

ISSUE #20 | £4.00 | PREMIER LEAGUE

LUTON TOWN v BRENTFORD

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2024 | 3:00PM | KENILWORTH ROAD

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RUNNERS-UP 2001/02, 2017/18

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With thanks to: The media team at Brentford.

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

This season continues to throw up its twists and turns. Our last game here we saw a vital comeback win against Bournemouth while at Manchester City last weekend saw the team put in a performance to make every Hatters fan proud. It's now five cup finals to go and three here at the Kenny, starting this afternoon against Brentford so bring the noise and get behind the lads. Come on Luton!



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EDWARDS**



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**SEASON
SO FAR**



Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this game against Brentford – the first of five massive matches in our quest to stay in the Premier League.

I'd also like to welcome Thomas Frank and his staff and players to Bedfordshire. Thomas is someone I have huge respect for given his achievements with our visitors. From winning promotion to establishing the Bees in the top-flight, he has done a wonderful job. He's a great person and a top, top coach – which means this afternoon's game is going to be a big challenge.

The result last weekend at Manchester City was tough for us to take but one of the most encouraging aspects was seeing you, our fans, with us at the end. The stadium emptied, and we had lost the game yet you stayed behind and applauded us off the pitch. Just like you have all season, and in particular at some glamourous grounds in recent weeks, you showed your appreciation to players and staff. It is this spirit that makes me believe we are stronger than anyone else in the situation right now.

We were victorious in our last match here at the Kenny against Bournemouth when we played really well in a difficult match. Today will be no different and we're going to need everyone at it, the lads on the pitch and you in the stands.

We have three home matches to play here and we're going to be putting everything into getting maximum points from them all. Nobody is going to roll over and hand us them – we need to work and the players are well aware of what's needed to ensure we put ourselves in a position to do so. That includes the work undertaken to nurse

our walking wounded back to fitness. Our performance and medical teams are putting the hours in to ensure we have bodies back for the run-in. Similarly, the injured lads are itching to get back amongst it. Everyone is pulling in the same direction which is a massive plus.

Overall, therefore, we are feeling positive. We feel survival is in our own hands – even though we currently sit in the bottom three. Not everyone is going to pick up points in every game – but we feel we can. That's the way we've felt since day one.

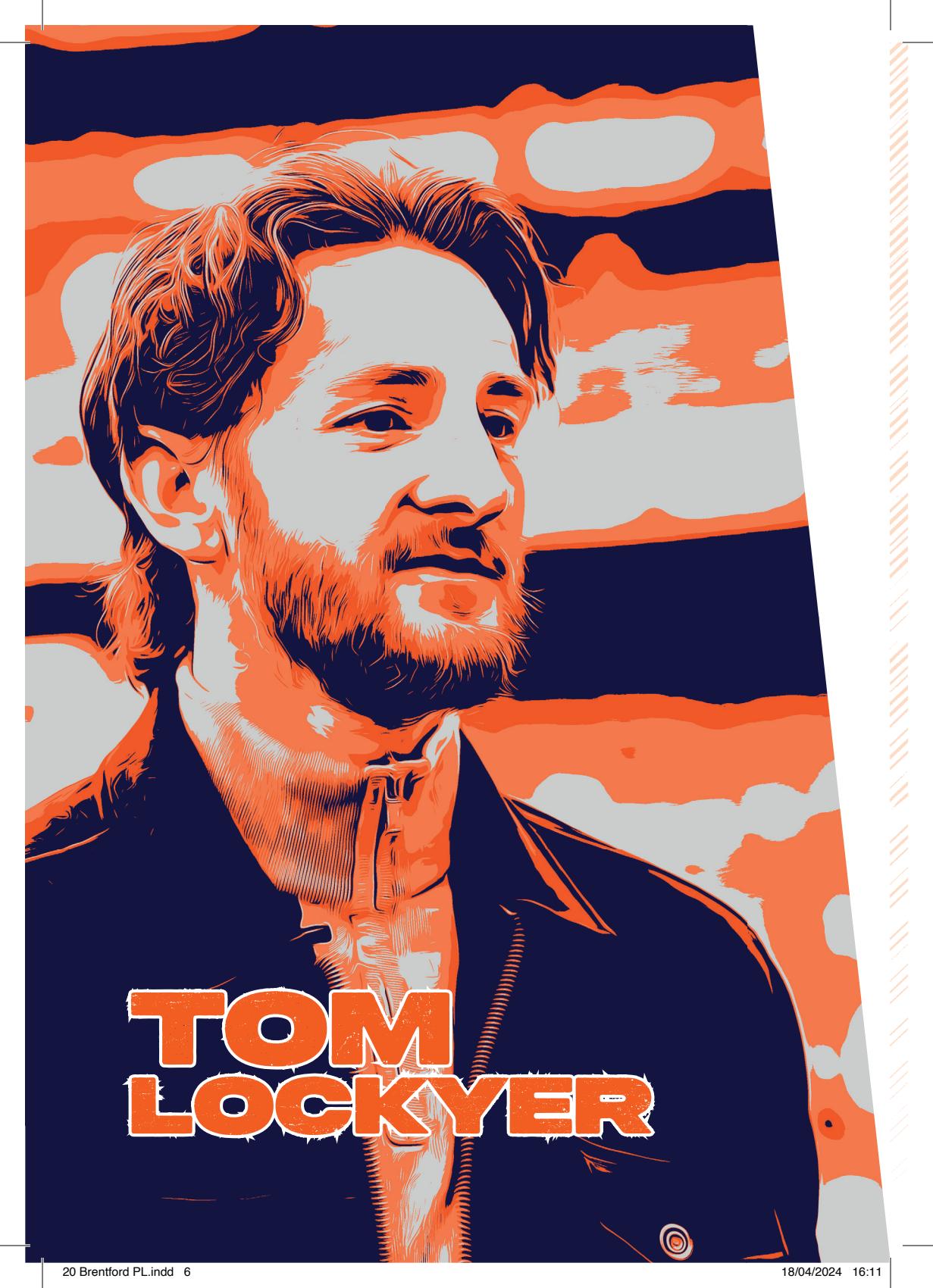
The lads have given us so much this season, day in, day out, right the way through the season. You have, too. And that's what gives me so much belief that we'll be playing in the Premier League next season.

Sadly, since our last home game, one man who brought so much positivity and success during his time at the club, Joe Kinnear, passed away. I know he played an important role in raising the fortunes here and I was touched by reading some of the tributes. My condolences go out to his family and friends.

Before I sign off, I'd like to touch on the No Room For Racism campaign, that passed last week. If you haven't seen the video we released, I urge you to do so. It was extremely powerful and it illustrated how much of a family we are here at Kenilworth Road. We won't tolerate discrimination of any kind. Enough is enough. We are all Luton.

So here's to the final push. Get behind us and bring the noise. 





A stylized, high-contrast portrait of Tom Lockyer. He has light-colored hair and a beard, looking slightly to the right. The background is a desert landscape with orange and white sand dunes under a dark blue sky. The overall aesthetic is graphic and modern.

TOM LOCKYER

So here we are. The final five games. Three here at the Kenny. Like me, you're probably looking at the league table and thinking – bring it on.

At the start of the season we were written off, called all the names under the sun, ridiculed and told we'd be lucky to get more than 11 points. Just as well stuff like this is water off a duck's back to this group of players and staff.

I can see why perhaps people had certain opinions on us. We'd come up from Championship in the play-offs and even in the Champ we had one of the smallest budgets. But what people don't realise is the strength of the spirit and mentality we have in the dressing room. Without that, we wouldn't have been promoted in the first place.

The way the lads have knuckled down and worked their backsides off this season has given me so much pride. Our last three away games encapsulate that. Tottenham, Arsenal and Man City. Daunting tasks on paper, obviously, but watching the games, you can see the determination and never-say-die attitude running through the team. In all three matches we've given the opposition something to think about. Leading at Spurs, keeping Arsenal quiet in the second half, scoring and hitting the bar at City. This group are not fazed by anything. They just get on with it.

We are a fearless group, and we go into the first of the final five games this afternoon facing a Brentford side who, like any team we've faced this season, contain many quality players. Yet while the strengths of the opposition will be important for us to nullify, I know if we are on it we're a match for anyone. We've proven it this season many times, none more so than our last home

game when we came from behind to beat Bournemouth. It was a performance that merited all three points and I was delighted for everyone, especially for Clicker and Carlton to get the goals.

The noise when Carlton's winner hit the back of the net probably could have been heard for miles and the place was bouncing. We need more positive energy and an electric atmosphere this afternoon. You won't believe how much your encouragement helps us on the pitch. It genuinely fills us with confidence. I've noticed that when watching the game and there's a roar of approval, you can see the lads encouraged by it. So please remember you can play your own part. The boys will need you!

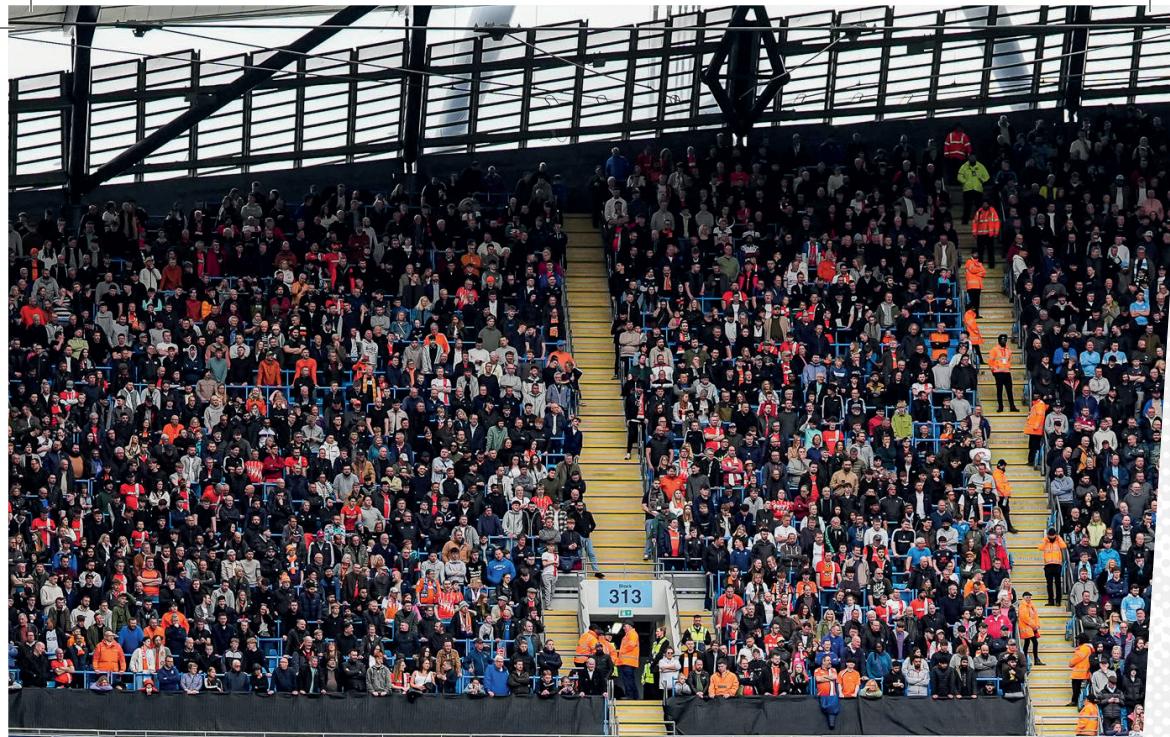
While I can't see into a crystal ball and predict what will happen come 5pm, what I can guarantee is that the lads will fight until the very last kick so get behind them from the first minute.

On a personal note, a little update. I'm now allowed to get on with some light exercise. For someone who has been so active my whole life, this is a massive boost. Don't worry, I'm still taking it slow and continue to see specialists but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you for the support and the messages of goodwill – it's very touching and my family and I appreciate it greatly.

Now's the time for me to join you in getting behind the boys, so sing loud for the next 90 minutes.

Up the Hatters. 







FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON

Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for this important home game in the Premier League.

Our visitors today are Brentford. Our first meeting was a victory for us at home in December 1920 when we were both in Division Three (South). Since then we have met 79 times winning 35, drawing 15 and losing 29. However, our recent form has not been so good, winning only once in the seven games since 2020 began running the club in 2008. So let's hope for a reversal in fortunes today for obviously important reason. We, therefore, anticipate an exciting and inevitably competitive game.

Regardless of the obvious tension that this game creates, we look forward to entertaining Bees chair Cliff Crown and his colleagues, who have done such an excellent job since their promotion to the Premier League in 2021. We have a friendly working relationship with them, and they have been helpful and generous with their advice since we ourselves joined the higher echelons.

Our recent performances have had to contend with a depleted playing squad to the extent that at the Etihad against Manchester City we had two keepers and five teenagers on the bench and none of our seven centre halves had trained in the week before the game. It is always exciting to see young academy players make first team debuts, but these are not ideal circumstances. Congratulations though to Joe Johnson on his first Premier League appearance, and to Zack Nelson who appeared for the second time. I'm sure we all hope to see more of them in the

future. I suppose most of us would have predicted the outcome, particularly after the misfortune of the first goal, which might have hit the corner flag if it hadn't been deflected. However, what a courageous performance for 60 minutes, a couple of close calls and a super goal from Ross Barkley.

This was all after a similarly depleted squad at home to beat an in-form Bournemouth side with a spirited display and two tremendous late goals, which included Jordan Clark's first in the Premier League and meant he has now scored in the top five divisions.

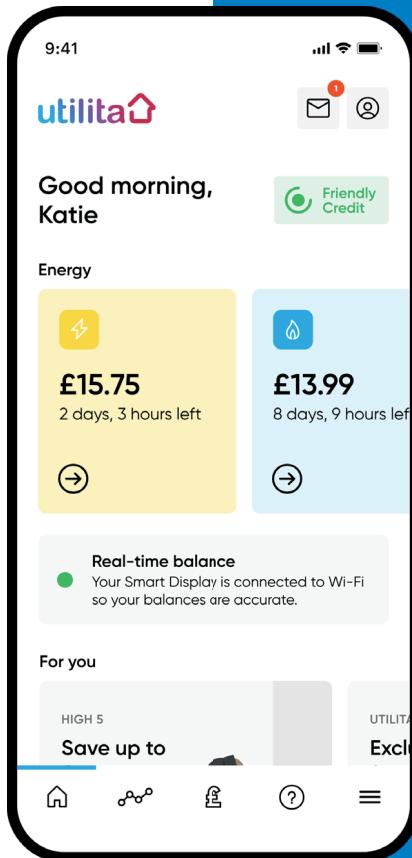
I must mention, you, the fans, who continue to show amazing support. It was incredible to see you standing as one after the final whistle at the Etihad, cheering our players and coaches after a 5-1 defeat. It was magnificent and very emotional, particularly as the 50,000 home fans had been out-sung for most of the afternoon. It's not the first time that our travelling fans have made us so proud watching on from afar because rarely have we not been noticed even in the biggest stadia.

As Rob has said, the season now starts here with five games left to play. Very few, if any, would have expected us to be still in it with everything to play for at this stage. There were even some unmentionable members of the media who thought we'd be relegated by Christmas even though that wasn't possible. To my mind promotion and relegation are what makes our football pyramid so enticing and we have suffered and enjoyed more than any having been all the way to the top and the bottom of the leagues three times in the last 60 years. ➤

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It's never boring supporting Luton so here we go again.

We have enjoyed so much the way we have played this season and the fact that we have made so many new friends in the game for it. In today's world we are an unusual club, and we greatly value our differences. Thank you all for being who you are.

We continue to lose our former heroes. I went to Jimmy Husband's funeral last week and was pleased to see Joe Royle, Jimmy Ryan and other of his former teammates from Everton and Luton.

Last week Joe Kinnear died. A talented player for Spurs in the 60s he was a fascinating character, leading Wimbledon to eighth place in Premier League and to the semi-finals of the major cup competitions. He had to stand down after health issues. After a short spell as director of football at Oxford Joe joined us when we were fighting relegation to what is now League 2.

He couldn't save us but rebuilt the team by bringing in his own men including Kevin Nicholls, Chris Coyne and Jean-Louis Valois, storming to promotion finishing runners-up to Plymouth. Sadly, he and his assistant Mick Harford fell foul of the infamous John Gurney and were sacked in mysterious circumstances ahead of the Manager Idol appointment of Mike Newell.

Joe had been suffering with vascular dementia from 2016 and sadly passed away from complications of the disease. He will be missed greatly.

Last but by no means least I draw your attention to the NO Room For Racism video which we published last week.

Hiding behind anonymity whilst hurting the recipients, their families, friends, colleagues, and employers shows ignorance and cowardice and achieves nothing. It is moronic and says so much about their disturbing and woeful lack of self-worth.

We are Lutonians and Luton is a diverse community. We pride ourselves in welcoming everyone as equals and abhor discrimination of any kind. We will do all we can to identify perpetrators of this disgusting media abuse and will punish accordingly.

"Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot that it do singe yourself." William Shakespeare (Henry VIII).

Enjoy the game.

COYH

David

AROUND TOWN

REST IN PEACE, JOE KINNEAR



News reached Kenilworth Road last week of the passing of former Hatters manager Joe Kinnear at the age of 77.

Born in Dublin, Joe moved with his parents to Watford at an early age and was first spotted on a football pitch playing for St Albans City which led to him being snapped up by Tottenham in 1963.

Making his debut for Spurs in 1966 he went on to make over 200 appearances for the White Hart Lane club, mostly at full-back. Joe finished his playing career with a season at Brighton in 1975 before five years coaching and managing in the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Nepal before returning to the UK with Doncaster Rovers.

It was at Wimbledon though that he made his mark in management and after taking over in January 1992 he consistently saw his unfashionable side finish in the top ten in the Premier League to defy all the odds.

A major heart attack in March 1999 saw him stand down but once he was given the all-clear returned to football as Director

of Football at Oxford United before being enticed to relegation threatened Luton in a similar position in February 2001.

Soon assuming the role of team manager, Joe saw the Town go on a winning run which, sadly, could not be maintained with the Hatters dropping to the fourth tier for the first time since 1968.

The summer of 2001 saw so many changes on the playing side that never a day went by as Joe, living up to his 'wheeler dealer' reputation, introduced new faces to the squad. Five new players made their debuts on the opening day of 2001/02 and by mid-October no fewer than 11 players had pulled on a Luton shirt for the first time.

Once the new players had gelled the Town turned into a formidable outfit which produced some brilliant football and a season to remember, with 12 straight wins being recorded at one stage, as promotion was achieved at the first time of asking.

A solid ninth position was achieved the following season but just as Joe and his assistant Mick Harford were preparing for the 2003/04 campaign a summer of turmoil at Kenilworth Road saw the pair being dismissed by letter by new 'owner' John Gurney. A bizarre and disappointing end to a colourful period in Luton Town's history.

Joe bounced back from this and took charge at Nottingham Forest, saving them from relegation, before eventually returning to the top flight with Newcastle where he was never far from controversy. His last role in the game was as Director of Football at Newcastle where he resigned in 2014.

Our condolences go out to all his family and friends at this sad time.



In memory of **Dave Craddock**, died 22nd March 2024. A loyal and proud Luton Town supporter since the 1960s and a season ticket holder for over 40 years. Rest in Peace Dave.



Sadie Galvin is running the London Marathon to raise funds for Thames Valley Air Ambulance in memory of her husband **Peter Galvin**. Peter was a massive Hatters fan and unfortunately passed away on 30th April last year whilst waiting to go for a run with his friends. If you would like to sponsor Sadie, her sponsorship page can be found on Just Giving, by searching 'Sadie Galvin'.

WE'RE ALL LUTON

Racism. In 2024, it's still happening. This season we've been angered and upset at the online abuse members of our first team squad have received.

It's disgraceful, callous, cowardly and it's hurting people close to us.

And when it hurts one of us, it hurts all of us.



In a video, which you can watch by using the QR code on the left, we showed a selection of the horrific messages our players have received. Our message is simple: If you attack one of us, you attack all of us.

We're all Luton – and we pride ourselves on the environment we foster. We're warm, welcoming, multi-cultural. We're a family. We love our Club, our town and our people.

There's no room for racism. Full stop. And we'll continue to do all we can to stand up for our players and our people.

Racism in any form will not be tolerated at Luton Town, so should you witness such abhorrent and unwelcome behaviour report it to us directly by emailing myvoice@lutontown.co.uk using our online matchday incident reporting form or by contacting your nearest steward.

Hatters fans will be able to watch Luton Town Ladies at Kenilworth Road when they entertain Bowers & Pitsea on Sunday 12th May, kick-off 2pm.

Admission for the Eastern Region Women's Football League fixture is £5 for adults and £1 for under-17s with unreserved seating in the main stand enclosure.

Supporters are encouraged to use digital tickets for this match, but can opt to receive tickets by post or can collect from the ticket office.

The Ladies have enjoyed a fine season, reaching the fourth round proper of the Women's FA Cup, going down to a full-time Brighton side at a packed Barton Rovers.

The Hatters side currently sit in fifth place in the Premier Division table with three games in hand over league leaders Real Bedford.

Ladies General Manager Nikki Baker said: "We are very grateful for another opportunity to play at Kenilworth Road.

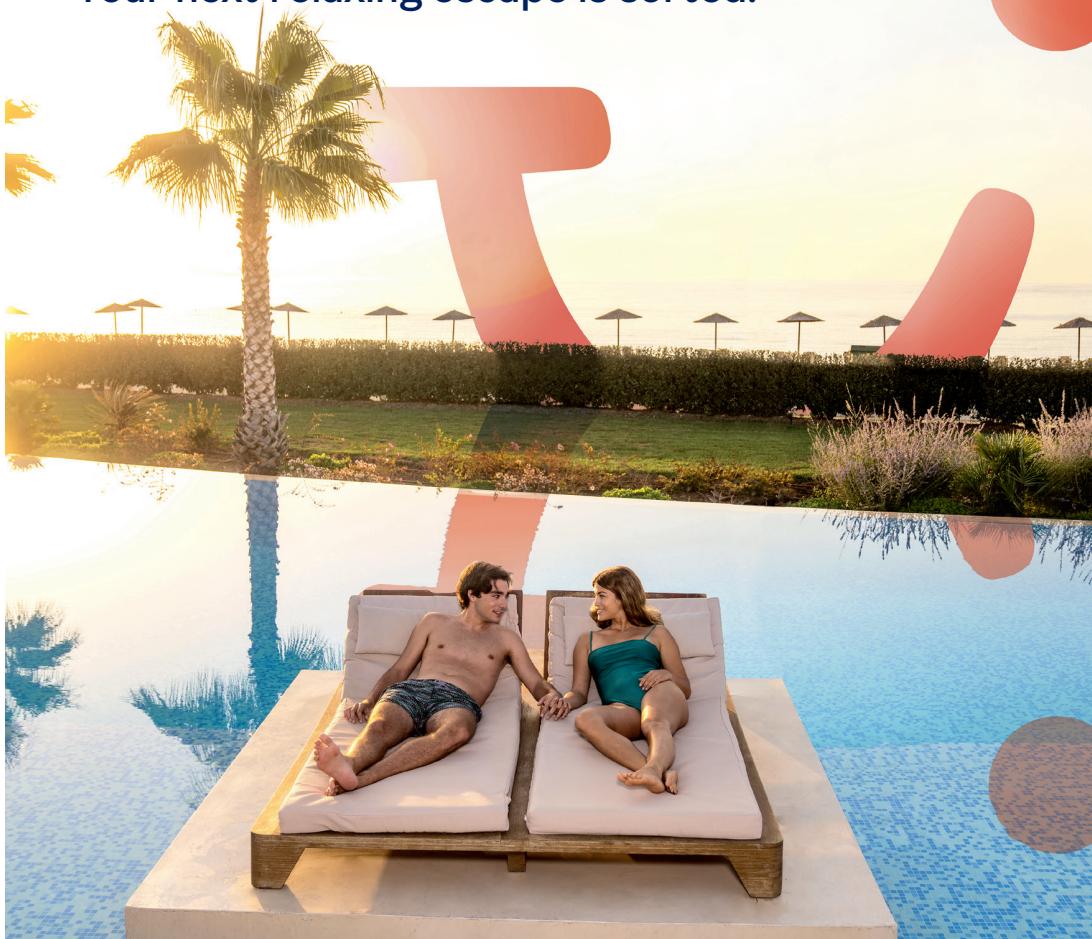
"The players, coaches and background staff are really looking forward to it and it would be great to get a huge crowd like our FA Cup 4th round game in January.

"There has been lots of work going on in the background the last few months between us as a club and it's fantastic to see the relationship growing closer together again with LTFC."

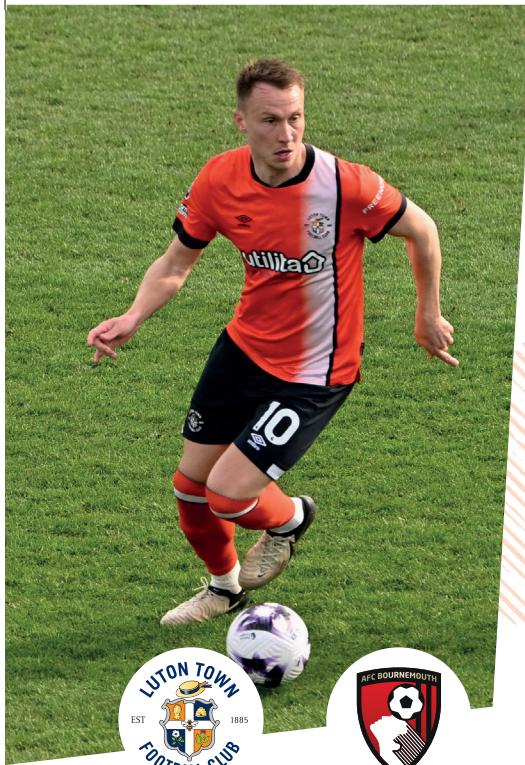


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2 - 1

Kenilworth Road – 16th March 2024

Town: Kaminski; Hashioka (sub Onyedinma 62), Doughty, Mengi, Burke, Kaboré; Barkley, Clark; Chong (sub Woodrow 80), Townsend (sub Berry 62), Morris.

Subs not used: Shea, Krul, Mpanzu, Johnson, Nelson, Piesold.

Bournemouth: Neto, Smith, Zabarnyi, Kelly, Kerkez (sub Senesi 86), Cook (sub Scott 87), Christie, Tavernier (sub Ouattara 58), Kluivert (sub Billing 68), Semenyo (sub Unal 68), Solanke.

Subs not used: Faivre, Hill, Aarons, Travers.

GOALS

Town – Clark 73, Morris 90

Forest – Tavernier 52

Attendance: 11,630, including 1,260 in the away end.

LATE MORRIS STRIKE SELLS PRICELESS WIN

Whatever has been thrown at the Hatters this season they always find a way and here, a goal down and staring down the barrel of an eighth defeat in 11 Premier League matches, Rob Edwards' side found a way to breathe new life into the quest to avoid the drop.

And after a second half performance of unrelenting pressure, they fought back to deservedly draw level on points for Nottingham Forest and lift the roof of Kenilworth Road.

On a day in which the Town knew they needed a result after a sequence that had seen them slip below the dotted line, you could argue that Edwards' team were fortunate to go in at the interval goalless after Bournemouth – one of the form teams in the division and chasing down a European spot – had gone close following several moments of real quality.

After the break the Town were mighty close to taking the lead moments later when Carlton Morris was denied by a world class save by Neto, getting down to his right to keep out the captain's goal-bound effort.

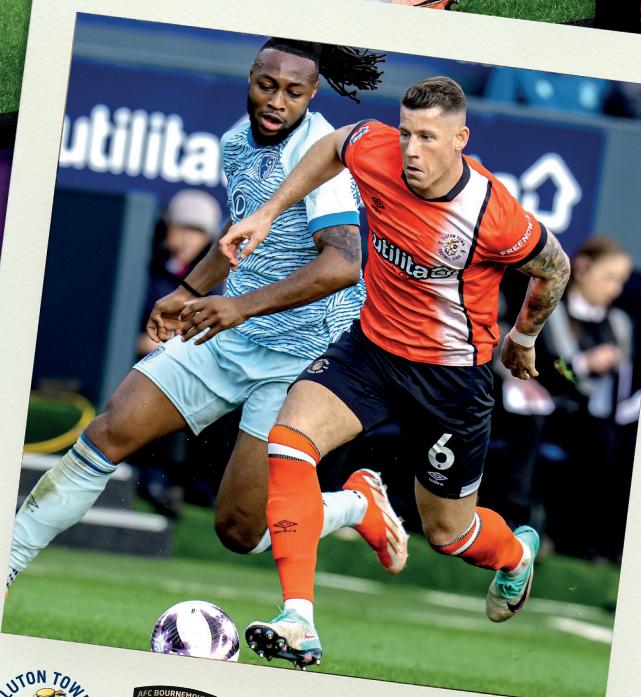
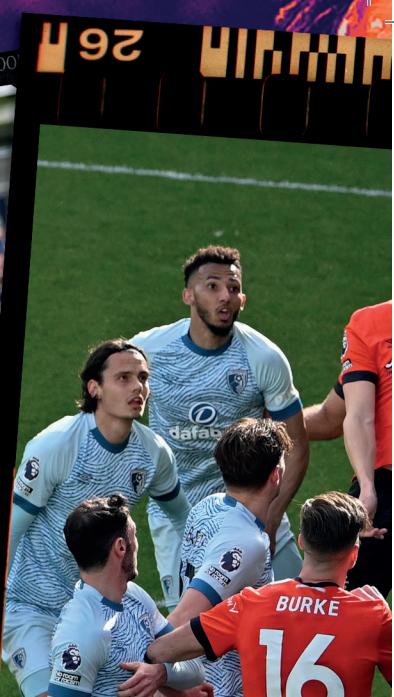
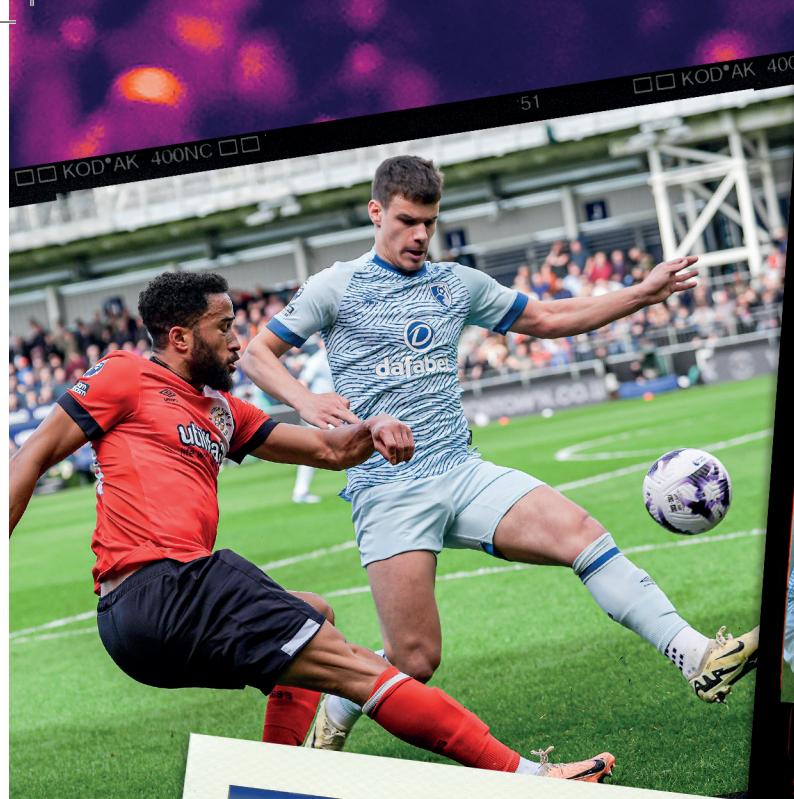
Results, though, in the Premier League can hinge on such moments and 73 seconds after Neto's heroics, the Hatters trailed when Marcus Tavernier arrowed a wonderful low shot into the far corner beyond Thomas Kaminski.

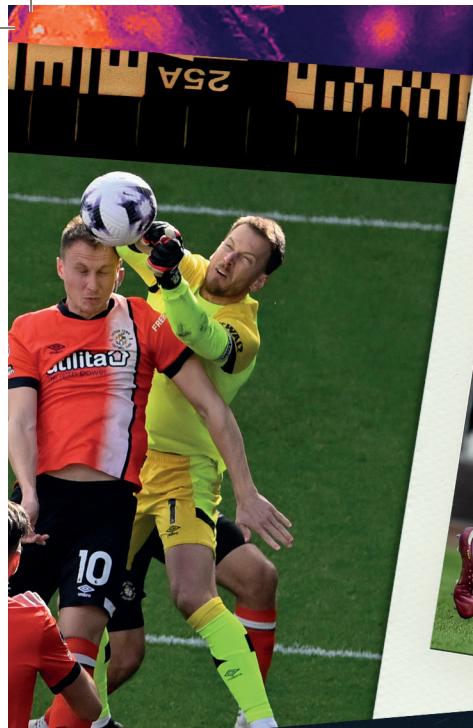
Edwards made a double change on 62 minutes, with Luke Berry and Fred Onyedinma introduced, and 30 seconds later the Hatters came agonisingly close to levelling when Carlton Morris' left-foot effort from ten yards agonisingly came back off the post.

Still the Town kept going and finally, with the pressure building, the Hatters' efforts were rewarded when Jordan Clark scored his first Premier League goal to make it 1-1 with 17 minutes left.

It seemed the game would end all square until Morris popped up, gloriously, at the death to win it. Cauley Woodrow was the architect, arching in the perfect left-wing delivery. Morris was there and waiting. After being denied by Neto and seeing another big chance hit the post, to take this chance on took guts. This was not easy but the captain coolly guided a first-time side-foot finish beyond his nemesis Neto to bring the house down.

Kenilworth Road debauchery followed and after seeing out six added minutes, the Hatters could celebrate their first victory since seeing off south coast opposition, Brighton, at the end of January.





MATCH GALLERY



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HAPPINESS FOR MATCH-WINNER MORRIS

Captain Carlton Morris praised the Town supporters for their constant backing after netting the late winner against AFC Bournemouth in our last home game here at Kenilworth Road.

Morris steered home substitute Cauley Woodrow's cross in the final minute to seal a come-from-behind victory after Jordan Clark's maiden Premier League goal had cancelled out Marcus Tavernier's opener for the visitors.

"It's just out of pure emotion really, because it's what the fans deserve recently, it's what we deserve and finally our effort and performance has been rewarded with three points," said the striker.

"If there is anything we've shown this year it's that we've got character, and we have put it on show again today and this time it has come to fruition with the points, which is the most important thing."

On the importance of the unwavering support of a packed Kenny, Morris went on: "It's huge, they've been incredible every week and I've said it every time I've done press, I can't speak highly enough of them.

"They've been with us every week when we've been on bad runs and when we've been on good runs, that's going to be huge in the last few games."

After netting his ninth goal of the season, Morris added: "It's important for a striker to score goals and it's all I want. I've been pretty happy with my return this season, but I'm going to keep trying to score every week."

And looking ahead to preparations for the remainder of the season said: "We focus on recovery, analyse and rest and make sure our bodies are in the best place because there is no secret, the amount of injuries we have, it puts more pressure on the lads who are putting a shift in every week." 





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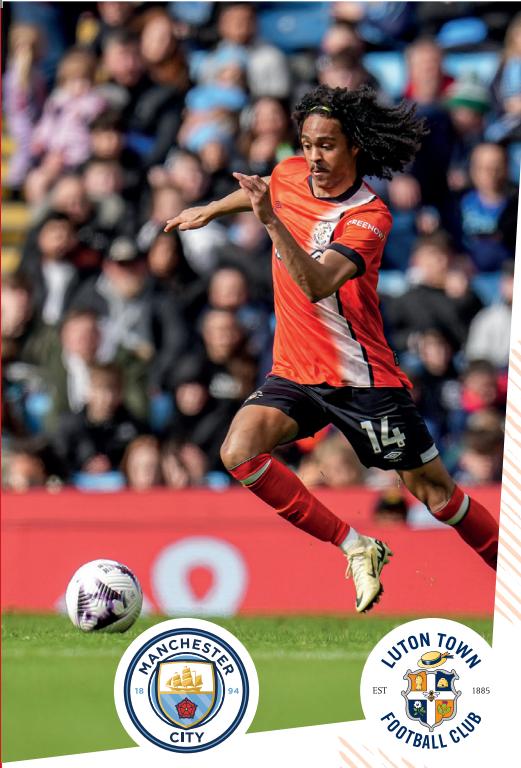
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DEFEATED BUT NOT DISGRACED

After 65 seconds you feared the worst. Erling Haaland streaked clear of the Town defence and after a fantastic save from Thomas Kaminski Haaland's wayward shot hit Daiki Hashioka in the face and the Hatters' task of keeping the champions at bay was over almost over before it had started.

Yet this side, as they have proved so often this season, are made of stern stuff. Observers, and City supporters, sat and waited for the floodgates to open – but the Town were resolute and dogged in the face of a constant wave of attacks by the reigning world, Europe and English champions.

A string of excellent saves from Kaminski, the woodwork and blocks from the disciplined teammates in front of him made City work for their three points.

For all their possession Pep Guardiola's side could not force home a second before the break and the Town got to half-time only a goal down as their rearguard stood firm.

After the restart the Hatters continued to dig in and frustrate their hosts who were wayward in their finishing.

However the Town's resistance and the hosts' frustration was broken on 64 minutes when Mateo Kovacic unleashed a wonderful half-volley from just inside the penalty area giving Kaminski no chance.

The second goal brought the Hatters to life, and two minutes after going 2-0 down, substitute Cauley Woodrow rattled the woodwork after taking Fred Onyedinma's square pass.

With a quarter-of-an-hour left the score remained respectable but City had other ideas and Jeremy Doku – electric all afternoon – was clipped in the box by Onyedinma and Haaland sent Kaminski the wrong way from the spot.

Moments later Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu was introduced to make a milestone 400th appearance in Town colours and within three minutes of his introduction the Hatters were back in it when Ross Barkley finished well on his left foot to score his fifth of the season having pounced on a rare loose City pass.

That goal only encouraged City further and two goals in the closing stages added gloss to a dominant home display. Firstly, with three minutes left, Doku got the goal his performance deserved when finishing well after a slalom run down the left before Josko Gvardiol lashed home a fine fifth in injury time.

5 - 1

Etihad Stadium
Saturday 13th April 2024

Town: Kaminski; Onyedinma (sub Johnson 88), Doughty, Hashioka, Burke; Barkley, Berry (sub Mpanzu 77), Clark (sub Nelson 88); Chong, Townsend (sub Woodrow 59), Morris.

Subs not used: Shea, Krul, Harris, Chigozie, Piesold.

Manchester City: Ederson, Dias, Kovacic, Haaland (sub Bobb 81), Doku, De Bruyne (sub Gomez 81), Alvarez, Gvardiol, Akanji, Nunes, Lewis.

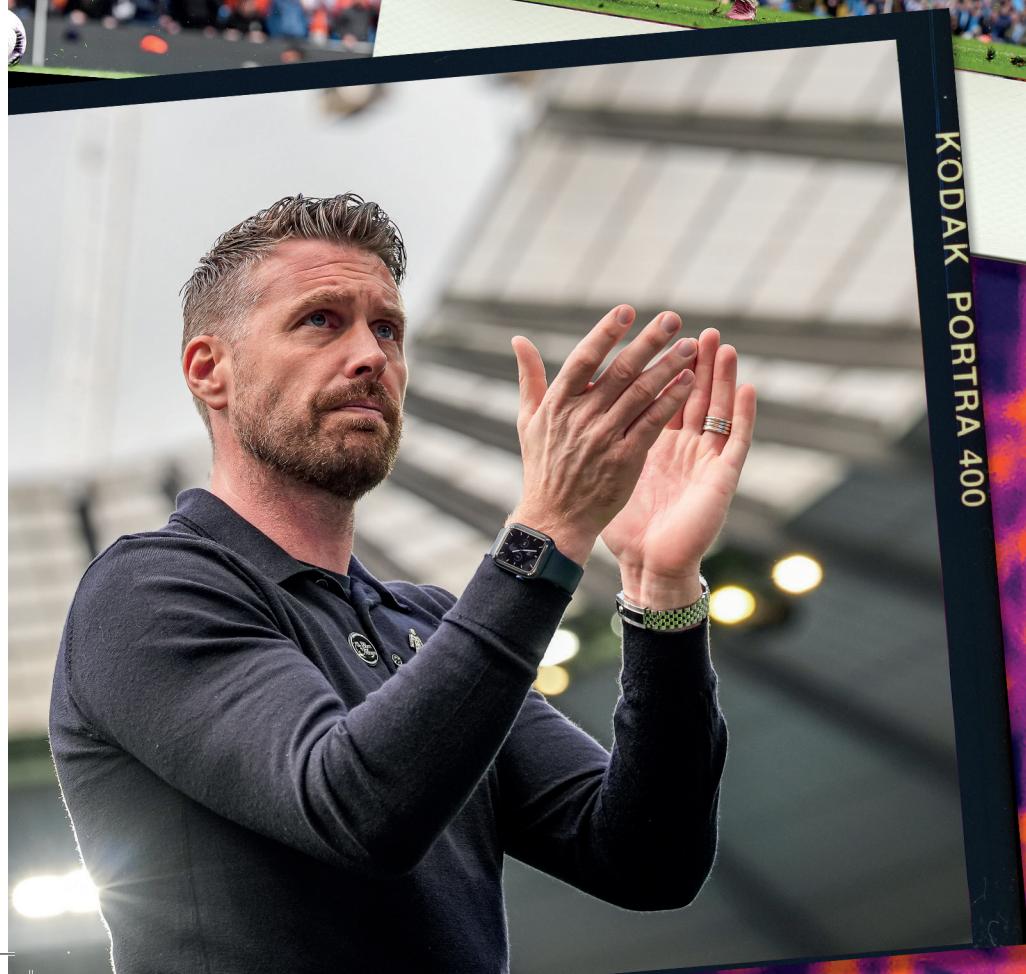
Subs: Ortega, Walker, Ake, Grealish, Rodri, Silva, Foden.

GOALS

Man City – Hashioka (og) 2, Kovacic 64, Haaland 76 (pen), Doku (87), Gvardiol 90+

Town – Barkley – 81





KODAK PORTRA 400

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400 UP FOR PELLY

Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu described it as a 'lifetime achievement' as he became only the 11th Town player in history to make 400 appearances for the club when coming off the bench in the Premier League against Manchester City.

Having joined the Hatters originally on-loan in November 2013, the former West Ham man went down in history as the first man to win four promotions from non-league to the Premier League with the same club.

With the Town trailing 3-0, Mpanzu came on for Luke Berry last weekend to take his place in the record books, leaving the midfielder to reflect on ten years of magnificent service.

"I'm proud of myself, proud of my teammates, proud of the friends and family, proud of the club for keeping me here for so long," he said.

"It's about trying to keep fit and 400 games is a good milestone for any player for any club. So to do it here, Luton Town in the Premier League, it's a real lifetime achievement and hopefully I can get more."

"These last five games, we're going to put everything into it as a team and hopefully we can get more next season."

Mpanzu's debut was at centre-half in a FA Trophy tie at Staines and asked last week if he ever envisaged reaching 400 appearances in Luton colours, he joked: "No, I told you I was going to retire in the summer! No, but to do that is great, one memory that will live with me, not for the scoreline, but just for the occasion. For that to happen here, it's a real happy moment for me.

"Hopefully I get a statue outside Power Court! Not a lot of people play 400 games for one club, it's a great achievement and hopefully I get many more. Of course, as long as I'm still fit, this season I've been blessed with having not too many injuries. I came off against Forest, but apart from that I've been injury free. Whenever the manager needs me to play I'll play so whenever selected I'm ready."

"You've got to be ready even if you're not playing, or not starting, there's a role to play."

"Everyone's got to play their role accordingly, whatever needs to be done I'm willing to do that. So to be still around is great for me and hopefully the club can go on to bigger and better things. Even if I've not been in the squad or in the starting 11, you've got to come on and make a difference. Everyone's been doing that and now we've got the last five games to prove to everyone that we do belong in the Premier League." 



CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS YOU'LL NEVER SING THAT!

TEN YEARS AGO THIS WEEK THE TOWN CLINCHED PROMOTION BACK TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE. TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY, THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN WE COULD SPEAK TO...

We were in a bad place in February 2013. Hopes had slipped away of promotion from the Conference and crowds were hovering around the 5,000-mark. Defeats against Dartford and Barrow were not exactly what the Hatters faithful had in mind after relegation from the Football League in 2009 but that was the harsh reality.

Without a manager, the board turned to a man who had been there, seen it, done it and bought the t-shirt when it came to success in non-league, winning promotion twice to the Football League.

Having guided Dagenham and Redbridge to League One, John Still had pretty much sown up a job for life at Victoria Road.

So why give all that up and swap it for a frustrated fanbase and underachieving squad?

“Because nobody had been able to do it,” says Still. “It was one of those things where I felt to myself, ‘if I could do this, it’s going to be amazing because it’s a club that shouldn’t have been at that level’. I just felt, if we could do it, it would be special and that’s how I felt.

“I took some advice of someone who knew the club well, he told me how it was. That the supporters were anxious because what had gone on, the points deductions, the disappointment.

“There was an anxiety around the place. There was also this feeling that if they don’t get out of this league then the club was going to fold eventually because people won’t stand by it as that long. That sometimes can be the switch that you need to go.”

On the day of his appointment the Town lost 2-0 at Braintree. “I joked to Terry Harris saying we’re going back to Dagenham,” Still said at the time.

But while results were inconsistent as the season came to a close, slowly but surely the man at the helm was plotting the Town’s promotion strategy.

“The time at the end of that season was valuable to look at players – who could play for me?” he says. “Within four games I probably knew who I wanted to keep.

“I was aware what we needed, too. I’ve always been a lover of young, hungry players and that was important.

“But you need a little bit of experience, which the likes of Paul Benson and Luke Guttridge offered. I also needed athleticism and when we started the following season I thought we had everything in place.”

After signing Benson and Guttridge that summer everything did seem set to go after a promising pre-season.

But the team started slowly, losing

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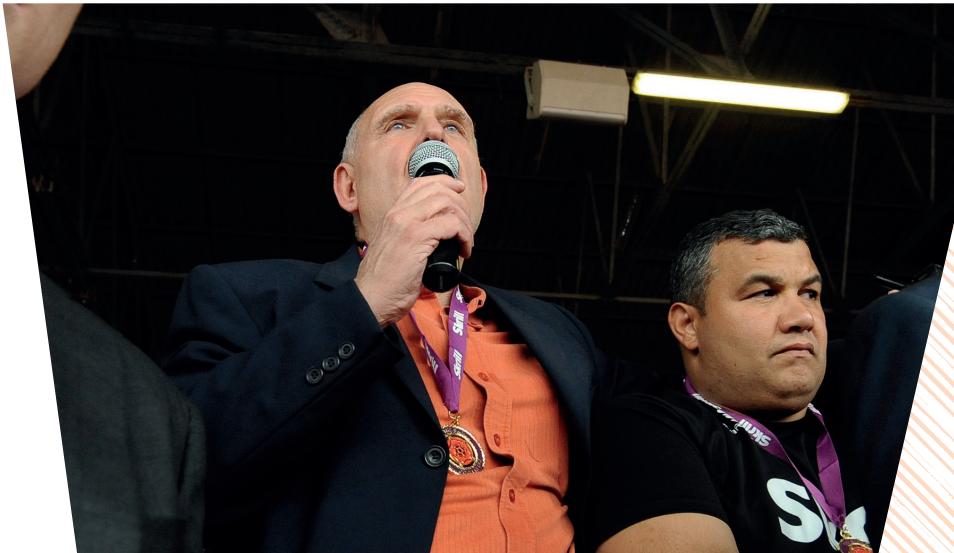


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on the opening day of the season at Southport. Then, after a 2-0 defeat at Wrexham, the Town were stranded in the middle of the fifth tier table looking up at the one promotion place. The defeat in North Wales was to prove a turning point.

"In pre-season and in training I could see all the things I wanted to see," remembers Still. "But then we went to Wrexham and I had been toying with playing with a new system but I just put it off.

"When the game was over I knew what my next step was and knew it would work. It was just tweaks to the positions, one being playing Gutts higher, in behind. It was really important to get him further forward to find the players in the final third to do the rest. We needed someone that could knit that all together and he did that."

Indeed he did as the midfielder flourished further forward, helping the Hatters go on a 27-match unbeaten run to take them to the cusp of the title.

A strong dressing room helped. The new boys, together with the 30 goals of Gray and the experience of captain Ronnie Henry, Steve McNulty and Mark Tyler, added depth to a squad that also relied heavily on young talents such as Cameron McGeehan, Matt Robinson and a certain Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu.

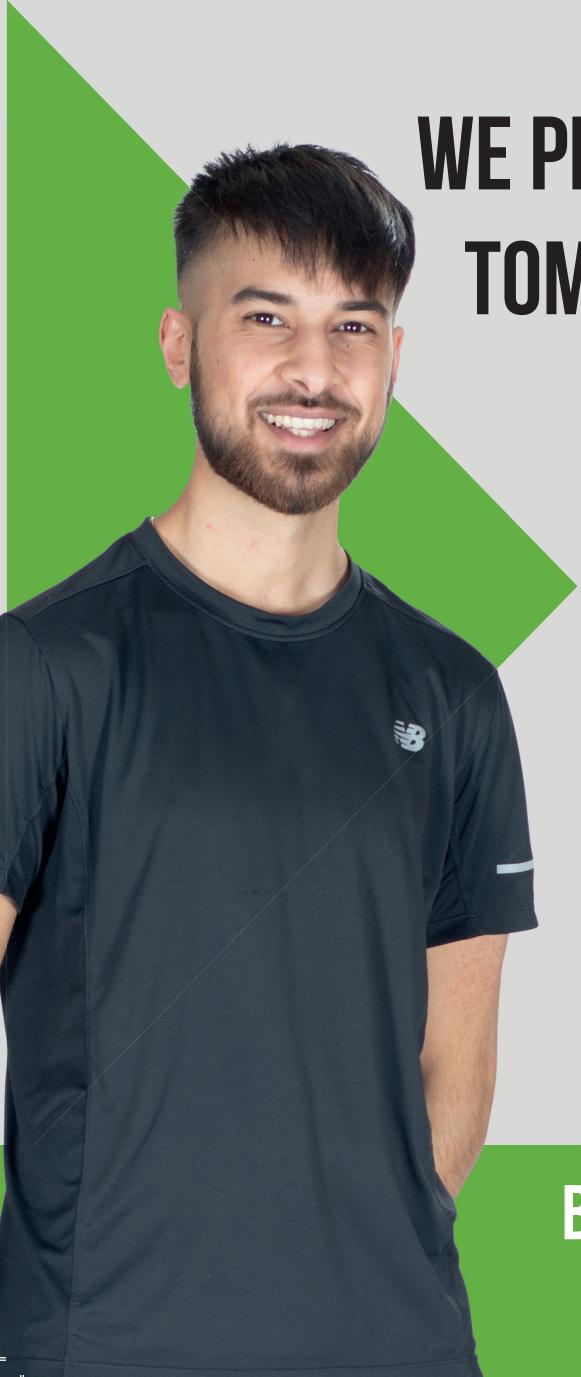
"You don't win anything without having a good group," says Still. "Not everyone's going to be shouting but we had a perfect mix. There were some strong voices; Macca, Ronnie, Tyles, but Benno would be one to say things more subtly.

"They were all important ingredients. I said before about baking a cake. We had all the best ingredients but if you haven't got any sugar it's not going to taste good or work. We just had all the ingredients, all over the pitch and in the dressing room."

What also helped the Hatters was hunting down an in-form Cambridge, who had led the table for a large parts of the campaign. ➤



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“Sometimes you can be playing and winning games and you want everything to be comfortable and easy but all of a sudden your standards drop as you’re not working as hard.

“So the competition was perfect for us. Richard Money, who had been here before, was in charge and I thought it gave us a little edge and I like edge. I felt that it kept us going. And once we got into a rhythm, everything started to manage itself.”

As the Town climbed to the top of the table there was no stopping the juggernaut. A win over Braintree at a sold-out Kenilworth Road would be enough to clinch the title and a return to the 92.

“It was like a carnival, people juggling – I didn’t like it,” remembers Still of that day. “I had a bad feeling.”

Braintree, one of the bogey teams of our time in the Conference, won 3-2 and the celebrations were put on ice.

“But I always knew we’d win the league, and earlier in the season I had a feeling we would. The way we were playing, I’d seen it before, the way we were grinding out results, I just knew.”

Eventually, without kicking a ball, on 15th April, after Kidderminster beat Cambridge – in which Amari'i Bell scored for Kiddy – the Town were crowned champions, ending their exile from the Football League.

An outpouring of emotion followed. A Luton Are Back hashtag was trending on Twitter. There were calls for statues of John to be erected outside the ground.

The Town were finally back.

“The whole story of Luton, and what they had gone through, makes it for me the best time I had in management,” says Still.

The love and affection for him in these parts is not lost on the former boss.

“I’m aware of what Luton supporters think of me, which is fantastic,” says Still, who is now involved at National League Southend.

“I played a small part. The club has grown since I left but there are so many other people responsible – people whose work supporters don’t always see.

“The way the board have worked... the club is their life and it gives me so much pleasure to have been able to have done that [win promotion] for them. For the supporters too, they put so much into the club.

“It was a great club to be around and I’m delighted it’s grown and grown and grown. I’m proud to have played a part.

“So much so, I’ve gone from being a Luton manager to a Luton supporter.” 





WELCOME BRENTFORD

Today the Hatters welcome Thomas Frank's Brentford side to Kenilworth Road for another huge Premier League match. The last time we met Brentford, we fell to a 3-1 defeat at the Gtech Community Stadium back in December.

The Bees began the season with a 2-2 draw at home against London rivals Tottenham Hotspur. The next week, they picked up a 3-0 away win over Fulham before drawing 1-1 with Crystal Palace.

In September, Frank's side drew 2-2 with Bournemouth after a last gasp equaliser from Bryan Mbeumo. A poor run of form followed for the Bees as they went on to lose three games in a row.

Brentford got their next win in a 3-0 demolition of Burnley and it really could have been more. This turned the tide a bit for the Bees who went on to beat Chelsea 2-0 at Stamford Bridge the following week.

This win was followed up with another victory, this time a home win over West Ham United. After this, there were losses against both Liverpool and Arsenal.

In early December, the Bees won 3-1 against the Hatters. Neal Maupay and Ben Mee both scored for Brentford within 11 minutes of the second half to put Brentford into the lead. Jacob Brown pulled a goal back with 15 minutes to go for the Hatters but Shandon Baptiste scored Brentford's third five minutes later to secure all three points.

This was the beginning of a bad run for Brentford which saw five losses in a row against Brighton, Sheffield United, Aston Villa, Aston Villa, Wolves and Crystal Palace.

The Bees recovered, however, and picked up a vital 3-2 win over Nottingham Forest in January to stop the rot. Defeats against Tottenham and Manchester City followed before they beat Wolves 2-0 at Molineux.

After this, another poor run followed. The Bees went nine games without a win, picking up draws against Chelsea, Manchester United, Brighton and Aston Villa along the way. They ended this run last week with a narrow win over Sheffield United.

Everyone at Kenilworth Road wishes a warm welcome to all those associated with Brentford today.

MEET THE BEES

THE BOSS



THOMAS FRANK. Danish head coach Thomas took over in 2018 and guided the Bees to the Premier League in 2021. Originally joined the club as an assistant in 2016 and has previously overseen Denmark's under-16s, 17 and 18s.

GOALKEEPER



MARK FLECKEN. Born in the Netherlands, stopper Mark's career had been played exclusively in Germany before moving to Brentford at the start of the season. A Dutch international, he joined from Freiburg.

DEFENDERS



KRISTOFFER AJER. Norwegian centre-back or right-back who arrived at the Gtech from Celtic in 2021. Made his name in his native Norway with Lillestrom and Start, before moving to Glasgow in 2016.



NATHAN COLLINS. Another defender at home in central defence or at full-back, Nathan arrived for a club-record £23m fee from Wolves in July last year. The Ireland international started his career at Stoke before moving to Burnley.



BEN MEE. Vastly experienced centre-half Ben arrived at the Gtech in 2022 after ten years and over 350 appearances for Burnley. Started his career and came through the ranks at Manchester City.



ETHAN PINNOCK. Lambeth-born, Jamaican international defender who has risen from non-league to Premier League. After over 150 games for Dulwich Hamlet he moved to Forest Green and then to Barnsley in 2017 before signing for the Bees in 2019.



SERGIO REGUILÓN. On-loan Spanish full-back who joined from Spurs this year. Began his career at Real Madrid before moving to North London in 2020 and has six caps for his country.



MADS ROERSLEV. Right-back or right-wing-back Mads signed for the Bees in 2019 from Copenhagen. A Danish youth international, injury has prevented his first senior call to date.

MIDFIELDERS



MIKKEL DAMSGAARD. Danish attacking midfielder or winger Mikkel arrived at the Gtech in August 2022 from Sampdoria. Began his career with Nordsjælland and has won 26 caps for Denmark.



SAMAM GHODDOS. Versatile midfielder Samam joined the Bees from French club Amiens. An Iran international he was released at the end of last season but then rejoined the club in August.



VITALY JANET. Defensive midfielder Vitalic signed in 2020 from Bochum for a fee of just £500,000. The German youth international started his career with Leipzig.



MATHIAS JENSEN. Another Dane in the Bees squad, Mathias has made over 200 appearances since joining from Celta Vigo in 2019. Began his career at Nordsjælland and has 30 international caps.



KEANE LEWIS-POTTER. Highly-rated attacking midfielder who arrived at the Gtech in 2022 from Hull City. Came through the ranks with the Tigers and has been capped at England under-21 level.

ATTACKERS



NEAL MAUPAY. French forward in his second spell with the Bees and currently on-loan from Everton. After spells with Nice and Saint-Etienne he joined Brentford and then Brighton.



BRYAN MBEUMO. Powerful frontman Bryan now in his fifth season with the club after arriving from French club Troyes. A Cameroon international, he hit 15 goals in his first season.



IVAN TONEY. Prolific striker Ivan signed for the Bees in 2020 after scoring 40 goals in 76 league games for Peterborough. Continued his rich vein of form at the Gtech, including 20 goals in the top-flight last term.



YOANE WISSA. DR Congo international forward or left winger Yoane arrived at the club in 2021. Born in France he had spells with Chateauroux and Angers before a productive three years with Lorient.



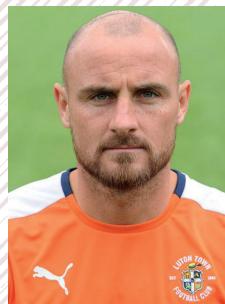
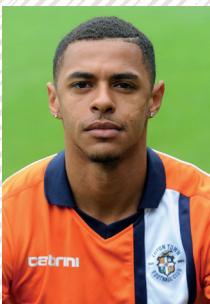
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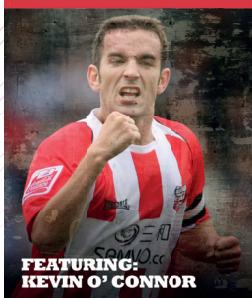
A HATTER AND A BEE

Two stick out here, the first, chronologically, **Andre Gray**.

Joining from Hinckley in 2012, the striker went onto score 57 times in 111 games in Town colours, including 30 in 2013/14 that helped John Still's side to the Conference title. He joined Brentford at the end of that season, helping the Bees reach the Championship play-offs, scoring 16 times before joining Burnley.

Alan McCormack might have only played 35 times for the Hatters but his influence was worth more than its weight in goal as he helped the Town to successful promotions. He originally joined Brentford in 2013/14 after a spell at Swindon, helping the Bees to promotion from League 1 in 2014. After 103 appearances he then moved to Kenilworth Road, winning back-to-back promotions and is now back in Bedfordshire as set piece coach.

CULT HERO



CULT HERO: KEVIN O'CONNOR

One of the most respected members of the Brentford FC Hall of Fame, **Kevin O'Connor** made over 500 appearances for the Bees in a career that spanned 15 years. He spent much of that time as captain, leading the Bees to promotion in 2009 and 2014 before retiring in 2015.

He became the permanent Head Coach of the Brentford B team in November 2016. O'Connor had stepped into this role temporarily in September 2015, after Lee Carsley was appointed First Team Head Coach. In April 2017, Kevin's career in football was recognised by the EFL when he was presented with the Sir Tom Finney Award.

The Brentford website also informs us Kevin can juggle, his favourite film is *Back To The Future* and steak and chips is his go-to meal. He is now the Bees' assistant first team coach.



GREAT GAMES

30th APRIL 2005 TOWN 4-2 BRENTFORD

A packed Kenilworth Road witnesses a six-goal thriller. Ahmet Brkovic fires the Town ahead after five minutes, but two quick-fire goals midway through the half put the Bees ahead. Sam Sodje levels the scores and Deon Burton notches the second as the visitors go into the break ahead. The Hatters pile on the pressure in the second half and hit the woodwork twice but the game seems to be slipping away. A thrilling last six minutes see the Town score three times through a Kevin Nicholls penalty, Enoch Showunmi, and the pick of the bunch, Steve Robinson. At the end of a breathless 90 minutes the Town lift the League 1 trophy.

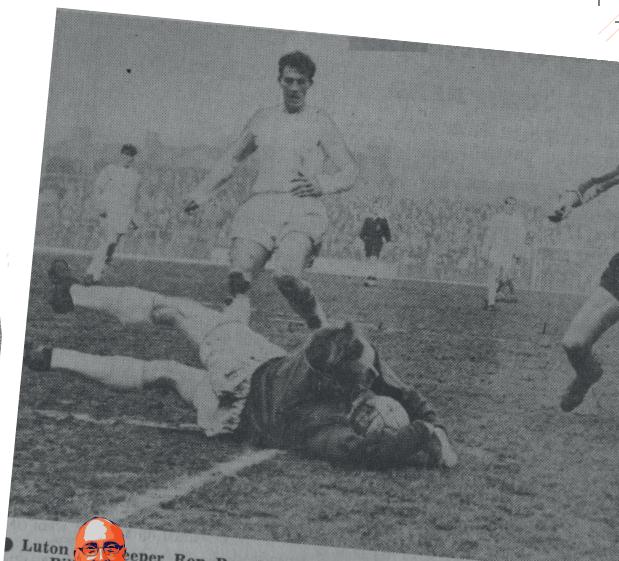


CLASSIC KIT

Look no further than this simple yet delightful early 90s home shirt, manufactured by the Danish kit duds, Hummel. Red and white stripes set apart perfectly and helped massively by the stylish logo of KLM, the national airline of the Netherlands. Lovely stuff.



Here's Luton's new pin-up boy, centre-forward John O'Rourke in action... the sort of action that brought him four of Luton's six goals. Not this time though. Brentford's Clive B...



Luton keeper Ron Baynham sprawls to save from Brentford's...
Bill Adams as centre-half Graham Caleb moves in to assist at G...

CLASSIC CLASH

BRENTFORD 2-6 LUTON TOWN
8TH FEBRUARY 1964.

The Town were relegated to the old Division Three in 1963, the first time they had been at that level for 26 years.

It had been only a short time since they were an established top flight side and appearing in the FA Cup final but with a team made up of over-the-hill veterans and other clubs' cast-offs the glory years seemed far away.

There was one ace up the Hatters' sleeve though. Signed from Chester in October 1962, Ron Davies had scored 21 goals in only 29 Division Two league games in a poor Luton side, becoming a firm crowd favourite along the way.

After only three games into the 1963/64 campaign, though, the news that all Town supporters had been dreading was announced with Davies being sold for a pitiful £35,000 to Norwich, who had been chasing him relentlessly since he netted six times against them the previous season.



**CLUB HISTORIAN
ROGER WASH
REMEMBERS THE
TIME THE TOWN HIT
THE BEES FOR SIX**

The Hatters were obviously weaker with the sale of Davies and the goalscoring completely dried up. The mantle of leading the attack was placed firmly on the shoulders of 33-year-old Gordon Turner who was surrounded by some pretty ordinary players.

By the time Christmas 1963 approached, the Town were struggling at the bottom of the table with a grand total of four wins to their credit and a succession of heavy defeats, particularly at home, behind them.

A forward from Northampton, Ray Smith, had been signed for £5,000 but he lasted only a few anonymous games before disappearing off to non-league football, while another forward, brought to Kenilworth Road just before Christmas, caused barely a ripple of enthusiasm amongst the, by now, highly cynical Luton fans.

John O'Rourke was 18 when he came to Luton having become surplus to require-



ments at Chelsea where Tommy Docherty was blessed with plenty of forward cover. Another cast-off we all thought, especially as O'Rourke had previously been discarded by Arsenal as well.

The striker made his debut in a 2-1 home win over Reading and immediately caught the eye with his youthful enthusiasm and no little skill, and by the time of his first goal, in a 3-1 home victory over Colchester in January 1964, he had won over the fans.

Although the Town had started to pick up a few home points, the away record was dire without a victory on foreign soil since October 1962. It was therefore understandable that only a handful of Luton supporters made their way to Griffin Park to see the still bottom of the table Town to take on a Bees side that was hovering around mid-table.

The customary away defeat looked on the cards as early as the 11th minute when Brentford winger Mark Lazarus raced from his own half to set up an easy chance for Billy McAdams – a lead that was comfortably held until the interval.

Whatever was said at half-time should have been bottled and sold as what happened in the first 21 minutes of the second period created a new Luton hero and made a complete mockery of the Town's lowly position.

On 46 minutes, winger Harry Walden equalised for the Town with a simple tap in before John O'Rourke took over, scoring four goals – including a seven minute hat-trick – to turn the game on its head.

Lazarus had knocked in a consolation for Brentford in amongst O'Rourke's devas-

tating spell but Walden put the game beyond any doubt just before the end with his second and the Town's sixth.

Brentford complained about an injury to goalkeeper Chick Brodie, but as the score was 4-2 in the Hatters favour when he left the field, it hardly mattered.

O'Rourke proved a revelation that season as his 22 goals from 23 games proved, with the Town escaping relegation at the death following a run of nine games without defeat at the end of the campaign.

Tommy Docherty was left to rue his decision to let O'Rourke go, while the Town fans would never again moan about cast-offs... not for a couple of years anyway!

Town: Baynham, McBain, Bramwell, Pacey, Caleb, Lownds, Walden, McKechnie, O'Rourke, Reid, Riddick.

Brentford: Brodie, Jones, Thomson, Smith, Gelson, Higginson, Lazarus, Fielding, McAdams, Ward, Block.



BRENTFORD 2, LUTON TOWN 6

[T] is a far cry from Middlesbrough to Brentford, but there is a parallel between the two places because it was in the North-East that the Town won their last League away victory over 15 long weary months ago.

This result at Griffin Park, this afternoon, really was a turn-up for the book and it was one that no-one could have forecast at half-time when the Town were a goal down and were not giving a great deal of hint that they could improve their position, even though they were looking every bit as good as Brentford in mid-field.

What sparked off an amazing scoring spell at the start of the second half was probably that first-minute goal by Valden, which levelled matters before Brentford had had a chance to settle down.

Then the sparks really began to fly. O'Rourke put the Town ahead, the lead lasted just one minute, and then O'Rourke completed a fantastic hat-trick in the course of only eight minutes. And to round off a great afternoon his player who is not yet 19, snatched a fourth goal. In general, he was a busy and lively leader.

Brentford fans will probably point to the fact that their team finished with 10 men after Brodie had to go off injured, but the plain fact was that when this happened the Town, with a 4-2 lead, were already heading for victory.

There was no resemblance between the display this afternoon and the pathetic one of last week that lost them a lot of friends.

Here, today, was the fighting spirit and determination that had been missing and it was this quality, plus team work, and the unaccustomed ability to snatch scoring chances away from home that sealed this great success which gives new hope for the future.

In the second half, there was a good deal more mobility and liveliness in attack, with McKechnie and Reid both working hard to create openings, Walden looking more like Caleb and Lownds, not well served, making a fairly bad job of the left wing position.

This was a difficult occasion for young Caleb to have come into the team for such a critical match and he made a tardy sort of start in which he was covered cleverly by Caleb and Lownds. As the game wore on, he gained more confidence,

There were some fine saves by Baynham and, altogether, the second half display is one that will give the Town players new faith in their own ability to avoid further relegation.

VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD

BRENTFORD'S RISE TO THE TOP-FLIGHT HAS WON MANY ADMIRERS – NONE MORE SO THAN THEIR OWN SUPPORTERS. HAVING WON THE LEAGUE 2 TITLE THE DAY THE HATTERS PLAYED THEIR LAST FOOTBALL LEAGUE GAME BEFORE RELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE, THEIR RISE HAS BEEN WELL-DOCUMENTED. WE ASKED BEES FAN ALI MULLALEY TO EXPLAIN THE JOURNEY.

What does it mean to be a Brentford supporter?

The most stressful day of the week! Seriously, though, meeting like-minded people in the pub beforehand and just going to the game - win, lose or draw - it's always an enjoyable day, even if not always for the 90 minutes watching the game. Sometimes you just have to "kick football out of football!"

How important is watching Brentford to you and why?

I absolutely love it. Home or away, it's generally one of the highlights of my week. On the rare occasions, I'm unable to go to the game, I hate it! I guess the answer is very!

Like Luton, the Bees have experienced a rollercoaster existence – describe how the ups

and downs of following the club have impacted your life.

Now there's a question. I try not to let my mood be too affected by my football club. However, having teenage children means the household can be either in a foul mood or a very good mood. Strangely, I was most impacted by the ups and downs during lockdown - with nothing else to focus on, football became the high or lowlight of the week.

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

Obviously, Ivan Toney has to be up there – I never ever thought I would see a Brentford player start, never mind score, for England. I absolutely adored Jota and the way he used to drop his shoulder

and glide into the box - not to mention that last-minute winner at home against Fulham. However my all-time favourite has to be Saïd Benrahma- he could just do things other players couldn't. A magical little player.

What matches against Luton do you remember?

The 2-0 in 2008 when we won the League 2 title. My personal favourite was the 7-0 in the Championship – our boys (and particularly Josh Da Silva) were almost unplayable that day. Your 1-0 win, just before lockdown in the snow. Plus, weirdly, the behind closed doors game at Kenilworth Road, because all anyone could hear on iFollow was the injured Pontus Jansson in the stands!

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

It's not quite as enjoyable as this time last season! I think it's probably fair to say that we're having the season we expected to have the season we came up. Obviously our first two seasons (especially last season when we nearly made Europe), raised our expectations massively, but this time around I'm happy to (hopefully) just stay up. It is, undoubtedly, the best period any of

our current fans have experienced, but the early thirties probably rivals it if we're talking about the entire history of the club.

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

So many things have changed. Going to away days at places like Old Trafford and Anfield are a far cry from Rotherham away! We have a shiny new stadium - which is way better than any of us hoped - but we all still miss Griffin Park: there was something very special about that place. However, probably the biggest, and most important, is being financially sustainable thanks to Matthew Benham.

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

Oooh this is a hard one. There's a few to choose from. Beating Fulham 4-1 at the Cottage in our first season in the Championship has to be up there. The 4-0 against Manchester United at home last season was sensational. Our 2-1 win at the Etihad was incredible, but, ultimately, it has to be the Championship play-off final in 2021 - finally putting to bed our play-off hoodoo and reaching the Premier League - something most of us never thought would happen in our wildest dreams. What a day! My only regret is only 4,000 of us could be there to see it.

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5: MADS ANDERSEN  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	6: ROSS BARKLEY  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: HIB Ltd	7: CHIEDOZIE OGBENE  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	8: LUKE BERRY  P: UNAVAILABLE H: Gill, Julie, Neil & Yvonne A: Liz Evans T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
9: CARLTON MORRIS  PRIME ATLANTIC GROUP TW: AVAILABLE	10: CAULEY WOODROW  H: Howders Joinery Luton A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	11: ELIJAH ADEBAYO  H: WHOSH A: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd T: 1981 Events TW: AVAILABLE	12: ISSA KABORE  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
13: MARVELOUS NAKAMBA  SSU Renewables TW: AVAILABLE	14: TAHITH CHONG  PLATINUM AVAILABLE TW: Beau Relly	15: TEDEN MENGI  P: AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	16: REECE BURKE  P: UNAVAILABLE H: DLA Driving School A: Temple Flooring LTD T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
17: PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU  H: SAM Beast Consulting Ltd A: WHOSH T: Scandinavian Hatters TW: AVAILABLE	18: JORDAN CLARK  H: Chris & Alex Browne A: First Response Fire Safety UK Ltd T: Keith Elkington Transport TW: AVAILABLE	19: JACOB BROWN  H: UNAVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	20: LOUIE WATSON  H: AVAILABLE A: Temple Flooring LTD T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
21: JOHN MCATEE  PLATINUM AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	23: TIM KRUL  PLATINUM AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	24: THOMAS KAMINSKI  PLATINUM AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	27: DAIKI HASHIOKA  PLATINUM AVAILABLE H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE
28: ALBERT SAMBI LOKONGA  H: UNAVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE TW: AVAILABLE	29: AMARI'I BELL  H: A.B.S Thermal Insulation LTD A: Bobbers Travel Club T: Bartham Group TW: AVAILABLE	45: ALFIE DOUGHTY  H: Kevin Lennon A: Bobbers Travel Club T: TP Extrusions Ltd TW: AVAILABLE	TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KIT SPONSORSHIPS CALL THE COMMERCIAL TEAM: 01582 411622 OR EMAIL COMMERCIAL@ LUTONTOWN.CO.UK
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AFC BOURNEMOUTH MASCOTS & MAN-OF-THE-MATCH



OUR LAST HOME GAME HERE IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE AGAINST BOURNEMOUTH SAW JORDAN CLARK NAMED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH AND THE HATTERS MIDFIELDER RECEIVED HIS AWARD IN THE ERIC MORECAMBE SUITE AFTER THE 2-1 WIN.

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

Today we have the pleasure of welcoming match sponsor Brown & Brown and matchball sponsor Adbly and nine matchday mascots. We wish you all a wonderful afternoon with us.



Match sponsor:

B Brown & Brown

Matchball sponsor:

ADBLY
CONSTRUCTION

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





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Our customers say

Excellent



4.8 out of 5 Based on 5,401 reviews



ON THIS DAY



20TH APRIL
DO ANY OF THESE GAMES
STRIKE A CHORD WITH YOU?



UP THE TOWN!

On this day in 1968 the Town celebrated promotion from Division Four as a thunderous free-kick from Bruce Rioch earned a 1-0 win over Halifax at the Shay to earn a place in the third tier.

THE RECORD

Overall on this day in the history books, the Town's record is a bit of a mixed bag. Of the 24 matches played, it's nine wins, ten defeats and five draws – not a bad record considering just seven of those matches have been played on home soil.

The Town have played 17 fixtures away from Kenilworth Road, winning seven of those and you have to go all the way back to 1974 for the last time a Hatters team won on this day at home.

That day saw Millwall beaten 3-0 with goals from John Faulkner, Peter Anderson and Gordon Hindson on target which left the Hatters needing just one point to secure promotion to the top-flight.

This afternoon will be the first time we've welcomed any team to Kenilworth Road in 20 years. Not since a 1-1 draw with Bournemouth in 2004 have the Town played at Kenilworth Road on 20th April. Steve Howard scored the Hatters' goal.

Bizarrely, after a 7-1 win over Reading at home in 1912, the Hatters did not have a home game on this day for another 62 years, until the meeting with Millwall – a run that saw nine matches played away from Kenilworth Road.

BACK-TO-BACK

It's two wins from the last two matches played on this day as this Town team from 2024 aim to make it three wins in a row on 20th April.

Last time out the Hatters were going for promotion from League 1 in 2019 and they inched closer to that achievement thanks to a 3-0 win away at Accrington Stanley. Leading goalscorer James Collins got the ball rolling from the penalty spot before two goals from Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu sealed all three points.

Six years before, the Town were also successful on the road when earning a 3-1 success at Southport in the Conference. It was the final day of a disappointing 2012/13 campaign that ended on a high thanks to two goals from Andre Gray and a first senior goal for Matt Robinson.

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Jack Taylor fires in a spectacular volley during the 3-3 draw at Griffin Park in March 1952.

Roger Wash





DEVELOPMENT SQUAD KIT SPONSORS

AIDAN FRANCIS-CLARKE  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	ARCHIE HERON  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	AXEL PIESOLD  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	BEN TOMPKINS  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE
JACK BATESON  H: FORMBY HATTERS A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	JACOB PINNINGTON  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	JAKE BURGER  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	JAMESON HORLICK  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE
JAYDEN LUKER  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	JOSH ALLEN  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	JOSHUA ODELL-BATURE  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	MILLAR MATTHEWS-LEWIS  H: Les Miller Miller & Company A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE
OLIVER LYNCH  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	TOBIAS BRANEY  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	ZACK NELSON  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	JOSHUA PHILLIPS  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE
JOE JOHNSON  H: Stacey Peck A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE			

YOUTH TEAM KIT SPONSORS

JAMIE ODEJAH  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	CHARLIE EMERY  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	CHARLIE TRUSTRAM  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	DOMINIC DOS SANTOS MARTINS  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE
DYLAN STITT  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	ISAIAH HARVEY  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	JACK LORENTZEN-JONES  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	MARCUS WARREN  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE
MATTHEW TAKAWIRA  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	MAX SCOTT  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	OLIVER PIPA  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	SAM ANDERSON  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE
TATE XAVIER-JONES  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	TYRELL GIWA  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	WILL HOUGHTON  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	ZACHARIAS IOANNIDES  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE
CAI HOCKEY  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE	CLAUDE KAYIBANDA  H: AVAILABLE A: AVAILABLE T: AVAILABLE		TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KIT SPONSORSHIPS CALL THE COMMERCIAL TEAM: 01582 411622 OR EMAIL COMMERCIAL@LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

KITS FROM THE PAST

HATTERS FAN DAVID FOXEN LOOKS BACK AT SHIRTS FROM THE TOWN'S HISTORY

1995/96 AWAY

One of our first shirt articles was the 1991 home shirt. That iconic, beautiful, shirt that we ultimately got relegated from the First Division in.

Here is another beautiful shirt... that we ended up getting relegated in. There appears to be a theme here; lovely shirt = relegation!

We are of course talking about the iconic 1995/96 away shirt. A real classic (it is nearly 30 years old now...crazy!). Made by Pony, this shirt boasts thick, bold, orange and black vertical stripes. It has a classy collar that matches the theme of the shirt, with a subtle hint of orange that complements the shirt nicely.

Universal Salvage Auctions were once again the sponsor, and I have to say I really think the sponsor adds to this shirt. Sometimes, a sponsor can really hinder a shirt's design and feel – the colours may not work, it may be too 'blocky' or just not feel 'right' for the shirt. But this just works.

Player shirts feature the Football League patch on the sleeves, and white, bold, numbers on the back. This shirt was still in the era of no names on the back, so just the number graced this shirt (a commentator's nightmare these days!).

Sadly, this beautiful shirt didn't have much luck on the pitch during our relegation season. We did get away wins at West Bromwich Albion, with goals from Bontcho Guentchev and Kim Grant, a 1-0 win at Ipswich Town thanks to David Oldfield, and it was used during the Anglo-Italian Cup competition.



However, other than that, it was sadly a forgettable spell on the pitch for this particular shirt.

But those wounds have healed now with it being nearly 30 years ago and we are now a Premier League team. Now we can appreciate and give this shirt the love it deserves!



ON THIS DAY

It's April 1981 and the Town are making a late bid for promotion from the old Second Division (now Championship) and travel to Stamford Bridge aiming to keep up momentum.



David Moss opens the scoring with a soft shot which goes past the eccentric Peter Borota in the Chelsea goal.

Ricky Hill then hits the second from outside the area which gives the keeper no chance. "I like to see good football rewarded," praises Chelsea boss Geoff Hurst afterwards as the Town record a 2-0 victory in front of less than 13,000 at the Bridge.

As it turns out the Town end the campaign in fifth place, missing out on promotion by two points. Local rivals Watford finished ninth, Chelsea 12th while Bristol City and Bristol Rovers occupied the final two places in the table and were relegated.

But there was an early scare for the Town when Mike Pilkington, after only eight minutes, went into a low

shot straight at the keeper — and that was the sum total of their contribution to on-target efforts.

LUTON are three games away from the First Division.

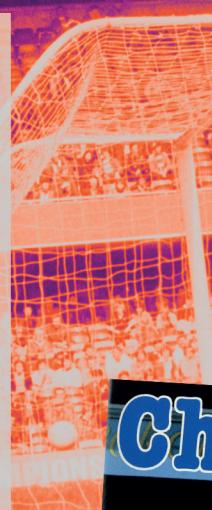
If they win their remaining matches against Oldham, Rovers, the Town can hope to finish in the top half of the table next season.

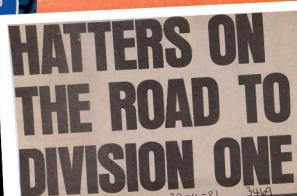
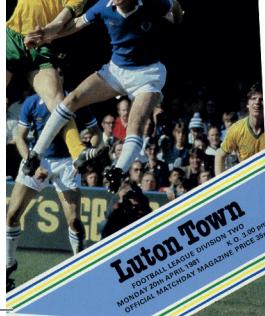
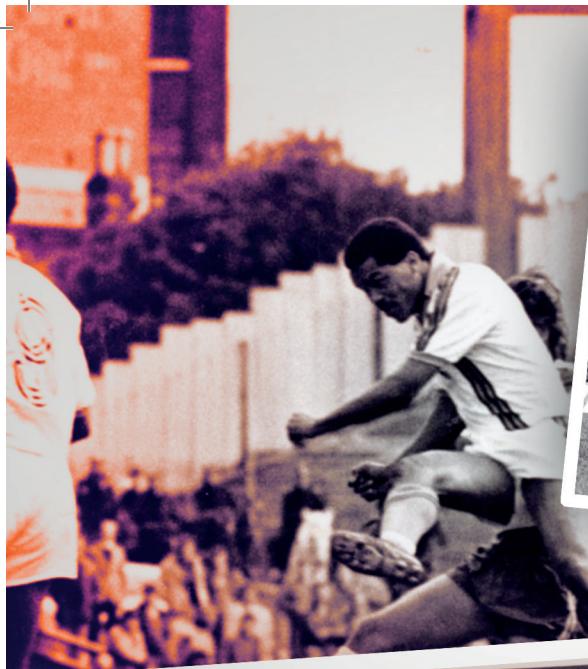
Defeat for the Welsh team would give Luton a tremendous boost before they travel to the Vetch Field next Monday evening after tackling Oldham at home this weekend.

Another of the promotion candidates, Blackburn Rovers, are also in action this evening. They are involved in a Lancashire derby clash at Preston.

The trio is completed by Sheffield Wednesday who are also away — at Shrewsbury.

But Luton's crunch will undoubtedly come early next week when they must beat Swansea to eliminate the threat offered





Chelsea 0 Luton Town 2

DIVISION TWO					
	P	W	L	T	%
West Penn	36	26	9	4	.722
Kaska Co.	36	18	17	1	.500
LETUCE	36	17	17	2	.472
Blackhawk's	36	14	21	1	.389
Early's	36	15	21	0	.417
Eastpointe	36	13	23	0	.361
Grayside	36	14	23	0	.389
Kutztown	36	17	21	2	.472

20-11-81 345



Outer Berita is beaten by David Moss (out of the picture) for the Town's first goal



Mal Donaghy leaps to repel a rare Chelsea attack





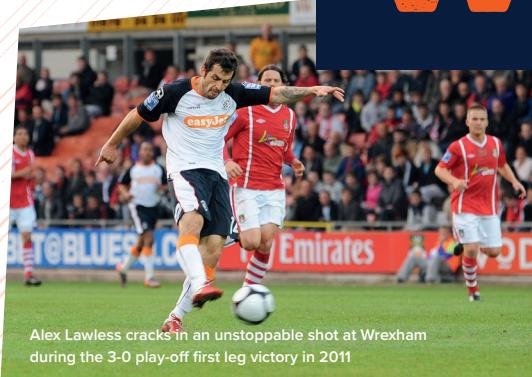
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Tom Craddock celebrates scoring our first goal at non-League level at Wimbledon



Alex Lawless cracks in an unstoppable shot at Wrexham during the 3-0 play-off first leg victory in 2011

A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS

Part Seventeen. W is for Wimbledon, Welling, Woking and Wrexham

Our first game at non-league level was at newly promoted **AFC Wimbledon** where a late Jon Main penalty for the home side cancelled out an early spot kick from Tom Craddock. Not a particularly promising start!

The following season saw the Town win comfortably 3-0 at Kenilworth Road and drawing 0-0 at Kingsmeadow in a game we should have won before losing in the one that really mattered – the play-off final at the Etihad Stadium where, after a 0-0 draw, we went out on penalties.

We came up against **Woking** during our final two years in the Conference which saw a mixed bag of results. We won at home and then lost away by the same 3-1 scoreline in 2012/13 before winning 4-0 at Kingfield the following season. It was a great shock to see our 27-game unbeaten run come to end following a 1-0 home defeat later on in the campaign to dent our championship hopes. Thankfully this was only a small blip on the road to promotion!

A far more joyous occasion came at **Welling United** on 19th April 2014, our only league meeting there, where the newly crowned champions won 2-1 amidst amazing scenes. Mark Cullen and Andre Gray bagged

the goals in front of a crowd of 2,650, most of whom came from Luton.

Finally we move on to old adversaries **Wrexham** who we played every season during our five years in non-league. Our record at Kenilworth Road was reasonable but at the Racecourse, four defeats and a draw told its own story.

We did though overcome **Wrexham** twice in the play-offs. In 2010/11 goals from Alex Lawless, Claude Gnakpa and Ed Asafu-Adjaye, all 'goal of the month' contenders', set up a home leg which was, in the end, won comfortably 2-1. This set up the aforementioned disappointing final against Wimbledon.

In the following season Wrexham finished a close second to Fleetwood having amassed 98 points. We sneaked in to fifth spot with 83 points yet won our home play-off leg 2-0 with goals from Gray and Stuart Fleetwood. In the second leg we managed to scrape through after a nervous 90 minutes despite taking an early lead via a George Pilkington penalty. Two goals from Wrexham meant a back to the walls defending job at the end which was survived.

Any joy from this result soon disappeared at Wembley in the final two weeks later when we went down 2-1 to York after again taking an early lead. 

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LUTON TOWN LADIES

LUTON LADIES HIT 11 PAST KING'S LYNN

By Owen Williams

Last weekend Luton Town Ladies were back at home for the first time in three weeks and were looking for a strong response after conceding a late equaliser at Stevenage the week before.

And it didn't take long for the Town to take the lead. On six minutes Elizabeth Sanders squeezed her way through the King's Lynn defence, took the ball around the keeper and put the ball into the empty net.

Seven minutes later and Luton doubled their lead. Captain Jess McKay fired a shot at goal which was saved well by the King's Lynn keeper and the ball fell at the back post to Shanice Lewis who had a simple tap in.

The Hatters then scored a third, three minutes later through Fiona Buttigieg. Sanders had all the time in the world in the box, but instead of taking the shot, she unselfishly laid the ball off to Buttigieg who poked the ball past the keeper and into the back of the net.

With 12 minutes remaining of the first half Leyah



Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL_Official



Maddix scored Luton's fourth. She picked up the ball on the edge of the box and fired the ball into the back of the net, giving the keeper no chance.

Ahead by four at the break thanks to goals from four different goalscorers, it was soon five after the restart.

The ball had barely got rolling in the second half when Sanders claimed her second, taking the ball around the keeper and converting well from a tight angle.

In the 68th minute the Town got their sixth. This time it was McKay's turn to get on the scoresheet, taking a pass from Kiera Palmiero to volley home.

Tsaianne Leander was next to get in on the act with a quick fire brace gave to give the Hatters an 8-0 lead. The first was set up by Spillman, who drove into the box, picking out Leander for a simple tap in. The second came from a fantastic ball over the top from McKay, which Leander showed great composure to slot past the keeper

With five minutes left to play, Sanders got her hat-trick. Racing through on goal, she made no mistake with the finish, slotting the ball home to make it 9-0.

Then, moments before the 90 minute mark Leander became the second player to score a hat-trick. Sanders played the ball across the goal and Leander made no mistake with the finish, scoring her third and Luton's 10th.

However the Hatters were not done, and regaining possession straight away from kick-off, Sanders stuck the ball past the King's Lynn keeper to get her fourth of the match to complete the scoring and an emphatic 11-0 victory.



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HATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST POST-16 PROGRAMME

Our Post-16 students from both of our partner schools, Queen Elizabeth School and The Shared Learning Trust, have had the amazing opportunity to support several of the first team players in completing their coaching qualifications.

Our students have been lucky enough to have attended The Brache over a number of weeks to participate in training sessions delivered by the players. This opportunity has allowed our students to not only meet and interact with the players but also learn valuable insight, techniques and knowledge from Premier League professionals.

These visits have been immensely popular with our students, and no doubt the experience will live long in the memory for our participants. A big thank you to Carlton Morris, Luke Berry, Dan Potts, Gabe Osho, Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, James Shea and Cauley Woodrow for their brilliant delivery and wish them all the best in their coaching journey.

For more information on how you can part of our Post-16 Education and Football Development Programme, which enables students to continue their football development whilst combining full time education, please contact us on EFD@lutontown.co.uk. Places are available for September 2024.

ELITE PDC TOUR

Over Easter weekend, our Under-9 to Under-16 Elite PDC players attended an overseas tour in Nijmegen, Holland to compete in the annual Easter Open tournament.

This international tournament has teams participating from all over the world, including teams from Sweden, Japan and Jamaica. Our young players spent day one of the tournament in qualifying groups, setting out to achieve qualification to the top tournament on day two. The second day consisted of group stages followed by semi and finals for the teams that qualified out of the group.

Across the eight age groups that attended, our boys managed to reach six finals, successfully winning three age groups. A big congratulations to our Under-10, Under-13 and Under-15 players! While the success was very welcome, the most important thing was that the youngsters had a fantastic time and took home some precious memories.



STOWE SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL

Following on from our Elite PDC tour, boys from our Development Centres had the opportunity to attend a two day residential trip to Stowe School, Buckingham.

The two day residential trip to Stowe School enables boys to 'experience the life of a footballer' for a couple of days.

Boys have the opportunity to train during the day, compete in internal futsal competitions and fixtures against other development centres. This experience is a fantastic opportunity for our boys to not only develop as footballers but be put through social challenges such as staying away from home for the first time. Across the week, we took a total of 360 boys away on the residential!

For further information regarding our Youth Development system, please email LTYD@lutontown.co.uk.

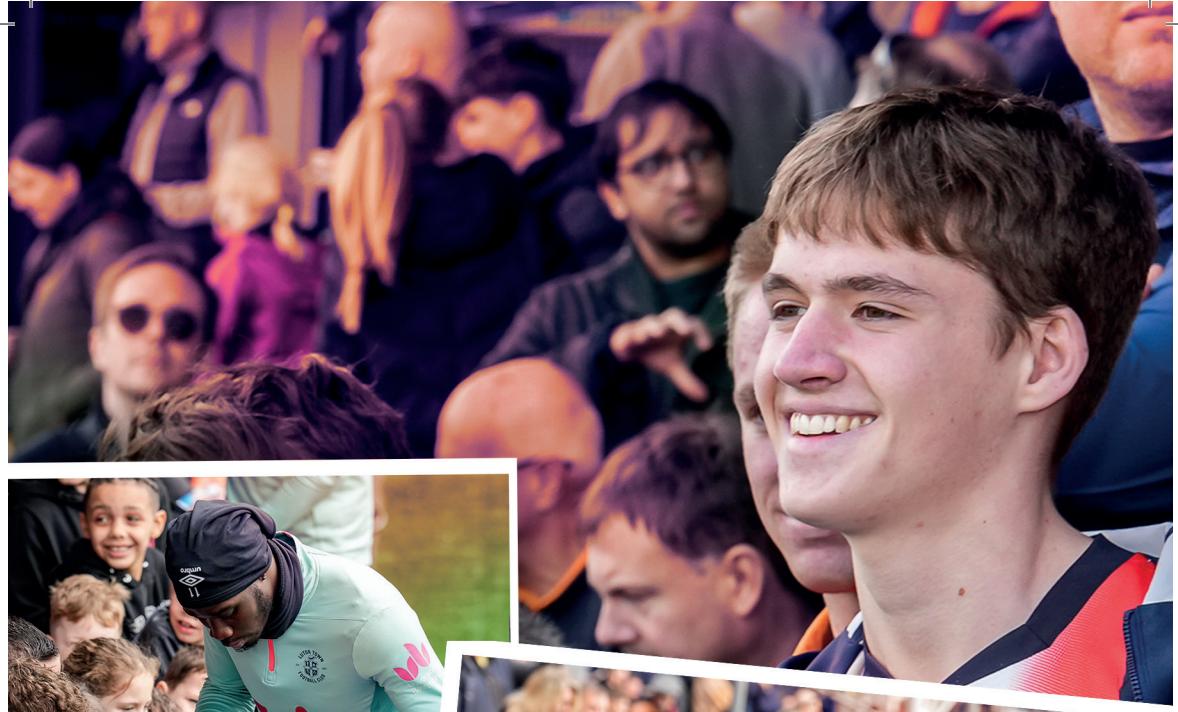


OPEN TRAINING SESSION AT KENILWORTH ROAD

We were overwhelmed by the response to our open training session last week that saw almost 3,000 fans watch the first team squad take part in a light session at Kenilworth Road.

Club photographer Dave Horn was on hand to capture the smiles, selfies and signing of autographs as the players and staff mingled with the supporters.

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to come along!



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 16/2/23	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 W 2-1	BLACKLEDGE	HARVEY	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	TRIALIST A	WARREN
SWINDON TOWN	SAT 9/3/24	H W 4-1	BLACKLEDGE	ODEGAH	HARVEY	MARTINS	EMERY	TRIALIST A	STITT
OXFORD UNITED	SAT 16/3/24	A L 2-4	BLACKLEDGE	HARVEY	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	CHIGOZIE	TRURAM
LEYTON ORIENT	FRI 29/3/24	A L 0-5	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	ROUTH	EMERY	TRIALIST	TRURAM
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	TUE 2/4/24	H L 1-3	BOOTH	ROBERTS-EDEMA	HARVEY	MARTINS	EMERY	ROUTH	IOANNIDES
AFC WIMBLEDON	SAT 13/4/24	H W 4-2	BLACKLEDGE	ROBERTS-EDEMA	HARVEY	STITT	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	IOANNIDES
SUTTON UNITED	SAT 20/4/24	A							
PORTSMOUTH	SAT 27/4/24	A							
CHELTENHAM TOWN	SAT 4/5/24	H							

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD U21 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

GILLINGHAM	TUE 22/8/23	A W 4-3	TRIALIST A	FRANCIS-CLARKE	KAYIBANDA	JOHNSON	PINNINGTON	LUKER	WATSON
BRENTFORD B	TUE 29/8/23	A W 2-1	HORLIK	PINNINGTON	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	GIWA	PIESOLD	BURGER
CHELSEA	TUE 19/9/23	A L 1-4	HORLIK	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS	BATESON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 6/10/23	A L 1-4	HORLIK	PINNINGTON	PHILLIPS	JOHNSON	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	PIESOLD
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	TUE 17/10/23	H L 2-3	HORLIK	PINNINGTON	GIWA	PIESOLD	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LUKER
KEMPSTON ROVERS (BSC)	TUE 3/10/23	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	HORLIK	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 2/12/24	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
BIGGLESWADE (BSC SF)	WED 13/3/224	A L 0-3	CAMIS	HARVEY	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	CHIGOZIE	LORENTZEN-JONES

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

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
I-JONES	HERON	LYNCH	HARRIS	WARREN, BLACKLEDGE, ODEGAH, ANDERSON, ROUTH

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GETTING TO KNOW... MAX SCOTT

DOB: 11/01/2006

Place of birth: Welwyn Garden City

Position: Centre-back

Year joined the academy: As an under-8.

What boots do you wear? Nike Tiempos.

My aims are to win the league!

The proudest moment of career so far is captaining us to a final in Germany.

In the playground I used to be Jack Wilshere and Santi Cazorla. They were both my favourite players and Cazorla was the name on the back of my first shirt.

At school my favourite subject was maths, because it was the only subject I was good at other than PE.

A career outside of football? I would like to be a coach and definitely stay involved in football.

The one teammate who I'd say is the most talented is Joe Johnson – we have both done well enough to stay here since day one as under-8s.

Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is Gabe Osho – he's a good person and very good player.

The best thing about Luton Town is the ambition the club has.

If I was to describe myself... I'm a left-footed centre-half who is calm on the ball and likes to get it down and play.



THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Max has been with us since he was an under-8 and has progressed each year to become valuable member of the squad.

"He's a left-sided central defender who is very cool under pressure and enjoys playing the ball out from the back."

DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR HAS NO PLACE IN OUR GAME.

FOOTBALL HAS COME TOGETHER TO TOUGHEN MEASURES ADDRESSING FAN BEHAVIOUR AT MATCHES

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR:

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

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES:

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

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



FSA.

ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH ACADEMY SPORTS THERAPIST PAIGE SIMMS



This is my first full season at Luton Town having graduated from the University of Derby in 2021 with a BSc in Sports Therapy and Rehabilitation.

Four years of studying to gain my degree also included over 200 hours of work experience in the student lead injury clinic and at a men's football club in Nottinghamshire.

After moving back home I soon found myself juggling three different jobs - working a 9-5 Monday to Friday office job, two seasons as the Sports Therapist for a semi-professional football club in Hertfordshire, working in training and at games three times a week and for another professional academy on Wednesdays and Sundays. The experience I gained at these clubs helped me realise that football is the field I love and the sport I wanted to stay with.

After two years of hard work, the opportunity came up at Luton Town for a full-time role. I started working at as a full-time Academy Sports Therapist in April 2023.

The first Luton Town game I watched was at Kenilworth Road against Sunderland in the second leg of the Championship semi-final for promotion to the Premier League. Usually when watching a football match, I am working as medical cover and hoping to get through the full 90 minutes injury-free - which is a rare occasion - so, it was exciting watching an important game in the Kenilworth Stand as a proud supporter, but also of course any bad tackle still had me on edge! The atmosphere was spectacular, and the 2-0 winning result was the cherry on top!

As part of the academy medical team at Luton Town, some of my main responsibilities are

assessing player injuries and creating an individualised rehabilitation programme that is best suited for their return to play whilst avoiding any risk of re-injury. At the weekends I also cover matches across the age groups from Under-9s to Under-21s. I'm watching them compete and supporting through all levels of injuries, from when they just need encouragement to the more serious cases such as ligament and muscle injuries.

Since working at Luton Town, I have been lucky enough to go on several football tours with the younger age groups, including Czech Republic and Germany with the Under-10s, Poland with the Under-13s and most recently Italy with the Under-15s.

There have been some challenging times regarding academy injuries this season in the Under-18s and Under-21s, varying from multiple concussions with several players...all at the same time, to injuries requiring surgical reconstruction. Managing these injuries has been a big part of my development and I hope to stay with Luton for many more seasons and watch the players grow and develop the academy.

I would like to particularly thank Oliver Sharples who I have worked with closely over the season, Simon Parsell and Chris Phillips for their continued support within the medical department, and all the part-time medical staff for their hard work over the season.

Keep up with the incredible support and motivation that you have shown all season. COYH!



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TICKET NEWS



LUTON TOWN V EVERTON

Premier League

Friday 3rd May 2024,
kick-off 8pm

Full Sales Plan

Two-year Hatters Members

From 10am on Monday 22nd April those supporters that have held a Hatters Membership for last season and this season will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture. You will be able to book online using your unique client reference number or via phone or in person from the Ticket Office. We recommend you choose to receive your tickets digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. Collection of tickets is available; however, we advise you to collect in advance of the match day if possible. If unable to do this, we strongly recommend you arrive early to avoid queues at the Ticket Office and at turnstiles. We will offer postage of tickets ordered at this stage of the Sales plan, however, recommend digital tickets as a better option due to the time post appears to be taking currently in some areas.

Hatters Members 23/24 (with a previous purchasing history)

From 10am on Thursday 25th April new 23/24 Hatters Members with a previous purchasing history will be able to purchase a ticket for this fixture online using your unique client reference number. Or via phone only, subject to availability. If ordering online or by phone, we recommend you choose to receive your tickets digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. Collection of tickets is available; however, we advise you to collect in advance of the match day if possible. If unable to do this, we strongly recommend you arrive early to avoid queues at the Ticket Office and at turnstiles. Will we offer postage of tickets ordered at this stage of the Sales plan, however, recommend digital tickets as a better option due to the time post appears to be taking currently in some areas.

General Sale (with purchasing history) or Hatters Members (without a previous purchasing history)

Subject to availability, from Monday 29th April tickets will be available on General Sale (to supporters with a previous purchasing history) or new Members (without history). Supporters falling into these categories will be able to book online using your unique client reference number. At this stage Season Tickets holders can also book additional tickets, but all tickets will need to be assigned to an individual registered on the database. You can choose to receive your tickets either digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. Collection from Luton Town Ticket Office is also available, but we strongly recommend tickets are collected before the day of the game.

Prices (category A)

Adults £36, seniors over 65 and young adults under 22 £30, golden seniors over 75 and under-19s £27, under-17s £18, under-10s £15.

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

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





LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

WITH MARYAN BROADBENT, TRUST AND FAIR GAME BOARD MEMBER

Luton Town are proving there's a better, fairer and more sustainable way to be successful in football.

To be at the heart of the communities the club serves, to engage and entertain. To compete at the highest level and still do things 'the right way'.

Luton Town Supporters' Trust shares those values. We support a club to be proud of. And like our club, we have a vision. We believe in fair play and are dedicated to influencing the future of the game at all levels, collaborating with other trusts and pioneering organisations like the Football Supporters' Association and Fair Game to present a vocal and influential case to the football, governmental and regulatory bodies.

Today, football stands at a crossroads. Clubs in crisis, the independent football regulator bill, points deductions, the game has never been richer, yet in many ways its state has never been poorer. It has to change to survive, and we – the club and us fans – can help drive that change, for today and for generations to come.

A fairer future for football?

Against that background, the Fair Game national conference in May – 'Delivering a fairer future for football' – takes on even more significance. It brings clubs together to call for reform, and LTST is playing an integral role, with an active presence on the FG board and at the conference. We know

that our club has a strong voice and a real passion about the future of football – CEO Gary Sweet's recent interviews on radio have certainly 'spoken truth to power' – and the Trust is your voice, as it is for all Luton supporters. We aim to make it a loud one. We're Luton fans after all – and we need you with us!



Join the Trust and play your part

If you're not already a member of the Trust, or have let your membership lapse, now's the perfect time to join us: you can then vote for Goal, Signing and Player of the Season and you might still be in time to grab a ticket for our upcoming Trust-members-only Presentation Evening. It promises to be something special and an opportunity to share some time – and selfie ops! – with the players who have given their all for Luton Town this season.

Despite the injuries and knock backs, the players and staff have demonstrated a unique spirit and never-say-die attitude that sets us apart and has made the world sit up and take notice of our club, and our town. Positivity. That's what we're all about isn't it? Club, players, fans, supporters groups – all in it together and determined to show there's a different, better way to 'do football': the Luton way. COYH!

Join the Trust today, for just £10 right through to June 2025, or for £5 concessions at www.lutontownsupporterstrust.com. For details of Fair Game, and their national conference, visit www.fairgameuk.org.

MEET THE FANS

WITH TOWN SUPPORTER DAVE HOWARD

How long have you supported Luton for?

Regularly since the 1967/68 promotion season, although I believe I'd been taken to Kenilworth Road, by my late father, before that.

Where do you sit at home matches?

Kenilworth Upper but I have moved around over the years.

Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

Lars Elstrup. Lars was, in many ways, a one-off, both as an individual [as his post-football life will testify], and as a player.

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

Since my wife passed away last October, it has provided me with a distraction that has helped me through these difficult months. Historically, it means family. My grandfather was a supporter before and after WW2, my father and uncle through the forties and fifties, me since the late sixties, and my son, now from afar in Western Australia, since the eighties. I have more recently introduced my stepdaughter and son-in-law to the joys of supporting the Hatters. Now to increase the grandchildren's interest!

What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

A Malcolm Macdonald hat-trick in a

losing cup match, but a fantastic game against Forest. Staying up on the last day of the season in the old First Division, in particular the amazing win at the Baseball Ground against Derby in scorching hot weather. The wonderful trips to Wembley, especially the Littlewoods Cup final win, the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final win and, of course, last season's play-off final win that my late wife attended with me, which made it extra-special.

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

A combination of things: immense pride, but I also felt quite tearful for the family members who have supported the club, but are no longer with us.

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

For me, it's much the same. I would support the club even if it was in the South Midlands League! It has though, as an Away Season Ticket holder, been great to visit some of the stadiums in the Premier League.

What has been your favourite Luton moment in the Premier League so far?

Seeing a recovered Tom Lockyer walk around the pitch, to a standing ovation, before our marvellous win against Brighton. 



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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

Tonight, we host Brentford in another big game here at Kenilworth Road. I figured it was a good time to flashback to four years ago when we faced the high-flying Bees in the Championship under the lights at Kenilworth Road in February 2020.

It was a tough period for Luton who were in desperate need of picking up as many points as possible. Prior to the match, the Hatters were bottom of the league and seven points adrift from safety.

On the other hand, Brentford were flying high, and a win would put them right back in the hunt for automatic promotion. The visitors were in fine form all season, not to mention the reverse result between the two sides. If you know, you know!

Manager Graeme Jones named a strong side. New loan recruit Cameron Carter-Vickers started alongside Martin Cranie with a front line of Harry Cornick and James Collins.

Thomas Frank named an extremely strong XI. To name a few, David Raya started in goal with a front three of Said Benrahma, Ollie Watkins and Bryan Mbeumo.

Personally, I felt very nervous before the game, and felt even more on edge

when I saw the opposition line-up. But I had faith in the team that we could pull something off. Little did we all know that this would be a classic under the lights at the Kenny.

We got off to a flying start after Luke Berry whipped in a superb free-kick from deep which managed to deflect off of Shandon Baptiste and into the bottom corner for an own goal.

Brentford had plenty of chances after this as they looked for an equaliser. Somehow, it was Luton who scored the next goal. Another Berry free-kick fell to Cranie who smashed the ball into the top right corner to put the Town 2-0 up at half-time.

The second half went as expected. There were loads of chances for Brentford to get one back but some fine saves from Simon Sluga and some poor finishing meant the Bees couldn't quite make a break through.

However, with seven minutes to go, Brentford did get one back. Watkins got the goal as he converted easily from a cut back ball. This set up for a nervy ending.

The Bees threw everything at the Town but couldn't get anything as the Hatters earned a priceless victory! It was a huge result and arguably one which pushed us to survival. What a night!

COYH!

Words by Zac Neal



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JUNIOR HATTERS TODAY'S MASCOTS



Isabella Johnson

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football & Music

Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo



Ollie Johnson

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football, Gaming & Lego

Favourite Player: Alfie Doughty & Ross Barkley



Harry Johnson

Age: 7

Hobbies: Football, Gaming & Pokemon

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



Sidney Clarke

Age: 9

Hobbies: Watching Luton, Playing Fifa, Playing Rugby

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris & Tahith Chong



Ismael Afzal

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football, Lego, Cartoons

Favourite Player: Ross Barkley



Aleesa Afzal

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football, Crafts, Reading

Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Peter Curry

Age: 8

Hobbies: Football, Snakes, Nintendo

Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo



Freddie Curry

Age: 10

Hobbies: Football, Karate,

Harry Potter

Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



Stan Curry

Hobbies: Football, Cricket,

Swimming

Favourite Player: Ross Barkley

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2021/22
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LET'S GO

MOLINEUX
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL
KICK OFF: 3:00PM

WHERE?

Our penultimate away trip of the season sees us head to Wolverhampton next week as we travel to Molineux. The ground has undergone steady redevelopment over the past few decades and provisions are in place for a longer-term project that could see its current capacity of 31,750 rise to 50,000. Wolves have been playing at Molineux since 1889 and Wikipedia helpfully informs us that it was one of the first British grounds to have flood-lights installed. Heroes of Wolves' past are decorated around the ground, with stands named after Steve Bull, Stan Cullis and Billy Wright.

HOW TO GET THERE.

From the Maple Road car park to Molineux it's a two-hour drive and just over 100 miles going up the M1 and M6. The postcode to get there is WV1 4QR, but it's advised to park in the numerous city centre car parks instead. If you're taking the train, Wolverhampton station is a 15-minute walk. If you're in the mood to go with your fellow Hatters on the coach the Bobbers Travel Club are, as ever, running a service to Wolves. They are departing Luton at 10.30 and the trip costs £30 for adults and £27 for adults. Call 01234 856542 to book your spot.

HAPPY HUNTING GROUND.

The record books show Town teams of the past have enjoyed previous visits to Molineux. Of the 15 visit, the Hatters have won six and drawn twice, including a four-game winning streak between 1976 and 1992.

Taking away the goalless draw in a friendly back in August, the Town have lost on their last two visits in the second tier and the last time the Hatters won on Wolverhampton soil was a 3-2 victory in November 1994. That afternoon goals from David Preece, Dwight Marshall and Kerry Dixon earned us all three points. The highest scoring visit? A 5-4 defeat in 1956 with Gordon Turner's hat-trick all in vain.

THE WOLVES OF TODAY.

Critics had Wolves down for a relegation fight but Gary O'Neil's side have laughed in the face of such negative pre-season predictions. The Molineux club go into this weekend's fixtures in 11th place in the Premier League and are just seven points off a European spot. Despite a 4-1 defeat to Brighton in their opening home fixture of the season, Wolves have enjoyed memorable wins against Manchester City, Tottenham and Chelsea on home soil this term, making Molineux a tough a place to go as any.



WOLVES



THE HATTERS



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TOWN TEASERS

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

1. On Monday this week the Town secured promotion back to the Football League - but which current Hatters player scored the goal to clinch the title?
2. Which team play their home games at Aggborough?
3. Which Town player won the ball back the most times in our win over Bournemouth?
4. How many times have Real Madrid won the Champions League/European Cup?
5. Who was the Hatters' leading goalscorer in the 2013/14 season and how many goals did he score?
6. What is the biggest Premier League title-winning margin?
7. Which club are nicknamed the Bantams?
8. At which ground was the lowest Premier League attendance recorded?
9. Which four clubs contested the League 1 play-offs last season?
10. Which Luton player scored his first senior hat-trick in a 4-1 win over Brentford here in 2004?



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 Brentford fan or you're new to this.



Premier League

ROUND-UP

The Town inadvertently played a role in the title last week as the race to win the Premier League took a massive turn.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City's win over the Hatters sent them top of the table on Saturday evening, two points clear of Arsenal and Liverpool.

On Sunday, both of City's rivals faltered, suffering home defeats. Liverpool went down 1-0 at home to Crystal Palace thanks to Eberechi Eze's first-half strike. The result helped the Eagles climb to 14th in the table and eight points clear of the Town.

A few hours later, Arsenal were defeated on home soil, going down 2-0 at Aston Villa after late goals from Leon Bailey and Ollie Watkins. Villa strengthened their chances of finishing in fourth place as a result of Tottenham's 4-0 defeat at Newcastle on the Saturday.

The emphatic win for the Magpies was their third win in four matches and pushed them up to sixth in the table and level on points with Manchester United following the Red Devils' draw at Bournemouth.

At the other end of the table, none of the sides in and around the Hatters recorded a victory. Bottom-of-the-table Sheffield United went down at Brentford while Burnley were held to a 1-1 at home to Brighton.

Nottingham Forest had to settle for a point in a 2-2 draw at home to Wolves. Having trailed 1-0, the Tricky Trees stormed back into the lead only for the visitors to level matters in the second half. The result leaves Forest just one point above the Town in the division.



Forest's opponents today are an Everton side that go into this weekend off the back of a 6-0 defeat at Chelsea on Monday. The Toffees had no answer to a Cole Palmer-inspired Blues, who scored four times. The result leaves Everton two places and two points above the Hatters in the Premier League standings.

In other big matches at the bottom of the table today, the two sides below us meet at Bramall Lane as Burnley go to Sheffield United with both teams desperate for the three points in their quest to avoid the drop.

Premier League

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Manchester City	32	22	7	3	76	32	44	73
2	Arsenal	32	22	5	5	75	26	49	71
3	Liverpool	32	21	8	3	72	31	41	71
4	Aston Villa	33	19	6	8	68	49	19	63
5	Tottenham Hotspur	32	18	6	8	65	49	16	60
6	Newcastle United	32	15	5	12	69	52	17	50
7	Manchester United	32	15	5	12	47	48	-1	50
8	West Ham United	33	13	9	11	52	58	-6	48
9	Chelsea	31	13	8	10	61	52	9	47
10	Brighton and Hove Albion	32	11	11	10	52	50	2	44
11	Wolverhampton Wanderers	32	12	7	13	46	51	-5	43
12	Fulham	33	12	6	15	49	51	-2	42
13	Bournemouth	32	11	9	12	47	57	-10	42
14	Crystal Palace	32	8	9	15	37	54	-17	33
15	Brentford	33	8	8	17	47	58	-11	32
16	Everton *	32	9	8	15	32	48	-16	27
17	Nottingham Forest **	33	7	9	17	42	58	-16	26
18	Luton Town	33	6	7	20	46	70	-24	25
19	Burnley	33	4	8	21	33	68	-35	20
20	Sheffield United	32	3	7	22	30	84	-54	16

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

** Nottingham Forest deducted four points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules. That decision is currently under appeal (4pts).

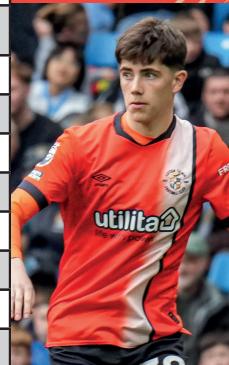


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PLAYER STATISTICS

	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
Mads Andersen	4	(4)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(4)	1	1	0
Ross Barkley	26	(2)	5	4	(1)	0	30	(3)	5	5	0
Amari'i Bell	21	(0)	0	4	(2)	0	25	(2)	0	0	0
Luke Berry	2	(11)	1	2	(1)	0	4	(12)	1	2	0
Jacob Brown	12	(7)	2	1	(2)	1	13	(9)	3	5	0
Reece Burke	16	(2)	0	3	(1)	0	19	(3)	0	5	0
Tahith Chong	15	(13)	4	4	(1)	1	19	(14)	5	4	0
Jordan Clark	11	(8)	1	2	(1)	2	13	(9)	3	5	0
Alfie Doughty	29	(3)	1	6	(0)	1	35	(3)	2	4	0
Ryan Giles	5	(6)	0	2	(1)	0	7	(7)	0	0	0
Daiki Hashioka	4	(3)	0	0	(1)	0	4	(4)	0	0	0
Joe Johnson	0	(1)	0	1	(2)	0	1	(3)	0	0	0
Issa Kabore	20	(3)	0	0	(2)	0	20	(5)	0	7	0
Thomas Kaminski	33	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	33	(0)	0	3	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	0	0
Tom Lockyer	14	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	15	(0)	1	4	0
Sambi Lokonga	11	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	13	(1)	0	2	0
Teden Mengi	23	(2)	1	5	(0)	0	28	(2)	1	4	0
Carlton Morris	27	(6)	9	4	(1)	0	31	(7)	9	2	0
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	11	(14)	0	3	(2)	0	14	(16)	0	1	0
Marvelous Nakamba	13	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	13	(1)	0	5	0
Zack Nelson	0	(2)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(2)	0	0	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	19	(9)	4	5	(1)	1	24	(10)	5	1	0
Fred Onyedinma	2	(2)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	1	0
Gabriel Osho	16	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	18	(0)	2	2	0
Dan Potts	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0
James Shea	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0
Andros Townsend	14	(10)	1	1	(3)	0	15	(13)	1	1	0
Cauley Woodrow	2	(18)	1	3	(2)	2	5	(20)	3	2	0



**CONGRATS,
JJ!**

Congratulations to 18-year-old Joe Johnson, who made his first Premier League appearance in last weekend's game at Manchester City.

2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

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

PROSTATE PSA TESTING - SUNDAY 12TH MAY

Beds Prostate Cancer, the Luton Town Supporters' Trust charity of the year, are holding a PSA testing event in the Eric Morecambe Lounge on Sunday 12th May. They will be out on the Kenilworth apron at today's game, raising money for their charity. For more information on the charity, visit bpccs.org.uk.





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

SUBSTITUTES

					ATT	AWAY
NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS ⚽	ADEBAYO	31,872	3,001
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	39,893	3,054
MPANZU	BERRY	WOODROW ⚽	OGBENE	BROWN ⚽	9,468	1,058
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	10,802	1,151
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS	BROWN	24,467	2,701
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OGBENE	MORRIS ⚽	BROWN	10,893	1,091
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	7,360	708
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS ⚽	BROWN	39,289	2,976
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	10,918	1,126
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	10,929	1,151
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	29,361	2,893
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	41,785	3,005
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	11,049	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	73,599	3,008
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	11,029	1,149
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	CHONG	11,041	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	11,047	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	11,042	1,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	31,041	2,362
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	11,041	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	10,739	1,609
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	20,155	1,432
BARKLEY	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	CHONG ⚽	10,878	751
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	TOWNSEND	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	37,713	1,699
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO ⚽	MORRIS	10,994	1,044
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	52,211	3,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	11,138	1,350
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	11,438	1,389
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	59,896	2,505
CLARK ⚽	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	11,163	1,866
CLARK	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	11,594	1,358
CLARK	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	25,103	2,687
CLARK	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	11,198	1,313
MPANZU	BARKLEY	CHONG	CLARK	MORRIS	11,630	1,260
BERRY	BARKLEY	CHONG ⚽	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	61,534	3,038
MPANZU	BARKLEY	CLARK	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	60,262	3,003
CLARK ⚽	BARKLEY	CHONG	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	11,779	1,260
BARKLEY ⚽	CLARK	CHONG	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	53,449	3,065

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



8. Selhurst Park. 9. Bamsley, Bolton, Peterborough and Shrewsbury Wednesday. 10. Euch Showmunt.
11. Marti Bell. 12. Kedderminster Hatters. 13. Jordan Clark. 4. 14 times. 5. Andre Gray (30). 6. 19 points (Man City 20/7/18). 7. Bradford City.
TOWN TEASERS ANSWERS:



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

BBC Three Counties Radio's Simon Oxley remembers Joe Kinnear

The word was out. The man who had taken Wimbledon's Crazy Gang to sixth in the Premier League was coming to Luton.

New owner Mike Watson-Challis had replaced Lennie Lawrence with playing legend Ricky Hill but it hadn't worked. Caretaker Lil Fuccillo wasn't the answer so Watson-Challis persuaded Joe Kinnear that Kenilworth Road was for him. We waited 90 minutes, ironically, for the press conference to start, then in marched Joe. Was he Director of Football or manager? "I'm in charge, I'm making the decisions" and the adventure began.

Despite a good start he couldn't prevent relegation, but he'd already put the recovery wheels in motion, and was in confident mood ahead of the new Division Three season. Those Friday morning press conferences were never dull – always a story and always a smile. He never ran out of anecdotes.

Potential new signings were always on the agenda. Joe always seemed to have met up with Arsene Wenger somewhere, but while arrivals from Arsenal didn't materialise, his wealth of contacts started to bear fruit. The wonderful spine of Chris Coyne, Kevin Nicholls and Steve Howard would go on to shine in the Championship post-Kinnear; the mercurial

Jean-Louis Valois was the rabbit out of the hat; and Joe was also happy to use the usual youth talent pool as Emmerson Boyce and Matthew Taylor excelled. And judging by Nico's social media tribute last week, there was, and will always be, only one Gaffer.

We all have our favourite moments from that campaign. Mine have a Devon flavour... Valois' debut goal against Torquay; a Taylor-inspired draw at Exeter ahead of England's 5-1 win in Germany – "we'll be watching Ireland on the bus" remarked Joe afterwards; and of course the rivalry with Plymouth. I tried to explain it to someone once – without success, but to us it will always be the 'Kinnear derby'. Promotion was confirmed with a win at Swansea. Our late colleague Ian Pearce was duty editor that weekend and was stuck in south Wales on the day the Queen Mother died. My father-in-law and brother-in-law meanwhile still recall the last day party at Shrewsbury.

The following season started with four defeats but Joe revelled in the turnaround especially as he felt one or two of us in the press box had been too quick to judge! There was also the League Cup win at Watford, and the season ended with a commendable ninth place. But Watson-Challis had sold to a mystery consortium, who shocked us all by sacking

Joe, and Mick Harford, by letter. We got word on a Friday afternoon, and by the 6pm sports show it had been confirmed. Mick spoke live on air, but Joe kept his counsel.

Fans protested outside the ground as newly-revealed owner John Gurney sent messrs Power and Terrell to face the music, but there was no way back for Joe. Some months later, in the garden of his north London home, he went public coming out with the iconic line on Gurney's plans... "champagne ideas, Coca-Cola pockets". That was the Kinnear era over, but many of the team he left behind would gain promotion again – to the Championship – under Mike Newell, where they more than held their own for a while.

But I believe his legacy was much longer lasting, maybe even to the present day.

There's a generation of Hatters fans who experienced their first promotion season thanks to him. That success secured their backing forever. People travelled home and way believing they would see a win, with a team and a manager who connected with those fans both with their football and their attitude.

Then when he was

sacked it stirred a disbelief and then anger, and a desire to hold those responsible to account. It prepared the ground for the battles ahead which came soon enough with Gurney, followed eventually by financial issues and the descent into non-league. But people had shown a willingness to take charge themselves. Maybe the seeds of what we are enjoying now were sown by that turbulent end to Big Joe's reign. He gave the club its mojo back.

The writer Hunter Davies ended his excellent biography – 'Still Crazy' – just before Joe arrived at Luton. In the closing paragraphs he wrote: "Will he come back? I hope so, for Joe's sake, and for football's sake. There are not many like Joe." Thank goodness he did come back Hunter, and there certainly weren't many like him. 





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
32. FRED ONYEDINMA
38. JOE JOHNSON
43. ZACK NELSON
45. ALFIE DOUGHTY
46. JAYDEN LUKER
48. DOMINIC DOS SANTOS MARTINS

MATCH OFFICIALS



REFEREE - JARRED GILLET



ASSISTANT REFEREE - DARREN CANN



ASSISTANT REFEREE - NICK HOPTON



FOURTH OFFICIAL - CRAIG PAWSON



VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - PETER BANKES



ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - TIMOTHY WOOD



BRENTFORD

1. MARK FLEKKEN
2. AARON HICKEY
3. RICO HENRY
5. ETHAN PINNOCK
6. CHRISTIAN NØRGAARD
7. NEAL MAUPAY
8. MATHIAS JENSEN
9. KEVIN SCHADE
10. JOSH DASILVA
11. YOANE WISSA
12. SERGIO REGUILÓN
13. ZANKA
14. SAMAN GHODDOS
15. FRANK ONYEKA
16. BEN MEE
17. IVAN TONEY
19. BRYAN MBEUMO
20. KRISTOFFER AJER
21. THOMAS STRAKOSHA
22. NATHAN COLLINS
23. KEANE LEWIS-POTTER
24. MIKKEL DAMSGAARD
26. SHANDON BAPTISTE
27. VITALY JANEIT
30. MADS ROERSLEV
31. HÁKON VALDIMARSSON
32. RYAN TREVITT
33. YEHOR YARMOLIUK
36. JI-SOO KIM
38. ETHAN BRIERLEY
40. ELLERY BALCOMBE
41. VINCENT ANGELINI
42. VAL ADEDOKUN
43. BENJAMIN FREDERICK