

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



ISSUE #15 | £4.00 | PREMIER LEAGUE

LUTON TOWN V MANCHESTER UNITED

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2024 | 4:30PM | KENILWORTH ROAD



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

BRING THE NOISE!



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PROGRAMME.



WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

Well, you can never say life at Luton Town is dull can you? Wins over Everton and Brighton and that draw at Newcastle made it a week to remember ahead of Sheffield United's visit last weekend. We were certainly brought back down to earth with a bump against the Blades but that disappointment only fuels the fire ahead of today's mouthwatering clash with an in-form Manchester United. It promises to be another memorable afternoon so get behind the boys and bring the noise. Come on Luton!



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ROB EDWARDS

Hello and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for an exciting and appetising game – one I'm sure many people have been looking forward to since the fixtures were released in the summer.

Last week there was no getting away from the disappointment of the result. However, there were plenty of things about the performance that gave us encouragement. Sheffield United came with the intent to slow things down and make things difficult for us. They didn't allow us to press, they went direct and got bodies behind the ball. Of course, that's their prerogative and the onus was on us break them down.

On the day, despite having plenty of the ball, we couldn't find that final bit of quality to make a breakthrough and, after having a great chance to get back into the game with 20 minutes left, a minute-and-a-half later they score a third and from that point on our task got even tougher.

So even though the result was not what we wanted, we can take heart from that fact we've been on a good run. Big parts of last Saturday were good; we dominated the game, but we know when we're involved in games when that's the case, we've got to do more with the ball and create more chances.

Your support throughout the 90 minutes was incredible. On a day in which expectations were perhaps a little bit higher following the recent

good displays against Brighton and Newcastle, that was to be expected. However, your backing was wonderful, so thank you.

Today we come up against one of the biggest clubs in the world and I know the place is going to be absolutely rocking. We'll be aiming to bounce back to winning ways and we'll attack this game, like we always do, by being brave and on the front foot.

I'd like to welcome Erik ten Hag and his staff and players to Kenilworth Road. They're in really good form and are slowly welcoming a number of senior players back to fitness. I went to watch their win at Aston Villa last Sunday in what was a good game and great result for them. They'll be confident and will want to build on that – but make no mistake we'll be doing our best to stop them.

It promises to be a great game and occasion in front of a live television audience, and you can be sure that we'll be doing all we can do give you something to roar about.

So let's stick together. We know we're in for a heck of a ride over the next couple of months and we'll give it our all on the pitch. We know without any doubt that you will do the same in the stands to help see us over the line. If we can do that, we'll achieve what we set-out to do when the season began.

Bring the noise and get behind us. 🇳🇱





Good afternoon and welcome back all you Hatters to the Kenny for what is set to be another fantastic game of Premier League football.

So here we are. I can't express how happy I am to be able to write these notes for you. It's been almost two months since my cardiac arrest at Bournemouth and honestly it's been a real rollercoaster of emotions.

Firstly, I don't think there's enough room on this page, or in this programme, to put into words how grateful I am to those people who helped me on that day. There are so many wonderful human beings to thank in order for me to be even sitting here writing this. My eternal thanks goes to the doctors, paramedics, players and staff. Their heroic actions saved my life. If you don't know CPR, then get yourself on a course. You never know when you might need it. It will give you the tools to help save someone – maybe a loved one or somebody really close to you – one day.

My recovery is going well and as you know I've popped down to the training ground a few times to meet the lads and the staff and that day in particular was a really emotional one. I received my Premier League debut ball from Mick and John Still but it was just great to be around the place I've called home for the past three-and-half years.

Life at my actual home has been good too, and I've been looked after brilliantly by my amazing family. I've been in to doing puzzles and Lego and watching plenty of telly but to be honest it's getting a bit tedious now. I just miss football.

The support I have received from this great club makes me miss it even more to be

honest. That starts at the top here from Gary Sweet and the board, to Rob and the staff, the lads and then you, the fans. The amount of cards I've received is mind-blowing. Fans of other clubs, every day people and survivors of incidents like mine have also written to me. Everyone has been so kind and supportive. It's really touching.

After I'd come into The Brache, I decided to go the Brighton game the next day. I walked onto the pitch before kick-off quite composed actually. Perhaps I didn't realise the magnitude of the situation before, but your reception completely and unexpectedly hit me. I've got no problem admitting there was a bit of moisture in my eyes. I have no words, really. Also a huge thanks to those who contributed towards the flag and for the subsequent donations made to charity.

After that... well, I'll take all the credit for what happened next! What followed on the pitch was nothing short of sensational from the boys. To dispatch Brighton the way they did, literally from the first minute, was incredible. It's great to see the boys doing so well and the results and performances have really helped lift my mood, too. Your support has helped 100 per cent so please keep it up as we aim to realise our goal of staying in this league.

The feelgood factor around the place has certainly made me feel better. It's not been easy but I'm taking all the necessary steps, including talking to specialists, to see what happens next.

Nothing would make me happier than three points today, so join me in getting behind the lads.

Cheers 🙏





FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN
DAVID WILKINSON

Good afternoon everyone. Here we are again for another enticing Premier League game at an irritatingly inconvenient time on a Sunday.

As a fan who always watches our games live I fully appreciate how difficult it can be for supporters to fit in with times set by broadcasters. This is particularly the case when train travel is so erratic and largely unavailable for returning after evening games. If you live abroad every game is broadcast live which is not the case here.

This is nothing new, I remember as we came up the leagues we often had the longest away trip on a Tuesday night. It is a regular complaint from supporters, who I'm sure would like to know they are being considered when fixture lists are drawn up and televised games are chosen.

Clubs are also affected because lack of visiting supporters can blunt the competitive edge. I'm sure this won't be the case today as we welcome Manchester United to Kenilworth Road.

The visit of course brings back memories of iconic players from the past gracing our turf, or perhaps mostly mud in those days. Bobby Charlton,

Denis Law and my personal favourite George Best, the best footballer I have ever seen live.

We have played each other only 41 times since 1897 and have won only four times. The wins came in the first ever game away when they were Newton Heath, once in the 1930s and twice in the 80s all at home.

They are, of course, a massive football club and it is an honour and privilege to be able to pit our wits against them here in the league for the first time since a 1-1 draw in 1992 – our last season in the top-flight and the season before the inception of the Premier League.

Their visit also brings to mind some of the players to have served both clubs and I particularly remember Don Givens, John Aston and Jimmy Ryan from the early 70s and we can't fail to mention Teden Mengi, Tahith Chong and Kevin Pilkington from today. Les Sealey and Mal Donaghy were two notable moves in the other direction, earning their moves to Old Trafford from here.

My last notes were written for the Brighton game, so I hope we can today produce a performance as exhilarating as that.



Last week was very much about the Premier League. Gary took part in a meeting between Premier League and Championship clubs to discuss the future of football, the New Deal for football and the proposed new regulator. Subsequently Gary and I attended the Premier League shareholders' meeting predominantly to discuss similar subjects.

There is a strong desire to reach a deal to support the pyramid and to bring in new rules to try to ensure long term stability and sustainability. However, it is not a simple exercise and the disparity is so great that it is impossible for it to be achieved overnight.

Everyone is aware that the Premier League is the richest in the world – and has been for some time. However, that has led to a significant rise in costs and future liabilities, which need to be covered by future revenues. The current discussions revolve around limiting cost inflation and finding a way for all clubs in the pyramid to live within their means. This, actually, means limiting wage costs to a percentage of turnover leaving a balance with which to operate and grow.

Once this has been negotiated and approved, the Premier League will put more money in the EFL pot, which will reduce the disparity to some extent with further to come from cost controls.

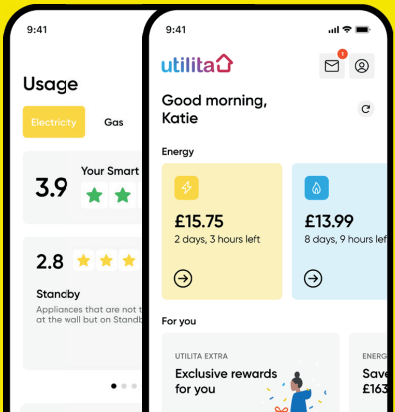
Having been the big brother for 20 years with the benefit of broadcasting revenue for all that time, it is no surprise that the gap is so big, but it's also true that the success of the Premier League is what has generated the revenue to enable these discussions to take place – and hopefully be implemented – in the near future, for the benefit of all.

We also understand that the Government is close to the introduction of the Football Governance Bill, which is intended to set the rules for the way the football industry runs and to protect the pyramid.

Football is a highly complex business with such a wide cross section of participants and there can never be a one size fits all scenario, so let's hope that the authorities exercise patience and time in their deliberations. ➤

HATTERS. IT'S TIME TO

SAVE LIKE
DAVE



Energy that's
proper smart.





One of the things that causes so much discussion are the penalties for non-compliance with the rules. This obviously rankles with us more than most because of the way we were treated 15 years ago. We weren't able to appeal our sentence and had summary justice, but circumstances have now changed. All we ask for is a fair system where all those guilty of breaking the rules are brought to task and punished proportionately in a timely manner.

I'm pleased to report that today you will see our players wearing the Utilita Charity logo on their shirts. Utilita Giving offers food, fuel and general support to vulnerable families throughout Bedfordshire, who are in financial distress. The shirts will be auctioned after the game and

there will be a collection by Utilita representatives today. Their tireless work in the community is much admired and appreciated.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to congratulate Gary, on behalf of the Board, on receiving an honorary MBA from the University of Bedfordshire. A fitting reward for all his hard work on behalf of the club and our local community.

"Justice delayed is justice denied."
William Gladstone.

Enjoy the game.

COYH.

David 🏆



UTILITA GIVING TAKEOVER

The Hatters have dedicated today's game against Manchester United to a crucial charity tackling fuel and food poverty – Utilita Giving, which supports some of the most vulnerable families across Bedfordshire.

The players will proudly wear the charity's logo on the front of their home shirt, and these limited-edition jerseys will be auctioned off following the game.

Representatives of Utilita Giving will also be outside Kenilworth Road before kick-off collecting money. Keep an eye out for their bucket collectors around the ground today.

All funds raised on the day will go towards supporting local people – either directly through Utilita Giving, or by being distributed to local charities, including the Luton Foodbank.

Food donation point at Luton Town Football Club

To support local people out of food poverty, there is a food donation point located at the main reception area of the

stadium from Monday 12th – Friday 16th February. Those who can donate, are welcome to make drop offs throughout the week.

All food donations will be given to Luton Foodbank, and any food donations which can be made are gratefully received.

Luton Foodbank accept non-perishable food, and are need of the following items:

- UHT Milk
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Vegetables
- Rice Pudding
- Dried Pasta

Fans may remember this from the charity's takeover fixture last year – the Championship game against Watford.

Utilita Giving supports individuals, families and households who are experiencing fuel and food poverty across England, Scotland and Wales, and who meet the charity's purpose and eligibility criteria.

The charity also supports groups and organisations whose intentions match that of Utilita Giving, helping people in fuel and food poverty – much like Luton Foodbank.

Town Commercial Director, Chris Bell, said: "We are delighted to proudly wear Utilita Giving on the Front of our shirt for the Premier League match against Manchester United on Sunday.

"The fixture is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the charity and funds to support the great work the charity undertakes combatting fuel and food poverty.

"Any support is greatly appreciated at this time, enjoy the game and good luck to the supporters playing Football Bowls at half-time."

NEWEST HATTER!

A big hello to the world to **Cameron Beeson**, one of our youngest fans, and



son of Town supporter **Sandy Beeson**. Cameron was born on New Year's Day this year and was quickly placed into appropriate clothing! We looking forward to welcoming you to Kenilworth Road in a few years' time, Cameron!

REST IN PEACE

It is with sadness we learn of the passing of two our loyal supporters.



Dennis Hyde had been a Town fan all his life, and was a season ticket holder for over 20 years. Together with his daughter Susan, Dennis watched the Hatters from the Kenny end and, while this season he was unable to attend games, he still watched with intent from television.

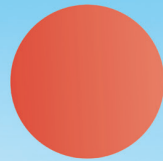


Malcolm Graham, aka Rolo – as he always had a packet for his mates at half-time – was another huge Hatters fan. In 1960/61 season Malcolm had his dream job as a ball boy; bringing out the bucket and sponge, retrieving balls from the back gardens and cleaning boots. He passed on his passion for the Hatters through the generations of his family. Thank you Luton for all the memories we have made together COYH.



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DISAPPOINTING TOWN CUT DOWN BY BLADES

The Town were brought back down to earth following their recent run of good form as bottom-of-the-table Sheffield United earned all three points at Kenilworth Road.

The Blades, without an away win all season, were 2-0 to the good at half-time as two goals in six minutes had Chris Wilder's men in command.

Wilder's side could have been two goals ahead well before they took the lead. Inside 40 seconds James McAtee bent a dangerous shot inches past the post before Cameron Archer somehow fluffed his lines from close range on 29 minutes.

However Archer was not to be denied less than 60 seconds later when he fired the visitors in front, dispossessing Gabe Osho to race forward and slot past Thomas Kaminski.

While the Town responded well to going behind, there was dismay six minutes after the Blades' first goal when they were awarded a controversial penalty after Reece Burke was adjudged to have handballed. McAtee stepped up and sent Kaminski the wrong way to double the visitors' advantage.

The second half was only seven minutes old when the Hatters found a route back into the game in similar circumstances to United's second when the ball grazed the hand of Vinicius Souza in the area. After a ridiculous wait while the officials replayed the incident, a penalty was awarded and Carlton Morris reduced the deficit when converting his spot-kick.

Only a goal behind the Hatters rallied once more. Chiedozie Ogbene saw a shot saved on 64 minutes before Alfie Doughty flashed a pass across the face of goal six minutes later.

However, as the Town pushed for an equaliser they were caught on the counter and the Blades restored their two-goal cushion when Souza fired low past Kaminski.

To their credit the Hatters continued to press, but faced with a wall of yellow shirts and despite peppering the United box with crosses from all angles, another goal would not come meaning the visitors were celebrating come the final whistle. 🏆

Kenilworth Road – 10th February 2024

Town: Kaminski; Ogbene, Doughty (sub Berry 87), Burke (sub Townsend 68), Osho, Bell; Lokonga, Barkley; Clark (sub Chong 53), Morris (sub Woodrow 87), Adebayo.

Subs not used: Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Kaboré, Chong, Mengi, Mpanzu, Brown, Townsend.

Blades: Foderingham, Bogle, Holgate, Ahmedhodzic, Robinson, Norrington-Davies (sub Lowe 5), McAtee (sub Norwood 81), Souza, Hamer (sub Davies 60), Osborn, Archer (sub Brewster 81).

Subs not used: Trusty, Larouci, Osula, Brooks, Amisssah.

SCORERS

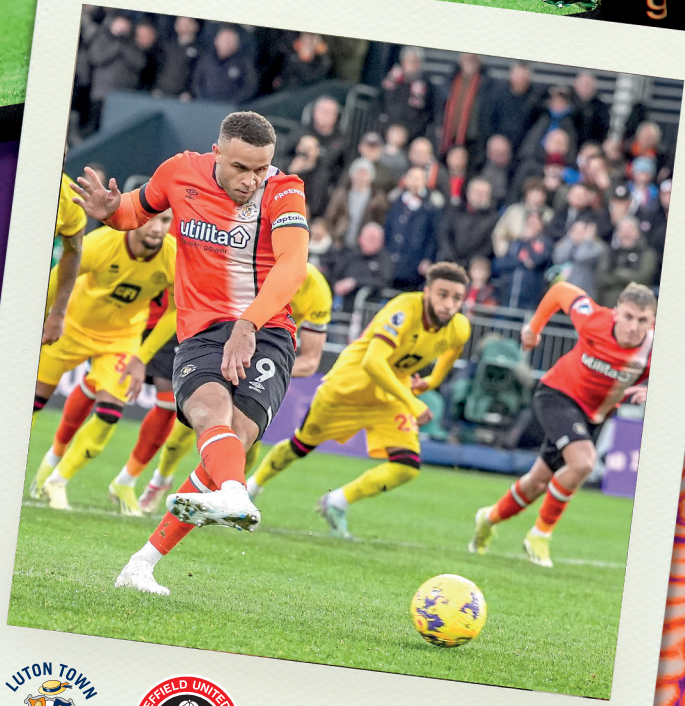
Town - Morris 52 (pen)

United – Archer 30, McAtee 36 (pen), Souza 72.

Attendance: 11,138, including 1,350 from Sheffield United.

1 - 3







 MATCH GALLERY



KODAK PORTRA 400

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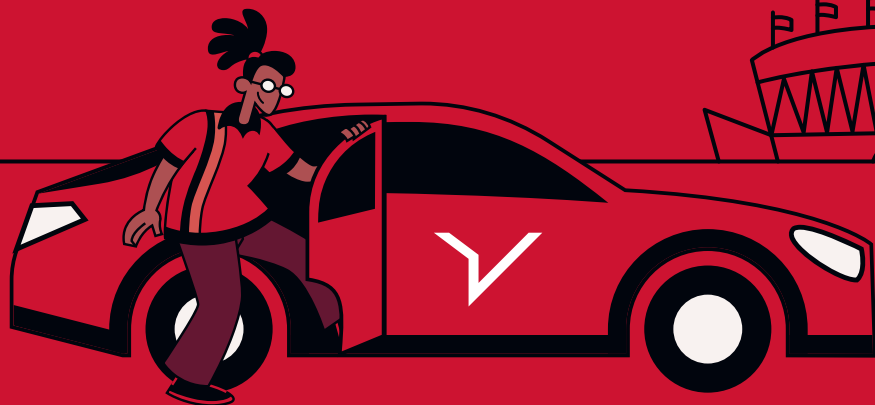
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BELIEF IS THERE

Midfielder Sami Lokonga says the Hatters will need to learn from their mistakes from last weekend's defeat starting this afternoon against Manchester United.

The Town were not at the races when Sheffield United came to Kenilworth Road last Saturday but despite the result that has not dampened spirits in the dressing room with Premier League survival still in their sights.

"It's a disappointing result, it's the way it is now, we can't change it, so we need to focus on the next game," said the on-loan Arsenal man.

"Of course, we're believing in the team, believing in ourselves. Not a lot of people were believing in us and we still have to believe in ourselves.

"We knew the importance of this game, but we didn't take it, so it's up to us to get and get some results against bigger teams."


The Hatters could not find a rhythm against the Blades and once the visitors has taken the lead it became tough to get back into proceedings despite enjoying 75 per cent of possession.

"They started well from the kick-off, they had a couple of chances, we took time to get into the game and after that it was too late to come back," said Lokonga.

"When we got it back to 2-1, we believed that we could do it, but when we conceded for 3-1 it was more difficult. We didn't stop believing, but after the 3-1 it was difficult to get back into the game.

"We need to learn from this game and check on the mistakes and to not do them again. Sheffield were waiting for the mistakes and to go and counter. They were clever with that one as they got the result, so it's up to us to not allow these mistakes for the next games.

"We had a lot of the ball, but we didn't create chances and at the end of the day we need to create chances otherwise it doesn't matter how much we have of the ball.

"They back up with numbers, so it's up to us to find the gaps to attack the back. We didn't, so it's up to us to learn from this game. We were favourites, so I don't know if we had more pressure, but we didn't get a result from being favourites." 



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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

Today we host Manchester United in a massive game in the Premier League here at Kenilworth Road. So, I think it's a good time to flashback to November 2017 when Luton faced Cambridge United in League Two.

Nathan Jones fielded a strong side which included the likes of Jack Stacey, Ollie Lee, Elliot Lee and Danny Hylton. There was a lot of anticipation going into this one and a good feeling around Kenilworth Road.

Early on in the game saw some great work down the left wing meant the ball eventually fell to Dan Potts to smash into an empty net for 1-0. It was a great start for Luton but it was going to get better.

In the 31st minute, the unthinkable happened. Cambridge lost the ball well inside the Luton half which Ollie Lee intercepted before shooting from about 70 yards out and scoring in remarkable fashion. One the best goals Kenilworth Road has ever seen. It was a moment that sparked crazy celebrations including a Hylton knee slide in front of the Cambridge goalkeeper.

Some more good work by Luton followed meant it was 3-0 under five minutes later. Luke Berry swivelled past the Cambridge defence before playing the ball to Hylton who finished well.

Just before the break, it was 4-0 to the Hatters. Some excellent work by

Hylton brought the ball down well and he played the ball through to Elliot Lee who scored with a sublime half-volley.

The second half was more of the same for Luton as it was soon 5-0. Ollie Lee played the ball wide to Stacey and his cutback pass eventually found Hylton who bundled the ball into the back of the net.

The Luton pressure continued in the 88th minute when it became 6-0. A routine pass by Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu to Elliot Lee allowed the forward to touch the ball down before releasing a rocket into the top right corner.

But the Town weren't done there as Hylton got his hat-trick in injury time for 7-0. A great free-kick from the right found the head of the striker who completed his hat-trick and the perfect win for Luton.

It was a truly special day at Kenilworth Road. Let's be loud and proud again today.

COYH! 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

Words by Zac Neal





The 'Holy Trinity' of Charlton, Best and Law

« HATTERS REWIND »

Club historian Roger Wash looks back on the night the 'Holy Trinity' came to town.

The period from 1967 through to 1971 was a golden era as far as all Hatters fans are concerned.

During this four year spell the Town had marched from Division Four through to the very brink of the top-flight with displays of open, attacking football that brought the crowds flocking back to Kenilworth Road.

The Town's rise from the basement had been underpinned by the money of chairman Tony Hunt and director Reggie Burr who owned Vehicle and General Insurance Group. When the bombshell news dropped that the company had entered into a voluntary

arrangement with its creditors it was soon realised that the V&G shares guaranteeing the club's overdraft became worthless overnight.

Whether this news affected the players is difficult to tell but over Easter 1971 all three games were lost and with it all hopes of a promotion back to Division One and a miraculous rise up through the divisions in record time.

Difficult decisions now had to be taken as money needed to be found quickly. This sadly meant the sale of the clubs major assets - the players - where top of the list was flamboyant ace goalscorer Malcolm Macdonald.

Supernac had been poached from Fulham in the summer of 1969 and had banged in 49 League goals in two seasons for the Hatters including three in his final game. This closing flourish was said to have increased his final selling



Chris Nicholl rises for a header

price by £30,000 to £180,000 when the Town finally relented and allowed him to move to Newcastle.

The three goals scored by Macdonald also enabled the Town to qualify for the Watney Cup – a pre-season competition for the top scoring clubs in each division who had not picked up any other prizes.

The Macdonald-less Town side travelled to Colchester on 31st July 1971 in the Watney Cup where they were beaten by a single goal, netted from the spot by ex- Hatters favourite Brian Lewis. Although the Town failed to get to grips with an experiment in the offside-law, brought in for a trial in that season's competition, it was still obvious that with Macdonald absent the attack was toothless.

All was now gloom at Kenilworth Road, with the loss of Macdonald, finances

wafer-thin and no lucrative Watney Cup home semi-final tie with Carlisle to look forward to. Everyone connected with the club needed some cheering up but no-one expected the plum friendly match that was to fall into their laps and bring a new spring into everyone's steps.

On the Monday following the Colchester defeat, new Manchester United manager Frank O'Farrell telephoned Kenilworth Road and offered to bring his team to Luton two days later. O'Farrell had been dismayed to see his own side crash out of the Watney Cup to lowly Halifax and was desperate to get some urgent match practice for his players and, as a regular visitor to Kenilworth Road in his previous job as manager of Leicester, obviously looked on the Town as a suitably tough, and attractive, test for his charges.

United were then, as now, a huge draw ➤

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Peter Anderson tries to get a shot away

and within minutes of the announcement of their intended visit queues were forming for stand tickets. European Cup winners only three years before the Reds still boasted the 'Holy Trinity' of George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton and all three were listed to play.

Given the short notice it was remarkable that when the turnstiles stopped clicking the crowd numbered 16,397, a record for a pre-season friendly at Kenilworth Road.

True to their word, United put out their full first team and the game soon developed into a fast, open, entertaining contest between two sides with something to prove to their supporters.

It was the Town who were first to shine with ex-United forward Don Givens bringing two great saves from the Reds goalkeeper Alex Stepney, but it was the away side who opened the scoring when a passing move between Best and Law ended with Alan Gowling giving Luton goalkeeper Tony Read no chance from close range after 13 minutes.

Another ex-United player, winger Jim Ryan, then bought Stepney to his knees with a fierce shot and although the Town had the majority of the play it took a touch of international class, just before the hour mark, to further separate the sides when Law was quickest to react after Gowling headed on a Best corner.

The two-goal lead was a touch unfair given the balance of play and when David Court fired in a shot that looked a goal all the way only to bring about yet another brilliant save from Stepney, it was realised that it was not going to be the Town's night.

Luton Town: Read, John Ryan, Slough, Keen, Nicholl, Moore, Jim Ryan, Busby, Givens, Court, Anderson.

Manchester United: Stepney, Fitzpatrick, Burns, Crerand (Kidd), James, Sadler, Morgan (Aston), Gowling, Charlton, Law, Best.



WELCOME MANCHESTER UNITED

Today, the Hatters welcome Manchester United to Kenilworth Road in another big game here in Bedfordshire.

Erik ten Hag's side have seen a recent upturn in form and are starting to gather some pace in their hunt for a Champions League spot.

The Red Devils have had a season full of ups and downs but started it off with a 1-0 home win over Wolves thanks to a Raphael Varane goal. The next match was a disappointing 2-0 away defeat to Tottenham Hotspur.

United then picked up a 3-2 win over Nottingham Forest despite being two goals down. After this, Ten Hag's lost three games in a row against Arsenal, Brighton & Hove Albion, and Bayern Munich.

The Red Devils then picked up an away win at Burnley before beating Crystal Palace in the Carabao Cup. This was followed up by a defeat to Palace in the league before a loss to Galatasaray in the Champions League.

United went on to pick up three wins on the trot against Brentford, Sheffield United and Copenhagen in October but they ended the month off on a sour note with a derby day loss to

Manchester City before being knocked out of the Carabao Cup by Newcastle United just a few days later.

It was in November when Luton and Manchester United last faced each other. A narrow 1-0 win for United at Old Trafford thanks to a Victor Lindelof goal was enough for three points.

Following this victory, Manchester United had a bit of a sticky patch in which they only won two of their next eight games and were knocked out of the Champions League in the process.

Things seemed to change when the Red Devils beat Aston Villa 3-2 at home after they came from 2-0 down on Boxing Day to win, Rasmus Hojlund scoring the winner. Soon after, they lost 2-1 away at Nottingham Forest on a tough evening at the City Ground.

This sparked a good run of form for United as they beat both Wigan and Newport in the FA Cup. They also picked up a last-minute 4-3 win away at Wolves, Kobbie Mainoo grabbing the dramatic winner. A 3-0 win against West Hama and a 2-1 away win at Aston Villa has put Erik ten Hag's side in a strong position and arrive here this afternoon in good form.

We wish everyone a warm welcome to all those associated with Manchester United.

MEET THE RED DEVILS

THE BOSS



ERIC TEN HAG. Dutchman who took over at Old Trafford in 2022 following five successful years at Ajax in which he won three Dutch league titles. In his first season with United he guided them to third in the table and won the EFL Cup.

GOALKEEPER



ANDRE ONANA. Cameroon international goalkeeper who signed for United last summer for an initial £43.8 million from Inter. Previously on Barcelona's books as youngster he came through the ranks at Ajax.

DEFENDERS



DIOGO DALOT. A product of Porto's youth system, the full-back arrived at Old Trafford in 2018. A regular for Portugal, the defender also spent one season on loan with AC Milan.



JONNY EVANS. Hugely experienced Northern Ireland international centre-back now in his second spell at the club. Came through the ranks before moves to West Brom and Leicester but rejoined last summer.



VICTOR LINDELOF. The scorer of the United winner against the Town at Old Trafford earlier this season. A Swedish international centre-half, he joined United from Benfica in 2017 for £30 million.



HARRY MAGUIRE. England international centre-half who signed from Leicester for a world record for a defender, £80 mil-

lion, in 2019. Came through the ranks at Sheffield United before moving to Hull.



LUKE SHAW. Another England international, the left-sided defender joined United from Southampton in June 2014. Scored England's opener in the Euro 2020 final against Italy.



RAFAEL VARANE. Former Real Madrid centre-half who signed for the Red Devils in 2021. The French international began his career with Lens and has won the World Cup in 2018 and was runner-up in 2022.



AARON WAN-BISSAKA. England youth international right-back Aaron joined United from Crystal Palace in 2019. Came through the ranks at Selhurst Park before a £45 million move to Old Trafford.

MIDFIELDERS



ANTONY. Brazilian right-winger who signed for the Red Devils for £82 million in August 2022 from Ajax. Began his career with Sao Paulo before moving to the Netherlands in 2020. Won Olympic gold in Tokyo in 2020.



BRUNO FERNANDES. United's captain, who has been a mainstay in the side since his arrival from Sporting Lisbon in 2020. Began his career with Novara in his native Portugal before moves to Udinese and Sampdoria.



CASEMIRO. Brazilian international defensive midfielder who arrived at Old Trafford in 2022 from Real Madrid where he won five Champions League medals. Began his career in Brazil with Sao Paulo.



CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN. Experienced midfielder who signed for the Red Devils after a short spell with Brentford. Began his career at Ajax but spent seven seasons at Tottenham before a move to Inter Milan.



KOBBIE MAINOO. Teenage midfielder who has broken into the first team this season with a number of mature performances in middle of the park. An England youth international, he made his Premier League debut in February last year.



SCOTT MCTOMINAY. Academy graduate who has now appeared well over 200 times for United since making his debut in 2017. The Scottish international scored the winning goal last week at Aston Villa.

ATTACKERS



ALEJANDRO GARNACHO. Teenager winger or attacker who has come through the ranks at Old Trafford after arriving from Atletico Madrid in 2020. Born in Spain but is already a full Argentina international.



RASMUS HOJLUND. Young Danish international forward who signed for the Red Devils for £64 million last summer from Atalanta. Started his career with Copenhagen before moving to Austria with Sturm Graz.



MARCUS RASHFORD. England striker and United academy graduate who has hit over 100 goals, including 30 last season. Made a goalscoring debut with a brace in the Europa League in 2016.



CLASSIC CLASH

LUTON TOWN 2-1 MANCHESTER UNITED
21ST APRIL 1985



CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS BACK TO WHEN A MICK HARFORD DOUBLE DOWNED UNITED

The Town's top-flight season of 1984/85 took a turn for the better just before Christmas when new chairman David Evans loosened the purse strings and in quick succession several important signings were made to strengthen a side that looked odds-on for relegation.

Steve Foster, from Aston Villa, was the first to arrive, although he could not prevent the Town losing 3-1 at Arsenal on 1st December but the following week the first win in two months was recorded when Villa were seen off 1-0 at Kenilworth Road. New signing David Preece scored the all-important goal on his Luton debut after joining the club from Walsall.

Another new face greeted the supporters by the time the next game came around, with Mick Harford being coaxed from Birmingham and matching Preece in scoring on his debut in a 2-2 draw at Leicester.

Despite all this, the Town were still in a perilous position after suffering half a season

of poor results and with away defeats at Liverpool and Everton over the New Year threatening to undo the recent good work a fourth new player was added to the squad in the shape of Peter Nicholas from Crystal Palace.

Perversely, a long run in the FA Cup, which eventually ended in semi-final defeat against Everton at Villa Park, hindered progress in the League and by the end of March the Town were still in a relegation position.

Two home victories in successive weeks against QPR and fellow strugglers Ipswich offered some breathing space but a solitary goal defeat at Southampton opened up the gap yet again.

By the time of the visit of Manchester United on 21st April the Town had lifted themselves just above the relegation positions, though, following a 4-0 win at basement club Stoke and a 3-1 home victory over Norwich immediately after the FA Cup semi-final.



Although an attractive fixture, the game against Manchester United was not one that Luton supporters looked forward to with relish due to the fact that the Town had yet to beat them in a Division One (now Premier League) clash at Kenilworth Road.

The game was to be televised live and the watching millions were no doubt hoping for a repeat of the previous season's meeting in front of the cameras when the Hatters capitulated to a rampant United who won 5-0.

The clash had added spice as the Reds were hot on the heels of Everton at the top of the table but it was the Town who made the early running and in the first half United's Gary Bailey was the busier of the two goalkeepers making important stops to deny Preece and Brian Stein.

The Town surged forward in the second period and after Bailey did well to tip over a 30-yard effort from Nicholas he was left hopelessly exposed in the 68th minute. Stein was sent clear by Foster and an attempted back-pass by Graeme Hogg fell

short leaving Bailey with no option but to up-end the striker.

Harford converted the penalty, but the goal stung United into life and only three minutes later they equalised when Norman Whiteside stabbed the ball home from close range with the Town players complaining that Les Sealey in the Luton goal had been fouled in the build-up.

Instead of feeling sorry for themselves the Luton players attacked with a vengeance in search of the winner and with only a minute to go Preece was brought down on the edge of the area by Bryan Robson. The resulting free-kick was hammered against the cross bar by Foster and with a dozen players waiting for the ball to drop, Harford launched himself over friend and foe to glance home the winner with his head.

There was hardly time for the re-start and with the dejected United players trudging off the pitch, Luton supporters savoured the moment of a first top-flight win over the Reds as well as avenging the embarrassing defeat of the previous campaign.

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A HATTER AND A RED DEVIL

There has been a good selection of players down the years to have donned the colours of both clubs – just ask Tahith Chong and Teden Mengi – and goalkeeper coach Kevin Pilkington.

John Aston and Jimmy Ryan did the same, while Mal Donaghy played over 400 times for the Town, winning the League Cup in 1988 before moving to United and helping Alex Ferguson's side win the Cup Winners' Cup in 1991.

However, our spotlight falls on a certain goalkeeper. **Les Sealey** was a marvellous goalkeeper for nine different League clubs over a 20-year playing career, and is warmly remembered at Kenilworth Road where he made over 200 appearances in undoubtedly the best ever Hatters side in the club's history.

Although a Londoner, the brave, positive and loud goalkeeper started his career as an apprentice at Coventry before signing for the Hatters in 1983 for £120,000. He missed out on the 1988 Littlewoods Cup triumph through injury but was between the sticks for the Town at Wembley 12 months later.

After leaving the Town for Manchester United he added both an FA Cup winners' medal and a European Cup Winners' Cup medal to his collection while at Old Trafford.

Les was a fantastic character and finished his playing career back home at West Ham but sadly died in 2001 at the young age of 43. Gone but definitely not forgotten.

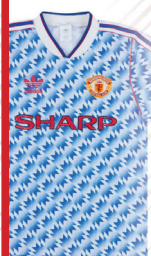


GREAT GAMES TOWN 2-1 MAN UTD

14TH MARCH 1987

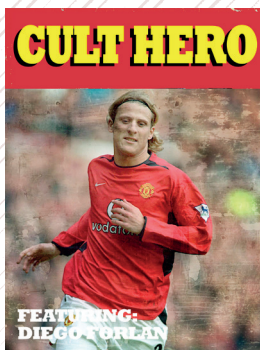
It's been 37 years since the Town last tasted victory over United – one of only three occasions in which the Hatters have gained a win over today's visitors.

Back in March 1987, United came to Kenilworth Road unbeaten since the turn of the year while the Hatters had just come off the back of a 2-0 defeat at Liverpool in their previous match. Despite the form, the Town turn the tables, running out deserved winners against Alex Ferguson's side. Mick Harford, captaining the side, knocks in an early opener to put the Town on their way and Brian Stein adds a second to rubber-stamp the victory.



CLASSIC KIT

United's 1990/91 away shirt gets the nod here – and no, that's not because we saw it listed for almost £300 online. This blue and white offering with red trim from Adidas just shouts "classic nineties United", as does the Sharp sponsorship that certainly takes us back to a simpler time.



CULT HERO: DIEGO FORLAN

Diego Forlan arrived at Old Trafford for almost £7m in 2002 with a hefty price tag and expectations. However, the Uruguayan's inability to hit the target saw him eventually shipped off to Spain where he rediscovered his scoring touch. However, any United fan will tell you that scoring against Liverpool means a lot, so when he struck two goals in win at Anfield all the past misses paled into insignificance and a cult hero was born.



VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD

REGARDLESS OF WINS AND TROPHIES, LIFE FOLLOWING YOUR TEAM IS NEVER REALLY DULL, NO MATTER WHO YOU SUPPORT. HOWEVER, FOR FOLLOWERS OF OUR VISITORS, THERE HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN MORE HAPPY TIMES THAN BAD. WE CAUGHT UP WITH RED DEVILS FAN GREG PUGH TO GET THE LOWDOWN ON ALL THINGS UNITED.

What does it mean to be a Manchester United supporter?

What's important for me is travelling to domestic home and away games and at European ties – although maybe not European next year –with my family and friends and meeting up with fellow supporters from all over country and Europe.

How important is watching United to you and why?

I first saw United in the mid-sixties and in 1976 I formed a supporters club for United fans in Rugby. I have organised transport for all games for local supporters ever since. All my family, wife, two sons and grandkids have been given no option but to share my passion for United - all have season tickets.

Luton might have had their rollercoaster ride, but can United fans associate with that? Describe how the ups and downs of following the club have impacted your life.

I remember United being relegated - not as dramatic as Luton's slide - but at the time I was devastated. However the next season in the old second division was a great year following United with immediate promotion. I am sure that many Luton fans will also have great memories of the team's climb back to the top.

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

Unfair question. How can I ignore Charlton, Law, Robson, Cantona, Keane, Scholes and Ronaldo? All world class players. But for me I have never seen a player to compare with George Best – and that includes Maradona and Messi.

Are there any matches against Luton that you remember in particular?

The FA Cup game fourth round tie in 1983. United won 2-0 and went on to win the trophy.

Can you put into words the feeling of being a Manchester United fan right now? What's your expectations for the remainder of the season and beyond?

At last Erik ten Hag has most of the squad fit and available and the difference in the performances in the last few weeks has been much improved.

I believe the gap to the top four is too great for United to close now so I am hoping for wins against Liverpool Arsenal and City in the league and hopefully a good cup run. The most exciting thing for me this season has been the emergence of Kobbie Mainoo and other youngsters and the progress of Garnacho and Hojlund.

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

I am unable to get my sons to understand the way following football has changed since the 60s and 70s so I certainly can't explain to you and your readers!

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

The FA Cup semi-final replay 1999 at Villa Park against Arsenal. Ryan Giggs' extra time winner. I finally started to believe that the treble was actually a possibility. The rest, as they say, is history.

Let's hope for a good game today.



Winger Andros Townsend had almost accepted that his time as a player had come to an end last year when he was unable to find a club to continue his illustrious career after a summer move to Burnley fell through.

The attacker admitted he thought his time in the Premier League was done, although he always had hopes of attracting an overseas move but nothing materialised.

“The longer it went on I questioned whether I would play again,” he said. “At the start of the summer I thought maybe my Premier League career would be over but I might be able to go overseas and build a career there, but as the months went on and the rejections came thick and fast I started to realise maybe this is me now, maybe it’s over.”

A life in the media side of the game looked on the horizon for the 32-year-old, who began this campaign as a pundit

working for Sky Sports, however Rob Edwards came calling in the nick of time and offered the attacker the chance to show him what he could do.

A few weeks later the Tottenham academy product had done enough to earn a deal until 2026.

Yet adversity and doing it the hard way has been a theme of Andros’ life, not just his career.

He lost his brother, Kurtis, when he was just ten and a gambling addiction almost ruined his time in football before it had really got going, but a compulsive personality and a determination to make it at the top ensured that he would fulfil his dream of being a Premier League footballer

Despite a raft of injuries, including an ACL problem which kept him out of the game for 18 months while at Everton, he isn’t ready to end his top flight tenure just yet.

Townsend’s route to the top came via the Tottenham academy but it was a series of loan moves away from what was White Hart Lane at the time, and a taste of playing men’s football which allowed him to learn his trade.

Bursting onto the scene as a winger, the former England international has matured into a much more all-round player, a cleverer version of himself that accepts that he can’t keep up with the speedsters in the sport any more but what he might lack in speed over the grass, he now

makes up for with his understanding of his game.

“The player that made his debut all those years ago relied on speed, using that speed to get past players and be effective, whereas now I think I’m more upstairs,” he says.

“When you get into your thirties and some of the players I’m seeing now like Chieo, I can’t compete so I have to find other ways to be influential so I have to use my brain more, I have to be technically better. I’m seeing myself as being more clever upstairs.”

The attacker has fitted into his new surroundings very well and recently scored the 50th goal of his Premier League career when he headed the winner against Newcastle in December.

He believes the squad have what it takes to keep the Town in the top flight at the end of the season, largely down to the dressing room he walked into.

“The dressing room is definitely up there in terms of the best I’ve been in with the team spirit and cohesion,” he says. “It is a special, special atmosphere and one of the main reasons why this club has come from the Conference to the Premier League in a short space of time.

“There is 100 per cent belief we can stay up. When I walked in the door we weren’t getting the points we deserved and needed to but there was always belief that we were good enough but now we

are showing the Premier League and the outside world and those who doubted us that we’re good enough to be in this league.”

Another factor behind he and his teammates’ determination to keep the Hatters in the Premier League is his captain, Tom Lockyer.

“Obviously what happened with Tom was traumatic for everyone connected with Luton, but especially us players who were out there or in the dressing room,” says Townsend. “It has made us realise that we’re all brothers and we’ve come together and we’re doing it for Locks.

“We don’t have any more reason or incentive to stay in the Premier League but we are trying to do something special for our captain.”

Thankfully it looks like the full-time punditry career will wait and Town fans can expect to see the best version of Townsend for a while to come.



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KITS FROM THE PAST

The 1981/82 home shirt is something to behold. It is a classic design that I'm sure will put a smile on all Hatters fans faces.

It was so good, the club used the same design from the 1981 season, right through to the 1984/85 season when it changed to another class, and one we've already featured!

The shirt is so classy and very 'Luton Town' (if that's a thing!). A crisp, white shirt with bold orange sleeves and the famous three stripes down the sides of said sleeves. That wonderful, retro Adidas logo on the right breast, and the iconic 80's Luton Town badge on the left. Ironically, Adidas are using that 80's logo on more of their products now – retro is cool again!

The season started with the sponsorless version, before Tricentrol adorned the front of this iconic shirt.

There was no collar for this season, which marked a bit of a design change for Adidas considering our shirts had traditional collars since the 1979 shirts. Instead, something of a rounded, more modern neckline was introduced. This certainly wouldn't look out of place in the modern game.

As for the season, well, the on-field antics matched the wonderful shirts we had. This was the season, under David Pleat, we won the old Second Division, winning promotion to the top-flight once again.

Results like a 2-1 away win at Chelsea, a 3-2 home win versus Newcastle and a mighty 4-1 home win over Watford saw us win the league eight points ahead of our M1 neighbours, with a +40-goal difference!

We had legends like David Moss, Ricky Hill, Brian Stein, Bob Horton, Kirk Stephens, Mal Donaghy, Raddy Antic and Jake Findlay playing for us that season – names Hatters fans of that era will remember with great fondness.

If, like me, 1981/82 is slightly before your time, then Hatters Heritage have a full Season Review on their YouTube channel which is well worth a watch!



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PAM!

Derek Ludlow is sponsoring the new executive Bobbers box for today's match against Manchester United to celebrate the 80th birthday of his wife Pam, together with their enlarged family.

The couple met at Luton Town Football Club ground in 1959 – 65 years ago – as teenage programme sellers.

Derek recalls being able to quickly sell 500 programmes (when gates were 20,000 plus), help Pam sell hers, cash up, see the majority of the game and watch their heroes the great Syd Owen, Bud Aherne and the brilliant Gordon Turner.

Then it was a Picture Show, Dancing at the Luton Tech to the up and coming Baron Knights from Leighton Buzzard. Since then they, their children and grandchildren have been lifelong supporters of 'The Hatters', through good and not so good times.

Derek was Founder of the Century Club in 1973 and until recent years privileged to be a Vice President of the club.

Pam's favourite match was the Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley 24th April 1988 with the Hatters running out 3-2 winners. Together Pam, Derek, family and friends have known many eminent managers, including Alec Stock, David Pleat, Ray Harford, John Still, Mick Harford up to the present excellent Rob Edwards. They have a favourite fan and friend in John Pyper who travels the length and breadth of the country in support of Luton Town.

However, they save their greatest admiration for Gary Sweet the Chief Executive, who has accomplished a terrific job in saving Luton Town, marshalling them to the Premier League and will, hopefully, complete his greatest ambitions soon, in taking our famous club to a new 21st century stadium – in, of course, Luton.

What better way could there be for a teenage programme seller to complete a lifetime's support as the Hatters entertain Manchester United in the top-flight, on an afternoon that also sees their grandson Jamie lining up as mascot.

Happy birthday, Pam!

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10: CAULEY WOODROW



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11: ELIJAH ADEBAYO



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T: AVAILABLE
TW: AVAILABLE

20: LOUIE WATSON



H: AVAILABLE
A: Temple Flooring LTD
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TW: AVAILABLE

21: JOHN MCATEE



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A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE
TW: AVAILABLE

23: TIM KRUL



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A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE
TW: AVAILABLE

24: THOMAS KAMINSKI



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TW: AVAILABLE

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OUR LAST HOME GAME HERE IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE AGAINST SHEFFIELD UNITED SAW SAMBI LOKONGA NAMED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH, AND THE TOWN MIDFIELDER RECEIVED HIS TROPHY POST-MATCH IN THE ERIC MORECAMBE SUITE.

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



Today we have the pleasure of welcoming match sponsor Barry Patel of Nisa Local Marsh Farm plus 11 home mascots as we welcome Manchester United to Kenilworth Road. We all hope you have an enjoyable afternoon with us.

Nisa

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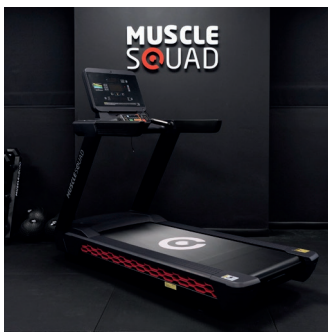
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ON THIS DAY



GREAT GAME TOWN 0-0 LIVERPOOL 18TH FEBRUARY 1984

Back in the 1983/84 season the Hatters were thumped 6-0 at Anfield. Liverpool had one of those afternoons where everything came off and the Town suffered their worst defeat in almost 20 years. In an awesome display of attacking football, Ian Rush hit five.

Later in the season for the return on this day in 1984, the Town go into the match off the back of a 5-0 home defeat to Manchester United!

However, the Hatters win back their pride against the league leaders following the debacle of the previous week. Liverpool are harried and hassled for the whole of the 90 minutes and are never allowed to settle. Clive Goodyear makes a rare appearance and manages to keep the prolific Rush quiet.

Town: Sealey, Stephens, Thomas, Horton, Elliott, Goodyear, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Donaghy, Daniel.

THE RECORD

The Hatters record on this day is not the greatest down the years, winning just seven of the 20 games played on 18th February in the history books.

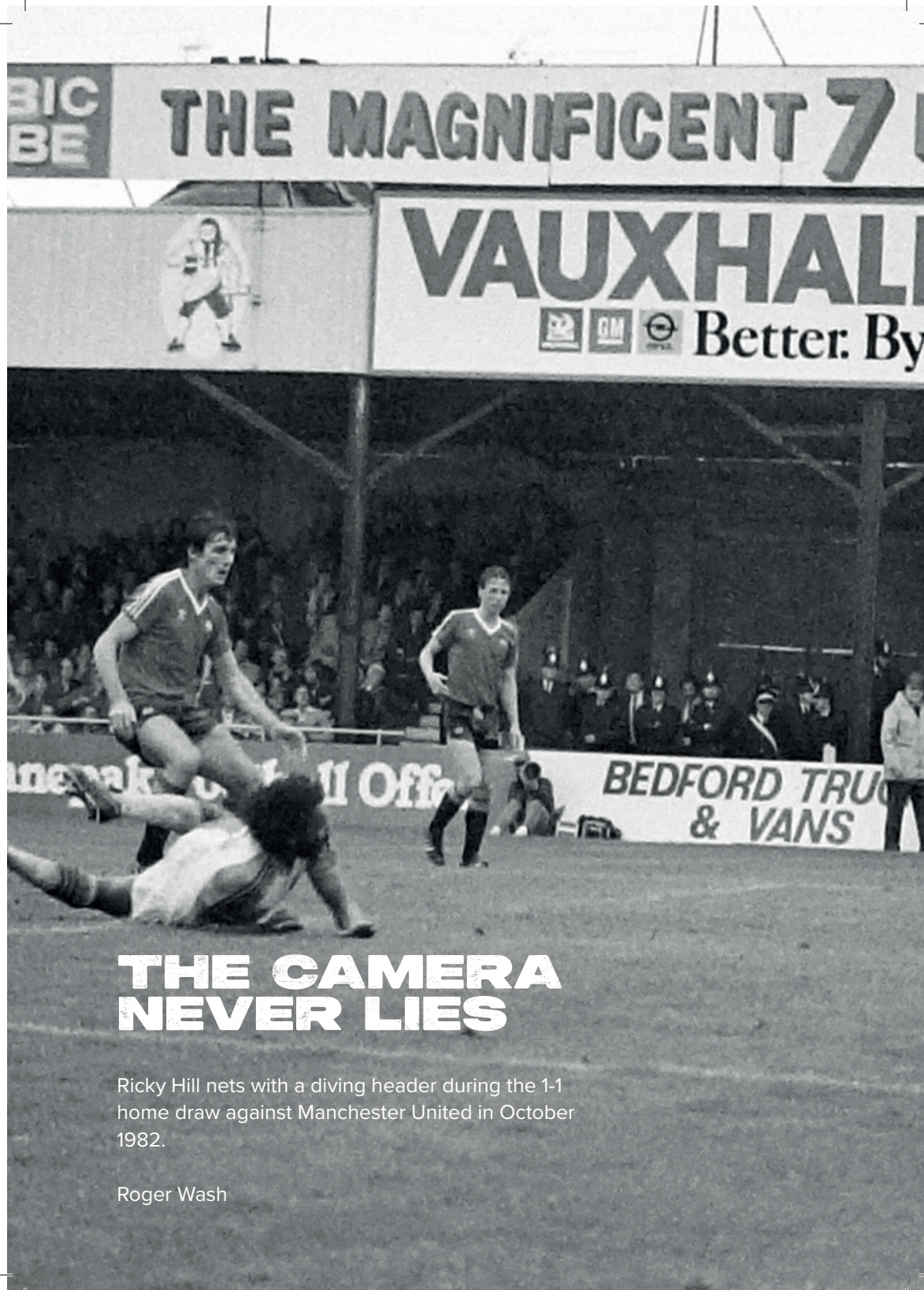
But, as readers of this column will no doubt testify, the Luton team of today will not be worried that the side of 1899 lost away to Walsall in Division Two – even though that's exactly what happened on this very day 125 years ago.

You can rewind even more recently to find the last time the Hatters played, and lost, on this day. 365 days go we went down 1-0 against Burnley here at Kenilworth Road. Despite taking the game to the league leaders, the Clarets earned all three points thanks to a penalty from Ashley Barnes. Tom Lockyer was sent off in that game – essentially for arguing against the award of that pen – and that red card is the last time a Town man has been dismissed since. There's the jinx right there, folks.

The last time the Town won on this date was back in 2012 when Tamworth were seen off 3-0 in the Conference in front of 5,833. Goals from Stuart Fleetwood and Janos Kovacs, plus an own goal, secured all three points.

That victory was the Hatters' first on this day in 17 years. On that day in 1995, two goals from Dwight Marshall help earn the Town a 3-0 win over Swindon at Kenilworth Road.

You have to go back even further for the last time the Town tasted an away win on this day: an FA Cup second replay against Brentford that saw them run out 3-2 winners back in 1952 which saw 37,269 pile into Griffin Park.



THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Ricky Hill nets with a diving header during the 1-1 home draw against Manchester United in October 1982.

Roger Wash



ON THIS DAY

A year is a long time in football. On this day 12 months ago the Town fell to a 1-0 home defeat to Burnley in the Championship.

The Hatters only had a one-point buffer inside the play-offs but after this set-back the team would go on a 14-match unbeaten run, winning eight of those, on their way to winning promotion.







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BOBBERS BOX

Our new private hospitality area offers a unique experience for up to 14 people with unrivalled views of the pitch. The Bobbers Box is situated on the Bobbers Stand and is within reach of the corner flag and the on pitch action.

This luxurious exclusive experience provides a great hospitality experience and is our closest hospitality offering to the famous Kenilworth Road pitch!

- Space for up to 14 guests
- Champagne reception on arrival
- Complimentary full service bar
- Pre-Match food selection
- Half time refreshments
- Full-time cheese and charcuterie
- Matchday Gifts
- Programmes & team sheets
- Seating outside box

Package Price: £525 per guest

Dress code: Smart Casual: Smart denim is permitted within this area; however sportswear and replica shirts are not.

Parking: Unfortunately due to the limited availability we do not have parking spaces on offer.

BOOT ROOM

Kenilworth Road's new hospitality lounge offers a unique experience at the heart of the stadium. The aptly named "Boot Room" is within arms' reach of the players dressing room and the heart of the action.

- Champagne reception on arrival
- Complimentary full service bar
- Three course meal
- Half time refreshments
- Matchday Gifts
- Programmes & team sheets
- Seating in Sponsors Area

Package Price: £350 per guest

Dress code: Smart Casual: Smart denim is permitted within this area; however sportswear and replica shirts are not.

PHOENIX SUITE

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Asa Hall tries an overhead kick during the clash at Oxford



Keith Keane's last minute corner nestles in the net

A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS

Part Thirteen. O is for Oxford United

Although having met Oxford in the top flight in the 1980s both clubs suffered falls from grace and found themselves locking horns in the Conference in 2009/10.

Oxford had been desperately trying to get out of the division since suffering relegation in 2006 while we were hoping to bounce back at the first attempt.

Both sides had enjoyed an unbeaten start to the season and after eight games Oxford were in top place while we were third. The scene was set and on a balmy evening in early September a crowd of 10,613 gathered at the Kassam Stadium to see a game that kicked-off 15 minutes late because of crowd congestion.

Oxford started by far the brighter side and were awarded a penalty in the third minute which was saved by Luton goalkeeper Mark Tyler only for the ball to be recycled back to the penalty taker, James Constable, who made no mistake.

The lead was doubled on 16 minutes when Jamie Cook smashed a shot into the top corner from 25 yards and from then on it was damage limitation with the situation becoming much worse just

before the hour mark when skipper Kevin Nicholls was sent off for a poor challenge on Oxford's Matt Green.

The return was played in early February. Oxford were still top while we were some way behind in seventh but the local interest boosted the crowd to a best of the season 8,860.

This time we were on the front foot from the start with Oxford defending doggedly but chances were spurned leading to the inevitable breakaway goal on 75 minutes through Green.

The game drifted into stoppage time when the Town were awarded a corner and with everyone up George Pilkington headed through a packed area to equalise.

There was still time for another attack which ended in a corner taken by Keith Keane which looped over the top of everyone into the corner of the net. Cue pandemonium with Keane being dismissed for 'over celebrating' but he didn't seem to care.

At the season's end we had overtaken Oxford to finish second behind Stevenage but lost in the play-offs to York who, in turn were beaten by Oxford at Wembley in the final. 🏆

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WE'RE WITH YOU

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP ADVENTURE ENDS IN DEFEAT

The Town Under-21s ended their Premier League Cup campaign with defeat against Leeds United at St Albans City.

Adrian Forbes' side started the brighter with two good chances in the opening minutes. Firstly, Aidan Francis-Clark went close with a header before Archie Heron shot from the edge of the penalty area.

The young Hatters came even closer on the 12-minute mark when Jake Burger saw a shot saved before Leeds defender Diogo Monteiro volleyed a clearance against his own post.

Burger then saw a shot tipped over the bar with an angled drive on 19 minutes as the Town hunted the opener.

However, as the first half wore on, the visitors began to get on top and the Yorkshire side hit a quickfire double to put them in command ten minutes before the break.

Sonny Perkins fired in the first, drilling a shot beyond Oliver Camis in the Hatters goal and barely a minute later Charlie Allen's shot from outside the area flew past Camis.

Behind at the break, the Town rallied in the second period. Six minutes after the restart Burger's free-kick was saved and just after the hour mark Joe Johnson's deep cross was headed goalwards by Oli Lynch.

With 20 minutes left Alex Piesold drove an effort over as the Hatters sought a goal to give them hope. As the game entered its final 10 minutes, Francis-Clarke tested Cristy once more, this time the Leeds stopper saving well to keep out the Town's defender's well-hit goalbound drive from 25 yards.

Camis then prevented Leeds from putting the game beyond doubt on 83 minutes when stopping Luca Thomas' effort from the edge of the Hatters penalty area.

Burger volleyed a late effort just wide, narrowly missing out on a deserved goal, as the Hatters ended their Premier League Cup campaign with a sixth defeat from their six matches.



Clarence Park - 12th February 2024

Hatters: Camis, Pinnington, Johnson, Piesold, Francis-Clarke, Bateson, Heron (sub Lorentzen-Jones 72) Burger, Lynch, Phillips, Matthews-Lewis (sub Anderson 77).

Subs not used: Blackledge, Kayibanda, Allen.

Attendance: 470



HATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

HAFIZUL ISLAM WINS PREMIER LEAGUE COMMUNITY CAPTAIN AWARD

The Premier League provides funding for 164 football clubs across the Premier League, EFL and National League to deliver community programmes.

The majority of these are funded through the Premier League Charitable Fund (PLCF), which was established in 2010 to create positive sporting, health, personal and education opportunities for children, young people and the wider community. The Premier League is currently celebrating the More Than A Game campaign to showcase how its wide-ranging investment into all levels of football enables people connected to clubs to have a positive impact on their local communities.

As part of the More Than A Game campaign, we were asked to nominate a Community Captain. This should be someone that has played a major role in the Premier League funded events. We were proud to put forward Hafizul Islam as our Community Captain.

Hafizul first came to us as a participant on Premier League Kicks at the age of 16. PL Kicks is the league's longest-standing programme, providing young people with

access to free weekly football sessions, education and mentoring.

At Luton Town FC Community Trust, we delivered PL Kicks to over 700 young people in the last year. We were fortunate enough to receive further funding from Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation (BLCF) this year, allowing us to enhance our delivery and increase informal education delivered by youth workers at these sessions.

Hafizul showed a fantastic attitude and expressed an interest in undertaking his coaching qualifications, which we were happy to support him with along with a group made up from other PL Kicks participants. He then made the move from participant to volunteer, now taking on a senior role amongst what was previously his peers.

It wasn't long before we realised Hafizul had a real talent and confidence in delivery and was offered part-time work through the trust supporting on our holiday camps. Again, Hafizul thoroughly impressed us with his excellent leadership skills and was swiftly offered more work, this time working on our Mini Hatters programme, running on Saturday mornings for three-to-five year olds.

Working with a completely different age group didn't phase Hafizul at all and it was clear to see that he was capable of even more.





Fast forward to today and Hafizul is now established as a full-time member of staff with Luton Town FC Community Trust, working as School's Officer in Wigmore Primary School, where he delivers the Premier League Primary Stars programme. PL Primary Stars is currently running at over 19,000 schools across England and Wales, using football as a tool to support learning across literacy, numeracy and PSHE and other areas of the curriculum.

Wigmore Primary School, Headteacher, Mr Johnston was full of praise for Hafizul.

He said: "In his time with us Hafizul has developed a positive rapport with the young people at Wigmore. He is supporting the learning that is happening in the classrooms and the children have responded well to this, developing an increased confidence in different curriculum areas. He has also been leading fun and engaging games on the playground to help the children understand the importance of good physical and social health.

"The work he has completed in PSHE has tied in very well with our school values, doing small group work on resilience, understanding and celebrating diversity and developing positive self-esteem."

Hafizul was presented with the Community Captain award this week and it was an extremely special day.

The BBC came into the school to film Hafizul as part of a community feature for Match of the Day 2, which will air on 3rd March. He was filmed supporting the pupils in literacy and numeracy lessons, as well as leading outdoor activities at lunchtime.

Then came the afternoon assembly where Mr Johnston, talked about the importance of current school value of empathy, as well as the upcoming class awards. Mr Johnston then explained that there were some special guests in the school to present an award, introducing Thomas Kaminski and Sambu Lokonga. Needless to say the children were extremely excited to see two of their Hatters heroes in their school. Thomas and Sambu then presented Hafizul with his Community Captain award.

Hafizul said: "This was a massive surprise. I was speechless when my name was called. It was just a huge honour to receive the award, especially to have it awarded to me by Thomas and Sambu!"

Thomas and Sambu were very generous with their time, sticking around to answer question from the children, including some that were asked in French with the pupils taking the opportunity to practice their language skills!

We're incredibly proud of Hafizul and what the journey he has undertaken through Luton Town FC Community Trust.

He's a great role model for young people and richly deserved the Premier League Community Captain award.

Congratulations Hafizul!



ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH ACADEMY MANAGER PAUL BENSON



Last Monday night saw the conclusion of our Under-21s campaign in the Premier League Cup. It's been a baptism of fire for the boys but one that has given them an exposure to the standards that are expected at the highest levels of academy football.

One of the hardest things to do in football is put the ball in the back of the net and this is the area we struggled with most throughout our campaign in the competition, we speak regularly with the boys about games being won and lost in both boxes, with the importance of being ruthless in those areas.

It's a killer instinct that's required, both in attacking and defending the box, and the desire to stick your head on the ball can be difficult to engrain into an individual, but that's our job and we will continue to educate the boys as to the importance of that part of the game.

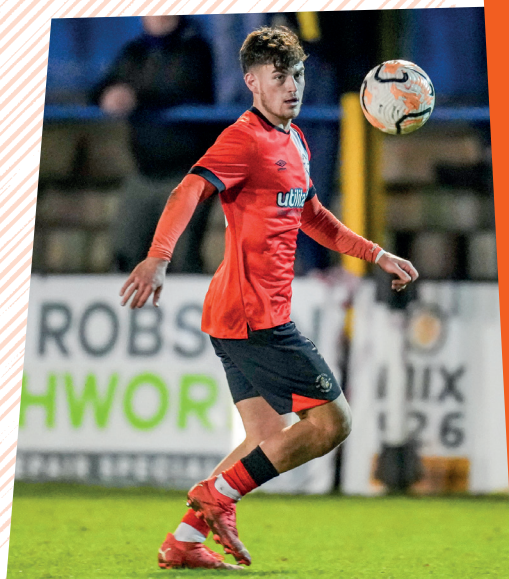
Our play in between the boxes was pleasing for the most part and the players can take a lot of confidence from their performances in this area. It is important, however, we do not accept this as the standard and that we constantly look to evolve and improve, to take the bar higher so that we do not only compete against these category 1 sides, but that we excel and beat these academies.

Although we finish the group without anything to show for it in terms of points, with games against Chelsea, Leeds and Colchester, the learning has been invaluable. This is the level we want our boys competing at on a consistent basis. It's my belief that players develop quicker playing with and against better players.

The pleasing for me is the fact we have managed to include several of our under-16s in these games. Christian Chigozie and Benedict Benagr have acquitted themselves superbly when called upon, and I have no doubt these experiences will only benefit them moving forwards.

We continue to challenge this group with the best games programme we can provide. The Premier League Cup has been a welcome addition to our programme. These games, alongside the Beds Senior Cup, add competitive action to their fixtures, which is something we are always striving to achieve.

Another addition we have looked to include for the group this season is an introduc-



tion to international games, and with fixtures organised with both Lyon (at home in March) and a trip to Club Brugge in Belgium in April for the boys to look forward to and test themselves against quality European opposition.

Our Under-18s also concluded their Youth Alliance League last weekend with a 4-2 victory over Sutton. This win secured the title for Alex Lawless' side, a fantastic achievement for him and the boys and retains the title following on from last year's success in the competition.

When Alan McCormack moved up into the first team at the start of the season, we had a natural replacement already in Alex, and after an extensive recruitment process this became even more apparent. Alex is a perfect fit; he has a development mindset, always has, even as a player he would be the one to impart wisdom and advice to the younger boys in the side.

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

This group has thrived with him as their coach and I have seen massive improvements from them, both on and off the pitch, which has culminated in them achieving what they have.

For the remainder of the season, we now move onto the Merit League, which is where the top five of the South East Youth Alliance, merge with the top five of the South West and play in a new league, playing each other once.

This will be a challenge for the group as we will now push our Under-18s into the Under-21s group to test them, meaning the side that plays in the Merit League will be made up of our Under-17s and Under-16s.

COYH

Benno

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Aidan Francis-Clarke



H: AVAILABLE
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T: AVAILABLE

Archie Heron



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Axel Piesold



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Ben Tompkins



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
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Jack Bateson



H: FORMBY HATTERS
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Jacob Pinnington



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Jake Burger



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Jameson Horlick



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
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Jayden Luker



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
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Josh Allen



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Joshua Odell-Bature



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Millar Matthews-Lewis



H: Les Miller, Miller & Company
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Oliver Lynch



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Tobias Braney



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Tyrelle Newton



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Zack Nelson



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Joshua Phillips



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

Joe Johnson



H: Stacey Peck
A: AVAILABLE
T: AVAILABLE

YOUTH U18 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

OPPONENT	DATE	A	SCORE	STARTING XI						
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 5/8/23	A	W 6-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 12/8/23	A	W 4-1	THOMAS	GIWA	CHIGOZIE	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	WARREN
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 26/8/23	H	L 1-2	TRIALIST	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	MARTINS	GIWA
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 9/9/23	H	L 3-4	THOMAS	GIWA	HARVEY	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	SCOTT	MARTINS
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 16/9/23	A	W 1-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
STEVENAGE	SAT 23/9/23	H	L 0-1	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	SCOTT	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
GILLINGHAM	SAT 30/9/23	H	D 1-1	TRIALIST A	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 14/10/23	A	W 2-1	HOCKEY	GIWA	BENAGR	KAYIBANDAD	EMERY	CHIGOZIE	WARREN
BRENTFORD	SAT 28/10/23	A	D 0-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	GREGORY	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 4/11/23	H	W 1-0	PIPA	GIWA	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 11/11/23	A	W 3-1	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	MARTINS	KAYIBANDA	ROUTH	LORENTZEN-JONE
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 18/11/23	H	W 4-0	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	MARTINS	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONE
STEVENAGE	SAT 9/12/23	A	W 2-1	HOCKEY	HARVEY	BENAGR	STITT	CHIGOZIE	BATESON	LORENTZEN-JONE
SWINDON TOWN FAYC3	FRI 15/12/23	H	L 0-2	HOCKEY	GIWA	JOHNSON	BENAGR	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONE
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 6/1/24	H	W 2-1	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	TRUSTRAM
GILLINGHAM	FRI 12/1/24	A	W 3-2	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	STITT	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	WARREN
BRENTFORD	SAT 20/1/24	H	W 5-0	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	STITT
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 16/12/23	A	L 2-3	HOCKEY	HARVEY	ROUTH	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	STITT
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 3/2/24	A	L 0-1	THOMAS	IOANNIDES	BENAGR	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONE
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 10/2/24	H	W 4-2	BLACKLEDGE	HARVEY	BENAGR	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONE

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)	SAT 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	L 0-2	CAMIS	PINNINGTON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	HERON

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CHARLIE EMERY



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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
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OLIVER PIPA



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
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SAM ANDERSON



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
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TATE XAVIER-JONES



H: AVAILABLE
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TYRELL GIWA



H: AVAILABLE
A: AVAILABLE
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WILL HOUGHTON



H: AVAILABLE
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ZACHARIAS IOANNIDES



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

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
BURGER	LYNCH	PHILLIPS	MATTHEWS-LEWIS	LORENTZEN-JONES, BLACKLEDGE, ANDERSON, KAYIBANDA, ALLEN

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GETTING TO KNOW... JAMIE ODEGAH

Place of birth: North Middlesex Hospital

Position: Striker

Year joined the academy: As an under-14

What boots do you wear? Nike

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

The proudest moment of career so far is playing in the FA Youth Cup as a 15 year old.

In the playground, I was a young Samuel Eto'o or Didier Drogba. We have the same attributes: pace, power and strength.

At school my favourite subject was engineering, as I wanted to be an F1 driver before I started to play football. I still have love for cars and the way that they are built.

A career outside of football would see me being a mechanical engineer. I like to work and fix different types of vehicles and also I wouldn't have to pay someone to fix my own car!

The one teammate who I'd say is the most talented is Jack Lorentzen-Jones. The way he manipulates the ball with exceptional technique is amazing.

Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is Elijah Adebayo. We both have a similar style of play, we're both and tall and quick.

The best thing about Luton Town is the fans – they're able to make the atmosphere amazing.

If I was to describe myself, I would say I am a player who loves to run in behind and beat opposing defenders with pace. I also have a lot strength so I am able to hold the ball up and retain it for my team. I can also be aggressive when pressing so we can win the ball back higher up the pitch so we can get goals faster.



THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Jamie has been with the club since he was an under-14 and has shown desire and determination throughout the season so far.

"He has lightning quick pace which is a real, real threat for opposition defence and it's an attribute we try and use to our advantage.

"Jamie's also a very direct striker, something we really like about him, and he really enjoys trying to get in behind.

"He is also strong and isn't shy in a battle with defenders, and has - like all strikers - got a great thirst for scoring goals."






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.**



TOWN YOUNGSTERS SECURE BACK-TO-BACK TITLES

For the second season in a row the Town Under-18s were crowned champions of the Youth Alliance South East Division after coming from behind to beat Sutton United last Saturday.

Knowing all three points would hand them back-to-back titles after the success last term, Alex Lawless side made the worst possible start, trailing after seven minutes.

However, the young Hatters responded brilliantly and levelled five minutes later when Dominic Martins latched onto Jack Lortenzen-Jones' corner to convert at the back post.

All of a sudden the confidence was flowing and the Town soon led when Charlie Emery got on the end of another corner from Lorentzen-Jones.

After the break Sutton – who needed all three points to stand a chance of taking the title themselves – pushed for an equaliser during a turgid ten-minute spell.

But the Hatters soon gave themselves a two-goal cushion when Isaiah Harvey's fine run down the right wing teed up Marcus Warren to make it 3-1 with a composed finish.

The Town continued to press in search of a fourth and they got their reward when Dylan Stitt finished well after seizing on a flick-on after a throw from the left.

Sutton scored a consolation from distance in the fourth minute of added time but it mattered not as the Hatters could celebrate clinching the title.

Lawless' side will now enter the merit league which sees the clubs finishing in the top-half of the south east and south west compete for the overall southern section championship.

A happy Lawless said: "The boys thoroughly deserved their victory to earn this reward, especially with the way they reacted to going a goal down in an important match so early.

"They knew they had the destiny in their own hands and their mentality was excellent.

"I'm pleased for everyone involved and now we look ahead to the merit league which begins in a few weeks' time."

Congratulations, boys!





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LUTON TOWN LADIES

AN UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN MARK WAREHAM

As we are now approaching the tail end of the season, we are looking forward to upcoming fixtures which will determine where the girls finish in their respective leagues.

We have seen some great performances from our squads from under-8s to under-18s, which has led to many enquiries to join the teams from new starters to experienced players. For the first time in years we are having to operate a training only/waiting list.

The club is also seeing numbers of spectators increasing for the youth games and coming to watch the quality of play. We recently had over 60 people attend an under-12s match.

With the progress being made, we are also receiving more enquiries for games against Emerging Talent Centre and Premier League teams, which is a huge

compliment to the coaches and their efforts in developing the skills and determination of the girls to succeed.

We will be starting our recruitment in terms of trials and open training sessions soon so please keep your eyes peeled for these on our social media pages. Everyone is welcome.

Finally, February will see us carry out the first youth camp in a few years with over 150 girls in attendance over the two days, which is far more than expected and many of those coming from other clubs and outside of LTLFC. The club will hopefully be engaging in more of these camps over the Easter and summer holidays, so again keep a look out.

Thank you to all Luton Town fans for the continued support towards our girls and we look forward to seeing more and more of you at our youth games and the Ladies first and reserve team games.

Come on you Hatters.

Follow the Ladies on X: [@LTFCL_Official](#)



LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

WITH CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR JUNE ADAMSON

Manchester United at home. Ten years ago the only team from Manchester we could think of playing was Hyde and now the biggest club in the world descend on our famous ground for what should be a wonderful afternoon of Premier League football.

In my previous column earlier in the season, I highlighted my role as the Trust's charity co-ordinator with my primary role to assist with fundraising for our supporters' charity Beds Prostate Cancer Support Group, and with that in mind I would like to highlight their latest fundraising effort.

March the Month, is a virtual step challenge set up by Prostate Cancer UK, aimed at raising awareness and funds to combat prostate cancer and the Luton Town Supporters' Trust is eager for you to lend your support to this cause.

Beds Prostate Cancer Support Group were selected as our charity soon after Mick Harford received his diagnosis. Shortly afterwards, they also signed the Luton Town legend as their patron.

By taking part, you'll not only be improving your own health but also honouring the memory of thousands of fathers, brothers, grandfathers, partners and friends who have lost their lives to this disease.

Throughout the month of March, commit to walking or wheeling 11,000 steps each day, symbolising the staggering number of men affected by prostate cancer annually. Whether

you're a rookie Rambler or a seasoned stroller, this challenge is for everyone.

Join your fellow marching Hatters, where you'll find encouragement and camaraderie every step of the way in a dedicated Facebook group for all strollers.

Moreover, if 11,000 steps a day seems daunting, you have the flexibility to adjust your goal to suit your abilities.

I will definitely be doing an adapted version of the challenge, with my son and fellow Trust board member Colin Adamson. You can donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/luton-supporters-bpcsg>

So, lace up your shoes, grab your walking stick, or wheel your way to victory – March the Month awaits!

Back to today's game and your support has been nothing short of brilliant this season. We all know the magic that takes place when the Kenney floodlights come into effect. Here is hoping for more of that magic today.

Annual Quiz

As previously advised, our annual quiz is back at the Eric Morecambe Lounge on the rearranged date of Tuesday 5th March and tickets are on sale now.

Tickets are £5 for Trust members and £10 for non-members. Head to our website or social pages for the link to purchase tickets. We hope to see you there!



MEET THE FANS

WITH HATTERS SUPPORTER DAVE SMITH

How long have you supported Luton for?

I've always supported Luton but didn't start going to games regularly until I was around 16 or 17.

Where do you sit at home matches?

Main Stand Block B with my son and Dad.

Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

An honourable mention to Ross Barkley as some of his football has been outstanding this season, however, I'm going with Steve McNulty. He had some Barkley-esque magic on the ball in tight areas and often as last man he would pull off Cruyff turns for fun. Also, his wonder volley against Southport is the stuff of legend.



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

Being a Luton fan is special. Experiencing the relegations and lows of the Conference, I think we all feel slightly battle hardened and probably even closer to the club than most fans.

What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

There are so many! As a kid being taken to Brentford for my first away game by my Uncle John (RIP), winning the JPT, promotion from the Conference, Moncur's free kick in the snow to beat Pompey and now in more recent memory, taking my son to games; the peak of which was obviously last May at Wembley.

How has your support of Luton been seen by your friends?

Not really. There are always armchair fans that have a view but I think most respect the Town.

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

There is certainly a lot more respect now than when we were in the lower leagues.

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

Standing in the away end at the Amex, watching Luton walk out for their first Premier League match was something special. We had no expectations, just pride.

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

The queues at half-times are longer! VAR is here for the worse, media coverage is better... but generally the feeling of watching the Town is the same for me: there's still that connection with the team. I like the nostalgia of the Conference but wouldn't want to relive it.

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

I'm looking forward to every game, the relegation battle, some more new away grounds with my son and my Dad, possibly even an extended cup run after we beat City next week! Oh and knowing that the team in yellow down the road are looking on! 🏆



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LTDSA UPDATE

This is part one of a two-part Q&A with new Luton Town Disabled Supporters' Association Chairman, Allan Drummond, who we sat down with to discuss the organisation and his role in it. Part two will be in our FA Cup fifth round programme next Tuesday.

Tell us a little bit about yourself?

I've supported Luton all my life and have been a season ticket holder since our non-league days. I'm also a dad and am proud that I had the opportunity to indoctrinate my children into Luton Town from an early age. I'm also a social worker of 20 years plus and have recently moved into working with disabled children.

How did you become involved in the LTDSA?

I have a visual disability where I have only around five per cent vision and in 2014, the club advertised for people to apply to help form the LTDSA committee, I was interviewed and offered a place on the committee, where I then took on the role of secretary. I applied because I wanted to be a part of making a real and positive change for disabled supporters and because I am passionate about equality and inclusion for everyone.

What benefits have you seen for disabled supporters thanks to LTDSA?

A tonne of changes have been made since the LTDSA was formed. A few examples include removing a sign with outdated

terminology on it; the installation of handrails; the Hatters Vision service and a fair ticketing pricing system for disabled supporters.

What has been your proudest moment as a committee member?

There's one stand-out moment for me, the introduction of Hatters Vision in 2016/17. I wanted to do something that would benefit all of us with visual disabilities to enjoy the game and fully experience what's happening on the pitch.

I put a proposal forward, with an outline of why we needed audio descriptive commentary, costings, implementation and how it would work. I presented this to the club, but also to the Luton Town Supporters' Trust. I was absolutely delighted when the Trust and Club agreed to meet the costs 50/50. So now, with commentary provided by Simon Pitts, we have an excellent commentary service available for all supporters with a visual disability.

To Be Continued...

Anyone that feels they would like to help the LTDSA, feel free to attend our Annual General Meeting which will be in the John Moore Lounge at 6.30pm on Wednesday 6th March 2024. Gary Sweet will be our guest speaker, so this is not to be missed. Please email us at rsvp@ltdsa.co.uk with you name and any access requirements you might have. We will then send you all the details and agenda.





LUTON TOWN BUSINESS PARTNERS



JUNIOR HATTERS TODAY'S MASCOTS



William Way

Age: 12

Hobbies: Xbox & Playing Football
Favourite Player: Ross Barkley



Archie Royle

Age: 11

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



Jamie Redding

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football
Favourite Player: Alfie Doughty



Lennon Foley

Age: 11

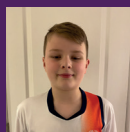
Hobbies: Playing Football,
Fifa & Fortnite
Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo



Kingsley Foley

Age: 7

Hobbies: Playing Football & Doing
Art
Favourite Player: Ross Barkley



Ronnie Cox

Age: 10

Hobbies: Football, PS5,
Swimming & Darts
Favourite Player: Alfie Doughty



Joshua Watts

Age: 7

Hobbies: Football & Running
Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer &
Carlton Morris



Toby Hetherington

Age: 8

Hobbies: Football
Favourite Player: Carlton Morris
& Ross Barkley



Lewis Rogers

Age: 10

Hobbies: Football, Xbox, Cricket
Favourite Player: Thomas
Kaminski



Max Sheridan

Hobbies: Football & Gaming

Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Freddie Sheridan

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football & Gaming
Favourite Player: Ross Barkley

TICKET NEWS



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

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.



LET'S GO

ANFIELD
WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2024
KICK-OFF 7.30PM

WHERE?

One of the UK's – if not the world's – most famous football grounds, Anfield first opened its doors in 1892 – however did you know that it was originally the home of Everton before the Toffees moved to Goodison after a dispute with the club president. Once they moved, the pitch and grandstands needed a new club to occupy it and hey presto, Liverpool FC was formed. The ground has certainly grown since then with a capacity now of 60,725 thanks to on-going ground work. Since the Town's last visit in 2008, two sides of the ground have been redeveloped – including the away end at the Anfield Road end of the stadium.

HOW TO GET THERE

It's approximately 180 miles from our Maple Road main entrance to Anfield, which would take you just over three hours' drive on a good day. Throw L4 0TH in your sat-navs. Or, follow these instructions having taken the M1 and M6. Follow the M62 until you reach the end of the motorway. Then keep right and take the A5058 Ring Road North, signposted Football Stadia. After three miles turn left at the traffic lights into Utting Avenue. Proceed for one mile and then turn right at the Arkles pub for the ground. If you'd rather join fellow fans on the road, why not take the Bobbers? Their fare is £35 for adults and £32 concessions. Call 01234 856542 to book your spot.

ANFIELD RECORD

The Town side that head to Merseyside on Wednesday will be aiming to be the first to bring back three points from a trip to Anfield. The Hatters have played 18 games but are yet to register a victory – although of those 18, eight have ended all square. While the Town lost their last visit 5-0 back in an FA Cup replay in 2008, there have been plenty of fantastic draws in the past. A 4-4 draw back in Division Two in 1955 saw Gordon Turner and Bob Morton both score twice. Then, in 1982, the Hatters earned a memorable point in a 3-3 draw that saw David Pleat's side use three different goalkeepers. Brian Stein, with two, and David Moss were on target.

THE REDS OF TODAY

Should Liverpool have beaten Brentford yesterday then the Hatters will head to Anfield on Wednesday facing the league leaders. Since our 1-1 draw earlier this season, boss Jurgen Klopp announced he will step down at the end of the season and his side have gone on a run of which has taken them to the summit of the Premier League. The Reds have only lost twice in the league this season and are unbeaten at Anfield, drawing twice, against Manchester United and Arsenal over the festive period. You have to go back to a 2-1 defeat to Leeds in October 2022 for the last time Liverpool were defeated at home in the league – a run of 24 games (W19, D5).



THE REDS

VS



THE HATTERS



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. Which Luton legend celebrated his birthday earlier this week?
2. What year did Luton last beat Manchester United?
3. How many times have Luton defeated Manchester United?
4. Who was United's highest scorer in the Premier League last season?
5. Old Trafford is the biggest stadium in the Premier League, which stadium is the second largest?
6. Which League Two club are also nicknamed the Red Devils?
7. Erik ten Hag has won his first nine games against newly promoted sides, which two former Premier League managers won their first 10?
8. How many penalties has Carlton Morris scored this season?
9. Manchester United have won 20 league titles, how many were won by Sir Alex Ferguson?
10. How many regular season Championship games did Luton win last season?

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 Manchester United fan or you're new to this.





Premier League

ROUND-UP

It wasn't all doom and gloom after the Town's set-back to Sheffield United last Saturday as many of the teams around them in the table were all on the receiving end of defeats.

The Hatters remain just one point and one place outside the relegation zone after Everton lost out after two goals from Erling Haaland secured Manchester City all three points at the Etihad Stadium.

Nottingham Forest, the side one point and one place above the Town, also lost, going down in a five-goal thriller at home to Newcastle United. Newcastle led twice before the Tricky Trees fought back to level things. However, Bruno Guimaraes added his second and the Magpies third to earn all three points and push Eddie Howe's side up to seventh in the table.

On Monday night, Crystal Palace were looking good at half-time as they led Chelsea 1-0 only for Mauricio Pochettino's team to fight back in the second half with two injury-time goals to give the Blues a 3-1 win. The result left Roy Hodgson's Eagles in 15th place, four points above the Town.

Burnley went down 3-1 at Liverpool to stay seven points behind the Hatters but Sheffield United's victory ensured the Blades moved level on points with the Claret on 13 points.

There were also big wins for Brentford – 2-0 at Wolves, with Ivan Toney again on target once more – and for Fulham, who saw off the challenge of Bournemouth with a 3-1 victory at Craven Cottage.



The win for Liverpool over Burnley kept Jurgen Klopp's men two points clear at the top with Manchester City and Arsenal not far behind. The biggest victory last weekend was the Gunners' emphatic 6-0 win over West Ham on Sunday thanks to a ruthless display from Mikel Arteta's side.

Our visitors this afternoon also arrive off the back of an important three points. Erik ten Hag's side earned a vital victory at Aston Villa with a late Scott McTominay goal giving the Red Devils all three points as they continue to chase down a Champions League spot.

The final spot currently belongs to Tottenham, who needed an injury-time winner from Brennan Johnson to see off Brighton.

Premier League

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	24	16	6	2	55	23	32	54
2	Manchester City	23	16	4	3	56	25	31	52
3	Arsenal	24	16	4	4	53	22	31	52
4	Tottenham Hotspur	24	14	5	5	51	36	15	47
5	Aston Villa	24	14	4	6	50	32	18	46
6	Manchester United	24	13	2	9	33	33	0	41
7	Newcastle United	24	11	3	10	51	39	12	36
8	West Ham United	24	10	6	8	36	42	-6	36
9	Brighton and Hove Albion	24	9	8	7	43	40	3	35
10	Chelsea	24	10	4	10	41	40	1	34
11	Wolverhampton Wanderers	24	9	5	10	37	39	-2	32
12	Fulham	24	8	5	11	33	39	-6	29
13	Bournemouth	23	7	6	10	31	44	-13	27
14	Brentford	23	7	4	12	34	39	-5	25
15	Crystal Palace	24	6	6	12	27	43	-16	24
16	Nottingham Forest	24	5	6	13	30	44	-14	21
17	Luton Town	23	5	5	13	33	45	-12	20
18	Everton *	24	8	5	11	26	32	-6	19
19	Burnley	24	3	4	17	25	50	-25	13
20	Sheffield United	24	3	4	17	22	60	-38	13

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

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, red shorts, white socks, and black loafers. The background shows a grassy field with soccer goals and trees under a cloudy sky.

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PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON											CAREER	
	LEAGUE			CUP			TOTAL		CARDS			TOTAL	
	APPS		G	APPS		G	APPS	G				APPS	G
Elijah Adebayo	13	(10)	9	3	(2)	0	16	(12)	9	1	0	137	41
Mads Andersen	4	(4)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(4)	1	1	0	10	1
Ross Barkley	16	(2)	3	3	(1)	0	19	(3)	3	2	0	22	3
Amari'i Bell	18	(0)	0	3	(2)	0	21	(2)	0	0	0	120	2
Luke Berry	0	(5)	0	2	(1)	0	2	(6)	0	1	0	172	24
Jacob Brown	12	(7)	2	1	(2)	1	13	(9)	3	5	0	22	3
Reece Burke	9	(2)	0	2	(1)	0	11	(3)	0	2	0	71	4
Tahith Chong	6	(12)	1	3	(1)	1	9	(13)	2	4	0	22	2
Jordan Clark	4	(5)	0	1	(1)	0	5	(6)	0	4	0	122	9
Alfie Doughty	19	(3)	1	5	(0)	1	24	(3)	2	3	0	62	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	23	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	23	(0)	0	3	0	23	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	9	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	11	(1)	0	2	0	12	0
Teden Mengi	14	(2)	1	4	(0)	0	18	(2)	1	3	0	20	1
Carlton Morris	17	(6)	6	3	(1)	0	20	(7)	6	2	0	78	26
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	14	(8)	2	4	(1)	1	18	(9)	3	0	0	27	3
Gabriel Osho	13	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	15	(0)	2	2	0	77	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	(5)	1	1	(2)	0	10	(7)	1	0	0	17	1
Cauley Woodrow	0	(11)	0	2	(2)	2	2	(13)	2	0	0	50	5

2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

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

REPORT DISCRIMIN.

Ahead of today's game with Manchester United and next Wednesday's match at Liverpool, we would like to remind supporters of the matchday reporting system – designed to make watching the Hatters a welcoming one for every fan.

The tool enables any supporter to report incidents, or behaviours immediately on a match day. This includes discriminatory abuse of any kind.

Any abusive, offensive, homophobic and discriminatory chanting and/or gesturing will likely lead to the club receiving a fine, unsavoury media attention to the Club and, if identified, will potentially result in you losing your place at Kenilworth Road. Furthermore, tragedy chanting or gesturing is an arrestable offence. The CPS updated its



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



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

SUBSTITUTES										ATT	AWAY
NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS ❖	ADEBAYO	SHEA, FRANCIS-CLARKE, BERRY, CAMPBELL, DOUGHTY, BROWN, MCATEE, OGBENE, WOODROW	31,872	3,001				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	DOUGHTY, ANDERSEN, RUDDOCK-MPANZU, OGBENE, BROWN, KRUI, 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	KRUI, BERRY, BROWN, FRANCIS-CLARKE, JOHNSON, KABORE, MPANZU, OGBENE, WOODROW	10,802	1,151				
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUI, ADEBAYO, BERRY, DOUGHTY, GILES, MENGI, MPANZU, OGBENE, WOODROW	24,467	2,701				
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OGBENE	MORRIS ❖	BROWN	KRUI, 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	KRUI, ANDERSEN, BERRY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MENGI, GILES, JOHNSON	39,289	2,976				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUI, ANDERSEN, BERRY, BURKE, WOODROW, ADEBAYO ❖, CHONG, GILES, JOHNSON	10,918	1,126				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUI, BARKLEY, BERRY, WOODROW, KABORE, CHONG, MENGI, GILES, JOHNSON	10,929	1,151				
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUI, OSHO, BARKLEY, WOODROW, ADEBAYO ❖, KABORE, GILES, TOWNSEND, LUKER	29,361	2,893				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	KRUI, WOODROW, ADEBAYO, CHONG, MPANZU, GILES, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, LUKER	41,785	3,005				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUI, ADEBAYO, CHONG ❖, MPANZU, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON, LUKER	11,049	1,151				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUI, ADEBAYO, BERRY, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, BROWN, GILES, NELSON	73,599	3,008				
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	KRUI, BERRY, ADEBAYO, CHONG, CLARK, BROWN ❖, GILES, NELSON, LUKER	11,029	1,149				
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	CHONG	KRUI, ADEBAYO, CLARK, BROWN ❖, GILES, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, NELSON	17,075	1,725				
MPANZU	BARKLEY ❖	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	KRUI, OGBENE, BERRY, MORRIS, CHONG, CLARK, GILES, JOHNSON, NELSON	11,112	1,151				
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO ❖	TOWNSEND	KRUI, ANDERSEN, BERRY, MORRIS, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, LOKONGA, JOHNSON	11,047	1,151				
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND ❖	KRUI, ANDERSEN, OGBENE, MORRIS, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU, CLARK, GILES	11,042	1,145				
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	KRUI, SHEA, ANDERSEN, OGBENE, BERRY, MORRIS, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU	31,041	2,362				
LOKONGA	BARKLEY ❖	BROWN	ADEBAYO ❖	TOWNSEND	KRUI, 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	KRUI, 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	KRUI, POTTS, BERRY, WOODROW, CHONG, MPANZU, TOWNSEND, JOHNSON, NELSON	10,994	1,044				
LOKONGA	BARKLEY ❖	CLARK	ADEBAYO ❖	MORRIS ❖	KRUI, BERRY, WOODROW, KABORE, CHONG, BURKE, MPANZU, BROWN, TOWNSEND	52,211	3,145				
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS ❖	KRUI, BERRY, WOODROW, KABORE, CHONG, MENGI, MPANZU, BROWN, TOWNSEND	11,138	1,350				

NATORY ABUSE OF ANY KIND

prosecution guidance on football related offences which reconfirmed in August last year that such related abuse can be prosecuted as a public order offence.

So remember, please sing loud in your support for the team, but if you're in any doubt, if you don't know what you're singing, don't sing it.

Thank you for your cooperation.

If you are offended by any discriminatory abuse of any kind at any Luton Town home game, you can report it, or by contacting your nearest steward immediately.



Alternatively, email
myvoice@lutontown.co.uk



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.

1. Mikel Arteta, 2. 1987, 3. Four times, 4. Marcus Rashford with 17 goals, 5. Tottenham Hotspur Stadium (62,850 seats), 6. Crawley Town, 7. José Mourinho (15) and Roberto Mancini (12), 8. Four, 9. Thirteen, 10. 21 Games

TOWN TEASERS ANSWERS:



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

With Simon Oxley – BBC Three Counties Radio

It was reassuring to tune into Match of the Day last Sunday morning (Saturday night was too soon) and hear Messrs Shearer and Keown reach exactly the same conclusion we had reached during commentary.

Namely VAR, or the implementation of VAR, needs a serious upgrade. Fortunately the two awful penalties cancelled each other out, but two wrongs don't make a right.

The result did bring us down to earth with a bump. But this journey was always going to be one of mixed emotions. The joy of Brighton; the drama of Newcastle; the frustration of Sheffield United.

But what a ten days in prospect now. Manchester United, Liverpool and Manchester City. For those who started their Hatters journey in the 1980s this is not an unfamiliar fixture list. Many are sharing this version with children or even grandchildren. Remind them it's not always like this, but keep bringing them.

It has sparked debate. Hill or Barkley? Sealey or Kaminski? Older fans will remain steadfastly loyal to French. That's fine. There's no right or wrong. It's great to merely have the conversation.

Many will be recounting the trip to Newcastle for years to come. I've heard plenty of versions, and from those who didn't attend and were ringing each other at half-time wishing supersonic travel was an option.

I was at Old Trafford back in October for Luton's first visit since 1991. Back then we caught up with Jim Ryan who was just a few months into his new role at United having left Luton at the end of the previous season. I can also recall the draw here in April 1992. United were League Cup visitors in 2020, and in 1995 had provided the opposition for David Preece's testimonial. They only sent the kids though... some lads called Neville, Scholes and Beckham.

Having United here means the eyes of the football world will be on us this afternoon. The press seats will resemble a sitting of the United Nations.

Enjoy Anfield, prepare for City. We'll probably see Haaland and De Bruyne this time. Might the latter give Mr French a run for his money in the "best I've seen" debate?





Premier
League

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports



LUTON TOWN

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



MANCHESTER UNITED

1. ALTAY BAYINDIR
2. VICTOR LINDELOF
4. SOFYAN AMBRABAT
5. HARRY MAGUIRE
6. LISANDRO MARTINEZ
7. MASON MOUNT
8. BRUNO FERNANDES
9. ANTHONY MARTIAL
10. MARCUS RASHFORD
11. RASMUS HOJLUND
12. TYRELL MALACIA
14. CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN
16. AMAD
17. ALEJANDRO GARNACHO
18. CASEMIRO
19. RAPHAEL VARANE
20. DIOGO DALOT
21. ANTONY
22. TOM HEATON
23. LUKE SHAW
24. ANDRE ONANA
29. AARON WAN-BISSAKA
35. JONNY EVANS
37. Kobbie MAINOO
39. SCOTT MCTOMINAY
53. WILLY KAMBWALA
62. OMARI FORSON

MATCH OFFICIALS



REFEREE - DAVID COOTE
ASSISTANT REFEREE - SIMON BENNETT
ASSISTANT REFEREE - TIMOTHY WOOD
FOURTH OFFICIAL - THOMAS BRAMALL
VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - JARRED GILLET
ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - MARC PERRY