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LUTON TOWN V ASTON VILLA

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2024 | 5:30PM | KENILWORTH ROAD

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

BRING THE NOISE!



NO AI WAS
USED TO WRITE
THIS IN THE
DESIGN OF THIS
PROGRAMME.



WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

After Manchester United, Liverpool and Manchester City there's no rest for the wicked as we welcome Champions League-chasing Aston Villa to Kenilworth Road in front of the Sky Sports cameras. Tuesday night once again showed the Hatters' bravery, going toe-to-toe with arguably the best team in the world. With 13 cup finals now left, focus is now on Premier League survival so get behind the lads today and bring the noise. Come on Luton!



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SEASON SO FAR



ROB EDWARDS

Welcome back to you all for this important Premier League game with Aston Villa. Another day, another massive game – we've had plenty of these recently, haven't we?

I'll start with Tuesday's defeat to Manchester City. There's no doubt it was tough but watching it back and reflecting on the 90 minutes I felt it was 80 per cent a really good performance and 20 per cent a combination of mistakes and world class play.

I know the only important statistic is the final score, but the numbers certainly showed we went toe-to-toe with one, if not the, best team in world football. We had chances – of course, so did they – but there were lots to admire about how brave our players were in going about their business to execute our gameplan.

Your backing on the night was brilliant, too, and I'd like to thank you for your unwavering support right until the very end. I think you realised what we were up against and that's why you stayed until the final whistle. It meant a lot to us all.

Being on the front foot and attacking is the best way for us to carry a goal threat. If you sit back and defend it's incredibly difficult to get 100 yards up the pitch. It's what we need to do in the next 13 games – starting this evening against Aston Villa.

Welcome to Unai Emery and his players and staff. He's done a phenomenal job at Villa Park since he came in last season and has them playing with confidence and a swagger. They're having a fantastic season and, with them riding high in the table,

today represents a tough game in our quest to get Premier League points on the board.

We won't shy away from the fact we're having a tough time at the minute. However, in times like this, staying together is the most important thing – now more than ever. We've got a few injuries and have lost a few games in a row – but I think everyone can see the performances in the main have been positive. The lads are on-board and in good spirits. When you play Man Utd, Liverpool and Man City in successive games, you perhaps are entitled to endure a little period of uncertainty.

With the situation regarding Everton's points deduction a little clearer, I'd ask you all to not be concerned by that or anything else surrounding Everton or any other clubs. We simply need to concentrate on ourselves. Ultimately, if we don't do our job then it doesn't matter what happens elsewhere. So let's try and get as many points as possible in the final 13 games to give ourselves the best possible chance of being a Premier League club next season.

We're in this fight. Together we're in this fight and we'll fight all the way. That togetherness can be the difference in the run in. It's how we can be unique to other clubs. We have all been on this incredible journey for such a long time that now's the time to show everyone what we are all about.

We have a huge 13 games left. So let's stick together and fight for this brilliant football club.

Bring the noise and enjoy the game. 





My last notes for the Manchester United programme were my first since what happened at Bournemouth and I'd like to thank everyone for their continued support over the past weeks.

You might have seen me making several appearances on television and podcasts recently to tell my story and I just hope what happened to me, can, in a way, make a difference to somebody else's life when they need it.

That includes CPR training and to know what to do in those situations. Just take a moment and think if a cardiac arrest happens to someone who is close to you.

I have been so touched by everyone's support, but also by the interest. The amount of enquiries our press team and me and my family have received to talk about the subject has been astounding really. I will continue to talk about it because moments like these are, while sometimes difficult, can only help educate other people should they be thrust into such a situation.

Back to the football, and while the results haven't been what we would have liked, the performances certainly have been encouraging.

Against Man Utd we recovered well from a very slow start to boss the game and were unlucky not to take a point. Of course it was tough for us to get back in it being 2-0 down so early, but it was another one of those games in which we can learn a lot from.

Then we went to Liverpool. Regardless of the final score, I think we can be really

proud of our efforts. To be leading 1-0 at half-time was amazing and I thought we were full value for the lead. The second half was one-way traffic and I don't think any team in the world could have coped with the way they played in those second 45 minutes.

City on Tuesday saw us bow out of the FA Cup. When you're up against Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne it is never going to be easy but when they're in the mood and on the same wavelength, no team is going to stand much of a chance. However, we had our moments and we probably scored the two best goals of the game thanks to two great efforts from Clicker. The first one was an incredible finish. It was such a shame he picked up an injury in pre-season but there's no denying he's such a quality player and he showed that on Tuesday night.

Today the big games keep on rolling in. Villa at the Kenny on the telly. We know we need to start picking up results if we're to achieve our goal of staying in the Premier League and there's a belief we've had all season that we can do that in the dressing room.

Your support will also play a vital role. I think Rob said it after the Liverpool game that the way their crowd roared them on showed just how much of a role supporters have in generating a hostile atmosphere for the benefit of the team.

These next four games are massive for us and I want to hear the Kenny the loudest it's ever been this evening, so please join me in getting behind the boys. 





FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE
GARY SWEET

They say time flies when you're having fun. Is anyone else wondering how quickly this season has flown? We're now in March when it doesn't seem five minutes since we were heading south to Brighton on the opening day in August.

The defeat that grey, wet afternoon to the Seagulls certainly opened our eyes to the challenge that lay in wait over the course of this, our first season in the top-flight in over 30 years. While many outsiders wrote us off before a ball was even kicked, such negativity, thankfully, has not penetrated The Brache or Kenilworth Road.

It is, therefore, with great pride that we enter the final 13 games of the season with a real chance of preserving our Premier League status. Nobody outside our environment gave us a chance of being in this position but the way in which Rob, his staff and the players have performed over these past seven months have been a result of incredible hard work, meticulous dedication, desire and plenty of skill and quality.

The past two matches in particular have seen us come up against, let's be said, two amazing football teams with individuals performing at their peak. However, how refreshing has it been to see this Luton Town team taking the

game to Liverpool, at Anfield, and then Manchester City here in the FA Cup on Tuesday? It's brave, it's progressive, entertaining and aggressive. It is as close as the fabled 'Luton Way' as it is to playing, and we have nothing but admiration for how the team's style has evolved throughout the season. Teams are certainly wary of the threats we carry, and opposition managers have been extremely complimentary about the way we are playing.

Another proud aspect of the match against Pep Guardiola's side was the glowing display by Joe Johnson, who – after celebrating his 18th birthday last week – came on in the first half and did not put a foot wrong. With Zack Nelson inching closer to his senior debut and with Axel Piesold given a squad number for the first time, we hope these products of our academy can not only push on and break into the first team on a regular basis, but also inspire the next generation of players in our academy set-up.

Of course despite all the plaudits and positivity, points are the prerogative – things we need in order to achieve the goals set out at the start of the campaign. That continues this evening against Aston Villa, who I wish to extend a warm welcome to. Our focus



has always been on retaining our status regardless of external noise, and that is something we will continue to aim for between now and the season's end.

Your support has played a massive part in our success. It has been tremendous, ferocious and passionate home and away, and we'll need you to maintain those levels between now and the end of the campaign. The noise does make a difference – anyone who was at Anfield will testify to that.

This evening you will notice that the installation of safe standing in the Oak Road Stand has been fully completed. This process has been a complex but rewarding one that means that over 800 additional seats are now in this area of the ground and it has resulted in us more than doubling the home capacity in this section.

We challenged the market, leaving no stone unturned, by installing a bespoke design into the Oak – designed in-house and manufactured specifically for our use. No such design exists outside of Kenilworth Road.

We've had many questions enquiring about why we feel the need to do it now – with such little time left at Kenil-

worth Road – and whether the cost can be recovered.

Firstly, because of the increase in capacity, pay-back would be well under two seasons with the additional benefit of allowing more supporters into the stadium. This increase has been made possible by a number of strategies, including increasing the number of usable rows, decreasing the segregation zone, having all standing seats as allocated positions and losing one gangway.

But there are other major reasons why we're doing this now. The most valuable to us is that we're learning with a view of perfecting a significant standing proportion of our capacity at Power Court.

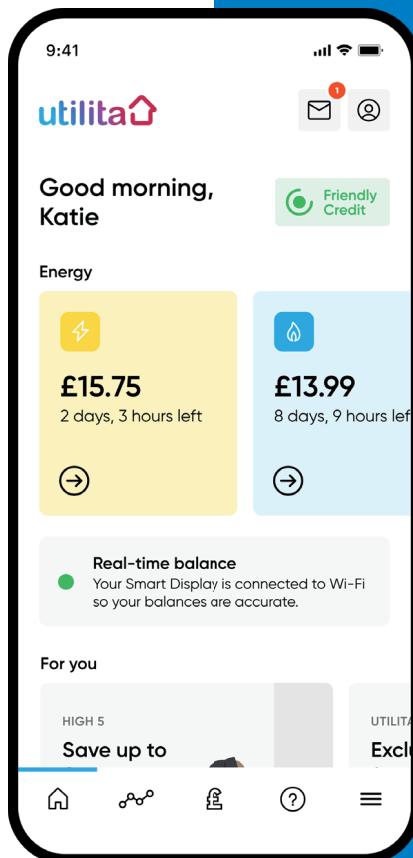
It also means we would, by working with the Sports Ground Safety Advisory and our SAG, that confidence in us operating this level of licensed standing will increase safety and enjoyment for our supporters. But, naturally, this will be dependent on everyone using the Oak Road to respect the environment for the greater good.

The installation also looks fabulous! ➤

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**Joe Johnson takes on
Kyle Walker on Tuesday night**

I can also reveal that we are in the early stages of investigating into areas of the Enclosure in which we could possibly install the rail seating. We will, of course, update you on any future developments.

Perhaps most importantly, the completion of this development means today is likely to see the biggest attendance at Kenilworth Road since we took over custodianship of the club in 2008. Kenilworth Road took its fair share of derision in the summer for being the smallest in the division but that is no longer the case. Our fixture against Manchester United saw the biggest league attendance, 11,483, since we played the same club in 1992 and we'll,

hopefully, be able to see an attendance of 12,000 before the season is over.

Turning attention back to today, and before kick-off we will remember Chris Nicholl, who sadly passed away last week. Chris was a magnificent centre-half who served both ourselves and our visitors with distinction. Having helped us to promotion from the old Third Division he went onto excel for Villa, where he twice won the League Cup. Please join us in a minute's applause to remember him today.

Please get the behind Rob, Richie, Trolls and the boys this afternoon.

Come on Luton! 

Gary



ARSENAL TRIP MOVED

The Hatters' first ever trip to the Emirates Stadium to face Arsenal has been moved to Wednesday 3rd April and will be screened live by TNT Sports.

Kick-off against the Gunners will be at 7.30pm.

The Hatters last won an away fixture against Arsenal on Boxing Day 1959 and lost on our final trip to Highbury 2-0 in the top-flight in August 1991.

Ticket information for this fixture will be announced in due course.

Meanwhile the Beds Senior Cup semi-final with Biggleswade FC at Bedford Town will now take place on Wednesday 13th March.

The game was originally scheduled two weeks ago, but was been postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Admission will be pay on the night at Bedford. £10 adults, £7 concessions, and free for under-16s.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Many happy returns to **Evie Edwards** who is celebrating her 14th birthday. Evie has supported Luton for as long as she can remember and her dog is named Hattie, after the Hatters, of course.

Her favourites are manager Rob Edwards, goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski and midfielder Sambi Lokonga.



Happy birthday also to **Joseph Flattery**, who celebrates turning eight years old.

Joseph has been coming to games with his Dad and Grandad since a pre-season 8-0 win over Bedford and is pictured here celebrating Luton being Premier League. COYH!

REST IN PEACE



It is with sadness that the Club learned of the passing of **Yvonne Cole** on 21st February. A true Hatter,

dedicated season ticket holder in the Kenilworth Road end and supporter of the Hatters since the mid-80s, Yvonne was a constant attendee at matches and was delighted to witness Luton's promotions and their arrival in the Premier League. She is pictured here celebrating her 80th birthday with family at the Town's win against Forest Green Rovers in 2014. Rest in peace Yvonne and COYH.



The Club were also shocked to hear of the passing of **Hassan Ali**, a 20 year old who battled an aggressive can-

cer - acute myeloid leukaemia for eight months. During these months, Hassan comforted people around him more than himself. He was a loving son, brother, cousin, uncle and grandson.

Hassan was a second-year student studying Radiography and alongside his studies he was a steward here on matchdays at Kenilworth Road.

His family would like thank everyone who was there with him, as well as every supporter who joined in the minute's applause during the match against Manchester United.

HATTERS IN ANTARCTICA

Town fan **Howard Samm** dropped an email into the media inbox to tell us about his trip to the world's most southerly and isolated continent.

He told us: "I am writing to you to send you a couple of photos I got of myself when I visited Antarctica recently. I was lucky enough to be invited on a visit there as part of a group involved with YouTube film making, I took my Luton flag with me and got a few photos.

"Someone said it must be the first Luton flag to have been flown on Antarctica! I'd thought I'd send it to you if you may think it's suitable for a matchday programme and it would be interesting to know if another fan has been there. In this photo, ironically it's a Huddersfield fan helping me to hold it up in the wind!"

Nice one, Howard! If any Town fans have shown their colours around the world, please do get in touch. Email media@lutontown.co.uk.





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2 - **6**

Kenilworth Road – 27th February 2024

Town: Ogbene (sub Hashioka 62), Doughty, Mengi, Burke, Bell (sub Johnson 39); Clark (sub Mpanzu 62), Barkley; Chong, Morris, Woodrow (sub Townsend 56).

Subs not used: Shea, Osho, Berry, Nelson, Piesold.

City: Ortega, Walker, Stones (sub Bobb 77), Ake (sub Gomez 77), Kovacic, Haaland (sub Alvarez 77), Grealish (sub Doku 38), De Bruyne, Silva (sub Lewis 77), Akanji, Nunes.

Subs not used: Ederson, Dias, Rodri, Foden, Lewis.

SCORERS

Town – Clark 45, 52

City – Haaland 3, 18, 40, 55, 58, Kovacic 72

Attendance: 11,163, including 1,866 in the away end.

HATTERS EXIT FA CUP AT HANDS OF RUTHLESS CITY

The Town's run in the FA Cup came to an abrupt end as ruthless Erling Haaland scored five times to send holders Manchester City into the quarter-finals.

The Hatters had no answers to the striker, playing for the first time at Kenilworth Road, with the Norwegian firing the visitors in front in the third minute from Kevin De Bruyne's cut-back.

It was 2-0 to the Citizens on 18 minutes when Haaland latched onto De Bruyne's throughball to thunder past Tim Krul.

Krul, who was in fine form all evening in the face of an attacking bombardment, could do nothing as De Bruyne and Haaland combined once more for the striker to lift a delightful finish home.

As half-time approached, however, the Hatters got themselves to within two goals when Jordan Clark hit a sumptuous 25-yard curling effort into the top corner. It was the midfielder's first of the season and first since scoring in the play-off final at Wembley in May.

After the restart, Town voices were raised as, on 52 minutes, Clark got his second to make it 3-2, lashing home brilliantly from Ross Barkley's superb lifted pass.

However City – and Haaland in particular – wasted no time in restoring their advantage as the striker scored twice in a three-minute spell to make it 5-2. The first saw him tap home from close range from another unselfish De Bruyne pass before then blasting home from 12 yards moments later.

Krul continued to impress for the Town as the visitors pushed for more but the Dutchman couldn't stop a sixth with 17 minutes to go when Mateo Kovacic's drive from the edge of the box flew home.

To their credit, the Hatters never gave in and Rob Edwards introduced Daiki Hashioka for his debut midway through the second period.

But City were too strong and deservedly claimed their place in the last-eight leaving the Town to focus on Premier League survival. 





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13 CUP FINALS LEFT SAYS CLICKER

Midfielder Jordan Clark says the Town need to stick together for the final 13 “cup ties” after their FA Cup dreams were ended by a rampant and ruthless Manchester City on Tuesday night.

The former Accrington man was on target twice against the treble winners at Kenilworth Road, scoring with two fine finishes either side of the break.

Clark says that now the Hatters’ run in the competition is over, attention can focus solely on fighting for Premier League survival.

“We have 13 cup finals left and those games, especially at home, are vitally important,” the 30-year-old said afterwards. “We need to pick up points and do so at home because that’s our strongest threat.

“We just need to be ourselves. We need to stick together, dust ourselves down and go again. We have Aston Villa next who are doing well but we just need to be us. We need to go after teams and defend better and if we learn from our mistakes we can get better I’m sure of it.”

On his two goals against City, Clark admitted his opening strike – a beauty



from 25 yards that sailed into the top corner – was borne out of frustration.

“I don’t think I’ve hit a better goal in my career,” he said. “But it was more out of frustration as Kevin De Bruyne had left me a couple of times in the first half and I was disappointed in myself defensively. So I thought ‘I’ll just whack this as hard as I can and see what happens’ so it was nice to see it hit the back of the net.

“To be honest it was nice to get back into the game a bit, especially because going in at 3-0 down would have meant the dressing room would have been a bit deflating. Obviously getting another one back gave us a lift. We talked about that at half-time and we were back in it for a bit but then the game ran away from us in the end.”

On the performance – and coming up against players of City’s calibre – Clark added: “You give them half-a-yard and they just find the space. They pick the right passes 99.9 per cent of the time and if you give them half a yard the next thing you know the ball is in the back of your net.

“It was a tough night at the office. You get back in it at 3-2 and you think you have half-a-chance but then they give the ball to the big man [Haaland] and he has that quality. It’s just a different dimension when he plays.” 



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ROB BACKS HATTERS TO BOUNCE BACK

Town manager Rob Edwards backed his side to quickly put the FA Cup exit behind them after Manchester City ran out 6-2 winners at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday night.

The Hatters made a game of it against the treble winners, with Jordan Clark's well-taken brace cutting the deficit to 3-2.

However, Norwegian striker Erling Haaland ultimately proved the difference hitting five of the six goals to send City through to the quarter-finals.

"I hope the result doesn't have a negative effect. I'm always going to come out and try and back the team and try and be bullish, say what I think are the right things, but then time will tell now how we react and knowing this group the way I do, I think they'll react in the right way," Edwards said afterwards.

"We've got some really good leaders in there, lads who know how big the games are coming up and we've been

hit by an amazing team, arguably the best team in the world, one of the best teams I've probably ever seen, and there's no shame in that.

"There will be bits, and it's on me, the areas that we can improve and work on, so we'll work really hard to try and rectify that quickly, but I don't see it knocking this group.

"We've got to make sure we use it to get better and not to allow it to feel sorry for ourselves as if you do that in the Premier League then you are done, and we're not done at the moment, we're not.

"We're in with that fighting chance that we've talked about, so let's learn and make sure that we get better rather than feel sorry for ourselves.

"This group have shown that time after time, we can't ever give up. If you do against a team like that then they're ruthless and they keep going, and they were. It was a tough night for us, but it's not going to diminish our confidence and our belief in what we're trying to do." 



« HATTERS REWIND «



ASTON VILLA 0 LUTON TOWN 2

**Football League Cup fourth round.
8th November 1978.**

The Town had never previously survived beyond the fourth round of the League Cup and after they were drawn away to mighty Aston Villa in 1978/79 most pundits felt that the modest record was likely to stay intact.

Having limped past Wigan and Crewe in the previous rounds and having little in the way of pedigree in the competition, the Hatters had few grounds for confidence. Fearing the worst and hoping for the best, Luton supporters travelled to Villa Park with their fingers firmly crossed.

The supporters had seen their new look side (seven players had made their Hatters debuts on the opening day) take teams apart in league games



at Kenilworth Road, starting with a 6-1 home thumping of Oldham, and following it up with a three, a seven and a six. Manager David Pleat's new players were not, however, so hot away from home and had yet to win on their travels which did not bode well.

Top-flight Villa had disposed of Sheffield Wednesday and Crystal Palace in the earlier rounds and had won the competition three times already in its short existence.

Manager Ron Saunders hoped to win the pre-match psychological war by announcing that he would be fielding his strongest side for the first time that season.

Once play commenced Luton survived an early scare when danger-man Andy Gray forced Hatters' goalkeeper Milija Aleksic into action in the opening minutes. But Villa's much-vaunted full-strength side was disrupted in the 12th minute when Gray hobbled off with



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damaged ankle ligaments following a hard but fair tackle from Town's Mal Donaghy. Villa reshuffled, but it soon became apparent that the Town had gained the upper hand.

The hosts, in fact, had not won at home for ten weeks, the anxiety of which began to spread through their side, and the crowd of 32,737, the longer the game went on. Saunders was a disciple of the long ball game, which was meat and drink to Chris Turner and Mal Donaghy at the heart of the Luton defence. The Town became ever more dominant and Villa goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer had to save smartly from Turner. Mercurial winger David Moss won an indirect free-kick in the area when fouled by Ken McNaught, and the wily Bob Hatton shortly had the ball in the net but was flagged for offside.

The goal that Luton were increasingly threatening to score came on 66 minutes, when Lil Fuccillo threaded a delightful ball through to Hatton, who took it in his stride and fired a fierce shot into the top corner of the net.

Brian Stein added a second in the final minute when he found himself unmarked in front of goal, tapping in a cross from Moss to seal a famous victory.

Villa manager Saunders could barely spit out a word of congratulations after the game when he said "We were bloody awful and have no excuses. Luton worked tremendously hard, and good luck to them."

Pragmatist that he was, David Pleat was more concerned by the lack of league points than fleeting glories in the Cup, and threatened to make changes in the side for the forthcoming trip to Oldham, inferring that too many minds had been distracted by the cup-tie at the expense of the bread and butter league.

Luton Town: Aleksić, Price, Aizlewood, Hill, Turner, Donaghy, West, Fuccillo, Stein, Hatton, Moss.

Aston Villa: Rimmer, Gidman, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Craig, Little, Gray (Cowans), Deehan, Gregory.



WELCOME ASTON VILLA

The Hatters welcome Unai Emery's high-flying Aston Villa side to Kenilworth Road for what is a big game for both sides. In the reverse fixture, Villa beat the Hatters 3-1 at Villa Park in what was a tough day in the office for Rob Edwards' side.

The season didn't get off to the best start for the Villans as they lost 5-1 to Newcastle United on the opening day. Villa responded brilliantly to this by proceeding to beat Everton 4-0 at Villa Park.

Early in the season, it became clear that Villa Park was becoming a fortress for Emery's side, and they took advantage when playing at home. An away win at Burnley meant things were looking good for Villa early on.

In early September, Villa lost 3-0 away at Liverpool before beating Crystal Palace 3-1 at home. A massive away win at Chelsea was followed by a remarkable 6-1 home win over Brighton and Hove Albion with Ollie Watkins impressing the most as he bagged a hat-trick.

There were some great results like wins over Zrinjski Mostar, AZ Alkmaar – in the Europa Conference League – and West Ham before the Villans beat us 3-1. John McGinn and Moussa Diaby

both scored twice while own goals from each team made the score 3-1.

A shock 2-0 loss to Nottingham Forest was the only game out of eight in a row that they didn't win. This meant Emery's side only suffered one loss in ten games across October and November.

In early December, Villa picked up two absolutely huge wins. Two 1-0 home wins over Manchester City and Arsenal put Unai Emery's side in a superb position and it was one they had to hold on to.

Villa's home winning streak ended with a 1-1 draw against Sheffield United. Former Villan Cameron Archer put Sheffield United ahead late on, but Nicolo Zaniolo equalised even later on for Villa.

After this draw, Villa tasted defeat for the first time in almost two months with a 3-2 loss to Manchester United. This was followed with a win over Burnley and an FA Cup victory over Middlesbrough.

More recently, Villa recorded wins over Sheffield United, Fulham and Nottingham Forest and go into today's game at Kenilworth Road – their first visit for a league game since 1992 – in fourth place in the Premier League.

MEET THE VILLA

THE BOSS



UNAI EMERY. Spaniard who took over at Villa Park in October 2022 following a successful spell with Villarreal where he won a fourth Europa League title. Won three of those titles with Sevilla before moving to Paris Saint-Germain and then spent a short spell in charge of Arsenal.

GOALKEEPER



EMILIANO MARTINEZ. Argentina World Cup winning stopper who signed for Villa from Arsenal in 2020. Restricted to just 15 Premier League appearances for the Gunners he spent several years out on loan at clubs including Oxford, Sheffield Wednesday and Reading.

DEFENDERS



MATTY CASH. Dependable right-back who arrived at Villa Park from Nottingham Forest in 2020. Born in England but represents Poland at international level through his grandparents.



Diego Carlos. Brazilian centre-half Diego signed in 2022 from Sevilla for a fee in the region of £26 million. Moved from his homeland to Portugal in 2014 and then signed for Nantes before his switch to Spain.



LUCAS DIGNE. France international centre-back who joined Villa in 2022 after four years with Everton. Came through the ranks at Lille and then enjoyed spells at PSG and Barcelona.



EZRI KONSA. Centre-half Ezri signed for Villa following their promotion to the Premier League in 2019. Started his career at Charlton and then spent one season at Brentford before moving to Villa Park.



PAU TORRES. A reported fee of £31.5 million saw the centre-half reunited with Unai Emery last summer. The former Villarreal defender made his international debut for Spain in November 2019.

MIDFIELDERS



LEON BAILEY. Jamaican international right winger who arrived at Villa Park for a fee in the region of £30 million in 2021. Began his professional career in Belgium with Genk before moving to Bayern Leverkusen in Germany.



MOUSSA DIABY. French international attacking midfielder or winger who signed for Villa last summer for a club record £51.9 million. Started his career with PSG before moving to Bayer Leverkusen.



DOUGLAS LUIZ. Rio-born Brazilian international midfielder Douglas joined Villa in 2019 from Manchester City. Failed to make a league appearance at City but has become a regular over the past five seasons.



BOUBACAR KAMARA.

Free transfer arrival from Marseille last summer, the French international defensive midfielder made over 150 appearances for his hometown club before joining Villa.



JOHN MCGINN. Club captain John has been a revelation for Villa since signing from Hibernian in 2018. The Scotland international midfielder helped the club to promotion in his first season.



JACOB RAMSEY. Villa academy graduate who first shot to prominence in the 2020/21 season after winning a host of end-of-season awards. Hit 12 goals in the following two seasons to become a first-team regular.



YOURI TIELEMANS. Belgian international midfielder Youri arrived on a free transfer last summer following Leicester's relegation to the Championship. Began his career at Anderlecht before a move to Monaco.



NICOLO ZANILO. Attacking midfielder or winger Nicolo joined Villa on loan from Galatasaray last summer. An Italy international, he has also enjoyed spells at Inter Milan and Roma.

ATTACKERS



OLLIE WATKINS. England international forward has hit 14 goals in 26 games this term. Started his career at Exeter before moving to Brentford where he scored 45 goals in three seasons.



JHON DURAN. Young Colombian international striker who signed for Villa last season from Chicago Fire. The 20-year-old has been a regular substitute but has still scored four times this term.



CLASSIC CLASH

ASTON VILLA 0-1 LUTON TOWN.
6TH MAY 1985



BRIAN STEIN FIRES IN
THE TOWN'S WINNER

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS THE TIME THE TOWN CAME BACK FROM VILLA PARK VICTORIOUS

As the 1984/85 season drew to a close, Hatters supporters were biting their fingernails down to the quick as they worried about the trip to Aston Villa and whether the Town could continue their much improved run and manage to fight clear of the threat of relegation.

The battle to keep hold of a top flight spot, won in style in 1982, had looked a forlorn one as the previous Christmas approached with a paltry three wins from the first 16 games and only a poor Stoke side keeping them off the bottom. With no money to spend and constant bickering going on at board level behind the scenes, manager David Pleat wondered where to turn next as his lightweight and inexperienced side was steamrollered week after week.

Kirk Stephens, Brian Horton, Raddy Antic and Paul Walsh had all departed the previous summer leaving Pleat with very little to work with but, just as he was regretting not taking up the offer to join QPR that came his way six months

before, board infighting came to a head.

Out went chairman Denis Mortimer to be replaced by entrepreneur David Evans, who immediately stated that the Town would not go down. Needing little prompting, Pleat went out on a spending spree that over a two-month period completely reshaped the Luton side.

Steve Foster, David Preece, Mick Harford and Peter Nicholas arrived at Kenilworth Road and almost overnight the spine of the team had been replaced, not by free transfer signings or players over the hill but by real quality.

The team, however, had a lot of catching up to do as the abysmal start to the season had left them several points shy of a realistic position of safety. To add to the problems (but what problems?!?) came an unexpected run in the FA Cup.

Battling through to the semi-final was a tremendous achievement especially when

it is remembered that two of the club's new signings were cup-tied. Stoke, Huddersfield, Watford and Millwall were seen off before unlucky defeat at the hands of Everton at Villa Park ended the dream of the twin towers for another season.

Because of the involvement in the Cup, only three league games were played between 1st January and 2nd March and although Luton supporters could see that the Pleat 'league' side was a far better outfit than its lowly position suggested it was to be tested to its limits with so many games to cram in.

Sunderland were seen off at Kenilworth Road in early March before the team earned a heartening draw at Sheffield Wednesday. All this good work was undone, however, when Watford turned the Town over 3-0 at Vicarage Road.

The next two games, both at home, were therefore seen as vital if the team was to keep in touch with the teams above but both QPR and Ipswich were beaten fairly comfortably. After another set-back, this time at Southampton, a vital game at bottom place Stoke was won.

This was quickly followed by the FA Cup semi-final defeat and it was wondered whether the disappointment would be reflected in future league games.

The supporters need not have fretted as, in a titanic struggle against fellow strugglers Norwich at Kenilworth Road, goals from Emeka Nwajiobi and David Moss earned a 3-1 victory.

In the previous season Manchester United had won 5-0 at Kenilworth Road in front of the live television cameras in what can very politely be termed a lacklustre performance.

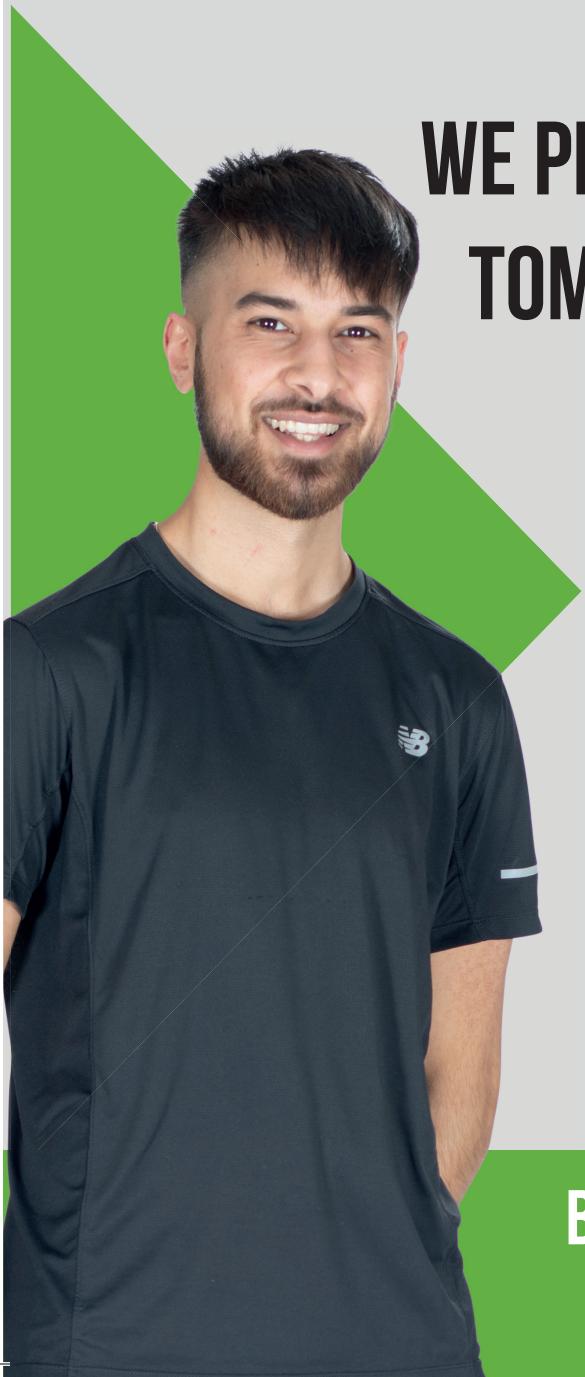
Naturally the cameras were back to see the title chasing Reds repeat the thrashing but this time the Hatters had heart and steel in their side and a late winner from Harford pulled the team out of the bottom three.

The Town blotted their copybook a little when Nottingham Forest won at Kenilworth Road in the next game but a point was won at another team fighting the drop, West Ham. A surprisingly easy 3-1 win over a poor Arsenal side left the Hatters with a trip to Villa where a victory would almost guarantee safety.

So, the hardy supporters travelled up to Villa Park again a few short weeks after the bitter Cup defeat. Villa had scored nine goals in their previous two games but their forwards were hardly given a look in by the new look Luton rearguard of Tim Breacker, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy and Mitchell Thomas which was settling down to become one of the best units in the country.

Admittedly the Town's performance was not a patch on the one put on against Everton in the FA Cup, but there again Villa were not in the Toffees' class as proved by the fact that the Merseysiders had already clinched the league title. The only goal of the game came after 21 minutes when Brian Stein, showing excellent predatory skills, smacked the ball home after it was mis-controlled by Villa's Gordon Cowans.

There were few scares for Les Sealey in the Luton goal and when the final whistle eventually sounded the relieved Hatters fans soon realised that their team had picked up 13 points out of the 18 at stake since the semi-final defeat. Whether that defeat was a blessing in disguise we shall never know!



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A HATTER AND A VILLAN

Plenty of names fit the bill here, including **Jake Findlay** and **Steve Foster** plus **Curtis Davies** and **Henri Lansbury** in more recent times.

However, Luton-raised **Bruce Rioch** starred for both sides in the 1960s and 70s. Bruce made his League debut as a 17 year old for the Hatters in November 1964 and soon had the scouts flocking to Kenilworth Road where they admired his pace, power and fierce shooting.

After helping the Town to the championship of Division Four in 1968 and seeing his colleagues narrowly miss out the following year, Bruce accepted a record fee move to Aston Villa. Further big money moves to Derby and Everton followed as well as the honour of skippering Scotland, the country of his father.

Bruce then entered into a second career managing, amongst others, Middlesbrough, Bolton, Arsenal and Norwich with some success followed by a spell in Denmark.



GREAT GAMES

TOWN 3-1 VILLA

10TH AUGUST 2016

It's not often on this page that we rewind to the previous match in this particular segment but in August 2016 the Town recorded a wonderful League Cup win over Villa at Kenilworth Road.

Villa, playing in the Championship at the time, had already hit the woodwork twice, first time through Hatters defender Glen Rea slicing a clearance and then Jack Grealish hit the inside of the post from 20 yards, before Jordan Ayew put them in front on 13 minutes.

But the Town roared back in a famous cup victory under the lights. Jack Marriott, Cameron McGeehan and Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu combined to play Jake Gray into the right side of the box and the former Crystal Palace man flashed his right-footed shot past Villa keeper Mark Bunn and into the back of the net.

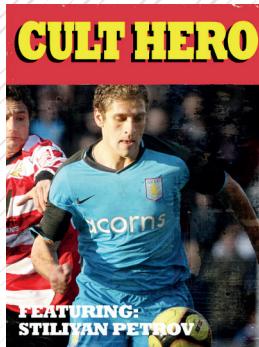
McGeehan's deflected strike then put the Town in front eight minutes after half-time before a comical own goal from Jores Okore sealed victory just after the hour.

Town: Walton, O'Donnell, Mullins, Rea, Justin, Lee (sub Cuthbert 84), Mpanzu, McGeehan, Gray (sub Smith 87), Hylton, Marriott (sub Vassell 90+1).



CLASSIC KIT

Aston Villa in stripes, you say? It's a big yes to this 1993-1995 Villa shirt from the boys and girls at Asics. You can close eyes and still see Dwight Yorke smiling, looking over at Ron Atkinson with affection. They lifted the League Cup in this, beating Manchester United, all with a yoghurt sponsor on the front. Lovely stuff.



CULT HERO: STILIYAN PETROV

Known as 'Stan' Stiliyan Petrov arrived at Villa Park in 2006 after a hugely successful spell in Scotland with Celtic. He was instantly taken by his teammates and the Villa Park faithful for his performances in midfield and long-range strikes. Sadly his career came to an end after being diagnosed with acute Leukaemia in 2012 but the club and its fans stuck by him – applauding him in the 19th minute of matches.

VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD

THE PERFORMANCES OF UNAI EMERY'S SIDE THIS SEASON HAS GIVEN ALL VILLA FANS DREAMING OF WELCOMING BACK EUROPEAN FOOTBALL NEXT SEASON. HOWEVER, APART FROM THE WONDERFUL FOOTBALL AT VILLA PARK THIS SEASON, WHAT IS IT TRULY LIKE TO SUPPORT THE CLUB THROUGH THICK AND THIN? WE PUT OUR QUESTIONS TO JAG KALAAR OF THE PUNJABI VILLANS.

What does it mean to be a Aston Villa supporter?

I really feel as a passionate football fan, you assign your colours to the mast from early days of your life! So for me it's about displaying my personal interests (football) and opinions and beliefs (AVFC) which I adhere and will hold until the end.

I began following Villa from the epic League Cup in 1977 which Villa won by beating Everton 3-2 at the third attempt.

I think the fact they were on TV frequently in a short time made me a Villa fan. As they say Aston Villa chooses you and not you choosing Aston Villa, so that loyalty to them aligns for me with being a loyal person that someone that can be relied upon and someone who means and does what he says.

Just like the club and life, there has been a lot of ups and downs and many teams that have to dominated the

game, however once you are a Villan you are always a Villan!

So words that highlight what it means to be a villa fan are: loyalty, pride, passion, positivity and resilience! Never give up!

How important is watching Villa to you and why?

Over the years I followed Villa by coming to games on a game-by-game basis. I then became a member and when my kids were older I became a fully-fledged season ticket holder! I have watched villa from all 4 stands too. For me it's important to watch Villa since with football being a big hobby of mine, I look forward to our fixtures and games and that's not only been when we have been doing well but also through the lows, such as the relegation 2015/16.

Going to football also is a key aspect of socialising and engagement which are so good for our general and mental well-being. I feel a sense of belonging

is something humans strive for, historically we would have operated in tribes. So being part of Aston Villa and also the Punjabi Villans groups brings the belonging and tribalism to the fore.

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

Well let me start with the low time which I particularly recall being relegated in 1986/87 and more recently 2015/16! Those were dark and low times especially in the 2015/16 season since it was almost like the soul had been sucked out of the club.

There is no doubt if you ask any genuine football fan, when your team loses on a weekend it shapes the mood of the week, especially if it is to local rivals. It's the same for the manner of defeats. If the players have given their best and lost well you hold you hand up. But when there hasn't been the effort or issues of conflict in the camp, then that does infuriate the fans.

Of course we have had many highs, too. For me they have been 1977 League Cup win, winning the championship in 1980/81 and of course the European Cup in 1982 and Super Cup in 1983!

Other periods that stand out are when Ron Atkinson, Brian Little, John Grego-

ry and Martin O'Neil managed us. However, the period under Unai Emery I must say is the best football we are playing and has got us playing and battling above our levels. A top coach and someone who takes a personal pride in the job he does.

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

This is tough to answer since we have had so many awesome players.

If I had to narrow it down it would be between either Dwight York and Jack Grealish.

Dwight because since he scored so many vital goals for us and without him we wouldn't have had half the success and Jack because he epitomised everything

about AVFC. He came through the academy and he played in an our team that took us from low ends of Championship to the Premier League and then helped keep us up! I have nothing but admiration for Jack. Oh by the way he just didn't leave, he left us £100m financially better! He would also always get a hero's welcome when he comes to Villa Park from me.

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

Yes, when we beat Luton 4-1 at Villa Park in 1982! A couple of penalties from Sid Cowans, Withe and Dennis Mortimer all scoring! ▶





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From our 2000 we went through a period where we haven't played each other that often but I also recall Kenilworth Road, which hasn't been a good hunting ground for us and so hope that changes this coming weekend!

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

Oh man, being a Villa fan right now is like a little kid in a sweet shop! I sit in lower Trinity Road Stand, right by the opposition bench, and occasionally have been seen on the Unai cam footage! We are having a real great season and we did from the time Unai came on board!

Right now expectations are high, the vibe is good and Villa Park is rocking. We need to continue to get behind the team and roar the Villans to a top 4 finish. Getting to the latter stages or even winning the Europa Conference League would be a dream come true, also. So a Champions League spot and a European title would make this a fantastic season.

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

Well life has changed hugely for me. I was only eight or nine when I started to support Villa. Since then I have gone through my studies, been to uni, worked for several corporate organisations like M&S, Pfizer and now AstraZeneca in different roles.

I've got married and have three children who are now young adults themselves.

However the common thread in my life has been AVFC and Villa Till I Die (VTID)

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

Oh another tough question – there are so many that I can reference, however, for me, it has to be the European Cup final. Although I wasn't there in person, and was only 13, the whole European campaign and the culmination of getting to the final and winning it, will always remain in my mind forever.

We've only won the European Cup once so it's also our highest achievement. It would be a dream come true for me to hear the Champions League music play just once at Villa Park. I've never experienced it and that would be some evening and experience. We are so close and I really believe it will happen on 2024/25 season.



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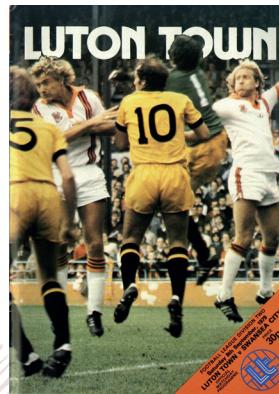
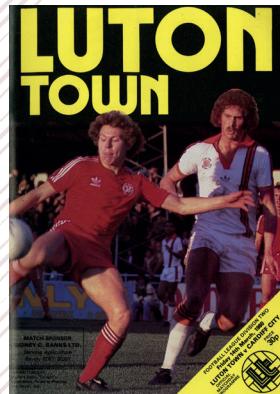
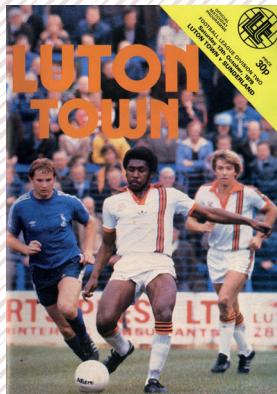


DEMOLITION



RETAIL & PETROLEUM





KITS FROM THE PAST

1979/80 HOME SHIRT

After five seasons of wearing orange home shirts, the Hatters moved back to white for the 1979/80 season. This year also saw our first Adidas kits and a relationship that lasted ten seasons until 1989/90 season.

The shirt maintains the previous season's 'stripe' but this time, the stripe is orange with thin black lines rather than a block white from previous seasons. Our badge switched from the left side to the right side for this season, a move that only lasted for this shirt template.

The 80's Luton badge was stitched onto the shirt, along with the retro Adidas logo that featured in the centre of the shirt, just under the buttons. We had a smart, orange collar this season which meant the orange of the stripe, and the collar really pops against the core white of the shirt.

Finally, we had the iconic 'three stripes' down the sides of the sleeves in orange and black. It really is a beautiful shirt.

Aside from the change in colour, manufacturer and badge location, it also features our first sponsor! From March 1980, Tricentrol adorned the shirt, just under the Adidas logo. The sponsor also invaded a bit of the stripe and adds a different dimension to an already glorious shirt.

As for the season, we finished a respectable sixth place in the second tier, a big improvement on the previous season's 18th! David Moss was our top scorer, banging in 24 goals. Notable games from that season include a 1-0 home win against Watford, which included an eye watering 62 free kicks. Nice tame game then...!

Bob Hatton was the hero that day, with Jake Findlay keeping a clean sheet. We did the double over the Hornets that season, with a 1-0 at Vicarage Road, too. Other epic games in this shirt include a home 3-3 draw with Chelsea, and a David Moss hat-trick against Fulham in a 4-0 home victory.

2018/19
League One
Champions



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



2020/21
12th, Championship



2021/22
6th, Championship



2022/23
Promoted to the
Premier League!



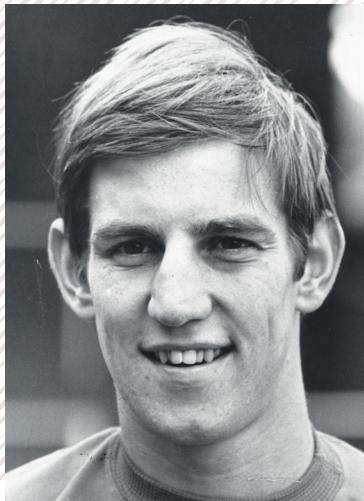
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REST IN PEACE, CHRIS NICOLL

Tributes paid for former Town and Villa centre-half

Everyone at Kenilworth Road has been saddened to learn of the passing of Chris Nicholl after a long illness at the age of 77.

Chris was a mainstay at the heart of the Hatters defence, alongside John Moore, as the Town secured promotion to the old Division Two in 1970 before almost securing a place in the top flight a year later.

Discarded by Burnley as a youngster, Chris was plying his trade with Witton Albion when he was picked up by Halifax who he helped to promotion to Division Three (now League One) in 1969.

Early in the following campaign, the towering central defender was the first to subdue Luton's Malcolm Macdonald leading to a £30,000 move to Kenilworth Road the following day where,

after a fairly slow start, he became a rock in the centre of the Hatters defence as they nearly won back to back promotions.

Sadly, finances dictated Chris's £90,000 move to Aston Villa in 1972 and from there he went to Southampton and finally Grimsby, picking up 51 caps for Northern Ireland during his travels.

Chris received his big managerial break at Southampton in 1985 and remained at the Dell until 1991. Since then he scouted for Wigan, was assistant manager of Northern Ireland and managed Walsall before becoming a local radio commentator at the Bescot Stadium.

Our condolences go out to all his family and friends.

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MANCHESTER CITY MASCOTS & MAN-OF-THE-MATCH



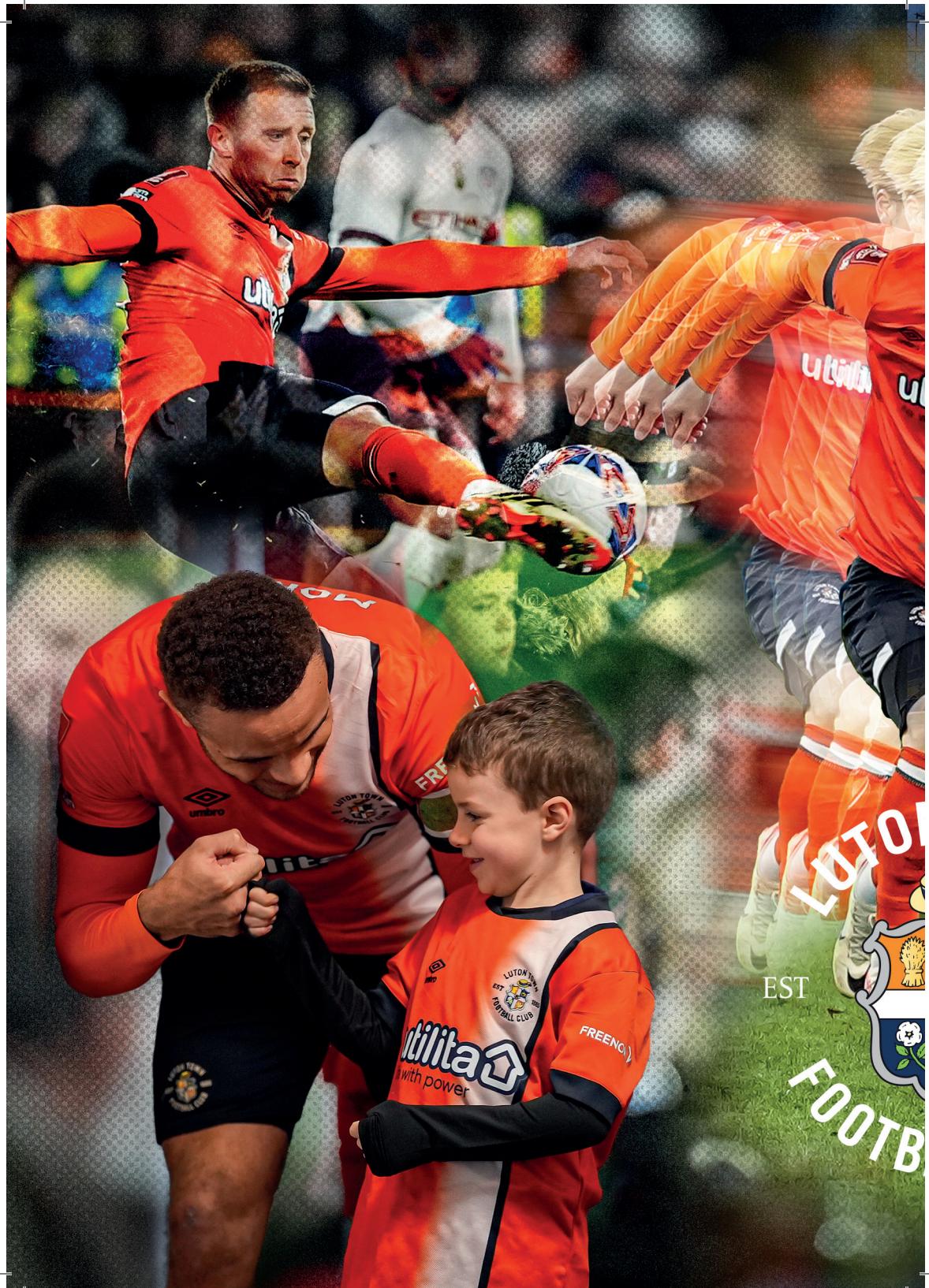
OUR LAST HOME GAME HERE IN THE FA CUP AGAINST MANCHESTER CITY SAW JORDAN CLARK NAMED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH, AND THE TOWN MIDFIELDER RECEIVED HIS TROPHY POST-MATCH IN THE ERIC MORECAMBE SUITE.

We also had the pleasure of hosting ten 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 GCI Consulting and matchball sponsor Snoxell and Gwyther to Kenilworth Road. We also welcome seven home mascots as we take on Aston Villa. We all hope you have an enjoyable afternoon with us.



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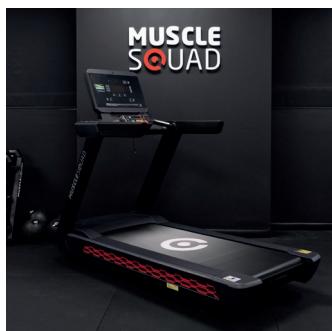
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ON THIS DAY



GREAT GAME TORQUAY 0-1 TOWN 2ND MARCH 2002

The Town are marching towards promotion in 2001/02 when they head to south Devon on this day 22 years ago today.

Joe Kinnear's side made the trip to Plainmoor in search of a club record 11th away victory of the season and duly returned to Bedfordshire with all three points.

Croatian sensation Ahmet Brkovic is the match-winner, latching onto Kevin Nicholls' perfect through-ball and tucking home after rounding a certain Kevin Dearden in the Torquay goal.

Dearden, however, is in good form to deny the Town more goals on a day in which Kinnear's men are superior in all departments.

The Hatters would end the campaign as runners-up to Plymouth, finishing on 97 points, winning 30 of their 46 games and scoring 96 goals.

Town: Emberson, Johnson, Neilson, Perrett, Coyne, Spring, Nicholls, Brkovic, Taylor, Crowe, McSwegan. Subs used: Hughes, Valois, Boyce.

CLEAN SHEET RECORD

If results on this day in the past are anything to go by then the Hatters should be cherishing a win with a clean sheet come the end of the 90 minutes.

Of course, football does not work like that but the Town's previous record on 2nd March certainly makes for interesting reading.

Of the 19 games played, Hatters teams in the past have kept an impressive 11 clean sheets, also winning on 11 occasions.

The Town might have lost last time out on 2nd March – against Chelsea in the FA Cup fifth round in 2022 – but that was the first defeat on this day since 1912! That included a 14-match unbeaten run which saw the Hatters concede just three times across the 110 years – not bad going if we say so ourselves.

The Town won nine of those 14 games, including two games in the top-flight. In 1985 Mick Harford and Ricky Hill were on target in a 2-1 win over Sunderland at Kenilworth Road and six years later, a solitary strike from Iain Dowie earned the Town a vital victory over Nottingham Forest.

These 14 games perfectly encapsulate the Hatters' rollercoaster existence across 110 years, with victory in the top five tiers of the English football pyramid.

As well as those two top-flight wins, victories in the second tier were achieved over Southampton (1-0 in 1976), Cambridge (1-0 in 1982) and Nottingham Forest (1-0 in 2021).

The sole win in the third tier came in League One at home to Rochdale in 2019 when goals from strikers Danny Hylton and James Collins earned all three points.

The fourth tier triumph came at Torquay mentioned elsewhere on this page, while the Hatters were also successful in the fifth tier on this day.

That day was a special one in particular back in 2013 as the John Still era at Kenilworth Road began with victory as a goal from Jake Howells in first half stoppage time earned victory in the new boss' first game in charge.

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THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

The late, great David Preece marks his Luton debut with the only goal of the game against Villa at Kenilworth Road in December 1984.

Roger Wash

IF IT'S TIME IT'S
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CAI HOCKEY  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	<p>TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KIT SPONSORSHIPS CALL THE COMMERCIAL TEAM: 01582 411622 OR EMAIL COMMERCIAL@LUTONTOWN.CO.UK</p>		

HATTERS ASK ALL SUPPORTERS TO UNITE FOR ACCESS

All fans should be able to enjoy matchdays, but structural and societal barriers can prevent many disabled supporters from having that experience.

An estimated 24 per cent of the UK population is disabled, making disabled people the largest minority group in the UK. Level Playing Field's 'Unite For Access' campaign celebrates access and inclusion for disabled fans at sporting events throughout England and Wales.

The most recent Level Playing Field fan survey listed 'attitudes of others' as the second most common barrier to attending live sport, ranking only behind 'physical access' and impacting more than a quarter of disabled fans. This means that everyone can play a significant part in making live sport more inclusive.

Level Playing Field is the leading disability fan advocacy charity in England and Wales, and we are proud to join more than a 100 other clubs taking part in the 'Unite For Access' campaign.

We, as a club, believe that all people should be able to attend live sport. We are committed to making Kenilworth Road accessible to all and will continue to make steps to improve.

We also call on all supporters to play their part in making Kenilworth Road a welcoming environment for our

disabled fans and those joining us from visiting clubs.

Disability can be a complex subject matter, and that is why we invite both disabled and nondisabled fans to engage with us through this important campaign and to ensure access and inclusion is at the heart of everything we do.

Everyone should be able to enjoy cheering on their team on matchday, so we ask you to...

Unite for Your Team
Unite for your fans
#UniteForAccess

To find out more about the work of Level Playing Field, please visit levelplayingfield.org.uk, or find them across social media by searching Level Playing Field.



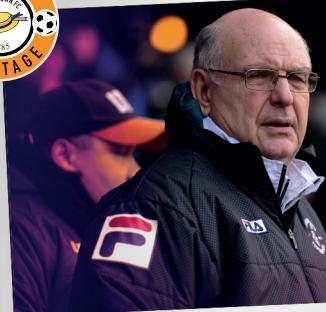
ON THIS DAY

On this day 11 years ago saw John Still take charge of the Hatters for the first time.

The trip to Stockport County saw the new Town boss oversee a 1-0 victory thanks to Jake Howells' strike moments before half-time.

Still had watched the Town lose at Braintree on the day he was appointed and joked afterwards that he and assistant Terry Harris thought about driving back to Dagenham after witnessing the 2-0 defeat.

But the Hatters, after ending the season in seventh place, would find their feet under the manager the following season which led to promotion back to the Football League.



SMART START FOR STILL

By Dave Stringer

LUTON had an awful Friday taking just two points from their last two matches but John Still responded to that with a win at Stockport County on Saturday.

Still had been in the corner of the popular seat when David Johnson called for a second time this season to take charge of the Hatters. The 42-year-old former Villa player was given the job on a three-month deal.

He has since won the first two matches and still has a point of position.

He has a good record in the FA Cup, having won the competition twice, but he has not had a great record in the league, having won only one of his 11 matches in charge.

Still has managed the club since

February 2010 and has taken

the club to 11th place in the

league table.

He has also won the FA Cup

twice, but he has not had a

great record in the league,

having won only one of his

11 matches in charge.

MATCH STATS

STOKEPORT v LUTON

1. SHOT ON TARGET

2. SHOT ON GOAL

3. OFFSIDE

4. CORNERS

5. FREE KICKS

6. RED CARDS

7. YELLOW CARDS

8. PENALTIES

9. GOALS

10. GOALKEEPER

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KENILWORTH ROAD TO HOST WNL LEAGUE CUP FINAL IN MARCH

The Women's National League Cup Final between Newcastle United and Hashtag United will take place at Kenilworth Road on Saturday 23rd March 2024.

The Kenny will be the biggest venue to date to host the competition's Final, which will be fought out between two of Newcastle and Hashtag following their semi-final victories this weekend.

The Women's National League Cup is an annual competition open to the 72 teams in the Women's National League (WNL) and works in a knockout process through the rounds. The Final was previously held last year at Burton Albion's Pirelli Stadium where Nottingham Forest beat Watford 3-2 in added extra time. This year, the current champions have been knocked out, and none of the teams left in the competition have previously won the competition, meaning there will be a brand-new name on the trophy.

The Final will be played on Women's Football Weekend. This FA initiative encourages fans to go along to a women's football game and celebrate the talent within the game at all levels. The WNL Cup Final is the perfect opportunity fans to watch a game at a lower level but with high quality on show, and a trophy at stake.

The year's event at Kenilworth Road also marks the 40th anniversary of the first ever Women's European Championship, which was held at the ground in 1984. The Lionesses reached the Final but unfortunately lost on penalties to Sweden in a two-legged tie. As part of this year's game, The FA plan to celebrate the squad by inviting all

players from the team down to the game on the 23rd March.

Gary Sweet, Town CEO said: "The women's game has grown to new heights in so many ways in recent seasons and we're truly seeing a new era for women's football.

"That's why we are delighted to have the backing of the Football Association to provide Kenilworth Road as the host stadium for this hugely respected and exciting national competition, a fitting venue that the two finalists will deserve for such a big occasion.

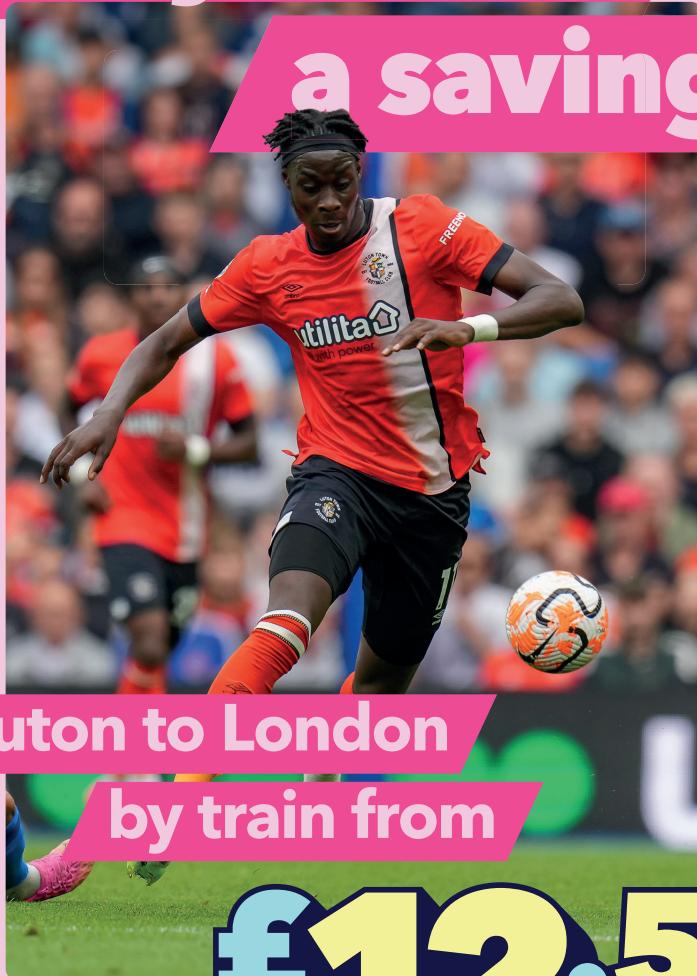
"The success of our own women's team this season has added to the already growing interest in the women's game locally and we are looking forward to opening the Kenilworth Road doors to thousands of fans who feel similarly inspired."

The club secretary of the Luton Town Ladies, David Baker said: "Luton Town Ladies Football Club are so thrilled to be involved in the Women's National League Final this year. As part of the WNL, Luton Town Ladies know how exciting this competition is and want to get as much of the local community involved as possible."

Sue Hough, Chair of the FA Women's National League Board added: "The Women's National League is home to 72 teams and this competition involves every single one of them. Women's football has grown so much in the last few years and you can see this in the Women's National League as well. We are very excited for the Final to be hosted at Kenilworth Road and thank Luton Town FC for all their help in making this possible."

Ticket details for the final will be released in due course.

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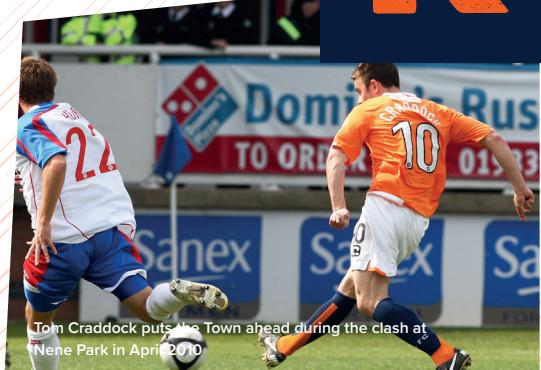
*Terms and conditions apply. See website for details. Fare stated is based on our Weekend Super Off Peak Day Return ticket from Luton to London Thameslink

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WE'RE WITH YOU



Godfrey Poku fires in a shot against the Diamonds at Kenilworth Road in January 2011



Tom Craddock puts the Town ahead during the clash at Nene Park in April 2010



A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS

Part Fourteen. R is for Rushden & Diamonds.

Rushden & Diamonds had been formed in 1992 as a merger between Rushden Town and Irthingborough Diamonds under the ownership of Doc Martens chief Max Griggs. He oversaw a meteoric rise up the Leagues and built a very well appointed ground at Nene Park, complete with expensive chandeliers in the reception area.

The rise was so fast that they were promoted to the Football League where they clashed with the Town, and even reached as high as League One. Sadly, by 2009 both sides were in the Conference.

The first game at Conference level came in October 2009 at Kenilworth Road in front of a Kenilworth Road crowd of 7,101 with new manager Richard Money sitting in the stand holding a watching brief.

He was not impressed with what he saw. Although huffing and puffing in the first period without troubling former Hatter Nathan Abbey in the Diamonds goal, his new team fell apart in the second period and it came as a surprise that it took until the 84th minute for them to break the deadlock. Skipper Kevin Nicholls was dispossessed in midfield after slipping, leaving

the impressive Lee Tomlin to speed through with the ball to net with ease. A further goal from Mark Byrne in added time rubbed salt into the wound.

The Town improved and by the end of the campaign were in the play-offs as were Diamonds. The sides met at Nene Park in a dead rubber on the final day of the regular season but played out an entertaining 1-1 draw with Tom Craddock on target for the Town.

Both sides failed in the play-offs so met again the following season where at Kenilworth Road in January 2011 the Town fully avenged their previous season's performance with a comprehensive 3-0 victory. Matthew Barnes-Homer, with two, and Claude Gnakpa netted the goals against a side who had gone three months without a league win.

In the return, a Robbie Willmott goal separated the sides in the Town's favour but by this time Diamonds were suffering having lost the financial clout of Max Griggs. Deducted five points during the campaign for financial irregularities, they were demoted at the season's end into oblivion.

A phoenix club has now been set up but sadly Nene Park is no more.



HATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CAMPS

Last week saw our first holiday camps of the year. Taking place in Luton, Dunstable and Flitwick, the camps were open to young people from year 1 to year 6.

Our camps are all run by professional coaches and offer opportunities for young people to learn new skills and work on their technique in a positive, fun and safe environment. Sadly, poor weather meant that we didn't get to play as much as we'd like to on a couple of days, but that didn't dampen the spirits as we continued to play games and quizzes indoors while we waited for the rain to pass.

Once the sun was shining again, we were back out on the field and taking part in a range of exercises, enhancing the teamwork, social and ball skills of our participants. Young people at our Flitwick camp were lucky enough to receive a visit from several Luton Town Academy scholars on the Tuesday, who generously gave up their time to answer questions and spend some with our youngsters.

Staff have enjoyed another week working on our holiday camps. Despite the weather, we saw a lot of smiles on faces from our

participants and we look forward to seeing them again in a few weeks' time at our Easter holiday camps.

Our holiday camps are open to those of all experience and ability levels. Further details for our Easter camps will be available from www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk soon.

Mini Hatters & Talent Identification Programme now open for bookings

We are now taking bookings for the next cohort of our Mini Hatters sessions, starting on 9th March 2024.

Taking place on Saturday mornings, our Mini Hatters sessions offer 3-5 year olds the opportunity to experience their first taste of playing football. As well as learning the basic skills they need to get started in the game, these sessions are all about making sure our youngsters enjoy themselves and have the opportunity to build new friendships.

The sessions take place at Queen Elizabeth School in Luton in the sports hall. Our new indoor base means we are now able to run

MINI HATTERS



SOCER SCHOOLS



these sessions all year round. Each session is tailored specifically to the relevant age group, with individual sessions for 3, 4 and 5 year olds delivered by Luton Town FC Community Trust staff.

Community Trust Business Development Manager, Adam Woulds, said: "These sessions offer a great way for youngsters to start their football journey. We make sure these sessions are fun, light hearted and that everyone goes home with a smile on their face, including the adults, who we encourage to get involved."

There is also the opportunity for our youngsters to win the 'Hatter of the Week' award, rewarding those that display a

positive attitude. Whilst these sessions are very much focused on enjoyment for the youngsters, they do also offer a decent foundation to playing the game.

Many of our Mini Hatters move on to our Talent Identification Programme (TIPs) once they reach an age where they are too old for our Mini Hatters programme. This is our entry level weekly training and development sessions for young people in Year 1 to Year 7. These sessions take place in a variety of locations locally and are also now bookable for our next intake, starting this week.

To see a full list of our venues and to book either Mini Hatters or TIPs please visit www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk For further information please contact us community@lutontown.co.uk or call 01582 561622.

ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH WITH HEAD OF ACADEMY
COACHING DAN WALDER



Since moving away from the Under-18s role at Luton Town, I have transitioned into the Head of Coaching role which is vastly different from the positions I have previously filled.

The adjustment from a “Coach” to a “Coach Developer” has been a sharp learning curve and I have had to get used to, accept and embrace the challenges which come with this position.

This season, we have been focused on upskilling the coaches to make the Academy as relevant, challenging and productive as possible in the ever-changing climate of the modern game. Developing a process which is analytical and objective to give the coaches pinpoint feedback on their intervention styles and biases, is one area that is key to this and allows the coaches to assess and critique their own coaching utilising a variance of systems and formations.

The brand-new look to the “Elite Coaches Framework” is one area of this, where coaches receive detailed statistical feedback based on which parts of the game they are focussing on the most, and how their coaching links into the brand-new Academy Playing Philosophy and Coaching Methodology.

The fantastic work that has been going on in the first team has helped with this enormously. For example, the addition of Ross Barkley and Sambi Lokonga to the first team this year has allowed us to analyse our own first team players who excel in their awareness as well receiving the ball under pressure and relay this to the players, creating specific practices which work on these skills when outnumbered against opposition. The man-for-man pressing in games has allowed us to utilise positive examples of aggressive pressing styles when working both zonally and individually, and display this as a cultural identity during Academy Fixtures.

The quick passing nature of the first team, has allowed us to emulate how the players make clever angles and distances, creating triangles and diamonds all over the pitch – and to ensure that this style of play is present in Academy games.

All of this work has only been possible through the addition

of staff members in both the coaching and analysis departments as well as the tireless hunger of all of the staff to create the best possible programme for the players in terms of the fantastic variety they have had in their games and tournament programme this year, the enhanced mix of training programmes they have received and the analysis which has been conducted culminating in the Under-18s winning their league as well as various football and futsal tournaments being won across the age groups throughout the season.

There is still so much work to do and over the next eight weeks we are further implementing and enhancing the statistical and objective feedback for coaches which will help shed some light on the areas that we need to focus on as staff going forward.

Hopefully this continued effort and hard work will help the Academy to create more players who can make the transition from the Academy to the first team and follow in the footsteps of Cauley Woodrow and Joe Johnson.

The Future is bright! COYH!



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: Kobia 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

YOUTH U18 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

OPPONENT	DATE	SCORE	STARTING XI	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 5/8/23	A W 6-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	HARVEY	MARTINS	BENAGR	ROUTH	EMERY
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 12/8/23	A W 4-1	THOMAS	GIWA	CHIGOZIE	EMERY	SCOTT	BENAGR	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	KAYIBANDA	EMERY	CHIGOZIE	WARREN
BRENTFORD	SAT 28/10/23	A D 0-0	HOCKEY	CHIGOZIE	BENAGR	GREGORY	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 4/11/23	H W 1-0	PIPA	GIWA	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	ROUTH	HARVEY
MILTON KEYNES	SAT 11/11/23	A W 3-1	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	MARTINS	KAYIBANDA	ROUTH	LORENTZEN-JONES
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 18/11/23	H W 4-0	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	MARTINS	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONES
STEVENAGE	SAT 9/12/23	A W 2-1	HOCKEY	HARVEY	BENAGR	STITT	CHIGOZIE	BATESON	LORENTZEN-JONES
SWINDON TOWN FAYC3	FRI 15/12/23	H L 0-2	HOCKEY	GIWA	JOHNSON	BENAGR	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONES
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	SAT 6/1/24	H W 2-1	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	TRURAM
GILLINGHAM	FRI 12/1/24	A W 3-2	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	STITT	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	WARREN
BRENTFORD	SAT 20/1/24	H W 5-0	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	STITT
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 16/12/23	A L 2-3	HOCKEY	HARVEY	ROUTH	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	STITT
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 3/2/24	A L 0-1	THOMAS	IOANNIDES	BENAGR	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONES
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 10/2/24	H W 4-2	BLACKLEDGE	HARVEY	BENAGR	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-JONES
STEVENAGE	SAT 2/3/24	H							
SWINDON TOWN	SAT 9/3/24	H							
OXFORD UNITED	SAT 16/3/24	A							
CHELTENHAM TOWN	SAT 23/3/24	H							
LEYTON ORIENT	FRI 29/3/24	A							
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	TUE 2/4/24	H							
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 13/4/24	H							
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 20/4/24	A							
PORTSMOUTH	SAT 27/4/24	A							

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD U21 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

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

SUBS

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

13

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, TRISTRAM
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... MATTHEW TAKAWIRRA

Place of birth: Luton

Position: Striker

Year joined the academy: As an under-12

What boots do you wear? Puma Kings



My aims are to start week in, week out, score lots of goals and represent Zimbabwe at youth level.



The proudest moment of career so far is signing for my boyhood club as an under-12.

In the playground, I was Wayne Rooney because I was very aggressive on the pitch, and strong and fast.

At school my favourite subject was religious studies because I am religious myself and I enjoy learning about the topic.

A career outside of football would see me become a football coach because I love helping people, so I'd help them improve them to get better.

The one teammate who I'd say is the most talented is Claude Kayibanda. He is a leader at the back and is very strong in the tackle. He always performs well week in, week out.

Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is Carlton Morris because he has very similar traits to myself; strong, fast and an eye for goal.

The best thing about Luton Town is being around ex-professionals and coaches and learning off them and developing under them every day, ensuring myself and teammates improve and become better players.

If I was to describe myself, I would say I am a very strong and fast player who likes to make things happen on the pitch – and score lots of goals.



THE LAWLESS REPORT

“Matthew was born in Luton and has been in the academy set-up since he was an under-12 so he really comes into the category of ‘one of our own’.

“His best attributes are what all good strikers need: pace, power and finishing and we are encouraging him to make the most of these in game situations.

“Matthew also is a very committed and hard-working player and we are looking forward to seeing how his development continues for the rest of his scholarship”

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 - ✖ Discriminatory behaviour

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

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Premier League



FSA.

MERIT LEAGUE UP NEXT FOR UNDER-18S

Alex Lawless' Under-18s have nine more matches to play this season as they aim to become the overall champions of the southern section of the Football League Youth Alliance.

The Town youngsters completed their campaign in the South East division by winning 12 of their 18 games, outscoring every other side in the regional table.

Lawless' side are joined by the remainder of the top five clubs in the South East by the top five clubs in the South West.

That campaign began earlier today when they took on Stevenage at The Brache and they face another home fixture next Saturday when they welcome a Swindon side to Bedfordshire. The Town will be aiming for a little bit of revenge when they take on the Robins after they knocked the Hatters out of the FA Youth Cup earlier in the campaign.

In total nine games will be played in the merit division with the winners crowned the champions of the southern section of the Youth Alliance. The campaign draws to a close with a trip to Portsmouth on 27th April. Pompey finished their South West campaign in third place, winning seven and losing seven of their 16 matches.

Lawless said: "The boys overcame a number of difficulties throughout the first half of the season but they have shown terrific attitude to bounce back from disappointments to go and win the title.



"In front of them now is an opportunity for them to kick on and try and take the overall southern title. There are a number of good teams in the division, however, so we know it won't be easy but the boys are in form and confident so we are looking forward to the final nine games of what has been a good season."

UNDER-18S FINAL FIXTURES Where and when the youngsters will play

Saturday 2nd March -
Town v Stevenage - 10:30am KO

Saturday 9th March -
Town v Swindon Town - 10:30am KO

Saturday 16th March -
Oxford United v Town - 11am KO

Saturday 23rd March -
Town v Cheltenham Town - 10:30am KO

Friday 29th March -
Leyton Orient v Town - KO TBC

Tuesday 2nd April -
Town v Plymouth Argyle - 1pm KO

Saturday 13th April -
Town v AFC Wimbledon - 10:30am KO

Saturday 20th April -
Sutton United v Town - KO TBC

Saturday 27th April -
Portsmouth v Town - 11am KO



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LUTON TOWN LADIES

LUTON TOWN LADIES HIT WOBURN FOR EIGHT!

By Owen Williams

Having progressed to the semi-finals of the Eastern Region Women's Football League Cup last time out against St Albans, the Ladies had their sights set on another semi-final as they took on Woburn & Wavendon FC in the quarter finals of the Bedfordshire County Cup last Sunday.

There were four changes to the starting XI from the win at St Albans, which included the feature of new signing Shianne Swarres and goalkeeper Leah Robinson in place of Amy Butler.

Playing lower league opposition always presents the chance of an upset, but Luton were quick to put that to bed as after 45 seconds on the clock they led 1-0. Elizabeth Sanders had a free run on the right hand side and managed to pick out Amber Pearson, who calmly put the ball past the Woburn keeper and into the back of the net.

On 18 minutes the lead was doubled. Fiona Buttigieg floated a ball over the top of the Woburn defence in the direction of Elizabeth Sanders, who took her time one on one with the keeper and slotted the ball into the bottom right corner.

New signing, Shianne Swarres controlled the tempo of the midfield in the first half, but her best moment came in the 30th minute, sending an incredible pass in behind the Woburn defence to pick out Andie Dickens, who sent the ball across

the face of the goal, only for Sanders to miss the target.

With 12 minutes left to play in the first half Luton had a third. Buttigieg's corner was headed by a Woburn defender towards her own goal which was parried by the keeper but forced home by Dickens who fired the rebound into the back of the net.

Three minutes later, Dickens scored again. Picking up the ball just inside the box, she curled the ball towards the goal and the shot was too powerful for the Woburn keeper to keep out.

The goals continued after the restart when 11 minutes into the second half the Town scored again. The Woburn keeper took a goal kick that is cut out by Pearson and she did exceptionally well to lob the keeper who had not yet made it back to her goal.

With 15 minutes left to play five became six. It was an unfortunate moment for the Woburn keeper who fired the ball at Spillman, resulting in the ball dropping into an open goal for Tanya Blacksley to tap in.

A defensive mix up produced a seventh Luton goal with seven minutes to play. A Woburn defender cleared the ball off the line but her clearance was sent straight into another Woburn player and then into the back of the net.

The scoring was then complete with five minutes left to play when Gabriella Spillman got a deserved goal. It was a fantastic run from Pearson on the right hand side and she teed up Spillman who made no mistake with her finish.

Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL_Official



LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

**WITH WITH LTST CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR
JUNE ADAMSON**

Hello and welcome to another huge Premier League game!

I didn't expect to be writing another column so soon after my previous one but I am delighted to have been working with Mark Crowther ahead of a fundraiser before the upcoming game with AFC Bournemouth.

Pedalling for a Cause

In the wake of Tom Lockyer's harrowing collapse on the field at AFC Bournemouth last December, the Luton Town Supporters' Trust stands united in endorsing Mark Crowther's latest cycling exploit.

Mark is embarking on a poignant 124-mile journey back to the Vitality Stadium, dedicating every push on the pedal to the resilient spirit of our captain.

Mark's upcoming ride marks his most formidable challenge yet, spanning the longest distance in a single day among all of his cycling feats. As he gears up for this journey, Mark extends an open invitation to fellow enthusiasts to join him along the route, amplifying the message of solidarity and support.

Beyond the physical exertion, Mark's primary mission is to raise vital funds for the British Heart Foundation, championing their life-saving initiatives and advocating for widespread CPR education. With just 15 minutes of training, individuals can acquire the skills needed to potentially avert cardiac emergencies and save precious lives.

To contribute to Mark's trip, scan the QR code on the left.



Two Trusts coming together

The distressing impact of Tom's cardiac arrest has impacted the football community, prompting a collective response from supporters' groups across clubs.

Both Cherries and Hatters alike have rallied behind Tom, mobilising efforts to fund defibrillators and support the British Heart Foundation's wonderful efforts.



At the rearranged fixture on 13th March, representatives from the Luton Town Supporters' Trust, in collaboration with the Cherries Trust, will grace the Vitality Stadium with an on-pitch presentation honouring the invaluable work of the British Heart Foundation.

For those who have conducted fundraising activities for the British Heart Foundation and wish to contribute to the collective effort, please contact june.adamson@lutontownsupporterstrust.com to ensure your contributions are included in the overall total.

Together, as a united footballing community, let us pedal forward in solidarity, honouring Tom's resilience and championing the cause of heart health awareness.

Enjoy the game this evening and please show Mark as much support as you continue to show our wonderful players as he embarks on an emotional journey.

COYH!

MEET THE FANS WITH HATTERS SUPPORTER SIMON MILLS

How long have you supported Luton for?

I have supported Luton Town since the 1990s when my grandfather passed down his love of the Hatters onto me!

Where do you sit at home matches?

I tend to mix it up a bit and vary between Kenilworth End and the Main Stand.

Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

My favourite Luton player ever is Tom Lockyer and anybody who knows me won't be surprised by that one bit. Tom exemplifies everything it means to be a Hatter for me: courageous, committed and leaving it all on the line for the badge. What a player.

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

Everything. I'm blessed enough that I have a rather large online following that humour me in all the Luton Town related things I post and the family-like nature of the fanbase is undoubtedly a huge part of our DNA.

What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

Getting out of the Conference thanks to John Still is still such a cherished memory but it simply has to be promotion to the Premier League, as that achievement has set the club on an upward trajectory the likes of which we have never witnessed before.

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

I am lucky enough to have a respectable sized following on Twitter/X so I have seen it and heard it all. We were considered a joke by a lot of people in August but that has changed and it's thanks to the immense efforts of the lads on the pitch and Rob Edwards.

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

Pride. What a moment. The realisation of so many peoples hard work and it was difficult holding back the emotion. What a club!

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

I miss the lower leagues in a way as we had drawn the respect from the clubs in those divisions who knew already just how tough a game it is playing Luton Town now, we are doing that all over again in the Premier League and the dues we deserve are coming our way now.

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

Premier League survival. We have what it takes. We just must keep pushing on. Keep the faith hatters, the good times aren't over yet! 



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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

Today, we host Aston Villa in another big match here at Kenilworth Road. Another big game here at Kenilworth Road as we look to right the wrongs of last time out against Villa. So let's flashback to a home match in League Two against Stevenage in October 2017.

This one turned out to be a special one! Nathan Jones had named an extremely attacking line-up which included the likes of Danny Hylton, James Collins, Luke Berry, Elliot Lee, Harry Cornick and Olly Lee to name a few.

You could tell it was going to be a good day and it was a well-known fact about how high-scoring Luton are. The opening day 8-2 victory against Yeovil Town being a prime example.

In just three minutes, the Hatters were leading. A brilliant Jack Stacey cross was met by the head of Berry who put Luton ahead early on.

The second came soon after in bizarre fashion. A defensive Scott Cuthbert header from his own half somehow made its way past the Stevenage defence to Hylton who cut in and finished for 2-0.

It was 3-0 after 21 minutes after some great work from Cornick and Olly Lee meant the ball fell kindly to Berry to stroke past the goalkeeper for his second.

Stevenage got a goal back just before the break as Ben Kennedy bypassed the Luton defence and finished past Marek Stech for 3-1.

This didn't last long as Hylton had his second of the match shortly after the restart. This came from the penalty spot as Collins was fouled in the box. Hylton stepped up and slotted it into the bottom right corner before celebrating in front of the Stevenage fans.

It was soon 5-1 as Berry completed his hat-trick just after the hour-mark. He received the ball on the edge of the box before curling past the goalkeeper to get his first hat-trick for the club.

It was 6-1 in the 90th minute when James Justin got in on the act. Elliot Lee played it through to Justin who beat his man in the box before slotting into the bottom left corner.

The Hatters then made it 7-1 in the third minute of stoppage time as Elliot Lee's effort rebounded off the post to Luke Gambin who finished the ball into the empty net.

It was an excellent afternoon at Kenilworth Road as the Town picked up a sensational win. This really set us up to be taken seriously as promotion contenders in League Two and further proof that no team in the league could deal with Luton when playing like that. 

COYH

Words by Zac Neal





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JUNIOR HATTERS TONIGHT'S MASCOTS



Archie Loomes

Age: 8

Hobbies: Playing Football and Fifa

Favourite Players: Ross Barkley & Elijah Adebayo



Leo Knightley

Age: 9

Hobbies: Minecraft, Drums, Coding, Supporting Luton and Rugby

Favourite Players: Ross Barkley & Thomas Kaminski



Caleb Knightley

Age: 7

Hobbies: Drawing, Coding, Supporting Luton and Nintendo

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



Logan Bates

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football & Gaming

Favourite Player: Chiedozie Ogbene



Charlie Brown

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football, Lego and Playstation

Favourite Players: Elijah Adebayo & Carlton Morris



Oscar Amiss

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football, Fishing, Boxing, Gaming

Favourite Player: Thomas Kaminski



Daniel Cummings

Age: 7

Hobbies: Football & Gaming

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



TICKET NEWS



INFORMATION FOR RE-ARRANGED BOURNEMOUTH GAME

The Luton Town ticket office can advise on the following ticket information regarding the rearranged Premier League game away at AFC Bournemouth.

Supporters with a current ticket

Supporters with a current ticket for the fixture can attend this fixture on Wednesday 13th March without any additional charge. However, existing tickets will be invalid, and a new ticket will need to be collected from the ticket office from Tuesday 5th March up until the rearranged date. You can arrange

for these tickets to be posted, to do so please contact the ticket office by phone or email ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk to arrange this and pay for postage.

Supporters who can no longer attend

Any supporter who is now unable to can contact the ticket office and receive a full refund. Please call or email to request a refund by close of business on Monday 4th March.

Rearranged Sales Plan

Once we know how many cancellations have been received a further sales plan will be announced on Tuesday 5th March to allow us to redistribute tickets.

LET'S GO

SELHURST PARK SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2024 KICK-OFF 3.00PM

WHERE?

Selhurst Park has remained unchanged since our last visit to this corner of South London. The ground, which opened in 1924 has a capacity of 25,486. Designed by the feted architect Archibald Leitch, it has hosted international football in the past, as well as the Olympics in 1948. Since the Town played here in 2007, the stadium layout has changed slightly, with away supporters now housed at the other end of the Arthur Waite Stand – and further away from the two-tiered structure behind the goal at the Holmesdale Road end. Even though this stand is one of the oldest, it still offers fans great acoustics to get behind their team.

HOW TO GET THERE.

As ever the Bobbers Travel Club are running a coach to Selhurst Park. Departing from Luton at 11.30am the fare is £24 for adults and £22 for concessions. Book your spot on the coach by calling 01234 856542. Selhurst Park is situated at the heart of a residential area with strict parking regulations in operation on the streets immediately surrounding the stadium which means driving isn't ideal. Taking the train is the best bet. The nearest stations to Selhurst Park are Selhurst, Norwood Junction and Thornton Heath, all of which are within 15 minutes' walk of the stadium.

UNHAPPY HUNTING GROUND.

The Town head to Selhurst Park looking to improving on a record that stands at seven wins from 45 visits. Not since the opening day of the 2005/06 season have the Hatters won at Palace. That afternoon, 2,500 travelling fans celebrated a 2-1 win thanks to goals from Steve Howard and Ahmet Brkovic. The Eagles won the last meeting on London soil in the Championship in February 2007, while it was honours even for the last time we met at Selhurst Park in the top-flight. That day a penalty from Mark Pembridge earned the Hatters a point in a 1-1 draw. Those with stories from their parents or grandparents may regale how the Town lost 7-0 twice there (in 1907 and 1929) and 8-0 in 1909!

THE PALACE OF TODAY.

Roy Hodgson was replaced in the managerial hotseat by Austrian Oliver Glasner and the new boss had the desired effect in his first game in charge as the Eagles lifted themselves from the relegation zone with a 3-0 win over Burnley last weekend. Palace's record since October has seen them win just four times in 19 games, which saw them beat Burnley twice, Sheffield United and Brentford. On home turf, the Eagles have won three of their last four at home, with one defeat – at home to Chelsea – preventing that from making it four in a row.



THE EAGLES



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 team did the Hatters beat on this day in 2013 in John Still's first game in charge?
2. The Town and Villa have met 40 times in total – but how many have ended in draws?
3. Which Luton striker scored in four consecutive games against Villa between 1985 and 1986?
4. Which club play their home games at Plainmoor?
5. From which Belgian club did Aston Villa sign Marvelous Nakamba?
6. Goalkeeper Jed Steer joined the Town on-loan from Villa but which League One club does he now play for?
7. The Town have played Villa at home 19 times – how many have we won?
8. Which club is nicknamed the Bantams?
9. The Hatters beat Torquay 1-0 on this day in 2002 – but who was in goal for Torquay that day?
10. Which player had 13 years between his two Champions League wins in 1995 and 2008?

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

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

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

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



Premier League

ROUND-UP

Since the Hatters last kicked a ball in anger in the Premier League, the picture at the bottom of the table has changed significantly following the news earlier this week that Everton saw their ten-point deduction reduced to six after an appeal.

It meant the Toffees rose to 15th in the table, five points above the Town in the league standings, and enabled them to leapfrog Nottingham Forest and Brentford too.

On the pitch, Sean Dyche's side haven't won in nine Premier League matches after a late, late Lewis Dunk goal earned Brighton a point at the Amex last weekend. Everton entertained West Ham at Goodison Park earlier today.

So that all means the club closest to the Hatters in the table are Nottingham Forest who sit one place and four points above Rob Edwards' side. Forest hosted leaders Liverpool earlier today but went into the fixture having lost four of their last six matches in the top-flight.

Brentford lie one place and one point above Forest in 16th spot, the Bees losing last Monday against West Ham. Thomas Frank's side have taken nine points from their last 15 matches in the Premier League, winning three and losing 12. This afternoon they hosted west London rivals Chelsea – a side the Bees enjoy playing against.

Two clubs sit together on 28 points, eight points above us in the standings. Bournemouth aim to end a seven-match winless run when they head to Burnley tomorrow – the Clarets themselves in desperate need of the points.



Crystal Palace, meanwhile, were boosted by the new manager bounce last weekend. Austrian Oliver Glasner took over from Roy Hodgson and had an immediate effect on his new side as the Eagles boosted any fears of relegation with a 3-0 victory at home to Burnley. Palace's last four wins in the Premier League have been against Burnley, twice, Sheffield United and Brentford – today they travelled to Tottenham.

Looking at the other end of the table, Liverpool's win over the Hatters the previous week kept them at the top of the tree before winning the first piece of silverware of the season when beating Chelsea in the Carabao Cup. Jurgen Klopp's Reds sit a point clear of Manchester City who in turn sit a point ahead of Arsenal in what all neutrals hope will be an exciting race for the title.

Premier League

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	26	18	6	2	63	25	38	60
2	Manchester City	26	18	5	3	59	26	33	59
3	Arsenal	26	18	4	4	62	23	39	58
4	Aston Villa	26	16	4	6	56	35	21	52
5	Tottenham Hotspur	25	14	5	6	52	38	14	47
6	Manchester United	26	14	2	10	36	36	0	44
7	Brighton and Hove Albion	26	10	9	7	49	41	8	39
8	West Ham United	26	11	6	9	40	46	-6	39
9	Wolverhampton Wanderers	26	11	5	10	40	40	0	38
10	Newcastle United	26	11	4	11	54	45	9	37
11	Chelsea	25	10	5	10	42	41	1	35
12	Fulham	26	9	5	12	36	42	-6	32
13	Crystal Palace	26	7	7	12	31	44	-13	28
14	Bournemouth	25	7	7	11	33	47	-14	28
15	Everton *	26	8	7	11	28	34	-6	25
16	Brentford	26	7	4	15	37	48	-11	25
17	Nottingham Forest	26	6	6	14	34	48	-14	24
18	Luton Town	25	5	5	15	35	51	-16	20
19	Burnley	26	3	4	19	25	58	-33	13
20	Sheffield United	26	3	4	19	22	66	-44	13

* Everton deducted 6 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability rules.



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PLAYER STATISTICS

	2023/24 SEASON								CAREER				
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		CARDS		TOTAL				
	APPS	G	APPS	G	APPS	G	Y	R	APPS	G			
Elijah Adebayo	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	18	(2)	3	4	(1)	0	22	(3)	3	4	0	25	3
Amari'i Bell	20	(0)	0	4	(2)	0	24	(2)	0	0	0	123	2
Luke Berry	0	(6)	0	2	(1)	0	2	(7)	0	1	0	173	24
Jacob Brown	12	(7)	2	1	(2)	1	13	(9)	3	5	0	22	3
Reece Burke	9	(2)	0	3	(1)	0	12	(3)	0	2	0	72	4
Tahith Chong	8	(12)	1	4	(1)	1	12	(13)	2	4	0	25	2
Jordan Clark	4	(7)	0	2	(1)	2	6	(8)	2	4	0	125	11
Alfie Doughty	21	(3)	1	6	(0)	1	27	(3)	2	4	0	65	4
Ryan Giles	5	(6)	0	2	(1)	0	7	(7)	0	0	0	14	0
Daiki Hashioka	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Joe Johnson	0	(0)	0	1	(2)	0	1	(2)	0	0	0	5	0
Issa Kabore	13	(3)	0	0	(2)	0	13	(5)	0	5	0	18	0
Thomas Kaminski	25	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	25	(0)	0	3	0	25	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	0	0	6	0
Tom Lockyer	14	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	15	(0)	1	4	0	117	7
Sambi Lokonga	11	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	13	(1)	0	2	0	14	0
Teden Mengi	16	(2)	1	5	(0)	0	21	(2)	1	3	0	23	1
Carlton Morris	19	(6)	7	4	(1)	0	23	(7)	7	2	0	81	27
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	8	(11)	0	3	(2)	0	11	(13)	0	0	0	394	23
Marvelous Nakamba	13	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	13	(1)	0	5	0	34	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	16	(8)	3	5	(1)	1	21	(9)	4	0	0	30	4
Gabriel Osho	15	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	17	(0)	2	2	0	79	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	(7)	1	1	(3)	0	10	(10)	1	1	0	20	1
Cauley Woodrow	2	(11)	0	3	(2)	2	5	(13)	2	2	0	53	5



400 UP FOR CLICKER

Congratulations to Hatters midfielder who made his 400th career appearance when coming on as a substitute in our last Premier League match at Liverpool. The midfielder followed that appearance up with two goals against Manchester City last Tuesday – his first goals since scoring in the play-off final at Wembley in May.

2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

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



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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

				SUBSTITUTES		ATT	AWA
NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Shea, Francis Clarke, Berry, Campbell, Doughty, Brown, McAtee, Ogbone, Woodrow	31,872	3,001
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Doughty, Andersen, Ruddock-Mpanzu, Ogbone, Brown, Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Johnson	39,893	3,054
MPANZU	BERRY	WOODROW	OBENE	BROWN	Shea, Burke, Johnson, Kabore, Barkley, Chong, Nakamba, Adebayo, Morris	9,468	1,058
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Krul, Berry, Brown, Francis Clarke, Johnson, Kabore, Mpanzu, Ogbone, Woodrow	10,802	1,151
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Adebayo, Berry, Doughty, Giles, Mengi, Mpanzu, Ogbone, Woodrow	24,467	2,701
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Adebayo, Andersen, Berry, Chong, Giles, Mengi, Mpanzu, Woodrow	10,893	1,091
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	Shea, Ogbone, Morris, Kabore, Burke, Brown, Bell, Burger, Luker	7,360	708
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Mengi, Giles, Johnson	39,289	2,976
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Burke, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Giles, Johnson	10,918	1,126
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Barkley, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Chong, Mengi, Giles, Johnson	10,929	1,151
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Osho, Barkley, Woodrow, Adebayo, Kabore, Giles, Townsend, Luker	29,361	2,893
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Mpanzu, Giles, Townsend, Johnson, Luker	41,785	3,005
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Adebayo, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson, Luker	11,049	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Adebayo, Berry, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson	73,599	3,008
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Berry, Adebayo, Chong, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson, Luker	11,029	1,149
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OBENE	MORRIS	CHONG	Krul, Adebayo, Clark, Brown, Giles, Townsend, Johnson, Nelson	17,075	1,725
MPANZU	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Ogbone, Berry, Morris, Chong, Clark, Giles, Johnson, Nelson	11,112	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Morris, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Lokonga, Johnson	11,047	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Andersen, Ogbone, Morris, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Giles	11,042	145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Shea, Andersen, Ogbone, Berry, Morris, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu	31,041	2,362
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Andersen, Ogbone, Morris, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Giles	11,041	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Kaminski, Andersen, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Mpanzu, Clark, Giles, Townsend	10,739	1,609
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Potts, Berry, Morris, Woodrow, Chong, Burke, Mpanzu, Giles	20,155	1,432
BARKLEY	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	CHONG	Kaminski, Potts, Berry, Woodrow, Adebayo, Brown, Giles, Bell, Townsend	10,878	751
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	TOWNSEND	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Kaminski, Shea, Potts, Berry, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Johnson, Nelson	37,713	1,699
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Krul, Potts, Berry, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Townsend, Johnson, Nelson	10,991	1,044
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Chong, Burke, Mpanzu, Brown, Townsend	52,211	3,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Chong, Mengi, Mpanzu, Brown, Townsend	11,138	1,350
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	Krul, Potts, Berry, Kabore, Burke, Mpanzu, Clark, Townsend, Nelson	11,438	1,389
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	Krul, Potts, Berry, Kabore, Mpanzu, Burke, Clark, Townsend, Nelson	59,896	2,905
CLARK	RANKI FAY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	Shea, Osho, Mpanzu, Hashika, Townsend, Johnson, Nesi, Piesold	11,163	1,866

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.



6. Peterborough United. 7. 13. 8. Bradford City. 9. Kevin Dearden. 10. Edwin van der Sar
1. Stockport County. 2. Five times. 3. Brian Stein. 4. Torquay United. 5. Club Brugge.

TOWN TEASERS ANSWERS:



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH FAYE CARRUTHERS

It's always hard to write programme notes after a defeat. Harder when it's a defeat where Erling Haaland was up front for the opposition. An opponent who, as you know, won the quadruple last season.

This is where our reality check comes in. We reached the last 16 of the FA Cup for the second time in three seasons and were knocked out by the current holders who happen to have arguably one of the best strikers in the world playing for them. Jordan Clark once again brought us some hope and joy with two firecrackers, but ultimately, we were beaten by a team that is a juggernaut. It was only a couple of months ago we narrowly lost 2-1 to them. No panic, no anger, we move on.

Some of the negative reaction has perhaps come additionally as a result of a decision this week that many of us have been frustrated by and the uncertainty that may now follow with other charges. Rob Edwards has always said the team have been looking at the table without Everton's points deduction anyway, so we are where we are. But we are fighting, and fighting hard as we all witnessed against Manchester United in our last home league game. We're also getting huge recognition within the media for that fight and the entertainment that brings.

We never give up, as you all know.

That's where my optimism always comes from - so many of the 'big clubs' have come here and struggled this season because of the way we play. Our visitors today, Aston Villa, are actually the last of the current Premier League top ten to experience Kenilworth Road this season. It's also worth remembering we have taken eight points from those nine games, and arguably in many of them, we could and should have had more.

The strength of us as a club is our togetherness and that comes to the fore again this evening when we return our focus to doing what we do best - surviving and thriving. Villa are fourth and hoping to secure a spot in the Champions League, but rather than be daunted by that, we need to stick to our plan and make this the toughest place they've come to all season.

I took my nephew Jake to Villa Park back in October, where 3,000 of us sang our hearts out despite the 3-1 defeat. We need 10,000 of us to do that tonight and propel the team to winning ways.

We can do it, so let's bring that positivity as always and keep enjoying the ride. Enjoy the match. COYH! 



THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports



LUTON TOWN

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



ASTON VILLA

1. EMILIANO MARTÍNEZ
2. MATTY CASH
3. DIEGO CARLOS
4. EZRI KONSA
5. TYRONE MINGS
6. DOUGLAS LUIZ
7. JOHN MCGINN
8. YOURI TIELEMANS
10. EMILIANO BUENDÍA
11. OLLIE WATKINS
12. LUCAS DIGNE
14. PAU TORRES
15. ÀLEX MORENO
16. CALUM CHAMBERS
17. CLÉMENT LENGLET
18. JOE GAUCI
19. MOUSSA DIABY
22. NICOLÒ ZANIOLÒ
24. JHON DURÁN
25. ROBIN OLSEN
27. MORGAN ROGERS
29. KAINÉ KESLER-HAYDEN
30. KORTNEY HAUSE
31. LEON BAILEY
41. JACOB RAMSEY
44. BOUBACAR KAMARA
47. TIM IROGBUNAM

MATCH OFFICIALS

- REFEREE - MICHAEL OLIVER
- ASSISTANT REFEREE - STUART BURT
- ASSISTANT REFEREE - DAN COOK
- FOURTH OFFICIAL - MATTHEW DONOHUE
- VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - PETER BANKES
- ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - MARK SCHOLES