverpool and Brighton & Hove Albion. Newcastle ended this poor run with a 1-0 win over Brentford.

It was soon after this when Newcastle embarked on their Champions League journey. The Magpies travelled to Italy for their first match in the 'group of death' and drew 0-0 with AC Milan at San Siro.

After this game, Eddie Howe's side recorded an astonishing 8-0 away win at Bramall Lane. The Magpies side scored all eight goals from different players as they cruised to a historic win.

They went on to beat Manchester City 1-0 in the Carabao Cup and beat

Burnley 2-0 at St James' Park, with Miguel Almiron and Alexander Isak getting the goals against the Clarets.

In early October, the Magpies recorded a result to go down in footballing history when Howe's side obliterated Paris Saint-Germain 4-1 at home in an unbelievable performance in the Champions League.

After this big result, Newcastle drew 2-2 with West Ham United, beat Crystal Palace 4-0, lost 1-0 to Borussia Dortmund and drew 2-2 with Wolves.

Big wins against Manchester United and Arsenal were followed with losses to Borussia Dortmund and AFC Bournemouth. This is when Newcastle were hit with an injury crisis.

Despite injuries, the Magpies have been pushing through and picked up wins against Chelsea and Manchester United again. However, this is when things began to go a bit wrong as Newcastle lost consecutive games against Everton, Tottenham Hotspur and AC Milan, they were subsequently knocked out of the Champions League.

There's no this is a big game here at Kenilworth Road in what promises to be a Christmas cracker. A massive welcome to all those associated with Newcastle United.

# MEET THE MAGPIES

## THE BOSS



**EDDIE HOWE.** The Magpies boss took Bournemouth from League Two to the Premier League across two spells and success continued on Tyneside after guiding Newcastle to the Champions League in first full season at St James' Park.

## GOALKEEPER



**NICK POPE.** Cambridgeshire-born stopper did the rounds in non-league before his break at Charlton. Played over 150 times for Burnley before making the move to Newcastle in 2022.

## DEFENDERS



**SVEN BOTMAN.** Dutch centre-half who joined the Magpies for €37 million in June 2022 from Lille. Came through the Ajax youth academy but is yet to make his senior debut for his country.



**DAN BURN.** Dominant in the air, the defender spent a short time in the Newcastle academy before being released. Made his senior debut for Darlington and has since moved to Fulham, Wigan and Brighton before returning to St James' in 2022.



**JAMAAL LASCELLES.** Magpies captain Jamaal is nearing 250 appearances in the black and white since joining from Nottingham Forest in 2014. The centre-back has England youth caps to his name.



## VALENTINO LIVRAMENTO.

Highly-rated young full-back or winger signed in the summer from Southampton for an initial £32 million. The 21-year-old has represented England at youth level.



## FABIAN SCHAR.

Experienced Swiss centre-half who is nearing 150 Premier League appearances for the Magpies since joining from Deportivo La Coruna in 2018.



## KIERAN TRIPPIER.

England international right-back, with an eye for goal from set-pieces, who joined Newcastle from Atletico Madrid in 2022. Began his career at Manchester City before spells at Barnsley (loan), Burnley and Tottenham.

## MIDFIELDERS



## MIGUEL ALMIRON.

Paraguay international winger or attacking midfielder arrived on Tyneside in 2019 from Atlanta United. Began his career in his native Paraguay before moving to Argentina and then the US.



## HARVEY BARNES.

Left-winger Harvey signed for the Magpies for a deal thought to be in the region of £38 million from Leicester this summer, having come through the ranks with the Foxes.



## BRUNO GUIMARAES.

Talented Brazilian international midfielder who arrived at St James' Park in January 2022 from French club Lyon. Has 18 caps to his name for his country.



## SEAN LONGSTAFF.

Local boy Sean was born in North Shields and has come through the Magpies' academy. Within a few games of reaching 150 games in the black and white.

## ATTACKERS



## ANTHONY GORDON.

Highly-rated, big money signing Anthony arrived from Everton for a reported £40 million from Everton in January. Came through the ranks at Goodison Park and is an England Under-21 international.



## ALEXANDER ISAK.

Swedish international centre forward Alexander has impressed since joining the club from Real Sociedad in 2022. Began his career at AIK before a short spell at Borussia Dortmund.



## JOELINTON.

Another Brazilian loved by St James' Park faithful, Joelinton signed in 2019 from Hoffenheim. Shot to the top of scouts' watchlist after a productive two-year loan at Rapid Vienna.



## CALLUM WILSON.

England international striker who has averaged more than a goal every other game since signing from Bournemouth in September 2020.



THE FIGHTBACK IS ON

# CLASSIC MATCH



**CLUB HISTORIAN  
ROGER WASH LOOKS  
AT POSSIBLY THE BEST  
HATTERS COMEBACK OF  
ALL TIME**

**30TH NOVEMBER 1946  
LUTON TOWN 4-3 NEWCASTLE UNITED**

**When Luton Town supporters of a certain age look back over the years to argue over the best game seen at Kenilworth Road, many hark back to an amazing clash with Newcastle United in November 1946 which had every Hatters fan plumbing the depths of despair and then reaching seventh heaven over the space of 90 minutes.**

The Town had been top of the old Division Two as war broke out and when competitive football resumed in 1946 the players seemed to be starting as they left off when recording a resounding 4-1 home win over Sheffield Wednesday on the opening day.

Unfortunately, although local boy Hugh Billington still continued to bang in the goals as he had done seven years before, the away form and the lack of another proven goalscorer to share the load up front

meant that the Town struggled to rise above mid-table.

The home record was the saving grace, however, with only one defeat suffered from the first seven games. In the home match prior to the visit of Newcastle, the Kenilworth Road league attendance record had been broken when near neighbours Tottenham visited Kenilworth Road and returned to North London at the end of a 3-2 beating.

Newcastle were a different proposition though, and sat proudly at the top of the division having suffered only two reversals from the opening 16 matches. They also boasted a forward line which included Jackie Milburn, Roy Bentley, Charlie Wayman and Tom Pearson, all big stars of the day.

As if this was not enough they had added to

this firepower by bringing Len Shackleton from Bradford Park Avenue to Tyneside a few weeks before. Shackleton, who had netted six goals on his debut as the Magpies demolished poor Newport 13-0, had signed for a post-war record £13,000 (or more precisely, £13,000-0s-3d as Bradford wanted to beat the previous record which had been set a couple of months previously when Albert Stubbins went from Newcastle to Liverpool!)

Naturally this particular circus attracted the crowds wherever it went and Luton was no exception with 25,410 packing the terraces and all turnstiles locked well before the start.

As all older Luton Town supporters will confirm, the pitch used to slope towards the Oak Road end of the ground with the result that from about October onwards that particular goal-mouth was a muddy morass. Whichever side was defending that end was at an immediate disadvantage which was the Town's lot in the first half.

The conditions meant that defenders had difficulty in turning and when this was added to the slick inter-passing of the Newcastle forwards, and far too much respect given, the Hatters were always going to be up against it.

Goals from Bentley after 12 minutes, Wayman after 26 and an absolute cracker from Shackleton on the half-hour put the Town in a seemingly impossible position. As the Luton players trudged off at half-time, the supporters must have wondered what the final Newcastle tally would be.

Left winger, and future Luton manager, Dally Duncan when interviewed some years later shed some light on the half-time team talk given by manager George Martin. Beside himself with anger, Martin started off by kicking over a full bucket of water on entering the dressing room.

After calming down a little he pointed out that the Town had not played badly in the first half, Billington had caused some panic in the Newcastle defence as well as hitting a post and they would now be attacking the swamp-like Oak

Road end. Also the undue reverence given to the Magpies had to stop forthwith!

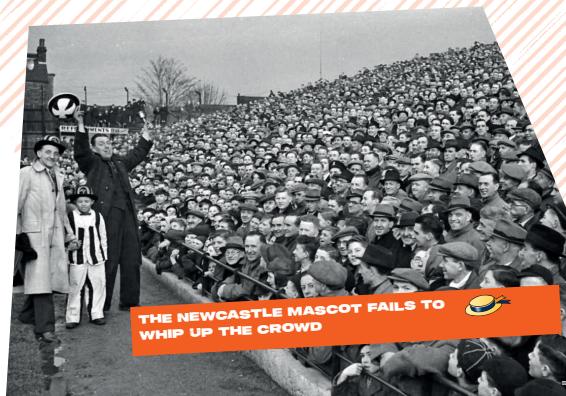
Suitably chastised, the players set out in the second half with a vengeance feeling that one goal could start an avalanche. This one goal was not long in coming with Billy Waugh getting on the end of a Duncan cross in the 54th minute and when Mel Daniel headed in an accurate Duncan corner two minutes later the crowd suddenly began to believe that a major upset was on the cards.

When Billington ploughed through the mud to thunder home the equaliser on the hour the crowd was in uproar and apart from a brief flurry from the Magpies, when a penalty appeal for handball against Horace Gager was turned down, there was only going to be one winner.

The Town left it a bit late for the final goal as there were only seven minutes remaining when Allen Driver slammed the ball home following further excellent play from Duncan but Newcastle were dead on their feet by then as they watched the remarkable comeback completed.

Under a headline 'Town's most sensational win', Eric Pugh wrote in the Luton News that the second-half rally had to be seen to be believed and if there was one certain thing in an uncertain world this game would be remembered and talked about for years to come.

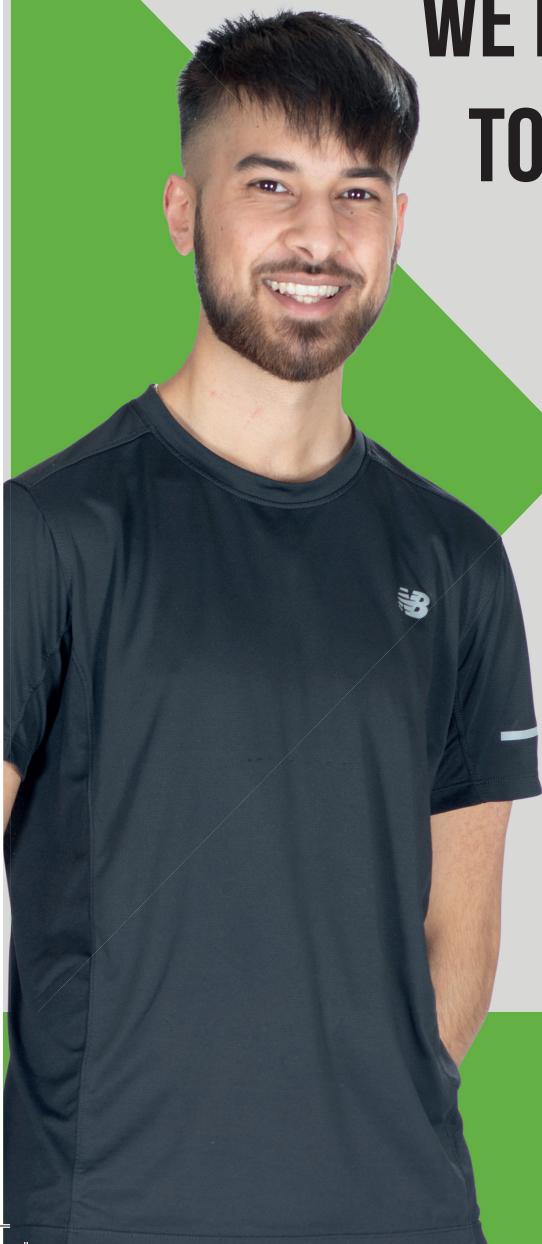
As a postscript to this particular tale, when Newcastle were looking for a new manager the following summer they remembered the 'pep talk' served up by George Martin and invited him to take over at St James' Park where he led the Magpies to promotion at the first attempt.





University of  
Bedfordshire

WE PREPARE **YOU** FOR  
TOMORROW'S WORLD



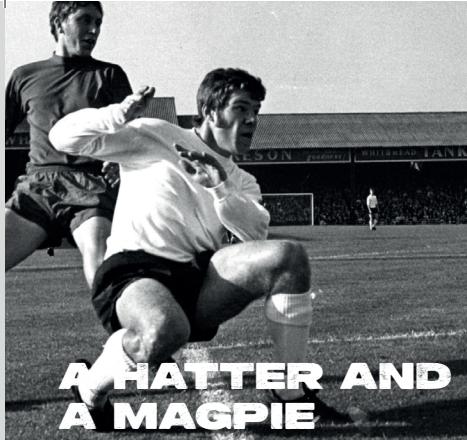
Our sports courses are  
**3rd for graduate outcomes**

(Complete University Guide, 2023)

**SIGN UP FOR  
AN OPEN DAY**



**[BEDS.AC.UK/OPENDAYS](https://beds.ac.uk/opendays)**  
WITH US, IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU



## A HATTER AND A MAGPIE

**When Luton signed a little-known full-back from Fulham for £17,500 in the summer of 1969 it raised no more than a couple of column inches in the local press.**

Within a couple of months, Malcolm Macdonald was converted to a forward because of injuries and became a goalscoring sensation. In two seasons at Kenilworth Road he netted 49 goals in 88 League starts and earned himself a big money move to Newcastle.

On Tyneside, Supermac became every bit the hero he had been at Luton only this time he started to pick up England caps along the way, scoring five in one international, before surprisingly accepting a £333,333 transfer to Arsenal in 1976.

Wear and tear to his knees forced him into retirement at the age of 29 and on rejoining Fulham, Mac took over the hot seat in 1980 and guided the Cottagers to promotion. He resigned after publicity about his private life and is now a radio broadcaster on Tyneside.

## CULT HERO: FAUSTINO ASPRILLA

When Newcastle started hitting the headlines in the Premier League in the mid-90s, the name on everyone's lips was **Faustino Asprilla**. Having scored goals in the Colombian top-flight, he moved to Parma in Italy, scoring 25 times in 84 games. He moved to Tyneside in February 1996 for £6.7m but it was his performance in the 3-2 win over Barcelona in the following season's Champions League game at St James' Park that he will be long remembered for by Newcastle fans.



**9TH FEBRUARY 1994  
TOWN 2-0 NEWCASTLE**

Newcastle had won promotion to the Premier League the season before, and were enjoying a fine season back in the top-flight thanks to the goalscoring prowess of Peter Beardsley and Andy Cole. A wonder strike from Tony Thorpe gave the Hatters a shock

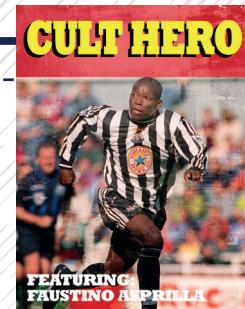
lead in the first game at St James' Park with the Magpies earning a replay after a dubious Beardsley penalty. Back at the Kenny, in front of the

Sky cameras, John Hartson puts the Town ahead after he rounds Mike Hooper and places the ball in the empty net. Scott Oakes then seals the tie with a shot from a measured pass by Des Linton. This famous Hatters' victory is sportingly acknowledged by Magpies' manager, Kevin Keegan.



## CLASSIC KIT

You don't get much more classy than black and white stripes and the Magpies have done well to not mess with tradition down the years, keeping things clean, and simple. Away colours are therefore a little more interesting, so Adidas' 1996/97 offering is certainly one that sticks in our memory. You can't say no to red and navy blue hoops with a Newcastle Brown Ale logo positioned perfectly in the middle.



# VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD

**LIFE IS NEVER DULL WATCHING NEWCASTLE. FROM FLIRTING WITH RELEGATION ONE MINUTE TO QUALIFYING FOR THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE THE NEXT, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT ON TYNE-SIDE, AS CONTENT CREATOR ADAM PEARSON EXPLAINS.**

## **What does it mean to be a Newcastle supporter?**

Being a supporter is passed down from generations. My dad took me to my first ever match at St James Park and the cycle will continue when I take my kids one day. We have a rich local history with a squad full of players who come from the area and a fanbase who will give the team everything they got. The devotion, loyalty and dedication to the club is what it means to support Newcastle United.

## **How important is watching Newcastle to you and why?**

It means everything to me. Newcastle United is all I ever think about. It's so important for any football fan to take your mind off everything and to focus for 90 minutes on watching your team. We unfortunately live in a time when financially and mentally people are struggling so supporting a team and meeting other fans is crucial to helping everyone and it also reflects onto the players. For me there is nothing I love more than Newcastle United and all I want to see is for everyone at the club to do well.

## **Like Luton, Newcastle have experienced a rollercoaster existence – describe how the ups and downs of following the club have impacted your life.**

Supporting Newcastle United especially over the past 15 years has had plenty of ups and downs to

say the least. I think the worst I remembered was actually not the relegation in 2009 or the relegation in 2016, but rather the Covid-19 games in 2020. It was so depressing watching us struggle every week when you couldn't go to the games and, with the takeover originally failing to go through, it was just the worst time being a football fan. The best times were seeing us progress into the Carabao Cup final last season and seeing all my friends and over 50,000 fans travel down to London. It's something I am hoping to see again as soon as possible.

#### **Of all the players that have worn the black and white, who stands out for you and why?**

Sean Longstaff is always someone I believe fans overlook, his improvement over the past two years has been exceptional and he continues to get better as a midfielder. He has openly talked about his struggles mentally as a player before the takeover, so to see him do so well now is a testament to his character and his commitment to the club.

#### **What matches against Luton do you remember?**

I was in attendance for the FA Cup clash back in 2018 and I remember the game well. I thought the 7,500 Luton Town fans that attended the match was some of the best I have actually seen at St James' Park and made an uncomfortable second half for Newcastle despite the difference in the sides.

#### **Champions League came back to the St James' Park this season. Can you put into words this feeling of qualifying last season and how much of a rollercoaster campaign it was, beating PSG but then losing to Milan.**

I never thought in my wildest dreams I would be attended games to watch Newcastle United play in the Champions League so to see us

qualify in our first full season after the takeover was a massive achievement exceeding the club expectations. No one ever wants to go out of the group stage finishing last but the reality was we were drawn in arguably the best group stage of all-time alongside Borussia Dortmund, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain. Despite the tough draw, still being able to beat Paris Saint-Germain 4-1 and to compete with an inexperienced squad riddled with injuries was a brilliant run and I'm sure with the projections of the club it won't be the last time fans will experience Champions League football.

#### **How has life supporting Newcastle changed during your lifetime following the club?**

I would imagine it's changed a lot for everyone, but for me it's a bit different. I have been producing content since 2015 as a hobby while going to all of the matches as a Newcastle United fan, but I have been in a fortunate position where I actually left university to go full-time on YouTube so supporting the club has literally changed my life and career choices.

#### **Finally, what's your favourite ever Newcastle game and why?**

My favourite ever game I've been to has to link my previous answer being the 4-1 win over Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League. To see Newcastle United dominate a world class team with Kylian Mbappe like that was unbelievable to watch. I think the expectations going into that game were positive but no one predicted us to actually outplay them in that manner. The atmosphere as well was out of this world. PSG had already lost the game before the ball was kicked.

John thrashes home the ball during the 4-0 rout of Crewe in 1968



## JOHN MOORE: MR LUTON TOWN

**Club historian Roger Wash looks back on the career of John Moore, who celebrated his 80th birthday this week.**



**Two days ago Hatters legend John Moore celebrated his 80th birthday, with a great proportion of that time being spent involved with Luton Town as player, coach and, for a brief but glorious period, as manager.**

Born in Harthill, a mining town equidistant between Edinburgh and Glasgow, John grew up a Rangers supporter and naturally hoped to be playing for the Ibrox side one day.

He was playing for Motherwell when Luton scout, and ex-Town player, Davie Hutchison recommended him to Hatters manager George Martin at Kenilworth Road.

Martin signed Moore in the summer of 1965 without having seen him play and so began a love affair that has lasted almost 40 years.

Joining a club in the doldrums which had just been relegated to Division Four (now League Two) for the first time in its history, John soon settled down and made his debut on the opening day of the 1965/66 season at home to Bradford Park Avenue marking future Derby record goalscorer Kevin Hector.

John made 43 League appearances and scored a respectable five goals in his first season as the Town narrowly failed to win promotion at the first attempt, "I only scored 14 goals in all my career at Luton but in my early days at the club I used to go up for set pieces hence the reasonable record in my first season. In later years I realised that players such as Terry Branston and Chris Nicholl were rather better in such positions so I dropped back and the goals tally dried up."

The first success for John was, of course, the Fourth Division championship season of 1967/68 when he missed only one game and scored four goals including the opener



A young John Moore demonstrating his skills



John, second left, celebrates promotion in 1968

in the 4-0 home thrashing of Crewe which clinched the title.

"That was a tremendous night with nearly 19,000 at Kenilworth Road to see a Fourth Division game, and a fitting end to a great season. Players such as Terry Branston, who was a marvellous leader, and Bruce Rioch spring readily to mind and if you could have coupled the skill of Graham French with my endeavour what a player would have been produced."

John went on to become a rock at the heart of the Luton defence for another five seasons as the Town won further promotion from Division Three and then took the Second Division by storm before consolidating under Harry Haslam.

"I was lucky to be in the same team as such players as Mike Keen, who thought so much

more quickly than most of the others on the pitch, Don Givens another vastly underrated player and, of course, Malcolm Macdonald and John Aston."

When looking back on his playing career John recalled the famous 2-0 win at Newcastle in the FA Cup in 1973 which set up a run to the quarter-finals. "The press were full of what Macdonald and John Tudor were going to do to us and the majority of the 42,000 crowd at St James' Park were convinced we were in for a thrashing.

"Despite all this we took the game to Newcastle and John Aston scored twice to give us an interval lead which we held until the end. I had one of those games where even if I was lying on the ground the ball kept on hitting me and I was throwing myself all over the place blocking everything Newcastle could throw at us. In later years ➤

# TOUREEN GROUP



**WE ARE A CONSTRUCTION SERVICES GROUP, DELIVERING SAFETY, VALUE & QUALITY**

The Toureen Group is a long-established construction group with award winning, specialist, in-house divisions, delivering high quality projects for a wide range of prestigious clients. The Group's services can be contracted singularly or combined to create increased value through integrated solutions.



DESIGN & BUILD



GROUNDWORKS



RC FRAMES



BASEMENTS



DEMOLITION



RETAIL & PETROLEUM



TOUREENGROUP.CO.UK  
0208 424 7999



**PROUD  
SPONSORS OF  
LUTON FC**

future manager Jim Ryan still used that as a role model for what defending was all about."

John's last first team game in Luton colours was in Rome against Lazio in the Anglo-Italian tournament in 1973 and after a spell at Northampton he joined Dunstable Town where he enjoyed his first taste of management.

It was not long before he came back to Kenilworth Road, taking up an offer from new Luton manager, and ex-playing colleague, David Pleat to join the coaching staff.

When Pleat left Luton in 1986, Moore was handed the top job and oversaw the Town's highest ever placing of seventh in the top flight during the following campaign.

Not relishing the high profile nature of management at the top level as well as all the internal 'noise' going on at the time, he resigned in 1987 and had a short spell out of the game before re-joining Pleat at Leicester in 1989 and then returning to Kenilworth Road a year later when invited by another old playing colleague, Jim Ryan.

Always happiest when coaching and bringing on the youth players he saw his charges reach the semi-finals of the FA Youth Cup twice which was no mean feat for a supposed unfashionable club and heavy testament to his coaching abilities.

John 'retired' from the club on his 60th birthday and for a time coached at Bedford Modern School.

John now has a lounge named after him at Kenilworth Road where he sits unobtrusively in the corner on every match day sharing pearls of wisdom in his strong Scottish accent as he dissects the game in a manner we are all keen to hear.

As an additional testament to his coaching abilities, whenever a former player comes back to the club who he had taken through the youth system at Kenilworth Road – and there are many household names amongst them – they always make a bee-line to John, ever grateful for his firm but fair tutelage which set them up in their football careers.

Happy birthday John!



John, pictured before the recent Arsenal game



IT NETWORKING AND SECURITY

WWW.SWITCHSHOP.CO.UK

01438 831870

# 'LOCKYER' NETWORK DOWN WITH SWITCHSHOP'S CTAP



GET A FREE CYBER  
THREAT ASSESSMENT  
FOR YOUR  
ORGANISATION

**FORTINET**®

**ENGAGE**  
FORTINET EXPERT PARTNER

Integrator- MSSP- Marketplace



Scan here to  
find out more



Scott Griffiths heads in the Town's fifth goal during the 6-0 rout of Kidderminster over Christmas 2013



Stuart Fleetwood strokes home the fourth goal in the 5-0 win over Kettering at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day 2011

# A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

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

## Part Nine – K is for Kettering and Kidderminster.

Meetings with **Kettering Town** go back to our early days in the Southern League in the Victorian era but both teams found themselves clashing in the Conference during our first three seasons at that level.

I am not sure what Northants police were expecting, but for our first meeting at Rockingham Road in August 2009 dozens of officers in riot gear were present plus horses and even a helicopter! All to maintain order over a crowd of 3,266 who watched a turgid 0-0 draw.

It was more relaxed the following season when we won 3-1 courtesy of a hat-trick from Matthew Barnes-Homer but it was in the final pair of games where the goals flowed.

By 2011/12 Kettering had lost their Rockingham Road ground and were sharing with Rushden and Diamonds – another ground that is no longer with us. Both games that season were played over the Christmas period and at Kenilworth Road a crowd of 7,164 saw the Town win 5-0 with five different

goalscorers, while in the return at Rushden the scoreline was the same with again five different players on the scoresheet.

We met **Kidderminster Harriers** in each of our five seasons in non-League. One thing all Luton supporters miss is a trip to Aggborough where the externally run catering was the best anyone had ever encountered. Supporters were known to forego the pub to get in early to make sure the cottage pie had not sold out!

Apart from the catering, another reason a trip there was so enjoyable was that we never seemed to lose – making it altogether a good day out. Four wins and a draw was our proud record with the final meeting seeing the final piece in the jigsaw, Paul Benson, make his debut in the 2-0 victory.

This win was followed up with a 6-0 victory at Kenilworth Road in December 2013 against a side who were challenging with ourselves to get out of the division. The win saw us finally oust Cambridge from top spot as we strode on to the eventual championship.

# FIRST TEAM KIT SPONSORS

<b>1: JAMES SHEA</b>  P: UNAVAILABLE H: LTD SA A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>2: GABE OSHO</b>  P: UNAVAILABLE H: LFC Pool A: Corey & Sheryl Mayes T: LTD SA TW: AVAILABLE	<b>3: DAN POTTS</b>  P: UNAVAILABLE H: Doug Knight A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>4: TOM LOCKYER</b>  H: Block Con Clubbers A: You'll Never Take the Maple T: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd TW: AVAILABLE
<b>5: MADS ANDERSEN</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>6: ROSS BARKLEY</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: HIB Ltd	<b>7: CHIEDOZIE OGBENE</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>8: LUKE BERRY</b>  P: UNAVAILABLE H: Gill, Julie, Neil & Yvonne A: Liz Evans T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
<b>9: CARLTON MORRIS</b>  PRIME ATLANTIC GROUP TW: AVAILABLE	<b>10: CAULEY WOODROW</b>  H: Howdens Joinery Luton A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>11: ELIJAH ADEBAYO</b>  H: WHOSH A: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd T: 1981 Events TW: AVAILABLE	<b>12: ISSA KABORE</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
<b>13: MARVELOUS NAKAMBA</b>  SSG Renewables TW: AVAILABLE	<b>14: TAHITH CHONG</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: Beau Reilly	<b>15: TEDEN MENGI</b>  P: AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>16: REECE BURKE</b>  P: UNAVAILABLE H: DLA Driving School A: Temple Flooring LTD T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
<b>17: PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU</b>  H: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd A: WHOSH T: Scandinavian Hatters TW: AVAILABLE	<b>18: JORDAN CLARK</b>  H: Chris & Alex Browne A: First Response Fire Safety UK Ltd T: Keith Elkington Transport TW: AVAILABLE	<b>19: JACOB BROWN</b>  H: UNAVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>20: LOUIE WATSON</b>  H: AVAILABLE A: Temple Flooring LTD T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
<b>21: JOHN MCATEE</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>23: TIM KRUL</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>24: THOMAS KAMINSKI</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>28: RYAN GILES</b>  PLATINUM AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
<b>29: AMARI'I BELL</b>  H: A.B.S Thermal Insulation LTD A: Bobbers Travel Club T: Bartham Group TW: AVAILABLE	<b>28: ALBERT SAMBI LOKONGA</b>  H: UNAVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	<b>45: ALFIE DOUGHTY</b>  H: Kevin Lennon A: Bobbers Travel Club T: TP Extrusions Ltd TW: AVAILABLE	<b>TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KIT SPONSORSHIPS CALL THE COMMERCIAL TEAM: 01582 411622 OR EMAIL COMMERCIAL@ LUTONTOWN.CO.UK</b>
<b>ROB EDWARDS</b>  H: AVAILABLE A:	<b>MICK HARFORD</b>  PRIME ATLANTIC GROUP	<b>SIMON PARSELL</b>  H: Bobbers Travel Club A:	



## MANCHESTER CITY MASCOTS & MAN-OF-THE-MATCH



**OUR LAST HOME PREMIER LEAGUE GAME AGAINST MANCHESTER CITY SAW ALFIE DOUGHTY NAMED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH BY SPONSORS NISA, AND THE TOWN WING-BACK RECEIVED HIS TROPHY POST-MATCH IN THE ERIC MORECAMBE SUITE.**

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

Today we have the pleasure of welcoming guests from our match sponsor La Bella Calabria to Kenilworth Road and five home mascots who will get all the VIP treatment!

We hope you all have an enjoyable day with us.



**LA BELLA CALABRIA**  
Italian Ristorante

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

# IN FOCUS

## LUTON v MANCHESTER CITY





# MUSCLE SQUAD

[www.musclesquad.com](http://www.musclesquad.com)



## Fitness For All.

Based locally we are one of the leading fitness equipment companies in the UK. We expertly design a range of home gym equipment with a mission of making fitness accessible to everyone, all the time. If you're looking to workout from home, whatever the space, we have everything you need.

10% discount off all products using code **LUTON10**



Our customers say

Excellent



4.8 out of 5 Based on 5,401 reviews



# MIDDLESBROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



## AYRESOME PARK

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

The Directors, Staff and Players  
wish you all  
A Merry Christmas

SATURDAY,

23rd DECEMBER 1972

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



ON  
THIS  
DAY

23RD DECEMBER

### MEMORABLE MATCH!

MIDDLESBROUGH 0-1 LUTON  
23RD DECEMBER 1972

The Town have only ever won once away from home on this day and that came back in December 1972 when a Barry Butlin goal was enough to give the Hatters an important 1-0 victory at Ayresome Park.

Butlin seemed to have a liking for Boro's home ground – he would score goals in matches in the North East in the following two seasons.

10,122 watched the 1-0 win, but the following season, as both sides chased promotion, the attendance more than doubled with 22,590 watching the corresponding fixture that saw Boro win 2-1.

## THE RECORD

A date in our history that hasn't always seen so many fixtures, with just 14 played. Overall Hatters teams from the past have won five, lost five and drawn four of these, with just 31 goals scored in these games, 15 in the Town's favour and 16 for the opposition.

Although there have only been 14 matches on this day, two of these have come in the 1890s. The first was an FA Cup replay against First Sherwood Foresters, a team made of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment of the British Army. The Hatters, watched by 2,500 fans, won 2-1.

Six years later, in 1899, the Town were playing in the Second Division but went down at home to New Brighton Tower 4-1.

It wasn't until 1905, with the Hatters now playing their matches at Kenilworth Road, for the first win on this day to occur. Reading were seen off 3-0 in a Southern League clash, watched by 5,000 happy Hatters.

### IN MORE RECENT TIMES

The Hatters have had a liking for playing on this day over the past few years, winning three of their last five, losing just once.

The loss, a 4-1 defeat at Reading came in 2000 – in a season which would end in relegation from the Second Division (now League One). Lee Nogan scored the Town's consolation at the Madjeski Stadium.

More recently, the Town have won their last two on 23rd December. Six years ago, goals from Luke Berry and James Collins earned a 2-0 League Two victory over Grimsby at Kenilworth Road. Come the end of that season the Town would be celebrating promotion to League One.

We were in the Championship in 2006 when we played on this day, with Mike Newell's side earning an important win over Coventry City. Ahmet Brkovic, Rowan Vine and Dean Morgan scored the Town's goals in front of 45,829 at Kenilworth Road.

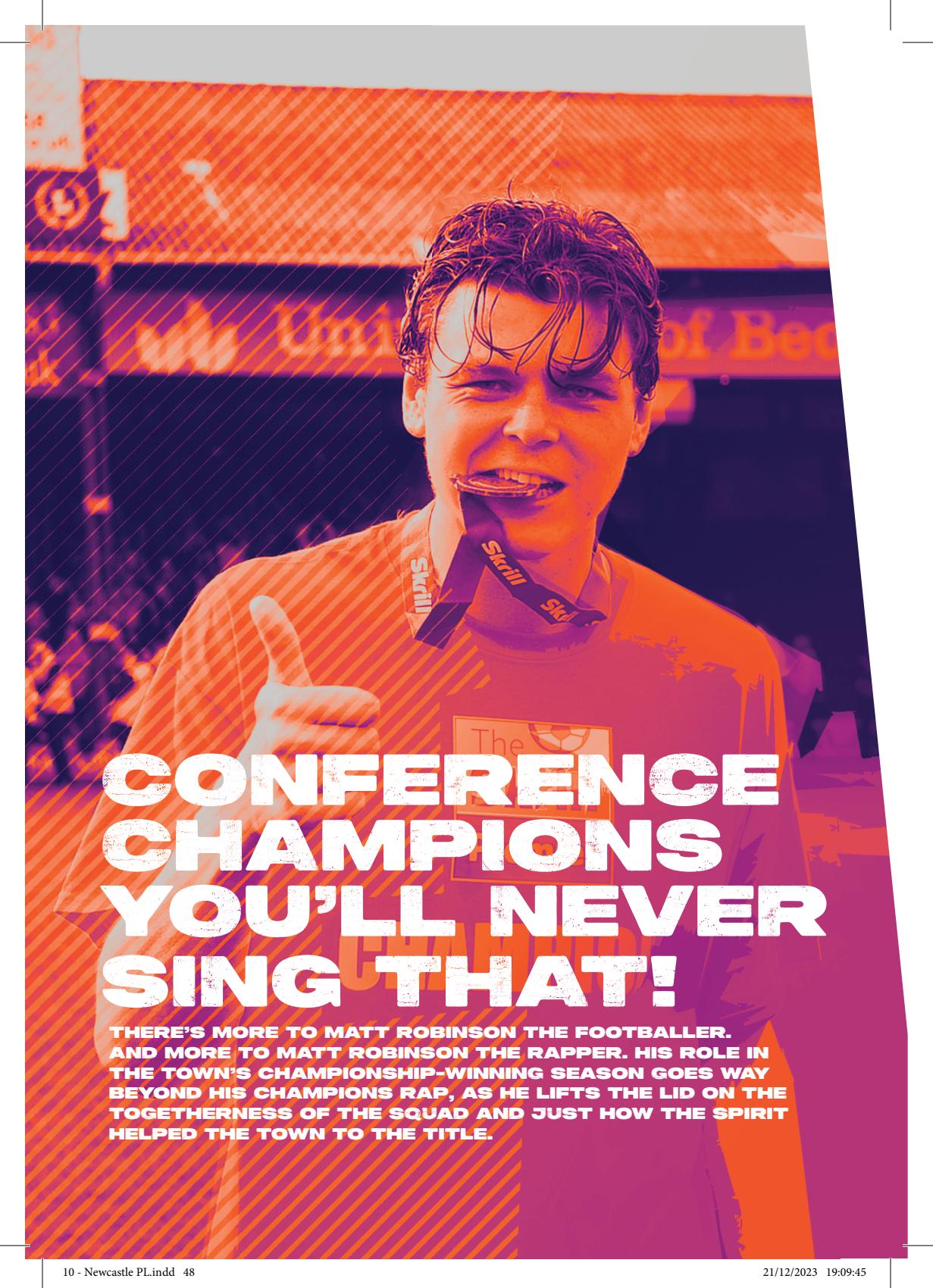


## THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

John Aston nets one of his two goals as the Town, as a Division Two side, upset the odds and win 2-0 at Newcastle in an FA Cup fourth round tie in 1973.

Roger Wash





# CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS YOU'LL NEVER SING THAT!

**THERE'S MORE TO MATT ROBINSON THE FOOTBALLER. AND MORE TO MATT ROBINSON THE RAPPER. HIS ROLE IN THE TOWN'S CHAMPIONSHIP-WINNING SEASON GOES WAY BEYOND HIS CHAMPIONS RAP, AS HE LIFTS THE LID ON THE TOGETHERNESS OF THE SQUAD AND JUST HOW THE SPIRIT HELPED THE TOWN TO THE TITLE.**

## **“In the downpour we told Barnet to calm it.”**

**It's a line synonymous with the Town's Conference winning campaign following an iconic game on New Year's Day 2014 that saw the Hatters aquaplane to a vital 2-1 win at Kenilworth Road.**

“They're words I'll never live down,” laughs Matt Robinson as we chart his path through the midfielder's career and his role in helping the club return to the Football League after five years away.

But more on the rap later.

Robinson's career at Kenilworth Road began in the summer of 2012 as a fresh-faced 18 year old. After being released by hometown club Leicester, he was signed by Paul Buckle – and he soon realised what he'd let himself in for in one of his first training sessions.

“I whacked Ronnie Henry. He grabbed me and said 'don't do that again'. Listen, I'm not saying I didn't, but I certainly knew then that I was in the lion's den, playing with grown men trying to get out of the most difficult division in football.”

Even though he was a teenager at the time, Robinson quickly understood the Hatters' difficulty in escape the confinements of the fifth tier.

“The pressure in the Conference was different, with eight-to-ten thousand fans,” he says. “The expectation is there but the turnover of players was big. Players felt threatened from those who had been there before and that breeds competition. Sometimes that's healthy and it works but sometimes it doesn't, and it didn't work for Paul Buckle.”

Despite being grateful for Buckle giving him his full senior debut in September, come April Robinson was ready to be acquainted with a new boss – one which helped turn the club around.

John Still thrust a young Robinson into the heart of the Town midfield for the final seven matches of the 2012/13 campaign, where he would go on and score his first senior goal on the final day of the campaign at Southport.

“I don't have many Luton shirts, but I have that shirt up, signed in my studio,” he says. “It's a landmark that can only be replicated once, and put me in a good position for the challenge the next season.”

However, hoping to build on that milestone, Robinson found it tough when he reported for pre-season training.

“I fell off a bit in the summer when I came back. I was dealing with a lot of stuff off the pitch and my head was elsewhere,” he says. “I didn't do myself much justice. After the end to the previous season I thought it was my place to lose. However, John went with more experienced players, and I understood that. I've played in the division long enough to know that playing with youngsters rarely gets you success.”

“I was disappointed, especially after coming off such a high. But I was given my chances in reserve games – which were pretty frequent – and in the FA Trophy. I remember we played Wrexham in the Trophy, we won 2-0 and I was the oldest player on the pitch. I felt I was doing my thing, this is how I'll get back in.”

Any footballer will tell you of the moment in their careers where an opportunity presents itself. For Robinson, it came as a result of ➤



unfortunate circumstances for his teammate, Jonathan Smith.

"I wasn't even expecting to be on the bench at Barnet," he says. "Then Smudge broke his leg and all of a sudden it was 'Robbo, you're coming on'."

With their stricken teammate facing a lengthy spell on the sidelines, Robinson and the Hatters knew exactly how they would cope with the situation and keep their sights on winning promotion.

"In situations like these the camaraderie comes through, a togetherness," he says. "The true definition of team is when you put everything else above everything and you push as one."

"The dynamic in that team felt like there was two teams within in a team but there was no divide. There were the young lads, trying to prove themselves, get their names out there and be a part of it with a lot of competition."

"Then there was a great selection of older boys; Alex Lawless, Mark Tyler, Paul Benson, Steve McNulty, Luke Guttridge. Even people like Anthony Charles, Jon Shaw, Solomon Taiwo – people who didn't play as much but who could be there to calm things down if needed to, or sort things out in the dressing room."

"It was no-nonsense. We probably had five or six different captains for different things. One for discipline, another for a shoulder to cry on. Everyone got on and I think that's the reason why we were so prolific that year."

"We had spirit in abundance, we had a synergy, we all had the same goal and there was no selfishness."

"And John Still, to a certain degree, was the

glue. I guess he was the grandad, and Terry Harris and Hakan Hayrettin were the great uncles, who had the banter but could step in when needed. When people say a squad is like a family, it can be overestimated, but this genuinely was one."

With Robinson in the team the Town continued their charge to the top of the table, overhauling Cambridge thanks to a 27-match unbeaten run that saw the midfielder on target in crucial wins against Grimsby and Chester.

Finally, following Kidderminster's win over Cambridge, the Hatters were crowned champions.

When the jubilant squad reconvened for training, Robinson's teammates reminded him of a promise he had made earlier in the season.

"We were 12 points behind Cambridge and I wasn't in the team at the time but I said, 'if we win the league, I'll do a rap'."

"So I felt the mood of what was needed and I wrote it in about ten minutes. I went to the studio and had one hour's studio time. I played it to the lads at the weekly meeting and they were buzzing."

"When you already have a blueprint for a track it's easy. Plus all the lads' names ended in 'y', Shawy, Scotty, Howellsy, Wally, which helps. Then you have to isolate incidents that were memorable, like the downpour line."

"I think the song gave me a lot of popularity with the young fans but I like to think I did my part on the pitch too."

The success that season would help Robinson's career in both industries. ➤





**QUINN**  
**GROUNDWORKS**  
& Construction Ltd

**QUINN**  
**GROUNDWORKS**  
& Construction Ltd

**01582 453338**  
**[quinngroundworks.co.uk](http://quinngroundworks.co.uk)**



"With the bonus we got for winning promotion, I bought my first home studio. A Macbook, soundcard and a very expensive microphone," he says.

"But I remember at Carlisle, on the first day of the following season, in the hotel before I was looking at the mountains and thinking, 'I've made it to the Football League'. I'd come a way that not many had managed to do.

"I have a photograph on my Instagram of my shirt with the Football League badge on it. We won 1-0, and remember walking over to the fans thinking 'this is a moment'. Luton Town are back."

The 2014/15 season would see Robinson play his final games for the Town. A loan spell at Woking followed in 2015/16 before he made a move to Dagenham & Redbridge where he would make over 200 appearances. Now the midfielder is contracted at Woking but on loan at Boreham Wood.

However, his work in the music scene, as Kamakaze, has seen him nominated for the award of Best Grime Act at the 2022 MOBO awards, while his track 'Last Night' was added to the FIFA 20 soundtrack.

It became an instantly recognisable part of the game, especially during lockdown. It also made Robinson become the first person to have a song on FIFA's soundtrack while also previously having featured on the game as a footballer.

As we discuss his music, it becomes apparent how far Robinson has come from the 18-year-old who stepped foot in Kenilworth Road and explicitly asked not to talk about his musical talents in his first interview.

"You know why?" he asks, as we put to him why he's comfortable with it now, 11 years later. "Back then nobody saw it as a positive. It was seen as a distraction then.

"These days, things like this are encouraged but back then everyone would be on at me about it. Coaches, staff. The academy director at Leicester despised it.

"It was like I had to keep it in this box. I have this analogy: Nobody cares if a footballer plays golf. Playing golf isn't taking anything away from their focus. It's an old school mentality of what a footballer should be.

"The music came out of the box when the box split, when I could no longer contain it.

"People make music and want to create things that are timeless, things that people can pin on a noticeboard and say 'this was my year, that's my soundtrack to my life'. That's the most rewarding thing for me."

Robinson's last words are reserved for football and someone particularly close to him.

"Pelly deserves all his flowers," he says. "He's the nicest, most humble, down-to-earth individual I've ever met. He doesn't fit any mould, even his playing style doesn't."

"With the work I've done with Nike, I was once asked 'who's the one person in football we don't know about that we should?'

"I said Pelly because nobody else has what he has."

# MINI HATTERS



## SOCER SCHOOLS



# LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

## MINI-HATTERS

**We are now taking bookings for the next cohort of our Mini Hatters sessions, starting in January.**

Taking place on Saturday mornings, our Mini Hatters sessions offer three to five year olds the opportunity to experience their first taste of playing football. As well as learning the basic skills they need to get started in the game, these sessions are all about making sure our youngsters enjoy themselves and have the opportunity to build new friendships.

The sessions take place at Queen Elizabeth School in Luton in the sports hall. Our new indoor base means we are now able to run these sessions all year round. Each session is tailored specifically to the relevant age group, with individual sessions for three,

four and five year olds delivered by Luton Town FC Community Trust staff.

Community Trust Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds said: "These sessions offer a great way for youngsters to start their football journey. We make sure these sessions are fun, light hearted and that everyone goes home with a smile on their face, including the adults, who we encourage to get involved."

There is also the opportunity for our youngsters to win the 'Hatter of the Week' award, rewarding those that display a positive attitude. While these sessions are very much focused on enjoyment for the youngsters, they do also offer a decent foundation to playing the game. Many of our Mini Hatters move on to our TIPs (Talent Identification Programme) once they reach

an age where they are too old for our Mini Hatters programme.

Sessions take place every Saturday from 5th January 2024. Three year olds at 9am, four year olds at 10am and five year olds at 11am. The cost is £30 per child for a six-week programme. Sessions are open to boys and girls of all abilities. To book your child's place please go to [www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk/minihatters](http://www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk/minihatters)

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITY & FOOD CAMP

**Last week we welcomed a group of 30 primary school children to our Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) camp at Queen Elizabeth School in Luton.**

HAF camps are a national government funded programme through the Department for Education that Luton Town FC Community Trust has been running since the programme was first piloted in Luton back in 2021.



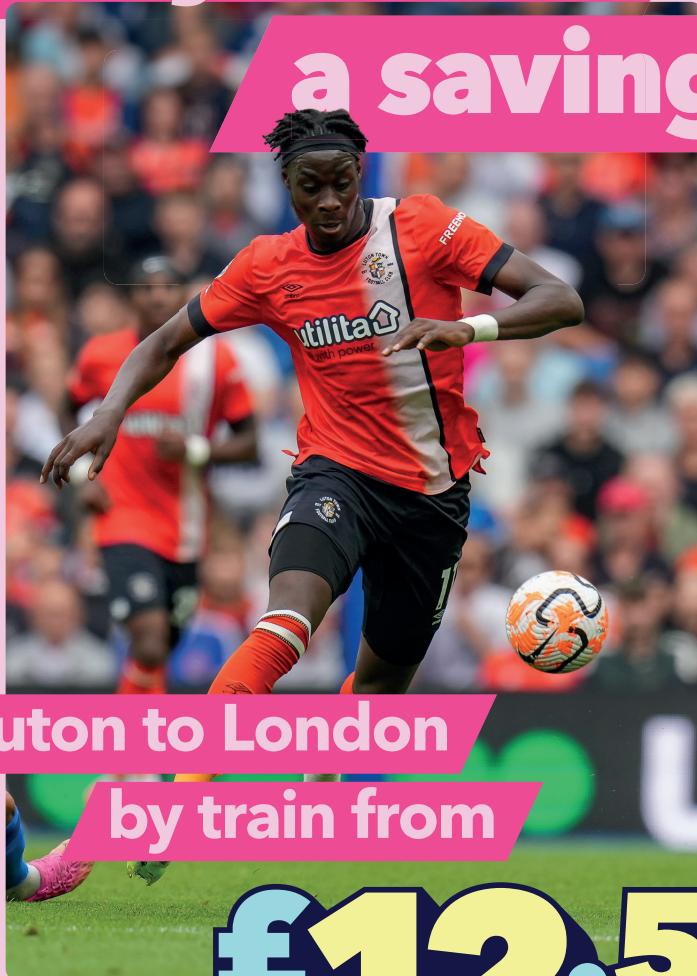
The HAF offers free provision during holidays periods for families in receipt of free school meals, as well as those considered vulnerable for other reasons. Each HAF session involves physical activity, in our case football coaching sessions, along with a free healthy meal and education around nutrition and the importance of a healthy diet. Along with the provision, HAF also helps signpost the families to other support services. HAF offers a vital role in ensuring young people and their families are supported outside of school term time.

Community Trust Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds, said: "We know how valued the HAF camps are to our families. Having free provision, including a free hot meal, can really take the pressure off for families, especially at a time when it's tougher than ever for many."

"We've been delighted to be involved again and have thoroughly enjoyed speaking to the youngsters about the club's Premier League campaign and hearing how proud they are of The Hatters. I'd also like to thank Queen Elizabeth School, who have allowed us use of their facility completely free of charge for this camp."

HAF camps are run by a whole range of providers across all holiday periods longer than a week. They will take place next over the easter break. For further information about our HAF provision, along with the other providers in Luton, please visit [www.activeluton.co.uk/energise-luton-holiday-camps](http://www.activeluton.co.uk/energise-luton-holiday-camps).

# Net yourself a saving



Luton to London  
by train from

**£12.50\***

Book your tickets now at:

[thameslinkrailway.com](http://thameslinkrailway.com) →

\*Terms and conditions apply. See website for details. Fare stated is based on our Weekend Super Off Peak Day Return ticket from Luton to London Thameslink

Proudly supporting Luton Town Football Club

**ThamesLink/**  
**WE'RE WITH YOU**



## HATTERS YOUNGSTERS EXIT FA YOUTH CUP

**The Hatters Under-18s' hopes of a run in the FA Youth Cup were dashed following a 2-0 defeat against Swindon Town at Kenilworth Road.**

A Cai Hockey own goal in the first half and a strike from Keyes in the second period earned the Robins a victory and a place in the fourth round.

Alex Lawless' side began strongly, forcing Swindon keeper Redman Evans into a string of saves, the best coming when he denied Claude Kayibanda twice in quick succession following two corners from Jack Lorentzen-Jones.

However, the visitors rode that early storm and the Town were indebted to goalkeeper Hockey when he saved Fletcher Hubbard's penalty on 32 minutes after Christian Chigozie had fouled Botan Ameen.

Hockey then saved well to keep out Harry Chard's effort three minutes before the interval but then in first half stoppage time the Town number one diverted the ball into his own goal from a corner to give the Robins the lead.

Six minutes after the break Hockey pulled

off a vital save to keep it 1-0 but, shortly after the hour, Swindon doubled their lead when striker Josh Keyes poked home from 12 yards.

Half-chances then came and went for either side. Lorentzen-Jones headed over on 66 minutes and Jamie Odegah drove a shot wide of the target four minutes later as the Town searched for a way back into the tie.

Swindon came close to putting the game beyond the reach of the Town when Ameen's effort crashed against the crossbar and Miles Obodo somehow scooped the ball over the bar.

Time was against Lawless' side and it was the Town who then were denied by the woodwork when Benedict Benagr saw his drive clip the bar with two minutes left.

But despite seven minutes additional time, the visitors saw out the remaining minutes to book their spot in the next round at the Hatters' expense and a meeting with either Derby or Manchester United.

Town: Hockey, Giwa, Johnson, Benagr, Chigozie, Kayibanda, Lorentzen-Jones, Trustram (sub Martins 74), Odegah (sub Takawira 90+4), Anderson, Xavier-Jones (sub Houghton 74)

Subs not used: Thomas, Ioannides, Harvey.

## ACADEMY UPDATE

**WITH ALBERT BELL,  
HEAD OF ACADEMY GOALKEEPING**



**After nearly a decade as the Academy goalkeeping coach I have seen many changes in the Football Club and in the goalkeeping department.**

When I first arrived, I was part-time working three nights a week with only eight goalkeepers with the Under-18s not even having a coach.

There was no set syllabus for the goalkeepers or a profile for anyone to see what the club was looking for in a Luton Town goalkeeper. Now as well as I as full-time with the PDP (Professional Development Phase) we have Frank Attwell who coaches the Foundation and Youth Development Phases, we have a good solid base for what is required and what makes a Luton keeper.

We start the younger age groups with the basics (technical) and, as they progress through the phases, they start to learn more of the tactical side of the game. Teaching the vital skills such as handling techniques, foot-work and distribution, which can be overlooked when training as part of a team. With the help and guidance of Kevin Dearden and Kevin Pilkington, we have evolved enough to challenge the category one academy clubs

where we have now 20 goalkeepers covering all ages from under-9s to under-21s.

A rigorous scouting programme means that the academy boasts a blend of local, regional and international talent and therefore a good strong group of goalkeepers. It is important that we have a strong goalkeeping department, because we want competition for places at all ages and we want the goalkeepers to compete and have a winning mentality. The goalkeeping department has a clear identity going forward and a clear philosophy of how we want to play and approach each game.

Over the years I have seen the growth of the football club and have seen players come through the academy to play in the first team from Keith Keane, James Justin and more recently Joe Johnson. However we have not had a goalkeeper come through the academy since Dean Brill back in 2005/06.

As the first team has continued to move through the leagues it has become even more difficult to get a goalkeeper to reach the high standard of first team from the academy when you look at the group they have now, Thomas Kaminski, Tim Krul and James Shea with Matt Macey and Jed Steer as training goalkeepers and add on Jack Walton out on loan you can see how difficult it could be but on the spin how good it is to have the quality for a up and coming young goalkeeper to learn from.

We have Jameson Horlick, the under-21 goalkeeper, who is a regular trainer with the first team, who has been with the academy since he was 12. We have high hopes for Jameson to be the next to break into the first team and we are hoping that in the next transfer window we can get him out on loan to gain valuable experience in playing competitive football.

Moving further down the age groups we have given early scholarship to both of the under-16 goalkeepers Charlie Booth and Lucas Thomas, who have been with us since they were nine and ten. Our under-15 Harry Dean has been the ISFA (Independent Schools) number one for the past two seasons and has recently attended an England camp and under-13 Fin Baber who has been called up for the FAW South Wales Regional 2011/12 Age Group Player Pathway. So, there is quality coming through the Academy.

Being a goalkeeper is a thankless task, one that requires a certain kind of individual to put on the gloves and the keeper's jersey. As a goalkeeper you can make several unbelievable saves and then allow to let one slip through your gloves into the back of the net and guess what's remembered? That's why we have the 'goalkeepers' union'.

All our goalkeepers have tools and techniques to help with making mistakes as well as an academy psychologist. It's all about staying focused and using the tools and techniques to control the situation which I see happening with the goalkeepers all the time within the academy.

The great German goalkeeper Oliver Khan once said: "Goalkeepers need an element of insanity. Who else would stand there and allow people to shoot balls at your face and still think it's great?"

I think all our Academy goalkeepers have a little of Insanity in them which is good!

Finally, I hope you all enjoy the game today! Personally I'm torn a lifelong Newcastle fan and have Luton as my second team. I can see the similarity between the clubs, both one-town teams and the most loyal supporters you can get, that showed when the teams played in the FA Cup back in 2017.

Enjoy the game!

"Howay the Lads" and "Up the Town"

Albert 

# DEVELOPMENT SQUAD KIT SPONSORS

<b>AIDAN FRANCIS-CLARKE</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>ARCHIE HERON</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>AXEL PIESOLD</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>BEN TOMPKINS</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available
<b>JACK BATESON</b>  H: FORMBY HATTERS A: Available T: Available	<b>JACOB PINNINGTON</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>JAKE BURGER</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>JAMESON HORLICK</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available
<b>JAYDEN LUKER</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>JOSH ALLEN</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>JOSHUA ODELL-BATURE</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>MILLAR MATTHEWS-LEWIS</b>  H: Les Miller, Miller & Company A: Available T: Available
<b>OLIVER LYNCH</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>TOBIAS BRANEY</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>TYRELLE NEWTON</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>ZACK NELSON</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available
<b>JOSHUA PHILLIPS</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>MARCUS DAWS</b>  H: Available A: Available T: Available	<b>JOE JOHNSON</b>  H: Stacey Peck A: Available T: Available	

## YOUTH U18 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

OPPONENT	DATE	SCORE	STARTING XI	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 5/8/23	A W 6-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 12/8/23	A W 4-1	THOMAS	GIWA	CHIGOZIE	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	GIWA
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 26/8/23	H L 1-2	TRAILIST	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	TRAILIST A	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 14/10/23	A W 2-1	HOCKEY	GIWA	BENAGR	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	CHIGOZIE	GIWA
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 W 2-1	HOCKEY	HARVEY	BENAGR	STITT	CHIGOZIE	BATESON	GIWA
SWINDON TOWN FAYC3	FRI 15/12/23	H L 0-2	HOCKEY	GIWA	JOHNSON	BENAGR	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONES
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	TRAILIST 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	TRAILIST	CHIGOZIE	LUKER	PIESOLD	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS
COLCHESTER UNITED	MON 13/11/23	A L 0-2	SCHEA	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 L 1-2	KRUL	PINNINGTON	JOHNSON	TOMPKINS	FRANCIS-CLARKE	ANDERSEN	PIESOLD
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 19/1/24	A							
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 27/2/24	H							

# YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS

JAMIE ODEJAH



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

CHARLIE EMERY



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

CHARLIE TRURAM



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

DOMINIC DOS SANTOS MARTINS



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

DYLAN STITT



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

ISAIAH HARVEY



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

JACK LORENTZEN-JONES



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

MARCUS WARREN



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

MATTHEW TAKAWIRA



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

MAX SCOTT



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

OLIVER PIPA



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

SAM ANDERSON



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

TATE XAVIER-JONES



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

TYRELL GIWA



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

WILL HOUGHTON



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

ZACHARIAS IOANNIDES



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

CAI HOCKEY



H: AVAILABLE  
A: AVAILABLE  
T: AVAILABLE

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KIT SPONSORSHIPS  
CALL THE COMMERCIAL TEAM: 01582 411622  
OR EMAIL COMMERCIAL@LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

## SUBS

TRURAM, TAKAWIRA, IOANNIDES, ROBERTS-EDEMA, BOOTH, MARTINS, IOANNIDES, HARVEY, ROUTH, DEAN, TRIALIST

PIPA, ODEGAH, HOUGHTON, HARVEY, WARREN, WARREN, IOANNIDES, AKINYA, SHEPHED, PIPA

BOOTH, ANDERSON, SHEPHERD, STITT, ROBERTS-EDEMA

PIPA, TAKAWIRA, MARTINS, BENAGR, SHEPHERD

PIPA, TAKAWIRA, HOUGHTON, SHEPHERD, ODEJAH, PIPA, STITT, HOUGHTON, HARVEY

ANDERSON, XAVIER-JONES, KIRBY, KAYIBANDA, PIPA

HOCKEY, HOUGHTON, XAVIER-JONES, MARTINS, AKINYA

PIPA, XAVIER-JONES, ANDERSON, BENAGR, CHIGOZIE

PIPA, SHEPHERD, BENAGR, ROUTH, HINCAPIE-ALFONSO

IOANNIDES, HOUGHTON, TAKAWIRA, KAYIBANDA, ROUTH

MARTINS, THOMAS, IOANNIDES, TAKAWIRA, EMERY, HOUGHTON, HARVEY

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, TRURAM

BURGER

LYNCH

TOWNSEND

MATTHEWS-LEWIS

NELSON, PHILLIPS, DAWS, HOUGHTON, LORENTZ-JONES

NELSON

LYNCH

MATTHEWS-LEWIS

LYNCH

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

BURGER

LYNCH

NELSON

LUKER

HORLICK, PHILLIPS, HERON, BATESON, MATTHEWS-LEWIS

# Unlocking the power of pitches

The Football Foundation is the Premier League, The FA and the Government's charity.

We award grants and work with partners to deliver outstanding grassroots football facilities across England.

Search  
Football  
Foundation  
to find out more



# FORBES PROUD OF UNDER-21S DESPITE DEFEAT

**The Town Under-21s' involvement in the Premier League Cup came to an end after a 2-1 defeat to Chelsea at Kenilworth Road.**

But boss Adrian Forbes was proud of his side's efforts against the category one academy opposition.

"I'm super proud of the boys," he said afterwards. "For playing at Kenilworth Road and the changes that that brings.

"Plus, the opposition - having previously been beaten by them earlier in the season we knew what was ahead of us.

"But from minute one to minute 97 I can't fault the attitude and application of the boys. I thought we should have been more ruthless in front of goal which could have seen us 2-0 up at half-time.

"However, we passed the ball well and went toe-to-toe with a team that was assembled for several millions, so I can't be more proud."

Forbes' side came into to their fourth group game knowing only a win would do to keep their hopes of making the knockout stages alive after three earlier defeats in the competition.

The early signs were good as the young Hatters played on the front foot throughout. Jayden Luker came close with their first chance in the 20th minute only to be denied by a smart save from Chelsea goalkeeper Eddie Beach.

The Blues were inches away from taking the lead on the half-hour mark when Tyrique George rustled the side-netting, but minutes later Mads Andersen saw a shot blocked from ten yards.

Forbes' side came closer to breaking the deadlock a minute before half-time when Zack Nelson turned well in the box but saw his effort charged down in the penalty area.

But all the Town's good work in the first half was undone 11 minutes after the restart when the visitors took the lead. A long ball forward was knocked into the path of Zain Silcott-Duberry and his scuffed shot rolled agonisingly into the corner of the net past Tim Krul.

Krul did well to prevent Chelsea doubling their lead shortly afterwards but the Hatters came mighty close to levelling the score on 66 minutes when Beach brilliantly stopped Luker's low shot which was heading for the bottom corner.

That save proved crucial as, with 16 minutes left on the clock, Chelsea made it 2-0 when George thundered home a magnificent shot from 30 yards giving Krul no chance.

However the Town rallied, and Forbes' side halved the deficit with eight minutes left when substitute Millar Matthews-Lewis crashed home from close range after Chelsea failed to clear Jake Burger's right-wing corner.

Seven minutes were added at the end of the 90 but, despite pushing for an equaliser, Chelsea held on to condemn the Town to defeat.

Town: Krul, Pinnington, Johnson, Tompkins, Andersen (sub Bateson 60), Francis-Clark, Piesold (sub Phillips 79), Burger (sub Heron 90+4), Lynch (sub Matthews-Lewis 79), Nelson, Luker. Sub not used: Horlick.



# 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:

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

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



Premier League



FSA.

## GETTING TO KNOW... TYRELL GIWA

**NAME:** Tyrell Giwa

**DOB:** 30/9/2005

**Place of birth:** North West London

**Position:** Right-back or right-wing back

**Year joined the academy:** Under-12

**What boots do you wear?** Adidas

**My aim for the season is** to be involved with the first team.

**The proudest moment of career so far is** winning both the Youth Alliance and Merit League last season.

**In the playground, I used to be** the player who loved to nutmeg.

**At school my favourite subject other than PE was** physics.

**A career outside of football would involve** business, I want to have my own company.

**The one teammate who I'd say is the most talented is** Joe Johnson – he's very technical.

**Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is** Marvelous Nakamba.

**The best thing about Luton Town is** the journey from non-league to the Premier League.

**If I was to describe myself, I am** an explosive, quick, wing-back, who likes to get forward and likes one-v-ones both attacking and defending.



## THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Tyrell is our captain and he plays an important part in the squad. He's a captain that leads by example, rather than one that shouts.

"He's respected hugely by the rest of the boys and he's a great lad. He's a good person, well-liked and a right-back or right wing-back who likes to get forward.

"He's quick, and excels in one-v-one situations and has a high desire to win the ball back.

"A second year, he did well last season and shows good athleticism in a position that requires this kind of strength."





# WELCOME TO THE CLUB

Play Now



EASPORTS.COM/FC

# LUTON TOWN LADIES

## LADIES PROGRESS TO FOURTH ROUND OF THE FA CUP

Luton Town Ladies' magical FA Cup run continues after defeating Keynsham Town 1-0 last weekend to book a fourth round tie with WSL side Brighton & Hove Albion.

Before kick-off the ladies showed their class off the pitch, holding up a number 4 shirt, supporting Luton Town men's captain Tom Lockyer.

The Town had a fantastic start to the match against a team who play a division above, with a very controlling start to the game.

Having had little to do in the opening exchanges, keeper Amy Butler did well to get a touch on a Keynsham cross which appeared to be dipping under the crossbar.

With 20 minutes gone, Andie Dickens almost gave Luton the lead when she did well to get around the keeper, but a fine piece of shielding from a Keynsham defender prevented her from finishing the chance.

Butler was called into action for the second time when she was equal to it, getting a much needed tip over the bar from a Keynsham free-kick.

The Town had defended very well inside the first half-an-hour and that was epitomised by Elly Wade when she produced a brilliant sliding challenge to prevent a Keynsham attack.

Another chance fell to Dickens who struck her effort well on the edge of the box but the Keynsham keeper was able to make a good save.

As the chances continued to fall the Town's



way, Leyah Maddix was then played through on goal but was stopped in her tracks after the assistant referee adjudged her to be offside.

The opening 15 minutes of the second half saw an evenly contested start, but the Town defence was not budging and prevented Keynsham from having any sight of the goal.

Samaira Khan, fresh off the bench, did well to win a corner and the intensity was growing from the Hatters.

And soon after, the Town took the lead when Khan, who had been lively since coming on, scored for the fourth game in a row. Captain Jess McKay sent in a great cross, which was met well with a beauty of a leaping header from Khan.

Ahead, the Hatters showed no signs of slowing down after taking the lead, with Keynsham yet to have a shot in the second half and the Town held on to earn a place in the fourth round and a tie against Women's Super League side Brighton on 14th January.

"This truly is the magic of the FA Cup," said boss Rob Burton. "We remain unbeaten in all cup competitions in 2023.

"I couldn't be prouder. This is everything they deserve and more, for their hard work and commitment."

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL\_Official



# LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

## WITH TRUST TREASURER LES MILLER

**Welcome along to our final match prior to Christmas. I would like to begin by sending my best wishes to our captain Tom Lockyer as he continues his recovery. We are all thinking of Tom and his family and friends.**

We all expected this season to be a difficult one but I think that most people would agree that our performances so far this season have deserved more points than we have actually got. I still feel that we are capable of surviving this season which would be a tremendous achievement.

If we manage that, the next step would be to look to consolidate in the top-flight until Power Court is ready which will allow the club to move forward. Even if things don't turn out as we hope this season, it has been a fantastic achievement by all concerned to get to the Premier League and the finances generated by this will secure the club's future for a number of years.

I was involved in setting up Trust in Luton, as it was then known, and have been a board member and treasurer throughout the 20-plus years of the Trust's existence. My role includes all of the normal things that you would expect the treasurer of an organisation to be involved in, including operating the Trust's bank accounts and preparing the annual accounts.



We have recently had a change of membership secretary and I have been working closely with him in an attempt to introduce processes that will be mutually beneficial to both roles and generally improve the systems.

It is often said that supporters' trusts get the most members when a club is in trouble but this need not be the case. As you are probably aware, the Trust board has regular meetings with the club's officers and is in regular contact by other means between meetings.

As a very wise man once said "the stronger the team, the stronger the team". Team can stand for 'Together, Everyone Achieves More' so, if you haven't already done so, why not become a member of the Trust?

There are many ways to join but the preferred method is by direct debit. Your renewal will happen automatically every year and you will receive a notification before the due date so that you know that the payment is going to be taken.

I will end this column by wishing you all a very happy Christmas. Hopefully Santa saves the late present of three points for us all on Tuesday!

Enjoy the game. COYH!

# MEET THE FANS WITH JP ASHER

## How long have you supported Luton for?

Since my family moved to the area when I was in my early teens - so about 20 years now.

## Where do you sit at home matches?

I have moved around a bit and used to go in the Main Stand Enclosure and Oak Road End a lot, but more recently with the kids I have gone in the Kenilworth End.

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

It is very difficult to choose only one but I think it has to be Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, not only for the way he has stepped up again and again on the field but also for what he has meant off it and for the way he has truly become the modern Mr Luton. Plus, the man has superb fashion sense!

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

Supporting Luton Town is incredibly important to me as I first became a fan during a time in my life when I was going through a lot of difficulties at home and at school, and following the team and especially going to the matches were a massive escape and relief for me from all that.

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

The Johnstone's Paint Trophy win in 2009 was such a great day at the end of such an awful few years, and being there for the lifting of the Conference trophy was also so special.

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

When I was younger, supporting Luton was often mocked, even by people within my own family. However, I found this turned into a kind of respect when people saw that I was sticking with the team so firmly even when we got relegated repeatedly at a time when everything seemed to just get worse and worse. When we got promoted to the Premier League, I had messages from people across

the world about it, congratulating us and saying how made up I must feel. It was a wonderful moment and showed just what an impression our team has had.

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

It's very different, now - aside from the quality of the football obviously being much higher, the away trips to more familiar grounds and encounters with more familiar players are obviously very different from those days.

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

The pride was beyond description. It was like a scene from years into a Football Manager save, but it was for real - and nobody can ever take it away from us. I looked at our players, and I thought - our heroes, win or lose. An immense amount of work has gone into this over the years from so many people, and I just wanted them all to know how much it meant to me and how much it meant to all Luton supporters. It really did mean everything.

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

More Luton wins, more Luton spirit, and staying up!



# Fly to London by coach.

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

With more buses at peak hours.

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

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



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

\*Return ticket to be used  
within 3 months

 **greenline**



# WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

**As we welcome Newcastle United today, we are back here at Kenilworth Road for a hectic Christmas schedule. So, lets rewind to Boxing Day last year when we hosted Norwich City in a crucial match in the Championship.**

It was a cold day in Bedfordshire as we faced the Canaries at Kenilworth Road. With Christmas Day being the day before, there was a buzz and a sense of excitement in the air.

This was also new manager Rob Edwards' first home game since joining the club following Nathan Jones' departure. It was a new era at Kenilworth Road and the start of a very successful time.

Edwards had named a strong starting lineup with lethal strike partnership of Carlton Morris and Elijah Adebayo starting up front. Norwich had also named a strong side.

Personally, I was incredibly excited for this one and had a good feeling about it. However, the first half was a quiet one with the main highlight being Alfie Doughty's free-kick being well saved by Angus Gunn.

The second half was more entertaining, and Luton took the lead on the hour mark. Dimitris Giannoulis was dispossessed by Allan Campbell before he rifled the ball into the bottom left corner of the Norwich net.

Not long after, the Canaries were level. Some good work in the midfield allowed Teemu Pukki to take the ball and fire it into the back of the Luton net. It was game on.

With ten minutes to go, the Hatters were reduced to ten men. Pukki was trying to break through the Luton defence on a counter attack and he was brought down by Gabe Osho. With Osho already booked, he was given his marching orders and given a second yellow card.

You would think at this stage Norwich would kick on and win the match but this was certainly not the case. Edwards made the bold decision to sub on Cauley Woodrow and pile the pressure on Norwich.

This substitution worked a treat for Luton as the Hatters took the lead with one minute of regular time to play. Some great work by Jordan Clark meant the ball was played to Woodrow on the edge of the box and his rocket of a strike found the top-right corner.

This sent Kenilworth Road into pandemonium as the players and fans went crazy. The players ran over to the new management team to celebrate a big three points.

After this game, Luton really kicked on and went on to gain promotion as we all know. Let's hope to replicate some of that Christmas magic today! COYH!

Words by Zac Neal 



# LUTON TOWN BUSINESS PARTNERS



# JUNIOR HATTERS TODAY'S MASCOTS



**James Morris**

Age: 12

Hobbies: Basketball, Football, Nintendo

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



**Jayden White**

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football & PlayStation

Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer, Carlton Morris



**Rhyleigh Cremin**

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football, Xbox

Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer



**Freddie Wilson**

Age: 8

Hobbies: Football, Fishing, Cubs, Swimming

Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer, Carlton Morris



**Thomas Shanley**

Age: 10

Hobbies: Playing for Barton Youth FC, Following Luton Home and Away, Irish Dancing

Favourite Player: Chiedozie Ogbene

## WELCOME TO OUR AWAY MASCOT



**Arlen Jones**

Age: 7

Hobbies: Playing football, watching football, cricket, gaming

Favourite Player: Bruno Guimaraes, Kieran Trippier

# TICKET NEWS



**LUTON TOWN v  
BOLTON WANDERERS**  
**FA Cup Third Round**  
**Sunday 7th January 2024,**  
**kick-off 2pm**

## Full Sales Plan

Oak Road Season Ticket holders will not be able to purchase seats in their normal position, however any seat that is not a season ticket currently can be purchased, including availability in the Bobbers Stand. These can be purchased in person or via phone.

All Season Ticket holders will be able to book their own seat only online using their unique Client Reference number (showing on your Season Card) or by phone or in person from the Ticket Office.

If any Diamond Season Ticket holder wishes to use one of their three match day vouchers, one of these may be used to purchase your seat.

Diamond Season Ticket holders wishing to use a voucher will need to order via phone on 01582 416976 or email [ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk).

The Ticket Office holds a list of all Diamond Season Ticket holders and the number of vouchers they have. We will adjust your records to reduce the balance of remaining vouchers. A maximum of one voucher per diamond can be used.



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

On Thursday 28th December new 23/24 Hatters Members will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture online, via phone or in person using your unique client reference number. You can choose to receive your tickets either digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. You may also receive via post if ordered during this priority period. Collection from Luton Town Ticket Office is also available, but we strongly recommend tickets are collected before the day of the game.

Supporters purchasing in all the above categories will be able to purchase multiple tickets for this match by assigning tickets to other supporters that qualify. They will need to assign to individual client reference numbers.

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

On Friday 29th December tickets will be available to new Members (without history) and on General Sale (with purchase history). Supporters falling into these categories will be able to book online using your unique client reference number. You will also be able to book in person or via phone. 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.

Please note for new members this fixture does not count towards previous purchase history when trying to book league fixtures for this season.

## Prices

Adults £19, seniors over 65 and young adults under-22 £14, under-17s £3, under-10s £1.

# LET'S GO

**BRAMALL LANE**  
**TUESDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2023**  
**KICK OFF: 3:00PM**

## WHERE?

The Town head to Bramall Lane on Boxing Day aiming for the second away win of the season. The 32,000-seater stadium has been the home of the Blades since the club's establishment in 1889, making it one of the oldest grounds in the country. At one point it was also the home of arch rivals Sheffield Wednesday. The ground has undergone various redevelopment since the early 1990s but its record attendance came back in 1936 when 68,287 witnessed an FA Cup fifth round tie between the Blades and Leeds.

## HOW TO GET THERE

On a good day, it's two-and-a-half hours drive from the Maple Road car park to Bramall Lane. Coming from Luton, take the M1 north, leaving at Junction 33 and take the A630 into Sheffield City Centre. On reaching the inner ring road follow signs for A621 Bakewell, the ground is about a quarter-of-a-mile the other side of the city centre. The postcode is S2 4SU. The Bobbers Travel Club are running coaches to Bramall Lane, too. The coach departs Luton at 10.30am and the fare is £30 for adults and £27 for concessions. Book your place on 01234 856542.

## BRAMALL LANE RECORD

The Town will head to Yorkshire hoping to make it back-to-back wins following last season's 1-0 win thanks to Carlton Morris' second-half strike. That victory was the Town's sixth in 25 visits, and their first since a 3-1 triumph in October 1994. The headline, however, is that the Town have

history of winning in the top-flight at Bramall Lane on Boxing Day. Back in 1955 the Town came back to Bedfordshire with two points and four goals, shocking the majority of the 29,563 inside the ground with a wonderful 4-0 victory. The Blades, do – as you would expect – hold the upper hand on home soil – winning 13 of the 25 meetings.

## THE BLADES OF TODAY

Since we last met in March last year, both sides went on to win promotion, the Blades joining Burnley in the top-flight as runners-up to return to the Premier League for the first time since relegation in 2020/21. There's also been a change of manager. Paul Heckingbottom was axed after the 5-0 defeat at Burnley and in came a familiar face. Chris Wilder, a Blades fan, returned to the club having previously led the club from League One to the Championship. His first game in charge was a home defeat to Liverpool. The Blades currently sit at the bottom of the table, just one point below the Hatters, after losing at Chelsea last time out.

## REASON FOR CHEER

The Town's Boxing Day record gives us all plenty of cause for optimism. Of the 92 games, the Hatters have won 46 and drawn 22, losing just 24 times. In recent times, since 1990, the Town have lost four of 25, winning 12 of those. Between 1990 and 2005, the Hatters were unbeaten on Boxing Day, winning six and drawing five of their 11 fixtures on 26th December. Last season the Town were victorious against Norwich in Rob Edwards' first home game in charge thanks to Cauley Woodrow's late winner.



**THE BLADES**



**THE HATTERS**



# MEMBERS



FREENOW



ThamesLink



CAPITAL SKY LTD.

DOHERTY GRAB HIRE

Winton Haulage

DOHERTY HEAVY HAULAGE



Handelsbanken

THE ETHICAL WEALTH PROJECT

Prestige

GARETH OWEN

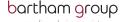
PHOTOGRAPHY

LYNX NETWORKS

indigo



hannah Solicitors



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. Who scored the Town's goals in our last home win against Newcastle in 1994?
2. Which other Football League club are nicknamed the Magpies?
3. How many times have the Hatters won at St James' Park?
4. Which Football League club play their home games at St James Park?
5. Which player scored the Hatters' last goal against Newcastle?
6. The Hatters last played on Christmas Day in 1957: against which team did we play against?
7. In which year did the 'golden goal' rule come into effect in football?
8. Who is the only goalkeeper to have won the Ballon d'Or?
9. Newcastle's Miguel Almirón plays international football for which country?
10. Which country won the European Championship in 2004?

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

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

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

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





# Premier League

## ROUND-UP

**The biggest winners of last weekend's Premier League action were Arsenal who returned to the summit thanks to a 2-0 home win over Brighton at Emirates Stadium.**

Goals from Gabriel Jesus and Kai Havertz secured the points for the Gunners who sit one point clear of Liverpool, who were held to a goalless draw with Manchester United at Anfield.

Aston Villa strengthened their hold on third spot – and moved to win one point of the top of the table – after coming from behind to win 2-1 at Brentford. Trailing to Keane Lewis-Potter's goal, Villa surged back to record an important victory thanks to goals from Alex Moreno and former Brentford striker Ollie Watkins.

Manchester City remain in fourth place but are now five points off the top after Pep Guardiola's side let a two-goal lead slip against Crystal Palace. City seemed in control against Roy Hodgson's side but a last-minute penalty from Michael Olise earned the Eagles a valuable point.

Spurs are fifth, 2-0 winners at Nottingham Forest on the Friday, and Newcastle, our visitors today, bounced



back from their European disappointment to overpower Fulham 3-0 at St James' Park. Raul Jimenez was sent-off in the first half for the visitors and goals from 17-year-old Lewis Miley, Miguel Almiron and Dan Burn secured all three points for Eddie Howe's men.

Towards the other end of the table, wins were hard to come by. Sheffield United could not build on their win over Brentford the previous matchday, going down 2-0 to Chelsea after second half goals from Cole Palmer and Nicolas Jackson. Our next visitors to Kenilworth Road sit in tenth place.

Burnley lie a place above Sheffield United and one below the Hatters after they were beaten by in-form Everton. Sean Dyche's Toffees have been exceptional since losing ten points and have now won their last four games. Without the deductions, they would be sitting in ninth place in the table.

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

WEST HAM v MAN UTD (12.30PM)

FULHAM v BURNLEY

FOREST v BOURNEMOUTH

TOTTENHAM v EVERTON

LIVERPOOL v ARSENAL (5.30PM)

### TOMORROW'S MATCH

WOLVES v CHELSEA (1PM)



# Umbro x Percival

Shop the collection at [umbro.co.uk](https://umbro.co.uk)

# PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON								CAREER				
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		CARDS		TOTAL				
	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G	Y	R	APPS	G			
Elijah Adebayo	6	(10)	4	1	(1)	0	7	(11)	4	1	0	127	36
Mads Andersen	4	(2)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(2)	1	1	0	8	1
Ross Barkley	9	(2)	1	0	(1)	0	9	(3)	1	2	0	12	1
Amari'i Bell	11	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	12	(1)	0	0	0	110	2
Luke Berry	0	(2)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	1	0	168	24
Jacob Brown	9	(6)	2	1	(1)	1	10	(7)	3	4	0	17	3
Reece Burke	7	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	7	(2)	0	1	0	66	4
Tahith Chong	6	(8)	1	1	(0)	0	7	(8)	1	4	0	15	1
Jordan Clark	0	(5)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(5)	0	1	0	116	9
Alfie Doughty	12	(3)	0	2	(0)	1	14	(3)	1	2	0	52	3
Ryan Giles	4	(5)	0	2	(0)	0	6	(5)	0	0	0	11	0
Joe Johnson	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	3	0
Issa Kabore	11	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	11	(4)	0	4	0	15	0
Thomas Kaminski	16	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	16	(0)	0	3	0	16	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	2	0
Tom Lockyer	14	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	15	(0)	1	4	0	117	7
Sambi Lokonga	2	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	3	0
Teden Mengi	9	(2)	1	1	(0)	0	10	(2)	1	1	0	12	1
Carlton Morris	14	(2)	3	0	(1)	0	14	(3)	3	1	0	68	23
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	8	(6)	0	2	(0)	0	10	(6)	0	0	0	386	23
Marvelous Nakamba	13	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	13	(1)	0	5	0	34	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	10	(5)	1	1	(1)	0	11	(6)	1	0	0	17	1
Gabriel Osho	6	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	6	(0)	1	1	0	68	4
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	5	(3)	0	0	(0)	0	5	(3)	0	0	0	8	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	L 1-4	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	BELL			
FRI AUG 25	CHELSEA	8PM	A 19	L 0-3	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> GILES	BURKE	LOCKER	BELL			
TUE AUG 29	GILLINGHAM (CC)	7:45PM	H	W 3-2	KRUL DOUGHTY GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	BELL			
FRI SEP 1	WEST HAM UNITED	8PM	H 19	L 1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES	BURKE	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	BELL		
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A 20	L 0-1	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> BELL	BURKE	LOCKER	ANDERSEN			
SAT SEP 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	H 18	D 1-1	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> DOUGHTY GILES	BURKE	LOCKER	BELL			
TUE SEP 26	EXETER CITY (CC)	7:45PM	A	L 0-1	KRUL DOUGHTY GILES	MENGI	ANDERSEN	JOHNSON			
SAT SEP 30	EVERTON	3PM	A 17	W 2-1	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> DOUGHTY BURKE	LOCKER	BELL				
SAT OCT 3	BURNLEY	7:30PM	H 17	L 1-2	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> DOUGHTY BURKE	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL			
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12:30PM	H 17	L 0-1	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> DOUGHTY ANDERSEN	LOCKER	OGBENE				
SAT OCT 21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	A 17	D 2-2	KAMINSKI <b>BURKE</b> DOUGHTY MENGI	LOCKER	OGBENE				
SUN OCT 29	ASTON VILLA	2PM	A 18	L 1-3	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> DOUGHTY MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO				
SUN NOV 5	LIVERPOOL	4:30PM	H 17	D 1-1	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> DOUGHTY MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO				
SAT NOV 11	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	A 18	L 0-1	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> DOUGHTY MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO				
SAT NOV 25	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	H 17	W 2-1	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY BELL	MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO			
SAT DEC 2	BRENTFORD	3PM	A 17	L 1-3	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> BELL	MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO			
TUE DEC 5	ARSENAL	8:15PM	H 17	L 3-4	KAMINSKI <b>KABORÉ</b> DOUGHTY MENGI	BELL	OSHO				
SUN DEC 10	MANCHESTER CITY	2PM	H 18	L 1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL			
SAT DEC 23	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	H								
TUE DEC 26	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	A								
SAT DEC 30	CHELSEA	12:30PM	H								
SUN JAN 7	BOLTON WANDERERS (FAC)	2PM	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								
SUN FEB 18	MANCHESTER UNITED	4:30PM	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	17	12	3	2	35	15	20	39
2	Liverpool	17	11	5	1	36	15	21	38
3	Aston Villa	17	12	2	3	37	21	16	38
4	Manchester City	17	10	4	3	40	20	20	34
5	Tottenham Hotspur	17	10	3	4	35	23	12	33
6	Newcastle United	17	9	2	6	36	21	15	29
7	Manchester United	17	9	1	7	18	21	-3	28
8	West Ham United	17	8	3	6	29	30	-1	27
9	Brighton and Hove Albion	17	7	5	5	33	30	3	26
10	Chelsea	17	6	4	7	28	26	2	22
11	Fulham	17	6	3	8	26	29	-3	21
12	Brentford	17	5	4	8	24	24	0	19
13	Wolverhampton Wanderers	17	5	4	8	21	29	-8	19
14	Bournemouth	16	5	4	7	21	30	-9	19
15	Crystal Palace	17	4	5	8	17	25	-8	17
16	Everton *	17	8	2	7	22	20	2	16
17	Nottingham Forest	17	3	5	9	17	30	-13	14
18	Luton Town	16	2	3	11	17	32	-15	9
19	Burnley	17	2	2	13	16	36	-20	8
20	Sheffield United	17	2	2	13	12	43	-31	8

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



## LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

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



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

SUBSTITUTES										ATT	AWAY
NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Shea, Francis-Clarke, Berry, Campbell, Doughty, Brown, Mcatee, Ogbene, Woodrow	31,872	3,001				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Doughty, Andersen, Ruddock-Mpanzu, Ogbene, Brown, Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Johnson	39,893	3,054				
MPANZU	BERRY	WOODROW	OGBENE	BROWN	Shea, Burke, Johnson, Kabore, Barkley, Chong, NAKAMBA, Adebayo, Morris	9,468	1,058				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Krul, Berry, Brown, Francis-Clarke, Johnson, Kabore, MPANZU, Ogbene, Woodrow	10,802	1,151				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Adebayo, Berry, Doughty, Giles, Mengi, MPANZU, Ogbene, Woodrow	24,467	2,701				
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Adebayo, Andersen, Berry, Chong, Giles, Mengi, MPANZU, Woodrow	10,893	1,091				
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	Shea, Ogbene, Morris, Kabore, Burke, Brown, Bell, Burger, Luker	7,360	708				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Mengi, Giles, Johnson	39,289	2,976				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Burke, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Giles, Johnson	10,918	1,126				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Barkley, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Chong, Mengi, Giles, Johnson	10,929	1,151				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Osho, Barkley, Woodrow, Adebayo, Kabore, Giles, Townsend, Luker	29,361	2,893				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, MPANZU, Giles, Townsend, Johnson, Luker	41,785	3,005				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Adebayo, Chong, MPANZU, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson, Luker	11,049	1,151				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Adebayo, Berry, Chong, MPANZU, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson	73,599	3,008				
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Berry, Adebayo, Chong, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson, Luker	11,029	1,149				
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	CHONG	Krul, Adebayo, Clark, Brown, Giles, Townsend, Johnson, Nelson	17,075	1,725				
MPANZU	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Ogbene, Berry, Morris, Chong, Clark, Giles, Johnson, Nelson	11,112	1,151				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Morris, Chong, MPANZU, Clark, Lokonga, Johnson	11,047	1,151				

## LOVE FOOTBALL, PROTECT THE GAME

Ahead of our next home fixture with Chelsea a week today, we wish to remind supporters that racist, homophobic or derogatory chanting is an offence, one considered a hate crime.

As an inclusive, family-oriented Club, we despise abusive, offensive, homophobic and discriminatory chanting, and pride ourselves for the work we have done with the local community and supporters' groups in recent seasons. This also includes helping form the Rainbow Hatters, the supporters' group for members of the LGBTQ+ community, who meet regularly to share their experiences of watching the Hatters.

When the club was fined £120,000 by the FA following a charge related to chanting of this nature by our supporters at our match with Brighton, it not only affected our finances but our reputation.



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](mailto:myvoice@lutontown.co.uk) or download Kick It Out's free confidential reporting app on the App Store or Google Play.

1. John Hartson and Scott Dakes. 2. Notts County. 3. Twicce. 4. Exeter City. 5. Danny Hylton.  
6. Manchester United. 7. 1993. 8. Lev Yashin. 9. Paraguay. 10. Greece.  
**TOWN TEASERS ANSWERS**



# HOLD THE BACK PAGE

With Geoff Doyle – Sports Editor, BBC Three Counties Radio

**It's pretty difficult to write this piece after the events of last weekend. We are all still waiting for further news on Tom and everybody remains concerned, hoping for the best for the popular Hatters captain.**

The huge positive has been how the football world has come together to offer their support. Rivalries, tribalism, petty squabbles are put aside as everybody understands that some things are more important than this silly, beautiful game.

This started with the conduct of Bournemouth and their fans as events unfolded last week. What was a distressing and concerning moment was handled very well by everybody down on the south coast.

It was touching and emotional as the players and Rob Edwards applauded both sets of fans on the lap around the pitch. Luton as a club and as a supporter group won't forget that from Bournemouth. The outpouring of support which then followed from all clubs, players and people associated with the game was also very moving.

Because of the tremendous story of Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu going through the leagues with Luton from non-league to Premier League, it can sometimes be forgotten that Tom has done the same thing – the only difference being it hasn't been entirely with Luton. He was part of the Bristol Rovers defence which played in the National League and won promotion via the play-offs. He played against Luton in both games in the 2015/16 season in League Two and again in the 2018/19 season in League One.

From there he moved into the Championship with first Charlton and then Luton. Lockyer has earned his right to play in the Premier League. He's got there by sheer hard work as well as talent. And his character and personality has led to him captaining the side in the top flight.

This season Tom has got better and better in the middle of the defence. He was excellent against Manchester City, Liverpool and Crystal Palace recently and, on Saturday, had a brilliant battle with Dominic Solanke. In a fairly young defence, Tom's leadership skills have stood out.

The incident at the Vitality Stadium is another reminder of just how important it is to have defibrillators at sporting venues and not just at top Premier League grounds. These need to be everywhere at grassroots level up.

The Premier League is awash with cash and that needs to keep trickling down to ensure these life-saving machines are everywhere. Our visitors Newcastle will be well aware of this. Former midfielder Cheick Tiote unfortunately lost his life after collapsing in a training session and former winger David Ginola survived a similar incident in a charity match.

Get well soon Tom. And make sure there's a defib near your local park or sports centre and you know where it is.



# THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports



## LUTON TOWN

1. JAMES SHEA
2. GABE OSHO
3. DAN POTTS
4. TOM LOCKYER
5. MADS ANDERSEN
6. ROSS BARKLEY
7. CHIEDOZIE OGBENE
8. LUKE BERRY
9. CARLTON MORRIS
10. CAULEY WOODROW
11. ELIJAH ADEBAYO
12. ISSA KABORÉ
13. MARVELOUS NAKAMBA
14. TAHHIT CHONG
15. TEDEN MENGI
16. REECE BURKE
17. PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU
18. JORDAN CLARK
19. JACOB BROWN
23. TIM KRUL
24. THOMAS KAMINSKI
26. RYAN GILES
28. ALBERT SAMBI LOKONGA
29. AMARI'I BELL
30. ANDROS TOWNSEND
38. JOE JOHNSON
45. ALFIE DOUGHTY



## NEWCASTLE UNITED

1. MARTIN DÚBRAVKA
2. KIERAN TRIPPIER
3. PAUL DUMMETT
4. SVEN BOTMAN
5. FABIAN SCHÄR
6. JAMAAL LASCELLES
7. JOELINTON
9. CALLUM WILSON
10. ANTHONY GORDON
11. MATT RICHTIE
13. MATT TARGETT
14. ALEXANDER ISAK
15. HARVEY BARNES
17. EMIL KRAFTH
18. LORIS KARIUS
19. JAVIER MANQUILLO
20. LEWIS HALL
21. TINO LIVRAMENTO
22. NICK POPE
23. JACOB MURPHY
24. MIGUEL ALMIRÓN
28. JOE WILLOCK
29. MARK GILLESPIE
32. ELLIOT ANDERSON
33. DAN BURN
36. SEAN LONGSTAFF
39. BRUNO GUIMARÃES
67. LEWIS MILEY

## MATCH OFFICIALS

- REFEREE - DARREN ENGLAND
- ASSISTANT REFEREE - NEIL DAVIES
- ASSISTANT REFEREE - DARREN CANN
- FOURTH OFFICIAL - ANTHONY TAYLOR
- VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - PETER BANKES
- ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - NICK GREENHALGH