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LUTON TOWN V BOLTON WANDERERS

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024 | 2:00PM | KENILWORTH ROAD





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

Good afternoon and happy new year from us all at Luton Town. 2023 was great, wasn't it? A rollercoaster of a year, one that made us all proud to be Luton. What's in store for 2024? Well with this team, we can only think of positives – starting today against Bolton Wanderers. We welcome our visitors – flying high in League One – and wish them well on the promotion push. Today promises to be an intriguing and exciting tie, so get behind the boys. Come on Luton!



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EMIRATES ECONOMY


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ROB EDWARDS

The past 12 months were incredible – and emotional. As I've grown to know, life at Luton Town is never dull.

In the Championship, we got used to winning. To earn 50 points from 25 games, finish third, come from behind against Sunderland and then win the play-off final against Coventry, after what happened with Locks, on penalties... when you think about it, it's a lot to process.

Then, what can I say... we're in the Premier League. Getting that first point, that first win, that first win here at Kenilworth Road, adapting to the level, the Bournemouth game... it's a lot, isn't it?

We've come so far. I was walking the dog the other night when I was thinking on New Year's Day last year we were heading to Huddersfield aiming to make it three wins in a row, and now we're about to play Chelsea. Incredible, really.

Our two games against Chelsea neatly encapsulate our journey since promotion. Last Sunday's performance was amazing. We didn't deserve to be 3-0 down. Sure, we didn't create loads until the final 20 minutes or so, but we had as much possession and momentum as they did, and this is a team, a club, who have invested heavily in their squad.

Rewind to our second game of the season, at Stamford Bridge, and you see the progress and growth in our team. We're playing with real variation; we mix it well, we play through, around and over teams, we press aggressively, we defend bravely in one-versus-one situations. I'm delighted with the way we played in those final 20 minutes against Chelsea. The players showed their qualities to almost come back from 3-0 down. We scored two, hit the bar twice, had one disallowed and created many more openings.



Listen, I know. We lost. And that's frustrating. I hate losing but, as I keep saying, there's a way to lose, and as long as the players continue to leave it all out there at the end, I have no complaints.

Looking ahead to 2024, we welcome Bolton as our first visitors of the new year. Ian Evatt is doing a fine job with his side deservedly riding high in League One. It'll be a difficult game, no doubt, but it's one we want to win. That's been the talk all week. We want to keep our performance levels high and maintain our recent good form.

We'll pick a team that we're confident will be able to win if our mentality and work-rate are right, because we have to give them our complete respect. They're right up there fighting for promotion and have been used to winning a lot of matches this season. They'll be confident, they play good stuff – but it's a test we're up for.

Sadly the team I do pick this afternoon won't include Marvelous Nakamba, after he suffered an innocuous knee injury in training. It just 'went' when kicking a ball. Injuries like that are the most annoying and frustrating and losing Marv is a real blow. His role in us winning promotion last season will never be underestimated and he's a key part of our group. We'll support him in his recovery and we hope to have him back as soon as possible.

So, as we embark on a new year, let's continue to aim for the stars. We'll keep working hard. Our main focus is, of course, to retain our Premier League status and we've given ourselves a fighting chance.

Your support has been a major part of that. The backing of the team, win, lose or draw, has been quite frankly breathtaking. You have been amazing. So thank you. We'll be doing all we can to give you something to shout about – today and for the months that follow.

Enjoy the game and bring the noise.



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AROUND TOWN

HATTERS TIE DOWN TOWNSEND TO LONG-TERM CONTRACT

Andros Townsend has signed a long-term contract which will keep the winger at Kenilworth Road for the foreseeable future.

The Tottenham academy graduate with 13 England caps to his name, originally signed a short-term deal in October having not kicked a ball since March 2022 while on the books at Everton.

Since his arrival, Townsend's influence has been impressive. He made his debut in October's 2-2 draw at Nottingham Forest, setting up the Hatters' first goal for Chiedozie Ogbene.

Having worked his way into the starting XI, the attacker then netted his first goal for the club – the winner – in the 1-0 victory over Newcastle United in December.

On his new deal, Townsend said: "Obviously I'm delighted; three months ago I thought my career was over. So from going to begging around the world just for a trial to being offered a longer contract is a dream come true.

"It's a special, special football club. I think we can really achieve something special this season. It's only half-way done, we've got six months – 19 games – to pull off the unthinkable."

Manager Rob Edwards added: "It's an amazing signing for us. Andros has come into the group with real humility and professionalism. He's shown the whole group what it means to be elite and a top-end pro.

"His fitness levels have been insane, and he's shown more and more his qualities with every game.

"For us to be able to tie him down to a longer-term contract is a credit to him – he's been through a tough time, and it says a lot about him as a person.

"I also think it says a lot about the ambitions of this football club that we're signing people like Andros, with his level and quality, so it's a big, big signing for us."



RIP REECE CHAMBERS

We received an email from Katherine Byrne who sadly informed us of the passing of her grandfather and lifelong Town supporter **Reece Chambers**.

Katherine, who works at Bolton Wanderers, wrote: "My grandad has been a lifelong Luton fan, for over 70 years. His grandad was a groundsman at Kenilworth Road and his Aunty used to get match tickets for him when he was a boy and that's when he fell in love with football."

"He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He loved his family and his club and was so proud to have been a fireman.

"In his last visit to the Kenny, he was able to meet his hero Mick Harford, and has then been able to see Luton reach the Premier League both of which brought him great joy and memories he treasured along with so many across his time of supporting the club.

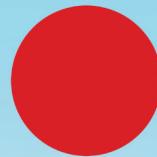
"He will be missed by all; he was a Hatter through and through and all his friends knew him as Reece the fanatical Luton fan."

Rest In Peace, Reece.



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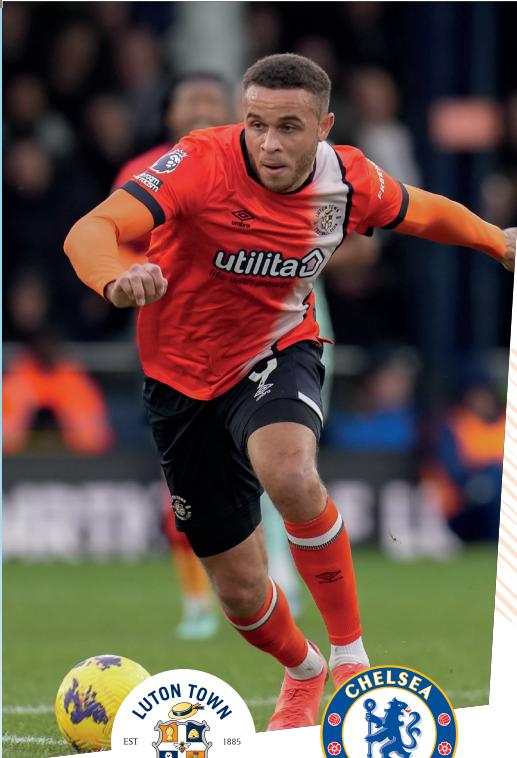


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2-3

Kenilworth Road – 30th December 2023

Town: Kaminski; Kaboré (sub Ogbene 46), Doughty, Mengi, Osho, Bell; Lokonga (sub Woodrow 90+4), Barkley; Townsend (sub Morris 62), Brown (sub Chong 46), Adebayo.

Subs not used: Krul, Andersen, Mpanzu, Clark, Giles.

Chelsea: Petrovic, Gusto, Disasi, Thiago Silva, Colwill, Gallagher, Caicedo, Madueke (sub Fernandez 81), Palmer (sub Gilchrist 90+1), Jackson, Broja (sub Nkunku 62).

Sub not used: Sterling, Mudryk, Bettinelli, Maatsen, Bergstrom, Matos.

GOALS

Town - Barkley 80, Adebayo 87

Chelsea - Palmer 12, 70, Madueke 37

MATCH REPORT

BATTLING TOWN DENIED A POINT BY CHELSEA

There was a point in this game, shortly before Chelsea made it 3-0 through Cole Palmer's second of the match, in which you felt 'if the Town can get one, they'll get another' – such was the Hatters' dominance of a match that seemed to be ebbing away from their grasp.

Yet Palmer's coolly taken goal came with 20 minutes left on the clock and put the Blues firmly on course for three points after a run of three straight defeats on the road. It added to his opener in the 11th minute and Noni Madueke, who struck a thunderbolt on 37 minutes.

But then came the final 16 minutes. If there is a more admirable performance of the Hatters' first season in the Premier League then this was it as Rob Edwards' side kept going in the face of adversity. It was testament to a never-say-die attitude of this group of players.

Dangerous throughout but without finding that final killer pass or finish, suddenly everything came to life as the clock struck 74 minutes.

Moments after Palmer had got that third goal the Town thought they were back in the game but VAR ruled out Elijah Adebayo's header.

But rarely do Hatters heads drop. With ten minutes to play Adebayo was cursing his luck once more, the crossbar left rattling after his header. Somehow, still 3-0.

Thirty seconds later the Town's gallant efforts were finally rewarded when Alfie Doughty's right-wing corner was nodded into the corner of the net by Ross Barkley.

'If they can get one, they'll get another'...

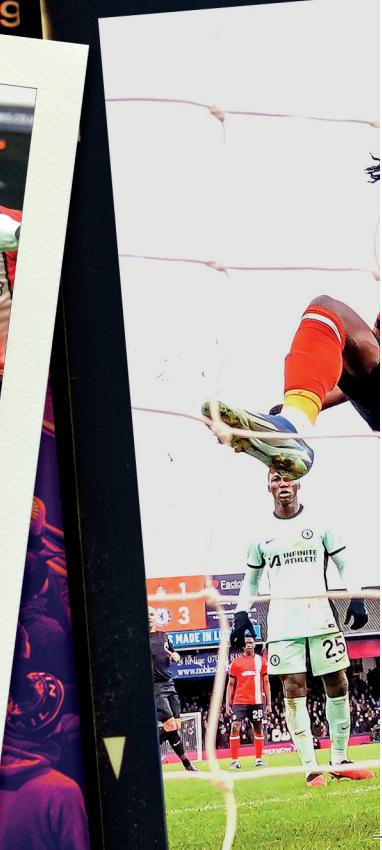
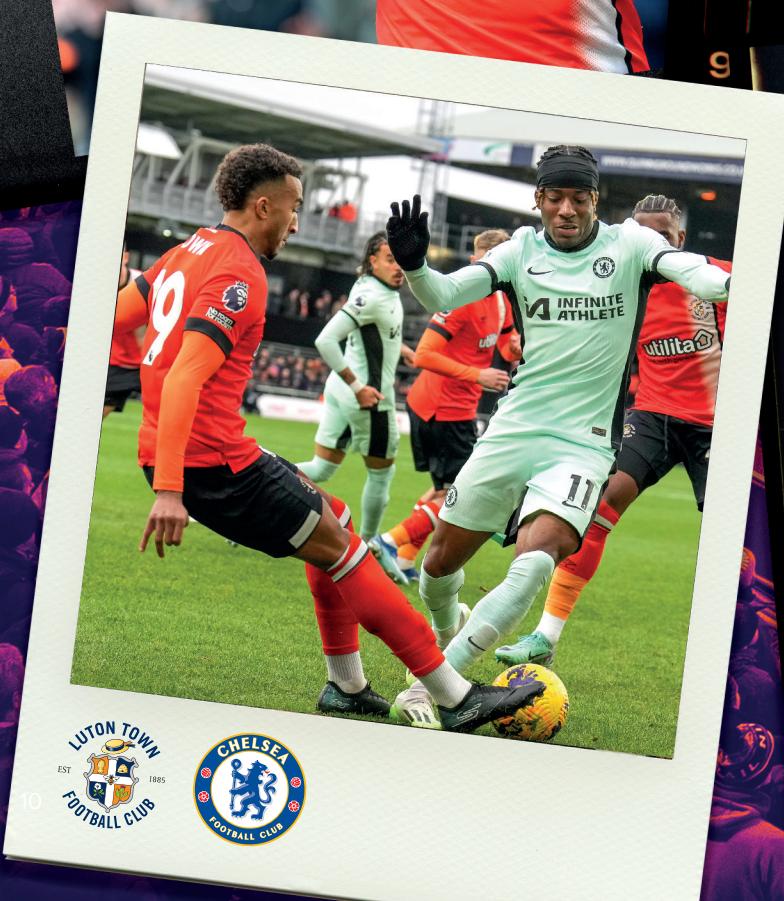
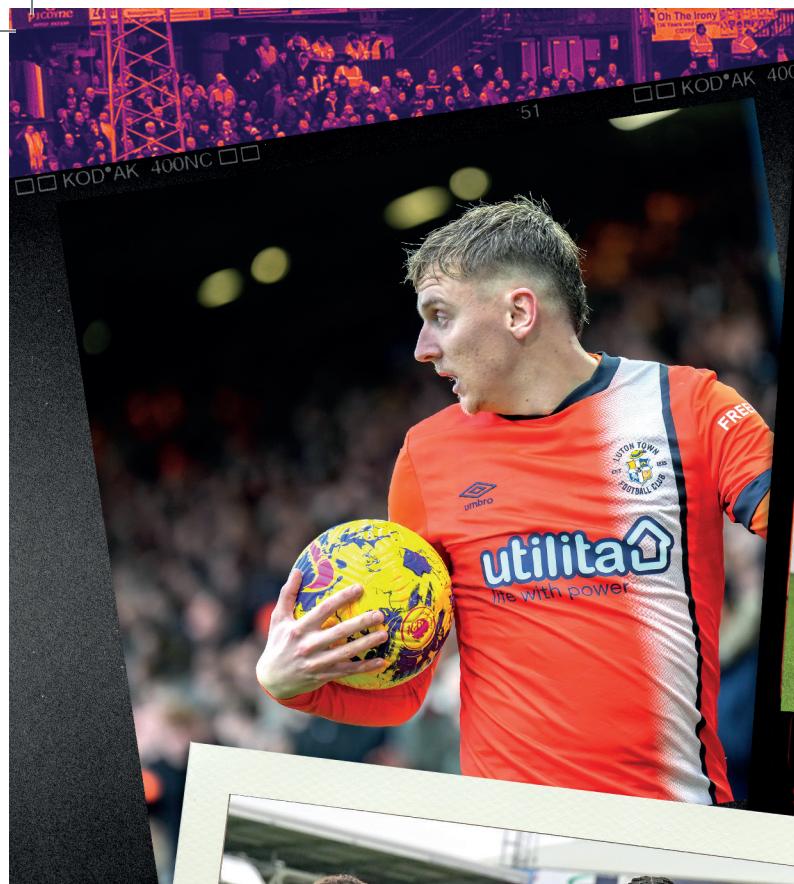
Having looked comfortable, Chelsea panicked. And the Town sensed blood. The visitors were on the ropes and with five minutes left of the 90 Chelsea goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic produced a remarkable fingertip save to deny Carlton Morris' diving header.

With three minutes left on the clock, Kenilworth Road was on its feet again urging an equaliser after Adebayo got the Town to within one when he pounced from close range to make it 3-2.

Chasing an improbable equaliser, Adebayo almost got a toe to the ball when well-placed in the box, Barkley – again magnificent – produced a sensational flick to find Tahith Chong only for the substitute to see his cross allude those in the box.

It was heady stuff. Wave after wave of Town attacks continued to have Chelsea retreating. The danger kept coming. So did the crosses. So did the noise from the home faithful.

Sadly there's no Hollywood ending to this story. Six minutes of injury time came and went and Chelsea hung on – but only just. 





MATCH GALLERY



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DUO REFLECT ON CHELSEA DEFEAT

Midfielder Tahith Chong shared the thoughts of most after the 3-2 defeat to Chelsea last time out with the Town counting themselves unlucky not to get something out of a pulsating Premier League encounter.

Chong, who came on for the second half, played an instrumental role in hauling the Hatters back into contention after the visitors had raced into a three-goal lead marginally against the run of play.

"It was unfortunate. We hit the crossbar as well and had loads of opportunities," said Chong.

"It's positive as we're creating chances, but we want to put them in the back of the net. There were some close ones that were inches away which were unfortunate, so we've just got to keep working.

"Throughout the season we've faced adversity but the way we react all the time, that's just a squad thing where everyone keeps going and keeps trying to do something positive for the game."

Despite the encouragement of the performance, the Town players remained deflated and Chong believes that reaction tells its own story as to where the Hatters are at going into the second half of the season.



"You see the changing room, it's still disappointed and that says a lot about where we've come from and how we've grown as a group, to still want to get something out of that game," he said.

"As a team we've grown so much and it's so good to see. It's what we've always done week in week out, we've kept on improving as a team, and I think for us it's can we go again, can we improve again and can we get better every single game."

Fellow substitute Carlton Morris – who went close to scoring when his header was turned onto the bar by the Chelsea goalkeeper – echoed Chong's thoughts on the Town's progress.

He said: "At this level it's just crucial to be so focused and so perfect when it comes to both boxes, defensively and attacking, they're the fine details that we're improving on. We're much better now than at the start of the season, so you can see that we're evolving as a side.

"It's to be expected at this level. These teams spend so much money and have such high quality of players that you have to expect that teams are going to be clinical if they're given the chance, so it's our job to limit the chances as much as we can. I thought we did that quite well today to be honest, but they still managed to score three goals, although we showed a lot of character in getting two back ourselves."





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WELCOME BOLTON WANDERERS

Today we welcome Bolton Wanderers to Kenilworth Road who are making the long journey from Lancashire for this Emirates FA Cup tie. The Trotters currently sit second in League One and have had a brilliant season so far.

Wanderers started the season with a convincing 3-0 wins over Lincoln City and Cheltenham Town before beating Fleetwood Town 3-1. This was followed up by a 4-0 loss to local rivals Wigan Athletic at home.

The Whites then continued to pick up good results as wins against Derby County, Port Vale and Stevenage were to follow. Ian Evatt's side then lost 3-1 at home to Carlisle United before going on a eight-game winning streak.

Some of these wins included a 4-0 win over Solihull Moors, a 4-2 win over Wycombe Wanderers and a 7-0 home win over Exeter City. Last time out in the Emirates FA Cup, Evatt's side beat Harrogate Town 5-1 after a hat-trick from Jon Dadi Bodvarsson and a double from Dan Nlundulu.

This was followed up with disappointing losses against Portsmouth and Bristol Rovers before they bounced back and beat Leyton Orient 3-2 at home and then 1-0 at Lincoln City.

More recently, the Trotters were victorious against Fleetwood Town and Burton Albion, keeping them well in the hunt for automatic promotion to the Championship.

For Wanderers' first visit to Kenilworth Road since 1997, they arrive with two former Town players among their ranks in the shape of attackers Cameron Jerome and Carlos Mendes Gomes, and we look forward to welcoming to popular faces back to Bedfordshire today.

A massive warm welcome to all associated with Bolton Wanderers and we wish them well in their quest for promotion following the completion of this tie.

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MEET THE TROTTERS

THE BOSS



IAN EVATT. Former team-mate of Rob Edwards, Evatt's managerial stock rose after guiding Barrow to the Football League. Took over at Bolton in 2020, winning promotion in his first season and then the EFL Trophy last term.

GOALKEEPER



NATHAN BAXTER. Chelsea academy graduate who signed this summer. Never made a senior appearance at Stamford Bridge but enjoyed multiple loans including at Hull in the past two seasons.

DEFENDERS



JOSEPH DAGRES-COGLEY. Summer arrival from Tranmere, having missed just one game in the past two seasons in League Two. The full-back began his career at Birmingham.



JACK IREDALE. Scotland-born defender who moved to New Zealand and Australia as a youngster, before moving back home in 2017. Joined Bolton after spells with Carlisle and Cambridge.



GETHIN JONES. Australian right-back or centre-half who joined Everton's academy aged 12. After spells with Fleetwood and Carlisle the former Wales youth international joined the Trotters in 2020.



RICARDO SANTOS. Portuguese centre-half and club captain joined the club in 2020. Came through the ranks at Dagenham before moves to Dover, Thurrock, Peterborough and Barnet.



EOIN TOAL. Northern Ireland international defender who arrived at Bolton last summer following a move from Derry City. Started his career at hometown club Armagh.

MIDFIELDERS



KYLE DEMPSEY. Midfielder with an eye for goal who joined the Trotters last season. Began his career with Carlisle before spells at Huddersfield, Fleetwood and Gillingham.



PARIS MAGHOMA. Central midfielder and England youth international on-loan from Premier League side Brentford. Had two loan spells last season, one at Milton Keynes, the other at AFC Wimbledon.



AARON MORLEY. Former Manchester City and Bolton academy player, who re-signed for the Trotters last season after joining from Rochdale where he had made over 100 senior appearances.



JOSEPH SHEEHAN. Welsh international midfielder now in his third season with the club having joined from Newport. A former Swansea academy graduate who also spent time at Yeovil.



GEORGE THOMASON. Barrow-born midfielder who signed from non-league Longridge Town in 2020. After spells on-loan at Bamber Bridge he has become a first team regular.



RANDELL WILLIAMS.

Winger, also capable of playing at full-back, who signed in January last year from Hull. A former Tottenham academy player, who also spent time at Crystal Palace and Exeter.

ATTACKERS



VICTOR ADEBOYEJO. Striker who was a January transfer window signing last year from Bury for a reported £500,000. Previously on the books at Leyton Orient and Barnsley.



JON DADI BODVARSSON. Experienced Iceland international who joined the Trotters in 2022 from Millwall. Began his career in his homeland before spells in Norway and Germany before moving to Wolves and Reading.



DION CHARLES. The Trotters' leading goalscorer who signed two years ago from Accrington Stanley. Previously enjoyed goalscoring spells in non-league with AFC Fylde and Southport.



CAMERON JEROME. Hugely experienced striker who joined the Trotters from the Hatters last year. Scored 160 career goals in just over 700 senior appearances.



CARLOS MENDES GOMES. Another former Town attacker, Carlos joined the club this summer. Born in Senegal but moved to Spain and then England as a youngster, making his name at Morecambe.



DAN NULDUNDU. French forward who has academy experience at Southampton and Chelsea. After a successful loan spell last season, he made the move permanent this summer.



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HATTERS REWIND



Today's game represents the sixth time we have been drawn out of the hat against the Trotters. As we have won only once in the previous games spread over the past 125 years, some catching up is surely needed.

In 1897/98 we had reached the first round proper in the competition (equivalent to today's fourth round) for the fourth time in five years and had been drawn against top-flight Bolton at Dunstable Road.

A record crowd of 8,698 gathered to see if we could go one stage further in the competition for the first time, but a single goal from Bolton's James Cassidy put paid to our hopes.

At 5ft 7in, Cassidy was reputed to be the tallest member of the Bolton forward line, but at least he did not score from a header!

Thirty years were to pass before we met again, this time in a third-round tie at Burnden Park. After beating Clapton and Norwich at Kenilworth Road, 9-0 and 6-0 respectively, in the previous rounds that year, we fancied our chances against a side that was destined to lift the trophy three times during the decade.

Although Sid Reid scored for the Town, Bolton were far too strong and, prompted by the great David Jack and future Hatter Fred Kean, ran out 2-1 winners with Billy Butler and John Smith netting the goals in front of a crowd of 20,266.

On now to season 1952/53 which saw a fifth round pairing of the two clubs, this time at Kenilworth Road. We had earned a bit of a ➤

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Cup reputation having reached the quarter-finals the year before and had already taken the scalp of first division Manchester City during the current campaign.

Blackburn had been seen off 6-1 at Kenilworth Road in round three in a game that saw Arthur Taylor score two goals on his debut, before we fought out a 1-1 draw at Maine Road, Manchester, in front of a crowd of 38,411 at the next stage in the tournament.

Amidst scenes of wild delight, a hat-trick from Gordon Turner set up a 5-1 thrashing of the top flight side in the replay and by now we feared no-one, especially at home.

Bolton, renowned as a tough, uncompromising outfit at the time had stuttered a shade in that season's competition as it had taken them three attempts to get past Notts County in round four.

On the day of the game thick snow carpeted the pitch and play looked

unlikely but an army of volunteers, including many from Bolton who had travelled overnight by train, cleared much of the covering to enable the game to go ahead.

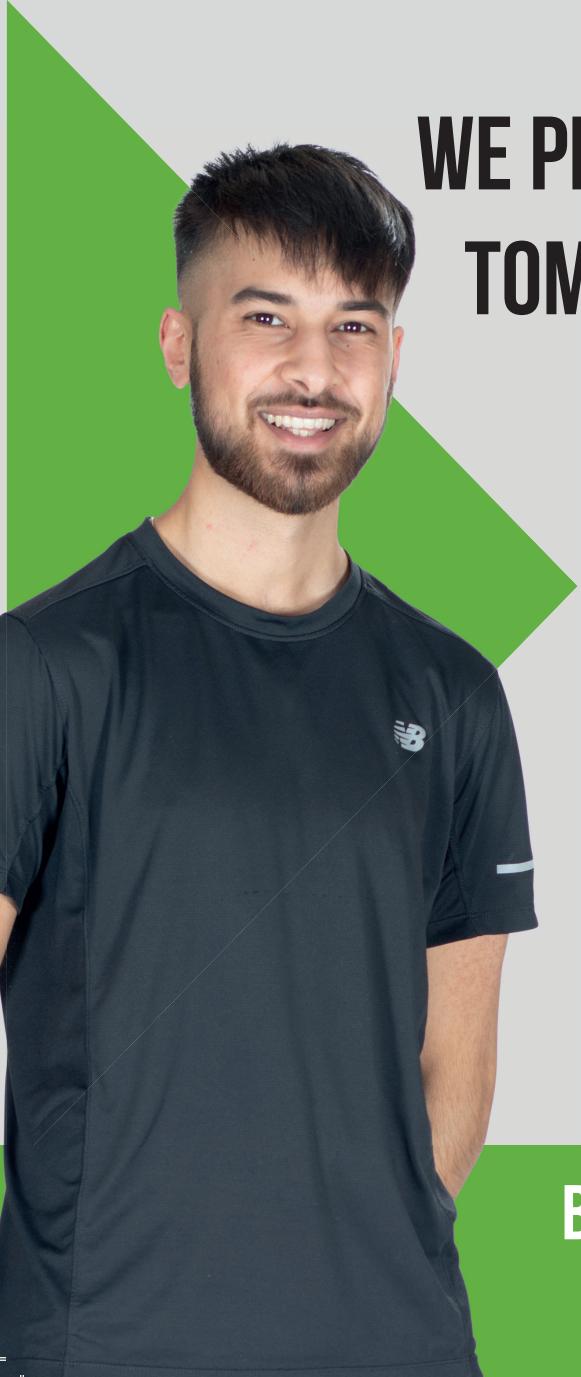
Due to the uncertainty, the attendance was a disappointing 23,735 but 'Cup fever' was in the air as the two teams came on to the pitch. According to the programme the Town had lost the toss for choice of strip which meant that Bolton were entitled to use their away strip of red shirts. Luton manager Dally Duncan had to beg a change strip from his old club Derby County which meant the Town turned out in unfamiliar navy blue shirts.

I have never discovered why Bolton did not elect to play in their normal white shirts. Clashing with the snow was not an issue as the referee and his linesmen wore white!

Looking at photos of the game it is amazing that the tie went ahead as the pitch appeared to be a mixture of thick mud with patches of snow, but both ➤



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teams adapted fairly well and it was slightly against the run of play when the Trotters took the lead in the 32nd minute.

Bolton skipper Willie Moir flighted over a long cross which was met by centre-forward Nat Lofthouse who headed cleanly past a flat-footed Ron Baynham in the Luton goal.

Try as they might, the Town forwards could not find a way past the strong Bolton defence and the game gradually fizzled out and the final result was easy to predict long before the end. The Trotters fought their way to the final that year when, in one of the classic games at Wembley, they went down 4-3 to a Stanley Matthews inspired Blackpool.

Another 20 years were to elapse before our next pairing which took place during our epic Cup run of 1973.

We had put out lowly Crewe following a 2-0 win at Kenilworth Road before travelling to mighty Newcastle in the next

stage in the competition. In one of our most famous cup victories, two first-half strikes from John Aston were enough to see off the Magpies, despite a late onslaught, and second division (now Championship) Luton were in the fifth round draw for the first time since 1960.

We were drawn away to third division (now League One) Bolton who had fought their way through eight FA Cup games to reach that stage and were unbeaten at home in all competitions for almost a year.

A massive crowd of 39,556 turned out to watch the third division pacemakers take on their mid-table second division opponents, and from the start the Luton defence needed to withstand a terrific onslaught. Shot after shot rained in on rookie Luton goalkeeper Willie Carrick but he was equal to the task and with confidence spreading throughout the team we started to attack on the break and began to look threatening.

What turned out to be the only goal of the game came just before the interval ➤



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when Alan Garner was first to a John Aston corner and headed home past Bolton goalkeeper Charlie Wright who later complained that he had been blinded by the sun.

Bolton continued to attack during the second period but it was the Town who looked the more likely scorers and by the end the Trotters were a spent force and we were through to the quarter-finals for the first time since 1959.

"We want another team that plays in black and white, this time at home," said Luton manager Harry Haslam thinking about our previous Cup scalps that season. We drew Sunderland away and ended up well beaten by a side who, with hindsight, already had their name written on the trophy.

The final FA Cup pairing took place in January 1997 at Kenilworth Road. We had been relegated to the third tier at the end of the previous season but were amongst the teams in the promotion shake-out while Bolton were leading League One (now the Championship).

A crowd of 7,414 gathered for this intriguing tie but a ring rusty Town (they had only played one game in almost a month) were soon on the back foot against a competent Trotters side and

found themselves deservedly one down at the interval with Jamie Pollock's goal separating the sides.

Whether Bolton felt they had done enough or whether the Town upped their game, the second half was much more even. When Steve Davis hit a post with four minutes left supporters felt it was not going to be their day but as the clock ticked towards 93 minutes a corner was awarded to the Town.

All 22 players were encamped in the Bolton box and after a mad scramble Marvin Johnson popped up to smash the ball home and set up a replay.

The replay took place four days later on the date set aside for the fifth round where a crowd of 9,713 saw John McGinlay net for the home side early on. Back came the Town and by half-time were 2-1 ahead following goals by Tony Thorpe and Dwight Marshall.

Bolton manager Colin Todd tore into his side at the interval with the players taking his threats to heart and scoring five without reply in the second half with a devastating display of football. A sad Luton boss Lennie Lawrence said afterwards: "When they are dragging off players like John Sheridan and putting on Alan Thompson and I'm putting on 18 year olds you can see the problem."



BEHIND THE SCENES LUTON TOWN V CHELSEA



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KITS FROM THE PAST

“And Luton Town win the 1995 World Series!”

Wait, what?!

Luton Town x Baseball. The crossover you never knew you needed. The 1994/95 home shirt is something that we had never seen before and haven't seen since for two reasons; the first is the baseball inspired design, and the second because it was made in-house.

‘Hatter’ with the boater logo made our kits for a single season, under the control of a certain Mr David Kohler. The neckline is odd, a strange shade of blue and almost a ‘Grandad’ style collar with a single popper to keep the collar together. The shirt has orange, horizontal stripes that go over the shiny material of the jersey.

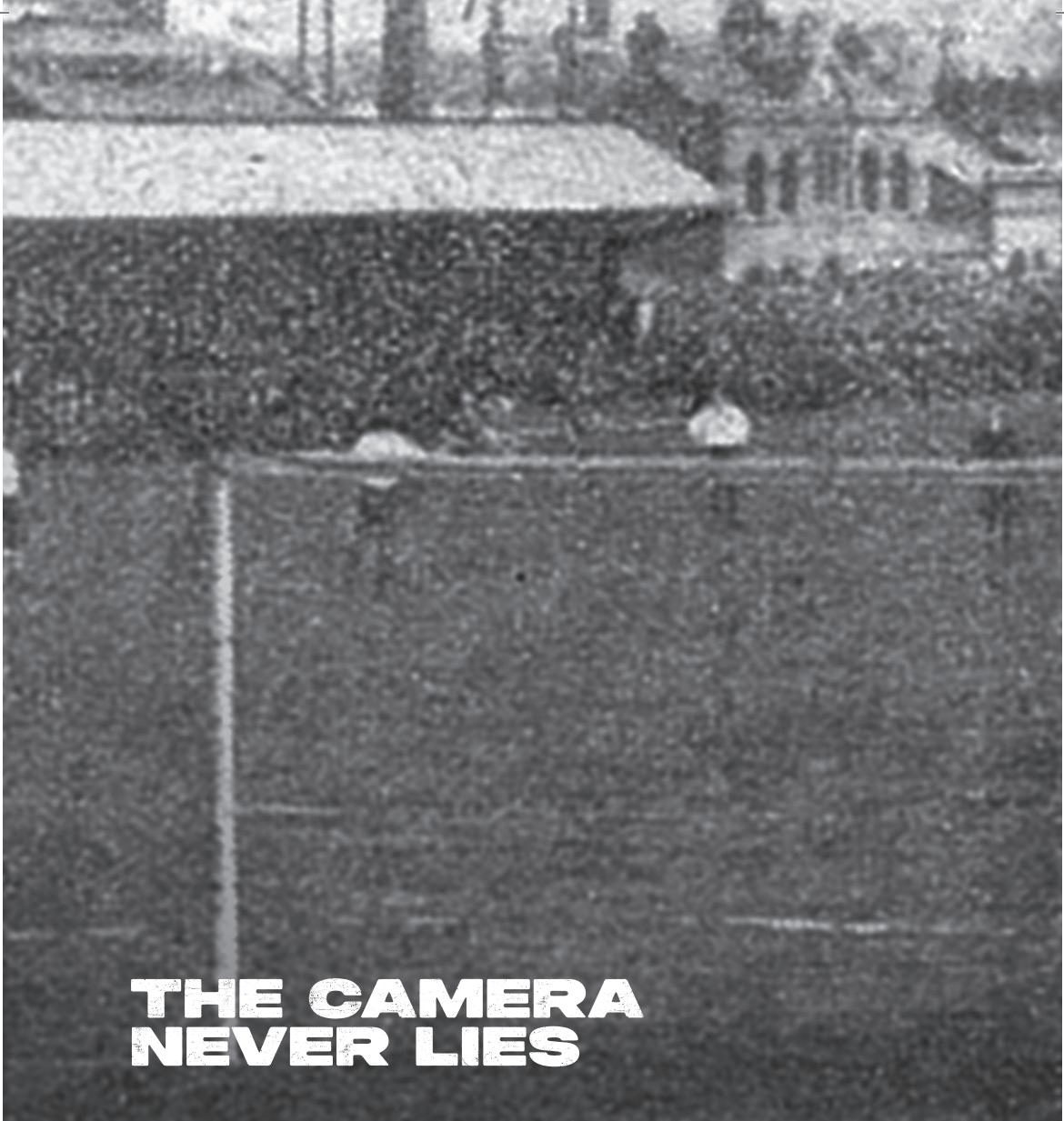
But it does boast a very recognisable sponsor; Universal Savage Auctions (USA) and the lovely, smart Football League sleeve patch that adorned shirts until the 1996/97 season when they were replaced. The shirts never seemed to fit the players or fans properly. They were an odd, baggy fit and had big, flare like sleeves. There was even a long-sleeve version worn by some of the players, which featured a nice blue cuff.

This shirt remains popular, and quite rare. They demand high prices on online auction sites, and the shirt has a bit of a cult following. That said, those that like it, really like it, whilst others are not convinced by the pinstripes and baseball theme (me included, sorry!).

Action on the pitch wasn't anything special with the Hatters finishing 16th in the First Division (now Championship). David Pleat was our manager, and the likes of Paul Telfer, Scott Oakes, David Preece, Julian James and a £2.5million striker by the name of John Hartson played in this shirt before he went off to Arsenal.

Forgettable season, but certainly an unforgettable shirt – whether you love it, or hate it!





THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

An early match action photo from the FA Cup clash with Bolton in 1898 at our old Dunstable Road ground.

For older supporters, the Gas Works are in the background so you can get your bearings.

Roger Wash



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JUNIOR HATTERS TODAY'S MASCOTS



Oliver Lewis

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football, Gaming,
Karting & F1

Favourite Player: Thomas
Kaminski



Luke Stevens

Age: 11

Hobbies: Swimming, Reading,
Gaming, Supporting Luton

Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer



Halle Burton

Age: 8

Hobbies: Swimming & Bike Riding

Favourite Player:
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu



Isabella Cordwell

Age: 10

Hobbies: Playing roblox
and football

Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer



Max Woodgate

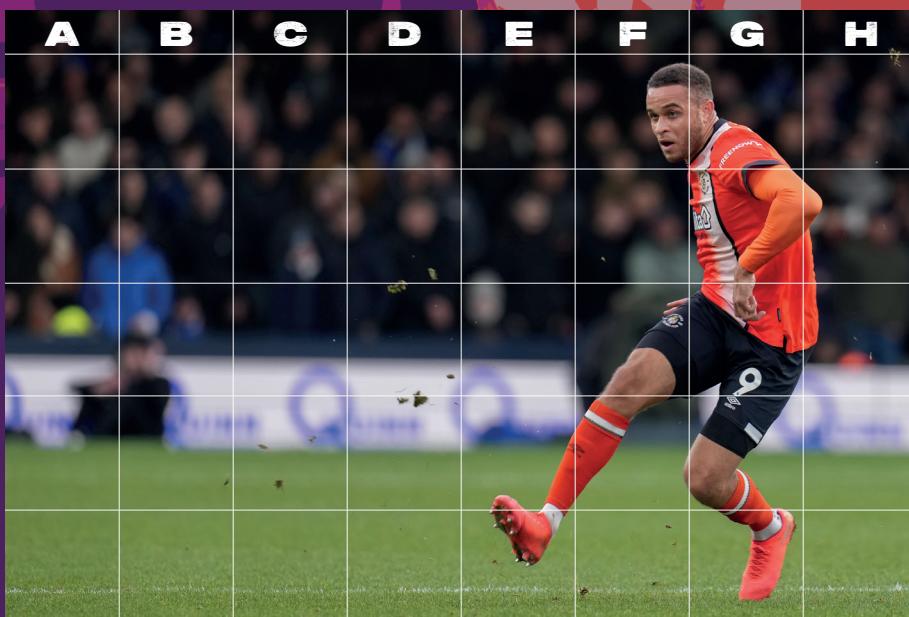
Age: 10

Hobbies: Football

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris,
Ross Barkley

SPOT THE BALL

Can you work out which square the ball
should be in? Answer on page 46.





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CHELSEA MASCOTS & MAN-OF-THE-MATCH



OUR LAST HOME PREMIER LEAGUE GAME AGAINST CHELSEA SAW ROSS BARKLEY NAMED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH BY SPONSORS VENEER HUB, AND THE TOWN MIDFIELDER RECEIVED HIS TROPHY POST-MATCH IN THE ERIC MORECAMBE SUITE.

We also had the pleasure of hosting eight 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 three mascots for this afternoon's FA Cup tie with Bolton and we all hope you have an enjoyable afternoon with us.

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

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



MEMBERS



hannah Solicitors



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

TOWN TEASERS

Due to popular demand – put your football knowledge to the test and answer these Luton Town and football-related questions.

Let us know how you do – you'll win no prizes, just our editor's utmost respect.

1. Which Luton player last scored at Kenilworth Road against Bolton?
2. What was the name of Bolton's ground before they moved to the Reebok Stadium?
3. In what position are Bolton in League One?
4. Which two former Luton players are currently in the Bolton squad?
5. Which former Conference club is nicknamed the Lambs?
6. Against which team did the Hatters play their last home match in the Conference?
7. Which manager first named David Beckham as England captain?
8. What were the two original colours of the first Luton Town shirts?
9. Which Luton player played the most passes (49) in our game against Chelsea?
10. How many times have Bolton won the FA Cup?

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

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

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

0-3 THE PITTS. Either you're a Chelsea fan or you're new to this.





LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

WITH CHAIR TONY MURRAY

Welcome to the first Trust column of 2024. Firstly I would like to wish Luton Town fans, players and staff a very Happy New Year and I hope that the festive period was a happy and enjoyable one for you all.

It certainly was on the pitch wasn't it? That wonderful win over Newcastle prior to Christmas was soon followed by that crazy victory at Sheffield United and a 2023 that none of us will ever forget concluded with another fun game against Chelsea, where once again we deserved more than we got.

I think had anyone said back in August that come the end of 2023 Luton would be one point from safety with a game in hand and having improved tenfold in the matches that we have played I think we would all have signed up to that, so personally, I am delighted with the position that we find ourselves in heading into 2024.

Of course, today we park the Premier League stuff for the magic of the FA Cup. FA Cup third round day is always one of the more momentous occasions in the football calendar, even if the game has moved to a Sunday like this one. Call me an old romantic but you can't beat a Saturday afternoon cup tie.

Nevertheless, this competition has given us some good times in the last couple of decades with Chelsea and Liverpool both having been here as European champions and of course it is 30 years ago that we went all the way to the semi-final of this competition before losing



to the aforementioned Chelsea at Wembley. Another run like that would be lovely wouldn't it!?

2023 was a great year for our club and it was a big year for the Trust too. We grew massively over the 12 months. Some of that was forced because of our rise to the Premier League but there was natural growth as we continue to strive to be at the forefront of supporters' trusts across the country, ensuring fans' views are represented the best way that we can.

I have no doubt that your Trust board will continue to represent you all wonderfully in 2024, a year where we have big events planned which we will provide more details on when they are finalised.

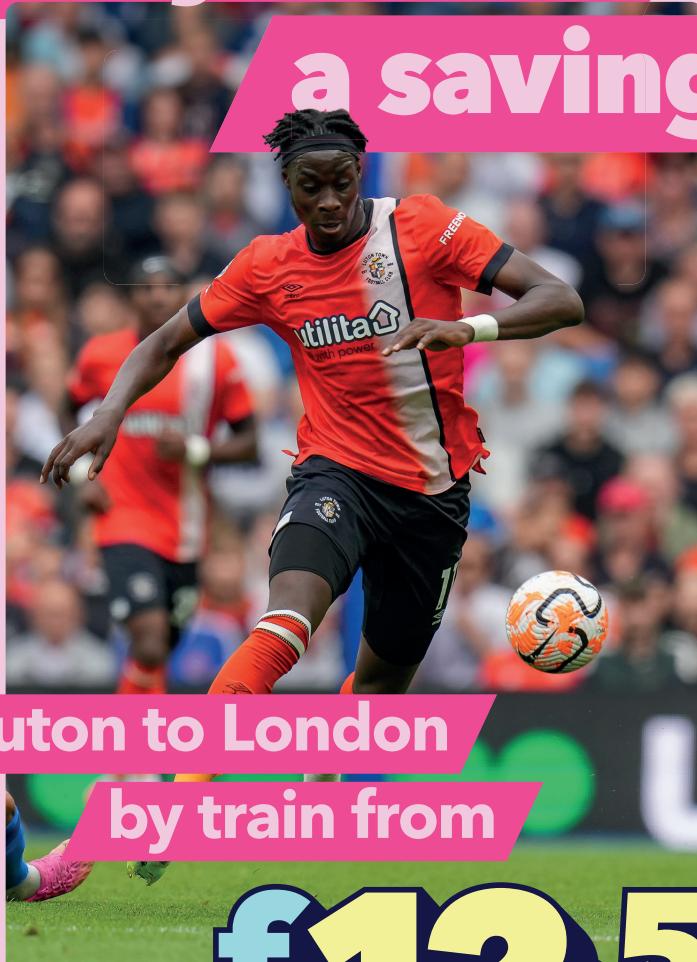
A huge part of our profile has come via our ever improving podcast. Kev Harper and James Cunliffe have done a brilliant job taking that to the next level and they will continue to evolve it along with the regular guests that join them throughout the season. Our YouTube channel is approaching 1,000 subscribers and the boys would love to get there before the end of the month so please subscribe if you haven't. The content is getting better all the time.

That is it from me. We will reveal more details of our 2024 plans in our column in the Brighton programme but for now enjoy the game.

COYH!

Tony

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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

Today, as we look into the new year of 2024, let's review some of the highlights of 2023 as a Luton fan. The past year was a brilliant one for the club and it's the perfect time to look back on the year gone by.

We started the year off with a brilliant 2-1 away win against Huddersfield Town. Rob Edwards' side made it three wins in a row after a late strike from Reece Burke secured the points in Yorkshire. The perfect revenge for what happened there the season prior!

The next major highlight for Town fans was another victory away in Yorkshire, this time a win against Sheffield United. Carlton Morris scored the only goal of the game as the Hatters left Bramall Lane with all three points. That was the day we really all started to believe.

It was soon derby day delight for the Hatters as goals from Gabe Osho and Allan Campbell stung the Hornets in early April. It was the perfect result for Rob Edwards against his former employers and justice served for what happened in the reverse fixture.

As we entered the play-offs, we needed to beat Sunderland by two goals at home to advance to Wembley. And we did just that as Osho and Tom Lockyer fired the Hatters to Wembley and put Luton just one game away from the Premier League.

It was to be our day at Wembley as the Hatters did what many thought was impossible

and were promoted to the Premier League. After drawing 1-1 with Coventry City after extra time, the game was decided by penalties and Luton were victorious – sparking crazy celebrations!

In late September came Luton's first win in the Premier League. It came at Goodison Park of all places as Lockyer and Morris' goals were enough to hold off Sean Dyche's Everton.

About a month later, Luton came from behind late on to draw 2-2 with Nottingham Forest at the City Ground. Elijah Adebayo scored in the 92nd minute to earn Luton a point late on.

In November, the Hatters beat Crystal Palace at Kenilworth Road for our first Premier League win at home. Teden Mengi and Jacob Brown bagged the goals as Luton picked up all three points.

Just before Christmas, the Town then beat Newcastle United 1-0 at home thanks to an Andros Townsend header. A huge result for the team all for our captain following his cardiac arrest in the previous match at Bournemouth.

Then came another massive result for the Hatters on Boxing Day as the Hatters left Bramall Lane with all three points for the second successive season. Alfie Doughty put the Hatters ahead and two late own goals from Sheffield United secured a 3-2 for the Town.

It's been a phenomenal year for the club and an absolute rollercoaster. Let's hope for an amazing 2024!

Words by Zac Neal



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TICKET NEWS



BURNLEY V LUTON TOWN

Premier League
Monday 15th January 2024,
kick-off 7.45pm

Luton Town supporters have been allocated an initial allocation of 1,962 tickets.

All Season Card Holders

Tickets for this fixture go on sale on Thursday 4th January at 1pm to all Season Card holders and Executive Season Card Holders at one ticket per person. They will be available online, in person or via phone using your Client Reference numbers.

There will be no sales in person from the Ticket Office on Sunday 7th January.

Any Member

Subject to availability, any members can book one ticket per person from 1pm on Friday 5th January online, in person or by calling the ticket office.

General Sale

Subject to availability, any supporter with a previous purchasing history can book one ticket per person from 10am on Monday 8th January online, in person or by calling the ticket office.

**Please note the date of this fixture could change dependant of either side being involved in an FA Cup replay.

Any tickets ordered with postage will be held at the Ticket Office and not posted until Monday 8th January. If you have ordered tickets and find you cannot make a possible rearranged game on Friday 12th January, then please contact the Ticket Office via email before 1pm on Monday 8th January and we can cancel your order before tickets are posted.

Prices

Adults £30, Seniors £27, Under 22s £25, Under 18s £20.

Ambulant and wheelchair supporters will pay the relevant age-related price and are entitled to a personal assistant if in receipt of higher Disability Living Allowance, PIP or Attendance allowance.

Additional notice

Due to feedback received last season regarding allocated seats, we are assisting those supporters who cannot stand. If supporters are going to stand, please book tickets in the 'back' sections to allow those that need / prefer to sit when viewing the pitch.



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CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR:

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

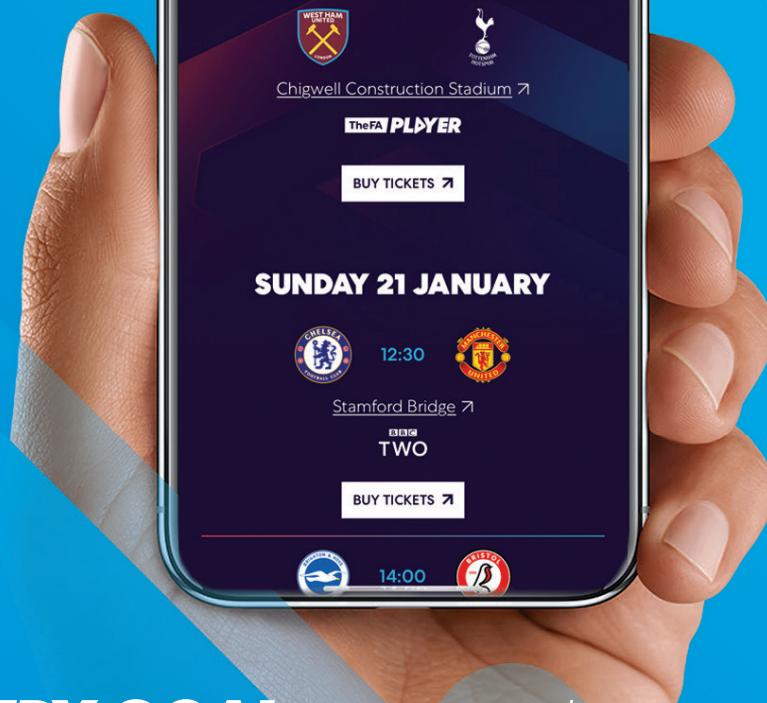
POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:

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

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EVERY CELEBRATION
EVERY MOMENT
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2023/24

FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	POS	SCORE	STARTING XI	GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	BELL
SAT AUG 12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	3PM	A 18	L 1-4	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	BELL
FRI AUG 25	CHESLSEA	8PM	A 19	L 0-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	GILES	BURKE	LOCKER	BELL
TUE AUG 29	GILLINGHAM (CC)	7.45PM	H	W 3-2	KRUL DOUGHTY	GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	BELL
FRI SEP 1	WEST HAM UNITED	8PM	H 19	L 1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY	GILES	BURKE	ANDERSEN	BELL
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A 20	L 0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	BELL	BURKE	LOCKER	ANDERSEN
SAT SEP 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	H 18	D 1-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	BURKE	LOCKER	BELL
TUE SEP 26	EXETER CITY (CC)	7.45PM	A	L 0-1	KRUL DOUGHTY	GILES	MENGI	ANDERSEN	JOHNSON
SAT SEP 30	EVERTON	3PM	A 17	W 2-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	BURKE	LOCKER	BELL
SAT OCT 3	BURNLEY	7.30PM	H 17	L 1-2	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12.30PM	H 17	L 0-1	KAMINSKI BURKE	DOUGHTY	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	OGBENE
SAT OCT 21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	A 17	D 2-2	KAMINSKI BURKE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	OGBENE
SUN OCT 29	ASTON VILLA	2PM	A 18	L 1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO
SUN NOV 5	LIVERPOOL	4.30PM	H 17	D 1-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO
SAT NOV 11	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	A 18	L 0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO
SAT NOV 25	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	H 17	W 2-1	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY	BELL	MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO
SAT DEC 2	BRENTFORD	3PM	A 17	L 1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	BELL	MENGI	LOCKER	OSHO
TUE DEC 5	ARSENAL	8.15PM	H 17	L 3-4	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	MENGI	BELL	OSHO
SUN DEC 10	MANCHESTER CITY	2PM	H 18	L 1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY	GILES	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT DEC 23	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	H 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	CHESLSEA	12.30PM	H 18	L 2-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	MENGI	OSHO	BELL
SUN JAN 7	BOLTON WANDERERS (FAC3)	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	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	20	13	6	1	43	18	25	45
2	Aston Villa	20	13	3	4	43	27	16	42
3	Manchester City	19	12	4	3	45	21	24	40
4	Arsenal	20	12	4	4	37	20	17	40
5	Tottenham Hotspur	20	12	3	5	42	29	13	39
6	West Ham United	20	10	4	6	33	30	3	34
7	Brighton and Hove Albion	20	8	7	5	38	33	5	31
8	Manchester United	20	10	1	9	22	27	-5	31
9	Newcastle United	20	9	2	9	39	29	10	29
10	Chelsea	20	8	4	8	34	31	3	28
11	Wolverhampton Wanderers	20	8	4	8	30	31	-1	28
12	Bournemouth	19	7	4	8	28	35	-7	25
13	Fulham	20	7	3	10	28	35	-7	24
14	Crystal Palace	20	5	6	9	22	29	-7	21
15	Nottingham Forest	20	5	5	10	24	35	-11	20
16	Brentford	19	5	4	10	26	31	-5	19
17	Everton *	20	8	2	10	24	28	-4	16
18	Luton Town	19	4	3	12	23	37	-14	15
19	Burnley	20	3	2	15	20	41	-21	11
20	Sheffield United	20	2	3	15	15	49	-34	9

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



LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

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

SPOT THE BALL: B5



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SUBSTITUTES

				ATT	AWAY
NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS ⚽	31,872	3,001
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	39,893	3,054
MPANZU	BERRY	WOODROW ⚽	OGBENE	9,468	1,058
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	10,802	1,151
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	24,467	2,701
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OGBENE	MORRIS ⚽	10,893	1,091
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	WOODROW	7,360	708
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	ADEBAYO	39,289	2,976
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS ⚽	10,918	1,126
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	10,929	1,151
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	29,361	2,893
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	BROWN	41,785	3,005
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	11,049	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	TOWNSEND	73,599	3,008
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	11,029	1,149
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	TOWNSEND	11,112	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	MORRIS	11,047	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO ⚽	11,042	1,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	31,041	2,362
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO ⚽	11,041	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	TOWNSEND		



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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. Marvin Johnson, 2. Burden Park, 3. Second, 4. Carlos Mendes Gomes and Cameron Jerome, 5. Tamworth, 6. Forest Green Rovers, 7. Peter Taylor, 8. Pink and purple, 9. Ross Barkley, 10. Four times.



LUTON TOWN

1. JAMES SHEA
2. GABE OSHO
3. DAN POTTS
4. TOM LOCKYER
5. MADS ANDERSEN
6. ROSS BARKLEY
7. CHIEDOZIE OGBENE
8. LUKE BERRY
9. CARLTON MORRIS
10. CAULEY WOODROW
11. ELIJAH ADEBAYO
12. ISSA KABORÉ
13. MARVELOUS NAKAMBA
14. TAITH 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



BOLTON WANDERERS

1. NATHAN BAXTER
2. GETHIN JONES
3. JACK IREDALE
4. GEORGE THOMASON
5. RICARDO SANTOS
6. GEORGE JOHNSTON
7. CARLOS MENDES GOMES
8. JOSH SHEEHAN
9. DADI BÖÐVARSSON
10. DION CHARLES
11. DAN NLUNDULU
12. JOSH DACRES-COGLEY
13. JOEL COLEMAN
14. VICTOR ADEBOYEJO
15. WILL FORRESTER
16. AARON MORLEY
18. EION TOAL
19. PARIS MAGHOMA
22. KYLE DEMPSEY
26. ZAC ASHWORTH
27. RANDELL WILLIAMS
35. CAMERON JEROME
39. CONOR CARTY
41. LUKE MATHESON

MATCH OFFICIALS

- ⌚ REFEREE - ANDREW MADLEY
- 🚩 ASSISTANT REFEREE - NICK HOPTON
- 🚩 ASSISTANT REFEREE - BHUPINDER SINGH GILL
- ⌚ FOURTH OFFICIAL - JAMES LININGTON
- ⌚ VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - MICHAEL OLIVER
- ⌚ VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - TIM ROBINSON
- ⌚ ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - DARREN CANN