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## LUTON TOWN V CHELSEA

SATURDAY 30TH DECEMBER 2023 | 12:30PM | KENILWORTH ROAD



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

# BRING THE NOISE!



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PROGRAMME.





# WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

Back-to-back wins in the Premier League have given us plenty of reason to be cheerful as we go into today's game with Chelsea here at the Kenny. It's been an emotional rollercoaster on and off the pitch in recent weeks, and the reaction of everyone following Locks' cardiac arrest at Bournemouth makes you proud to be Luton. The response of everyone has been phenomenal – not least the players, who have put everything on the line to come away with six points in the last two weeks. More of the same day? Let's hope so. Up the Town!



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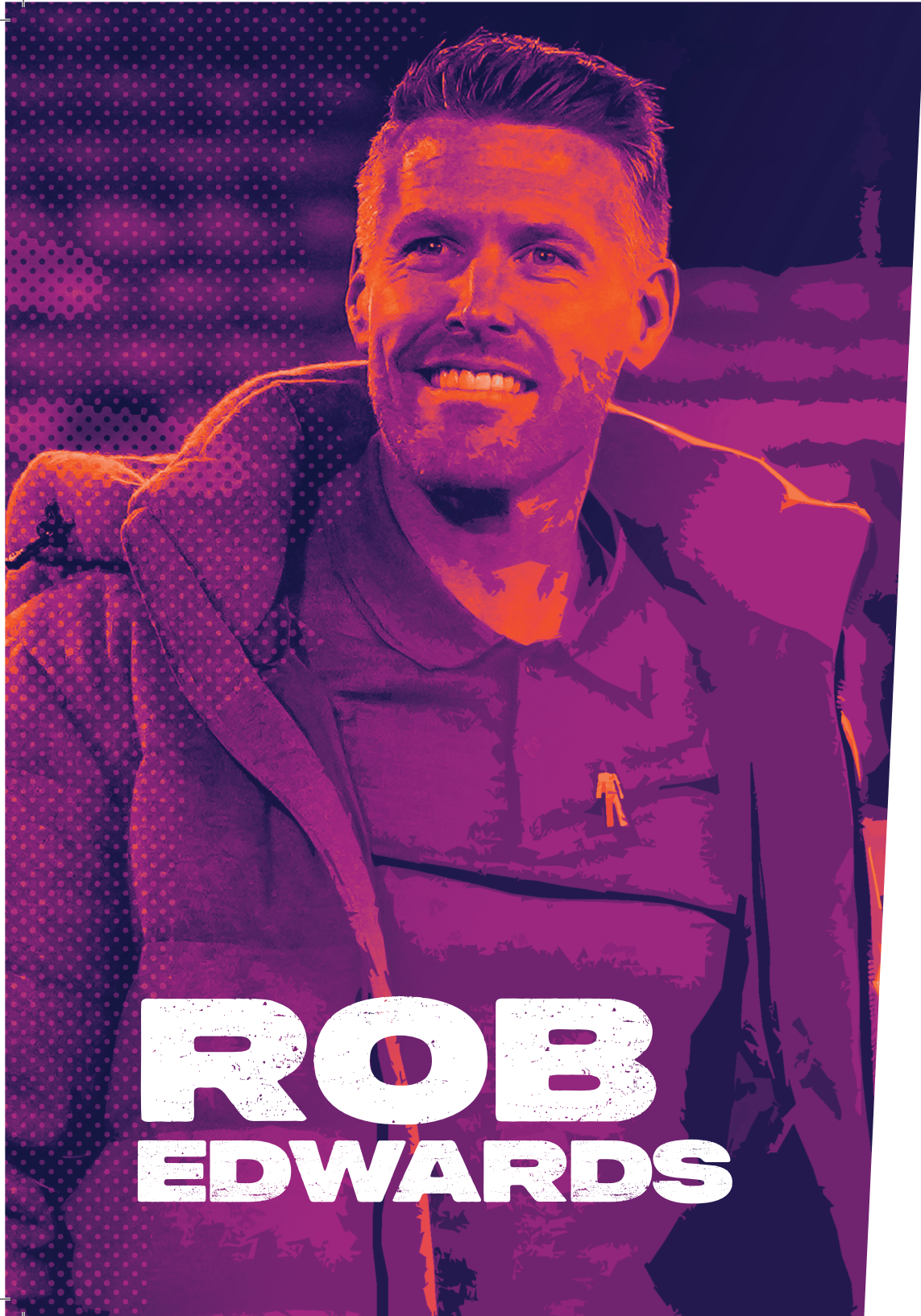
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**First of all, I'd like to start by welcoming you all to Kenilworth Road for our final match of 2023. I hope you are enjoying the festive period, and have been able to be with your loved ones at this time of year.**

I'd also like to welcome everyone associated with Chelsea, including Mauricio Pochettino and his staff and players. They're coming off the back of a win on Wednesday evening so will arrive here full of confidence.

For us, on the pitch, it has been a good period too. We thoroughly deserved the wins over both Newcastle and Sheffield United and I have been really impressed with the performance levels of the players in those two games.

After reviewing the Sheffield United match again, there was no doubt we were the better team and deserved the three points. I thought the lads were outstanding, resilient and showed a courage and bravery to go onto win the match having seen Sheffield United take the lead. It is performances like this that gives every manager encouragement, and the scenes at the end were testament to that. This is a group that will not give up.

The win was also the first time we went back-to-back following the excellent result against a Newcastle team who have won games in the Champions League this season. Achieving two wins in a row in the Premier League is no mean feat so it is a massive achievement, especially with such a short turnaround.

It was an emotional day for all involved, our first match since Locks' cardiac arrest. The way everyone has pulled together in the aftermath of the incident has been wonderful, and the tribute in the fourth minute, respected by both clubs, was incredibly moving.

Tom is doing well. He sent me a message after the Sheffield United win and was already having a go at my new trainers I'd got for Christmas. So he's in good spirits and joking in typical Locks fashion. He's recovering steadily, which is massively important and great to see. We miss him around the place at the moment, but he's always with us.

This afternoon's test against Chelsea will be tough. It promises to be a cracking game and I know this place is going to be rocking. The atmosphere at games here have been unbelievable - please keep it up.

We have improved a lot since the last time we played them, back in August, in what was only our second game of the season. A lot has changed since then and we are really looking forward to this challenge against a talented Chelsea team.

I hope you all enjoy today's game as we look to round off 2023 on a winning note. It's been a special year for us and we want to finish it in style. We'll keep fighting to the very last whistle, so get behind us and bring the noise. 🙌





OH  
TOMMY  
TOMMY...

It was an emotionally-charged 1-0 win over Newcastle last time out at Kenilworth Road with Town skipper Tom Lockyer appreciated in the fourth minute from fans of both clubs – and then again at the final whistle.

“Today was about doing it for Tom,” said manager Rob Edwards afterwards. “He’s a leader and an inspirational figure for us.

“A football match pales in insignificance in that moment. It still feels a bit weird me coming in here, talking about a game of football.

“When you’re talking about someone’s life, it doesn’t matter then.”

It was also a day to pay tribute to the medical staff, too, the heroes who sprung into action three weeks ago at the Vitality Stadium. 🏥





Mufeed Ni'man Philip Billing Simon Parsell Chris Phillips Dr Amos Ogunkoya Phil Ballesteros Abbey Clark





# FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN  
DAVID WILKINSON

**Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for this final game of 2023.**

What a year it's been!

At this time last year we were half-way up (or down) the Championship table in a stadium, which would not be up to the requirements of Premier League broadcasters, however, over the next four months we climbed into the play-off places finishing third. We beat Sunderland over two passionate legs to earn our place at Wembley where in an enthralling, but unbearably tense encounter we beat Coventry on penalties. Within minutes of promotion our wonderful management and staff then set to work to satisfy the Premier League and media requirements by upgrading the Kenny at significant expense in record time.

We are now genuinely competing in the best league in the world. We began as an underdog and were patronised and treated as unworthy by pundits and so-called experts, but as time has gone by, we have gained some respect and have started to get noticed. The Premier League is vastly different to what we have been used to over the past 15 years, but I'm sure you will join me in taking your hats off to our man-

ager, his staff and the whole playing squad for the way they are adapting and improving.

I must give a special mention to Tom Lockyer, who has played a major part both as captain and player in helping our dreams become reality. He is our warrior. We were all devastated by his cardiac arrest at Bournemouth, a day that will live in our memories forever. He is a part of us and, as Carlton Morris said in his interview at Sheffield, "he was with us in spirit".

We all thank you Tom for your past efforts and wish you well in your recovery and hope for the future.

We are under no illusions about the task ahead, but as a lifelong fan it is wonderful to see how much the players are enjoying their football and how connected we all are. As Eric Morecambe might have said "you can't see the join". Long may it continue.

Today we play host to Chelsea, the first side for the second time this season and this game sees the completion of the first half of the season. To think it's only three years ago that we were drawn against each other in the fourth round of the FA Cup in what would prove to be Frank Lampard's last game.





We were in lockdown and the limited few who were allowed in were deeply saddened that our fans were excluded from being able to watch us pit our wits against a Premier League club. We certainly didn't expect then that we would be hosting them at the Kenny in a league match within a few years. Today that is a magnificent reality.

Our recent performances have been terrific, and with a bit of luck we could have had more from the likes of Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City. Maybe luck does level out, but it hasn't yet – except for a couple of forced own goals at Bramall Lane maybe.

We continue to get experience of the ways of the Premier League and Gary, in particular, has been able to give the benefit of our knowledge of all levels

at the top of the pyramid. The New Deal for Football is high on the agenda. With 92 league clubs and those in the National League and below, it is an impossible task to make everyone happy and difficult to find acceptable compromises, but with goodwill and common sense we are sure a way will be found.

On a serious note, I need to reiterate the message elsewhere in this programme to all our fans.

***“Please sing BUT if you don't know what you're singing, don't sing it.”***

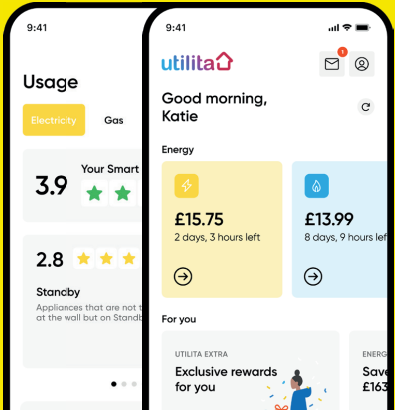
That's our message to all fans ahead of today's game and any and every future game.

Should there be any songs you don't know the words to there's no reason to



HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

SAVE LIKE  
DAVE



Energy that's  
proper smart.







join in, because if you do and inadvertently sing something unacceptable it could lead to a ban and criminal charges – plus a big fine for the club and damage to our reputation.

As you may know we were fined £120,000 for abusive, offensive, homophobic and discriminating chanting in our first game of the season at Brighton. We pride ourselves in being an inclusive family orientated club and proudly occupy and value highly our diverse local community. Everyone matters to us and we will not tolerate discrimination of any kind.

Because of past offences we are in the spotlight. Remember that the eyes of the world are watching because of the media coverage of the Premier League.

Looking to the future, if we really want football to continue to be called the 'Beautiful Game', it's not simply about skill on the pitch: it is to completely eradicate the ugliness of prejudice of all kinds and specifically colour, creed and sexuality.

Happy New Year everyone – Peace and Love

"Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it the Present." – Eleanor Roosevelt.

Enjoy the game

COYH

David 🥵

# AROUND TOWN



## BARKLEY'S A DIAMOND

**Town midfielder Ross Barkley has been voted the Diamond Player of the Month for November.**

The 30-year-old claimed 54 per cent of the votes, beating goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski who was second in the vote.

Barkley, who arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer, was instrumental in games against Liverpool and Crystal Palace during November.

Diamond Season Card holder Jean Norton was drawn to present the trophy to Ross in the Eric Morecambe Suite after our fixture against Newcastle United.

We would like to thank all Diamond Season Card holders that took the time to vote.



## MAN UTD GAME TELEVISED

**We can confirm that one of our Premier League fixtures in February has been selected for live TV coverage.**

Our home fixture against Manchester United at Kenilworth Road will be broadcast live on Sky Sports in the UK as part of Super Sunday.

The date for this fixture will now be Sunday 18th February (originally Saturday 17th February) and kick-off will be at 4:30pm.

We apologise to any supporters inconvenienced by this fixture amendment.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



A big happy 11th birthday to brother and sister **Matthew** and **Emma Gostomski** – lots of love from your Dad.



Many happy returns to big Hatters fan **Nick Avramovic**, who is celebrating his 60th birthday. Hope you have a great day, love from all your family.



# IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SINGING, DON'T SING IT.

Please sing *BUT, if you don't know what you're singing, don't sing it!*

That's our message to all Hatters fans ahead of today's game against Chelsea.

As always, we want you to sing your hearts out for the lads but, should there be any songs you don't know the words to, please don't join in – if you do, you might, unintentionally, be singing something that could lead to a heavy Club fine, a potential ban from Kenilworth Road or even facing criminal charges.

We don't need to remind supporters that our opening Premier League match of the season at Brighton led to the Club being fined £120,000 by the FA following a charge of abusive, offensive, homophobic and discriminatory chanting for singing 'Chelsea Rent Boy' and were asked to identify individuals guilty of chanting songs that were deemed offensive.

It's not just our finances that are affected but also the Club's reputation. As an inclusive, family-oriented Club we 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.

Recently toughened hate crime laws have led all Clubs to more strictly monitor, persuade and control behaviour to avoid leading to any individuals and, therefore their club, from being heavily penalised for a moment's thoughtlessness.

With the eyes of the world now upon us, and after the charges brought against us so far this season, we have never been under more scrutiny from the footballing and safety authorities, so we are politely asking you to think before you sing.

Singing the same homophobic chant, for example, at Saturday's game will therefore land us an even bigger fine, will bring unsavoury media attention to yourself and the Club and, if you're identified, it will potentially result in you losing your seat and a criminal record.

So, please sing, but if you're in any doubt, *if you don't know what you're singing, don't sing it!*

Thank you for your cooperation.

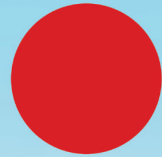
If you are offended by any discriminatory abuse of any kind at Saturday's game, you can report it by scanning the QR code, or by contacting your nearest steward immediately. Alternatively, email [myvoice@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:myvoice@lutontown.co.uk).





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## COURAGEOUS TOWN WIN IT FOR LOCKS

**"4 Locks"** read the shirt the Town players sported in the warm-up to this game and come the final whistle the captain's shirt was paraded around Kenilworth Road by his jubilant teammates who strained every sinew, chased every ball and battled and blocked their way to one of the most powerful and poignant 1-0 wins Kenilworth Road has ever seen.

From the off the Town were at it even before the fourth minute applause for the captain. Elijah Adebayo and Jacob Brown giving the Magpies defence an early indication of the battling qualities the Hatters would keep up for the remainder of the contest.

While the Town were still on the front-foot, Newcastle sensed that one moment of quality could unlock the Hatters defence. On 20 minutes the Hatters had Thomas Kaminski to thank for a wonderful reflex stop to deny Callum Wilson's close-range header with the goal at the striker's mercy.


Undeterred by the Magpies' attacking threat, the Town remained focused and on 25 minutes the Kenny was bouncing when Andros Townsend put Rob Edwards' side ahead. Alfie Doughty's left-wing corner was flicked on by Ross Barkley and Townsend ghosted in at the back-post to guide a measured header home for his first goal in Luton colours. The noise was deafening and the players celebrated by holding aloft Locks' shirt in tribute.

Ahead, the Hatters wasted no time in trying to put daylight between themselves and their visitors, and on 33 minutes, Kenilworth Road gasped in awe as Barkley thundered a shot from distance off the crossbar before he then set-up Adebayo who brought a fine save from Martin Dubravka.

In front of the break, the Town knew a second was vital in order to keep the visitors at bay, and Brown was inches away from doubling the lead only for his left foot shot hammer against Dubravka's crossbar.

Having hit the woodwork twice you could have been forgiven for thinking this might not be the Town's day. The Hatters survived a barrage of Magpies attacks and a VAR check just after the hour rightfully chalked off an Alexander Isak strike as Eddie Howe's side hunted the elusive leveller.

It was helter-skelter stuff at time in the closing stages. Blocks on the line, headers away from corners all contrived to frustrate the Magpies.

We'd been here before. Liverpool. Arsenal. Games against the big boys where last-gasp sucker-punches had left us hurting. It would not be the case this time.  15



# 1-0

### Kenilworth Road – 23rd December 2023

**Town:** Kaminski; Kaboré (sub Giles 46), Doughty, Osho, Mengi, Bell (sub Andersen 76); Lokonga (sub Mpanzu 80), Barkley; Townsend (sub Ogbene 81), Adebayo (sub Morris 80), Brown.

**Subs not used:** Krul, Woodrow, Chong, Clark.

**Magpies:** Dubravka, Trippier, Lascelles (sub Botman 37), Schar, Burn (sub Hall 85), Miley (sub Isak 38), Guimares, S. Longstaff, Almiron (sub Livramento 81), Wilson, Gordon.

**Subs not used:** Dummett, Ritchie, Krafth, Murphy, Karius.

### SCORER

**Town** – Townsend 25









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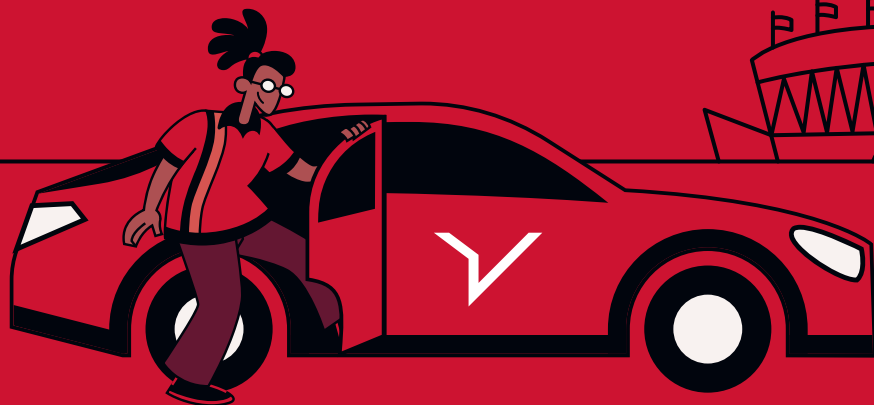
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# THAT'S FOR YOU, LOCKS - TOWNSEND

**Andros Townsend dedicated his first goal for Luton Town and the win over former club Newcastle United to captain Tom Lockyer.**

Townsend's 25th-minute header sealed all three points on an emotional afternoon at Kenilworth Road, and he said afterwards: "I'm extremely happy. First and foremost, that's for the captain – it's for Tom.

"He's put his body, he's put his life on the line for this club on many occasions, so that win was for him, and it was huge relief because we've been there before, and we've let leads slip in the last minute, the last second, the last kick of the game.

"So it was nice to see one through for the fans, for Tom, for everyone connected with Luton Town. It was just amazing to get the three points."

Asked how the week has been for the squad since their team-mate suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch at Bournemouth a week ago, Townsend said: "It's been tough. Everyone deals with it differently. In a way, it took the pressure off. You realise there are bigger things than football.

"There wasn't much tactical work throughout the week. Normally we work tirelessly on our tactics, but it was about 'Boys, go and do it for your captain', and pretty much that was it. It's been a tough week, but when you

get three points at the end of it, it makes it all the sweeter."

The former England winger's goal was just the second header of his career to find the back of the net.

"Oh man, I was delighted," he replied. "Everyone was expecting the trademark one from outside the box. I hit one over the roof five minutes earlier, but listen, I don't think I've scored in a couple of years in the Premier League. It's been a long road back to where I am now, so I'll take a header, I'll take it off my backside; any way to get a goal to help this team get three points."

On his return to top Premier League form, the former Tottenham, Crystal Palace and Everton man added: "I think the real moment was the assist against Man City. I got a bit emotional after that one at half-time because it's been a long road back, and people telling 'You can't do it any more, your legs have gone, blah, blah, blah'.

"To get an assist against the treble winners, it really was the moment that it all hit me. But I want to score goals, I want to be on the score-sheet, I want to be contributing, so a goal is just another milestone like the assist was, and I'm looking to get better.

"I feel I'm getting sharper with every game I'm playing. I'm better, I'm sharper, I'm more reliable on the ball, I'm getting crosses into the box. I'm 32 years of age, but I'm only going to get better the more time I'm getting on the pitch." 🥰





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## HATTERS MAKE HISTORY - BUT BRIGHTON TAKE THE POINTS

**Ahead at half-time. Behind on 69 minutes. In front again with eight minutes to go. The Hatters' Premier League journey so far has seen some wonderful moments so far.**

These precious three points might not have had the allure of Everton, Palace or Newcastle but the resolve and character shown by this team to fight back among the bedlam to earn a second win on the road is sure to strengthen belief.

You couldn't have wished for a better first half. From the first whistle the Town had the Blades back-peddling and their reward came in the 17th minute when Alfie Doughty tucked home from close range for his first Premier League goal, cheekily beating home keeper Wes Foderingham at his near post.

After the break the Blades began to turn the screw. And as they saw their side upping the ante, the home support responded in kind, roaring their team forward.

United levelled when James McAtee got the Hatters on the backfoot and even though he was floored by three Town men hunting the tackle on the edge of the box, the ball trickled into the path of Oliver McBurnie and he finished past Thomas Kaminski.

Eight minutes later, the Blades completed the turnaround. Somehow the Town survived a goalmouth scramble but the loose ball fell to home captain Anel Ahmedhodzic and he sent an assured finish into the net to spark scenes of celebration.

Football's beauty can sometimes be found in the chaos. Five minutes later – on 77 minutes – the Town levelled. Substitute Carlton Morris' devilish inswinging right-wing cross tempted home defender Jack Robinson into getting his head to the ball and it skimmed off the top of the centre half and into the bottom corner.

Four minutes later the game swung back in the Hatters' favour when Morris turned in the box to make a vital yard of space for him to shape to cross, the delivery taking a deflection off Anis Slimane and looping up and up and up and up – before gloriously, somehow, incredibly, dropping into the corner of the net to send the away end into raptures.

Ahead again, the third goal – the manner of it – completely and absolutely knocked the stuffing out of the Sheffield United and despite eight minutes of added time the Town were able to hold to secure their first back-to-back wins in the top-flight since December 1992.



# 2-3

**Bramall Lane - 26th December 2023**

**Blades:** Foderingham, Baldock, Ahmedhodzic, Robinson (sub Brewster 86), Trusty, McAtee, Costa (sub Norwood 86), Brooks (sub Lowe 46), Hamer (sub Slimane 72), McBurnie, Archer (sub Osula 86).

**Subs not used:** Davies, Osborn, Norrington-Davies, Seriki.

**Hatters:** Kaminski; Doughty (sub, Giles (sub Ogbene 72), Osho, Mengi, Bell; Lokonga, Barkley; Townsend (sub Mpanzu 84), Adebayo (sub Morris 72), Brown.

**Subs not used:** Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Chong, Krul.

### SCORERS:

**Sheffield United** – McBurnie 61, Ahmedhodzic 69

**Town** - Doughty 17, Robinson (og) 77, Slimane (og) 81













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# DUO DELIGHTED WITH BOXING DAY WIN

**Alfie Doughty and Carlton Morris hailed the Hatters' performance at Bramall Lane as they fought back from 2-1 down to record their first back-to-back victories of the season.**

"I think the past two games have really shown what we're about," said Doughty after the 3-2 win over Chris Wilder's side.

"We already knew this at the start of the season. It was just about us getting used to the league.

"I think we've come on leaps and bounds. The performances recently have been top. Before, we didn't really get the results we wanted, but the past two games we've got the results."

Doughty put the Town in front in the first half with his first Premier League goal of his career, silencing the Sheffield United support in the process.

"Some people call it lucky, but I like to put it through the keeper's legs. It was brilliant. I think we needed that to quieten the fans," he said.

"It was a perfect evening, though and I'm so proud of the boys. The first half we were amazing, we really dominated. The second half they were a lot better but to win just shows the character of the boys.

"You've seen before how we can keep going and going. We went 2-1 down, we're like 'that's fine, the game's not over' and this result shows that.

"I've loved playing in the Premier League – it's been enjoyable, and fun. We've now got to get the results and if we can I think we'll be fine."

Attention now turns to Chelsea this afternoon.

"The past two results have given us a good bit of momentum," added Doughty.


"Even before we'd shown against City and Arsenal that we were playing really well. We beat Newcastle, won today and now we've got to take it back to the Kenny for hopefully another three points."

Morris, who played a big part in the four-minute burst that saw the Hatters retake the lead, was also content to leave Bramall Lane with all three points.

"It was just a pleasure to come on the pitch and affect the game positively," said the striker.

Last season's top goalscorer also dedicated the win to his friend and teammate Tom Lockyer, whose shirt he held aloft in front of the away end.

"I speak to Locks every day at the moment," he said. "We miss him dearly as a squad, our boy.

"I spoke to him yesterday about how important momentum is in this period. He's behind us every step of the way and he's here in spirit." 





# WELCOME CHELSEA

**Today's opposition travelling here today from West London are Chelsea. The Blues currently sit around mid-table and have had a decent start to the season. Last time against the Town, Chelsea beat the Hatters 3-0 at Stamford Bridge with a double from Raheem Sterling and a Nicolas Jackson goal.**

Chelsea started the season with a 1-1 draw with Liverpool thanks to an Axel Disasi header. They then lost 3-1 to London rivals West Ham at the London Stadium.

The Blues then went on a tough run after losing 1-0 at home to Nottingham Forest before drawing 0-0 with AFC Bournemouth and going down again 1-0 at home to Aston Villa.

This sparked a better run for Mauricio Pochettino's side as they beat Fulham 2-0 at Craven Cottage before thumping Burnley 4-1 away from home. This was followed up by a 2-2 draw with Arsenal, with Cole Palmer and Mykhaylo Mudryk getting on the scoresheet.

The Blues lost to local rivals Brentford 2-0 before beating Tottenham Hotspur

4-1 in their own backyard. Cole Palmer scored a penalty and Nicolas Jackson bagged a hat-trick for the Blues.

This was followed up by a contender for game of the season as Chelsea drew 4-4 with Manchester City at the Bridge. Thiago Silva, Raheem Sterling, Nicolas Jackson and Cole Palmer were all on target for Chelsea to pick up a big point.

Newcastle then beat Chelsea 4-1 at St James' Park but the Blues responded well to this by beating Brighton 3-2 on home soil. The Blues also advanced to the semi-finals of the Carabao Cup by beating Newcastle on penalties.

The Blues have been extremely busy in the transfer market since Todd Boehly took over the club. Pochettino made 13 signings in the summer, including the likes of Christopher Nkunku, Nicolas Jackson, Axel Disasi, Robert Sanchez, Moises Caicedo, Romeo Lavia and Cole Palmer.

A massive warm welcome to all those associated with Chelsea. We hope you enjoy your time at Kenilworth Road.



# MEET THE BLUES

## THE BOSS



### MAURICIO POCHETTINO.

Argentinian head coach who took control this summer having won the French title with PSG last season. First arrived in England at Southampton before going onto spend five years with Tottenham, who he took to the Champions League final in 2019.

## GOALKEEPER



### ROBERT SANCHEZ.

Spaniard who joined the Blues this summer from Brighton. Moved to England aged 15 from Levante and went onto have loan spells at Forest Green and Rochdale.

## DEFENDERS



### LEVI COLWILL.

Highly-rated young centre-half who came through the ranks at Stamford Bridge. Enjoyed impressive loans spells with Huddersfield and Brighton and made his England debut this season.



### MARC CUCURELLA.

Left-sided defender or wing-back Marc joined the club from Brighton in 2022 for a fee reported to be £55 million. Came through the ranks at Barcelona before spells with Eibar and Getafe.



### AXEL DISASI.

French international centre-half who arrived at Stamford Bridge this summer from Monaco. Has enjoyed spells with Paris FC and Reims in his homeland prior to moving to London.



### MALO GUSTO.

Young Frenchman who signed from Lyon in January. Spent the rest of last season with Lyon before staking a claim in Mauricio Pochettino's squad this term.



### REECE JAMES.

England international right-back and Chelsea skipper who came through the ranks at Stamford Bridge. Originally left the club as a youngster, joining Fulham before returning in 2008.



### THIAGO SILVA.

Hugely experienced Brazilian central defender Thiago joined the club in 2020, winning the Champions League in 2021. Previously with PSG where he won seven French titles.

## MIDFIELDERS



### ENZO FERNANDES.

Argentinian World Cup-winning midfielder Enzo signed for the Blues in January for a package worth over £100 million. Only 22, he started his career with River Plate before joining Benfica.



### CONOR GALLAGHER.

Another product of the Chelsea academy, Conor's rise to the first team has come after a wealth of experience out on loan following spells at Charlton, Swansea, West Brom and Crystal Palace.



### MOSES CAICEDO.

Ecuadorian defensive midfielder who cost Chelsea over £100 million after signing from Brighton. Originally joined Brighton in 2021 from Independiente del Valle.



### COLE PALMER.

Recent England debutant Cole joined Chelsea this season from Manchester City. Came through the ranks at the Etihad and has enjoyed a goalscoring start to life at Stamford Bridge.

## ATTACKERS



### NICOLAS JACKSON.

Young centre forward signed from Villarreal this summer and scored against the Hatters earlier this season. A Senegal international, he arrived in Spain in 2019.



### MYKHAILO MUDRYK.

Ukrainian winger who put pen to paper on a deal in the January transfer window. Came through the ranks at Shakhtar Donetsk and made his international debut in 2022.



### RAHEEM STERLING.

England international winger who produced a man-of-the-match performance earlier in the season to defeat the Town. Came through the youth ranks at QPR before signing for Liverpool and then Manchester City, where he won the Premier League four times.



# CLASSIC MATCH



**LIL FUCCILLO TAPS IN THE TOWN'S FIRST GOAL**



**CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS THE TIME THE TOWN BROKE THE ICE AGAINST THE BLUES.**

## 29TH DECEMBER 1976 LUTON TOWN 4-0 CHELSEA

**It had been a strange season. The Division Two (now Championship) campaign had opened with a fine 2-0 home win over relegated Sheffield United with new signing, ex-Scotland international Dixie Deans, netting both goal – but since then performances had been inconsistent to say the least.**

Wins at Burnley, highly fancied Wolves and Notts County were followed by unexplained poor home performances, most notably a 4-1 home thrashing at the hands of Southampton.

As Christmas approached the Town were hovering around mid-table but a couple of dismal away displays left supporters looking over their shoulders at the relegation places. Firstly, in a clash at promotion chasers Bolton the Town took the lead through Lil Fuccillo before 5ft 5in Deans got into a scrap with big Sam Allardyce for which he was booked. Seconds

later Deans was dismissed for scything down Roy Greaves and with it went the match as the Trotters netted twice to win the points. Deans never played for Luton again.

In the next game, on 27th December, the Hatters went down 1-0 to a Laurie Cunningham inspired Orient at Brisbane Road in a match that should have been won.

Next up were league leaders Chelsea and we were all thinking that if we couldn't beat an Orient team who had been in the bottom two all season what chance did we have against a side who had just beaten Fulham 2-0 in front of a Stamford Bridge crowd of 55,003 to cement their place at the top.

By the time of the Chelsea clash, heavy snow had fallen and it was touch and go whether the game would go ahead. After the lines had





Brian Chambers hits home goal number two



Jimmy Husband weighs in with the third goal



How did I miss that says Lil Fuccillo

been cleared the referee gave the go ahead much to the disappointment of Chelsea manager Eddie McCreadie who thought the pitch was dangerous.

Whether his misgivings were transmitted to his players went unreported but it soon became clear that the Town were up for the game from the start while the Blues were not.

The crowd of 17,107 had hardly settled down when Fuccillo opened the scoring after 71 seconds getting on the end of a clever passing move that split the Chelsea defence to slot the ball past Chelsea reserve goalkeeper John Phillips.

As Chelsea slithered around on the pitch with the height and weight of centre-half Micky Droy at a disadvantage – the Town's smaller and more mobile attackers swarmed past him plus the goalkeeper not inspiring confidence – the Hatters took control with intricate passing that threatened a goal with every attack.

It came as a surprise that we had to wait until the 13th minute before doubling the advantage when Brian Chambers volleyed home and but for Ron Futcher being caught offside several times the

game could have been over before half-time.

As it was, Jimmy Husband hit home a glorious third just before the hour mark and it was left to full-back Steve Buckley to cement the win just before the end when he belted the ball home from the spot after the unfortunate Phillips had upended Paul Price.

Eddie McCreadie admitted that the Town had been better in all departments and refused to blame the pitch which was "the same for both sides but Luton adapted better and went out with the right mental approach.

Luton boss Harry Haslam said: "We've played well for the past three games and the goals had to come. I don't think Chelsea can blame the pitch – they were well beaten because we were easily the better side."

The Town unluckily lost their next game 1-0 at Bristol Rovers but then went on an amazing run of 11 wins and a draw from their next 12 games that saw them surging up the table to challenge the promotion contenders. This all made the fears of relegation over Christmas seem fairly ludicrous.

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## A HATTER AND BLUE

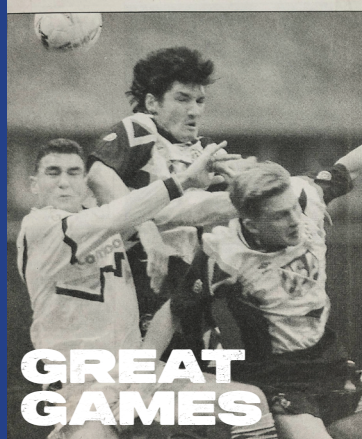
**You could easily make an XI out of players who have played for both the Town and Chelsea down the years.**

One player, however, who starred for both was Newport-born Peter Nicolas. He joined Crystal Palace from school and made his League debut as a 17-year-old on the opening day of the 1977/78 campaign.

The tough tackling midfielder helped Palace to promotion to Division One in 1979 but managed to earn a transfer two years later just before the unfortunately named 'Team of the Eighties' was relegated.

The £400,000 move to Arsenal did not work out and needing to play to keep his place as the Welsh international captain, he transferred back to Palace before being rescued by Luton's David Pleat in 1985.

He was a revelation at Kenilworth Road with his ball winning skills and it was only the attraction of European football that lured him to Aberdeen in 1987. After spells at Chelsea and Watford, Peter coached at youth level before moving back to Wales where he managed Barry and Newport and Llanelli.



**28TH DECEMBER 1991  
TOWN 2-0 CHELSEA**

The last time the Blues came to Kenilworth Road for a league encounter came in our last top-flight campaign of 1991/92. It also proved to a Christmas cracker at the Kenny as then Prime Minister John Major watched on as Richard Harvey opened the

scoring with a 25-yard rocket shot to give the Town the lead.

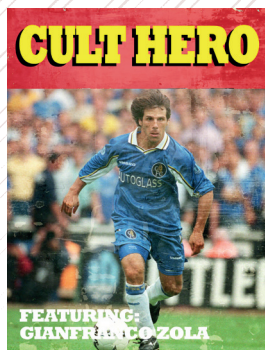
Blues goalkeeper Dave Beasant pulled down Mark Pembridge

and John Dreyer got the second from the spot with one of his now famous 'one-step' penalty kicks to double the lead. The visitors' Tom Boyd was sent off for fouling Paul Telfer in the area, but former Blue Mick Harford misses the chance to make it three when his spot-kick hits the crossbar.



## CLASSIC KIT

Blue is the Colour. That's the Chelsea anthem. Their kits, understandably, have not changed much down the years. Sometimes a hint of red, sometimes a hint of yellow. What else can you do? So our attention veers away to their change colours, specifically their Umbro offering from 1990-1992 in red and white. It gives us Croatian checks vibes, and who doesn't like that? Exactly.



## CULT HERO: GIANFRANCO ZOLA

In the Premier League era, Chelsea have been blessed with a number of top players who have led them to success. With a spine of John Terry, Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba, the Blues would go on and dominate the Premier League under Jose Mourinho. However, one player in particular became a key figure in the club's resurgence at Stamford Bridge way before Mourinho would set foot inside the club. Joining for just £4.5m from Parma in November 1996, **Gianfranco Zola** would go on and score 80 goals in 312 appearances from midfield. The two-time Player of the Year helped the Blues lift the FA Cup twice, in 1997 and 2000 and win the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1998. His performances also saw him named the Football Writers' Player of the Year in 1997.



# VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD

**CHELSEA FANS HAVE HAD IT GOOD DOWN THE YEARS. A CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WIN IN AS RECENTLY AS 2021, THE BLUES HAVE NEVER BEEN FAR AWAY FROM SILVERWARE. BUT DOES SUPPORTING THE CLUB REALLY MEAN TO THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT IT?**

**WE ASKED LEONIE CARPENTER TO FIND OUT.**

**What does it mean to be a Chelsea supporter?**

It means everything. As soon as my Dad took me to Stamford Bridge in 2003, I knew this was something special. We beat Aston Villa 1-0 and to see Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink score in person was magic. I've been going to the games with my Dad for over 20 years and sharing memories with the friends I have made over that time is the best feeling.

**How important is watching Chelsea to you and why?**

It's a huge part of my life. My best memories have involved watching this club with my Dad. I feel very lucky to have experienced some amazing games, see us lift silverware and to have met some incredible people along the way.

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

From my earliest memory of us finishing sixth in 2000/01 season, I've experienced a lot of success and feel very fortunate. I guess the change in managers was hard to keep up with at times and the new ownership is something we are





all getting used to. The magnitude of this rebuild and trying to find our identity with so many new players and a new manager, not to mention a never ending list of injuries has been a challenge. I do believe in this project and I will always remain optimistic about this club. The challenging times always make the good times that much better.

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

I've grown up with some unbelievable players. Zola, Hasselbaink, Makelele, Joe Cole, I could be here all day! I do feel very lucky to have watched Frank Lampard and John Terry play, for me they are Chelsea. The pride, the passion, the undeniable love for the club and the connection with the fans was everything.

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

My earliest memory of Chelsea came late, it was the FA Cup tie in 2021. The 3-2 win the following year in the FA Cup was a big moment for me on a personal note. It was my first time in the studio for Chelsea TV and I was joined by Kerry Dixon, although I was too young to have seen him play it still felt very surreal! My Dad was very proud!

**Can you put into words the feeling of being a Chelsea fan during their**

**successful era under Jose Mourinho?**

He really is the special one, the success, the passion, the determination. He loves Chelsea and we love him. Mourinho v Benitez was box office. Mourinho v the press was box office. The way he celebrated, the way he conducted his team. He was and still is one of a kind.

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

I've seen over 20 different managers so far! It's been eventful to say the least! The last 18 months have been challenging and missing out on European football was a huge blow. Those midweek games under the lights are truly magical. We'll be back!

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

My favourite game surprisingly isn't a final. It was March 2004, we played Wolves at the Bridge. It was my first experience of a proper edge-of-your-seat game. We did end up winning 5-2 and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink scored a hat-trick and it was also his birthday! This was also the game I started my first chant, 'Oh Jimmy Jimmy. Well, we were all singing it and I carried on, for a brief moment it was a solo performance but the crowd quickly joined in again. I'll never forget it!







## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Hatters supporters in good spirits as they patiently wait for a train to take them to Chelsea for an FA Cup Third Round tie in January 1935. The Town drew at Stamford Bridge before winning the replay 2-0.

Roger Wash





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# KITS FROM THE PAST

**In a new feature, Town fan and shirt collector David Foxen looks back on great shirts from our past. Next up, the home shirt from our last season in the top-flight, in 1991/92.**

The last time the Hatters were in the top-flight was the 1991/92 season, a campaign in which we wore an iconic Luton shirt. Fortunately, the design and 'iconic status' of this shirt hasn't been tarnished by the results on the pitch from that season...

Manufactured by Umbro, what makes this shirt so iconic is the unique design; you have the classic Luton Town white home shirt, supported by a lovely blend of blue and orange. The pattern is not symmetrical, one side looks different to the other which really makes it unique and a bit ahead of its time in 1991.

There were also two versions of this shirt. One with the USA (Universal Salvage Auctions) sponsor, and the other without. The sponsored version is the rarer shirt, with USA coming onboard later in the year, so you cannot find too many of them knocking about 32 years later. For a 30-plus year old shirt, you see the sponsor less version quite frequently on match days around Kenilworth Road – despite the results on the pitch it is clearly a crowd favourite!

Match worn and player issue versions boast an embroidered badge rather than the raised felt-like material found on the retail versions. The old Football League patches (pre-Premier League) are also stitched onto the sleeves. The effort that must have gone into making these and stitching the badges and sleeve patches must have been immense compared to modern-day, mass-produced football shirts.

This shirt is so iconic and loved by Luton fans, that in 2020/21 the club released the away shirt that was a homage to the beloved 1991/92 home shirt, but with a modern twist.

It is a truly iconic shirt, and the last home shirt worn by the Hatters in the top-flight. Will the current home shirt have the same love and significance in 30 years' time? Only time will tell.



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



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



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



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# CLEAN SHEET MAGNIFICENCE FOR MENGİ

**Defender Teden Mengi was thrilled to see the Hatters beat Newcastle – but it was the clean sheet in the 1-0 victory that delighted the former Manchester United centre-half the most.**

The Hatters restricted a Magpies side to few chances in the game – not bad against a team who had previously beaten Paris Saint-Germain 4-1 in the Champions League earlier in the season.

“We defended with our lives, let’s just say that,” said the 21-year-old. “As a back-line, that’s our passion, that’s what we’re here to do. The rest can go and score for us and win us the game, we’ll do the rest, but I don’t even think it was us as players, it was 11 leaders out there, everyone put their bodies on the line.

“It was a very tight scoreline, but that’s what it’s like in the Premier League, fine margins, but we came away with the three points and the clean sheet. Kenilworth Road is a special place for anyone to come, it doesn’t matter if you’re league leaders or bottom of the table, everyone is going to struggle coming here it’s as simple as that.”

The game of course will also be remembered for honouring Tom Lockyer and the medical staff who helped save the Town captain’s life at Bournemouth the week before.

And Mengi was among a number of players who paid tribute to the skipper, dedicating the win and clean sheet to Locks.


“I’m really delighted with the performance, but more importantly, we’re really happy. We all dedicated that win to Tom and hopefully he’s really proud of that, but really delighted with the performance, proud of the team, a first clean sheet,” he said.



“That was the main theme of today, to do what Locks would do, as we all know what type of player Locks is. We just tried to give our best and do what Locks would do and do what Locks would want us to do. We delivered that in abundance, so I’m really happy with the team performance, really proud of what we put on display, but we go again, we keep going.”

They were thoughts shared by midfielder Ross Barkley, who hailed a performance that embodied their captain.

“Grit, determination, passion, never say die attitude and that’s what it was today,” said the former Everton and Chelsea man.

“The manager said go out and perform in the way that Locks has performed over the years for the club, so we did do that.” 

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H: LTFC Fool  
A: Corey & Sheryl Mayes  
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## 3: DAN POTTS



P: UNAVAILABLE  
H: Doug Knight  
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## 4: TOM LOCKYER



H: H Block Con Clubbers  
A: You'll Never Take the Maple  
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## 5: MADS ANDERSEN



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PLATINUM  
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## 15: TEDEN MENGİ



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## 17: PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU



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## 21: JOHN MCATEE



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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 match sponsors The Wood Veneer Hub and match ball sponsors Interfoam – as well as eight home mascots. We hope you all have an enjoyable day with us.



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## HATTERS SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Town squad visited the children's ward at two local hospitals, in Luton and Bedford, before Christmas to give gifts and pose for photographs.









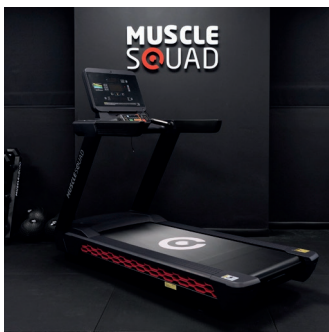
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# ON THIS DAY

**30TH DECEMBER**

## 90 YEARS OF HURT

The less said about this day the better! It all means the Town go into today's match looking for their first win on 30th December since an 1933 win over Northampton Town at Kenilworth Road. 7,696 fans witnessed that 3-1 victory 90 years ago today. We're unsure if anyone in the ground this afternoon is still around, but if you are, make yourselves know to us!

For the sake of completion, the other time the Hatters won on this day came in 1911 when the Town beat New Brompton – who would go onto become Gillingham- 3-0 at Kenilworth Road in a Southern League clash.

Here's for more of that this afternoon!

## THE RECORD

Readers of this page will know that it doesn't matter... we've said time and time again that whatever has happened in the past on this day is no reflection of what will happen this afternoon. And for that we couldn't be happier because Town teams in the past have struggled historically on this day.

Overall, it's 12 games, two wins, two draws and eight defeats. What the history books tell us is that this day isn't one for Hatters goals. Just a paltry five scored across those 12 matches and 16 conceded.

Six of those eight defeats have come successively. The last time a Town team took even a point came on this day in 1950 when earning a 1-1 draw at Southampton in Division Two (now Championship).

Since that draw at the Dell, six defeats have come and gone. A miserable 2-1 loss in Division Four (now League 2) at Bradford Park Avenue was pretty grim in 1967, followed by a loss at Preston (1972) and then Fulham at Craven Cottage in 1978.

The Hatters were beaten 3-0 by today's opponents Chelsea at Kenilworth Road in the top-flight in 1989. The Town ended the decade with a disastrous performance as they enjoyed 90 per cent of the game but fail to capitalise on the possession. Kevin Wilson seized on two opportunist headers, and Kerry Dixon took advantage of poor ball control by John Dreyer to run in the third goal for the Blues.

More woe followed, a 2-0 home defeat to Wigan on a cold afternoon at the Kenny and then a bizarre 4-0 thumping at Port Vale in League 2 as the Town chased promotion under Nathan Jones in 2017.





# THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Ron Davies climbs highest but fails to direct his header into the Chelsea goal during the 2-0 home defeat on Boxing Day 1962.

Further heavy snow fell again that evening and seemed to go on for weeks with the result that the Town did not play another home League game until 16th March!

Roger Wash







# A YEAR IN REVIEW

**TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN, AND THE PAST YEAR HAS CERTAINLY BEEN AN EXCITING ONE FOR THE HATTERS. HERE'S A LOOK BACK ON WHAT WENT ON AT KENILWORTH ROAD IN 2023.**

## JANUARY

The New Year started with a fine comeback win at Huddersfield and a cup victory, after a replay, at Wigan. A home defeat to West Brom saw the Town down in ninth place in the Championship but back-to-back wins over Wigan (again, in the league) and Cardiff, shot the Town up to fourth place in the table.

## FEBRUARY

A Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu winner earned the Hatters their sixth win in seven Championship games and with eyes on keeping the squad fresh for the league campaign, the Town were dumped out of the FA Cup by Grimsby after a replay. Draws at Coventry and Preston were followed by a home defeat to Burnley but four points followed after a 1-0 win at Birmingham and a comeback draw against Millwall having been two goals down.

## MARCH

March was marvellous. With loan signing Marvelous Nakamba on form in midfield, the

Town won three and drew one of their four games to cement their place in the top six. Carlton Morris scored the winning goal in three successive matches. The first game at home to Swansea and the second was the important winner against promotion rivals Sheffield United at Bramall Lane. After a midweek win over Bristol City the Town should have made it four in a row at Sunderland. However, a controversial late penalty helped the Black Cats earn a point after Alfie Doughty's opener.

## APRIL

April Fool's Day saw Watford visit Kenilworth Road and leave with absolutely nothing after the Town put their local rivals to the sword in a one-sided derby. Gabe Osho got the ball rolling in the first half before Allan Campbell made sure of the points late on. A tough Good Friday visit to Millwall saw the Town grind out a point in a 0-0 draw that lifted us to third in the table. Wins over Blackpool and Rotherham followed before a 1-1 draw at Reading secured the Hatters a play-off for a second season in a row. A fine 2-1 televised win over promotion rivals Middlesbrough rounded the month off in style.

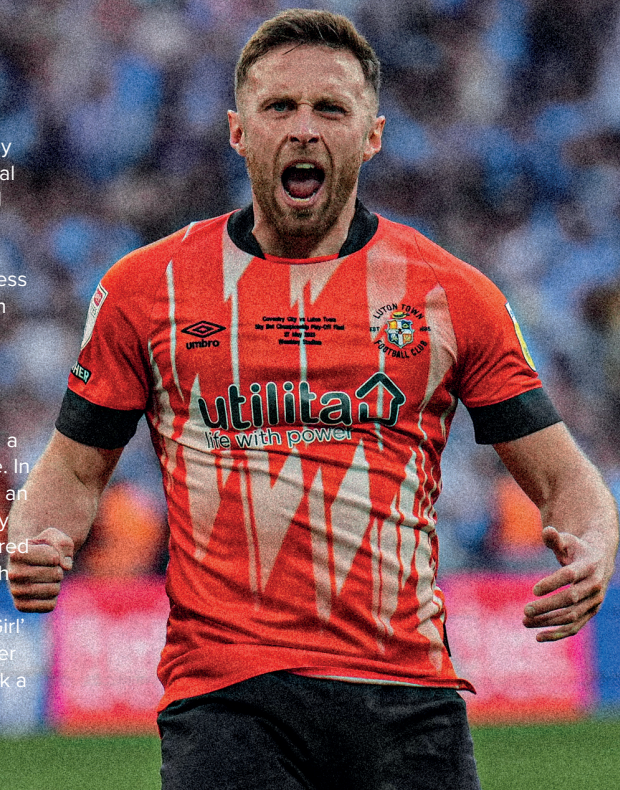


## MAY

Sheffield United joined champions Burnley in winning automatic promotion so the final two games of the regular season enabled the Hatters to prepare for the play-offs. A Tom Lockyer header earned a 1-1 draw at play-off chasing Blackburn before a goalless draw at home to Hull ended the campaign before the fun could start.

During the final game of the season the Town's opponents changed several times before Sunderland booked sixth spot and a two-legged semi-final with Edwards's side. In the first leg at a raucous Stadium of Light, an Elijah Adebayo strike silenced the majority of the 46,000 fans but the Black Cats roared back to take a 2-1 advantage to Kenilworth Road. The second leg will live long in the memory of famous moments at the 'Old Girl' as goals from Gabe Osho and Tom Lockyer secured a 2-0 win under the lights to book a place at Wembley.

And so to the national stadium and the most lucrative game in domestic football. Against Coventry, the Hatters were rocked early by the early incident involving Lockyer but the team rallied superbly and led when superb play from Adebayo set-up Jordan Clark to fire the Town ahead. The Sky Blues equalised to take the final to extra-time and late on everyone thought Joe Taylor's goal had won it only for VAR to rule it out. It meant penalties. Neck and neck throughout the shootout, both sides had scored ten perfect penalties before Dan Potts made it 6-5 to the Hatters. Fankaty Dabo stepped up for City only to skew his kick high and wide and the Hatters could celebrate promotion to the Premier League. ➤





## JUNE

With promotion secured to the top-flight for the first time since 1992, work began on and off the pitch. At Kenilworth Road, the executive boxes were torn down and construction started on a new Bobbers Stand fit to cater for the world's media. On the pitch, new contracts were offered to Luke Berry, Carlton Morris and Amari'i Bell while the first new face arrived: Rotherham winger Chiedozie Ogbene. Meanwhile, the new season's fixtures were published with the Town heading to Brighton on the opening day.

## JULY

The Hatters' recruitment team continued to be busy as a number of new faces arrived. Mads Andersen, Tahith Chong, Marvelous Nakamba, Issa Kaboré and Ryan Giles were added to the squad while new contracts were offered to Cauley Woodrow, Reece Burke, Tom Lockyer, Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu and Elijah Adebayo. On the pitch, pre-season was in full flow, with friendlies against Peterborough, Ipswich and Sheffield Wednesday.

## AUGUST

Final friendlies, against Bochum and Wolves, completed the preparations on pitch and before the season kicked off the Town signed goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski, midfielder Ross Barkley and attacker Jacob Brown. Despite an encouraging showing, Edwards' side went down 4-1 at Brighton in the club's first top-flight game since May 1992. Another goalkeeper, Tim Krul, joined, before the Town's second match of the season, saw them go down 3-0 at Chelsea. August was wrapped up with the first win of the campaign, a 3-1 Carabao Cup victory over Gillingham at Kenilworth Road. Meanwhile, the Town added to the squad with the arrivals of Teden Mengi and Sambu Lokonga.

## SEPTEMBER

September began with Kenilworth Road hosting its first top-flight match in 31 years but despite another good display the Town lost 2-1 at home to West Ham. The Hatters created several good chances but fell to a narrow defeat at Fulham but the following week the first point of the campaign was secured when a Morris penalty earned a 1-1 draw at home to Wolves. A Carabao Cup exit at Exeter followed but days later the Town were celebrating their first Premier League with goals from Lockyer and Morris earning a famous 2-1 win at Everton.







## OCTOBER

The Town were unable to build on the win at Goodison as Burnley won 2-1 at Kenilworth Road in the next fixture. Four days later the Hatters were cursing their luck when Tottenham, reduced to ten men shortly before half-time with the score goalless, left Bedfordshire with a 1-0 win. After the international break the Hatters fought back brilliantly from 2-0 down to earn a point at Nottingham Forest with Adebayo netting the equaliser in injury time. The Town would end October losing 3-1 at in-form Aston Villa.

## NOVEMBER

Fireworks night saw a cracker as the Town welcomed Liverpool to Kenilworth Road and Edwards' side looked on course to earn a famous win thanks to Tahith Chong's goal. However, Jurgen Klopp's side broke Hatters hearts and Luis Diaz' injury time goal meant the points were shared. A 1-0 defeat at Old Trafford followed before a long-awaited first home of the season was recorded when goals from Teden Mengi and Jacob Brown saw off Crystal Palace.



## DECEMBER

A 3-1 reverse at Brentford saw December get off to a losing start before the Town welcomed Arsenal and Manchester City to Kenilworth Road for back-to-back televised matches. Against the Gunners, the Town trailed twice and then led 3-2 thanks to Ross Barkley's first goal for the club. However, Mikel Arteta's side fought back and Declan Rice's 97th-minute winner broke Hatters hearts again. Adebayo got the Kenny bouncing five days later as the striker's header put the Town in front against the champions. Pep Guardiola's side hit back in the second half but the Hatters side could be proud of their efforts in December.

Football was as far away from our minds as possible in the Town's next game, at Bournemouth, where our thoughts and prayers were with Tom Lockyer and his family after the captain suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch in the second half. Thankfully, thanks to the sterling efforts of the medical staff, including from both clubs, Locks' life was saved and was released from hospital the following Wednesday.

With the skipper in their thoughts, his teammates delivered the perfect get well soon present with back-to-back wins, firstly at home to a Newcastle team that had beaten Paris Saint-Germain earlier in the season, and then at Sheffield United on Boxing Day.

It's been a rollercoaster 2023 (no change in the history of Luton Town there, then). Bring on 2024! 🙌





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Mark Cullen on target in the 3-2 victory at Kenilworth Road in September 2013



Jon Shaw heads home during the 2-1 win at Sincil Bank in October 2012

# A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

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

### Part Ten – L is for Lincoln City

Of course, clashes with **Lincoln City** go back to games in the old Division Two back in Victorian times but both sides found themselves at Conference level in 2011/12 following the Imps' relegation. We were starting our third season at the level and after two play-off failures were hoping for third time lucky.

In the clash at Kenilworth Road in September 2011, the Town were down to ten men after 20 minutes for a supposed off the ball elbow by Dean Beckwith. Justice was done with six minutes remaining when Stuart Fleetwood tapped in a clever cross from John-Paul Kissock leaving the Imps with only one win from their previous 24 games.

In the return in December 2011, Danny Crow gave the Town an interval lead only for Lincoln to level on 77 minutes. Dismissals for both Alex Lawless and Jamie Hand after this left the Town hanging on at the end which they did with ease despite being down to nine men.

In the following season the Hatters made it three wins in a row following a 2-1 victory at Sincil Bank.

An own goal from Imps goalkeeper Paul Farman, who allowed a weak shot from Andre Gray squirm through his hands, set the Town up which was followed by a smart header from substitute Jon Shaw straight after the interval. Although the Imps pulled a goal back the Town saw out the game without any trouble.

By the time of the return, the season was over for both clubs. Fresh from a 5-1 mauling against Gateshead, the Hatters had a point to prove with Dave Martin netting just before the interval. Andre Gray then beat the offside trap to hare away to put the Town two up before Martin again confirmed a comfortable victory.

The Town did not start off their eventual promotion season particularly well and by the time of the visit of Lincoln in September 2013 two defeats had already been suffered and the supporters were a little restless. The mood was not helped when Lincoln dominated play yet, allowed the Hatters to win 3-2 in the end. This caused the famous argument between a fan and skipper Ronnie Henry at the end which led to the galvanising of players and supporters pushing one way to the eventual title. 🏆



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# MINI HATTERS



## SOCCER SCHOOLS



[www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk](http://www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk)  
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## 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)**

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# ACADEMY IN 2023

## DALE BRUNTON LOOKS BACK ON THE PAST 12 MONTHS

**It has been another really positive year for the academy, and with the first team having the amazing day at Wembley in May and getting promoted to the Premier League, it has opened the academy up to a raft of opportunities for both players and staff this season.**

On the pitch, there has been some amazing experiences for our boys in the younger age groups including a wide range of international tours to places such as Germany, Holland, Belgium and Italy. On these tours the teams can immerse themselves in different cultures, see parts of the world that they may not have seen otherwise, and play against some of the top academies from across Europe including Juventus, Bayern Munich and Nice.

In the older age groups, the teams have been invited to compete in the Premier League Cup competitions where they are able to pit themselves against the top Academies across the country. The Under-21s recently hosted Chelsea here at Kenilworth Road in front of almost 1,000 fans which was an amazing experience for them. They were also winners of the Beds Senior Cup in March, a title which they are in the process of defending this season.

The Under-18s had a fantastic season last time out, winning both Youth Alliance

League titles and reaching the fifth round of the FA Youth Cup along the way. The Under-16s were also winners of the Youth Alliance League making it a clean sweep for our young Hatters.

All of these amazing experiences are hopefully stepping stones to each boy's main target of reaching the first team, and it has been a good year for academy graduates on that front also. Joe Johnson made his first team debut at the back end of last season making substitute appearances in the Championship, before getting his first start in September in the EFL Cup against Exeter City. We have also seen the likes of Zack Nelson, Jayden

Luker and Jake Burger make the bench for the first team.



Off the pitch there has been some great progress also, with the first team staff now containing three former members of academy staff. Long standing physio Chris Phillips has been joined by analyst Simon Dunn and most recently, former player and Under-18s coach, Alan McCormack on the first team staff.

The academy has also seen former player Paul Benson take over the academy manager role this year as we look to progress from Category 3 to Category 2 status.

I just want to say a final thank you to SOLYD for their support of the academy this year and many more before it. Without their invaluable support, the academy wouldn't be able to offer some of the fantastic experience that it does to the boys within it.

Happy New Year to you all and COYH!

## **ACADEMY UPDATE**

### **WITH LEAD ACADEMY ANALYST MIKE MALONE**



**Hello and firstly I'd like to extend a warm, festive welcome to everyone in attendance for today's clash against Chelsea. As it's the last fixture of 2023, it thought it would be fitting to recap the last 12 months in the academy analysis department as well as update you all with the current and future plans looking into 2024.**

As always, the last year has seen us adapt existing processes and implement new ones as we seek to provide top class performance support to all our players in the academy.

Amongst other things, we have seen staff increase from three to five, a new under-13-14 analysis programme implemented and an increase in our ability to analyse training by purchasing a new Hudl Focus Flex camera, capable of filming two sessions at once.


Furthermore, this season has seen the academy move full-time to the Hudl platform where our players can review games and training, create their own playlists full of clips and can interact with their age group coach to further supplement their personal development.

The importance and potential learning through analysis within academies is forever growing in an age of new, exciting technology which consistently pushes the boundaries of how we as analysis staff can support each player on their footballing journey.

When I first started at Luton seven years ago, only a handful of games throughout the academy were filmed and performance analysis sessions happened in a canteen where the coach did it all. Since then we have moved to a new training ground with purpose built facilities, introduced an under-21 group and seen the likes of Joe Johnson progress through the ranks to make his first team debut.

Achievements which should only encourage all our young players to keep working hard towards reaching their dream of becoming a professional footballer at Luton Town.





The objective of the analysis department is to work hand in hand with other departments to enhance the footballing education the players receive. This is especially true with regards to the technical and tactical development of our athletes. Our analysis sessions are designed to make players think critically, be honest with feedback and refine their own decision making in games. Our analysis sessions can often split into three main categories; pre-match, post-match and unit based.

Pre-match sessions are used mainly in the older age groups where the players will see clips of the opposition and will be quizzed around the potential weaknesses. Post-match sessions are used to learn lessons from previous games and are often linked to upcoming training sessions. Unit based sessions are where players get split into smaller groups, tasked with feedbacking on a topic that is important and specific their positions.

Entering 2024 promises to be an exciting time for academy analysis as we look to enrich the programme of work for our players. The start of the year will see the rollout of the new under-9-12 analysis programme where we will increase the amount of analysis we do with our schoolboys. It will also mark the introduction of our new under-13-14 home-based analysis programme where players will be tasked to create their own feedback playlists after each game; with the aim to deepen players' game understanding and create a more individualised approach to development. There are also plans to introduce analysis on our schoolboy tours, where players will be given the opportunity to get further exposure to the performance analysis world. All with the aim to create a holistic and well-rounded approach to player development.

Reflecting back on 2023, and looking ahead to 2024 with the challenges of being a Premier League club, it's clear to see that being part of Luton Town family is an exciting rollercoaster ride to be on.

So while I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year, let's get Kenilworth Road rocking for what I'm sure will be a fitting end to 2023. 🍌

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## Joshua Phillips



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## Marcus Daws



H: AVAILABLE  
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## Joe Johnson



H: Stacey Peck  
A: AVAILABLE  
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## YOUTH U18 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

OPPONENT	DATE	A	SCORE	STARTING XI						
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 5/8/23	A	W 6-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 12/8/23	A	W 4-1	THOMAS	GIWA	CHIGOZIE	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	WARREN
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 26/8/23	H	L 1-2	TRIALIST	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	MARTINS	GIWA
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 9/9/23	H	L 3-4	THOMAS	GIWA	HARVEY	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	SCOTT	MARTINS
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 16/9/23	A	W 1-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
STEVENAGE	SAT 23/9/23	H	L 0-1	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	SCOTT	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
GILLINGHAM	SAT 30/9/23	H	D 1-1	TRIALIST A	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 14/10/23	A	W 2-1	HOCKEY	GIWA	BENAGR	KAYIBANDAD	EMERY	CHIGOZIE	WARREN
BRENTFORD	SAT 28/10/23	A	D 0-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	GREGORY	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 4/11/23	H	W 1-0	PIPA	GIWA	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 11/11/23	A	W 3-1	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	MARTINS	KAYIBANDA	ROUTH	LORENTZEN-JONES
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 18/11/23	H	W 4-0	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	MARTINS	KAYIBANDA	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONES
STEVENAGE	SAT 9/12/23	A	W 2-1	HOCKEY	HARVEY	BENAGR	STITT	CHIGOZIE	BATESON	LORENTZEN-JONES
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	TRIALIST A	FRANCIS-CLARKE	KAYIBANDA	JOHNSON	PINNINGTON	LUKER	WATSON
BRENTFORD B	TUE 29/8/23	A	W 2-1	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	GIWA	PIESOLD	BURGER
CHELSEA	TUE 19/9/23	A	L 1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS	BATESON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 6/10/23	A	L 1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	PHILLIPS	JOHNSON	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	PIESOLD
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	TUE 17/10/23	H	L 2-3	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	GIWA	PIESOLD	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LUKER
KEMPSTON ROVERS (BSC)	TUE 31/10/23	H	W 8-0	TRIALIST	CHIGOZIE	LUKER	PIESOLD	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS
COLCHESTER UNITED	MON 13/11/23	A	L 0-2	SHEA	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	CHIGOZIE	PHILLIPS	PIESOLD	BURGER
BEDFORD TOWN (BSC)	TUE 28/11/23	H	W 2-0	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	BENAGR	PIESOLD	TOMPKINS	FRANCIS-CLARK	HERON
CHELSEA	TUE 12/12/23	H	L 1-2	KRUL	PINNINGTON	JOHNSON	TOMPKINS	FRANCIS-CLARKE	ANDERSEN	PIESOLD
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 19/1/24	A								
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 2/2/24	H								



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## MAX SCOTT



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## OLIVER PIPA



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

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## GETTING TO KNOW... TATE XAVIER-JONES

**NAME:** Tate Xavier-Jones

**DOB:** 19/10/2006

**Place of birth:** Luton

**Year joined the academy:** As an under-9

**What boots do you wear?** Nike mercurial or Puma ultras

**My aim for the season is to** break into the under-21 team and potentially the first team.

**The proudest moment of career so far is** signing my scholarship

**In the playground, I used to be** Leroy Sane, because he reminds me of myself and the way we both play

**At school my favourite subject was** PE.

**A career outside of football would see me** either coaching, earning my badges, or being a builder and coaching part-time because I'd love to still be involved in the game and use my experience to help others and it would be fun. I'd be a builder because I enjoy it and I have people around me that do this already.

**The one teammate who I'd say is the most talented is** Joe Johnson – he's got a very good and unique technique

**Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is** Carlton Morris or Jacob Brown – they play in the same position as me.

**The best thing about Luton Town is** everyone who is involved in it.

**If I was to describe myself,** I would say I think I'm a fast and explosive striker that isn't the tallest but has strength to hold off defenders and beat them. I also know that I am a very good finisher in front of the goal I just need to build my confidence more.

# ACADEMY



## THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Tate is a first year scholar, best described as a tricky and tenacious striker.

"He likes to trick defenders into going one way, when he will go the other, he loves to twist and turn in the box.

"His tenacity is a very infectious attribute that rubs off well on the rest of the team.

"He's also an entertaining and fiery character, he has a real edge to his play that we really like.

"He's scored quite a few goals already this season and we're looking forward to seeing how he develops for the rest of this season."






# DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR HAS NO PLACE IN OUR GAME.

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- ✗ Throwing objects
- ✗ Drug use
- ✗ Discriminatory behaviour

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

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







**Fan Engagement Officer Lisa McEvoy looks back on her trip to Madagascar as she trekked through the African island to raise funds for our club charity.**

In November I travelled out to Madagascar for 12 days to take on a five-day trek in the Andringitra National Park to raise money for Noah Enterprise – our club charity of the year.

We trekked for five consecutive days through the national park – and they were long, hot days. You were either going up or down – there's no such thing as flat in the national park!

Every time we had low moments, we remembered who we'd raised the money for and carried on. As I type this, I have raised £5,883 pounds for Noah and collectively with the other trekkers we have raised nearly £38,000. We also took part in a community project and spent the morning painting a school. It was a really lovely way to end our trip. The children were an absolute delight.

I would like to thank everyone for their messages of support and those that have been able to sponsor me. The money will make a huge difference to so many and knowing I had so much support genuinely helped get me to the top of Pic Boby – the highest climbable peak in Madagascar – standing at 2,658 metres (8,720 feet) high.

I'd also like to thank my husband Gary and my three boys Fynn, Lennon and Rex for cheering me on and keeping everyone updated while I was out there.

The other trekkers were incredible too. I couldn't have done it without them. We were all so supportive of each other and I would never say never about trekking again in the future with this wonderful bunch of strong and inspiring people.

When I signed up for this trek, I was nervous. It was a massive undertaking and way out of my comfort zone, but I've always been determined and a little bit stubborn! It was a truly incredible experience and genuinely the hardest thing I've ever done but the scenery, the people, the challenges we overcame have all definitely made me a stronger person.

Thank you so much again for the support and helping to raise these vital funds for our club charity of the year Noah Enterprise. You have all changed someone's life.

My JustGiving page is still open for those who would like to donate, just scan the QR code below.

Merry Christmas everyone and come on you Hatters!





# FC24



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# LUTON TOWN LADIES

**The Town Ladies moved into 2023 as league leaders with a 100 per cent record although there had been considerable disruption to the campaign completing just one match in seven weeks pre-Christmas due to postponements and the removal of six points when Harlow Town went to the wall.**

With momentum lost, the Hatters struggled to recover their form suffering three consecutive league defeats although cup form continued unabated with the highlight being a 4-0 win over Bedford. A late, late show at Haringey Borough put the Town back on track. Going into added time trailing 2-1 they stormed back to win 3-2 with the winning goal coming in the 109th minute. That never say die spirit was going to be needed during the last seven weeks of the season with 12 games to play if both cup finals were reached. The group responded wonderfully launching a 13-game unbeaten run dropping just two points on the way and reaching two cup finals.

The frustration of the league campaign is best summed up by comfortably beating league champions AFC Sudbury on three out of four meetings scoring ten goals in the process and knocking them out of both the FA Cup and League Cup. A runners-up finish was a very creditable performance but with just one team promoted the desired prize eluded us.

The cups were a different story reaching both the League and County Cup finals. The Hatters were in firm control of the midweek County final against Bedford and took the lead via 30 yard strike from Tsianne Leander. Unable to score the second goal the inevitable happened when



a late Bedford penalty took the outcome to penalties. Angelika Kopec in the Town goal was in fine shoot out form pushing away penalties and it was left to Shakeela Hussain to net the winning spot-kick.

The League Cup final against Stevenage followed a similar pattern with strikes from Shanice Lewis and captain Jess McKay putting Town in the driving seat. Never a team to take the easy route we conceded a late penalty to make the closing quarter of an hour uncomfortable but the outcome was never in doubt with a 2-1 win.

The new season brought a similar first half of the season with just a single defeat in 15 matches across all competitions.

Once again the cups proved to be a welcome distraction and in particular the FA Cup. Four wins on the road sent the Town to old foes Enfield Town. A nervous goalless first half was soon forgotten as Hatters produced a devastating 15-minute spell firing a four goal salvo to move into the third round with a 5-3 win.

The eyes of women's football were on the next tie as Keynsham Town are an established club in a tier higher. Saving the best until the last of 2023, the Town put up a superb performance from the first whistle and deservedly won the tie 1-0 with a late towering Samaira Khan far post header. The Ladies now face Super League Brighton & Hove Albion in the fourth round proper on 14th January which will be our first ever televised fixture.

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL\_Official



# LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

## WITH VICE-CHAIR MARK CHAPMAN

Hello and welcome to the final match of 2023. I will reflect on what a brilliant year it has been later but as we reach the halfway point in our first Premier League season today I will quickly offer my thoughts on the campaign so far.

I have been so pleased and proud to see the improvements that the squad have made from that opening game at Brighton to the recent matches. They have treated us to some memorable moments already this season and I am sure there are plenty more to come.

We are much more competitive than many in the outside world expected us to be and the challenge we put up to Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City, potentially the three best teams in the country, recently is a full indication of that. I'm sure we will lay down a similar test for Chelsea today too.

### My Role

I am the vice-chair of the Trust, a role I don't take lightly. Usually you only really hear about supporters' trusts when clubs are in crisis but topics like the European Super League, which reared its ugly head again last week, are a reminder that supporter voices are more important than ever and I am passionate about making sure our voice is as strong as it can be.

I also head up the events committee and we are currently in the process of organising our calendar of events for 2024 which we hope will include regular features such as our

annual quiz and the presentation evening. We will also run some events on Zoom and much more so keep an eye on our website and social media for announcements of events as and when we get them in the diary.

### What a year!

So we come to Kenilworth Road for the last time in 2023 and what a fantastic year it has been. It started with that dramatic win at Huddersfield on the opening day of it and who would have thought that it would be a 12 months that would include picking up a brilliant win over the rivals from down the road, enjoying a magnificent night at home to Sunderland in the play-off semi-final and then that incredible afternoon at Wembley Stadium where we confirmed our Premier League status for the first time.

The second half of the year have seen amazing scenes, including our first Premier League win at Goodison Park and taking the lead against Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City. I'd like to thank everyone involved for making 2023 as special as it has been.

It has been quite a year and if 2024 can even be half as good it is going to be another wonderful 12 months.

Enjoy the game today and be as loud as ever.

I'll finish by wishing you and Luton Town fans around the world a very happy new year.

COYH!





# MEET THE FANS

## WITH STATESIDE SUPPORTER ROBERT ROHR

### **How do you watch Luton games and where do you watch them?**

I watch them on TV while having breakfast as my time zone is seven to eight hours behind depending on time of year.

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

Goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski as he has played a key role in keeping Luton Town in serious competition in the Premier League this season.

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

It means there is opportunity to climb up the ranks and bring a fresh and new dynamic to the League with a supportive and exciting fan base. It energises the League. I feel part of the Luton family.

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

I have the Luton Town flag prominently displayed on my office wall. My coworkers ask about it and are interested in learning about the club. They express enthusiasm and positivity.

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

Yes, in looking at the structural and financial resources needed to stay in it and grow.

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

Emotional and hyped-up as it was incredible to see such an achievement.

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

My daughter, Alondra, got me interested

in Premier League during the early COVID days. However, we started following the lower leagues and joined some fan-owned clubs as we found they were closer to the sport and we could even be involved with them from the southern Arizona desert. She introduced me to Luton by showing me the documentary 'The Fall and Rise of Luton Town'. It maintains the lower league culture of being close to its supporters.

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

Seeing the club adjust and knock-off the long-time Premier League institutions. Do a U.S. tour in summer 2024 and include Phoenix on a stop! 🇺🇸





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# WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

**Today, we host Chelsea in yet another Premier League fixture here at Kenilworth Road. Let's cast our minds back to January 2022 when the Hatters welcomed AFC Bournemouth in what turned out to be a game to be remembered forever.**

It was time for a big game in the Championship as Luton hosted the high-flying Cherries, a team who beat the Hatters 2-1 in the reverse fixture so Nathan Jones' side were looking to improve upon this.

The Hatters named a strong line-up with in-form Kal Naismith in the back line. The strike force consisted of prolific forward Elijah Adebayo and experienced Cameron Jerome.

Scott Parker put out a good side for Bournemouth as well. Gary Cahill started for the Cherries and ex-Hatter Jack Stacey was also in the starting team.

The game got off to a good start for Luton who were pushing for a goal. Mark Travers made some great saves to deny Luton an opener. Naismith had the best chance but Travers made a solid save.

Soon enough, Luton took the lead. A cross in by Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu was flicked on by Sonny Bradley to Adebayo and his shot rebounded off Travers, off Lloyd Kelly and into the Bournemouth net.

Jerome had the ball in the net after a goal line scramble but there were protests from Bournemouth. The linesman eventually raised his flag and the goal was disallowed.

However the Town were not to be denied when Naismith played a simple pass through to Allan Campbell and his shot from distance found the bottom left corner to put the Hatters 2-0 up just before the interval.

In the second half, Bournemouth pulled one back early on. Some brilliant work from Stacey on the right enabled him to get a cross into Emiliano Marcondes who headed home for the Cherries.

Later in the half, the Cherries were level. It was another similar goal as Jamal Lowe had the ball on the left wing and his cut back pass found Morgan Rogers who buried it past James Shea.

In the dying seconds of the game, Luton found a winner. A cross in by James Bree was cleared to Naismith on the edge of the box as he touched the ball past Jefferson Lerma before curling the ball into the bottom left corner sending Kenilworth Road into pandemonium.

A crazy moment which was the last kick of the game in the end. What a moment and what a win. Let's hope for more excitement this afternoon!

Words by Zac Neal 



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# JUNIOR HATTERS TODAY'S MASCOTS



**Archie Royle**

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football, Fifa, Running  
Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



**Dillon Enlander**

Age: 12

Hobbies: Playing Football & Playstation  
Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer



**Edward Mead**

Age: 9

Hobbies: Playing Football  
Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer, Issa Kabore and Carlton Morris



**Ethan Sibilant**

Age: 8

Hobbies: Football, Rugby, Swimming, Bushcraft  
Favourite Player: Ross Barkley



**Hugo Halls**

Age: 8

Hobbies: Football, Wildlife, Skiing  
Favourite Player: Andros Townsend



**Freddie Miller**

Age: 8

Hobbies: Football, Acting, Singing  
Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



**Jacob Stott-Everett**

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football, PS5, Art  
Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer



**Jasmine Errington**

Age: 9

Hobbies: Playing Football and Swimming  
Favourite Player: Carlton Morris

## WELCOME TO OUR AWAY MASCOT



**Jayden Adams**

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football & Gaming  
Favourite Player: Reece James

# TICKET NEWS



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

## Full Sales Plan

All Season Ticket Holders (not including Oak Road)

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 on 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

**KENILWORTH ROAD**  
**SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024**  
**KICK OFF: 2:00PM**

## WHO ARE THEY?

Bolton Wanderers, aka the Trotters, are our next visitors to Kenilworth Road for the FA Cup third round tie a week tomorrow. Bolton have spent 73 seasons in the top-flight in their history and are the club to have spent the most seasons in the top tier without winning the league. Originally formed as Christ Church, the Trotters' are four-times winners of the FA Cup – their last in 1958.

## THE RECORD

Over the years the Trotters have held the advantage over the Town in previous games. Overall there have been 36 meetings, of which the Hatters have won ten. Next weekend the Town will be aiming to record their first win over Bolton in 42 years. The last time saw Brian Stien and David Moss find the target in a 2-0 win at Kenilworth Road in November 1981. The last time the Trotters were in town was for an FA Cup tie in 1997. An injury-time equaliser from Marvin Johnson took the tie to a replay, but the less said about the replay the better as the Town let a 2-1 lead slip and eventually fall to a 6-2 defeat.

## THE TROTTERS OF TODAY

There will be Town fans inside the ground that grew up only knowing Bolton as a Premier League side. The Trotters spent 11 successive seasons in the top-flight before succumbing to relegation at the end of the 2011/12 season. A further relegation came in 2016 but they bounced back to the Championship immediately the season that followed. However, back-to-back relegations saw the Trotters slip to League Two in 2020 – the first time they have played in the fourth tier since 1988. Now, though the Whites are on their way up. They won promotion in 2021 and last season lost in the play-offs and won the Football League Trophy.

## KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

There are two familiar faces in the Bolton dressing room following their time at Kenilworth Road. Experienced striker Cameron Jerome and forward Carlos Mendes Gomes joined the Trotters in the past six months. Jerome scored six times in 61 appearances for the Hatters, three of which came in the Championship. Mendes Gomes joined the Town from Morecambe in the summer of 2021 and went on to make a total of 15 appearances for the Hatters, scoring twice before moving to Bolton this summer.



**THE HATTERS**



**THE TROTTERS**



# MEMBERS



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

## TOWN TEASERS

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

1. Who scored the Luton goals in the 3-2 defeat against the Blues in our last meeting at Kenilworth Road in the FA Cup in 2022?
2. Which Luton player, known for his one-step penalty technique, scored the Hatters' last top-flight league goal against Chelsea at Kenilworth Road?
3. Before winning their first Premier League title in 2004/05, how many times had Chelsea won the championship?
4. Name the seasons in which the Blues won the Champions League.
5. Which Luton-born striker scored 147 goals in 335 games for Chelsea before going on to have a spell at Kenilworth Road?
6. Which National League South side play their home games at Huish Park?
7. The Town last played on this date at Port Vale in League Two in 2017. What was the score that day?
8. If the Shrimps were playing the Shrimpers, which two teams would you be watching?
9. Manager Rob Edwards played in the Premier League for which two clubs?
10. Which team in the Top 10 FIFA rankings failed to qualify for South Africa 2010?

**HOW DID YOU SCORE? TURN TO PAGE 81 FOR THE ANSWERS. NO CHEATING**  
**8-10 SIMON PITTS.** We'll have you co-commentating with Simon soon.  
**4-7 COURTNEY PITT.** Like a half-decent loan signing, not bad.  
**0-3 THE PITS.** Either you're a Chelsea fan or you're new to this.





# Premier League

## ROUND-UP

**Ready for this page to jinx things? Here we go: the Town go into today's game knowing three points will see them jump out of the relegation zone – for a few hours at least – following the back-to-back wins over Newcastle and Sheffield United pushed the Hatters closer to a number of sides above them in the Premier League table.**

The six points earned across the last two matches have put pressure on those towards the lower end of the division following the completion of a dramatic matchday 19.

The Hatters' win at Bramall Lane had greater significance following Nottingham Forest's win 3-1 win at St James' Park against Newcastle. New boss Nuno Espírito Santo's first victory came thanks in no small part to a Chris Wood hat-trick against his former club.

Forest's and the Town's wins meant Everton needed to record a positive result to move clear away from trouble – and at half-time in their game against Manchester City things looked good for Sean Dyche's side as they led 1-0. However, Pep Guardiola's men roared back in the second period with three goals to leave the Toffees just one point ahead of the Town in the table.

Another club looking over their shoulder is Crystal Palace after Roy Hodgson's Eagles lost 2-1 to our visitors this afternoon. Mykhailo Mudryk gave the Blues the lead before Michael Olise equalised for Palace. Just when it looked as though the visitors were able to earn another decent point on the road, Noni Madueke netted a late penalty to condemn the Eagles to defeat.



Just above Crystal Palace in the standings are Brentford, the London club are four points above the relegation zone after losing their fourth match in a row on Wednesday night. Thomas Frank's side were beaten on home turf by a resurgent Wolves, 4-1 – a result which lifted Gary O'Neil's men up to 11th in the table.

When the Town came off the field at Old Trafford back in November, Bournemouth were still below us in the table. However, their incredible run of form as propelled the Cherries away from danger. Their run of six wins and one draw from their last seven matches – their latest a 3-0 victory over Fulham – has Andoni Iraola's men up to 12th place – ten points above the relegation zone.

Other than Sheffield United, the other club below the Town in the standings are Burnley, and last season's Championship winners were beaten on Boxing Day, going down 2-0 at home to a Liverpool side who have only tasted defeat once so far this season.

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

ASTON VILLA v BURNLEY

CRYSTAL PALACE v BRENTFORD

MANCHESTER CITY v SHEFFIELD UNITED

WOLVES v EVERTON

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v MAN UTD

### TOMORROW'S GAMES

FULHAM v ARSENAL

TOTTENHAM v BOURNEMOUTH



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

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# PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON											CAREER	
	LEAGUE			CUP			TOTAL				CARDS		TOTAL
	APPS		G	APPS		G	APPS	G				APPS	G
Elijah Adebayo	8	(10)	4	1	(1)	0	9	(11)	4	1	0	129	36
Mads Andersen	4	(4)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(4)	1	1	0	10	1
Ross Barkley	11	(2)	1	0	(1)	0	11	(3)	1	2	0	14	1
Amari'i Bell	13	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	14	(1)	0	0	0	112	2
Luke Berry	0	(2)	0	2	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	1	0	168	24
Jacob Brown	11	(6)	2	1	(1)	1	12	(7)	3	4	0	19	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	14	(3)	1	2	(0)	1	16	(3)	2	3	0	54	4
Ryan Giles	5	(6)	0	2	(0)	0	7	(6)	0	0	0	13	0
Joe Johnson	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	3	0
Issa Kabore	12	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	12	(4)	0	4	0	16	0
Thomas Kaminski	18	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	18	(0)	0	3	0	18	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	4	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(1)	0	0	0	5	0
Teden Mengi	11	(2)	1	1	(0)	0	12	(2)	1	1	0	14	1
Carlton Morris	14	(4)	3	0	(1)	0	14	(5)	3	1	0	70	23
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	8	(8)	0	2	(0)	0	10	(8)	0	0	0	388	23
Marvelous Nakamba	13	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	13	(1)	0	5	0	34	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	10	(7)	1	1	(1)	0	11	(8)	1	0	0	19	1
Gabriel Osho	8	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	8	(0)	1	1	0	70	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	7	(3)	1	0	(0)	0	7	(3)	1	0	0	10	1
Cauley Woodrow	0	(7)	0	2	(0)	1	2	(7)	1	0	0	44	4



Congratulations to **Alfie Doughty**, who scored his first Premier League goal in the win at Sheffield United on Boxing Day. It was the wing-back's fourth goal of his Hatters career.

# 2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	POS	SCORE	STARTING XI
SAT AUG 12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	3PM	A 18	L1-4	KAMINSKI KABORÉ GILES ANDERSEN LOCKYER BELL
FRI AUG 25	CHELSEA	8PM	A 19	L0-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ GILES BURKE LOCKYER BELL
TUE AUG 29	GILLINGHAM (CC)	7.45PM	H -	W 3-2	KRUL DOUGHTY GILES ANDERSEN LOCKYER BELL
FRI SEP 1	WEST HAM UNITED	8PM	H 19	L1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES BURKE ANDERSEN BELL
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A 20	L0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ BELL BURKE LOCKYER ANDERSEN
SAT SEP 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	H 18	D1-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY BURKE LOCKYER BELL
TUE SEP 26	EXETER CITY (CC)	7.45PM	A -	L0-1	KRUL DOUGHTY GILES MENGI ANDERSEN JOHNSON
SAT SEP 30	EVERTON	3PM	A 17	W 2-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY BURKE LOCKYER BELL
SAT OCT 3	BURNLEY	7.30PM	H 17	L1-2	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER BELL
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12.30PM	H 17	L0-1	KAMINSKI BURKE DOUGHTY ANDERSEN LOCKYER OGBENE
SAT OCT 21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	A 17	D 2-2	KAMINSKI BURKE DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OGBENE
SUN OCT 29	ASTON VILLA	2PM	A 18	L1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SUN NOV 5	LIVERPOOL	4.30PM	H 17	D1-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT NOV 11	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	A 18	L0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT NOV 25	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	H 17	W 2-1	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY BELL MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT DEC 2	BRENTFORD	3PM	A 17	L1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ BELL MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
TUE DEC 5	ARSENAL	8.15PM	H 17	L3-4	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI BELL OSHO
SUN DEC 10	MANCHESTER CITY	2PM	H 18	L1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES MENGI LOCKYER BELL
SAT DEC 23	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	H 18	W 1-0	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI OSHO BELL
TUE DEC 26	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	A 18	W 3-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES MENGI OSHO BELL
SAT DEC 30	CHELSEA	12.30PM	H		
SUN JAN 7	BOLTON WANDERERS (FACS)	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		
SAT FEB 17	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	H		
SAT FEB 24	LIVERPOOL	3PM	A		
SAT MAR 2	ASTON VILLA	3PM	H		
SAT MAR 9	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	A		
SAT MAR 16	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	H		
SAT MAR 30	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	3PM	A		
TUE APR 2	ARSENAL	7.45PM	A		
SAT APR 6	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	3PM	H		
SAT APR 13	MANCHESTER CITY	3PM	A		
SAT APR 20	BRENTFORD	3PM	H		
SAT APR 27	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	A		
SAT MAY 4	EVERTON	3PM	H		
SAT MAY 11	WEST HAM UNITED	3PM	A		
SUN MAY 19	FULHAM	4PM	H		

## Premier League

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	19	12	6	1	39	16	23	42
2	Arsenal	18	12	4	2	36	16	20	40
3	Aston Villa	19	12	3	4	40	25	15	39
4	Manchester City	18	11	4	3	43	21	22	37
5	Tottenham Hotspur	18	11	3	4	37	24	13	36
6	Manchester United	19	10	1	8	21	25	-4	31
7	West Ham United	18	9	3	6	31	30	1	30
8	Newcastle United	19	9	2	8	37	25	12	29
9	Brighton and Hove Albion	18	7	6	5	34	31	3	27
10	Chelsea	19	7	4	8	31	29	2	25
11	Wolverhampton Wanderers	19	7	4	8	27	31	-4	25
12	Bournemouth	18	7	4	7	27	32	-5	25
13	Fulham	19	6	3	10	26	34	-8	21
14	Brentford	18	5	4	9	25	28	-3	19
15	Crystal Palace	19	4	6	9	19	28	-9	18
16	Nottingham Forest	19	4	5	10	22	34	-12	17
17	Everton *	19	8	2	9	24	25	-1	16
18	Luton Town	18	4	3	11	21	34	-13	15
19	Burnley	19	3	2	14	18	38	-20	11
20	Sheffield United	19	2	3	14	15	47	-32	9

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



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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
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND ❖	KRUL, ANDERSEN, OGBENE, MORRIS, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, GILES					11,042	1,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	KRUL, SHEA, ANDERSEN, OGBENE, BERRY, MORRIS, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU					31,041	2,362



We were delighted to welcome the Salvation Army band to Kenilworth Road for our last home match against Newcastle



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

#### TOWN TEASERS ANSWERS:

1. Reece Burke and Harry Cornick 2. John Dreyer 3. Once, in 1954/55 4. 2011/12 and 2020/21 5. Kerry Dixon 6. Yeovil Town 7. We lost 4-0! 8. Morecambe and Southend 9. Aston Villa and Blackpool 10. Croatia



## HOLD THE BACK PAGE

With Mike Simmonds – Luton News Sports Editor

**Take yourselves back 12 months and on Boxing Day many of you would have been sitting here having seen Luton pegged back by Norwich City, Gabe Osho sent off for a second yellow, the first booking at best dubious, meaning a first win of manager Rob Edwards' reign at Kenilworth Road was looking unlikely.**

Luton were sitting in 15th place, six points above the drop zone and four away from the top six, before Edwards showed the positive mentality that has encapsulated his time in the dug-out, throwing on Cauley Woodrow with four minutes to go.

The substitute slammed a wonderful effort into the top corner moments later to seal a 2-1 victory and start what has been a quite remarkable 12 months, which concludes with the Hatters taking on Chelsea in a Premier League match. That's right, Chelsea in a Premier League match.

It's been a terrific year for Edwards, who has enjoyed some truly memorable moments, winning at QPR and Huddersfield, a place of such play-off heartache the season before. Throw into the mix a terrific victory at Sheffield United, and who would ever forget the day Watford were defeated 2-0 in one of the most one-sided derbies you'll ever see.

Then of course there were the play-offs and everyone of a Luton persuasion will always have ingrained in their memories Tom Lockyer's header sending Town to the final and then Coventry obliging in that nerve-shredding penalty shootout as Edwards led his side to the top-flight.

Yes, results have been difficult since then, but following the first four games and mainly in the last few months, it has felt like Town have got to grips with their new surroundings.

At first it just didn't feel quite right when Luton were heading to Stamford Bridge, taking on West Ham and going up against Spurs.

Gradually that has changed. A win at Everton got things up and running, while at home at least, Edwards' side have really started to look like they believe they can cope at this level.

The way in which the Town came so close a famous win over Liverpool, held on to defeat Crystal Palace, showed no fear when taking on Arsenal, only losing to the very last kick, and saw Manchester City keep the ball in the corner late on to claim victory, has given a sense that Luton can make a decent fist of staying in this league.

With this written before games against Newcastle and Sheffield United, Luton could be in an even better (hopefully not worse) position by the time Mauricio Pochettino's men rock up here, as a good festive period will go some way into seeing if Town can make 2024 another wonderful year.

Finally, having been present at the Vitality Stadium and seeing the horrific incident with Tom Lockyer, it goes without saying that I wish the defender all the best in his recovery and hope to see him back at Kenilworth Road soon. 🙏





Premier  
League

# THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports





## LUTON TOWN

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



## CHELSEA

1. ROBERT SÁNCHEZ
2. AXEL DISASI
3. MARC CUCURELLA
5. BENOÎT BADIASHILE
6. THIAGO SILVA
7. RAHEEM STERLING
8. ENZO FERNÁNDEZ
10. MYKHAILO MUDRYK
11. NONI MADUEKE
13. MARCUS BETTINELLI
14. TREVOR CHALOBAH
15. NICHOLAS JACKSON
16. LESLEY UGOCHUKWU
17. CARNEY CHUKWUEMEKA
18. CHRISTOPHER NKUNKU
19. ARMANDO BROJA
20. COLE PALMER
21. BEN CHILWELL
23. CONOR GALLAGHER
24. REECE JAMES
25. MOISÉS CAICEDO
26. LEVI COLWILL
27. MALO GUSTO
28. ĐORĐE PETROVIĆ
29. IAN MAATSEN
33. WESLEY FOFANA
36. DEIVID WASHINGTON
45. ROMÉO LAVIA
47. LUCAS BERGSTRÖM

## MATCH OFFICIALS



REFEREE - PAUL TIERNEY  
ASSISTANT REFEREE - SCOTT LEDGER  
ASSISTANT REFEREE - HARRY LENNARD  
FOURTH OFFICIAL - CRAIG PAWSON  
VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - JARRED GILLET  
ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - ADAM NUNN