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LUTON TOWN V SHEFFIELD UNITED

SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2024 | 3:00PM | KENILWORTH ROAD



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BRING THE NOISE!



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WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

Well, what a week it was. After the win at Everton and subsequent cup draw that paired us with holders Manchester City, it just got better and better didn't it? The 4-0 win over Brighton under the lights will live long in the memory for a multitude of reasons – plenty of which are explained throughout today's programme. Then Newcastle. Oh Newcastle! The boys put in another fantastic shift to score four more and give us memories to last a lifetime. Today, Sheffield United are in town for a massive game that could go a long way to helping decide our destiny so bring the noise and get behind Rob and the team.



05 **ROB
EDWARDS**



08 **FROM THE
BOARDROOM**



26 **WELCOME
SHEFFIELD UNITED**



45 **HATTERS
HISTORY**



58 **ACADEMY
UPDATE**



68 **NEWS FROM THE
SUPPORTERS' TRUST**



80 **SEASON
SO FAR**



ROB EDWARDS

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what is a huge day and a massive game for us as we entertain Sheffield United in the Premier League.

The last time we were here against Brighton was a really, really special occasion. It began with welcoming Locks back. It was fantastic for him to go out onto the pitch and get the hero's welcome he deserved. It was a touching, poignant moment for you all to show him your love and appreciation. You could see it in his eyes how much that meant, couldn't you? He was probably a bit overwhelmed by it all and I know it was special for him.

You sung his name all night and what a night. For the lads to then perform in the way they did, to lead 2-0 after two minutes and be three goals to the good at half-time, was as a complete performance as we've had this season.

At half-time it was great to see the ovation Daiki Hashioka received from you and I'd like to welcome 'Hashi' to the club. He's a player we think very highly of and we're looking forward to seeing his contribution to this club.

After the break we continued to play some fantastic football and it was wonderful to see Eli grab the matchball with his third and final goal to cap a truly memorable night under the lights.

Then came last Saturday and the mad game at St James' Park. I'm not sure where to start to be honest, but it was a match in which both teams were going for it. It was Premier League football at its best.

Among all the chaos, what pleased me most was the lads' character, to twice come from behind and then hold on in the face of late Newcastle pressure. For us to weather that storm when it got back to 4-4 and then to almost win it at the end left us feeling a mixture of emotions

I have been really proud to have been involved in the last two games but attention now turns to today and Sheffield United. I'd like to welcome Chris Wilder and his staff and players to the Kenny for what is a big game for both clubs.

Thanks to our results and performances of late we go into this game in great shape but today we're going to need your support more than ever. Your backing is massive for us, I really, really can't overstate it. The atmosphere you have generated here this season has been first class. The noise levels have made it an incredibly intimidating place for visiting teams to come and I urge you all to get behind the boys once more for the next 90-plus minutes.

Finally, a huge thank you to those of you who made the long trip up to Newcastle on Saturday. It was incredible, and even though you were up in the gods, we heard you loud and clear. I hope we gave you something to remember.

We'll be aiming to give you more memories this afternoon so bring the noise and enjoy the game. 🥳





WELCOME BACK LOCKS!

There was an emotional reunion for Tom Lockyer with his teammates, the Hatters staff and the fans last week.

The Town captain made his first visit to The Brache after suffering a cardiac arrest at Bournemouth in December last Monday before then being introduced to the Kenilworth Road crowd prior to the 4-0 win over Brighton.

“It was amazing to see him back,” said manager Rob Edwards. “We had a really good morning seeing him around the place.

“We handed out the debut Premier League balls with John Still and Mick Harford. It was a nice presentation; it was a special moment and great to see.

“I managed to hold it together [emotionally] but it was emotional. It’s been a really difficult time for his family first and foremost, but for us it was great to see him.

“He’s an unbelievably brave man and someone who has an unbelievable handle over all of it. I wouldn’t be how he is.

“He’s such an impressive and focused person. There’s a rehabilitation process but he’s taking it slowly, he’s got a baby on the way and that’s his man focus.”

It was great to see you again, Locks!





FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE
GARY SWEET

If today is as exciting as the previous week has been then one thing's for sure, we're going to be in for yet another amazingly memorable afternoon.

Speaking as a long-standing fan, I'm not sure there have been many more optimistic times we've enjoyed as Luton Town supporters.

We've just experienced a week which began seeing us through to the fifth round of the FA Cup courtesy of an away win at Goodison Park, earning a home tie with the current cup holders, followed by perhaps one of the most electrifying performances here at Kenilworth Road for decades, before finishing with an eight-goal thriller draw at St James' Park.

Eight days, three matches, 860 miles, ten goals, seven scorers, four points and a prize cup draw!

Exactly 14 years before the victory over the Seagulls, any such optimism would barely seem plausible as we watched on in horror as Ebbsfleet United beat us 3-2 here in the Conference National. Looking back at such moments can be a cathartic experience. Often, we have spoken of how playing in non-league gave us an undivided resolve, a thick

skin and, importantly, enabled us to humbly learn to keep our feet on the ground and never take the upsides for granted too much.

"Never too high when you win, never too low when you lose", as a great man once said.

The most refreshing aspect of the victory over Brighton – a thriving club who have shared a similar rise from League Two to breaking into European competition – was the manner in which we won the game, with an evolving style of football that has become a joy to watch in recent weeks.

For that to roll on to Newcastle United in their grand, atmospheric cathedral of football (which we could almost see through the blizzards from the open terrace at Gateshead), was an enthralling experience which enriches one's love for the game. There have been few 4-4 draws in our history – eight now, I'm reliably informed. So, to be first up on Match of the Day and be involved in a game considered to be one of the most exhilarating in the top-flight this season, shows how far we've come, especially when there's a tinge of disappointment that we didn't take all three points!



In those three matches last week, our starting line-ups were collectively assembled for way less than £10m with a few acquired on free transfers and most who had been a part of our journey from the Championship. Not only is this a real testament to our first team coaches and sport science team for their excellent care and development of those players, but clearly the strength of our recruitment team in how we identify top characters that fit into our structure and culture.

Usually, the January transfer window is our most hectic time of the season and the window we've seen slam shut by Sky felt somewhat like a damp squib. Whilst we were more active than ever behind the scenes, it was probably the quietest market in memory with only 10 per cent of last year's expenditure changing hands between clubs.

We always see January like a scene from an Indiana Jones film – an obstacle course full of traps and danger that carefully requires navigating to the safety of February. We always enter it feeling that if we can keep our squad intact, we become stronger. Statistical-

ly, the fewer changes a club makes in this period, the stronger they perform in the back end of the season, so unsurprisingly, our business this year was very tactical and financially positive.

We safely exited the bear pit in a better place with minimal day-to-day disruption to our momentum.

Of course, we were delighted to unveil our newest face, Daiki Hashioka, to you at half-time against Brighton and are excited at the impact – on and off the field – 'Hashi' will have with us. If his performances are as excellent as his warmth and friendliness, then we're in for a treat.

Earlier in the window we secured the signing of Tom Holmes from Reading, before sending the defender back out on-loan to the Royals. Tom is a player we've looked at in each of the last four windows so we're more than happy that he can be involved in our future. And we ended the window by welcoming the highly-rated young attacker Taylan Harris to the club, who will be a terrific longer term prospect for us to monitor. ➡

Like any transfer window, we tried to be creative, trying a few bits of 'brave' business which didn't quite come off, but we often returned to the same question – "...but who would he replace in the squad?"

We also said our goodbyes to Ryan Giles, who left us for Hull. It was difficult for us, and Rob in particular, to stand in the way of Gilo given his desire to play first team football. The performances of Alfie Doughty, the continuous development of Joe Johnson (how good was it to see him get minutes at Goodison?) and the effective squad replacement of Hashi, made the decision an easier one to take.

The lack of activity in the transfer window is symbolic of the nervousness shown by so many clubs who are operating financially, close-to-the-bone, pushing the boundaries of the Premier League's Profit & Sustainability rules, which are being treated more seriously than ever now our authorities are delivering some long-awaited sanctions.

As you would expect, but for your peace of mind, I can inform you that we are nowhere near such scrutiny and would most likely exhibit a greater expenditure headroom than any other Premier League club.

By the time you will have read these notes (albeit after me writing them), David Wilkinson and Tom Schofield, our finance director, and I will have been involved in various meetings addressing the future of cost controls in the



Premier League, the New Deal For Football, which sees more equitable distributions throughout the pyramid, and other important matters.

We are optimistic that these ongoing discussions will result in an improved competition with a great level of financial sustainability than ever before and when punishments for financial misconduct can be dealt with almost in real-time, rather than have cases drag on for months or even years.

And now, with the window shut and with football looking to repair itself, we can push forward with more confidence than ever on other matters, such as Power Court. Yesterday, some eagle-eyed supporters may have seen that we submitted a regular planning application for groundworks on the site which will see us materially begin moving earth in the next couple of months.



This encouraging milestone comes after receipt of a definitive programme to move the sub-station by UKPN, which will see this vitally important project begin next month and which will allow us to synchronise our schedules for detailed planning for the stadium and plan the programme for its construction.

Further details on a redesigned stadium itself will become evident as detailed planning draws nearer.

Back to the present day, today we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Sheffield United, to whom I extend a warm Bedfordshire welcome to our home this afternoon, for a game which the Blades will see as a 'must win' if they are to survive this season. With the quality and grit and determination they will have in their side, it will also be a game which we will see as a big challenge that will require our full attention.

After the excitement of the past few weeks, it is only going to get more and more fascinating, with Manchester United here in front of live Sky Sports cameras a week tomorrow, a trip to Anfield a week next Wednesday and an FA Cup fifth round tie against Manchester City the week after that.

So, enjoy it and drink it in. Has there ever been a more exciting time to be a Luton fan? Well, we hope this is just the beginning.

Enjoy the game and get behind the lads – not only have the noise levels here this season been intimidating for opposition players but the rising decibel levels have given greater encouragement to our own players and staff. So more of the same this afternoon, please.

Come on Luton! 🥳

Gary.



DUO UP FOR JANUARY AWARDS

Town manager Rob Edwards and striker Elijah Adebayo are both in the running to scoop monthly Premier League awards for January.

Edwards has been nominated for the Barclays Manager of the Month – and he's in great company, as the boss faces competition for the prize from Mikel Arteta, Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp.

Adebayo, whose hat-trick blew away Brighton in our last match here, is on the shortlist for the EA SPORTS Player of the Month. The frontman is in the running alongside Conor Bradley, Kevin De Bruyne, Diogo Jota, Gabriel and Richarlison.

Head to the Premier League website to register your vote for Rob and Elijah – voting closes on Monday.

The Hatters also picked up an award last week for their efforts against Brighton, winning the League Managers' Association Performance of the Week for the 4-0 thrashing off the Seagulls.

NEW DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Town's Premier League match at Liverpool has been rescheduled for Wednesday 21st February with a 7.30pm kick-off.

The game was originally in the diary for the following Saturday but has been moved due to the Reds' involvement in the Carabao Cup final on the Sunday.

And following the FA Cup victory at Everton two weeks ago, the Town will host holders Manchester City in the fifth round with the tie televised on ITV on Tuesday 27th February.

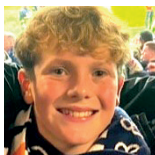
BARKLEY WINS DIAMOND AWARD



Midfielder Ross Barkley's sparkling performances have seen him voted the diamond season card holders' Player of the Month for December.

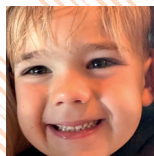
Diamond Season Ticket holder Andre Barzilay was drawn to present the trophy to Ross in the Eric Morecambe Suite after Tuesday's 4-0 win over Brighton.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy Birthday to **William Handford** who celebrates his 13th birthday today. He is pictured at Everton away earlier in the

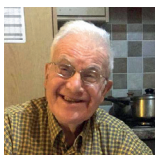
season. He is at the match today with his dad and two friends. Happy birthday, from all your friends and family. Here's hoping for three points on your special day. COYH.



Big birthday wishes also go to Town fan **Arthur Turner**. He sits in the Kenilworth lower with his dad Carl, his brother and grandad,

and absolutely loves coming to the games. Arthur's favourite player is Alfie Doughty. Have a great day!

REST IN PEACE



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Town supporter **David Hamilton**.

David was born and raised in the Sundon Park area in Luton. Attending schools locally. Subsequently spending part of his working and family life in Luton before moving away to the Kent area. A life-long follower and supporter of the Hatters, David was a loving father to Gary, Lee and John and was also a much-loved father-in-law, devoted granddad (dad-dad), uncle (to Richard) and brother to Cora, Rachel and Tom.



The Club were also saddened to hear of the passing of **Raymond 'Ray' Pratt**. Ray was a season ticket holder in the main

stand enclosure until 1992. Afterwards he always kept a keen eye on the team's results and progress. He'll be fondly remembered but sadly missed.



We also offer our sincere condolences to the Wootton family following the passing of lifelong Luton Town fan **Dean Wootton**. His wife Sarah and son Harry are both in attendance for today's game and we would like to wish them well whilst coming to terms with the passing of such a special caring man. Dean fought a five-year battle against Myeloma, attending as many games as his health allowed including our special day at Wembley and our match at home to Arsenal. Rest in Peace, Dean.

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4-0

Kenilworth Road – 30th January 2024

Town: Kaminski; Burke, Osho, Bell, Ogbene, Doughty; Lokonga (sub Mpanzu 68), Barkley (sub Berry 82); Clark (sub Townsend 68), Adebayo (sub Chong 71), Morris (sub Woodrow 83).

Subs not used: Krul, Potts, Johnson, Nelson.

Brighton: Steele, van Hecke, Dunk, Julio, Milner (sub Hinshlewood 20), Gross, Gilmour (sub Balbela 61), Estupinan (sub Lamptey 46), Buonanotte (sub Ferguson 46), Joao Pedro (sub Moder 71), Welbeck.

Subs not used: Verbruggen, Webster, Lallana, Baker-Boaitey.

SCORERS

Town - Adebayo 1, 42, 56, Ogbene 3

Attendance: 10,994, including 1,044 from Brighton

FORMIDABLE HATTERS THRASH SEAGULLS

There have been many great nights at Kenilworth Road down the years.

But this was a night to rival the very, very best.

It began with Tom Lockyer whipping up the crowd up moments before kick-off on his first return since Bournemouth – and it continued for 90 unrelenting, unforgettable minutes.

It was one of those nights which we all didn't want to end.

Unbelievably, the Town led after just 20 seconds and it was the cue for a remarkable night under the lights – Elijah Adebayo glancing a close-range header home after Carlton Morris had knocked on Chiedozie Ogbene's right-wing cross.

If those inside the Old Girl thought that was the perfect start, then one minute and 57 seconds later it, somehow, incredibly, got even better when Ogbene seized on Sambi Lokonga's superb raking forward pass, rounded Jason Steele, the Brighton goalkeeper, and passed into an empty net at the Oak Road end.

It was beautiful chaos. Brighton, wide-eyed, shell-shocked, had no answer. It wouldn't be until the 77th minute when Thomas Kaminski saved Danny Welbeck's effort that Brighton registered a shot on target.

As half-time approached the Town upped the ante. And they were rewarded with a third and Adebayo's second when Ross Barkley slipped the striker through, gave Steele the eyes and tucked home. 3-0. There were almost no words.

After half-time it did get better, especially for Adebayo, when he scored his first Luton hat-trick to bring the house down. Sublime play from Barkley fashioned a chance for Ogbene and from Alfie Doughty's corner the ball bounced into the striker's path and he made no mistake from close range.







 MATCH GALLERY



FREENOW ✓

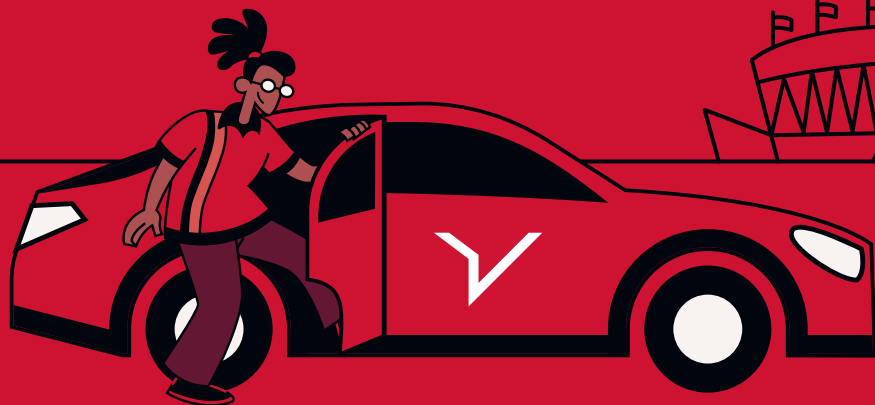
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A DREAM COME TRUE

A first Premier League hat-trick. It really couldn't get any better for striker Elijah Adebayo after the striker's treble helped the Hatters blitz Brighton the last time we were at Kenilworth Road.

Having come through the ranks at Fulham and following spells in non-league at Bognor and Slough, the three goals against the Seagulls were sweet reward for the 26-year-old's efforts in getting to the top.

"It's been a dream for me for me, many years to score a hat-trick and it's a fantastic feeling for myself and for this team, because I couldn't have done it without them," he said afterwards.

"I'm so proud of everyone, including the fans, they were fantastic. We know what this place is like under the lights, it's a fantastic place to come and it's a hard place to come, but it's what dreams are made of. I'm so proud. It's a surreal feeling, but I can't take all the credit, the boys were fantastic. We were told to start sharp and boy did we."

On an unforgettable night, Adebayo got the ball rolling after just 20 seconds when heading home from close range before Chiedozie Ogbene doubled the lead barely two minutes later.

"The first goal is always crucial, no matter what league you play in, so getting the first was good and then getting the second not long after definitely gave us a platform even more so," said the frontman.



"Then it was about not being complacent as a group. These boys know not to be complacent, we've been down two and then had to come back, so being in this position is unfamiliar in a way, but that's credit to the boys, they stuck at it and then it was just about making a statement, go and score more, and we probably could have scored more."

The Hatters needn't have worried as before the break Adebayo got his second and the Town's third to truly put Rob Edwards' team in the driving seat for three important Premier League points.

"Going in 2-0, they're going to come out and that next goal is crucial as it either kills the game off or allows them back in. To go in 3-0 was the icing on the cake, not to say that we're going to rest on our laurels, it was, 'okay, we're going to go and score more'. Luckily for me it was me again and I'm delighted for everyone."

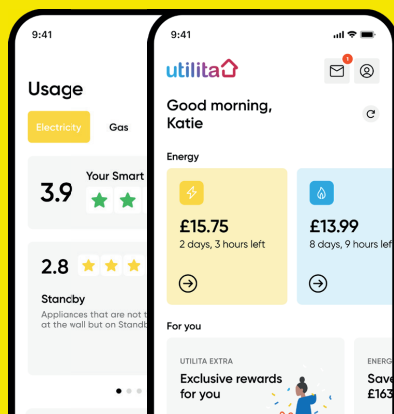
The striker then completed his hat-trick – his first since a treble for Bognor against Canvey Island six years ago – after the interval to cap an incredible night

"I didn't actually know much about it, it just hit me in the face to be honest, but you've got to be in there to score," he smiled. "You've just got to keep getting in there and things will fall for you."

"A lot of people have told me over my career, that's where goals are scored, in the penalty box, and you've just got to be in there to get on the end of them. I didn't know how to react at the time, it was new to me, but scoring goals is one of the hardest things to do in football, so I've just got knuckle down and get ready to do it again." 🥅

HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

SAVE LIKE
DAVE



Energy that's
proper smart.



HATTERS EARN POINT IN PULSATING EIGHT-GOAL THRILLER

The story of this game would take a novel to tell. We don't have the space for that.

But it all began so quickly when Newcastle took the lead on seven minutes. At that point it looked as though the Town might be in for a long afternoon when Sean Longstaff rifled home to finish an intricate home move.

Yet the Town's response to going behind was truly excellent. Settling into the game as if nothing had happened, they were soon level when Gabe Osho rose highest to nod on Carlton Morris' flick to deservedly bring the Hatters level.

However, no sooner were the Town on terms they trailed again two minutes and three seconds later when Longstaff restored the Magpies lead, converting after Thomas Kaminski had parried Anthony Gordon's effort.

Undeterred, the Hatters built once more and, as they seized control of the football, their efforts were rewarded with a second equaliser five minutes before the interval thanks to Ross Barkley.


As the game swung from end to end in the early stages after the restart, suddenly, on 57 minutes, Rob Edwards' side finally wrestled destiny into their own hands when Carlton Morris converted a twice-taken penalty after Chiedozie Ogbene was fouled.

It was good. It was great. But things got even better three minutes later when the Town stunned St James' with a fourth when Elijah Adebayo rolled home his fourth in a week to make it 4-2 after Barkley's pass.

Two goals ahead, the Magpies, who had thrashed PSG in the Champions League earlier this season, upped the ante and got to within one goal on 68 minutes when captain Kieran Trippier found the target.

And the turnaround was complete six minutes later when substitute Harvey Barnes dispossessed Barkley and sent a low finish beyond Kaminski from the edge of the box.

Yet this Luton Town team is stacked with resolve and resilience. A period where holding onto your hats was a genuine necessity followed as the hosts pushed for a fifth. Kaminski came to the rescue with eight minutes left to turn away Barnes' goal-bound shot and the Magpies came even closer two minutes later when Jacob Murphy spurned a chance at the back-post after a wonderful cross from Bruno Guimaraes had dissected the Town backline.

Once more, the Hatters responded brilliantly to adversity and when ten added minutes were added by the officials the Town found a second wind and it was Ogbene who had the game's final glorious chance. Barkley was the architect, ping-pong a ball to the back-post but the Irishman's fine side-foot effort was held by the relieved Dubravka. 

4-4

St James' Park - 3rd February 2024

Newcastle: Dubravka, Trippier, Schar, Botman, Burn (sub Livramento 64), Longstaff, Guimaraes, Miley, Murphy, Gordon (sub Wilson 46), Almiron (sub Barnes 63).

Subs not used: Dummett, Ritchie, Krafth, Karius, Hall, White.

Town: Kaminski; Mengi, Osho, Bell, Ogbene, Doughty (sub Burke 79; Lokonga, Barkley; Clark (sub Mpanzu 68), Morris (sub Brown 79), Adebayo (sub Woodrow 88).

Subs not used: Krul, Berry, Kaboré, Chong, Townsend.

SCORERS

Newcastle - Longstaff 4, 23, Trippier 67, Barnes 73

Town - Osho 21, Barkley 40, Morris 59 (pen), Adebayo 62

Attendance: 52,211, including 3,145 supporting the Town.





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BARKLEY REFLECTS ON NEWCASTLE EPIC

After a goal and an assist in the 4-4 draw at Newcastle, midfielder Ross Barkley felt there were plenty of plus points to the Town's performance at Newcastle last Saturday.

The 30-year-old played an instrumental role in the draw, scoring the Hatters' second equaliser at the end of the first half and then teeing up Elijah Adebayo to stroke home his fourth goal in five days to make it 4-2.

"It was an end to end game, entertaining for the fans and good to be a part of," said Barkley. "Four goals for us, four goals conceded, we could have done better with some of the goals, but it was a good game to be a part of and a lot of positives for us to take.

"Away from home at St James' Park... Newcastle are a top side. They've got players who are returning from injury, so over the next few weeks they're going to improve because they're a top side and they've been unlucky with some of the injuries. They've got Callum Wilson back and they're improving again as they had a bit of a drop off, but for us it's been a great week.

"Every one of the lads in the changing room is feeling positive, a little bit disappointed to concede a few goals, but we know they are a good side."

The former England midfielder was also happy with his own contribution to the

cause on the day which saw him net for the third time this season after goals against Arsenal and Chelsea.

"Yes, it's great to score goals and great to assist goals but in general it's great to just get on the ball and try and make things happen," said Barkley.


"It was a brilliant game for the fans; sure, at times both benches were probably nervous as we went up by two goals and then they got two goals, but we're all positive as we just want the next game to come around."



Barkley almost had a hand in a late, late Hatters winner – picking out Chiedozie Obigwe in the 98th minute.

Even though the flying wing-back could not convert the chance, Barkley was proud of how the Town stood up to the challenge after Newcastle had battled back from 4-2 down.

"At 4-4 here with ten minutes added time, most teams in the league – when they've just scored two to get back into the game – probably cave in and maybe concede in the last minute and Newcastle win 5-4," he said.

"The way we were able to manage it and then we had the best chances in the last ten minutes when Chieo hit the target, if we had scored there, you would say we created the best chance, but what a good game it was, there were so many positives still to take." 



WELCOME SHEFFIELD UNITED

The Blades are in town as Luton welcome Sheffield United to Kenilworth Road. It's a huge match at the bottom end of the table as both sides are desperate for three points. Chris Wilder's have had an indifferent season so far and sit bottom of the table.

United got their season off to a poor start as they lost their first three league games of the season under Paul Heckingbottom. These losses were against Crystal Palace, Nottingham Forest and Manchester City.

The Blades were then knocked out of the Carabao Cup by Lincoln City on penalties before picking up their first point of the season in a 2-2 home draw with Everton. This was followed by a cruel 2-1 defeat to Spurs after two extremely late goals won Tottenham the match.

After this, United were heavily beaten 8-0 at home against Newcastle United and after this, there were a further four defeats to West Ham, Fulham, Manchester United and Arsenal.

Then, the Blades picked up their first

win of the season. Cameron Archer and Oliver Norwood were on target as United beat Wolves 2-1 at Bramall Lane. In the next game, United picked up a solid away point against Brighton before losing at home to Bournemouth.

Soon after, Heckingbottom was sacked after a disappointing 5-0 loss against fellow struggling Burnley. Chris Wilder's first game back at the helm was a 2-0 loss to Liverpool. This was followed up with a crucial 1-0 home win over Brentford.

The Blades picked up a crucial point away at Aston Villa before losing at home to the Hatters on Boxing Day. Two late own goals from United gave the Town the 3-2 win and a pivotal three points.

Since that afternoon, the Blades have picked up one point in the league, a draw with West Ham. A close 3-2 loss defeat to Crystal Palace was sandwiched between two defeats where United conceded five goals has really put Wilder's team in a pickle at the foot of the table.

A warm welcome to all associated with Sheffield United this afternoon.

MEET THE BLADES

THE BOSS



CHRIS WILDER.

Blades fan back for a second spell in charge having previously guided the club from League One to the Premier League during a five-year spell. Began his career as a player at Bramall Lane and has also managed, among others, Middlesbrough, Watford, Northampton and Oxford.

GOALKEEPER



WES FODERINGHAM.

Experienced stopper who joined the Blades in 2020 after five years with Glasgow Rangers. Hammersmith born he began his career at Fulham and played almost 200 times for Swindon.

DEFENDERS



ANEL AHMEDHODZIC.

Bosnia and Herzegovina international defender who arrived at Bramall Lane last season from Swedish club Malmo, immediately helping the Blades to promotion in his first season.



GEORGE BALDOCK.

Buckingham-born, Greece international right-back joined the Blades from Milton Keynes in 2017. Has since played over 200 times in the red and white stripes.



JAYDEN BOGLE.

Versatile right-sided defender or midfielder Jayden signed for United from Derby in 2020. Came through the ranks at Pride Park and has four England Under-20 caps to his name.



MASON HOLGATE.

Transfer window loan signing

Mason joined from Everton. Doncaster-born, he began his career at Barnsley before moving to Goodison Park in 2015 for £2 million.



JACK ROBINSON.

Former England Under-21

international Jack signed for the Blades in 2020 from Nottingham Forest. Came through the Liverpool academy before spells at QPR, Blackpool and Huddersfield.



AUSTON TRUSTY.

American international

defender who arrived at Bramall Lane last year from Arsenal. Played for three clubs in the MLS before moving to the UK and last season spent a spell on loan at Birmingham.

MIDFIELDERS



GUSTAVO HAMER.

Talented midfielder who scored in May's play-off final against the Hatters while with Coventry. Born in Brazil but moved to the Netherlands as a child, playing for Feyenoord and Zwolle.



JAMES MCATEE.

Highly-rated midfielder

James joined the Blades on loan for a second season from Manchester City. Scored nine league goals last term to help United win promotion.



OLIVER NORWOOD.

Vastly experienced central defensive midfielder who has played over 200 times for the Blades since signing from Brighton in 2019. Also enjoyed spells at Huddersfield and Reading.



VINICIUS SOUZA.

Brazilian defensive midfielder who arrived this summer from Belgian club Lommel. Spent the last two seasons out on loan at Mechelen in Belgium and Espanyol in Spain.

ATTACKERS



CAMERON ARCHER.

Highly-rated young forward who arrived at Bramall Lane this summer for a fee reported to be £18 million from Aston Villa. An Under-21 international he enjoyed a fine loan spell at Middlesbrough last season.



BEN BRERETON-DIAZ.

Stoke-born Chile international attacker who joined the Blades on loan in January from Villareal. Started his career at Forest but came to prominence at Blackburn, scoring 47 times in 176 games.



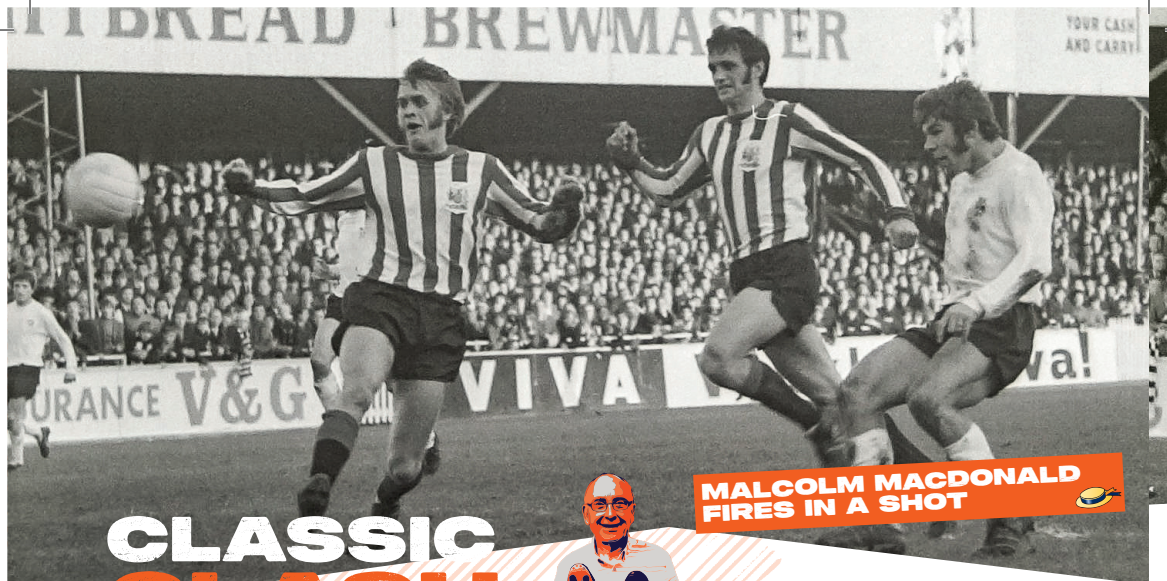
OLI MCBURNIE.

Old fashioned centre-forward Oli has become a regular for United since joining from Swansea for £17.5 million in August 2019. Began his career at Bradford and is a Scotland international.



WILLIAM OSULA.

Young Danish centre-forward who arrived at Bramall Lane as a youngster from FC Copenhagen. Spent last season on-loan at Derby.



CLASSIC CLASH

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



**MALCOLM MACDONALD
FIRES IN A SHOT**



**CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER
WASH LOOKS BACK ON THE
TIME THE TOWN PUT THE
BLADES TO THE SWORD**

When the Town were promoted from Division Three (now League One) in 1970 the new season was looked on as a period of consolidation as far as most Luton supporters were concerned.

We all thought it would be difficult to mount a meaningful promotion challenge again as our Fourth Division days were only two years before.

Manager Alec Stock had other ideas, however, and could see he had the basis of a squad every bit as good as the one at QPR he had taken from Division Three to the top-flight in successive seasons.

To boost the side he had signed Jim Ryan and Don Givens from Manchester United, Roger Hoy from Crystal Palace and David Court from Arsenal, all men of experience and in the case of Givens a full Irish international.

The season got off to a disastrous start with a 4-2 defeat at Burnden Park against a Bolton side who were to suffer relegation at the end of the campaign. This was followed by a sterile 0-0 home draw with Norwich, who had settled for a point before leaving Norfolk, as

the team struggled to come to grips with Second Division (now Championship) defences.

The first sign of better things to come arrived in the next game, away to Birmingham, where we battled for a point winning an equaliser in the closing minutes. Those of us who were at St Andrews that day could sense that promising times were ahead and we were proved correct when Oxford were hammered 4-0 at Kenilworth Road the following Tuesday evening. We had arrived!

As the Hatters pushed up the table the crowds rose, and the media became aware that something was stirring at Kenilworth Road and turned up in ever increasing numbers to see what was a very good side, playing with confidence and, in the case of star striker Malcolm Macdonald, a certain amount of arrogance.

As autumn turned to winter the league table began to take shape and the leading pack was made up of Leicester, Sheffield United, Cardiff, Hull and the Town, and these five clubs gradually nosed ahead of the rest to set up one of most exciting promotion races in years.



During the first part of the season we had lost 1-0 at Leicester in a game where we deserved a share of the spoils, won 2-0 at Hull in front of the Match of the Day cameras, and battled out a 0-0 draw at Cardiff in front of a crowd of 26,689.

It was about time we took on one of the promotion challengers at Kenilworth Road, and the first was Sheffield United who were our guests at the beginning of December. At that stage in the season we stood in second place with 26 points (two points for a win in those days) while the Blades were one point and two places behind us after an unbeaten run of 16 matches.

The Town were missing the injured John Moore who was due to play his 200th league game in Luton colours, while United were luckier, with Colin Addison passing a late fitness test on a twisted knee.

A best of the season crowd, at that point, of 19,665 had turned up which was regarded as disappointing by Alec Stock in view of the importance of the clash.

Luton were first to show with Macdonald going close with a header, but Blades' Tony Currie was giving the Town defence problems and shot over when well-placed following a smart pass from Len Badger, and then forced goalkeeper Tony Read to tip over a header which looked destined to open the scoring.

It was the home side who took the lead though. On 28 minutes full-back John Ryan charged down the wing and whipped in a hard cross from the

by-line which caught the United defence on the wrong foot. Macdonald met the centre with a bullet header which was half stopped by ex-England international goalkeeper Alan Hodgkinson but still trickled over the line.

At the start of the second half the Blades brought on Gil Reece for Addison who had aggravated his knee injury, but almost from the restart the Town went two-up with a clever effort from winger Jim Ryan. A long throw from Macdonald was hit into the air by a United defender and Ryan waited patiently for the ball to drop before sending a looping header over Hodgkinson.

United understandably threw caution to the wind and attacked with a purpose but were unable to break down the strong Luton defence. Read saved well from Alan Woodward and John Tudor, while at the other end Macdonald nearly made it three, going close with an overhead kick.

A goal was pulled back with 13 minutes left, when Moore's replacement Jack Bannister was harshly adjudged to have fouled Billy Dearden in the area with Currie reducing the deficit from the spot. The last action of the game came when Read was pulled up for 'steps' (whatever happened to that law?) but the resulting free-kick came to nothing.

Luton had proved they could live with the 'big boys' and were seemingly well on their way to achieving Alec Stock's dream of promotion in successive seasons. However, the Town's form would tail off which would eventually lead to a more than respectable sixth place finish. For the Blades, however, promotion was secured as runners-up to Leicester.

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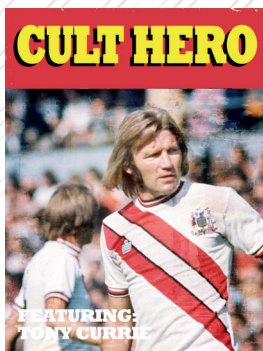
A HATTER AND A BLADE

Trained chartered accountant Peter Anderson was happily playing for Hendon when he was given the opportunity to go full-time at Kenilworth Road.

He did not regret the decision though, making 181 League appearances for the Hatters as a tenacious and competitive midfielder, helping his side to promotion to Division One in 1974.

As Christmas 1975 approached, the Town were in dire financial straits and the transfer of Peter to Antwerp saved the club from liquidation. He moved to the US in 1978, joining Tampa Bay Rowdies but then joined the Blades on loan in the Autumn of the same year.

He notched 12 goals in just 30 games at Bramall Lane but broken his collarbone late in the season. A surprise choice as player-manager at Millwall, Peter lasted two years at the Den. After leaving football Peter became a successful businessman in Florida.



TOWN 4-0 SHEFFIELD UNITED

27TH DECEMBER 1977

The Kenilworth Road faithful see the Hatters score more than one goal for the first time in three months when, in a powerful performance, Ron Futchter starts the rout with a far post header and Lil Fuccillo nets from the spot after Tony Kenworthy palms Futchter's shot over the bar. Brian Stein scores his first Town goals.

Town: Aleksic, Price, Buckley, West, Carr, Jones, Stein, Hill, Futchter, Fuccillo, Boersma.

CLASSIC KIT



A simple internet search for 'classic Sheffield United shirts' brings us to the Blades' effort for the 1992/93 – the first season of the Premier League. Their red and white striped effort was made by Umbro and featured their iconic 90s sponsor Laver, the local timber merchants. The hints of yellow and the laced collar detail are the real winners here, though. The shirt also has a little place in history as the first ever goal in the Premier League was scored in it. In fact, the shirt worn by Brian Deane – who scored that goal – went up for auction at Sotheby's in New York. It fetched £31,250.

CULT HERO: TONY CURRIE

Few Blades fans would realise at the time but when **Tony Currie** set foot in Bramall Lane after joining in 1968 he would go onto become club legend. A talented London schoolboy, Tony represented Hendon Boys before joining QPR as an amateur, whilst working for a building firm. He then joined Chelsea as an apprentice but was released and moved to Watford to complete his apprenticeship, earning England Youth honours in the process. He turned professional in May 1967 and made his league debut the following season. For a fee of £26,500, Tony moved to United in 1968, scoring on his debut and immediately became a favourite with the home fans. 'Top Cat', as he was affectionately nicknamed, became idolised at Bramall Lane, scoring 54 goals in 313 appearances as well as captaining the side in 1974.



VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD

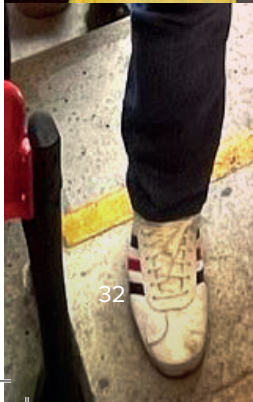
SHEFFIELD UNITED MIGHT VISIT KENILWORTH ROAD ROOTED TO THE FOOT OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE BUT, AS LOYAL BLADES FAN MATT CASBOLT TELLS US, THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN RESULTS WHEN FOLLOWING THE CLUB YOU LOVE.

What does it mean to be a Sheffield United supporter?

Wow, not sure where to start on this! I've been a fan since the day I was born thanks to my Blades mad Dad, Paul. Like any true football fan who has seen their side up and down the leagues will give testament to, being a fan is much more than what happens during 90 minutes on a Saturday. The daily exchanges in group WhatsApp chats, scouring the internet for the latest news and transfer gossip, through to small talk with the bloke at the corner shop - it's fairly non-stop in a football crazy city such as Sheffield.

How important is watching the Blades to you and why?

Watching the Blades both home and away, with my Dad and several friends is a massive part of my life. When that all stopped during Covid you really do realise how big an impact it has on your weekly routine. The Blades have, and will always be, a major part of my life.



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

It's no wonder I'm heavily balding at the ripe old age of 34 is it! As Luton fans can truly sympathise with, I've seen my team finish mid-table in League One, to finishing in the top half of the Premier League and numerous trips to Wembley along the way. There really is never a dull moment. I always expect the unexpected when it comes to United!

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

Easy one for me this. Chris Basham. No one encapsulates what it means to be a Blade more than this man. Over his decade long spell at the club, he's played over 300 games, in three divisions and about seven different positions across the park. He's a great leader who leaves everything out there and has made the very best of his talents to have a wonderful career. His famous winner at Elland Road that propelled us to promotion is one of my favourite ever Blades memories. We're all wishing him a speedy recovery for his terrible injury he sustained at Craven Cottage. Get well soon Bash.

What matches against Luton do you remember?

Luton 1-1 Sheffield United, 22nd April 2006. My first ever visit to the famous Kenilworth Road away end. It was a baking hot day and just a few weeks after our promotion to the Premier League under Neil Warnock was confirmed. I remember Rowan Vine blazing a penalty high over the stand and then Michael Tonge rifling in a free-kick at the death to rescue an (undeserved) point. It was a great day out with thousands of

Blades adorning some fantastic fancy dress outfits to celebrate our recent promotion.

Can you put into words the feeling of being a Sheffield United fan right now – winning promotion last season, the expectations going into this campaign and how the current season has panned out?

It's evident for all to see that it has been a really difficult season on and off the field for all connected with United. From the highs of last season, to the various lows of this season and facing world class opposition week in week out. There's been lots of change in both the playing and management team which has no doubt impacted things, but despite all that, there's been some great drama along the way. Two 100+ minute penalties in front of the Kop against Wolves and West Ham to secure a win and a draw respectively, and a screamer from James McAtee to claim all three points against Brentford at home have been real highlights.

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

On the last count I think I'd gone to 88 different grounds watching United. From the early days in the family stand with my Dad, my best mate Paul and Uncle Keith. To away days with my mates Jon, Carly and Kirsty and all on Pickard's Tours. From watching us lose away at Stevenage, to numerous trips to Wembley. It's been some ride!

Finally, what's your favourite ever Sheffield United game and why?

Sheffield Wednesday 2-4 Sheffield United, 24th September 2017. The Bouncing Day Massacre! As you will have seen from viral clips, this was the ultimate derby day at Hillsborough. John Fleck's third minute free-kick. Leon Clarke's double. Mark Duffy's immortal goal that literally deflated three sides of Hillsborough. Glorious.





Daiki Hashioka and Taylan Harris were the Hatters' two pieces of transfer business before the deadline closed last week.

Hashioka becomes the first Japan international to sign for the club after putting pen to paper and passing his medical hours before the Brighton game.

The 24-year-old joins for an undisclosed fee from Belgian top-flight club Sint-Truiden, where he had been impressing since arriving in Europe from Japan in December 2021.

On his newest recruit manager Rob Edwards said: "Hashi' is a versatile defender who can play anywhere along the backline and, having met him I know he's going to fit into the group really, really well.

"He's got a great attitude and has a real desire to come and play for Luton Town. He understands we've got a good squad, and knows he's got to fight for his opportunity. And he will – he's really looking forward to the challenge of being here.

"He's someone who is comfortable in possession, aggressive, and wants to defend. I'm delighted he's with us."

The Hatters' new man said: "It's always been a dream of mine to play in the Premier League. It's physically and technically a top league and very intense, so I know it's going to be difficult but I'll give my all for the team.

"My strengths are heading, one-versus-one situations and I like to do a lot of running. I've only scored twice this season, but I want to score more. I can't wait to celebrate in front of the Luton supporters.

"I'm so happy to be joining and I can't wait to play as soon as possible."

Born in Urawa, a northern suburb of Tokyo, Hashioka started his career at hometown club, Urawa Reds, where he would go on and play 74 times in the Japanese top-flight.

He made his international debut for his country in a 2-1 win over China in October 2019 – one of seven caps to his name.

Meanwhile 18-year-old Harris had been a regular for Reading's under-21 side this season and made a goalscoring senior debut for the Berkshire club in the EFL Trophy in September.

Hatters head of recruitment Mick Harford said: "Taylan is technically very good; he's a winger or forward who's very quick, has a real eye for goal and likes a shot from range.

"He's also a good dribbler, who likes to beat players and make things happen. We're looking forward to working with him and are excited to see how he develops."

The only piece of business the Town concluded the other way saw wing-back Ryan Giles move to Championship side Hull City on loan with an option to buy.

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EVERY DAY I ENJOY COMING TO WORK

Sambi Lokonga is loving life at Luton Town – and who can blame him?

The midfielder, on loan from Arsenal, has really found his feet after returning to the Hatters starting XI having missed three months of the campaign with hamstring injury sustained in the draw with Wolves back in September.

The 24-year-old made his comeback in the 2-1 defeat at home to reigning champions Manchester City on 10th December and has played a huge role in helping the Hatters move out of the relegation zone.

"I'm loving it here, I'm so happy to be here," he told our official YouTube channel.

"There's nothing but good vibes and every day the atmosphere here is great. There's not one day when I don't enjoy coming into work.

"For me, it was important for to get back playing and important to play game by game – it gave me my confidence back and that's beginning to show on the pitch."

Lokonga's success in the middle of the park goes hand in hand with the performances of the player alongside him: Ross Barkley.

The duo have built a fine relationship in the centre of the Hatters midfield and the Arsenal loanee couldn't be happier playing with the former Everton and Chelsea man.

"We have a connection," says Lokonga. "He can trust me with the ball, and knows he can give me the ball anytime. It's the same the other way around – I trust him to use the ball and play to a high standard."

With the Town going into today's game with Sheffield United on a run of just one defeat in nine games in all competitions, Lokonga knows the importance of backing up their recent form at Kenilworth Road.

"We love playing at the Kenny," he says. "The atmosphere is amazing. If nobody has been to Kenilworth Road, they should because the stadium has a feel that you can almost taste!"

That was backed up in our previous home fixture when Brighton were put to the sword in a scintillating display that saw the Hatters two goals up inside two minutes and 17 seconds.

"It was an amazing victory and that was down to that quick start," Lokonga adds. "We were very happy with that result. We know that playing at home suits us, especially with the fans behind us."

Lokonga was pivotal to the Town's second goal against the Seagulls. His stunning cross-field pass found Chiedozie Ogbene who surged past Jason Steele to send the old ground into raptures.

"I could see Chieo bending his run and I just put the ball into space," he says modestly. "The ball landed in the right area, he took a touch and score, I'm happy with the assist of course but all I had to do was place it in the right area."

While Lokonga took plenty of plaudits on the night, the game belonged to one man.

"Elijah was fantastic," says the midfielder. "What a game he had. He was amazing. His numbers tell their own story.

"He was the player of the match and took home the matchball. There are no words left to describe him."



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KITS FROM THE PAST

2008 Anniversary Special

It was 20 years since that famous Littlewoods Cup final in which the Town beat Arsenal 3-2 thanks to that last-minute winner by Brian Stein. A wonderful time in our club's history, and that 1988 Adidas shirt is one that goes down in history.

Fast forward to 2008 and the club was in a very different position. Starting the season with minus 30 points, not knowing if we even had a club to support and having only a few players on the books a few days before the first game of the League Two season.

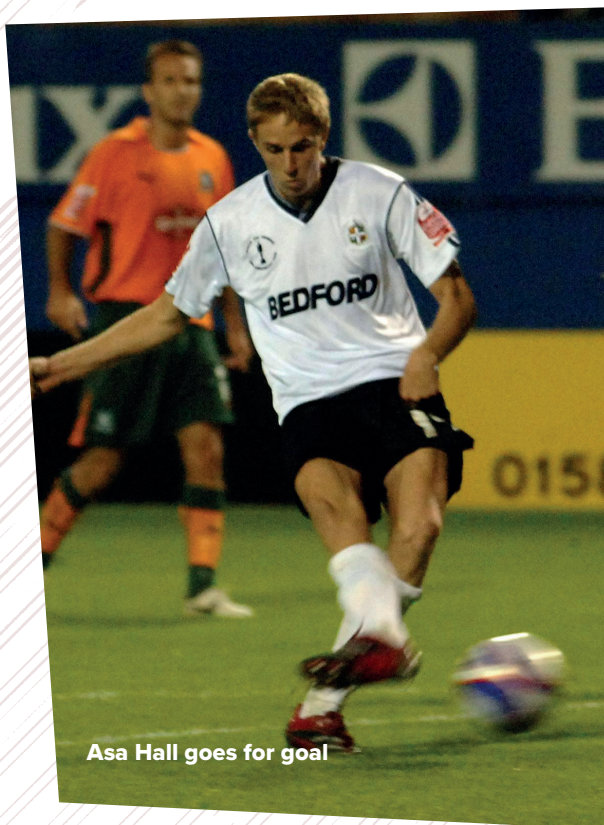
Our new kits for the 2008/09 season were not ready. By co-incidence, the club had released a special 20th anniversary retro shirt in the summer of 2008. Good job that did too, as that proved to the shirt, we started our campaign in.

The 2008 anniversary shirt features the famous Bedford sponsor on the front, and the Adidas logo was replaced with a lovely silhouette of the Littlewoods Cup trophy with "League Cup Winners, 20th anniversary 2008" embroidered around the trophy. It was smart, very smart!

But it looked even better with the official Coca-Cola League patches on the sleeves and the Football League approved name set for those first few games. The big red patch really stands out, and the name set font was bold, black in colour with a gold outline. Lovely stuff and complimented the shirt well.

As for results on the field in this shirt – a home loss on the opening day of the League Two season against Port Vale (3-1, Sam Parkin with our single goal), was followed by an away win at Gillingham (Parkin again getting the goal).

A one win, one loss record for this beauty, before it was finally replaced for the home game against Notts County with our official Carbrini home shirt for the 2008/09 season.



Asa Hall goes for goal

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9: CARLTON MORRIS



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10: CAULEY WOODROW



H: Howdens Joinery Luton
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T: AVAILABLE
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11: ELIJAH ADEBAYO



H: WHOSH
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AVAILABLE
TW: Beau Reilly

15: TEDEN MENGİ



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H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE
TW: AVAILABLE

16: REECE BURKE



P: UNAVAILABLE
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TW: AVAILABLE

17: PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU



H: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd
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18: JORDAN CLARK



H: Chris & Alex Browne
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UK Ltd
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TW: AVAILABLE

19: JACOB BROWN



H: UNAVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE
TW: AVAILABLE

20: LOUIE WATSON



H: AVAILABLE
A: Temple Flooring LTD
T: AVAILABLE
TW: AVAILABLE

21: JOHN MCATEE



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TW: AVAILABLE

23: TIM KRUL



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24: THOMAS KAMINSKI



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T: AVAILABLE
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45: ALFIE DOUGHTY



H: Kevin Lennon
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T: TP Extrusions Ltd
TW: AVAILABLE

ROB EDWARDS



H: AVAILABLE
A:

MICK HARFORD



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OUR LAST HOME GAME HERE IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE AGAINST BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION SAW HAT-TRICK HERO ELIJAH ADEBAYO NAMED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH, AND THE TOWN STRIKER RECEIVED HIS TROPHY POST-MATCH IN THE ERIC MORECAMBE SUITE.

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

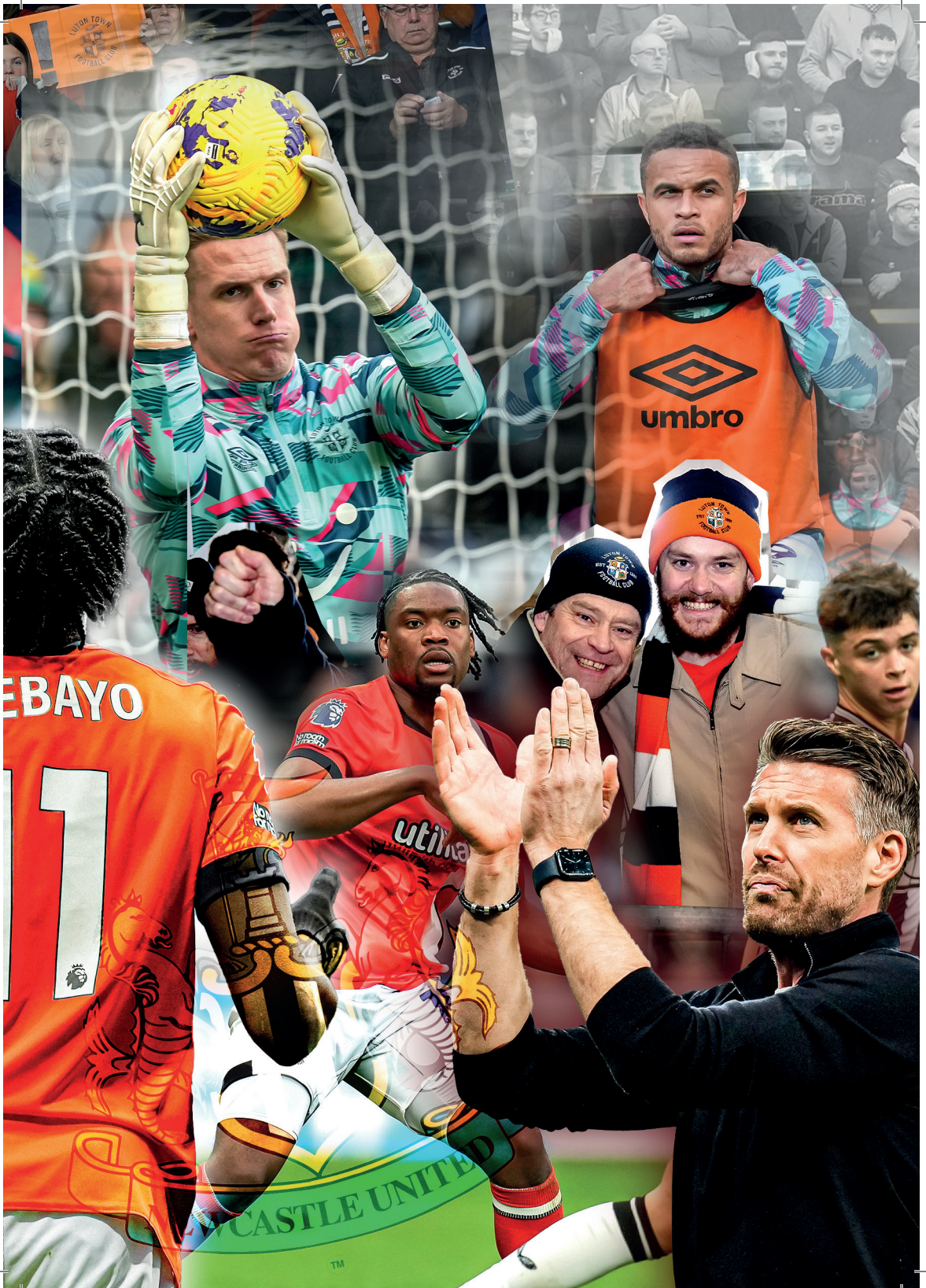


Today we have the pleasure of welcoming match and match ball sponsors the Scandinavian Hatters plus five home mascots as we welcome Sheffield United to Kenilworth Road. We all hope you have an enjoyable afternoon with us.



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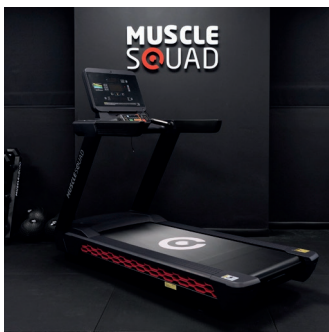
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ON THIS DAY



10TH FEBRUARY



GREAT GAME LUTON TOWN 4 ROCHDALE 1

The Hatters recall the mercurial Graham French to mastermind a magical display by the forward line to earn their first win since Boxing Day. Barry Hutchinson misses an open goal in the second minute but the Town then go goal-crazy against the Dale and former Luton skipper, John Reid, is unable to contain the wave of attacks.

Bruce Rioch opens the scoring before skipper Terry Branston doubles the advantage. Keith Allen makes it three before Ian Buxton has the final word. A few months later the Town would be crowned Division Four champions.

Town side that day: Read, Dougan, Jardine, Slough, Branston, Moore, French, Buxton, Allen, Rioch, Whittaker.

THE RECORD

If history's anything to go by, it's likely to end all square today with nine draws dominating the 19 games played on this day in the past.

That includes a draw against today's visitors on this day at Kenilworth Road when Wayne Turner's goal earned a 1-1 draw.

The first time we played on this date, in 1900, was a draw – 1-1 against Burslem Port Vale (as Vale were known as in those days) and last time was, too. A James Collins penalty earned the Hatters a 1-1 draw at Stevenage in League Two in 2018.

It was also a draw the last time the Hatters played at home on this day, a Mark Cullen brace earning a 2-2 draw against York City in League Two in 2015.

However, all these draws means the Town go into today's game unbeaten on this day since a 1973 defeat Brighton, with Hatters sides from the past winning three and drawing four of the next seven matches played on this date.

THREE IN A ROW

The Town's first win on this day came over Wellingborough in the United League in 1901 and it wasn't until the win at Rochdale mentioned on this page in 1968 that the Hatters would win again on 10th February.

It wouldn't be another 28 years until the Town won on 10th February when beating Grimsby 3-2 in a topsy-turvy game at Kenilworth Road in Division One (now Championship) in 1996. Goals from Graham Alexander, Bontcho Guentchev and Dwight Marshall were on target for the Town in a game best remembered for the post-match story that saw the Grimsby boss throw a plate of sandwiches at their star striker in the dressing room.

In 2001 the Town were again fighting relegation, this time from Division Two (now League One) with Joe Kinnear masterminding a 1-0 win at Northampton thanks to Stuart Douglas' header in the manager's first game in charge.

Three years later the Hatters' final win on this day took place under the lights here in 2004 as a Kevin Nicholls penalty and a strike from Peter Holmes earned a 2-0 win over Brighton in Division Two (now League One).



THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Sheffield United defenders watch in admiration as record goalscorer Gordon Turner demonstrates a textbook shot with his deadly right boot at Kenilworth Road in September 1960.

Roger Wash



BARKLEY AT HIS BEST

ALL OF A SUDDEN EVERYONE OUTSIDE KENILWORTH ROAD IS SITTING UP AND TAKING NOTICE OF ROSS BARKLEY. AS THE MIDFIELDER EXPLAINS, ALL IT TOOK WAS A BIT OF PATIENCE – AND HAPPINESS.

“Ain’t nobody like Ross Barkley.”

It’s a song that rings around the walls of Kenilworth Road and is shouted from the rooftops at away grounds packed with Hatters fans.

A blood-twisting Cruyff turn here, a delicious diagonal there. An audacious attempt from outside the box. Or, simply, a well-weighted square pass that can be devastating in its simplicity.

While the Town support lap it up, enjoying every slick pass and dazzling piece of skill, there’s one man who is enjoying it even more: Ross Barkley.

“I’ve probably never been part of a team that’s so close and that’s a credit to the manager and the staff as well, keeping us so close, everyone’s great at the club,” Barkley says.

For a man who has played for Everton, Chelsea, for England at a World Cup, that is high praise indeed.

When you love what you do it, it’s easy, right? That special, tight-knit bond is clearly paying dividends. In his last six games, the 30 year old has scored twice and set-up three more as the Hatters have lifted themselves out of the bottom three to put pressure on several teams above them in the table.

It’s stark contrast to when Barkley first arrived at Kenilworth Road when the Town were very much new to the top-flight and were light on Premier League experience.

“The change is night and day,” he says. “At the start of the season the lads were new to the league, getting used to new players like myself.

“We wanted to add a little bit of a different style to the team – that we were used to being a more direct team that was effective last season. However, in the Premier League, we’ve added a few things while maintaining directness as well and we’ve grown and we are still growing now. We’ve got great togetherness in the changing room.”

That team spirit has been a key factor in the Town’s resilience – and results – in a season in which many pundits predicted a campaign of woe before a ball was even kicked.

“It’s different, the togetherness,” Barkley says. “If the lads are playing Uno, everyone’s together, if the lads are cracking jokes everyone’s involved with it, there’s no cliques everyone’s together.

"We went to Dubai on a trip; if the lads were going to the mall, everyone's going to the mall – it's great, it's like my group of mates at home, it's very similar, you feel like you've known each for a long time."

No wonder the Hatters go into today's game on a run of one defeat in their last nine games with a fit and happy Ross Barkley strutting his stuff in the middle of the park.

The sequence of results is not lost on the midfielder – especially given the Hatters' performances in December which saw them run some of the league's, some of Europe's, top sides close.

"I don't think teams are surprised by us and how we play," he says. "But now going forward, we're no surprise to any team. We've scored against all the top sides, scored four against Newcastle, three against Arsenal, we went ahead against Man City, went ahead against Liverpool, beat Newcastle at home, so I think teams know what they're coming up against now."

After what many outsiders perceived to be a surprising move to Kenilworth Road in the summer, all of a sudden Barkley's performances have got people taking notice.

Column inches and podcast minutes have been dedicated to the Liverpoolian with some quarters tipping him for a recall to England.

Regardless of that, Barkley is just happy. Happy to be playing and contributing to a team that makes him... happy.

"I've always had the belief that if I'm afforded time to find my rhythm, play game after game I'll find my best," he says.

"Like most players, when it's stop-start it's really hard to be at your best. You've got to perform in training and when you get your chance, but for me I'm just made up to be on the pitch again as I've had a few years when I've been in and out and not been able to find consistent minutes and performances.

"I'm just enjoying my football and I'm in a great place now."



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LOVE FOOTBALL, PROTECT THE GAME



Kenilworth Road was the scene for BBC Radio 1 to announce that Luton will host the station's Big Weekend event in May.

BBC announced its flagship Radio 1 Big Weekend music festival will be held in Stockwood Park during the second May Bank Holiday weekend (24-26 May).

As one of the UK's most popular music festivals, attracting global artists, with thousands in attendance and millions watching on television, it is set to be Luton's biggest weekend in living memory.

Cllr Hazel Simmons MBE, Leader of Luton Council, said: "The fact that BBC Radio 1 has chosen Luton to host the Big Weekend is fantastic news for our town, especially our young people, and will showcase all the wonderful things about Luton.

"This event will give a multi-million pound boost to Luton's economy and provide a number of opportunities for local young people and businesses, with tens of thousands in attendance and millions tuning in across the BBC. It gives us an opportunity to step forward and showcase the very best of our ambitious, brilliantly vibrant, wonderfully diverse and transforming town."

Hatters Chief Executive Gary Sweet said: "We are so proud to host the BBC at Kenilworth Road today to make this announcement, which is huge for Luton.

"There are so many great things happening here on a daily basis, and we saw the overwhelming feeling of positivity flowing through our streets when we celebrated our promotion to the Premier League last May.

"That feel-good factor has continued as we've welcomed the world's top footballers to Luton this season, and hosting Radio One's Big Weekend and some of the world's top music artists is sure to give everyone in our town another few days to remember.

"Luton is now officially cool."

Luton Council is working in partnership with the BBC and Festival Republic to deliver this fantastic festival and is committed to maximising the opportunities to the town and minimising the disruption of the event.

Luton's new place brand Step Forward Luton, and its ambassadors and influential voices from across Luton will be ensuring that the increased profile is used to show what the town has to offer and makes Luton so special.

While the event itself is being paid for by the BBC, the council will need to pick up some elements such as the traffic management plan for the weekend. This will be paid for using government grants and sponsorship, including from the council's airport company Luton Rising.



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UP NEXT

KENILWORTH ROAD
SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2024
KICK OFF: 4:30PM

WHO?

Arguably the world's most famous club make the trip to Kenilworth Road a week tomorrow as Manchester United visit for the first time in a league fixture in 34 years. Formed as Newton Heath 146 years ago, the club have won more top-flight titles than any other English club – a record 20 times. The club have won the FA Cup 12 times and the European Cup/Champions League three times. With a glittering history, United won the treble in 1999 and some of the world's best players have graced the Old Trafford pitch.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

The Town's overall record against United is not something we'll sing from the rooftops about. It's just three wins from 35 in all competitions, with the Red Devils winning 26 of those, including the last two meetings. It's been 37 years since the Hatters last beat United, with goals from Mick Harford and Brian Stein giving the Town all three points in the top-flight at Kenilworth Road in March 1987. While United won on their last trip in the League Cup in September 2020, it finished all square in our last home league meeting in April 1992 when a Mick Harford goal earned us a 1-1 draw.

THE UNITED OF TODAY

United are the most decorated club in the modern era of the Premier League with 13 titles since the division was founded in 1992, but their performances in recent seasons have left their fans yearning for a return to former glories. Their last title came back in 2012/13 and last season they finished a distant third behind their cross-city rivals. United currently sit in sixth place in the table, winning their last two outings in the Premier League, 4-3 at Wolves and 3-0 at home to West Ham last Sunday.

WATCH OUT FOR

He might not have scored a Premier League goal in his first 14 attempts but Danish striker Rasmus Hojlund is now a man in form. He took his seasonal tally in all competitions to 11 with a goal in United's win over West Ham – his fourth in as many top-flight matches. The 21-year-old joined in the summer, making the switch to Old Trafford from Atalanta in Italy for an initial £64 million. He began his career with Copenhagen before moving to Sturm Graz in Austria and then Atalanta.



THE HATTERS

VS



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Paul Benson heads in the fourth at Nuneaton



Danny Crow scores Town's last-minute winner at Newport County

A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS

The Hatters spent five seasons in the non-League wilderness after being cruelly relegated in 2009 until a final glorious promotion under John Still in 2014. All part of our rich history which should never be forgotten!

Part Twelve. N is for Newport and Nuneaton.

We of course met Newport County in the Football League many times in their previous incarnation, but following the new club's rise from the bottom we clashed at Kenilworth Road at the start of the 2010/11 season for the first time.

In a feisty affair which saw Mathew Barnes-Homer miss a penalty, Keith Keane dismissed and future Hatter Charlie Henry net for the Exiles, we forced a 1-1 draw. The away game that season produced the same result with Newport levelling from the spot in the last minute.

Continuing the theme, ex-Hatter Ryan Charles was sent-off for the visitors in the 2-0 home win the next season while at Spytt Park Danny Crow's late winner did little to raise any enthusiasm amongst the Luton faithful who sat freezing in an open temporary stand. Rodney Parade is paradise compared to Spytt Park!

In 2012/13 Newport won promotion to the Football League while we suffered, never really looking like challenging for even a play-off spot. The 5-2 defeat at Spytt Park, with former Hatter Aaron O'Connor scoring twice, represents one of our low spots in non-league and makes the climb back to the top all the more sweeter.

We came up against Nuneaton in our last two seasons of non-league football. Two late goals from Alex Lawless confirmed a 2-0 victory at Kenilworth Road in October 2012 while at Nuneaton the two sides battled out a dull 0-0 draw in new manager John Still's second game in charge.

Our promotion season of 2013/14 saw two rather more entertaining games. In the home clash at the end of January 2014, a second half hat-trick from Andre Gray secured a comfortable win and sent us three points clear at the top after a run of twenty games without defeat.

The return was played a month later with the unbeaten run extended still further. A 7-0 home win over Hereford preceded the 5-0 victory at Nuneaton with Paul Benson netting twice, as the Town strode on to the championship. 🏆



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HATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

LUTON TOWN 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 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.



GREEN FOOTBALL WEEKEND

Last weekend was Green Football Weekend. This is an annual campaign where football clubs and their associated club community organisations are encouraged to educate young people on the positive impact their actions can make on the environment.

We led school assemblies across Luton, engaging young people in a number of topics around environmental issues. The main focus for this year's campaign was around food and the benefits to the environment of introducing more meat-free meals into our diets.

During our assemblies the children explored four key topics within environmental sustainability: transport, nature, energy and food. Pupils were also introduced to the Planet League, an online portal where young people can score goals and gain points for the Hatters by taking part in a variety of green activities. These can be as simple as unplugging unused electrical devices or having a screen free evening, right through to making a journey by foot that would usually be done by car.



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ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH LEAD ACADEMY SPORTS SCIENTIST JACOB WARDLE



I recently joined Luton Town at the start of 2024 as lead academy sports scientist from Forest Green Rovers where I spent two years in the same role.

Born and bred in the pride of the West Country, Bristol, I completed my undergraduate degree in Sports Therapy at Hartpury University, where I stayed on to complete my postgraduate studies in Strength and Conditioning. During my time at university, I represented the men's football team, claiming promotion and a league title in my final season.

As previously mentioned, my previous role was at Forest Green Rovers, at which, in my first game, we came up against a formidable Luton Town under-18s side in the EFL Youth Alliance cup, which saw Luton run out 8-1 victors.

As a keen sportsman myself, I grew up playing football as my winter sport, at which I reached the dizzying heights of Step 5. During the summer months, most of my time was spent on the cricket field, a sport in which I represented Gloucestershire CCC on two tours of Jersey at youth level. I also dabble in the occasional round of golf, in which I somehow play off of 7, proving that a single digit handicap can't be that hard!

My role at the club is full-time and I am predominantly based with the under-18s age group. My main responsibilities include delivering pre-training warm ups and activations, as well as designing and delivering post training gym sessions for the players. This is also the case on game days, where I also ensure the players are properly fuelled and hydrated for the game.

Alongside my time with the under-18s I also deliver on the under-13s to under-16s sports science, helping them through their growth, and preparing them to enter a full-time program.

As a department, spearheaded by Dan Taylor, we work together to ensure our players are physically ready, not only for the level they play, but also for the tough demands of the Premier League. Working alongside DT, and the rest of the staff has been thoroughly enjoyable so far during my tenure. All the staff have been very welcoming and helpful in assisting my transition. I've enjoyed fitting into the new environment at Luton Town, although I have spent most of



my time so far trying to find a way not to be confused with under-16s coach Craig Alcock! (Apparently, we look like brothers...)

Overall, I'd say my time at Luton has gotten off to a brilliant start, which will hopefully improve as the under-18s look to secure the Youth Alliance title, which would be a proud moment for all of us as staff and the players. I look forward to getting myself down to Kenilworth Road in the near future to watch the boys fight for, and secure, Premier League survival.

Up the Hatters. 🐣

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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Joshua Phillips



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Joe Johnson



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YOUTH U18 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

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

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD U21 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

GILLINGHAM	TUE 22/8/23	A	W	4-3	TRIALIST A	FRANCIS-CLARKE	KAYIBANDA	JOHNSON	PINNINGTON	LUKER	WATSON
BRENTFORD B	TUE 29/8/23	A	W	2-1	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	GIWA	PIESOLD	BURGER
CHELSEA	TUE 19/9/23	A	L	1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS	BATESON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 6/10/23	A	L	1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	PHILLIPS	JOHNSON	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	PIESOLD
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	TUE 17/10/23	H	L	2-3	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	GIWA	PIESOLD	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LUKER
KEMPSTON ROVERS (BSC)	TUE 31/10/23	H	W	8-0	TRIALIST	CHIGOZIE	LUKER	PIESOLD	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS
COLCHESTER UNITED	MON 13/11/23	A	L	0-2	SHEA	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	CHIGOZIE	PHILLIPS	PIESOLD	BURGER
BEDFORD TOWN (BSC)	TUE 28/11/23	H	W	2-0	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	BENAGR	PIESOLD	TOMPKINS	FRANCIS-CLARK	HERON
CHELSEA	TUE 12/12/23	H	L	1-2	KRUL	PINNINGTON	JOHNSON	TOMPKINS	FRANCIS-CLARKE	ANDERSEN	PIESOLD
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 2/2/24	H	L	0-2	CAMIS	PINNINGTON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	HERON
LEEDS UNITED	MON 12/2/24	H									

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CHARLIE TRUSTRAM



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

DOMINIC DOS SANTOS MARTINS



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

DYLAN STITT



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

ISAIAH HARVEY



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

JACK LORENTZEN-JONES



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

MARCUS WARREN



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

MATTHEW TAKAWIRA



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

MAX SCOTT



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

OLIVER PIPA



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

SAM ANDERSON



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

TATE XAVIER-JONES



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

TYRELL GIWA



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

WILL HOUGHTON



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

ZACHARIAS IOANNIDES



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IOANNIDES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA, ODEGAH, HOUGHTON, HARVEY, WARREN,
TRUSTRAM	LORENTZEN-JONES	XAVIER-JONES	HOUGHTON	WARREN, IOANNIDES, AKINYA, SHEPHERD, PIPA
IOANNIDES	XAVIER-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRUSTRAM	BOOTH, ANDERSON, SHEPHERD, STITT, ROBERTS-EDEMA
STITT	ANDERSON	IOANNIDES	TRUSTRAM	PIPA, TAKAWIRA, MARTINS, BENAGR, SHEPHERD
IOANNIDES	ANDERSON	TRUSTRAM	TRIALIST B	PIPA, TAKAWIRA, HOUGHTON, SHEPHERD,
LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	ODEJAH, PIPA, STITT, HOUGHTON, HARVEY
LORENTZEN-JONES	ODEGAH	TRUSTRAM	HOUGHTON	ANDERSON, XAVIER-JONES, KIRBY, KAYIBANDA, PIPA
KIRBY	ODEGAH	LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	HOCKEY, HOUGHTON, XAVIER-JONES, MARTINS, AKINYA
N-JONES	STITT	SHEPHERD	ODEGAH	PIPA, XAVIER-JONES, ANDERSON, BENAGR, CHIGOZIE
N-JONES	STITT	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA, SHEPHERD, BENAGR, ROUTH, HINCAPIE-ALFONSO
N-JONES	TRUSTRAM	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES	IOANNIDES, HOUGHTON, TAKAWIRA, KAYIBANDA, ROUTH
N-JONES	TRUSTRAM	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES	MARTINS, THOMAS, IOANNIDES, TAKAWIRA, EMERY, HOUGHTON, HARVEY
A	STITT	LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES, IOANNIDES, WARREN, TAKAWIRA, BENAGR, HOUGHTON
	LORENTZEN-JONES	ODEGAH	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES, IOANNIDES, TAKAWIRA, HOUGHTON
	LORENTZEN-JONES	HOUGHTON	TRUSTRAM	WARREN, THOMAS, IOANNIDES, ODEGAH, ROUTH
	WARREN	ODEGAH	TRUSTRAM	FOX, SHEPHERD, TAKAWIRA, ROBERTS-EDEMA
N-JONES	WARREN	ODEGAH	TRUSTRAM	STITT, HARVEY, HOUGHTON, ANDERSON

BURGER	NEWTON	TRIALIST B	MCATEE	HORLICK, MATTHEWS-LEWIS, HERON, ALLEN, PIESOLD, LYNCH
LUKER	NEWTON	LYNCH	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HERON, PHILLIPS, BOOTH, PIPA, TRIALIST
LUKER	BURGER	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	DAWS	HOCKEY, HERON, ANDERSON, BENAGR, CHIGOZIE
BURGER	LUKER	TOWNSEND	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HOCKEY, HERON, LYNCH, EMERY, TRUSTRAM
BURGER	LYNCH	TOWNSEND	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	NELSON, PHILLIPS, DAWS, HOUGHTON, LORENTZ-JONES
NELSON	LYNCH	BURGER	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	HOCKEY, ANDERSON, EMERY, DAWS, LORENTZ-JONES
NELSON	LUKER	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	LYNCH	HORLICK, GIWA, DAWS, HERON, BENAGR
BURGER	ALLEN	PHILLIPS	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	ANDERSON, CAMIS, BARNEY, KAYIBANDA
BURGER	LYNCH	NELSON	LUKER	HORLICK, PHILLIPS, HERON, BATESON, MATTHEWS-LEWIS
NELSON	LYNCH	PHILLIPS	ALLEN	LORENTZEN-JONES, THOMAS, MARTINS, KAYIBANDA, ODEGAH

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GETTING TO KNOW... DOMINIC DOS SANTOS MARTINS

NAME: Dominic Dos Santos Martins

DOB: 13/10/2005

Place of birth: England

Position: Midfielder

Year joined the academy: As an under-18

What boots do you wear? Adidas Copas

My aim for the season is to be involved in the first team and make my debut.

The proudest moment of career so far is signing my contract.

In the playground, I was always scoring and doing lots of skills as I enjoyed it as that's all I thought of as a young kid.

At school my favourite subject was business studies as I would like to have my own business when I'm older.

A career outside of football would see me open up my own business as I would learn and meet new people on a daily basis as this helps me improve my own skills with working with other people.

The one teammate who I'd say is the most talented is Claude Kayibanda – he is a leader on and off the pitch.

Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu.

The best thing about Luton Town is the history of the club, building its way into the Premier League.

If I was to describe myself, I would say I'm very talented and hard working and always strive to get the best out of myself every day.



THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Dom is a holding midfielder who likes to dictate the play in the middle of the park.

"Playing in this position demands bravery and this is a big attribute of his: he is not scared to get on the ball.

"This is particularly the case in tight spaces and scenarios on the pitch where he uses his good technique to get on the ball and use it well.

"When he is on the ball, he also demonstrates his good range of passing, which can cause opposition defences plenty of problems."

DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR HAS NO PLACE IN OUR GAME.

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CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR:

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

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:

- ⊕ Serious injury
- ⚑ Automatic club ban
- 🛡️ Reported to the police
- ⚖️ Criminal record
- 🎓 Education and employment at risk

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



DEVELOPMENT SQUAD LOSE OUT TO COLCHESTER

The Town development squad couldn't get off the mark in the Premier League Cup as Colchester ran out 2-0 winners at Kenilworth Road in their last competitive fixture.

First half goals from the visitors' Chay Cooper and Hakeem Sandah were enough to send the points back to Essex.

On a blustery night the Town came mighty close to taking the lead on 18 minutes only for Josh Phillips' deflected effort to be acrobatically headed clear off the line.

Nine minutes later, however, Colchester led when Cooper thumped a wonderful effort past goalkeeper Oliver Camis, making his Hatters debut after joining on deadline day.

Adrian Forbes saw his side respond positively to that set-back. Joe Johnson's dangerous low cross – after good play from Archie Heron and Josh Allen – was held by the visiting goalkeeper before Jacob Pinnington saw a shot deflected into the side-netting.

However the Hatters' hard work counted for nothing two minutes into first half stoppage time when the visitors doubled their lead when Sandah smashed a left-foot effort past Camis.

After the break the Hatters pushed for a way back into the game only to be frustrated by U's keeper Ted Collins.

Pinnington's goal-bound effort was turned away well by Collins seven minutes after the restart and four minutes later the keeper saved Zack Nelson's follow-up after Oli Lynch had hit the crossbar.

The chances kept coming for the young Hatters. Lynch fired wide and then was denied by Collins before Lynch and Aidan Francis-Clarke both shot the wrong side of the post.

It was not to be the Town's night and with two minutes left Nelson had the final chance direct from a free-kick which was comfortable for Collins.

Town: Camis, Pinnington, Johnson, Pie-sold, Francis-Clarke, Bateson, Heron (sub Martins 57), Nelson, Lynch (sub Odegah 82), Phillips, Allen. Subs not used: Lorentzen-Jones, Thomas, Kayibanda.





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LUTON TOWN LADIES

LADIES STORM INTO LEAGUE CUP SEMIS

Luton Town Ladies progressed into the semi-finals of the Eastern Region Women's Football League Cup as a Fiona Buttigieg brace and a dazzling Elizabeth Sanders goal helped the Town to victory over St Albans.

As expected, Luton Town Ladies started off on the front foot with Sanders picking up some free space on the right hand side of the St Albans defence with an impressive show of quick feet. However she was halted by a Saints defender in an attempt to make a quick recovery.

After sitting back for the opening exchanges, St Albans broke down their right side but Jess McKay brilliantly slid in to stop the attack before the halfway line. More impressive defending followed a minute later after a fantastic show of pace from Rebecca Ferris prevented a St Albans chance just inside the 18 yard box.

The Town then had a spree of chances. First from McKay whose volley on the edge of the area was caught well by ex-Luton keeper, Angelika Kopec-Knurek. Then it was Shanice Lewis' turn, but from a tight angle her effort is dragged wide of the post. The third was a mirrored shot of the first, McKay firing a volley from outside the box and yet again was saved by Kopec-Knurek.

Ferris, this time on the right side of the Luton defence, then did brilliantly to come across and



intercept a dangerous looking pass from St Albans. The next stage of play saw Ferris involved yet again, blocking a St Albans shot that the rebounded straight at goalkeeper Amy Butler.

With ten minutes left of the first half, the Hatters made the break through. Buttigieg sends a deep corner towards the back post which incredibly flew straight past the St Albans defence and goalkeeper and into the net.

Ahead at the half-time the Town wasted no time in doubling the lead after the break with a fantastic strike. Sanders picked up the ball just outside of the box, danced her way through multiple St Albans defenders before slotting expertly past Kopec-Knurek.

The next 20 minutes of the match saw the Hatters dominate although they had no goal to show for it. With 20 minutes to play St Albans had their first real chance of the match but Amy Butler was equal to it making a magnificent reaction save..

However with seven minutes left the Town wrapped up the tie with a third goal. A corner from Amber Pearson caused all sorts of trouble in the St Albans defence. A defender cleared the corner off the line but the ball falls to Buttigieg and she made no mistake from close range to set-up a semi-final meeting with Real Bedford.

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL_Official



LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

WITH WITH EVENTS SECRETARY HELEN GATWARD

Hello again. I am back for my second column of the season, and boy can I say I am proud of the results we have had since then!

I last wrote in the Crystal Palace programme, a game which we won, and since then, we narrowly, and heartbreakingly, just lost out on points against Arsenal, Man City and Chelsea but we've also had crucial wins against Newcastle, Sheffield United and a massive win against Brighton, the latter coming on my birthday – what a birthday present that was!

We've also taken important points from Newcastle and Burnley in draws and progressed in the FA Cup to set up a tasty tie at the Kenny against Man City – who knows where that could lead!

We have improved so much since the start of the season, with every game we play you can see the confidence growing amongst the whole team. To score four goals against Brighton and to then go to St James' Park and score another four in the space of week is just brilliant.

I hope the momentum we have now continues to help us get through the remainder of the season. The boys have just got to keep believing, as do all of us Hatters... we can do this!

I feel privileged to have recently been elected as Events Secretary for the Trust, a sub-committee I've been part of for many years now. I'm looking forward to getting my teeth into planning plenty of events that you can all get involved with.



Our next event is our annual Quiz Night which has been rearranged for Tuesday 5th March in the Eric Morecambe Suite from 7pm. It's always a fun night where you can test your knowledge against fellow Hatters fans – you don't have to be an Trust member to come along either, so why not get a team together and join in. Tickets are on sale now, so I hope to see some of you there. Please see our social media pages for ticket information.

LTST Podcast

I also joined hosts Kev Harper and James Cunliffe on the Trust podcast after the Burnley match and to preview the Bolton cup game. Thank you for all the kind comments.

Speaking of the podcast, the boys continue to take it from strength to strength. They now have over 1,000 subscribers on our YouTube channel and have recently had Hatters chairman David Wilkinson on for an informative chat. If you haven't watched or listened to that episode it is well worth doing so.

Social Media

Finally, if you don't already follow us on social media please take a minute to do so. You will find information on all of our events and everything we are doing. Our handle on X, Facebook and Instagram is @lutontownst.

MEET THE FANS

WITH HATTERS SUPPORTER MICK KENT

How long have you supported Luton for?

57 years and counting

Where do you sit at home matches?

I'm a diamond season card holder in a noisy back row of main stand block E.

Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

Mick Harford, no question. That man is the face of Luton as a player, coach, manager, fan and scout.

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

I was born in Luton, moved away at five and since lived in the North, Midlands, Scotland, USA and now the Cotswolds - but, at 71, the Kenny always feels like 'coming home'. I love the way Luton and 2020 go about their business; feet on the ground, stay humble, friendly and inclusive, role model club who attract staff and players with the right attitude.

What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

As an older fan, winning promotion away at Halifax in 1968 with a Brue Rioch left footer and Graham French's dazzler versus Mansfield are all up there. But last May at Wembley is the best - financial salvation, redemption, against all odds.

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

Living up north, friends and family understood and tolerated my Hatters' allegiance - two or three even joined in the away day escapades. Non-league days were different - you're going to Welling, Dartford, Nuneaton.

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

Now it's full circle and the joy, congratulations and warmth from friends, supporters of other clubs who see that we've done it the right way. We are now known and admired across the world - I'm writing this from a ship in New Zealand, where a Tunisian crew member on hearing I'm from Luton came straight out with: "ah, Luton have a great team, won the shootout at Wembley, play good football. I love them."

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

Sooooo proud of our boys - Brighton away was special, wore my shirt from the 90s that I wore at that awful away defeat at Notts County which deprived us of a Premier League start...

but I also thought a lot that day of those Hatters that never made it, likes of Alan Adair and Nigel Martin, aka Father Christmas, even though I like to think they're up there now, revelling in our current form.

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

Amazingly large and packed stadiums, among best in the world and multi-talented athletes at the peak of their game BUT the atmosphere at most grounds is dreadful, anodyne and sterile. That gives us a big advantage at home and I hope we carry that through at Power Court.

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

Roaring the boys on into 12th position by season's end, out-singing Anfield, and winning in front of 60,000 plus at Spurs new ground. You have to travel with belief. 🏆





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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

It's a big game today as the Hatters host Sheffield United in a crucial home match in the Premier League – but let's rewind to the 2018/19 season when Luton hosted high-flying Doncaster Rovers in League One as Luton looked to strengthen their title bid.

The Hatters had a tough match ahead of them against play-off hopefuls Rovers. Barnsley played in the early kick off against Walsall and won 1-0 thanks to a last-minute Jacob Brown winner. This meant Luton needed a win to calm down the pressure from the Tykes who were chasing them.

Mick Harford put out his usual full-strength team but was missing Hatters talisman James Collins as he received a call up to the Irish National team. An exciting attack of Elliot Lee, Danny Hylton and Kazenga LuaLua set the match up to be a thriller.

Luton got off to a decent start and were on the front foot. Doncaster managed to withstand the pressure for as long as possible, but it wasn't going to last. After 33 minutes, the Hatters took the lead. Some neat work by Luton led to LuaLua playing a smart backheel to Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu and he rolled his effort into the bottom left corner to put Luton ahead.

It was more of the same in the second half for Luton as the Hatters kept piling


the pressure on. There were chances but Luton just couldn't find the back of the net a second time.

That was until the 75 minute when it was finally 2-0. Some unbelievable work on the right by Jack Stacey saw his cut back fall to Luke Berry and his shot was directed in on the line by Hylton.

The wheels started to come off for Doncaster when Luton made it 3-0 after 82 minutes. Some brilliant work by Stacey again allowed him to play a through ball to LuaLua who made no mistake with his finish and celebrated with some acrobatics.

But the Hatters weren't done and it was 4-0 in injury time. Some superb individual work by Berry meant he could sneak his way through the Rovers defence before rifling his shot into the top left corner from the edge of the box.

It was an amazing win for the Town who really cemented their spot on the top of the table. A crucial win and a real stepping stone for what was to come. Let's bring the noise today!

COYH 

Words by Zac Neal





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JUNIOR HATTERS TODAY'S MASCOTS



Cuinn Conroy

Age: 10

Hobbies: Football, Golf,
Greyhounds

Favourite Players: Carlton Morris,
Ross Barkley



Harry Bygrave

Age: 10

Hobbies: Football, Rugby &
Drama

Favourite Players: Carlton Morris,
Ross Barkley



James Oxley

Age: 7

Hobbies: Playing football, tennis
and watching Luton

Favourite Player: Ross Barkley



Ronnie Whittingham

Age: 8

Hobbies: Football, DJing

Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo



Teddy Trinder

Age: 7

Hobbies: Football, Taekwondo,
Running & Gaming

Favourite Players: Thomas
Kaminski, Tom Lockyer

WELCOME TO OUR AWAY MASCOT



Poppy Varns

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football & Reading

Favourite Player: Chris Basham

TICKET NEWS



**LUTON TOWN v
MANCHESTER CITY**
FA Cup fifth round
Tuesday 27th February 2024,
kick-off 8pm

All Season Card Holders (not including Oak Road)

Season Tickets holders will be able to book their own seat from Friday 9th February at 10am until close of business on Thursday 15th February.

Oak Road Season Card Holders will NOT be able to purchase seats in their normal position, as the Oak Road Stand has been allocated to Manchester City. However, any seat that is not a season ticket currently can be purchased including availability in the Bobbers Stand, these can be purchased in person or via phone before anybody else has an option to purchase.

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

If booking online, tickets can be purchased by logging into your account and clicking on the red notification in the top right-hand corner at www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown. You can choose to receive your tickets either digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone (selecting digital ticket means only a e ticket will be sent this will not add access onto your season card). You may also receive via post if ordered during the season ticket priority period. Collection from Luton Town Ticket Office is also available, but we strongly recommend tickets are collected before the day of the game. Alternatively access can be added to your season card.

If any Diamond Season Card holder wishes to use one of their three match day vouchers, one of these may be used to purchase your seat. Diamond Season Card holders wishing to use a voucher will need to order via phone on 01582 416976 or email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk.

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

Season Card Holders will not be able to book via the Ticket Office on the day of the Sheffield United match.

Two-year Hatters Members

On Friday 16th February supporters that have held a Hatters Membership for last season and this season will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture. You will be able to book online using your unique client reference number and by phone or in person. You can choose to receive your tickets either digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. You may also receive via post if ordered during this priority period. Collection from Luton Town Ticket Office is also available, but we strongly recommend tickets are collected before the day of the game.

Hatters Members 23/24 (with a previous purchasing history before 10th May 2023)

On Monday 19th February new 23/24 Hatters Members will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture online, via phone or in person using your unique client reference number. You can choose to receive your tickets either digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. You may also receive via post if ordered during this priority period. Collection from Luton Town Ticket Office is also available, but we strongly recommend tickets are collected before the day of the game.

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

Subject to availability we will announce a further Sales Plan if tickets remain.

Prices

Adults £32, seniors over 65 and young adults under 22 £26, golden seniors over 75 and under-19s £24, under-17s £15, under-10s £10.



**LIVERPOOL v
LUTON TOWN**
Premier League
Wednesday 21st February
2024, kick-off 7.30pm

Luton Town supporters have been allocated an initial allocation of 1,626 safe standing tickets.

Away Season Ticket holders

Away season ticket holders will have payment taken and a ticket dispatched on Monday 12th February.

Please advise to ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk if you do not require your ticket by Sunday 11th February.

Diamond Season Card Holders

Tickets for this fixture go on sale on Wednesday 7th February at 10am online only to Diamond and Executive Season Card Holders at one ticket per person. They will be available, in person or via phone using your Client Reference numbers as of Thursday 8th of February when the ticket office reopens.

Season Card Holders (6 away games attended 22/23 last season)

On Monday 12th February at 10am Season Card Holders who attended six away games or more during the 2022/23 season will be able to purchase one ticket per person. They will be available online, in person or via phone using your Client Reference numbers.

All Season Card Holders

On Tuesday 13th February at 10am all Season Card Holders will be able to purchase one ticket per person. They will be available online, in person or via phone using your Client Reference numbers.

2 Year Members

Subject to availability, any two-year member can book one ticket per person on Thursday 15th February online, in person or by calling the ticket office.

Members with previous purchase history

Subject to availability, any member with previous purchase history (before 10th May 2023) can book one ticket per person on Friday 16th February online, in person or by calling the ticket office.

General Sale

Subject to availability, any supporter with a previous purchasing history can book tickets on Sunday 18th February from 11am online or by phone only (Ticket office will be open as it is a matchday)

Prices

Adults £30, seniors over-65s £22.50, young adults 17-21 £15, under-17s £9.*

*Junior tickets must be sold with an accompanying adult age 18 and over and will be refused entry into the stadium if entering alone.

Additional notice

Liverpool do not facilitate collections for any supporters.

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





MEMBERS



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

TOWN TEASERS

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

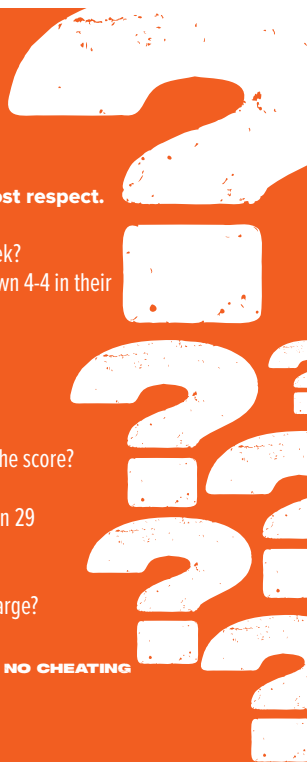
1. Former Luton manager Nathan Jones took over at which club earlier this week?
2. How many times before last Saturday's draw at Newcastle had the Town drawn 4-4 in their history?
3. How many goals in the 4-4 draw were scored by Englishmen?
4. Elijah Adebayo scored his first Luton hat-trick against Brighton, but for which team did he score his first hat-trick six years ago?
5. How many goals against Newcastle has Ross Barkley scored in his career?
6. The Town last lost at home to Sheffield United in December 1994. What was the score?
7. Which National League side are nicknamed the Spireites?
8. Which two clubs have the Hatters played the most since 1997, playing them on 29 occasions?
9. Which Sheffield club has won more derbies, United or Wednesday?
10. Against which nation did England play in Gareth Southgate's first game in charge?

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

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

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

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





Premier League

ROUND-UP



The 4-4 draw at Newcastle saw the Hatters move out of the relegation zone and put further pressure on the teams around them in the Premier League table after the last round of fixtures.

On what was the highest-scoring weekend in the competition's history, the Town leapfrogged Everton after they earned a last-gasp point in a 2-2 draw against Champions League chasing Tottenham at Goodison Park.

On Saturday night the Hatters actually stood a season's best 16th place in the table, a position we would surrender 24 hours later after Nottingham Forest earned a point from a 1-1 draw away to AFC Bournemouth.

Two teams the Town did make ground on were Brentford, who sit two places and two points away after they were defeated 3-1 at home to reigning champions Manchester City at the Gtech. Neal Maupay had the Bees ahead only for a Phil Foden hat-trick move City to within two points of the top of the league, with a game in hand.

Another side the Hatters are chasing are Crystal Palace, who sit in 14th spot and four points above us in the standings. Palace's run of form has frustrated their supporters but after beating Sheffield United in the midweek before, they failed to build on that result as they went down 4-1 at Brighton in their derby match at the American Express Community Stadium.

Sitting six points above the Town are Fulham. The Londoners looked to be

coasting to an away win at Turf Moor only for Burnley to storm back and secure a crucial late point. Burnley remain in the relegation zone on 13 points.

Our visitors this afternoon were on the receiving end of a thrashing on home soil as Aston Villa's fine season continued. Villa, who sit in fourth place and just five points off the top, were ruthless in front of goal, running out 5-0 winners at Bramall Lane. The Blades remain bottom of the table and ten points below the Hatters.

At the other end of the table, Arsenal's 3-1 win over Liverpool blew the title race back open with Mikel Arteta's side two points behind the Reds.

In games we've yet to mention, Manchester United – the visitors here next Sunday – beat West Ham at Old Trafford while Wolves stunned Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

MAN CITY v EVERTON (12.30)

FULHAM v BOURNEMOUTH

LIVERPOOL v BURNLEY

TOTTENHAM v BRIGHTON

WOLVES v BRENTFORD

FOREST v NEWCASTLE (5.30)

SUNDAY'S GAMES

WEST HAM v ARSENAL

ASTON VILLA v MAN UTD

MONDAY'S MATCH

CRYSTAL PALACE v CHELSEA

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

Umbro x Percival

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PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON											CAREER	
	LEAGUE			CUP			TOTAL		CARDS			TOTAL	
	APPS		G	APPS		G	APPS	G				APPS	G
Elijah Adebayo	12	(10)	9	3	(2)	0	15	(12)	9	1	0	136	41
Mads Andersen	4	(4)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(4)	1	1	0	10	1
Ross Barkley	15	(2)	3	3	(1)	0	18	(3)	3	2	0	21	3
Amari'i Bell	17	(0)	0	3	(2)	0	20	(2)	0	0	0	119	2
Luke Berry	0	(4)	0	2	(1)	0	2	(5)	0	1	0	171	24
Jacob Brown	12	(7)	2	1	(2)	1	13	(9)	3	5	0	22	3
Reece Burke	8	(2)	0	2	(1)	0	10	(3)	0	2	0	70	4
Tahith Chong	6	(11)	1	3	(1)	1	9	(12)	2	4	0	21	2
Jordan Clark	3	(5)	0	1	(1)	0	4	(6)	0	4	0	121	9
Alfie Doughty	18	(3)	1	5	(0)	1	23	(3)	2	3	0	61	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	22	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	22	(0)	0	3	0	22	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	8	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	10	(1)	0	2	0	11	0
Teden Mengi	14	(2)	1	4	(0)	0	18	(2)	1	3	0	20	1
Carlton Morris	16	(6)	5	3	(1)	0	19	(7)	5	1	0	77	25
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	8	(10)	0	3	(1)	0	11	(11)	0	0	0	392	23
Marvelous Nakamba	13	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	13	(1)	0	5	0	34	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	13	(8)	2	4	(1)	1	17	(9)	3	0	0	26	3
Gabriel Osho	12	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	14	(0)	2	2	0	76	5
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	(4)	1	1	(2)	0	10	(6)	1	0	0	16	1
Cauley Woodrow	0	(10)	0	2	(2)	2	2	(12)	2	0	0	49	5



Striker **Elijah Adebayo** scored his first hat-trick of his Luton Town career against Brighton to become the first man since Lars Elstrup in 1990 to hit a treble in the top-flight. Here's to many more!

2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	POS	SCORE	STARTING XI
SAT AUG 12	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	3PM	A 18	L1-4	KAMINSKI KABORÉ GILES ANDERSEN LOCKYER BELL
FRI AUG 25	CHELSEA	8PM	A 19	L0-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ GILES BURKE LOCKYER BELL
TUE AUG 29	GILLINGHAM (CC)	7.45PM	H -	W3-2	KRUL DOUGHTY GILES ANDERSEN LOCKYER BELL
FRI SEP 1	WEST HAM UNITED	8PM	H 19	L1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES BURKE ANDERSEN BELL
SAT SEP 16	FULHAM	3PM	A 20	L0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ BELL BURKE LOCKYER ANDERSEN
SAT SEP 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	H 18	D1-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY BURKE LOCKYER BELL
TUE SEP 26	EXETER CITY (CC)	7.45PM	A -	L0-1	KRUL DOUGHTY GILES MENGI ANDERSEN JOHNSON
SAT SEP 30	EVERTON	3PM	A 17	W2-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY BURKE LOCKYER BELL
SAT OCT 3	BURNLEY	7.30PM	H 17	L1-2	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER BELL
SAT OCT 7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12.30PM	H 17	L0-1	KAMINSKI BURKE DOUGHTY ANDERSEN LOCKYER OGBENE
SAT OCT 21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	A 17	D2-2	KAMINSKI BURKE DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OGBENE
SUN OCT 29	ASTON VILLA	2PM	A 18	L1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SUN NOV 5	LIVERPOOL	4.30PM	H 17	D1-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT NOV 11	MANCHESTER UNITED	3PM	A 18	L0-1	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT NOV 25	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	H 17	W2-1	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY BELL MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
SAT DEC 2	BRENTFORD	3PM	A 17	L1-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ BELL MENGI LOCKYER OSHO
TUE DEC 5	ARSENAL	8.15PM	H 17	L3-4	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI BELL OSHO
SUN DEC 10	MANCHESTER CITY	2PM	H 18	L1-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES MENGI LOCKYER BELL
SAT DEC 23	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	H 18	W1-0	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI OSHO BELL
TUE DEC 26	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	A 18	W3-2	KAMINSKI DOUGHTY GILES MENGI OSHO BELL
SAT DEC 30	CHELSEA	12.30PM	H 18	L2-3	KAMINSKI KABORÉ DOUGHTY MENGI OSHO BELL
SUN JAN 7	BOLTON WANDERERS (FAC3)	2PM	H -	D0-0	KRUL OGBENE DOUGHTY MENGI OSHO BELL
FRI JAN 12	BURNLEY	7.45PM	A 18	D1-1	KAMINSKI OGBENE DOUGHTY MENGI OSHO BELL
TUE JAN 16	BOLTON WANDERERS (FAC3R)	7.45PM	A -	W2-1	KRUL OGBENE DOUGHTY MENGI OSHO BURKE
SAT JAN 27	EVERTON (FAC4)	3PM	A -	W2-1	KRUL OGBENE DOUGHTY BURKE MENGI BELL
TUE JAN 30	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	7.45PM	H 17	W4-0	KAMINSKI OGBENE DOUGHTY BURKE MENGI BELL
SAT FEB 3	NEWCASTLE UNITED	3PM	A 17	D4-4	KAMINSKI OGBENE DOUGHTY OSHO MENGI BELL
SAT FEB 10	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM	H		
SUN FEB 18	MANCHESTER UNITED	4.30PM	H		
WED FEB 21	LIVERPOOL	7.30PM	A		
TUE FEB 27	MANCHESTER CITY (FAC5)	8.00PM	H		
SAT MAR 2	ASTON VILLA	5.30PM	H		
SAT MAR 9	CRYSTAL PALACE	3PM	A		
WED MAR 13	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	7.30PM	A		
SAT MAR 16	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM	H		
SAT MAR 30	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	3PM	A		
TUE APR 2	ARSENAL	7.45PM	A		
SAT APR 6	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	3PM	H		
SAT APR 13	MANCHESTER CITY	3PM	A		
SAT APR 20	BRENTFORD	3PM	H		
SAT APR 27	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	3PM	A		
SAT MAY 4	EVERTON	3PM	H		
SAT MAY 11	WEST HAM UNITED	3PM	A		
SUN MAY 19	FULHAM	4PM	H		

Premier League

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	23	15	6	2	52	22	30	51
2	Manchester City	22	15	4	3	54	25	29	49
3	Arsenal	23	15	4	4	47	22	25	49
4	Aston Villa	23	14	4	5	49	30	19	46
5	Tottenham Hotspur	23	13	5	5	49	35	14	44
6	Manchester United	23	12	2	9	31	32	-1	38
7	West Ham United	23	10	6	7	36	36	0	36
8	Brighton & Hove Albion	23	9	8	6	42	38	4	35
9	Newcastle United	23	10	3	10	48	37	11	33
10	Wolverhampton Wanderers	23	9	5	9	37	37	0	32
11	Chelsea	23	9	4	10	38	39	-1	31
12	Bournemouth	22	7	6	9	30	41	-11	27
13	Fulham	23	7	5	11	30	38	-8	26
14	Crystal Palace	23	6	6	11	26	40	-14	24
15	Brentford	22	6	4	12	32	39	-7	22
16	Nottingham Forest	23	5	6	12	28	41	-13	21
17	Luton Town	22	5	5	12	32	42	-10	20
18	Everton *	23	8	5	10	26	30	-4	19
19	Burnley	23	3	4	16	24	47	-23	13
20	Sheffield United	23	2	4	17	19	59	-40	10

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



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and live audio coverage via Hatters Player.



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

SUBSTITUTES										ATT	AWAY
NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS ❖	ADEBAYO	SHEA, FRANCIS-CLARKE, BERRY, CAMPBELL, DOUGHTY, BROWN, MCATEE, OGBENE, WOODROW					31,872	3,001
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	DOUGHTY, ANDERSEN, RUDDOCK-MPANZU, OGBENE, BROWN, KRUL, BERRY, WOODROW, JOHNSON					39,893	3,054
MPANZU	BERRY	WOODROW ❖	OGBENE	BROWN ❖	SHEA, BURKE, JOHNSON, KABORE, BARKLEY, CHONG, NAKAMBA, ADEBAYO, MORRIS					9,468	1,058
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	KRUL, BERRY, BROWN, FRANCIS-CLARKE, JOHNSON, KABORE, MPANZU, OGBENE, WOODROW					10,802	1,151
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, ADEBAYO, BERRY, DOUGHTY, GILES, MENGI, MPANZU, OGBENE, WOODROW					24,467	2,701
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OGBENE	MORRIS ❖	BROWN	KRUL, ADEBAYO, ANDERSEN, BERRY, CHONG, GILES, MENGI, MPANZU, WOODROW					10,893	1,091
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	SHEA, OGBENE, MORRIS, KABORE, BURKE, BROWN, BELL, BURGER, LUKER					7,360	708
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS ❖	BROWN	KRUL, ANDERSEN, BERRY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MENGI, GILES, JOHNSON					39,289	2,976
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, ANDERSEN, BERRY, BURKE, WOODROW, ADEBAYO ❖, CHONG, GILES, JOHNSON					10,918	1,126
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, BARKLEY, BERRY, WOODROW, KABORE, CHONG, MENGI, GILES, JOHNSON					10,929	1,151
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, OSHO, BARKLEY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO ❖, KABORE, GILES, TOWNSEND, LUKER					29,361	2,893
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUL, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MPANZU, GILES, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, LUKER					41,785	3,005
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUL, ADEBAYO, CHONG ❖, MPANZU, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON, LUKER					11,049	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUL, ADEBAYO, BERRY, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON					73,599	3,008
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUL, BERRY, ADEBAYO, CHONG, CLARK, BROWN ❖, GILES, NELSON, LUKER					11,029	1,149
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	CHONG	KRUL, ADEBAYO, CLARK, BROWN ❖, GILES, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, NELSON					17,075	1,725
MPANZU	BARKLEY ❖	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	KRUL, OGBENE, BERRY, MORRIS, CHONG, CLARK, GILES, JOHNSON, NELSON					11,112	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO ❖	TOWNSEND	KRUL, ANDERSEN, BERRY, MORRIS, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, LOKONGA, JOHNSON					11,047	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND ❖	KRUL, ANDERSEN, OGBENE, MORRIS, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, GILES					11,042	1,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	KRUL, SHEA, ANDERSEN, OGBENE, BERRY, MORRIS, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU					31,041	2,362
LOKONGA	BARKLEY ❖	BROWN	ADEBAYO ❖	TOWNSEND	KRUL, ANDERSEN, OGBENE, MORRIS, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, GILES					11,041	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	KAMINSKI, ANDERSEN, BERRY, WOODROW, KABORE, MPANZU, CLARK, GILES, TOWNSEND					10,739	1,609
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	KRUL, POTTS, BERRY, MORRIS ❖, WOODROW, CHONG, BURKE, MPANZU, GILES					20,155	1,432
BARKLEY	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	CHONG ❖	KAMINSKI, POTTS, BERRY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, BROWN, GILES, BELL, TOWNSEND					10,878	751
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	TOWNSEND	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	KAMINSKI, SHEA, POTTS, BERRY, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU, JOHNSON, NELSON					37,713	1,699
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	KRUL, POTTS, BERRY, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, NELSON					10,994	1,044
LOKONGA	BARKLEY ❖	CLARK	ADEBAYO ❖	MORRIS ❖	KRUL, BERRY, WOODROW, KABORE, CHONG, BURKE, MPANZU, BROWN, TOWNSEND					52,211	3,145



The Hatters' Premier League fixture at AFC Bournemouth has been rearranged for Wednesday 13th March.

The match at the Vitality Stadium will kick-off at 7:30pm, with further information on tickets to be released in due course.

The original fixture on Saturday 16th December was abandoned when our captain Tom Lockyer suffered a cardiac arrest in the 59th minute.

We were all so happy to welcome Locks back to the training ground and Kenilworth Road last week, when his return inspired his team-mates to a 4-0 win over Brighton & Hove Albion.

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



TOWN TEASERS ANSWERS:

1. Charlton Athletic; 2. Seven Times; 3. All eight; 4. Bognor Regis Town; 5. Six; 6. Sheffield United won 6-3; 7. Chesterfield; 8. Wycombe and Cambridge; 9. United lead the head-to-head 46-42; 10. Malta.



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

With James Cunliffe – Editor, the Lutonian

Have you looked up the dictionary definition of the word 'brave,' lately? My sources say it now just reads 'Luton Town, 2023/24'.

Then again, one of the most glorious goal-laden weeks of football has left many of us feeling delirious, so there's a good chance I fever-dreamed this 'fact'.

The Oxford English big book of words could do a lot worse, but speaking of banging the drum for previously unheard of causes, there's one that seems to be gaining some much-deserved momentum. Ross Barkley for England, anyone?

Not to blow one's own trumpet but this has been a regular discussion we've had on the Luton Town Supporters' Trust Podcast for months now, no doubt mirroring conversations you've had too.

But as Match of the Day last week discussed, a Three Lions call-up for the midfielder we can start to rule out simple orange-tinted spectacted giddiness, though Mick Harford's Sky Sports endorsement of his Euro 2024 credentials may rubber-stamp it for many Hatters. We hope, but it's out of all of our hands.

Instead we gather here today for the next chapter in Rob Edwards' masterplan for achieving the Premier League survival.

We've all witnessed what's going on before our very eyes with the remarkable form of not just the midfield Renaissance

man, but the whole squad. TV's fictional coach Ted Lasso was bang on when he said: "Living in the moment, it's a gift. That's why they call it the present, ya'll!"

In the recent past, however, we've had the Championship Great Escape under Nathan Jones - and good luck to him at Charlton - but similar (and hopefully not last day) success in the top-flight would likely surpass that by a magnitude of Joe Payne-level lore.

The Great(er) Escape; The Great Escape 2 - Escape Harder; The Greatest Fairytale in Football - A Force Awakens. Hollywood is welcome to any of those ropery back-of-an-envelope movie titles for a feel-good summer blockbuster, should the Hatters do what many thought was impossible! Except us, eh?

Indeed, before Christmas, Barkley told me that 40 points was achievable, and who are we to argue with him? In fact, to quote my podcast pal, Kevin Harper, "If Ross Barkley told me I could fly to the moon, I'm getting some astronaut gear!"

When it comes to turning doubters into believers - whether that's Garth Crooks or Gareth Southgate - building on the brave (and a little bit bonkers) football we've witnessed of late is the order of today. And a result against Sheffield United will be one small step for this team, but one giant leap towards survival.

You can watch the Luton Town Supporters' Trust podcast at: www.youtube.com/@lutontownsupporterstrust 



Premier
League

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sky sports



LUTON TOWN

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



SHEFFIELD UNITED

1. ADAM DAVIES
2. GEORGE BALDOCK
3. MAX LOWE
5. AUSTON TRUSTY
6. CHRIS BASHAM
7. RHIAN BREWSTER
8. GUSTAVO HAMER
9. OLI MCBURNIE
10. CAMERON ARCHER
11. BEN BRERETON DÍAZ
12. JOHN EGAN
13. IVO GRBIĆ
15. ANEL AHMEDHODŽIĆ
16. OLIVER NORWOOD
18. WES FODERINGHAM
19. JACK ROBINSON
20. JAYDEN BOGLE
21. VINÍCIUS SOUZA
22. TOM DAVIES
23. BEN OSBORN
25. ANIS SLIMANE
27. YASSER LAROUCI
28. JAMES MCATEE
30. MASON HOLGATE
32. WILL OSULA
33. RHYS NORRINGTON-DAVIES
35. ANDRE BROOKS
36. DANIEL JEBBISON
37. JORDAN AMISSAH

MATCH OFFICIALS



REFEREE - CHRISTOPHER KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT REFEREE - JAMES MAINWARING
ASSISTANT REFEREE - MARK SCHOLES
FOURTH OFFICIAL - LEWIS SMITH
VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - PAUL TIERNEY
ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - STEVEN MEREDITH