



ISSUE #13 | £4.00 | PREMIER LEAGUE

LUTON TOWN v BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION

TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2024 | 7:45PM | KENILWORTH ROAD

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

BRING THE NOISE!





WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

Good evening and welcome to a huge return to Premier League action under the lights here at home. Since we were last here, we've clocked up the miles and returned home with some terrific results – at Burnley, Bolton and Everton – so it's good to be back home and playing for important league points again. Tonight we face a Brighton team who we last met on the opening day. A lot has changed since then so this evening will be a test of how far we've come. What hasn't changed is your support so continue to get behind the boys. Come on Luton.



05

**ROB
EDWARDS**



08

**FROM THE
BOARDROOM**



26

**WELCOME
BRIGHTON**



45

**HATTERS
HISTORY**



58

**ACADEMY
UPDATE**



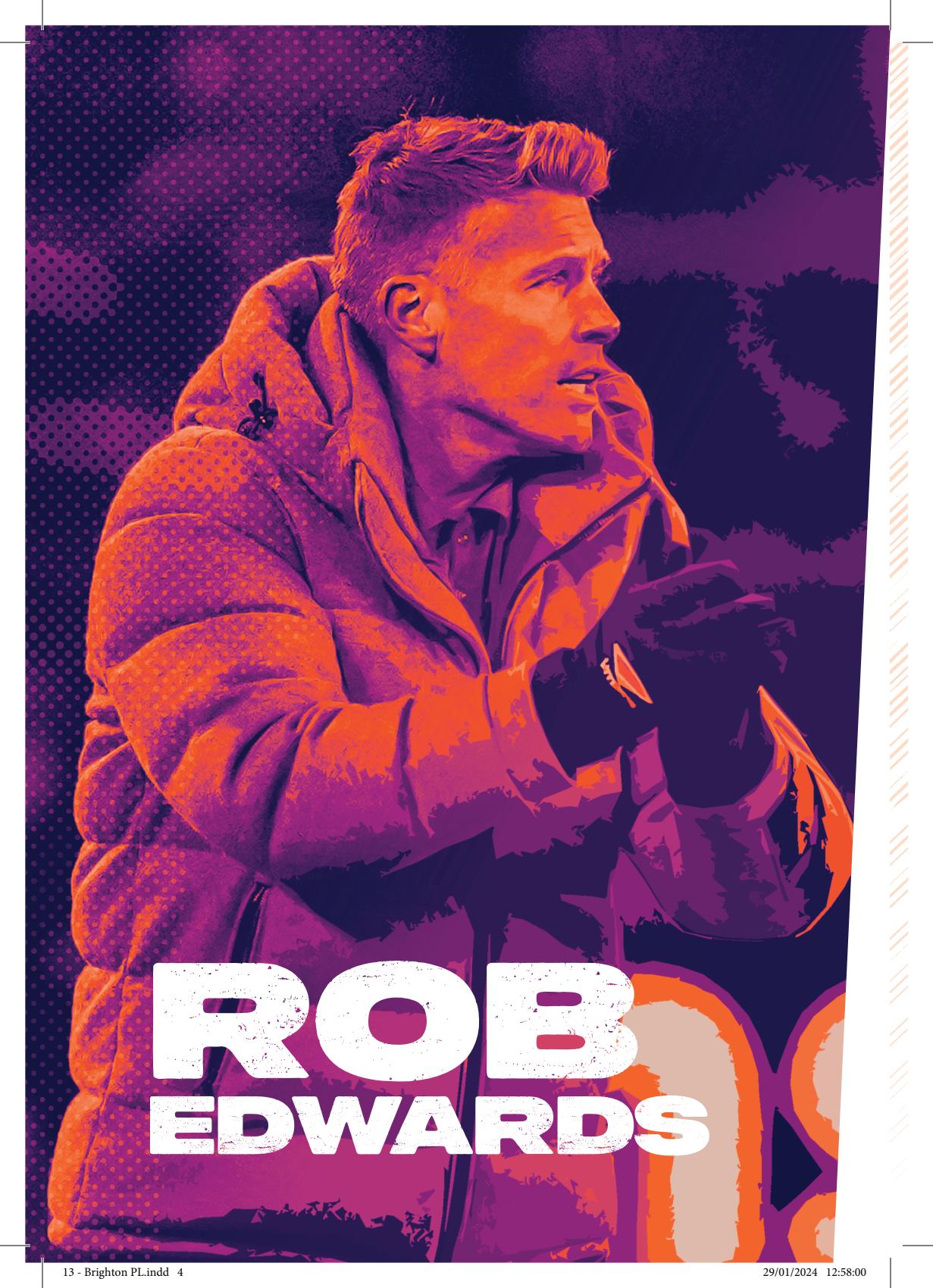
68

**NEWS FROM THE
SUPPORTERS' TRUST**



80

**SEASON
SO FAR**



ROB EDWARDS

Since we were last here at the Kenny we've enjoyed some really good performances and I've been delighted with the way the lads have been working as we go into 2024.

At Burnley, I was really pleased – I think everyone was. It was important not to lose the game to a rival of ours and it was certainly a deserved point, even though the equaliser came so late. However, I thought our overall display was excellent and probably deserved more than a point in the end. It was another game in which we dominated possession of the ball – further highlighting the growth of this team's confidence.

From Burnley to Bolton, we returned home from an FA Cup replay on a freezing night with a victory that got us through. It was never going to be easy – the first match demonstrated that – especially on an emotional night for them given what happened in their previous home fixture. A big thank you to those of you who braved the elements.

The day after we swapped the cold and headed to Dubai for our winter break, something very new to us. It was good for the group, though, and it was important to give the lads some time to chill. It was a break after all, and I believe their efforts have deserved a little bit of respite. We also made the most of the fantastic facilities and warm weather to have some great training sessions, too – it most definitely wasn't all relaxation!

What makes me happiest is then for us to return from time away and back it up with a huge win at Everton on Saturday.

What this team is doing is impressive, and the performance at Goodison was further proof of how far we have come in the four months since we won there in September.

That leads me to tonight, and I'd like to welcome Roberto De Zerbi and his staff and talented group of players to Kenilworth Road. Let's see how much we've grown and improved since the first game of the season. Roberto is deservedly being mentioned as one of the best coaches in the land right now and you can see why. His team are brilliant to watch, they are so dangerous and so difficult to play against, but we'll be ready and will aim to enjoy another important game with Premier League points at stake.

Night games under the lights here are always special. It's a big one and it is going to mean a lot. We know how important all our remaining matches are this season – especially here – and we're going to need you to be right at it from the stands. We'll be at it, too. We promise to try and win every game so let's look forward to it.

Finally, yesterday we presented commemorative balls to those players who made their Premier League debuts this season. It was a special moment made even sweeter by the appearance of Locks. It was great to see him and brilliant to hand him a ball, as it was to the dozen or so who also received one. We've missed him around the place and it gave everyone an added lift to see him being his normal self.

Enjoy the game and bring the noise. 





WELCOME BACK LOCKS!

Everyone at the Club was delighted to see Tom Lockyer back at The Brache on Monday morning.

It was the first time the Town skipper has seen all of his teammates, and been back in Luton, since suffering a cardiac arrest at Bournemouth in December.

Locks, together with members of the Hatters squad who had made their Premier League debuts this season, was presented with a debut ball from manager Rob Edwards, Mick Harford and former Town boss John Still.

A big congratulations to every player who has made their bow in the top-flight this season.





FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN
DAVID WILKINSON

Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road.

Tonight, we host Brighton and Hove Albion for the first time since beating them on penalties in the JPT in 2009. It was, of course, our first season as custodians, with club legend Mick Harford as manager although for reasons now known by most followers, it was to be our last year in the Football League until the inimitable John Still took us back up five years later.

Prior to that we bumped into each other quite often with quite similar results having played each other 62 times winning 22 and losing 24. The Seagulls themselves have had their problems and almost dropped out of the League in 1998, but they survived and with a new stadium a decade ago and, playing an increasingly attractive brand of football, they have risen to finish last season sixth in the Premier League.

Our first ever visit to their Amex Stadium was our first ever game in the Premier League and was a slightly chastening experience as we were well beaten 4-1. However, since then we have continued to learn and improve and there are very few if any of the top teams, who haven't known they've been in a game after they've played

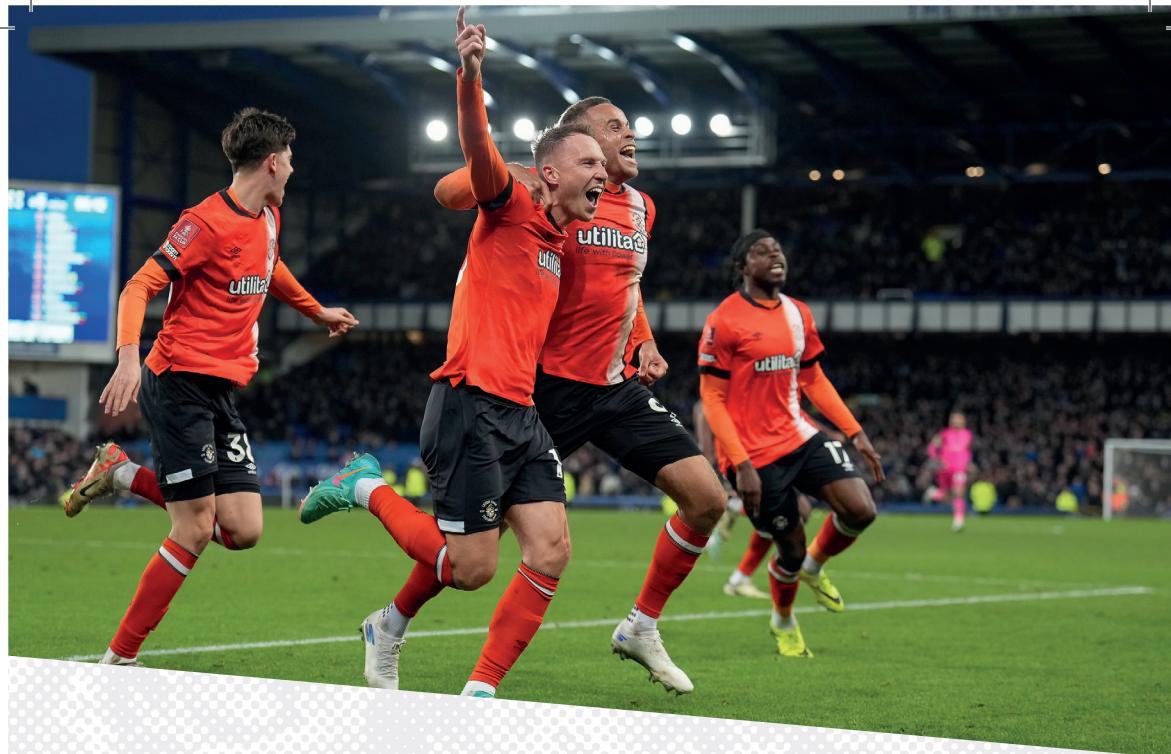
us. It has been magnificent to watch the progress being made and will be particularly interesting tonight against a side we have already faced.

I must just remind you that we were fined £120,000 for discriminatory chanting at Brighton. THAT'S NOT US. We pride ourselves in our openness and lack of prejudice alongside our love for our town and its community and feel ashamed by this kind of behaviour by anyone and particularly anyone claiming to support this football club.

As I write these notes, I see that we are drawn at home against Manchester City in the fifth round of the Cup and just missed Maidstone. Well done them for showing us all that the FA Cup still holds some surprises.

On paper the only way our tie could be a more difficult is if it were away at the Etihad, but, as Brian Clough used to say, we play on grass not paper, so who knows? It will certainly be another fantastic occasion and great opportunity for our impressive squad to test themselves against the World Club Champion again.

What a great result on Saturday at Goodison Park to earn our place against City! My earliest memory of



Goodison Park was a League Cup game in 1968, which we lost 5-1 against a high-flying Everton side full of top players such as Joe Royle, Howard Kendall, Alan Ball and Ray Wilson.

It's still a great place to visit with an old school atmosphere. I hope their new stadium retains that which so many have lost over recent years. New isn't always better. Gary and his team designing our stadium at Power Court are more than aware of that, and they are currently busily doing their utmost to amalgamate the best of old and new.

Back to the game itself, it's notable how we are much more on the front foot than we were earlier in the season and more comfortable in possession. We had more of the possession (54 per cent), more shots on target and more corners on Saturday compared to 32

per cent possession, fewer shots on target, massively fewer shots off target in our league game in September, but we had more corners and scored more goals. I appreciate that it is 'horses for courses', but it demonstrates our progress and ability to adapt to changing situations.

On Friday Gary, Jenn Smith, our HR manager, Chris Bell, our commercial director, and I attended the Love Luton Best of Luton Awards at Luton Hoo. It was as always an inspirational evening highlighting some of the amazing achievements of Lutonians from all parts of the community.

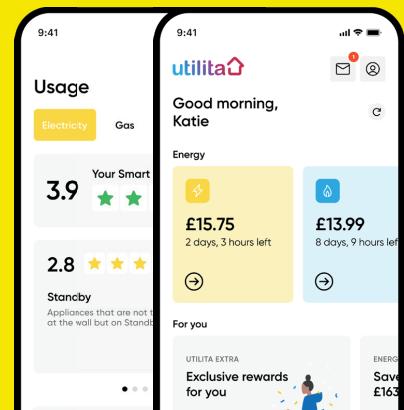
Hatters Heritage was up for the Leisure, Culture and Heritage Award and I'm proud to tell you that they won not only this, but also the people's choice award.



HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

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**Energy that's
proper smart.**





Congratulations to Roger Wash and Nigel Green of Hatters Heritage

I've mentioned them here before, but they deserve further publicity. Roger Wash, who has been our Club Historian for donkeys years has lead the project, which was originally supported by the Lottery Heritage Fund. Along with the committee various volunteers have digitized every bit of written memorabilia of the club since its inception back in 1885.

The website now has the full history of the club preserved for posterity and deserves all the support it can get. I recommend you join up and access the website to take a look.

The most recent project has been going through one and a half million photographic plates in the Luton Museum and picking out tens of thousands, which relate to the club and uploading them to the website. All this means that

all our history is now accessible and will be available for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

Roger is also leading the plans for a museum in Power Court. So much of football is about memories and shared experiences and this does so much to add to them.

Congratulations to Roger and everyone involved for the time and massive effort put in.

"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." – Albert Einstein.

Enjoy the game

COYH

David 

AROUND TOWN

REST IN PEACE



The Hatters were saddened to hear of the passing of loyal supporter Robert Cooper over Christmas.

His son, Scott, wrote: "Dad, thanks for all the memories we have shared, for all the love shown and all the times we laughed.

"I am so glad I got to experience the Kenny with you over the years and this place will always remind me of you. So happy you got to see Luton go back to top flight football. We love and miss you and will never forget you. RIP Dad love Scott, Zoe, Riley and rest of the family."



We are also advised of the sad sudden loss of Town fan **Dean Woottton**.

His father, John, wrote: "Dean was 54 years old and had been a Luton Town fan since 1974 when he first visited Kenilworth Road for a match against Leicester City. For the past 12 years he lived in Ipswich, but visited Kenilworth Road for most home games and also went to a majority of away games during his lifetime."



Our condolences also go to the friends and family of **Robert 'Robbie' Reynolds**, who passed away suddenly on 28th December aged 69.

A Hatters fan since moving from London to Houghton Regis Bedfordshire in 1962, his family say Robbie's most memorable day was meeting Luton Town players and the then manager Nathan Jones in 2017 where he was presented with his very own signed shirt. This will continue to remain on his bedroom wall.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 60th birthday to lifelong Town fan **Adrian Ormes**. A diamond season ticket holder in the Kenilworth Road end for more years to mention, he also has travelled all over the country following the team. Birthday wishes come from Fraz, Musky, Dammo, Duncan and the rest of the lads.



A massive happy 10th birthday to **Finn Sweeney** who is chuffed to be spending it at the Kenny. Lots of love from mum, dad and Eoin.

HATTERS FANS ENCOURAGED TO REPORT ANY DISCRIMINATORY ABUSE

Ahead of tonight's game with Brighton and Hove Albion, the Hatters would like to draw to supporters' attention a new matchday reporting system – designed to continue to make Kenilworth Road a welcoming environment for every fan who walks through the turnstiles.

The tool enables any supporter to report incidents, or behaviours immediately on a match day. This includes discriminatory abuse of any kind. Once submitted, the report will be received by the Club's security control room where it will be investigated accordingly during the match. Fans are also encouraged to contact their nearest steward to action any incidents they feel warrant immediate attention.

Ahead of tonight's game with the Seagulls, the club wishes to remind supporters of the message that should there be any song that fans don't know the words to, to not join in – as 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.

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 any abusive, offensive, homophobic and discriminatory chants will likely lead to an even bigger fine, unsavoury media attention to yourself and the Club and, if identified, will potentially result in you losing your place at Kenilworth Road.

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 any Luton Town home game, you can report it by scanning the QR code on the right, or by contacting your nearest steward immediately. Alternatively, email myvoice@lutontown.co.uk.





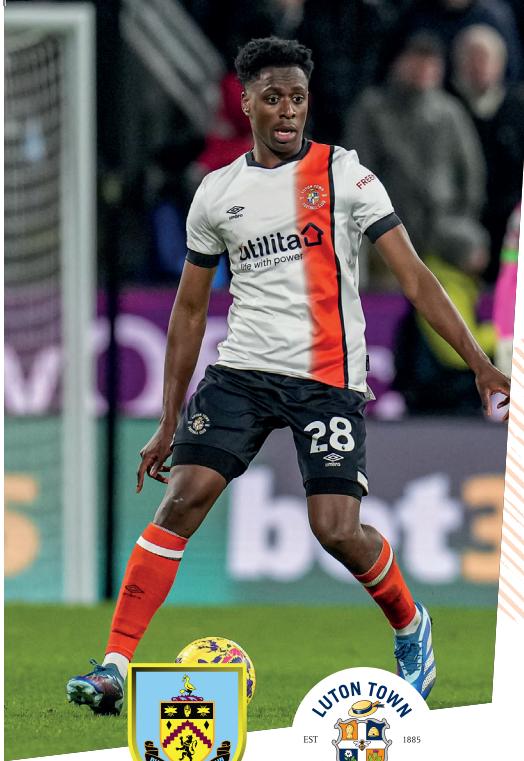
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Turf Moor – 12th January 2024

Clarets: Clarets: Trafford, da Silva, O'Shea, Ekdal (sub Cork 90+5), Al Dakhil, Gudmundsson (sub Roberts 74), Cullen, Brownhill, Odobert (sub Bruun Larsen 84), Foster, Amdouni (sub Tresor 83).

Subs not used: Egan-Riley, Rodriguez, Manuel, Zaroury, Muric.

Hatters: Kaminski; Ogbene, Doughty, Osho, Mengi, Bell; Lokonga (sub Berry 86), Clark (sub Morris 74), Barkley, Townsend (sub Chong 64); Adebayo.

Subs not used: Krul, Potts, Woodrow, Burke, Mpanzu, Giles.

SCORERS

Burnley - Amdouni 36

Hatters - Morris 90+



MATCH REPORT

HATTERS LATE SHOW EARNS VALUABLE POINT

This team genuinely never give up. Even when everything might look lost the Hatters find a way.

At Turf Moor, on a freezing cold Friday night three-and-a-half hours from Kenilworth Road and with three minutes remaining of five added at the end of the 90 remaining, the time came.

Alfie Doughty – so often this season the creator of important Hatters goals this season – hung one final, dangerous ball high into the Burnley penalty area. Then everything went in slow-motion. Elijah Adebayo held off goalkeeper James Trafford and in the panic that ensued, one man kept a cool head.

Carlton Morris, the man who scored the Town's first goal of this maiden Premier League season, kept his eye on the ball and nodded it gloriously into the empty net. A nervous wait followed. A VAR check. Did Ellijah foul Trafford? The men at Stockley Park said no. 1-1. Elation. Relief.

It was a deserved equaliser, and a massive one at the bottom of the Premier League table, at the very end of a game in which the Hatters dominated – 60-40 in possession told its own story – but it needed that one final action to ensure a precious point.

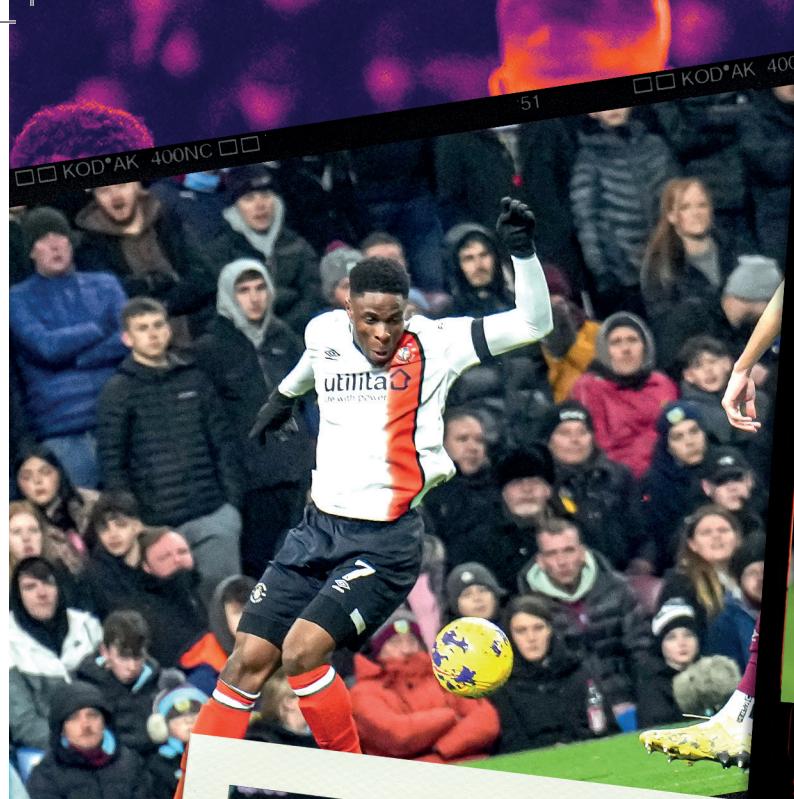
While the Hatters were playing some eye-catching football in the first half, the clear-cut chances were few and far between and you felt that the Town would need to find one and convert one should Burnley find some rhythm. Which, eventually, they did.

The Town's nightmare was realised nine minutes before the break. Wilson Odobert wriggled down the left and squared for Zeki Amdouni to side-foot beyond Thomas Kaminski. The goal came during the hosts' best spell of the half and it meant that Rob Edwards needed a "stern" half-time team-talk, he would say afterwards.

After the break, Burnley pressed for a second but the Town held firm and slowly worked their way back into it. Again, despite seeing much of the ball, off-your-seat chances remained at a premium.

At the other end Kaminski needed to be alert to keep his side within a goal from parity, especially when keeping out a deflected Odobert effort shortly after the hour.

Time ticked into the final 15 minutes – a notoriously good period for Hatters goals this season. But even when it looked as though time was up the Town – and Morris – had the final say. 





MATCH GALLERY

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FITNESS AND MENTALITY ARE KEY – OGBENE

Attacker Chiedozie Ogbene believes the Hatters' fitness and mentality are paying dividends in games this season as the team scored yet another late goal to earn a priceless point at Burnley in our last Premier League game.

Carlton Morris' goal two minutes into added time enabled the Hatters secure a deserved point at Turf Moor to make it eight games unbeaten at the home of the Clarets.

And it was reward once more for the Town's determination to keep going to the very final whistle with Morris' header their tenth goal in the final ten minutes of games in the top-flight this term.

"The pre-season we had is paying off now as we're very athletic and we continue to be ruthless in terms of our energy levels," explained Ogbene.

"We keep going no matter what and that's what the manager is saying, you have to keep going because you never know what's going to happen.

"If you look at the goal, I know it wasn't the fanciest of crosses, but if he turns that cross down we don't score, so sometimes you just have to put some crosses in even if you're under fatigue and you never know.

"We have good players in the box that can make something happen and I'm just so happy as that pays off, that no matter what we're going to keep going, keep pushing.



"Our mentality is if you can't win, don't lose. In the first half we could have taken our chances and maybe given us a better position in the second half. I don't remember their goal very well but it was one of their first chances and they punished us, so we need to get better at that.

"Overall we're happy with a point as it's a good point away from home to keep things competitive at the bottom of the table.

"We would be disappointed to say that we didn't take our chances, especially at this level in the first half. Second half we came out, we kept pounding and kept the pressure on all throughout and a draw was the least we deserved."

Much was made of Morris' leveller – which was subsequently featured heavily in the media in the days that followed.

On the goal, Ogbene said: "When it happened on the pitch, it was like slow motion to me. I just saw Elijah standing there and maybe the keeper timed it wrong and then Carlton headed it in, so from my angle it looked like a clean, honest goal.

"Obviously they've checked it and they've agreed, so I think it's a goal that we deserved and a point that means a lot for us. Keepers now are protected species, every contact on the keeper has to be as minimal as possible to have a chance.

"From my angle it didn't look like Eli did anything, but sometimes when it goes to VAR, and involves the keeper, you always fear that they are always going to favour the keeper. They checked it, the ref believed it wasn't a foul, the VAR believed it wasn't a foul and it was a goal that we needed." 



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LAST-GASP WOODROW SENDS TOWN THROUGH

Set-plays and goals in the final ten minutes have been a wonderful source of happiness for the Hatters this season – and it so proved, deep, deep into added time at Goodison Park.

Four months ago a historic first-ever Premier League win was earned from two goals from set-pieces and history would repeat itself as two goals from corners earned a memorable 2-1 win and a place in the fifth round of the FA Cup for only the fifth time in 36 years.

The Town dominated the first half and led thanks to Reece Burke's first goal of the season. Alfie Doughty – whose two assists did the damage back in late September – swung in a typically devilish corner from the right flank and Burke got the better of Vitaliy Mykolenko to nod past goalkeeper Joao Virginia.

Ahead at the break the Town were almost two in front six minutes after the restart when another corner from Doughty was met by Carlton Morris but his powerful goal-bound header was tipped away by the fingers of Virginia.

It would prove to be a key moment as four minutes later the hosts were level and the noise level returned to Goodison when Tim Krul couldn't hold Jack Harrison's effort from the edge of the box and the ball squirmed over the line.

Four minutes later Elijah Adebayo couldn't have done any more with a fine effort after racing into the box – only for Virginia to produce a wonderful save to turn the ball around the post.

Shortly after the hour it really should have been 2-1 to the Town when captain Morris saw his low shot from six yards hacked off the line by Nathan Patterson with Virginia beaten.

After that chance it was Everton's time to push the Hatters back. However, with Teden Mengi marshalling the backline superbly, the Town defence poured cold water on every Toffees attack.

With five minutes added by the officials, it seemed all the world we'd all be heading back to Kenilworth Road for a night under the lights – but then came Cauley Woodrow's moment. Nursing a broken hand following an earlier incident, the substitute crashed home from close range following Luke Berry's corner and the Town were through.

1 2

Goodison Park - 27th January 2023

Toffees: Virginia, Patterson, Tarkowski, Onana, Calvert-Lewin (sub Chermiti 78), Harrison, Beto, Mykolenko, Branthwaite, Garner, McNeil (sub Danjuma 78).

Subs not used: Pickford, Lonergan, Keane, Young, Godfrey, Hunt, Dobbin.

Town: Krul; Burke, Mengi, Bell, Doughty (sub Doughty 76), Obgene; Lokonga (sub Mpanzu), Barkley (sub Berry 76); Townsend (sub Chong 65), Morris, Adebayo (sub Woodrow 65).

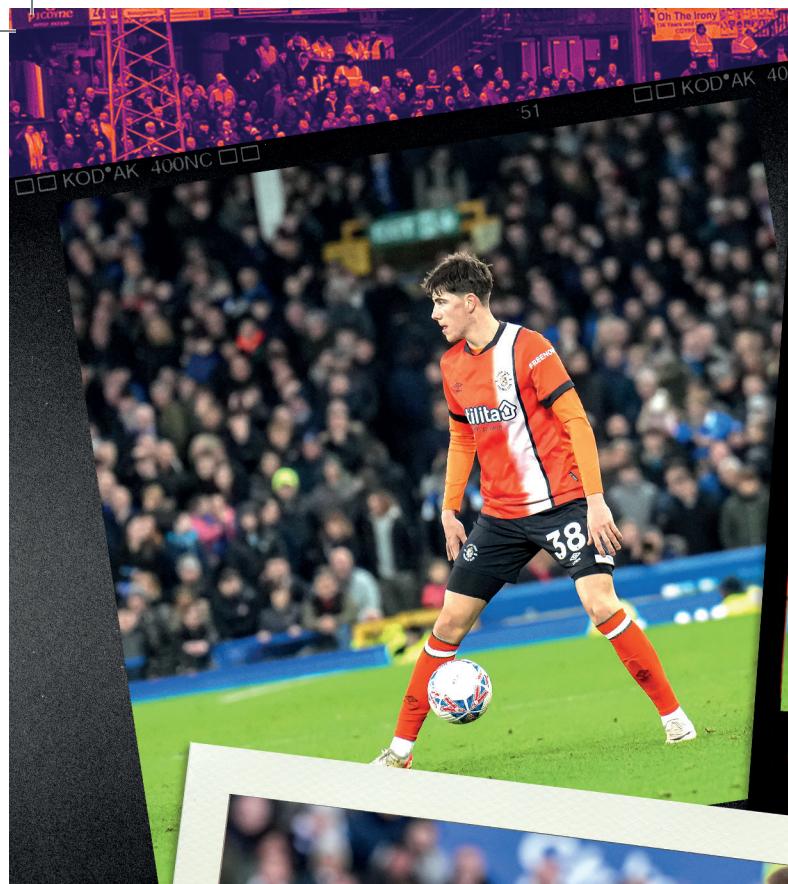
Subs not used: Shea, Kaminski, Potts, Berry, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Johnson, Nelson.

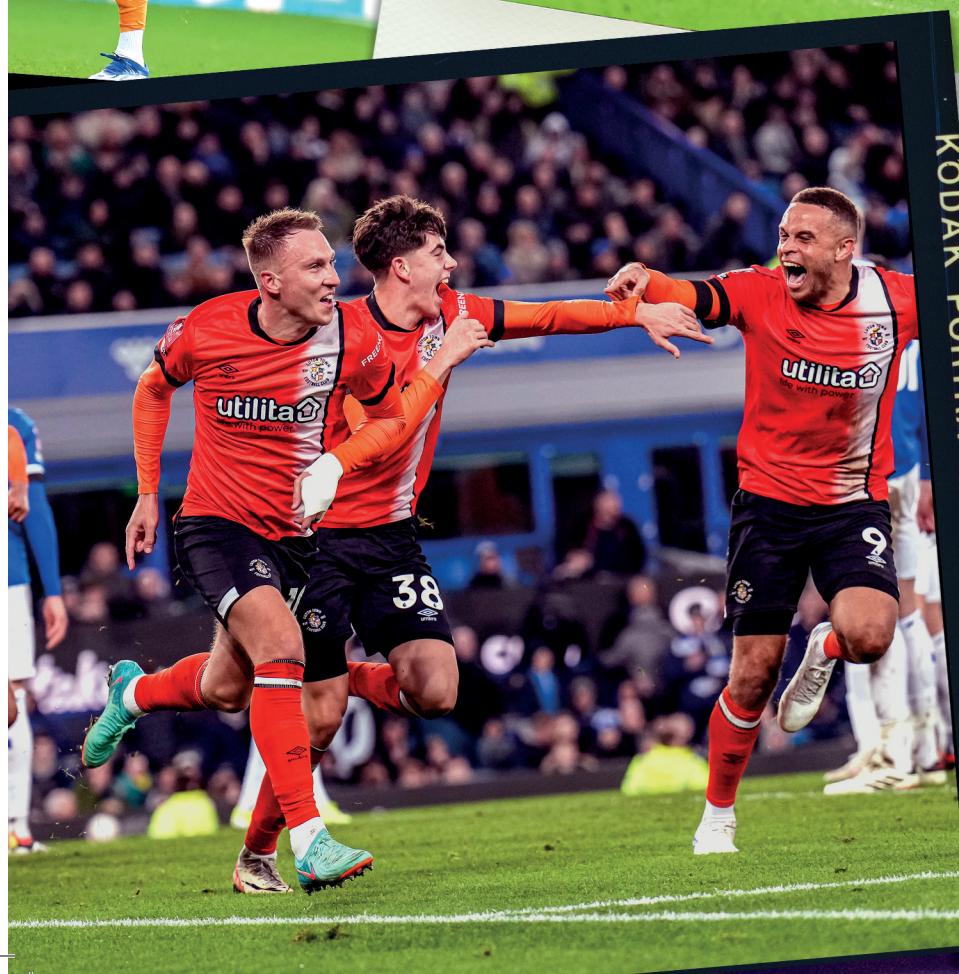
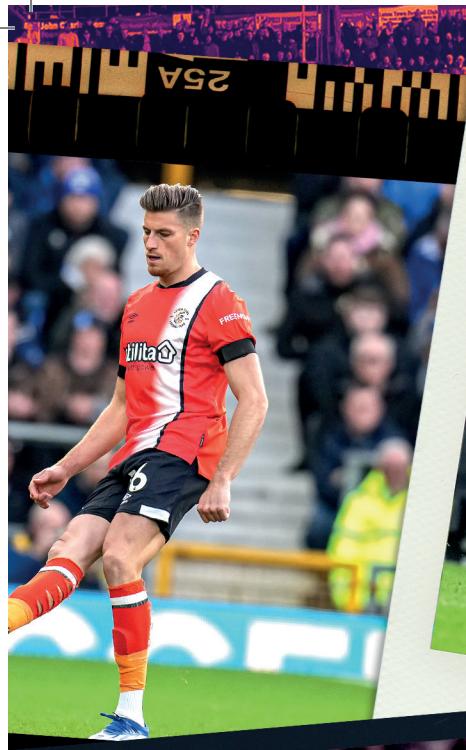
Attendance: 37,713, including 1,699 shouting for the Town.

SCORERS

Everton - Harrison 55

Town - Burke 39, Woodrow 90+





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WOODROW DELIGHT WITH EVERTON WINNER

Town match-winner Cauley Woodrow revealed that he broke his hand just before scoring the last-gasp winner at Goodison Park on Saturday.

The academy graduate was introduced by boss Rob Edwards as part of a triple substitution with 66 minutes gone but was then involved in a collision with Toffees captain James Tarkowski which saw the Town number 10 require some treatment from the Hatters medical team.

"Just ten minutes before the goal I fell on the floor with Tarkowski and fell on it," explained Woodrow.

"I just felt it crack and thought 'oh no, I've definitely broken my hand there.' But to get a goal, I'll take a broken hand. It's hurting quite a bit, I've had a couple of codeines, but it's all right. I was in a bit of shock for a while, but I'm happy."

It was the frontman's first goal since back in August when the 29-year-old netted in the 3-2 Carabao Cup victory over Gillingham at Kenilworth Road.

It was a case of right place, right time for Woodrow as he reacted quickest to Carlton Morris' knockdown in the box from Luke Berry's corner in the sixth minute of added time.

On the goal, Woodrow said: "I don't really remember much. Carlton flicked the ball on, it just fell to me and I managed to tap it in. I'm absolutely delighted as it was a tough game, so for us to come out on top was really pleasing."

"You need a little bit of luck and thankfully today I got that little bit of luck. Thankfully it did fall to me and I put it in, so I'm over the moon, really happy. To get it in the dying moments was amazing as to get an important goal and take us through to the next round, I'm delighted." 



WELCOME BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION

Today, we welcome Brighton & Hove Albion to Kenilworth Road for a big match under the lights.

Roberto De Zerbi's side have enjoyed a solid season and are looking very competitive at the top end of the table.

As we all remember, the Hatters travelled to the American Express Community Stadium on the opening day of the campaign. It was a fantastic occasion for the club as it was the Hatters' first Premier League match. However it was Brighton who ran out 4-1 winners to get their season off to an ideal start.

The Seagulls followed this up with another 4-1 win, this time against Wolves, before losing 3-1 at home against West Ham.

Brighton responded well to defeat and went on to beat both Newcastle United and Manchester United 3-1. Albion then made their debut in the Europa League with a home loss to AEK Athens.

A win against Bournemouth was followed up with a poor run which saw Brighton go winless in six games. However, in late October Brighton beat Ajax 2-0 away from home in a monumental result for the club.

The Seagulls then went on a solid run which saw wins against Nottingham Forest, AEK Athens, Brentford, Marseille, and Tottenham Hotspur. They also drew 1-1 with rivals Crystal Palace in this time.

In last year's transfer window, Brighton were active in the market as they made multiple important signings. Mahmoud Dahoud, James Milner, Bart Verbruggen, Igor Julio, Carlos Baleba and Ansu Fati all signed for the club. Earlier this month, the Seagulls secured the signature of highly-rated Valentin Barco from Boca Juniors.

A big warm welcome to all those associated with Brighton & Hove Albion.

MEET THE SEAGULLS

THE BOSS



ROBERTO DE ZERBI.

Italian head coach who took over in September 2022 after a year with Shakhtar Donetsk. Made his name in Italy, most notably at Foggia and Sassuolo.

GOALKEEPER



JASON STEELE.

Former England youth stopper who joined the Seagulls in 2018. The former Middlesbrough academy graduate has been sharing goalkeeping duties with Dutchman Bart Verbruggen.

DEFENDERS



LEWIS DUNK.

Albion's experienced captain, Dunk came through the youth ranks on the south coast. Made his debut in League One and since played over 400 times, making his senior England debut in 2018.



PERVIS ESTUPINAN.

Ecuadorian left-back now in his second season with the Seagulls after signing from Villarreal in 2022. Was once contracted at Watford but never played a minute.



IGOR JULIO.

Brazilian centre-back who arrived at the American Express Community Stadium this summer from Fiorentina. His first steps in Europe came in Austria before moving to Italy.



JOEL VELTMAN.

Dutch defender able to play at right-back or centre-half who signed for the Seagulls for just £900,000 from Ajax in 2020. Came through the Ajax academy has been capped 28 times for the Netherlands.



JAN PAUL VAN HECKE.

Another Dutch defender, Jan Paul joined in 2020 from NAC Breda. Had loan spells at Heerenveen and Blackburn but has been a first team regular for the Seagulls this term.

MIDFIELDERS



BILLY GILMOUR.

Highly-rated, creative central midfielder who joined Brighton from Chelsea at the start of last season. The Scottish international also spent time in the Rangers academy north of the border.



PASCAL GROSS.

Experienced German international midfielder who has now played over 200 times in the Premier League while with Albion having joined in 2017 from Ingolstadt.



JACK HINSELWOOD.

Teenage midfielder, also capable of playing in defence, who made his Premier League debut last season. Worthing-born, he's been capped at youth level for England.



JAMES MILNER.

Versatile midfielder who is closing in on 900 senior matches following spells at Leeds, Newcastle, Aston Villa, Manchester City and Liverpool which has seen him win three Premier League titles and the Champions League.



KAORU MITOMA.

Enterprising Japanese international winger arrived at Brighton in 2021 from Kawasaki Frontale. Scored seven Premier League goals in his debut season last term.



FACUNDO BUONANOTTE.

Teenage attacking midfielder or winger, who signed from Argentinian side Rosario Central in January last year. Made his debut in February and his international bow a month later.

ATTACKERS



EVAN FERGUSON.

Irish international frontman Evan was snapped up from Bohemians in January 2021. Only 19, he has already hit 12 goals in 38 Premier League games and scored three times in 10 caps for his country.



JOAO PEDRO.

Young Brazilian forward signed from Watford for a club record £30m in the summer. Came through the ranks at Fluminense and made his Brazil debut in November last year.



DANNY WELBECK.

Striker who has a wealth of experience following spells with Manchester United and Arsenal in the Premier League. Has hit 16 goals in 42 games for England and joined the Seagulls in 2020.



DAVID MOSS NETS WITH A RARE HEADER DURING THE 5-0 WIN OVER BRIGHTON AT KENILWORTH ROAD IN 1982

CLASSIC CLASH



CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS BACK ON THE BIG DOUBLE AGAINST THE SEAGULLS

The Hatters got off to a mixed start to the new campaign following their promotion to the top flight in 1982 with goals flying in at both ends of the field to keep the neutral supporter as well as the television companies in seventh heaven.

On the opening day, an entertaining 2-2 draw was played out at Tottenham before West Ham showed us how Division One strikers took their chances when winning 2-0 at Kenilworth Road.

We learnt quickly and a hat-trick from new boy Paul Walsh saw off Notts County in a 5-3 thriller before it was back to square one following a 4-1 hammering at Aston Villa.

By now the Luton supporters did not know what to expect but spurred on by the thrill of the unknown over 2,000 travelled to Anfield the following week to witness an amazing 3-3 draw with Liverpool managing to score against three different Luton goalkeepers.

Despite this wonderful performance we only gained a point for our efforts leaving us hovering just above the drop zone. Perhaps we needed a couple of gritty and mean 1-0

victories to push us up the table starting with the visit of Brighton to Kenilworth Road on 18th September 1982.

The Seagulls had lost nine consecutive games on the road but given our up and down form it was still a difficult result to call. We welcomed back to Kenilworth Road ex-Hatters Don Shanks and Tony Greathouse, while current Luton skipper Brian Horton was looking forward to sparring with his old mates.

Brighton set out with a defensive formation, which was completely the wrong thing to do against the cavalier 4-3-3 of the Town. Once Brian Stein opened the scoring after 20 minutes there was only going to be one winner and it was a surprise that it took until the second half for the floodgates to open.

The Brighton defence was pulled all over the place by David Moss switching wings at will while Stein and Walsh were too quick and clever for the flat-footed defenders, latching on to through balls from Ricky Hill, Wayne Turner and Horton.

Turner netted with a spectacular overhead kick, Stein crossed for Moss to head home



Wayne Turner scores with an overhead kick

The Seagulls fought back and battered the Luton defence without showing much invention although Neil Smillie did hit a post with the ball rebounding back into the arms of Luton goalkeeper Jake Findlay.



and then returned the compliment shortly afterwards. Stein's hat-trick goal and the Town's fifth came in the closing seconds after he outpaced a dispirited defence to get on the end of a clever through ball from Mal Donaghy.

David Pleat reminded his players afterwards that the rest of the season would not be so easy and he was proved correct as by the time of the return, in January 1983, we were still just above the relegation positions.

Brighton, however, were below us having won only once in the previous 11 games and put out a much changed side to the one that appeared at Kenilworth Road and included future Hatters legend Steve Foster.

The Town took an early lead when Hill ghosted through to head home a Horton free-kick and went further ahead when Brighton defender Gary Stevens, under no real pressure, deflected the ball into the net following another Horton punt into the area.

The pressure finally brought a reward in the 69th minute when Andy Ritchie scored but within two minutes, and before the Brighton crowd could work up a head of steam, the best move of the match saw Hill lob his second at the end of a piece of intricate play.

Brighton would not give up, however, and two minutes later Grealish hit a corkscrew from 25 yards to reduce the deficit. Again they were not allowed to push for an equaliser as almost from the restart Moss crossed from the left and with no Luton player in sight Jimmy Case met the ball with a thumping header past his astonished goalkeeper.

Brighton had therefore scored four times yet had still lost the game and it was this type of luck that was to see them relegated at the season's end while the Town clung on to their Division One status following a last gasp win at Manchester City.

Luton (first game): Judge, Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Money, Hill, Horton, Turner, Stein, Walsh, Moss.

Luton (second game): Findlay, Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Thomas, Hill, Horton, Turner (Kellock), Walsh, Bunn, Moss.

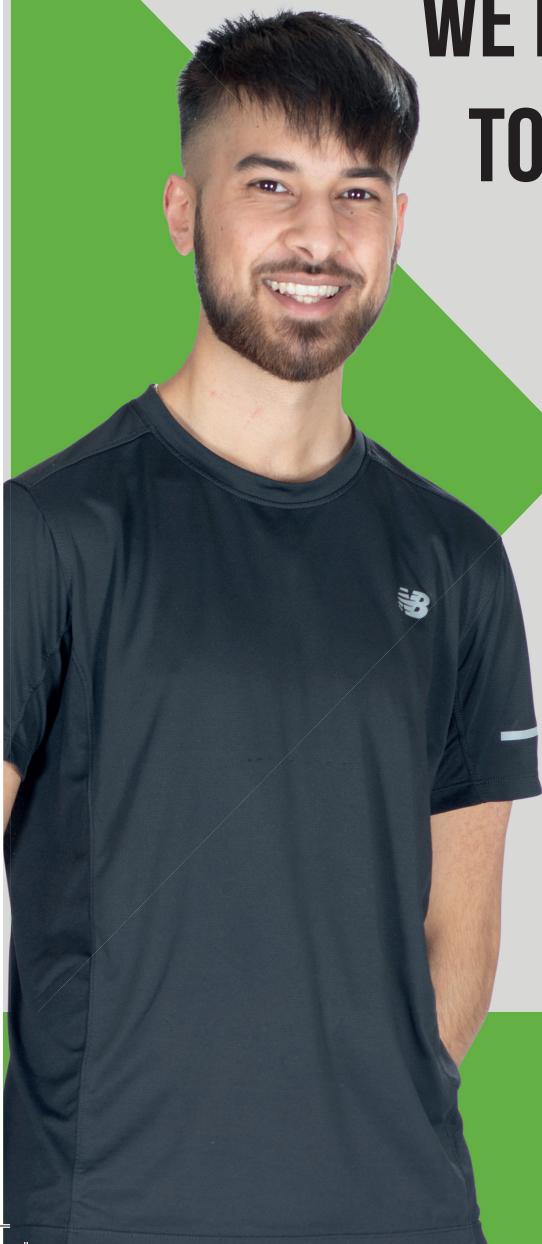
Brighton (first game): Moseley, Shanks, Stevens, Gatting, Nelson, Case, Grealish, Stille, Smith, Ritchie, (Ring), Ryan.

Brighton (second game): Moseley, Ramsey, Pearce (Ritchie), Foster, Stevens, Case, Grealish, Smillie, Ward, Smith, Robinson.



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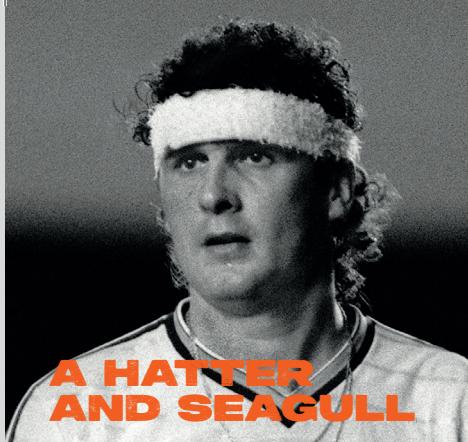
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A HATTER AND SEAGULL

An inspirational skipper and leader, Steve Foster was the Town captain during arguably the club's finest hour, lifting the Littlewoods Cup in 1988.

Portsmouth born, Steve started with his home town club as a forward but reverted to centre-half and was then sold on to top-flight Brighton for £150,000 in 1979.

Steve won England caps whilst at the Goldstone and was virtually ever present during the Seagulls' four year stay at the top but a change of manager saw him move to Aston Villa in March 1984, where he was unhappy, and then to the Hatters in November of that year.

At Kenilworth Road, Steve formed a tremendous central defensive pairing with Mal Donaghy and with it came the most successful period in the Town's history, and he went on to make 212 appearances in Luton colours before moving to Oxford and then back to Brighton for one final spell before retirement.

CULT HERO



the words of Roger Wash on pages 28 and 29 – but since then the Hatters have only tasted victory twice in the following ten attempts.

Meetings between the Town and Brighton go back to our Southern League days, the first of which took place in February 1904. The overall head-to-head record is relatively balanced; the biggest margin of victory a 6-0 Hatters in 1912, while the Seagulls hit us 7-2 six years prior.

The last time we met in the top-flight came in 1982/83 – more of which you can read thanks to

Pinpointing a 'great' game isn't the easiest – especially in recent history – but you can't ignore a 3-0 Town win in the Championship in December 2005, especially considering it's the last time we have beaten the Seagulls.

That day goals from Steve Howard, Warren Feeney and Steve Robinson earned the Hatters a fine home win before a crowd of 9,429 at Kenilworth Road.

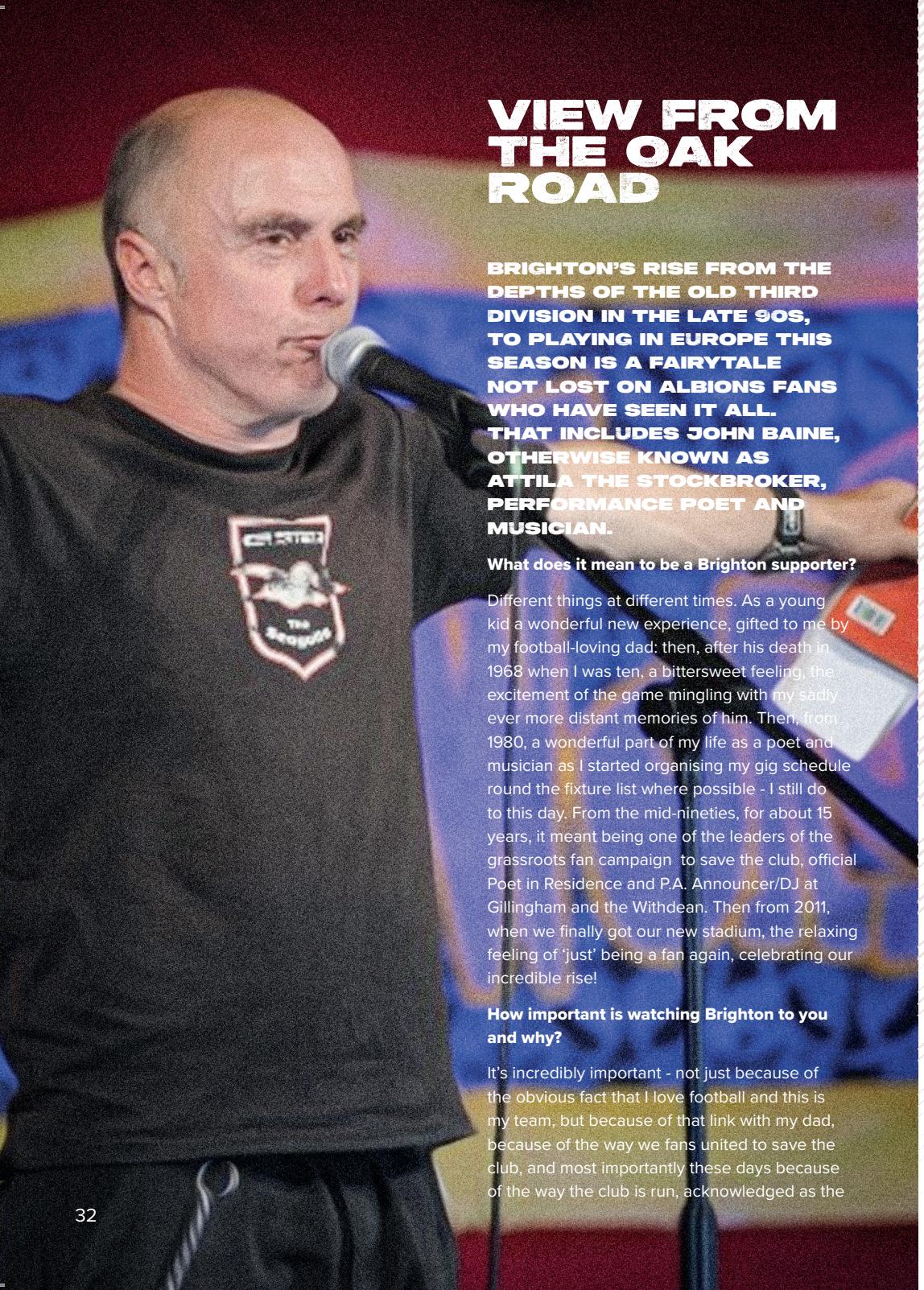
CLASSIC KIT



For a kit to be a classic, everything needs to look right. How many times has a good kit been offset by a sponsor? The answer: many times. Brighton's blue and white stripes might not have turned many heads down the years but when you have the word 'SKINT' across it, those heads do turn. This number, worn in between 2006 and 2008, looks the part with the logo of the Brighton-based dance music record label – who sponsored the Albion for nine years – effortlessly incorporated.

CULT HERO: INIGO CALDERON

There are plenty of contenders in a long-line of Albion heroes from the past – including Steve Foster who played of course for both ourselves and the visitors – but a familiar face returned to the south coast this season. Inigo Calderon became a fans' favourite during his six years with the Seagulls as a player – and last summer he came back as head coach of the under-18s. The Spaniard made 232 appearances in the blue and white stripes, winning the League One title and being named Player of the Season in 2014/15 before departing for Cyprus in 2016.



VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD

BRIGHTON'S RISE FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE OLD THIRD DIVISION IN THE LATE 90S, TO PLAYING IN EUROPE THIS SEASON IS A FAIRYTALE NOT LOST ON ALBIONS FANS WHO HAVE SEEN IT ALL. THAT INCLUDES JOHN BAINES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER, PERFORMANCE POET AND MUSICIAN.

What does it mean to be a Brighton supporter?

Different things at different times. As a young kid a wonderful new experience, gifted to me by my football-loving dad: then, after his death in 1968 when I was ten, a bittersweet feeling, the excitement of the game mingling with my sadly ever more distant memories of him. Then, from 1980, a wonderful part of my life as a poet and musician as I started organising my gig schedule round the fixture list where possible - I still do to this day. From the mid-nineties, for about 15 years, it meant being one of the leaders of the grassroots fan campaign to save the club, official Poet in Residence and P.A. Announcer/DJ at Gillingham and the Withdean. Then from 2011, when we finally got our new stadium, the relaxing feeling of 'just' being a fan again, celebrating our incredible rise!

How important is watching Brighton to you and why?

It's incredibly important - not just because of the obvious fact that I love football and this is my team, but because of that link with my dad, because of the way we fans united to save the club, and most importantly these days because of the way the club is run, acknowledged as the

best run club in Europe. I am so proud of the fact that we were saved by, and are run by, proper Brighton fans - right up to original club saviour and former chairman Dick Knight and today's inspirational Tony Bloom. No hedge funds, no oligarchs, no ego-tripping asset strippers. Brighton through and through.

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

I literally spent 15 years as a football activist as part of the long and successful fan-led battle to save BHAFC - so it impacted my life a lot! We've seen the worst of times, and now we're seeing the best of times. This is the penultimate verse of my poem 'Goldstone Ghosts', written on the occasion of the last ever game at our Goldstone Ground on 26th April 1997, where we needed to win to have any chance of staying in the Football League, knowing that our ground had been sold behind our backs. I knew we'd come back....

I'm dedicating it to you Luton fans too; We know how you feel. Well done.

*The battle's only just begun, but we have won
the war.*

Our club, though torn asunder, will survive.

*And I salute each one of you who stood up
and said NO*

And fought to keep the Albion alive.

*And one day, when our new home's built,
and we are storming back*

A bunch of happy fans without a care

*We'll look back on our darkest hour and
raise
our glasses high*

And say with satisfaction: we were there.

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

Lewis Dunk. Inspirational captain. One club man. A loyal, whole-hearted club servant who should have been playing for England for years.

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

That awful tinpot cup semi-final is my most recent memory, and it, like a horrible 5-0 defeat back in the mists of time, is best forgotten...

**Can you put into words the feeling of being
a Brighton fan right now – is it fair to say
this is the best period in the club's entire
history? How do you gauge your level of
expectations?**

Of course it is. From the gutter to the stars.

When we finally reached the Premier League in 2017 I was asked to write a poem for BT Sport to be broadcast before our inaugural fixture at home to Man City. Here are the first four lines:

*With sheer determination
Without a hint of fear
We made the noise which brought the boys
From Hereford to here.*

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

Simultaneously totally and not at all. It's my club.

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

The 1-1 draw at Hereford on the last day of the 1996/97 season which kept us 91st in the Football League.

And if you asked me that question just after we'd clinched a Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup treble, my answer would be just the same.

TRANSFER BUSINESS



Since we were last at home the Hatters made their first signing of the January transfer window with the acquisition of Tom Holmes for an undisclosed fee from League One side Reading, who will retain the defender's services on loan for the remainder of this season.

The 23-year-old centre-half is a Reading academy graduate and has made 129 appearances for the club, 112 of which were in the Championship.

Holmes joined the Royals academy when he was eight years old and made his Championship debut in 2018 as an 18-year-old. He also made 11 appearances on-loan at KSV Roeselare in Belgium's second tier in 2019/20.

Manager Rob Edwards said: "Tom's a good young player who is very experienced already, even though he's fairly young.

"We have been aware of him for quite a long time and we spoke in the summer, so Tom is one that we've been tracking for a while.

"He's a proper defender, but is someone who can take the ball as well and we think he's got a high ceiling for someone who is still young and still developing.

"We are really looking forward to working with him and we welcome him to the club, but we feel the right thing for him is to stay at Reading on loan for

the rest of the season and continue to help there.

"Getting that game time there this season is still the right thing in his development, but he's someone we see as having a long-term future at the club."

On his arrival at Kenilworth Road, Holmes said: "I'm very grateful for Luton's continued interest in me, I know I've been on their radar for a while now, so it's nice it's come to fruition; I've spoken to the manager and I'm excited to work together.

"My aim is to come back and hit the ground running and really impress. That's why going back will be a win-win for myself, Luton and Reading.

"It's quite a nice way for me to end my time there and do something productive. I'm excited for that opportunity and I'm relishing the challenge. It's been tough this season with a lot going on off the pitch but hopefully it will be resolved sooner rather than later and we can continue with improved performances of late."

In other pieces of squad activity, **Jayden Luker** has joined Woking on loan and **Dion Pereira** has headed to Dagenham and Redbridge. **Joe Taylor** returned from his loan at Colchester and subsequently signed on-loan for Lincoln in League One and **Millar Matthews-Lewis** has been lent to Farnborough in National League South.

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WELCOME TO THE LTDSA

The Luton Town Disabled Supporters Association is a group of volunteers who work independently of, but collaboratively with, the football club to help support and represent disabled supporters needs. Most importantly, the LTDSA help Hatters fans with disabilities have a better experience following the club both at home and away.

Some of our achievements at the LTDSA have included helping to implement an audio commentary service for visually impaired supporters, featuring commentary from Simon Pitts. Headsets can be requested from the club or direct from LTDSA before matchdays. Another recent additional is the newly available wheelchair-adapted waterproof ponchos, which are available to both home and away fans.

Over the past 12 months, we have had to deal with a huge amount of upheaval, just like the football club has, dealing with the fact that the ground has had to change at record speed, meaning often having to react with how we can do the best for our disabled supporters within the restrictions of Kenilworth Road. Allied to this has been helping to deal with issues that are brought to us from Premier League supporters who are used to a level of disabled facilities than our 'old girl' is unable to provide.



We have had to deal with this while having internal change and renewal, as new interim chairman, Allan Drummond has taken on the mantle that our former chair, Richard Hill MBE had filled so well for several years. Doing so whilst also recruiting a number of new members to the LTDSA committee.

Our members of the LTDSA include, but are not restricted to, fans who qualify for disabled ticketing (who automatically become members when purchasing a disabled ticket). It also includes any Luton Town fan who considers themselves to have a disability and any other individual who feel that they may be able to contribute to the objectives of the LTDSA.

As an association, we have continued to make membership free, to ensure anyone who can help and wants to be part of LTDSA, feels able to do so.

The LTDSA can be contacted on Twitter/X at @LTDSA, on Facebook or on email on info@ltdsa.co.uk. Please do contact us if you would like to become a member.

Alternatively, you can meet the committee at the AGM, which will be held in the John Moore Lounge on Wednesday 6th March 2024 between 6.30pm-8.30pm. Please RSVP by 28th February 2024 to rsvp@ltdsa.co.uk.

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KITS FROM THE PAST

Hatters fan David Foxen looks back on the great shirts from Hatters' history

We are featuring this shirt, not because it is a particularly striking design, a fan favourite or even that memorable, but because it was the shirt that John Still's Conference champions wore this shirt as the Hatters finally returned to the Football League.

Fila were the manufacturer for this one, with a simple 'Luton orange' colour, one big Fila 'F' on the sleeves, the interesting font for names and numbers on the back and not forgetting the large, square, Skrill Premier sleeve patch that seemed to be intent on taking up as much of the sleeve as possible.

This shirt featured, in my opinion, a rather smart collar. It didn't have any buttons, but the collar itself really stood out and looked smart from a fans point of view. I understand players are not a fan of a collar – too distracting and "flappy" being the verdict.

easyJet must have been a dream sponsor for shirt designers, being orange, but on this shirt there's a slightly different shade of orange around the sponsor on the match worn versions.

On the pitch, this shirt brings back wonderful memories of a young lad on loan from West Ham, Ronnie Henry lifting the Conference Trophy, Steve McNulty destroying many a non-league striker, and telling "Barnet to calm it" in that New Year's Day game at the Kenny in monsoon conditions. I'm convinced to this day the only reason it stayed on was because of John Still and Ronnie Henry getting in the ear of the referee – and the fact it was live on television!

It's a shirt that must be featured, just for the happy memories alone. The first season where the whole club, players and supporters came together and started on this crazy ten-year journey we've been on!



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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
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OUR LAST HOME GAME HERE IN THE FA CUP AGAINST BOLTON WANDERERS SAW GABE OSHO NAMED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH, AND THE TOWN DEFENDER RECEIVED HIS TROPHY POST-MATCH IN THE ERIC MORECAMBE SUITE.

We also had the pleasure of hosting five 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.

Tonight we have the pleasure of welcoming match sponsors SD Shopfitting plus six home mascots as we welcome Brighton and Hove Albion to Kenilworth Road. We all hope you have an enjoyable evening with us.



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ON THIS DAY

30TH JANUARY



Given the Town's grim record in recent times on this day – just one win in the past 35 years – it's probably best to focus on that victory. To many a 3-1 win over Cardiff City at Ninian Park in the third tier in 2000 won't immediately spring to mind but memories are wonderful things, and even the most seemingly obscure matches hold significant places in the minds of our supporters.

The Hatters went into the Division Two (now League One) game without an away win since October and the omens were not good with seven regular starters missing through injury or suspension.

However, centre-half Julian Watts (remember him? He wore squad number 40. 40 watts, get it?) put the Hatters in front before goals from youth team graduates Matthew Spring and Liam George secured all three points to end that drought on the road.

The starting XI contained no less than eight players who came through the academy at Kenilworth Road – as did all five substitutes.

Team: Abbey, Boyce, McGowan, Spring, Watts, Doherty, Fraser, Gray, Douglas (sub Fotiadis), Scarlett, George. Subs not used: Kandol, Ayres, Stirling, Tate.



THE RECORD

It's a pretty even day in history for the Hatters with eight wins, eight defeats and five draws across the 21 fixtures played on 30th January.

The first, an FA Cup tie at home to West Bromwich Albion – only our 72nd match in the club's history – was a 1-0 defeat and it wasn't until a 1-0 Southern League game at home to West Ham in 1909 that saw a win on this very day.

Between that game with the Baggies and an FA Cup victory over Southampton in 1988 the Hatters had lost just twice on this day, winning seven and drawing the other three – a decent record by all means.

However, in more modern times, supporters heading to watch the Hatters play on 30th January have not had luck on their side, as the following nine games have seen the Town win just once and lose six – including the last five!

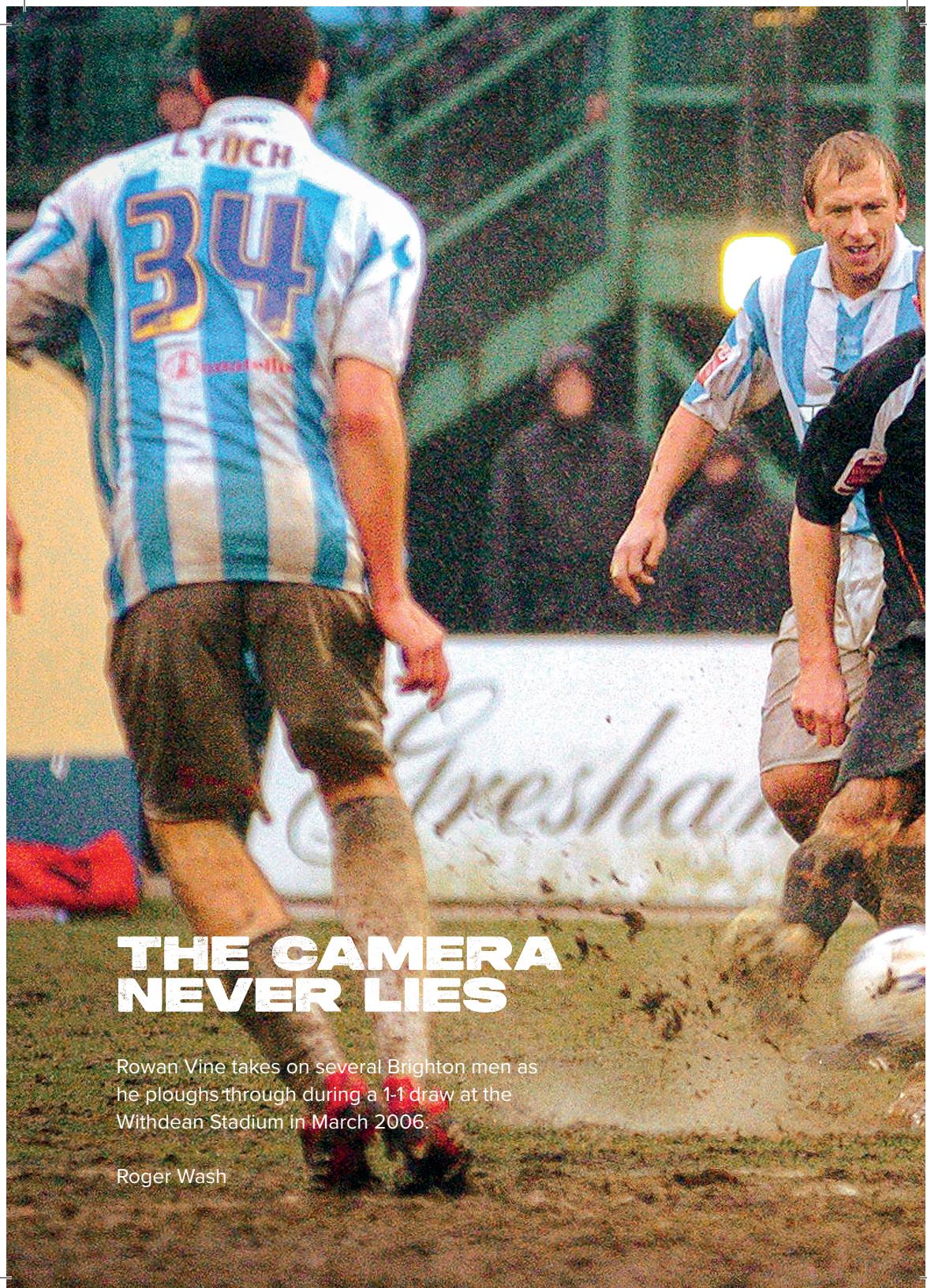
We were defeated the last time we played on this day in 2021, going down by a single goal at Ewood Park against Blackburn in the Championship.

Town sides of the past have lost their last three home games on this day. A 3-2 defeat to Wycombe in 2018 followed a 2-0 loss against Notts County in 2016.

One of the Hatters' least memorable games in the Conference took place on this day in 2010 when Richard Money's side went down 3-2 at home to Ebbsfleet United.

Despite taking the lead through Liam Hatch, struggling Ebbsfleet fought back to lead. A Tom Craddock equaliser got the Town back on track but the visitors went on to secure all three points to the dismay of the 6,658 inside Kenilworth Road.

45



THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Rowan Vine takes on several Brighton men as he ploughs through during a 1-1 draw at the Withdean Stadium in March 2006.

Roger Wash





CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS YOU'LL NEVER SING THAT!

WHO PERSONIFIED HARD-WORK AND GRAFT MORE THAN JONATHAN SMITH? A DRIVING FORCE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PARK, HIS BROKEN LEG ON BOXING DAY SPURRED HIS TEAMMATES TO THE TITLE. THIS IS HIS TAKE HIS CAREER AT KENILWORTH ROAD.

It was at Barnet, on Boxing Day 2013, when it happened.

“Pfft,” exhales Jonathan Smith. The midfielder winces as he remembers the moment that effectively ended his season – but one which would galvanise a squad going for the most important promotion of them all.

He still shows the battle scars from the challenge to the children he teaches ten years later. “What’s that lump on your leg, Mr Smith?” they ask innocently.

At the time the Town were trailing Cambridge in the Conference table when Smith and his teammates travelled to the Hive. The Hatters would earn a crucial 2-1 victory but it was misfortune – a broken leg – that bestowed Smith that cold afternoon.

It’s an incident the midfielder, who had been a driving force in the middle of the Hatters’ side, will not forget.

“I just grabbed my leg and tried to hold it in place,” he says, the vision still vivid. “What went through my head? Pfft...upset, hurt. Pain. A lot of pain.”

Smith’s season was all but over. Not that he was thinking of that at the time. But more of that later.

The injury cruelly came midway through a campaign in which the midfielder had worked tirelessly to get himself into manager John Still’s starting XI following the departure of Paul Buckle, the manager who had brought him to Kenilworth Road.

“When Paul left I was worried,” he says. “In the lower leagues, when a new manager comes in, they often mix it up and that could have happened to me.”

“All I knew was that I wanted to stay at Luton and I had to work hard to prove it.”



“The turning point came in the 1-1 draw with Macclesfield. I came on, ran around, had a positive effect, flew into some tackles and I really enjoyed it.”

After a slow start the Town began to become a force with Smith at the heart of it, doing the dirty work in the middle of the park.

“We were fortunate to have such a good side, full of hard-working players but a couple with a bit of an X-factor,” Smith says. “Andre Gray, Luke Guttridge, Paul Benson. I’d played in hard-working teams before without that something special but we just had a team that just clicked.”

“It was a tricky start but John soon worked things out and, as well as having those with the X-factor, we had leaders like Steve McNulty and Mark Tyler. Reliable players who came together and credit to John for that.”

The Hatters’ flowing football produced successful results – a far cry from the inconsistent struggles that Smith came into when he first joined the previous year under Buckle.

“I made my debut at Hereford, which flew by, but I remember my home debut against Dartford and just remember being in awe of Kenilworth Road and the atmosphere,” he says. ➤



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"I brought into it straight away, even though it wasn't the best of times. I quickly realised the atmosphere and the ground really suited my character and I loved playing there.

"The Conference wasn't easy and after Paul left and John came in I knew I had to find a way of convincing him to play me. I'm sure he'd be the first to admit that I was not his first choice, but I kept working hard – even though it took a bit of time to win him over."

With the Town flying in the festive period of 2013/14, Smith's sudden injury rocked everyone.

Yet the Hatters rallied, and appeared in the next game, two days later, with "For Smudger" shirts in the warm-up. After missing their stricken teammate, the side duly responded, thrashing Kidderminster 6-0 at Kenilworth Road.

Once out of hospital, and cheered by the support of the club and the fans, Smith was on a one-man mission to get back to full fitness – doing all he could to ensure this was not the end of his career with the Hatters.

"Straight away I was like 'how long is this going to take?' I had the saying 'if it doesn't help the leg, don't do it'.

"I lived by that. I set up a gym in my house and would only eat anything that was good for me – nothing bad – I was doing everything in my power to get back and worked so hard.

"In the summer after the season finished, I went on holiday to Greece. I was running on roads barefoot because I wanted to rescue my leg. I didn't want to do so using cushioned trainers. People were looking at me thinking 'who's this guy running barefoot on the roads'.

"I was obsessed with coming back as I didn't want my career at Luton to be over. I worked really hard to make sure that didn't happen."

True to his word, and in typical Smith fashion, he was back in an emotional return weeks after the Town had secured the title.

But while disappointed not to be a part of the team on the pitch in the second half of the season, that changed for the final minute of the campaign, in the last game at Hyde, when Smith emerged from the bench as a substitute.

"I'd been back in training and had done a lot of full-contact stuff so John asked me if I wanted to be involved and I said 'I'd love to'.

"It was a great feeling to be back. Even warming up on the pitch beforehand, I was like 'I'm back'. It was great to be back training but it's the matches I live for, it's why you play.

"The reception I received from the fans was ➤



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amazing. My dad and my now wife were in the stands but once the fans ran on to celebrate at the end she was worried I'd be safe with my leg!

"But I could feel the love, especially after the injury, the fans were great – I've got so many cards from fans at home wishing me well, it was fantastic support."

Smith needn't have worried about that – the next problem he faced was proving he could cut it back in League Two.

It was time to convince Still once more.

"You go on holiday at the end of the season and you're thinking, 'what do I have to do?' Managers will always think when a team gets promoted which players they need the next campaign at a higher level.

"A lot of the lads went on holiday celebrating, but I didn't. I needed to work hard, do extra fitness and be ready for the following season."

Once again that endeavour paid off. Smith was part of the Hatters side that began the 2014/15 campaign among the pacesetters in League Two before results tailed off in the second half of the season.

"I still have regrets about that," he says. "I'd worked so hard – probably too hard. I was making sure I was so fit that after training I'd still run and go swimming.

"After Christmas, I kept getting little niggles and I couldn't keep up the same intensity I'd played with in the first half of the season. I think if I had, then we would have won promotion. But the niggles affected my form so it was frustrating."

Smith's displays certainly did not go unnoticed that season – he was named players' player of the year and won the player of the year award voted by the young supporters.

The following season saw another change in manager, as Still made way for Nathan Jones, which meant Smith had a new man to impress.

The midfielder struggled to force his way into the new manager's plans on a regular basis. Even though he was in and around the squad as the Town pushed for promotion in 2016/17, time was called on his time in Bedfordshire.

"It was tough leaving as I felt I still had more to offer," Smith says, who now teaches football in a local school in his hometown Preston.

"Not being involved in the play-off games against Blackpool hurt, and I didn't want to leave. But I've always been a fighter, even when you know you're going, even if there would have been talk about bringing in Steven Gerrard to the team, I'd still work hard to convince people I should play.

"But I'm really proud to have been associated with this club and to see how well it's doing now."

"The Conference and League Two are tough, and during those seasons we were never the underdog. Luton were the biggest team in those divisions and we had to deal with that expectation."

"The way Luton are playing now as the underdog is different, and it brings a different kind of energy, especially when they play at Kenilworth Road."

"It's been an amazing journey. Now, when you see Ross Barkley playing in centre-mid and Pelly still doing it, it's a credit to the club and how far they've come."

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George Pilkington scores his and Town's second goal against Mansfield in August 2009



Andre Gray nets the Town's late winner at Macclesfield in February 2014



A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS

Part Eleven. M is for Mansfield and Macclesfield.

Games against **Mansfield** always seemed to be feisty affairs back in Football League days and this trend continued when we clashed in our first season in the Conference in 2009/10.

Our first home game at this new level brought about a resounding 4-1 win after the visitors scored first. Two dismissals, one for each side, certainly added to the entertainment!

The following campaign saw a Mansfield player ordered off at Kenilworth Road along with manager David Holdsworth as the Hatters won 2-0 despite both Danny Crow and Claude Gnakpa seeing penalty efforts saved.

We had never won at Field Mill in games going back to 1931/32 and this run continued during matches in the Conference although we drew all four times we went there. Perhaps me thinking it was never a happy hunting ground is amplified by two turgid 0-0 draws there which seemed like defeats at the time.

Mansfield escaped the Conference a year before ourselves and a 3-2 home defeat in 2012/13 with Lindon Meikle netting in the final minute for the Stags remains embedded in the memory.

Mansfield also scored a very late equaliser in the 2-2 draw at Field Mill that season to make us glad to see the back of them.

We had met **Macclesfield** in our Football League days and had only beaten them once in six attempts but we started eating into this poor record when we clashed in 2012/13 for the first time at Conference level when four different scorers registered in an ultimately comfortable 4-1 win at Kenilworth Road.

Our promotion season of 2013/14 started off slowly and it took a 97th minute equaliser from Luke Guttridge to save our blushes in an early home game. By the time of the return, in February 2014, we were sitting at the top of the table but a trip to Macclesfield, where we had yet to win, on a cold, miserable evening was about to be a test of our moral fibre.

As it turned out two goals from Andre Gray secured a valuable 2-1 win to send us six points clear and finally make supporters feel that it was going to be our year. One player who was in no doubt was a certain Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu who was playing his first game following his permanent signing from West Ham. 



LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

Luton Town FC Community Trust February Half-Term Football Camps

With February half-term now just around the corner, we are fast approaching our first holiday camps of 2024.

Running throughout the week commencing 19th February, the camps take place at a variety of venues both in and around Luton. As well as Luton itself, we'll be heading to Flitwick and Dunstable. Our camps are open to anyone in school years 1 to 6 regardless of ability and previous experience of the game. Our camps are all run by professional coaches and offer opportunities for young people to learn new skills and work on their technique in a positive, fun and safe environment.

Our day starts with warm-up activities where we specifically focus on individual SAQ (Speed, Agility and Quickness) skills as well as ball mastery. We then focus on individual

and team games where the participants learn to use their social skills to work effectively with their team-mates.

In the afternoon all participants take part in football tournaments and matches, with the main focus being having fun and not specifically winning games. To round off each day, we hold a mini-awards ceremony to reward those who have displayed a positive attitude, shown good determination or excelled in their performance. You also never know who might drop in and say hello. In the past our camps have been visited by many of the first team squad, including Carlton Morris, Tom Lockyer and Alfie Doughty amongst others.

Community Trust Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds, said: "We take pride in the fact that our camps are open to all, whether you've been playing football for a few years or just taking your first steps in the game, everyone is welcome. We

love creating a sense of community where everyone feels supported by our coaches, as well as their peers, and seeing new friendships form."

To see a full list of our venues please visit www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk For further information please contact us community@lutontown.co.uk or call 01582 561622.

ANDROS TOWNSEND SET TO JOIN HATTER CHATTER GROUP

On Monday 5th February, our Hatter Chatter group will be joined for a guest Q&A by none other than Hatters wide man, Andros Townsend. Andros becomes the latest member of first team squad to give up his time to answer questions posed from the group that meets weekly over the medium of Zoom.

Way back in 2020, we explored ways of keeping our local communities connected throughout periods of lockdown and restrictions imposed during the pandemic. Out of this was born 'Hatter Chatter'. This was a weekly group meeting held over Zoom every Monday morning to chat about the Hatters. It meant supporters from all over the world were able to get together to discuss the games at a time when supporters weren't permitted to attend the matches.

Fast forward to over three years later and the group is still running! Regulars still enjoy dissecting the finer details of each game.

as well as setting a theme for discussion each week to spark discussion of their favourite Luton Town memories from the past. From time to time, we have also been joined by special guests from the football club, including coaching staff, current players and club legends, who have spoken very candidly about their experiences. This gives our members a unique insight into their careers and what goes on behind the scenes. We are looking to arrange another special guest appearance in the coming weeks.

Gale, an original Hatter Chatter member living in Leicestershire, is in no doubt as to the benefits of the group.

She said: "Hatter Chatter enabled me to feel connected with the football club during the period of virtual isolation and continues to do so now. No more so than when players and staff have given their time to join us. Being joined by the special guests gives us some real insight into them as people rather than the image we get on TV."

The Hatter Chatter group is always keen to welcome new members. Most weekly sessions take place at 10am on a Monday, though the guest Q&As are normally at 2pm. There is no pressure to attend every week, so you can even just attend the Q&A with Andros or any other one off session.

To register your interest or to hear more about Hatter Chatter please email community@lutontown.co.uk or call the office on 01582 561622 and ask to speak to Adam.



ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH ACADEMY SAFEGUARDING MANAGER STUART CORNISH

Over the years, Safer Internet Day has become a landmark event in the online safety calendar.

Starting as an initiative of the EU Safe Borders project in 2004 and taken up by the Insafe network as one of its earliest actions in 2005, Safer Internet Day has now grown beyond its traditional geographic zone and is celebrated in approximately 170 countries worldwide.

Safer Internet Day brings together thousands of young people, parents, carers, guardians, and organisations to celebrate staying safe online. Last year alone, Safer Internet Day reached 50 per cent of children aged 8-17 in the UK with over 5,000 organisations signing up to support the initiative.

This year's campaign, taking place on Tuesday 6th February, focuses on looking to encourage children and young people to shape the online safety support that they receive whilst exploring the following areas:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology.
- Using the internet to make change for the better.

- The changes young people want to see online.
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding both on and offline, the Luton Town Academy is supporting this year's campaign through parental engagement, promotions, and activities across the business.

Academy safeguarding manager Stuart Cornish said: "Technology has the power to change all our lives. We have to celebrate all the amazing ways technology is shaping and improving the world that we live in, whilst also working together to ensure children and young people stay safe in an ever-changing online world.

"By having fun, working together and engaging with the online issues young people care about the most, we can create a safer internet for the future.

"This kind of campaign is vital in signposting help and creating a safe environment in which our youth players and children can learn and explore the internet safely. Having previously worked in online child protection I know that educating and empowering our children is vitally important in keeping them safe in an environment we all know can be predatory, dangerous, and negatively influential if not used correctly.

"It's about giving our children the tools to protect themselves and also listening to their concerns and needs as they grow up in an online environment which is constantly evolving and changing."

There are numerous organisations and charities available to help parents, carers, guardians and coaches educate themselves in the fight against online abuse. If you wish to engage with this campaign or just arm yourselves with the tools to help children navigate the online world, the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children), IWF (Internet Watch Foundation), CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) and the UK Safe Internet Centre have numerous tools and advice to do this.

Should you have a concern or a worry regarding any child or adult at risk within Luton Town Football Club please email stuart.cornish@lutontown.co.uk.

ACADEMY WHO'S WHO

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



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YOUTH U18 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

OPPONENT	DATE	SCORE	STARTING XI	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 5/8/23	A W 6-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 12/8/23	A W 4-1	THOMAS	GIWA	CHIGOZIE	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	GIWA
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 26/8/23	H L 1-2	TRAILIST	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	MARTINS	GIWA
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 9/9/23	H L 3-4	THOMAS	GIWA	HARVEY	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	SCOTT	MARTINS
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 16/9/23	A W 1-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
STEVENAGE	SAT 23/9/23	H D 0-1	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	SCOTT	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
GILLINGHAM	SAT 30/9/23	H D 1-1	TRAILIST A	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 14/10/23	A W 2-1	HOCKEY	GIWA	BENAGR	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	CHIGOZIE	GIWA
BRENTFORD	SAT 28/10/23	A D 0-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	GREGORY	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 4/11/23	H W 1-0	PIPA	GIWA	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 11/11/23	A W 3-1	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	MARTINS	KAYIBANDA	ROUTH	LORENTZEN-JONES
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 18/11/23	H W 4-0	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	MARTINS	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONES
STEVENAGE	SAT 9/1/23	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
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 6/1/24	H W 2-1	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	SCOTT	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	TRUSTRAM
GILLINGHAM	FRI 12/1/24	A W 3-2	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	STITT	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	WARREN
BRENTFORD	SAT 20/1/24	H W 5-0	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	STITT
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 16/12/23	A L 2-3	HOCKEY	HARVEY	ROUTH	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	STITT
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 3/2/24	A							
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 10/2/24	H							

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD U21 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

GILLINGHAM	TUE 22/8/23	A W 4-3	TRAILIST A	FRANCIS-CLARKE	KAYIBANDA	JOHNSON	PINNINGTON	LUKER	WATSON
BRENTFORD B	TUE 29/8/23	A W 2-1	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	GIWA	PIESOLD	BURGER
CHELSEA	TUE 19/9/23	A L 1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS	BATESON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 6/10/23	A L 1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	PHILLIPS	JOHNSON	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	PIESOLD
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	TUE 17/10/23	H L 2-3	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	GIWA	PIESOLD	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LUKER
KEMPSTON ROVERS (BSC)	TUE 31/10/23	H W 8-0	TRAILIST	CHIGOZIE	LUKER	PIESOLD	PIESOLD	PINNINGTON	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
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 2/12/24	H							
LEEDS UNITED	TBC	A							

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IOANNIDES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
TRURSTAM	LORENTZEN-JONES	XAVIER-JONES	XAVIER-JONES	XAVIER-JONES	HOUGHTON	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
IOANNIDES	XAVIER-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRURSTAM	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
STITT	ANDERSON	IOANNIDES	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
IOANNIDES	ANDERSON	ANDERSON	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	HOUGHTON	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
LORENTZEN-JONES	ODEGAH	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	TRURSTAM	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
KIRBY	ODEGAH	LORENTZEN-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
N-JONES	STITT	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
STITT	ODEGAH	ANDERSON	ANDERSON	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
N-JONES	TRURSTAM	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
N-JONES	TRURSTAM	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
STITT	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ANDERSON	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
LORENTZEN-JONES	ODEGAH	LORENTZEN-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
LORENTZEN-JONES	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ANDERSON	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON
WARREN	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	ODEGAH	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA	ODEGAH	HOUGHTON

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	TRURSTAM	
BURGER	LYNCH	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	DAWS	NELSON	PHILLIPS	DAWS	HOUGHTON	LORENTZ-JONES	
NELSON	LYNCH	BURGER	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HOCKEY	ANDERSON	DAWS	LUKER	LORENTZ-JONES	
NELSON	LUKER	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	LYNCH	HORLICK	GIWA	DAWS	HERON	BENAGR	
BURGER	ALLEN	PHILLIPS	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HORLICK	PHILLIPS	HERON	BATESON	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	
BURGER	LYNCH	NELSON	LUKER	HORLICK	PHILLIPS	HERON	BATESON	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	

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GETTING TO KNOW... CAI HOCKEY

NAME: Cai Hockey

DOB: 26/9/2006

Place of birth: Camden

Position: Goalkeeper

Year joined the academy: As an under-11

What boots do you wear? Nike and adidas

My aim for the season is to be playing games, be first choice keeper and play up in the under-23s.

The proudest moment of career so far is being able to train with some of the first team and make my debut for the under-23s.

In the playground, I used to also play outfield as well as a keeper.

At school my favourite subject was BTEC Sport, as it's relevant to my profession, but I also enjoyed food technology too.

A career outside of football would see me become a personal fitness instructor, because it's again linked to my profession, and it's something I've always been into and enjoyed.

The one teammate who I'd say is the most talented is Charlie Emery – he always works the hardest out of everyone and is always improving and doing well.

Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is Thomas Kaminski.

The best thing about Luton Town is that it's a club that gives good opportunity to prove yourself.

If I was to describe myself, I would say I'm the type of player that works hard and is determined to go far in the football industry. I always try my hardest in training and off the pitch as well so I give myself the best opportunity possible of being noticed by the under-23s coach and the first team coaches. I always strive to be the best I possibly can be.



THE COACH'S REPORT

"Cai has been with Luton since the age of 11 and has grown into a confident and composed goalkeeper.

"His hands are clean and tidy and completes first-time saves most of the time. His distribution is good with completion rate over various distances high, Cai is athletic and moves around his area well.

"Cai's is a good shot stopper making the bigger saves when required. His communication could be louder and more commanding at times but he always giving his teammates clear and concise information when required.

"With no second-year scholar Cai has had to step up to Under-18 football and learn how difficult it is to be a number 1 with others breathing down his neck.

"Cai has improved a great deal when dealing with crosses having some issues in the past of not catching the ball at its highest point and he now is much better moving his feet and having a better body shape to take the ball with confidence and clean even when under pressure."

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- ✖ Entering the pitch without permission
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- ✖ Throwing objects
- ✖ Drug use
- ✖ Discriminatory behaviour

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:

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

HELP US ENSURE MATCHES ARE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL
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FSA.

YOUNGSTERS' GOOD FORM KEEPS THEM ON TOP

Since our last Premier League home fixture, the Hatters' Under-18s have strengthened their position at the top of the Football League Youth Alliance table with a run of three wins from their last four matches.

Alex Lawless' side exited the FA Youth Cup to Swindon in December but reacted brilliantly to that disappointment by winning their next three matches to open up a lead at the top of the south east division.

First came a 2-1 win against Cambridge United, the three points secured courtesy of goals from Charlie Trustram and Sam Anderson.

Gillingham were then seen off 3-2 with Jack Lorentzen-Jones joined on the score-sheet by Trustram and Anderson once more.

Their latest home fixture at The Brache ten days ago saw Lawless' youngsters thrash Brentford 5-0.

The Town completely dominated and the only surprise was that the Town only led by one at the break thanks to Tate Xavier-Jones' finish.

After the restart the young Hatters' lead was doubled in a move that began with goalkeeper Cai Hockey and finished with a header from Dylan Stitt.

Jamie Odegah then bulldozed his way through the Brentford defence to make it 3-0, keeping his composure after being fouled to finish well.

Three became four when Lorentzen-Jones

found the net with a measured strike from outside the box, finding the gap between a defender and goalkeeper's bottom corner.

And the three points were then wrapped up by Zach Ioannides' powerful shot after he had received Marcus Warren's pass.

Three days later – last Tuesday – the Town youngsters' winning run was brought to an end after a last-gasp defeat in a topsy-turvy match at Northampton.

The Hatters trailed 1-0 but rallied to lead 2-1 thanks to goals from Warren and Xavier-Jones.

However, the Cobblers fought back, finding the winning goal at the death. Despite the defeat, the Hatters remain top of the division with two matches remaining of the regular season before the merit campaign begins.

Since that defeat to Swindon – who incidentally beat Manchester United in the next round of the youth cup – Lawless has been happy with his squad's response to that set-back against the Robins.

"Since the winter break I have been really pleased," he said. "Disappointments like this can sometimes affect players and teams in the wrong way, so to bounce back and win three games in a row really gives the lads confidence going into the final matches of the regular season before the merit league begins."



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LUTON TOWN LADIES

Ladies' incredible FA Cup run comes to an end

By Owen Williams

Luton Town Ladies' incredible FA Cup run came to an end against WSL side Brighton & Hove Albion.

The Town Ladies were the lowest ranked team remaining in the competition heading into the game, with the two sides separated by four divisions.

The cup run the ladies have been on was reflected on who was playing for the opposition, a star-studded team which included former Barcelona captain and Champions League winner Vicky Losada and England International Katie Robinson.

The Hatters were backed by 1,000 fans at Sharpenhoe Road, who all braved the cold weather to support the ladies in which was the first time the club has ever faced a WSL team.

Manager Rob Burton described a fixture as a "mid-season treat" for all the hard work that the team has put in over the last 18 months.

Rob also noted the fact that his side has been undefeated in all cup competitions in the previous 14 months, taking up all of 2023.

The Hatters were determined to make a name for themselves, with a first bit of wonderful defending from Elly Wade, who slid into prevent a cross into the Luton box. This was then followed up by an equally great bit of defending from Fiona Buttigieg, who also slid in preventing a cross.



After 15 minutes Brighton put the ball in the back of the net but the flag was raised by the fourth official. However, on 35 minutes, Luton's resistance was broken as Brighton took the lead. Amy Butler produced a magnificent save – and one for contender for save of the round – but Veatriki Sarri got there first to give Brighton the lead.

Brighton then doubled their lead five minutes before the break, through Vicky Losada's headed effort.

Despite trailing 2-0 at the break it was a strong first half from the Town, who went toe to toe with a WSL side.

After the break Brighton added a third, three minutes after the restart through Tatiana Pinto, who slotted the ball into the bottom left corner.

The Seagulls continued to pile on the pressure, but the Town defence was continued to be resistant and kept the visitors at bay until the closing stages where three more goals led to Brighton running out 6-0 winners.

But the way in which the team were applauded from the pitch from the big crowd at Barton, showed just how far the Hatters had come.

Manager Rob Burton took his time to acknowledge the fans by saying: "My coaches, staff, management and players would like to thank the fans, who supported us in our amazing journey."

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL_Official



LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

WITH DAVID MCCALLUM – LTST MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Hello and welcome to what is crazily our first home league game of 2024 despite it being the penultimate day of January! Thankfully the season is back in full swing and we are at this magical venue we all love once again.

I think this season has been the best in the 50 odd years that I've been watching the Hatters and we're only halfway through it! It's fair to say that it took a number of matches to adapt to the speed and style of play in the Premier League, but we've done that in each promotion season – even Conference to League 2!

What is remarkable is that I've never before seen the whole club so positive, supportive and connected – the board, the management, the backroom staff, players, fans and community all encouraging each other. The never-say-die attitude of the players – even when 3-0 down, supported with the noise from you all continuously singing, is just fantastic.

I took over as membership secretary last autumn from Mick Follett. I would like to expand the membership to every fan. Our board is the best we've ever had – true fans working tirelessly for the club, much different to other clubs in the Premier League with overseas owners involved only for their own indulgence or profit.

LTST owns the image rights of the club and has a shareholding in LTFC so we act as a

voice for you. This ensures that our ethics and traditions will remain with us and you! We are also the only trust in the Premier League that is a member of Fair Game – fighting for a football regulator and a fairer financial structure across all of the football leagues. It cannot be right that one club spends £100 million on a player while another struggles to pay the electricity bill. We will continue to represent our supporters in the wider football landscape so the more members we have the greater our voice can be.

The Trust supports local community projects and now has overall control of SOLYD, which is important to us. You can find out more by visiting www.lutontownsupporterstrust.com and via our Cardskipper app if you are a member, where you can access all LTST news as well as our popular podcast.

Finally a request – could you please check and update your membership details through your LoveAdmin App, especially your email address, in order to receive regular updates to events, supporter and club information.

If you have any questions please email me at membership@lutontownsupporterstrust.com or see me at the matches – I'll be in orange!

Enjoy the game – get right behind the boys as always!

David

MEET THE FANS WITH STATESIDE SUPPORTER ROBERT ROHR

How long have you supported Luton?

My first game was 26th March 1977 versus Carlisle United (we won 5-0!) so nearly 47 years.

Where do you sit at home matches?

Main Stand Block B

Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

I grew up watching Ricky Hill, David Moss, Brian Stein, Mal Donaghy and of course big Mick but I'm going to go for David Preece. He was such an elegant midfielder, incredibly humble and a wonderful ambassador for our great club.

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

Anyone who knows me understands what an important role the club plays in my life. It means precious times with my two sons, Alex and Ben, who have grown up supporting the Hatters from the Conference days. I'm also a proud Lutonian and the club is in my DNA. Travelling to away games and meeting up with fellow fans is always special whether we are playing Dartford or Chelsea!

What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

My first game was very memorable even though I was only seven years old, and the list goes on! Obviously the Championship play-off final last May was a defining moment for the club, as well as the Littlewoods Cup Final win in 1988.

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

I've taken a lot of stick over the years both from work colleagues and my friends from university who were used to me following

Luton in the top division. I know they admire my loyalty and support for the club through thick and thin. From the messages I receive from colleagues and friends all over the world, I think they are secretly envious of our journey and the way our club is run.

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

The main thing for me is the amount of scrutiny Rob Edwards and the team are under, particularly from the media. Our performances are frequently debated on Match of The Day, TalkSport and Sky. It's great to have the exposure but sometimes I have been angered by lazy journalists who report on the team with very little understanding or context on the journey we have been on. The other major change is that everyone knows about our club. I was in The Gambia recently and a local was wearing a Luton shirt!



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

Incredibly proud and emotional like many other Luton fans. Given we were playing non-league football ten years ago it felt almost surreal. More importantly it was great being surrounded by fans who had been on the roller coaster ride with me.

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

I don't think I've ever seen a Luton team fight so hard every game to get a result. To a player they give everything, so for me it is a privilege to continue to enjoy their performances whatever the result. Some of the football I am witnessing is fantastic and for that I have to give a shout out to Ross Barkley who puts a smile on my face just like Preecey did all those years ago. 

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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

Today, let's cast our minds back to January 2019 (which is somehow five years ago now) and remember an absolute classic in League One. Mick Harford's Hatters hosted a strong Peterborough United side in a crucial match.

Luton had a strong team out with formidable full-back partnership Jack Stacey and James Justin both starting. Andrew Shinnie was also in the side, and James Collins led the line. There was definitely a buzz ahead of the match about the game.

Peterborough also had a really strong team. Ben White, Siriki Dembele and Ivan Toney were all starting for the Posh as they looked to get a result to boost their play-off chances.

The game got off to a dream start for us when the Hatters took the lead. That famous link-up between Shinnie and Stacey enabled the full-back to go through on the right wing and he cut the ball back for James Collins to tap home.

Soon after the visitors were reduced to ten men. A reckless challenge from Ryan Tafazolli on Shinnie meant he was sent for an early bath.

Minutes later, Luton found a second goal. Yet again, a great ball through from Shinnie to Stacey allowed him to cut the ball across the box for Collins to finish and grab his second of the game.

The second half was more of the same from the Hatters as it was soon 3-0. A brilliant run and pass from Kazenga LuaLua found Collins and there was no stopping his first-time finish as he completed his hat-trick.

This Town pressure continued, and Collins had a great chance to get his fourth, but he sent his effort flying over the crossbar at the Oak Road end.

Soon enough, it was 4-0 as another great bit of work from LuaLua enabled Luke Berry to swivel superbly past White and finish excellently for his first goal since his injury.

The chances continued to come the Town's way and debutant George Moncur came very close as his effort was cleared off the line by White.

4-0 it stayed in what was a very successful day for Mick Harford's Hatters.

Words by Zac Neal

COYH 





LUTON TOWN BUSINESS PARTNERS



JUNIOR HATTERS TONIGHT'S MASCOTS



Albert Doherty
Age: 7
Hobbies: Football
Favourite Player: Alfie Doughty



Joseph Okell
Age: 11
Hobbies: Football, Drums
Favourite Player: Carlton Morris, Ross Barkley



Jacob Goss
Age: 10
Hobbies: Football, Fortnite
Favourite Player: Alfie Doughty



Teddy Cottenden
Age: 10
Hobbies: Football, PS5, Lego
Favourite Player: Ross Barkley



Zane Oliver
Age: 10
Hobbies: Football – Plays for Luton Town U11 Pre-Academy
Favourite Player: Ross Barkley, Carlton Morris



Cruz Oliver
Age: 7
Hobbies: Football
Favourite Player: Ross Barkley, Carlton Morris

WELCOME TO OUR AWAY MASCOT



Rowan Beales
Age: 12
Hobbies: Football and Gaming
Favourite Player: Joao Pedro

TICKET NEWS



**LUTON TOWN v
SHEFFIELD UNITED**
Premier League
Saturday 10th February 2024,
kick-off 3pm

Tickets for this match have now sold out. If any season card holder cannot attend, please contact the ticket office and take advantage of the Buy Back scheme. Should any tickets become available, a sales plan will be communicated in due course.



**LUTON TOWN v
MANCHESTER UNITED**
Premier League
Sunday 18th February 2024,
kick-off 4.30pm

General Sale (with purchasing history) or Hatters Members (without a previous purchasing history) Subject to availability, on Friday 2nd February tickets will be available on General Sale (to supporters with a previous purchasing history) or new Members (without history).

Supporters falling into these categories will be able to book online using your unique client reference number.

At this stage Season Tickets holders can also book additional tickets but all tickets will need to be assigned to an individual registered on the database. You can choose to receive your tickets either digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. Collection from Luton Town Ticket Office is also available, but we strongly recommend tickets are collected before the day of the game

Prices

Adults £36, seniors over 65 and young adults under 22 £30, golden seniors over 65 and under-19s £27, under-17s £18, under-10s £15.

* Prices are the same in all home areas for this fixture, this includes the Bobbers Stand. However, the Bobbers price is an introductory price, that may be subject to change in the future.

Wheelchair and Ambulant supporters in receipt of DLA (Middle or Higher) or PIP, will pay one age category lower and are entitled to a Carer to assist if requested.



LET'S GO

ST. JAMES' PARK
SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2024
KICK OFF: 3:00PM

WHERE?

St James' Park is one of the most iconic football grounds in the country. New stadia elsewhere have, however, pushed it down in the pecking order in terms of capacity. Still, at 52,338 it is the seventh largest in the top-flight. The ground has been the Magpies' home since 1892 and has played host to several other sports events including the 2012 Olympics and the rugby union World Cup. The site, previously a patch of sloping grazing land, overlooks the rest of the city, leading to the ground named the 'cathedral on the hill'.

CASTRIES

HOW TO GET THERE

Our longest journey of the season will mean an early start for many. St James' Park is roughly a 500-mile round-trip from our Maple Road main entrance and will take you, on a good day, four and a half hours in the car up the A1. Trains from London are a good idea – if they're running, so please, please check before taking that option. If you'd rather join fellow fans on the road, why not take the Bobbers? Their fare is £40 for adults and £37 concessions, leaving from Luton at 8am. Call 01234 856542 to book your spot.

ST JAMES' PARK RECORD

The Hatters class of 2023/24 will be aiming to become only the second to win a league fixture at St James' Park. Not since a 3-1 win all the way back in the 1937 have the Hatters recorded a win on Newcastle turf in league action. A memorable 2-0 FA Cup win – thanks to two goals from John Aston – was the only other time the Town have tasted victory on St James' Park soil. Overall it's 19 defeats from 27 in all competitions, but the past two – both in FA Cup ties – have seen the Hatters put on performances to be proud of. In 1994 a stunning Tony Thorpe strike secured a 1-1 draw (the Hatters winning the replay) and then, in 2018, as a League Two side, Nathan Jones' side went down 3-1 with Danny Hylton on target.

THE MAGPIES OF NOW

After securing Champions League football last season, Eddie Howe's side have struggled to hit the same heights and will go into Saturday's game sitting slap-bang in the middle of the Premier League table on 29 points – and 14 points from fourth spot. The Magpies are consistently inconsistent – of their 21 games, only two have ended draws – it's pretty much win or lose so far this term. That included, of course, our last victory on home soil back in December when Andros Townsend's header earned a 1-0 win here.



THE MAGPIES



THE HATTERS



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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. The Town last met Brighton's senior team in the area final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in 2009 – but which goalkeeper saved two penalties for the Hatters in the shootout?
2. Brighton were almost relegated to the Conference after finishing 23rd in the old Division Three (now League 2) in 1996/97. Which team did they draw with on the final day of the season and subsequently relegate?
3. How many goals have the Hatters scored in the last ten minutes of Premier League match this season?
4. Which team play their home games at London Road?
5. Dion Pereira represents which club at international level?
6. Against which country and at which World Cup did Tim Krul come off the bench to save two penalties in a shootout for the Netherlands?
7. Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu made his Luton debut against which club?
8. Roberto De Zerbi joined the Seagulls from which club?
9. Which Luton player appears on the front of this season's Premier League Panini sticker album?
10. What year did Brighton last play in an FA Cup final?

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

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

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

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





Premier League

ROUND-UP

Matchday 21 in the Premier League was spread over the course of 11 days as the top-flight's winter break allowed clubs to break up their time and focus on time on the training pitch – or in the case of some clubs, return to action in domestic cup competitions.

At the bottom end of the table the Town find themselves in the relegation zone but just one point from safety following the point at Burnley last time out. The draw leaves Burnley four points behind the Hatters and five from safety, while Sheffield United earned their tenth point of the campaign by earning a last-gasp point in a dramatic 2-2 draw with West Ham at Bramall Lane.

Everton remain just above the Hatters in the standings after they also drew, holding Champions League chasing Aston Villa to a goalless draw at Goodison Park.

Working our way up the table, Nottingham Forest lie in 16th place and four points above the Town in the table after they lost out in a thrilling six-pointer against Brentford at the Gtech. All the pre-match hype surrounded the return of Ivan Toney after an eight-month ban and the striker subsequently got himself on the scoresheet to bring the Bees level after a Danilo goal had given Forest the lead. Ben Mee put Brentford 2-1 up before Chris Wood levelled but Thomas Frank's side had the final say when Neal Maupay found a winner with 22 minutes left.

Those three points lifted Brentford above Crystal Palace, who sit in 15th place following the Eagles' demoralising 5-0 defeat at Emirates Stadium against title-



chasing Arsenal. The Gunners led 2-0 at half-time before two goals in added time added the gloss to a five-star showing.

At the other end of the table, Liverpool go into matchday 22 top of the division, holding a five-point advantage over Manchester City, Arsenal and Aston Villa. Jurgen Klopp's side defeated in-form Bournemouth 4-0 on the south coast with all four goals coming in the second half with a brace apiece from Darwin Nunez and Diogo Jota.

Manchester City had kept up the pressure on the Reds by winning their last fixture in a classic Premier League encounter at St James' Park against Newcastle. The Magpies led 2-1 going into the final 16 minutes but the returning Kevin De Bruyne was instrumental in turning around the deficit with a goal and an assist to secure a dramatic 3-2 victory.

Tottenham remain in the hunt for a Champions League spot but remain eight points off top spot after they were held to a 2-2 draw by Manchester United at Old Trafford.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

NOTT'M FOREST v ARSENAL

FULHAM v EVERTON

CRYSTAL PALACE v SHEFF UTD

ASTON VILLA v NEWCASTLE

PLAYING TOMORROW

MAN CITY v BURNLEY

TOTTENHAM v BRENTFORD

LIVERPOOL v CHELSEA

THURSDAY'S GAMES

WEST HAM v BOURNEMOUTH

WOLVES v MAN UTD



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PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON								CAREER				
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		CARDS		TOTAL				
	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G	Y	R	APPS	G			
Elijah Adebayo	10	(10)	5	3	(2)	0	13	(12)	5	1	0	134	37
Mads Andersen	4	(4)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(4)	1	1	0	10	1
Ross Barkley	13	(2)	2	3	(1)	0	16	(3)	2	2	0	19	2
Amari'i Bell	15	(0)	0	3	(2)	0	18	(2)	0	0	0	117	2
Luke Berry	0	(3)	0	2	(1)	0	2	(4)	0	1	0	170	24
Jacob Brown	12	(6)	2	1	(2)	1	13	(8)	3	5	0	21	3
Reece Burke	7	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	9	(2)	0	2	0	68	4
Tahith Chong	6	(10)	1	3	(1)	1	9	(11)	2	4	0	20	2
Jordan Clark	1	(5)	0	1	(1)	0	2	(6)	0	3	0	119	9
Alfie Doughty	16	(3)	1	5	(0)	1	21	(3)	2	3	0	59	4
Ryan Giles	5	(6)	0	2	(1)	0	7	(7)	0	0	0	14	0
Joe Johnson	0	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	0	0	4	0
Issa Kabore	13	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	13	(4)	0	4	0	17	0
Thomas Kaminski	20	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	20	(0)	0	3	0	20	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	0	0	5	0
Tom Lockyer	14	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	15	(0)	1	4	0	117	7
Sambi Lokonga	6	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	8	(1)	0	0	0	9	0
Teden Mengi	13	(2)	1	4	(0)	0	17	(2)	1	3	0	19	1
Carlton Morris	14	(6)	4	3	(1)	0	17	(7)	4	1	0	75	24
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	8	(8)	0	3	(1)	0	11	(9)	0	0	0	390	23
Marvelous Nakamba	13	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	13	(1)	0	5	0	34	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	11	(8)	1	4	(1)	1	15	(9)	2	0	0	24	2
Gabriel Osho	10	(0)	1	2	(0)	0	12	(0)	1	1	0	74	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	9	(3)	1	1	(2)	0	10	(5)	1	0	0	15	1
Cauley Woodrow	0	(8)	0	2	(2)	2	2	(10)	2	0	0	47	5



400 UP FOR AMARI'I

Congratulations to Town defender Amari'i Bell who made his 400th senior club appearance in the Hatters' 1-1 draw at Burnley.

2023/24

FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	POS	SCORE	STARTING XI	GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	BELL
SAT AUG 12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	3PM	A 18	L1-4	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	GILES	ANDERSEN	LOCKER	BELL
FRI AUG 25	CHESLSEA	8PM	A 19	L0-3	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	L1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY	GILES	BURKE	ANDERSEN	BELL
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A 20	L0-1	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 -	L0-1	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	L1-2	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12:30PM	H 17	L0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	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	L1-3	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	L0-1	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	L1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	BELL	MENGI	LOCKER	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	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	L2-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ	DOUGHTY	MENGI	OSHO	BELL
SUN JAN 7	BOLTON WANDERERS (FAC3)	2PM	H -	D 0-0	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	OSHO	BELL
FRI JAN 12	BURNLEY	7:45PM	A 18	D 1-1	KAMINSKI OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	OSHO	BELL
TUE JAN 16	BOLTON WANDERERS (FAC3R)	7:45PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	OSHO	BURKE
SAT JAN 27	EVERTON (FAC4)	3PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	BURKE	MENGI	BELL
TUE JAN 30	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	7:45PM	H -	W 4-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT FEB 3	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT FEB 10	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	H -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT FEB 17	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	H -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT MAR 2	ASTON VILLA	5:30PM	H -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT MAR 9	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT MAR 16	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	H -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT MAR 30	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	3PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
TUE APR 2	ARSENAL	7:45PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT APR 6	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	3PM	H -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT APR 13	MANCHESTER CITY	3PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT APR 20	BRENTFORD	3PM	H -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT APR 27	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT MAY 4	EVERTON	3PM	H -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SAT MAY 11	WEST HAM UNITED	3PM	A -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL
SUN MAY 19	FULHAM	4PM	H -	W 2-1	KRUL OGEBENE	DOUGHTY	MENGI	LOCKER	BELL

Premier League

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pls
1	Liverpool	21	14	6	1	47	18	29	48
2	Manchester City	20	13	4	3	48	23	25	43
3	Arsenal	21	13	4	4	42	20	22	43
4	Aston Villa	21	13	4	4	43	27	16	43
5	Tottenham Hotspur	21	12	4	5	44	31	13	40
6	West Ham United	21	10	5	6	35	32	3	35
7	Brighton and Hove Albion	21	8	8	5	38	33	5	32
8	Manchester United	21	10	2	9	24	29	-5	32
9	Chelsea	21	9	4	8	35	31	4	31
10	Newcastle United	21	9	2	10	41	32	9	29
11	Wolverhampton Wanderers	21	8	5	8	30	31	-1	29
12	Bournemouth	20	7	4	9	28	39	-11	25
13	Fulham	21	7	3	11	28	36	-8	24
14	Brentford	20	6	4	10	29	33	-4	22
15	Crystal Palace	21	5	6	10	22	34	-12	21
16	Nottingham Forest	21	5	5	11	26	38	-12	20
17	Everton *	21	8	3	10	24	28	-4	17
18	Luton Town	20	4	4	12	24	38	-14	16
19	Burnley	21	3	3	15	21	42	-21	12
20	Sheffield United	21	2	4	15	17	51	-34	10

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



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



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

				SUBSTITUTES	ATT	AWAY
NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS ⚽	ADEBAYO	31,872	3,001
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	BROWN ⚽	39,893	3,054
MPANZU	BERRY	WOODROW ⚽	OGBENE	BROWN ⚽	9,468	1,058
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	10,802	1,151
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	BROWN	24,467	2,701
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OGBENE	MORRIS ⚽	BROWN	10,893	1,091
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	3,360	708
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS ⚽	BROWN	39,289	2,976
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	10,918	1,126
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	10,929	1,151
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	29,361	2,893
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	41,785	3,005
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	11,049	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	73,599	3,008
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	11,029	1,149
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	CHONG	17,075	1,725
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	11,112	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	11,047	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	11,042	1,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	31,041	2,362
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	11,041	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	10,739	1,609
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	20,155	1,432
BARKLEY	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	10,878	751
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	TOWNSEND	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	37,713	1,699

The Town's prize for beating Everton on Saturday is an FA Cup fifth round tie at home against holders Manchester City at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters and the Citizens have met seven times in total in the competition – but this will be the first time since a 1969 third round tie at Maine Road, which City won 1-0.

Perhaps the most famous meeting between two the clubs came in the FA Cup in 1961. Denis Law scored all six goals as City led 6-2 at Kenilworth Road before the game was abandoned. When the time came to replay the game the Hatters ran out 3-1 winners.

The two sides have already met at Kenilworth Road this season in the Premier League when the visitors came from behind to win 2-1.

The tie will be played the midweek of 26th February. Full ticket information and confirmation of the date of the fixture will be confirmed in due course.

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.





HOLD THE BACK PAGE

With Mike Simmonds – Luton News Sports Editor

Although it seems like an age ago now, tonight's visitors to Kenilworth Road, Brighton & Hove Albion, were the first opponents the Hatters took on when starting their maiden Premier League adventure in the summer.

It's fair to say Luton are a completely different animal to the one who looked, understandably so, slightly caught in the headlights on that sunny day on the south coast, beaten 4-1 and discovering first hand just what a step up in standards they were facing.

Town had set up bravely, trying to go about things as they had done in the second tier, but it quickly became apparent that wasn't the approach to take, a look at the stats showing the Seagulls with 27 shots and 12 on target, having 71 per cent of possession as well.

Despite being second best, one handy knack was born out that day, a goal after the 80-minute mark thanks to Carlton Morris tucking home a penalty which gave the visitors some fleeting hope.

Yes, it was quickly snuffed out by two late Albion strikes, but the trait of being able to stay in a game and score late on has remained with the Hatters ever since, just ask those fans at Turf Moor and Goodison Park recently.

Edwards and his players clearly learnt a lot from the loss too, quickly

abandoning the two upfront policy which had given them so much joy the previous season against lesser opposition, ensuring they had more bite all over the pitch.

It was allowed them to come on leaps and bounds, clearly at home in their new surroundings now, moving from a team who had to dig in for 90 minutes, to enjoying more of the ball than both big spending Chelsea and last year's runaway Championship title-winners Burnley in their last two matches, which is some feat in itself.

Out of the XI that took to the Amex pitch, nine were making their top flight bow that day, while those who are charged with going up against Brighton this evening, have become far more battle hardened to the challenges of the best league in the world and will go into this contest with their eyes wide open.

Add into that the likes of Ross Barkley, plus Sambi Lokonga, Alfie Doughty, Gabe Osho, Teden Megi and Chiedozie Ogbene, who didn't start that day, then it's a much-changed side which should give the Hatters a greater cause for optimism.

It might not see them being able to make it three games in a row where they have seen more of the ball, but you'd like to think a different and far closer scoreline is on the cards this time. 



THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports



LUTON TOWN

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

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION

1. BART VERBRUGGEN
2. TARIQ LAMPTEY
3. IGOR JULIO
4. ADAM WEBSTER
5. LEWIS DUNK
6. JAMES MILNER
7. SOLLY MARCH
8. MAHMOUD DAHOUD
9. JOAO PEDRO
10. JULIO ENCISO
11. BILLY GILMOUR
13. PASCAL GROSS
14. ADAM LALLANA
15. JAKUB MODER
18. DANNY WELBECK
20. CARLOS BALEBA
22. KAORU MITOMA
23. JASON STEELE
24. SIMON ADINGRA
28. EVAN FERGUSON
29. JAN PAUL VAN HECKE
30. PERVIS ESTUPINAN
31. ANSU FATI
34. JOEL VELTMAN
38. TOM MCGILL
40. FACUNDO BUONANOTTE
41. JACK HINSHELWOOD

MATCH OFFICIALS

- REFEREE - ROBERT JONES
- ASSISTANT REFEREE - IAN HUSSIN
- ASSISTANT REFEREE - WADE SMITH
- FOURTH OFFICIAL - REBECCA WELCH
- VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - PETER BANKES
- ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - NICK GREENHALGH