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LUTON TOWN V EVERTON

FRIDAY 3RD MAY 2024 | 8:00PM | KENILWORTH ROAD



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Hammonds, Dec O'Reilly, Zac Neal, Bradley
Dixon and James Cunliffe.

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

BRING THE NOISE!



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PROGRAMME.



WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD

What would you had said at the start of the season if we still have a chance of staying in the Premier League with three games to go? Exactly. Tonight, under the lights here at Kenilworth Road, our penultimate fixture on home soil gives us a chance to leap outside of the bottom three. The lads have given their all for 35 games and with just three to go for the final push, they need you to get behind them like never before tonight. Let's do this. Come on Luton!



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EDWARDS



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BOARDROOM



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HISTORY



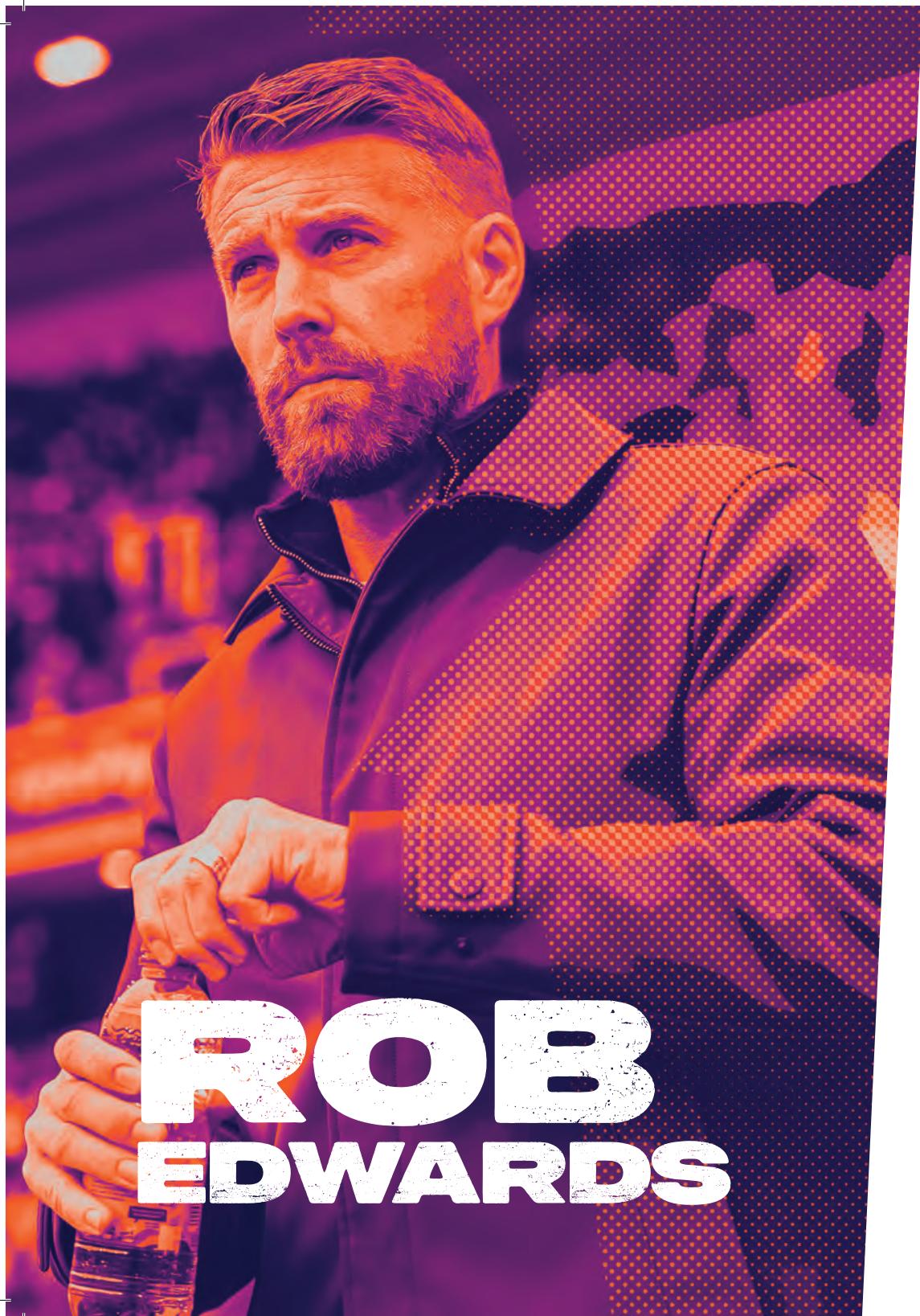
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80 SEASON
SO FAR



ROB EDWARDS

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road.

A warm welcome to Sean Dyche and his staff and players and congratulations for securing Premier League safety. They have clearly had a challenging season but they have navigated it really well on the pitch. I am sure Sean and his staff will be particularly happy, especially in recent weeks, but over the course of the season they have achieved a good number of points.

I'm going to keep my notes brief this week.

Listen, I have loved this season.

And I am pretty sure you have as well.

We've had some tough moments to deal with; a shedload of injuries and a cardiac arrest to our captain.

It's fair to say we've had a lot to contend with in our first season in the Premier League – but I don't want it to end – and I'm sure you don't want it to either.

So, all I ask is that you completely get behind the players tonight. They are a group of people who give everything every single day for this club.

So please give us all you have from the stands in these two home games. Give everything and we'll do the same. If we can both do that we know we can compete with anyone.

Unfortunately, we can't guarantee the result but we'll be doing all we can to keep this club in this league. I don't want to disappoint you or let anyone down. I really want us to be celebrating come the final whistle tonight.

Thank you to everyone who supported us at Wolves last Saturday. You were brilliant, as you have been all season long.

It means so much to us, to me, how you back us all the time, so while you're still with us and we still have a chance, we'll continue to do all we can on the pitch. Thank you so much. I absolutely love you all.

So let's enjoy this game. Let's enjoy the occasion.

And bring the noise. 





It only seems like yesterday that we were heading for Brighton to kick-off our Premier League campaign and now there's just three games to go.

I can assure you there is not a single player in our dressing room who wants this journey to end and after 35 games of endeavour we still find ourselves fighting as much as we did on that first day at Brighton.

Nobody gave us a chance before a ball was kicked, did they? As has been said many times before, nobody here was interested in hearing that. The belief in our group has never wavered, even the most testing of times. So here we are, with three games left, and we're still on target to achieve our goal of staying in the Premier League.

You may have noticed that I was present at the Wolves game last week. It was good to be around the boys and offer them my support in the dressing room and beside the pitch. Of course it was great to be part of the matchday experience and all that comes with it, from the banter with the boys to the serious business of 90 minutes of Premier League action.

I thought we played well in the first half and were unlucky not to have taken one of our chances before Wolves caught us on the break and took the lead. After their second goal in the second half we rallied and in the final 15 minutes we looked a real threat. It was great to see Eli back on the field after his hamstring injury and congratulations to Carlton who reached

double figures in the Premier League. A great achievement. Here's hoping for a few more between now and the end of the season.

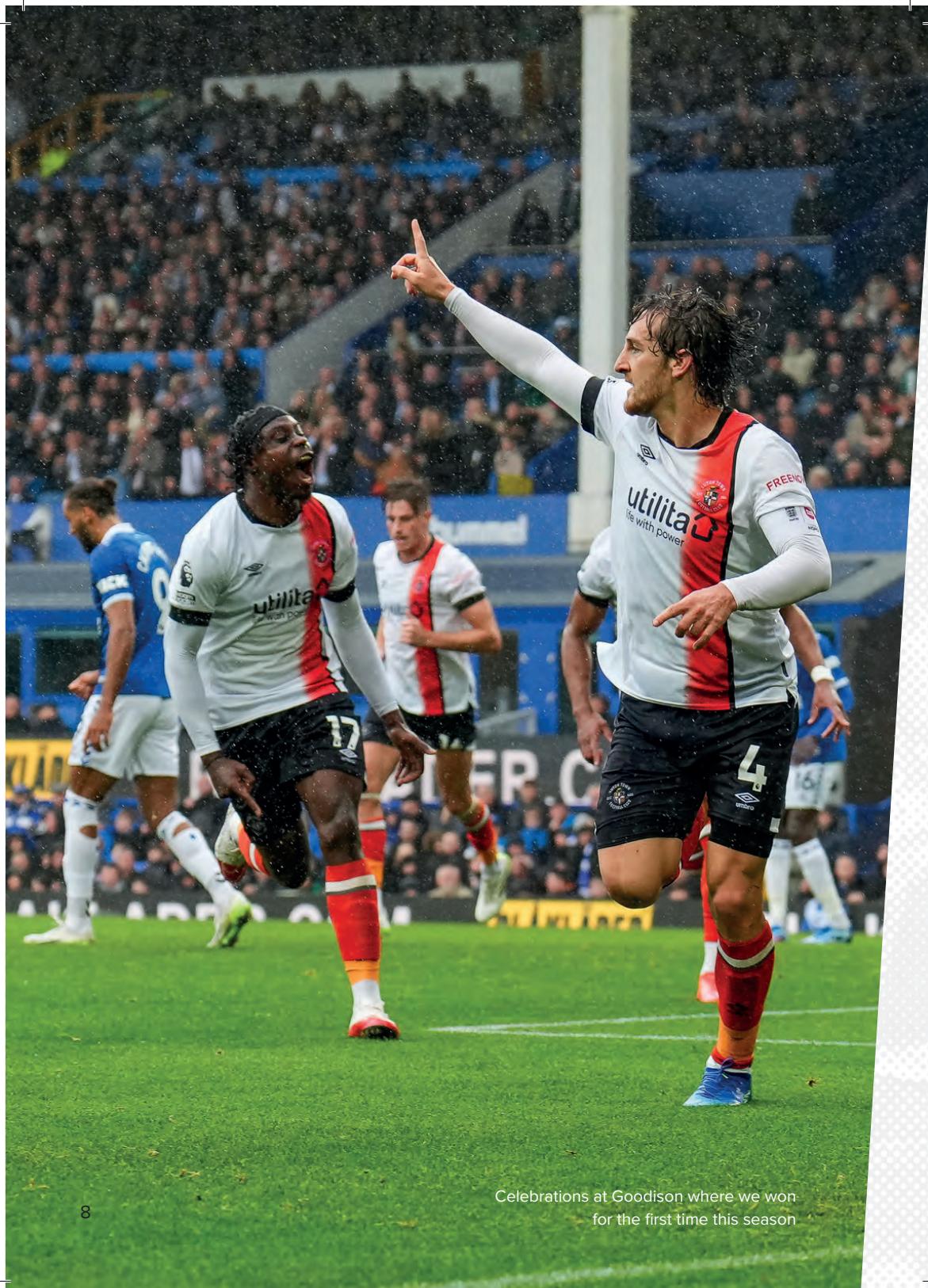
Tonight, attention turns to Everton. Two of our most special days of this season have come against the Toffees up at Goodison so we will be aiming to make it a hat-trick of wins against them this evening. We have shown twice in those games what we are capable of and tonight, under the lights at the Kenny, I have the utmost faith the lads will come through and obtain a positive result.

I'm glad this game has been chosen for live television coverage and that it's been moved to a Friday night. I know it's a bit of a cliché, but the atmosphere here under the lights is completely different to a 3pm on a Saturday.

This great place is at its rocking best on night like these. I've mentioned it a million times already this season but the atmosphere against Sunderland in the play-offs a year ago was unreal. If today's noise can match that, then it promises to be a famous, raucous night here at our favourite place. I know it's hard but try and enjoy it! We can't be too nervous or edgy as that may filter through to the lads on the pitch so please join me in getting behind the lads this evening.

Up the Town. 







FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON

Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for this penultimate home game of our first Premier League season.

Many so-called experts gave us little chance of still being in with a shout of staying up by this stage of the season and reckoned that we would be lucky to not break Derby's lowest points total. However, not only are we still here with three games left to play, but we have made friends along the way with our style of play and the entertainment we have provided.

Whatever happens from now on we are all extremely proud of the way everyone in the Club, on and off the field, has represented our Luton Town. The Premier League is a very different animal to where we have come from in the EFL and National League, but our staff have adapted amazingly well to the increased workload and professionalism, which has been recognised by the powers that be.

We welcome today's visitors from Everton, who after some excellent recent results notably against local rivals Liverpool from just across Stanley Park, are now safe from relegation. As you will be very aware, we have won twice at Goodison Park this season, so we are unforgivingly hopeful of being able to repeat the result at home tonight.

The Toffees are in the midst of a takeover, which is clearly presenting the club with an administrative challenge as the club has appointed financial advisors in relation to these matters.

All this, along with points deductions for breaches of Profit and Sustainability Rules, has meant they have had a fraught time of it lately and have done well to overcome the adversity on-field in the way they have.

We welcome everyone associated with the Toffees to Kenilworth Road this evening and wish them a safe journey back to Merseyside after the final whistle.

Among those making the Friday night trip is Steve McNulty, who is one of our guests tonight. Steve was a real cult hero, with his performances in central defence just one of the many wonderful contributions that led to our return to the Football League as Conference champions ten years ago.

We also have the pleasure of welcoming the family of former Hatters and Toffees favourite, Jimmy Husband, who we sadly lost in March. As I mentioned in my notes recently, I went to Jimmy's funeral in Milton Keynes and met his widow and other friends and relatives. We are all delighted that, as he had such a close association with both clubs, that his daughter Jilly and members of his family will be with us tonight.

Since I wrote notes for the last home game against Brentford, I thought I'd give you a flavour of what we've been up to since.

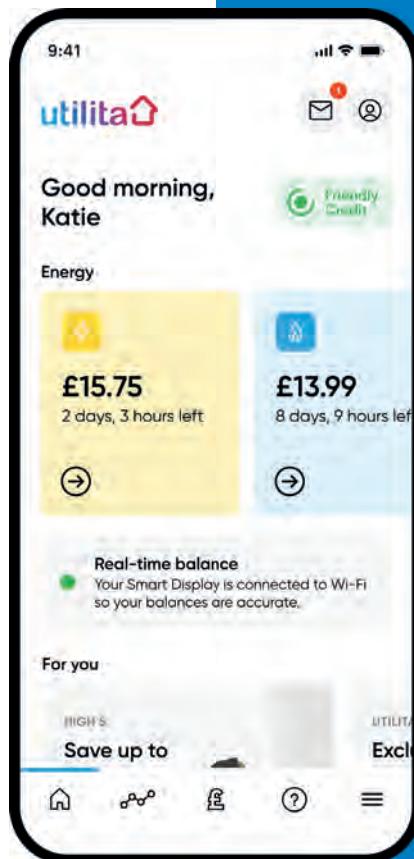
Last week, I accompanied Roger Wash and Andy King to Ron Baynham's funeral at Bedford Crematorium. Ron was a great servant to our club playing in our only ever FA Cup Final and being the last surviving member of that team. He also gained three England caps and, it is thought, would have had many more if it hadn't been for the then captain of England, Billy Wright. In those days the captain was also on the selectors panel and had significant influence, so the Wolves keeper Bert Williams took over and denied Baynham from being capped anymore.

There is a magnificent statue outside the front entrance to the ground, which celebrates a man, who with his wife Joy, ➤

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were the Posh and Becks of their day with him being captain of England and her being in the late 50's girl band the Beverley Sisters.

That segways quite nicely to our visit to Wolves. Gary and I travelled up to the team hotel on Friday, planning a Teams update with the board about the stadium progress, Premier League topics and football matters, when Rob Edwards joined to bring us all up to date on latest thinking, strategy and injuries. It was, as always, a fascinating session.

As many will know, Gary and I always try to find an away fans' pub enroute to the ground so we can mingle with our fellow supporters, which we did after being refused entry, it not being evident that it was home fans only at the first. There were a number of familiar faces in what appeared to be the only one in the city to be designated to Luton supporters and it was suitably rammed. We bumped into our police on the way out, who were keeping an eye on everyone but everything was quite relaxed.

Then on to the ground. We had to be in the car park 90 minutes before kick-off because roads around Molineux are closed.

It was a much smaller boardroom than we have experienced of late with four tables seating maybe 30 people. Nick Owen, our former chairman and friend, was a guest of the home team, which is often the case with clubs in that area as he still presents Midlands Today for the BBC. It was also a pleasure to meet Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin fame who told me he'd been a Wolves fan since he was five and Bev Bevan, the drummer from the Move and ELO, who had also been a lifelong fan.

The result wasn't what we wanted, but it was reassuring to see our recently injured players getting some minutes and a much-improved overall performance than against Brentford. The running stats made for amazing reading. We were top in every category, and as an example we covered 7,916m of high-speed running compared to 5,831m for Wolves.

Two days later we were then together again at the Premier League Shareholders' meeting at the Churchill Hotel in London. As we've mentioned before there are 20



Thank you for your loyal backing at Molineux last weekend

shareholders with two representatives of each club, all seated in alphabetical order in a big circle. The Chair and CEO are at 12 o'clock and we are around 6 o'clock, sitting between Liverpool and Manchester City. The meeting was a continuation of the discussion on a new financial model for the Premier League, to establish opinions and hopefully move towards a fair and workable solution with teeth, which can be acceptable to all.

As we've said before it is a tough ask for the Executive with such a disparate range of economies, motives and backgrounds, from well-established clubs at the top with European revenue and massive worldwide fan bases, to new boys like us trying to find a way of competing in the top-flight. However, we are confident that these discussions will soon bear fruit and hope that we will be able to be a party to them in the future.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Joan Bartholomew whose funeral took place at St Nicholas Church in Harpenden on Tuesday this week. Mostly referred to as Eric Morecambe's wife, Joan received an OBE in recognition of her charitable services and was the founder and President of the Lady Taverners. In 2003 she became patron of our Supporters Trust. Her son Gary credited her with being "the engine room that made the whole machine work".

As we near the close season and the hope of our families having more time together, it's worth recognising the unsung partners and supporters who help supply the love and stability at home to enable them to perform at their best.

We salute you all.

"Where the roots are deep there's no need to fear the wind." - African proverb.

Enjoy the game.

COYH

David

AROUND TOWN



EXCITING TIMES LIE AHEAD

Three games stand between us and Premier League survival.

It's been a season in which the Town have defied the odds and where we've silenced our critics who never gave us a hope of earning ourselves a realistic chance of another Premier League season, and one where supporters can play a major role to continue yet another season of progression.

But it's not just on the pitch where progress continues. Come what may, we're continuing to make great strides off the field too, with a range of positive steps being taken across many departments during this close season.

Preparations are gathering pace that will elevate the Club's digital platforms, which will improve our communications and online image to every corner of our supporter base.

This will be a significant overhaul of our back-end infrastructure which starts with a new customer relationship management (CRM) system which records the history of everyone's direct relationship with the Club,

plus a new information management system helping our media team coordinate the broadcasting of a richer content for all.

These improvements will fundamentally support the introduction of a new official website, new official mobile app and a new platform for social media interaction.

Furthermore, information on season cards for the 2024/25 season will be announced once the curtain comes down on the current campaign. Memberships will be available to purchase shortly afterwards once these back-end systems are integrated.

We apologise for the slight delay in you being able to renew your season card, and thank you for your patience while these technical renovations are implemented, but an improved normal order will resume by the time our new season kicks-off.

Meanwhile, the first of the final trio of games kicks off under the bright lights at Kenilworth Road on tonight versus Everton. Please bring the noise to help us retain our hard-earned place at the top table!

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

We are seeking host families who can provide accommodation for academy players next season.

As a host family, you will provide our young players with a safe and comfortable 'home from home', for them to live and study in around their training schedule.

Located ideally within a five-mile radius of The Brache, Luton, lodgings should offer good quality accommodation, preferably in a family environment.

Other requirements are the provision of a

daily nutritionally balanced evening meal, occasional lunches, access to laundry facilities and wireless internet.

Full and part-time residential accommodation will be required over 10 months of the year to reflect the football season. Temporary accommodation providers are also required for trialist.

We are looking for host families who can accommodate one or two players at a time in separate rooms. The willingness to accommodate players on a short-term basis throughout the season is also desirable.

If you think you are the kind of family who can work with us to play a key role in the development of our young players, then we would like to hear from you.

To arrange an informal discussion about being a host family, the application process, and rates of remuneration, please contact the Academy via email at stuart.cornish@lutontown.co.uk.

Prospective host families and their property will be required to undergo a comprehensive screening process in line with our Safer Recruitment policy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Many happy returns to huge Hatters fan **Christine Baldwin** who is here tonight celebrating her 70th birthday with her family and friends.

A life-long fan and diamond season ticket holder, she has had numerous favourite players down the years but her heart this season belongs to Carlton Morris and Ross Barkley.



We would like to wish Town fan **Geoff Bacon** a very happy 80th birthday. A loyal Luton Town supporter and season ticket holder for many years, Geoff came to his first match in 1953 and has been heard shouting from the Kenilworth Lower tier ever since. Birthday wishes and love come from Lisa, Christina, all the family and friends.



And last and by no means least, many happy returns to **Mick Chaney**, who celebrated turning 70 on 1st May. Love from Grant, Emily, Rocco, Luca and Giorgio.

REST IN PEACE, PHIL



Everyone at Luton Town was shocked to learn of the sudden sad passing of ardent Hatters fan **Phil Slaney** at the age of 46.

Darcy King emailed to pay tribute to a man whose passion for the Town ran deep: "Phil was the most amazing, kind-hearted person, who went out of his way for everybody."

"The best joke teller, a fantastic singer, a good dancer, an incredible snooker and pool player, a great footballer and always up for a good time.

"The biggest Luton fan. The most genuine man you would ever meet and he will live on through all of us: his family, his friends and his partner. He was just... Phil Slaney. One of a kind. Quite literally good at absolutely anything he did. A beautiful, old soul. Gorgeous, inside and out. The Best. Please raise a glass. To Luton Town and to Slaney x."



Live Happy

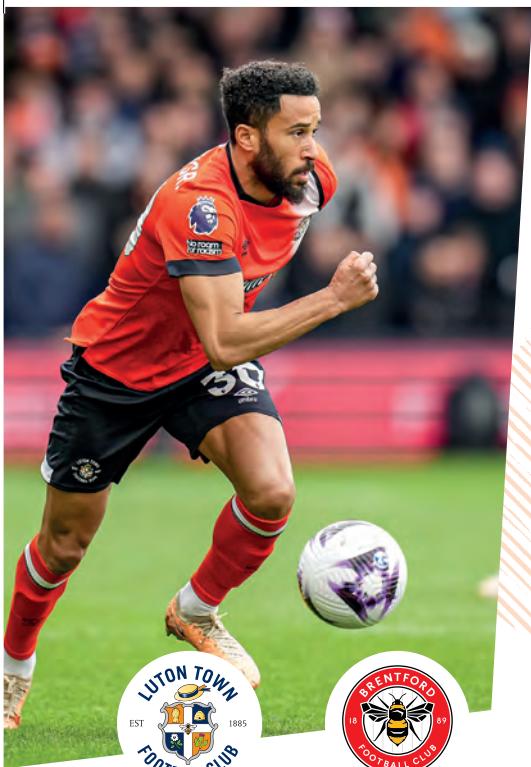
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Kenilworth Road – 20th April 2024

Town: Kaminski; Kaboré (sub Onyedinma 35), Doughty, Osho, Mengi, Burke (sub Berry 46); Lokonga (sub Hashioka 71), Barkley, Clark (sub Mpanzu 81), Chong (sub Townsend 71), Morris.

Subs not used: Shea, Krul, Woodrow, Johnson.

Brentford: Flekken, Ajer (sub Roerslev 76), Collins, Pinnock, Reguilón, Damsgaard (sub Norgaard 71), Janelt, Jensen (sub Yarmoliuk 82), Mbeumo, Wissa (sub Maupay 82), Lewis-Potter (sub Schade 71).

Subs not used: Jorgensen, Ghoddos, Onyeka, Stakosha.

Attendance: 11,877

GOALS

Town – Berry 90+2

Brentford – Wissa 24, 45+1, Pinnock 62, Lewis-Potter 64, Schade 86

MATCH REPORT

HATTERS STUNG IN HEAVY HOME DEFEAT

The Hatters suffered a set-back in their quest for Premier League survival after being well-beaten by Brentford at Kenilworth Road.

With the Town knowing a victory would lift them outside of the relegation zone, Rob Edwards' men had no answer against the Bees.

Confidence was high before kick-off as Edwards named a side containing Teden Mengi, Gabe Osho and Sambi Lokonga but their returns to the side offered the Town little as Thomas Frank's visitors ran away all three points.

The Bees could have already been ahead by the time they took the lead in the 24th minute when Yoane Wissa struck a fine first-time shot that flew into the top corner from the edge of the box.

Brentford had restricted the Town to scraps in the attacking third – with Tahith Chong and Carlton Morris closest with half-chances – and minutes after Bryan Mbeumo's effort had struck the crossbar Wissa doubled the visitors' lead when poking home inside the six yard box on the stroke of half-time.

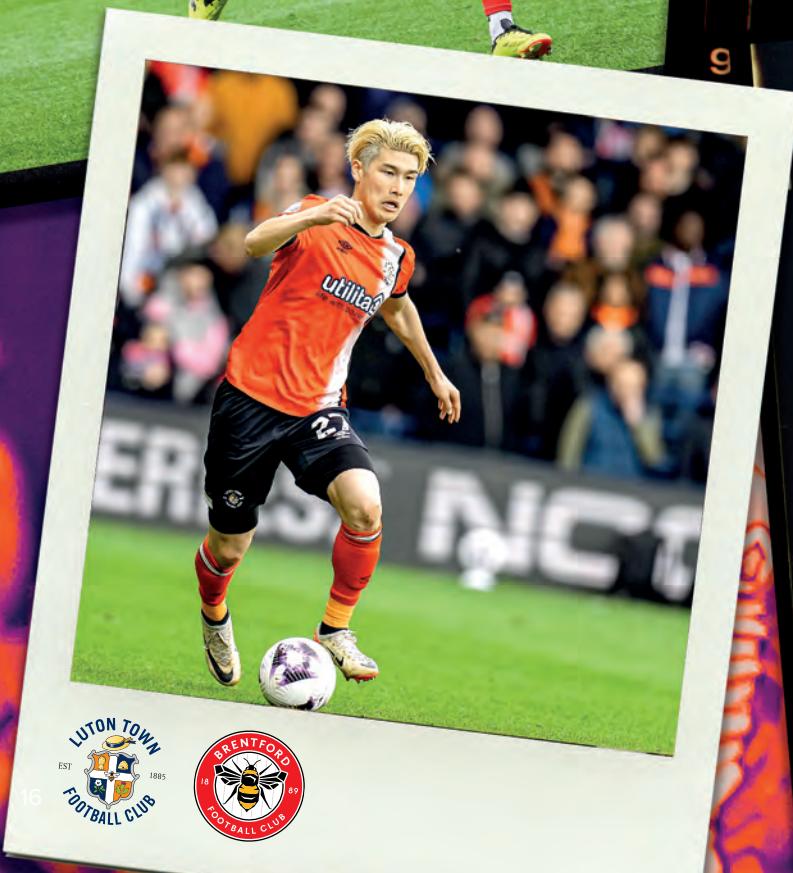
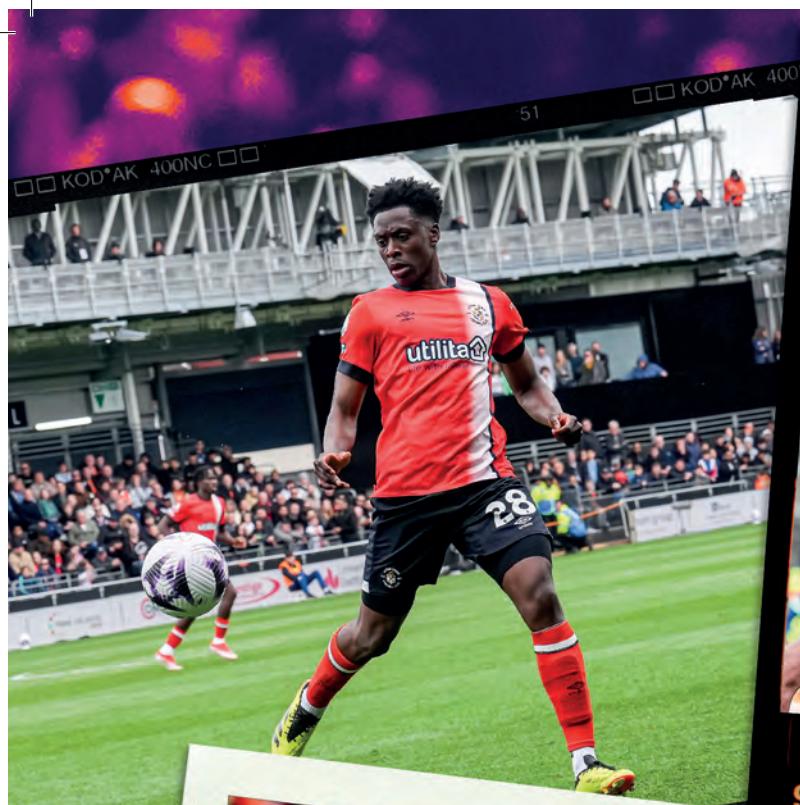
The Hatters continued to struggle after the break and Thomas Kaminski produced a fine save to prevent Mikkel Damsgaard's low effort from creeping home.

However, Kaminski's goal was then breached twice in the space of three minutes as the Hatters fell apart. Firstly, on 62 minutes, Ethan Pinnock rose to head home a corner before Lewis Keane-Potter nodded home at the back-post to make it 4-0.

As the Town failed to produce a noteworthy attack in response it was almost 5-0, only for Kaminski to stop efforts from Kristoffer Ajer and Mbeumo.

Brentford did make it five with four minutes left when substitute Kevin Schade blasted into an empty after good work from Mbeumo.

The Hatters had barely created a chance in the second half but Edwards' side did manage a consolation in injury time when substitute Luke Berry rounded Mark Flekken to score his second goal of the season. 





MATCH GALLERY



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CLARK BACKS THE TOWN TO BOUNCE BACK

Midfielder Jordan Clark apologised to the Town supporters following the 5-1 home reversal against Brentford, but insisted that the club's mentality to prove the doubters wrong will come to the fore once again.

The Hatters suffered their heaviest league defeat at Kenilworth Road this season, as the Bees added three second-half goals to their 2-0 half-time lead before Luke Berry grabbed a consolation in added time.

An honest Clark said: "It was a tough loss to take. We built the game up all week but were second best all over the pitch and full credit to Brentford. They are a well-oiled machine, do the basics really well and have some quality players.

"We weren't good enough today as a team, and we are sorry to the fans who were amazing as always."

Discussions among the squad had already taken place in the immediate aftermath of the final whistle as they look to put things right between now and the end of the season.

"A few lads have spoken and got stuff off their chests," said the 29-year-old. "What is said in the changing room stays in the changing room, but you've

got to look at yourself first and foremost. We've got to be men and we've got to bounce back.

"We knew how big this game was, to get the three points to get us out of the relegation zone. It wasn't meant to be."

With the Town being just one point adrift of 17th-place Nottingham Forest, Clark warned against writing the Hatters off.

"We were written off at the start of the season and we've had that tag all year," he said.

"They'll probably write us off even more so after this, and obviously the Man City game. Conceding a lot of goals over two games is not good.

"But that's what we do at Luton Town, we prove a lot of people wrong and we've still got the full belief in there, in each other and as a squad."

Captain Carlton Morris echoed Clark's thoughts, before paying tribute to the Town faithful who stuck behind after the final whistle to applaud the players off.

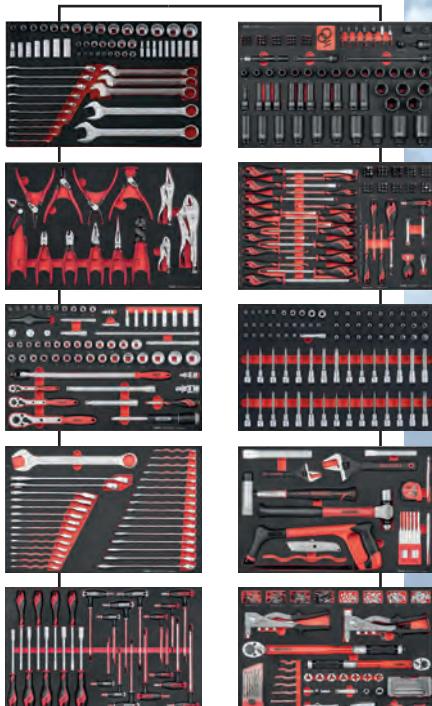
"The fans have been incredible all season for us," said Morris. "I think that's going to be crucial for us going forward because at the end of the day we're still in with a shout and we've got every chance."

"I back myself and my teammates that we can, we can do this, that we can get enough points to stay up and having games and we're going to need them more than ever."



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2 - 1

Molineux - 27th April 2024

Wolves: Sa, Doherty, Ait-Nouri (sub Bueno 85), Lemina, Traore, Gomes, Hwang, Cunha (sub Sarabia 76), Semedo, Kilman, Toti.

Subs not used: Bentley, Bueno, Doyle, Sarabia, Gonzalez, Barnett, Okoduwa, Chirewa, Fraser.

Town: Kaminski; Hashioka (sub Berry 66), Doughty (sub Onyedigba 88), Burke, Mengi, Osho; Lokonga, Barkley (Adebayo 78); Clark (sub Woodrow 66), Chong, Morris.

Subs not used: Shea, Krul, Mpanzu, Townsend, Johnson.

GOALS

Wolves – Hwang 39, Toti 50

Town – Morris 80

Attendance: 31,531, including 3,012 shouting for the Town in the away end.

HATTERS FALL TO NARROW DEFEAT AT MOLINEUX

Despite a late rally the Town's hopes of lifting themselves out of the relegation zone were ended as Wolves secured a narrow victory at Molineux.

The Hatters looked the more likely to open the scoring after a bright first half-hour with Ross Barkley testing home stopper Jose Sa with a drive from the edge of the box in opening minutes.

Carlton Morris headed straight at Sa following Jordan Clark's left-wing cross six minutes before half-time and the Town would rue that missed opportunity when Wolves raced up field and took the lead.

Just 18 seconds lapsed following Morris' header when Hee Chan Hwang twisted and turned in the box to fire past an exposed Thomas Kaminski following the aid of a deflection and Wolves led.

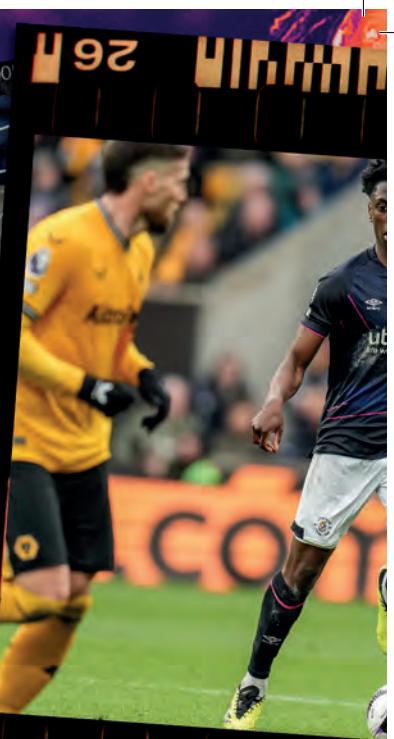
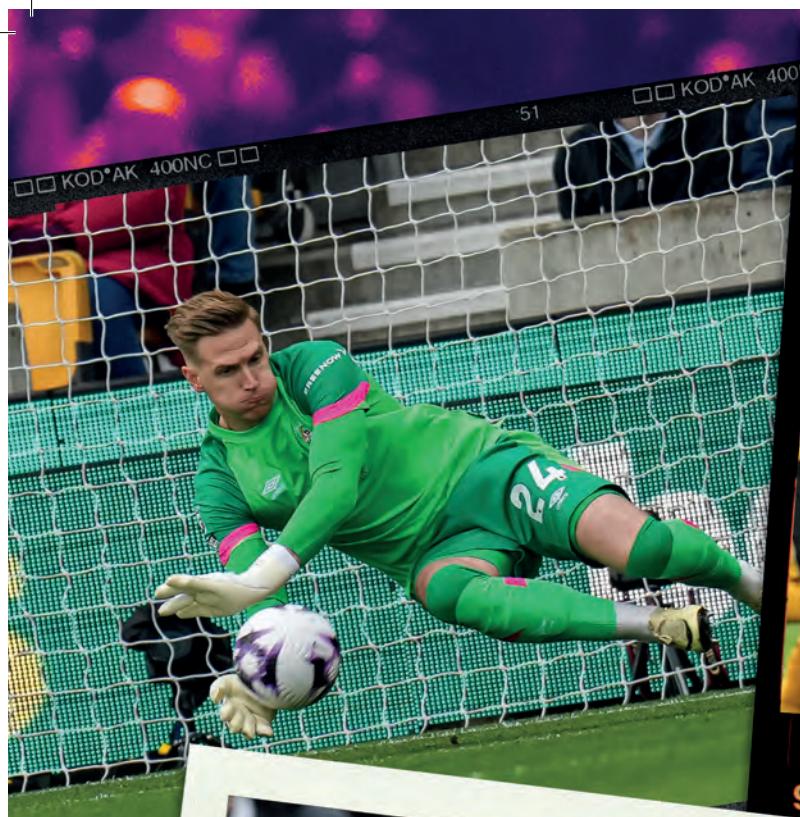
Behind the Hatters' task became even greater four minutes after half-time when the home side doubled their lead. A short corner routine from the right saw a dangerous cross cause confusion in the Town's penalty area and Toti Gomes nodded past Kaminski to make it 2-0.

Wolves were denied a third by a combination of poor finishing and saves from Kaminski before Town striker Elijah Adebayo was introduced to make his first appearance since February with 12 minutes left.

Within minutes of his introduction the Hatters found a way back into the game. Alfie Doughty's left-wing corner was volleyed back to him via Cauley Woodrow and after Reece Burke won a back-post header Morris crashed home from six yards to net his tenth goal of the season.

The goal gave the Town a second wind as they pushed for a late leveller.

Woodrow lashed a shot wide before Luke Berry had the very final chance when his snapshot with the final kick of the game was caught by Sa and the hosts held on.





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MATCH REACTION

FOCUS ON SURVIVAL CONTINUES

Defender Teden Mengi says the squad remain fully committed to keeping the Town in the Premier League despite falling to a narrow defeat at Wolves.

Carlton Morris' late goal gave the Hatters hope of a priceless point in their bid to stay in the top-flight but two goals either side of half-time did the damage as the Town remain in the bottom three with three matches to play.

"We've got three important games to focus on now, today is done," said the centre-half.

"There are definitely positives to take from the disappointment of last week, we kept going to end and scored the last goal but we can't dwell on it. We've got to look forward to two very important home games and West Ham away.

"We all want to play our part in this team and we'll do whatever it takes to get on the pitch and fight to stay in this league, which is everyone's goal."

The former Manchester United academy graduate and the Hatters now turn their attention to a big game at Kenilworth Road tonight under the lights.

"Everton is a good game for us to look forward to, especially at home with our fans,"

he said. "That's an advantage for us. We won't think about them, we have to focus on ourselves and go into the game full of confidence and believe we can beat them and stay in this league."

Fellow defender Reece Burke, whose header helped set-up Morris' consolation, also feels the Hatters have what it takes to get themselves out of the bottom three.

"This team never gives up – the lads in that dressing room have shown time and time again we keep going," said the former West Ham centre-half.

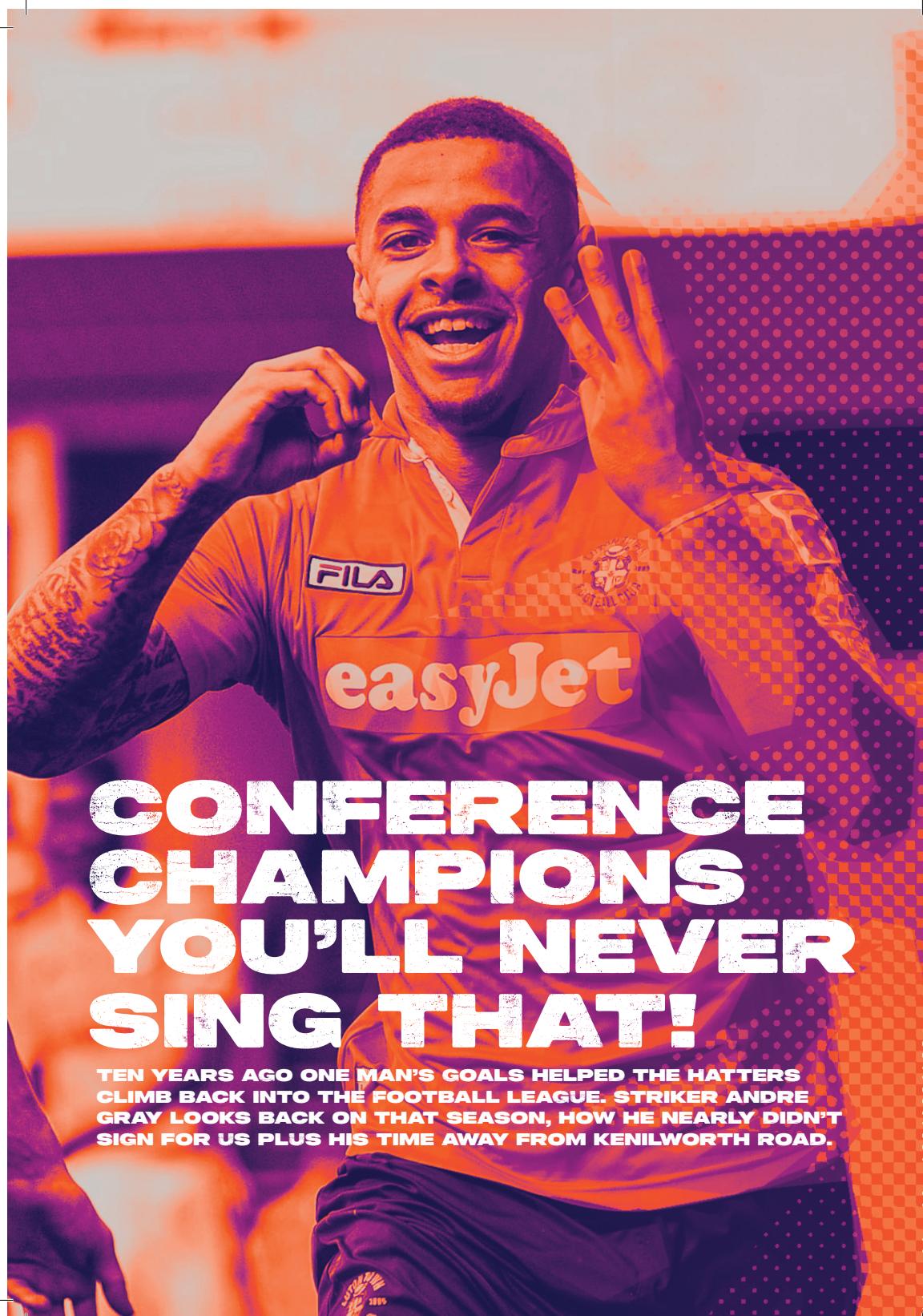
"There is a belief – there has always been a belief – that we can stay up and now we just need to transfer that to results."

"We have three games left, two at home and one away, in order to keep this club in the Premier League.

"We've worked so hard to get here and so hard to give ourselves a chance that we must take it."

"It was disappointing to concede the goals in the manner in which we did but we kept going, got back in the game and gave ourselves a chance."

"The spirit in this group is fantastic, the boys know what is at stake. We'll move onto Everton, under the lights at the Kenny and give it everything." 



CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS YOU'LL NEVER SING THAT!

TEN YEARS AGO ONE MAN'S GOALS HELPED THE HATTERS CLIMB BACK INTO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE. STRIKER ANDRE GRAY LOOKS BACK ON THAT SEASON, HOW HE NEARLY DIDN'T SIGN FOR US PLUS HIS TIME AWAY FROM KENILWORTH ROAD.

The sun is peering through the curtains behind Andre Gray as the Zoom call begins while in Luton the wind is howling and the skies are grey.

“Saudi is a beautiful place to live and life is good,” smiles the striker, who moved to the Saudi Arabian capital at the start of this season to join Al-Riyadh.

“I felt my time in England had come to an end and I wanted to try something a bit different. There was a lot of excitement with all the players coming out here so I felt ‘why not be a part of it?’”

Time flies when you’re having fun. Ten years on since winning the Conference golden boot for his 30 goals in our title-winning campaign, Gray has gone onto play in the Premier League and win caps for Jamaica.

“It’s crazy that it’s been ten years,” he says. “It’s a season that will always stay with me. It was my first proper footballing achievement. I still have my shirt framed up in the house. Looking back, it’s probably one of the biggest moments in my career.”

As sliding doors moments go, Gray’s move to Kenilworth Road in the spring of 2012 is certainly up there.

Playing part-time for Hinckley, the Hatters drew the Leicestershire side in the FA Trophy and Gray impressed in both games, coming close to scoring in the replay at Kenilworth Road that the Town would run out 3-0 winners.

“I might have been going to Tamworth and the Luton tie came around,” admits the striker, now 32. “I remember we played away in the second game and I had a few chances. The next day I just got a phone call and that was it, it was pretty crazy how fast it all happened.”

Gray arrived in Bedfordshire at a turbulent time that soon saw Gary Brabin depart and Paul Buckle take over with the Town needing a run of results to even make the play-offs.

But the striker hit the ground running, and an inspired run of goalscoring form – that included a debut goal against Grimsby – took the Town all the way to Wembley.

“I’ll never forget my first game – I didn’t think I’d go straight into the team. I played awful but managed to score,” remembers Gray.

“But in those games at the end of the season I was just in a trance, not over-thinking things, I was living the dream, playing in front of big crowds for the first time in my career.

“We got to Wembley, which was great, but obviously we were devastated that we didn’t get promoted. Yet I was still in my bubble, I was thinking just how far had I come in the space to three months.”

Gray’s first full season saw him play a major role in helping the Hatters reach the fifth round of the FA Cup before going on to finish the campaign as top ➤

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scorer with 20 goals as the Hatters missed out on the play-offs.

"We made history in the cup but the ultimate goal of getting promoted didn't go as planned," he says.

John Still's arrival at Kenilworth Road at the end of the 2012/13 campaign signalled a new era – but Gray was growing frustrated.

"I think for one game I was left out of the squad entirely and I remember not understanding why at the time," admits the frontman. "Obviously John wanted to see different players and in pre-season he installed his ways.

"He was an experienced manager and I was young, but it was difficult for me. However, as the season went on I began to understand his methods and why. I think he knew he could get more out of me and I think he realised he could do that when I was a bit angry.

"I remember scoring against Woking and the next game at Hereford I was dropped and I was fuming. I was so angry about it. I couldn't get my head around it. But after that I played for the rest of the season and the lessons I learned that year have stood me in good stead for the rest of my career."

While the striker paid tribute to Still's ability to manage him and the squad, Gray also believes the manager's acquisition of one player in particular helped the Town to promotion that season.

"I think without Paul Benson I don't score 30 goals," he admits. "I was still very raw and then I was never a traditional number 9 at that age. My hold-up play was not the best and given it was non-league and we were playing long balls, I was best used out wide as an inverted striker.

"With Benno able to win those flick-ons, I was able to play behind on the shoulder of the defenders. He helped me a lot and we played to my strengths – it was massive."

Gray struck a hat-trick on his final appearance at Kenilworth Road against Forest Green to secure the golden boot – "I played with a torn hamstring that day and there's no way I'd do that now but I got away with it" – and come the end of the season he was on his way out as Brentford came calling.

"However, you know what? I didn't know anything about it," admits Gray. "My whole mindset was 'I've got back to League Two, let's continue where I left off'. In my mind I was genuinely staying.

"Brentford came out of nowhere and I didn't even know it was 100 per cent serious or not. When I found out, it was just an opportunity I couldn't turn down.

"I came down and spoke to Gary Sweet and we spoke man to man. It was a really good conversation. I knew Luton obviously wanted to keep me. I said 'It's not like I'm not happy here and I'd love to stay'.

"But playing in the Championship was something I couldn't say no to but we shook hands and left on amazing terms. I think everyone understood my reasoning to go and explore that opportunity." ►





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Eighteen goals in his debut season at Griffin Park led to a move to Burnley the following season where 23 goals helped the Clarets to promotion. Five years after playing for Hinckley he was a Premier League player in 2016.

“That was like going back to school again,” Gray says. “I was nervous. I’d jumped three levels and never trained at that level before and the fitness levels were off the charts. To start with I struggled but I worked hard and after scoring my first goal I never looked back.”

But while Gray’s career was on an upward trajectory, the fortunes of his former club were too, as the Town continued to climb the pyramid, reaching the Championship in 2019.

“It was inevitable,” he says. “I think the biggest hurdle was always to get out of the Conference and for some reason that seemed to be the hardest thing to do. With the play-offs and only one automatic promotion place, anything could happen.

“I think the whole club knew how far it could go from there, so it was never a surprise to me that they would get to the Championship.

“But the way in which they got to the Premier League and how quickly they did it was unbelievable.”

As the Town rose through the divisions, it eventually led to the striker playing against the Hatters in the Championship, including one game for Watford in which he thought he’d scored a last-minute equaliser in the derby at

Kenilworth Road in 2021 – only for it to be chalked off for offside.

“I remember getting a lot of stick for celebrating but honestly I didn’t know Luton and Watford were rivals!” he says in his defence.

“Honestly, my reaction to that was more to the manager of Watford at the time. I came on and didn’t start so thought I should be playing so that’s why I reacted in the way that I did.

“And in any case, I scored for QPR and there wasn’t a celebration!

“I loved my time with Luton and it’s something I’ll never forget.” 





WELCOME EVERTON

Today the Hatters welcome Sean Dyche's Everton to Kenilworth Road in a massive game un-der the lights. Everton have now confirmed safety from relegation and have also been on a cracking run of form prior to their visit to Bedfordshire.

The Toffees began the season with a disappointing 1-0 defeat at home to Fulham which was followed up with a 4-0 away defeat to Aston Villa. Their next game saw another 1-0 home loss, this time to Wolverhampton Wanderers. Things weren't looking great.

Everton then picked up their first point of the season in a 2-2 draw with Sheffield United at Bramall Lane. Another home defeat was to follow, this time a 1-0 loss to Arsenal.

Dyche's side picked up their first league win of the season with a 3-1 away victory against Brentford. Abdoulaye Doucoure, James Tarkowski and Dominic Calvert-Lewin got the goals for the Toffees. This was also followed up with an impressive 2-1 win against Aston Villa in the Carabao Cup.

After their improved form, a shock result was provided at the end of September when the Hatters beat Everton 2-1 at Goodison Park. First half goals from Tom Lockyer and Carlton

Morris were enough for Luton to get their first Premier League win.

Everton responded well to this with a 3-0 win over AFC Bournemouth before losing 2-0 against Liverpool in the Merseyside derby. This was the beginning of another purple patch for the Blues who only lost one of their next eight league games, picking up 19 points along the way alongside five clean sheets.

The form dipped again just before Christmas where a tough run of fixtures resulted in little points for Everton. Dyche's side went 13 games without a win in the Premier League as they were dragged back into the relegation zone. They were also knocked out of the FA Cup after another home defeat against ourselves, this time Cauley Woodrow scoring the winner in the 96th minute.

The Blues ended their poor run-in early April with a 1-0 win over Burnley. A freak 6-0 defeat to Chelsea was to follow before wins against Nottingham Forest, Liverpool, and Brentford in the past week guaranteed Premier League football for next season.

A warm welcome to all those associated with Everton this evening.

MEET THE TOFFEES

THE BOSS



SEAN DYCHE. A defender as a player, Sean spent a short loan spell at Kenilworth Road in the late 1990s. Began in management with Watford before twice winning promotion to the top-flight with Burnley. Took over at Goodison in January 2023.

GOALKEEPER



JORDAN PICKFORD. England number one Jordan has been a mainstay for the Toffees since joining from Sunderland in 2017. Learned his trade with multiple loans, including one at Darlington in which he faced the Hatters.

DEFENDERS



JARRAD BRANTHWAITE. Young centre-half who has broken into the first team this season. Started his career at Carlisle before joining in 2020 and has spent time out on loan with Blackburn and PSV.



BEN GODFREY. Central defender Ben signed for the Toffees in 2020 from Norwich, who he helped to the Premier League in 2019. Started his career with York and has won two England caps.



MICHAEL KEANE. Another England international, experienced centre-half Michael arrived at Goodison Park in 2017 from Burnley. Came through Manchester United's academy before two years at Turf Moor.



VITALIY MYKOLENKO. Ukraine international left-back Vitaliy signed for the Toffees from Dynamo Kyiv in 2022. Won the Ukrainian title in 2021 and made his international debut in 2018.

NATHAN PATTERSON.

Scotland international right-back who came through the ranks at Glasgow Rangers. Joined the Blues in 2022 having won the Scottish Premiership in 2021.



JAMES TARKOWSKI. Another former Burnley defender, James joined in 2022 after six years and over 200 appearances for the Clarets. Started his career at Oldham before moving to Brentford.



ASHLEY YOUNG. Hugely experienced former England international, now operating at full-back. Started his career as a winger with spells at Watford, Aston Villa and Manchester United. Joined the Toffees in 2023.

MIDFIELDERS



ABDOU LAYE DOUCOURE. Central midfielder Abdoulaye signed for the Toffees in 2020 after four years at Watford. Started his career with Rennes and represented France at youth level before opting to play for Mali.



JAMES GARNER. Central midfielder James began his career at Manchester United. A loan at Nottingham Forest saw him help the Reds to the Premier League in 2022 before he joined Everton that summer.



IDRISSA GUEYE. The match-winner in last week's victory over Brentford, the Senegal international re-joined the Toffees following a second spell at Paris Saint-Germain in 2022.

JACK HARRISON.

On-loan Leeds winger Jack arrived at Goodison last summer. After spells in the academies of Liverpool and Manchester United he made his name in the USA before signing for Manchester City.



DWIGHT MCNEIL. Yet another former Burnley man among the Toffees squad, winger Dwight arrived on Merseyside from Turf Moor in 2022 and was named young player of the season last term.



AMADOU ONANA. Senegal-born Belgium international defensive midfielder Amadou signed for the Blues in August 2022 for a reported £33 million from French club Lille. Also excelled in one season in Germany with Hoffenheim.

ATTACKERS



BETO. Portuguese centre-forward Beto was a summer signing before the start of this season from Udinese where he scored 21 goals across two seasons in Serie A.



DOMINIC CALVERT-LEWIN. England international striker who has hit over 50 Premier League goals for the Toffees. Came through the ranks at Sheffield United and spent time out on loan at Northampton and Stalybridge.



YOUSSEF CHERMITI. Teenage striker who signed for the Blues at the start of the season from Sporting Lisbon. Represented Portugal at youth level since he was an under-15.



ARNAUT DANJUMA. Nigeria-born, Dutch international Arnaut is currently on-loan from Spanish club Villarreal. After spells with NEC and Club Brugge he spent two years with Bournemouth.



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A HATTER AND A TOFFEE

Born in Newcastle, Jimmy Husband was a highly regarded schoolboy footballer, and after playing for England schoolboys, was left with the choice of many clubs who coveted him. In 1963 he opted for League champions Everton.

Jimmy became a regular for the Goodison Park side, picking up several England under-23 caps, appeared in an FA Cup final in 1968 and won a League Championship medal in 1970. He would doubtless have picked up a full England cap but manager Alf Ramsey was averse to using wingers which was where he predominately played at the time.

Jimmy was fast and skilful with an eye for goal and became Luton manager Harry Haslam's final piece in the jigsaw, in December 1973, as the Hatters sought successfully to win promotion to the top flight.

Scorer of many vital goals during that season and the next four years for the Town, Jimmy finished his career, along with many others, in the North American Soccer League.

His record of 48 goals in 162 first team games in Hatters colours confirmed his value to a side containing the likes of John Aston, Jim Ryan, Peter Anderson and the Fletcher twins.

On his return to the UK, Jimmy settled in mid-Bedfordshire where he ran a pub and was a welcome guest of the club in 2005 for the Kenilworth Road Centenary celebrations.

Jimmy sadly passed away in March with tributes flowing from the Town and Everton. Jimmy's daughter Jilly and members of his family are guests of ours this evening.

Other players to have sported the strips of both sides include, of course, our own Ross Barkley and Andros Townsend as have the likes of Don Hutchison, Mark Pembridge, Andy King and Mike Newell.



GREAT GAMES

21ST JANUARY 1989 TOWN 1-0 EVERTON

Before our maiden Premier League victory at Goodison Park back in October, the Town had not beaten Everton since January 1989.

At Kenilworth Road, on the plastic pitch in the top-flight, striker Roy Wegerle's wonderfully controlled finish from David Preece's pass has the Hatters in front early on against the Toffees.

With 86 minutes left to get something from the game the visitors can't break the Town down and Les Sealey and his defence keep a clean sheet.

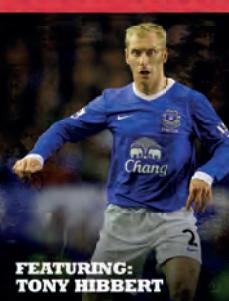
Town: Sealey, Breaker, Grimes, Foster, Dreyer, Preece, Wilson, Hill, Black, Harford, Wegerle. Sub: Dowie, Johnson.



CLASSIC KIT

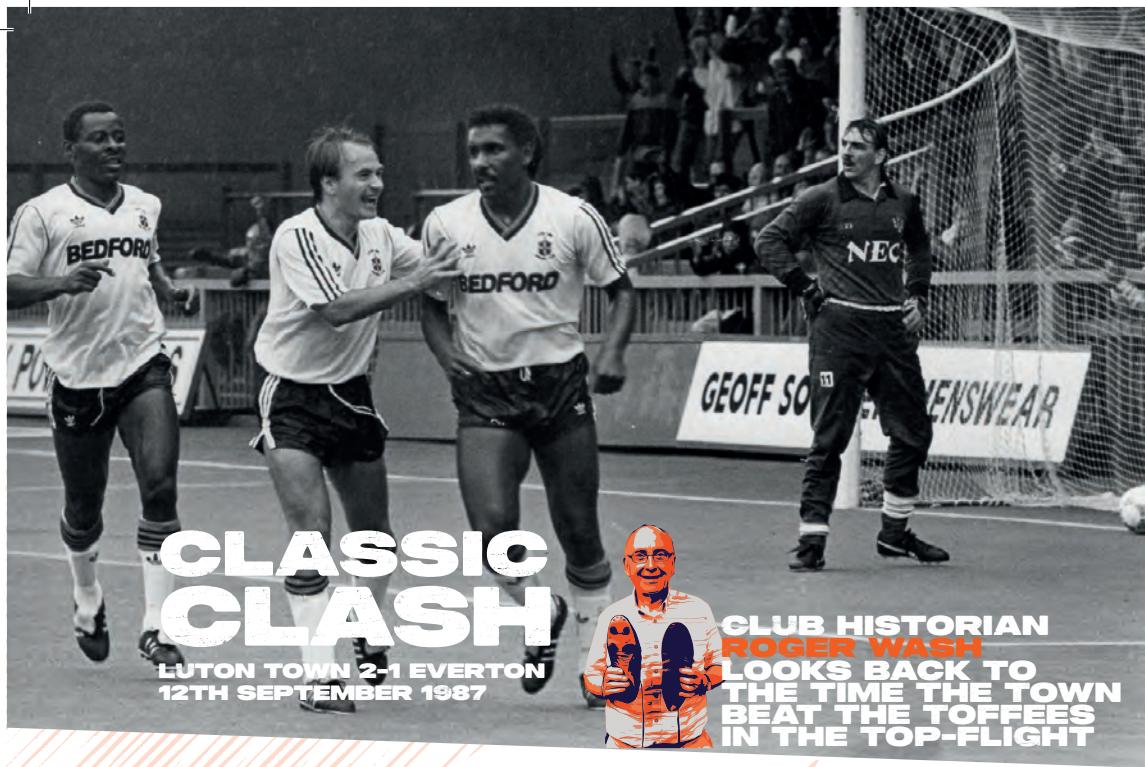
It's Umbro, it's shades of our 1991/92 home shirt and, yes okay it's yellow, but it screams 90s and if we don't see this in the away tonight we'd be baffled. You've just got to admire zigzags on any shirt, let alone a football shirt for a top-flight club.

CULT HERO



CULT HERO: TONY HIBBERT

The Toffees faithful have adored hundreds of players down the years but surely none more so than one-club-man **Tony Hibbert**. Known for his down-to-earth demeanour, the Liverpool-born right-back made his debut in against West Ham in March 2001 and went on to make 328 appearances in the blue and white before retiring in 2016.



CLASSIC CLASH

LUTON TOWN 2-1 EVERTON
12TH SEPTEMBER 1987



**CLUB HISTORIAN
ROGER WASH
LOOKS BACK TO
THE TIME THE TOWN
BEAT THE TOFFEES
IN THE TOP-FLIGHT**

After finishing the 1986/87 campaign in seventh spot in the top flight, the club's highest ever position, everything seemed rosy in the Kenilworth Road garden with hopes of an even higher placing in the season to follow.

Being a Luton Town supporter has never been dull though, with fans always expecting the unexpected, but even they were shocked to hear that manager John Moore had decided to resign because he had become increasingly uncomfortable with such a high profile job. He was also upset with criticism of the Town's style of play and was fed up with the constant media condemnation of the club's artificial pitch and the stance taken with the banning of away supporters.

Moore's assistant, Ray Harford, was offered the job and did not need asking twice. His first foray into the transfer market saw Danny Wilson arrive from Brighton for £150,000 but he was then powerless to prevent

midfield anchorman Peter Nicholas leave for Aberdeen, and the guarantee of European football, for £350,000.

The Town faced newly promoted Derby at the Baseball Ground on the opening day of the new season but within five minutes striker Mick Harford had been dismissed for 'serious foul play' – a robust tackle on Rams defender Mel Sage. The ten men could not hold out and went down 1-0, as they did in their second game which saw Coventry return from Kenilworth Road with all three points.

The Hatters managed to pick up only two points from their opening five games and it was clear to see that manager Harford's preferred 4-4-2 system was not working. For game six, a difficult trip to bogey side Oxford, it was decided to revert to the players' favoured all out attacking formation with the modification bringing about an immediate, and amazing, change in fortune.

The Town had not beaten Oxford in their four previous top flight meetings but this time they went goal crazy, winning 5-2 in their biggest ever away victory in Division One. TV cameras broadcast the game, which was Oxford's heaviest home defeat since entering the Football League in 1962, to 41 countries across the world!

The grey clouds that had been gathering over Kenilworth Road suddenly lifted with his remarkable victory and everyone now looked forward to the visit of champions Everton the following Saturday.

The Toffees had also gone through a managerial upheaval during the summer with Howard Kendall moving to Athletic Bilbao to be replaced by his number two Colin Harvey. They had started the season in less than championship winning form with a string of draws but were still handily placed to make a bid for their third title in four years.

Everton, though, had an intense dislike for the Town's artificial surface having lost at Kenilworth Road in both League games since the carpet was laid. It was probably the moaning of Kendall together with his Merseyside compatriot at Liverpool, Kenny Dalglish, that had stirred up the press to ridiculous proportions.

Worried about the aerial threat of Mick Harford, new Everton boss Harvey ordered his defenders to push out to keep him at long range. Ray Harford was aware of this and decided to vary the Town's style to an unfamiliar long ball game throwing in high crosses at every opportunity.

The game plan eventually worked a treat but not without its difficulties along the way.

After only five minutes Ashley Grimes fouled Everton's Peter Reid with the resulting free-kick being uncharacteristically missed by Mal Donaghy, forcing goalkeeper Les Sealey into a desperate blocking save with the rebound hammered into the roof of the net by Neil Pointon.

The Town responded well to this setback and only a wonder save from Neville Southall in the Everton goal prevented a bullet header from Harford levelling the score. The equaliser was not long in coming though with Harford showing his strength in shielding the ball and waiting to lay it off for Brian Stein to lash in a shot from 20 yards.

Harford was then lucky to only receive a yellow card for scything down Reid with a late, high tackle, kicking central defender Dave Watson in retaliation and having a skirmish with future Hatter Alan Harper all in quick succession.

Luton were glad that Harford remained on the pitch, though, as he forced Pat Van Den Hauwe into weak defensive header early in the second half which was clinically dispatched past Southall by Ricky Hill.

Everton brought on two tall substitutes and went for broke after this but the Luton defence held firm for a well merited victory.

Unlike his predecessor, Everton's Colin Harvey showed good grace and admitted that it was not the artificial surface that had beaten his side but Mick Harford.

Luton Town: Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, Hill, Foster, Donaghy, Danny Wilson, Brian Stein, Harford, Nwajiobi (sub Mark Stein), Preece (sub Rob Johnson).

Everton: Southall, Harper, Van Den Hauwe, Ratcliffe, Watson, Reid, Steven, Heath, Adams (sub Marshall), Snodin, Pointon (sub Mountfield).

VIEW FROM THE OAK ROAD

DARREN GRIFFITHS STARTED WORKING FOR EVERTON IN 1995 AND HE WILL BE AT KENILWORTH ROAD TONIGHT, COMMENTATING FOR EVERTONFC.COM. IN THAT TIME HE'S WITNESSED PLENTY BEHIND THE MIC - HERE HE EXPLAINS HOW MUCH THE TOFFEES MEAN TO HIM.

What does it mean to be an Everton supporter?

You have to accept that life is going to be a roller-coaster! The path of an Evertonian is never a smooth one! We take the ups and the downs and we deal with them.

How important is watching Everton to you and why?

Like every fan of every football club, it's a massive part of my life. I have been truly privileged to have worked for Everton for so long. The memories I've got are priceless. I have covered over 1,000 games, home and away, home and abroad, and I still look forward to every single one of them.

Describe how the ups and downs of following the Toffees have impacted your life.

The last few years have been tough, there's no getting away from that. Sleepless nights worrying about results and outcomes. Sitting in the kitchen at 3am checking what fixtures other teams have got left. Every Blue will know the feeling!

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

I'm lucky enough to be good friends with most of the players I used to cheer from the terraces. Obviously, the lads of 1985 stand out. Our best team ever... and you'd struggle to pick a favourite. Seamus Coleman has been unbelievable for our football club. To see him grow and develop from a shy kid from Ireland into a massively inspirational leader has been such a pleasure.



What matches against Luton do you remember?

The games in the mid-1980s tended to be feisty affairs for some reason. Peter Reid tells a lovely story about when he made the big mistake of mocking Mick Harford after Everton received the league championship trophy at the end of a game against Luton. Mick waited for him in the players tunnel and Reidy had to do three laps of honour! The 1985 FA Cup semi-final is obviously a stand-out. Everton were on the cusp of losing when a Kevin Sheedy pea-roller somehow found the bottom corner with four minutes left. There was only going to be one winner after that.

Can you put into words the feeling of being an Everton fan right now? How do you gauge your level of expectations?

We've made progress this season. Good progress. Now that shouldn't be the level of our ambition, but it's where we are. We had an unbelievable week beating Nottingham Forest, Liverpool and

Brentford – and I doubt many Evertonians expected that. The atmosphere in all three was just fabulous. The fans have been fantastic, especially in the last three seasons.

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

Football has changed – not just watching Everton. It's a different sport from the one I started watching in the 1970s. I love watching the old matches on the television.

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

It has to be the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final against Bayern Munich at Goodison Park in 1985. The atmosphere, the performance and just what it meant to us made for a special, special night. Coming from 2-0 down to beat Crystal Palace two seasons ago comes close though!



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Chairman David Wilkinson was on hand to do the presentation honours post-match with our match and matchball sponsors in the Eric Morecambe lounge.

We also had the pleasure of hosting 11 home mascots for the game who enjoyed their experience at Kenilworth Road. They each got to meet their favourite players pre-match before lining up with the captains and officials moments before kick-off.

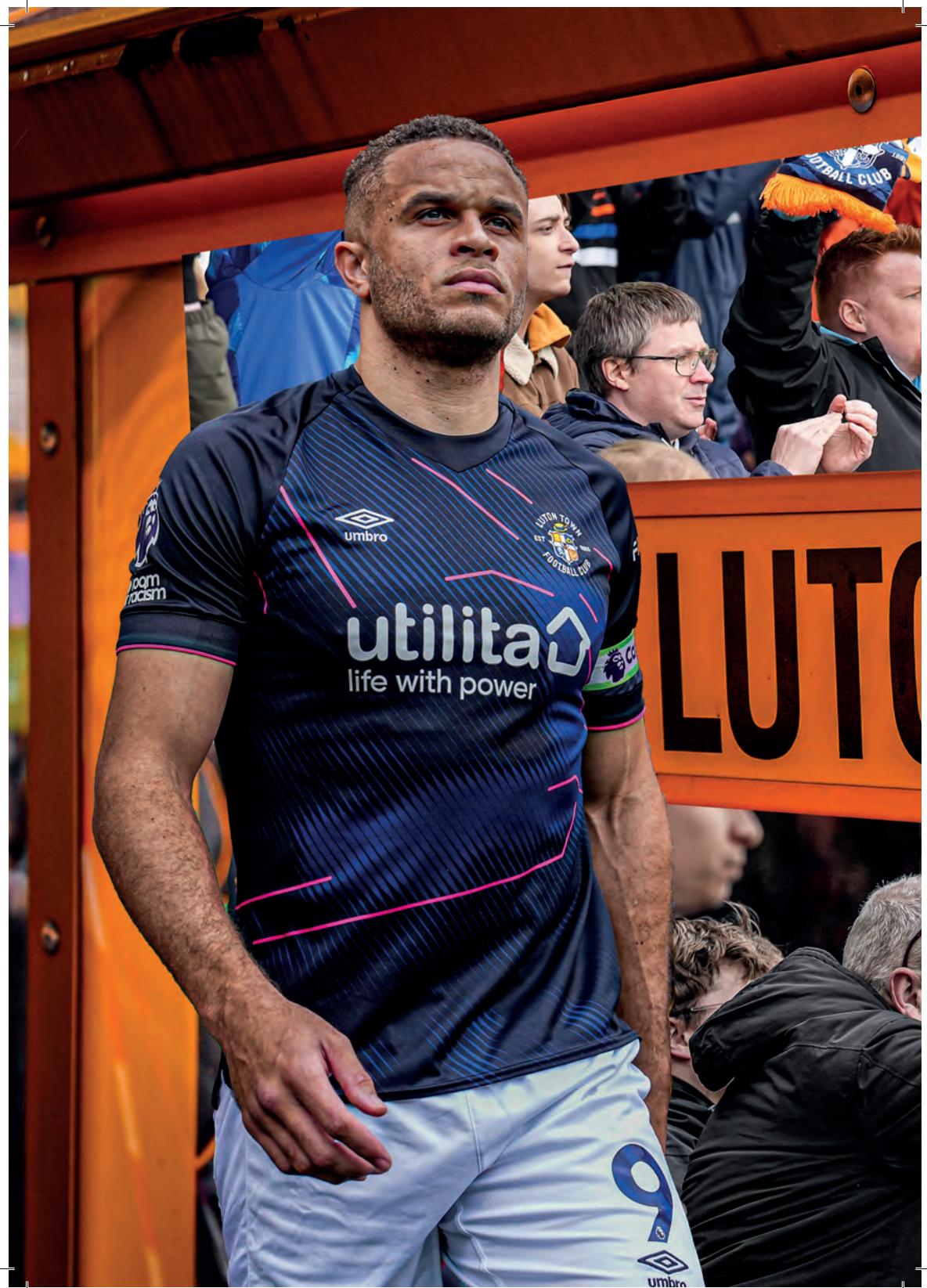
Today we have the pleasure of welcoming match sponsor Abacus Workplace Supplies and five mascots. We wish you all a wonderful afternoon with us.

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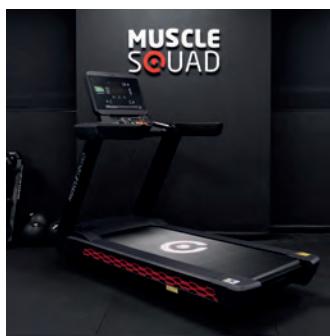
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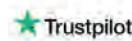
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ON THIS DAY



3RD MAY DO ANY OF THESE GAMES STRIKE A CHORD WITH YOU?



2012

On the Town's last outing on this day, we were victorious in a 2-0 win over Wrexham in the Conference play-offs. Under manager Paul Buckle, the Hatters surged into a two-goal lead at half-time thanks to goals from Stuart Fleetwood and Andre Gray. While the Hatters would lose the second leg 2-1, they would progress to Wembley but there any dreams of a return to the Football League would be dashed by York and a very iffy offside decision.



2010

Mentioned elsewhere in this issue, the Hatters were on the receiving end of a play-off defeat at York.

Having finished in second place behind Stevenage the Town went into the first leg full of confidence yet a late goal from Richard Brodie earned the Minsters a 1-0 win. York won the second leg by the same scoreline to condemn the Town to a second season in the fifth tier. York would lose to Oxford in the final.



2001

The end of a sorry 2000/01 campaign had seen Joe Kinnear unable to keep the Hatters in Division Two (now League One) with relegation confirmed well before a mid-week trip to Brentford. Meaningless maybe but it was a game that had everything. Goalkeeper Mark Ovendale was sent off after 76 seconds but debutant substitute Scott Ward saved Lloyd Owusu's penalty. Despite being down to ten men the Town lead 2-0 with Steve Howard scoring from 50 yards and Paul McLaren doubling the lead. The Bees fight back, however, and it ends all square.



1986

In a gentle end of season game, the teams do not show much effort in front of a bored crowd of over 20,000. Emeka Nwajiobi is put clear by Ricky Hill to slot home to equalise the opening goal but the hosts hit back. Manchester City manager Billy McNeill thinks his side could have won, but neither team deserved the three points.



1980

Bob Hatton, making his last appearance for the Town, scores two brilliant first half goals, which enables the Hatters to end the season on a high note. After taking an early lead, Newcastle are gifted an equaliser following some sloppy play, to give them an undeserved share of the points.

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

Everton goalkeeper Jimmy O'Neill punches the ball clear watched by Gordon Turner and Jimmy Adam in close attendance. Both players later managed to score in the 2-2 draw at a boggy Kenilworth Road in December 1955.

Roger Wash





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MATTHEW TAKAWIRA
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SAM ANDERSON
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TATE XAVIER-JONES
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TYRELL GIWA
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WILL HOUGHTON
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ZACHARIAS IOANNIDES
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CAI HOCKEY
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KITS FROM THE PAST

HATTERS FAN DAVID FOXEN TAKES A LOOK THROUGH HIS COLLECTION OF HATTERS SHIRTS. THIS WEEK, IT'S THE TURN OF THE HOME STRIP FROM 1997-1999.

It is crazy to think that this shirt is 27 years old. It honestly does not feel that long ago since these were our home threads.

The 1997/98 and 1998/99 seasons saw us wear this classic home shirt. Made by Pony, the shirt is a variation of the previous season's shirt with a switch-up of the blue block pattern. The previous shirt saw us have the blue block on the sleeves, but for 97-99 the blue took over the shoulders. It's an epic look.

We have the rounded, mid 90s Luton Town badge, along with Universal Salvage Auctions (USA) as the sponsor again. I've said it before, and I'll say it again; this sponsor just works when it comes to these kits. The collar changed slightly too, with the introduction of orange and white to make it stand out more. Smart!

The material was quite breathable compared to previous years, while still able to keep a supporter warm on a cold night at the Kenny. This shirt also had a stitched LTFC in blue on the lower back, and if you look closely you can see "Luton Town" embossed all over the shirt too.

The 1997/98 season saw the Hatters finish in 17th in the Second Division (now League One). This was the season that Rory Allen joined us on loan from Spurs. We were one place off the bottom of the table when he joined, but six goals in eight games from Allen propelled us to safety thanks to five wins and one draw.

The 1998/99 campaign saw an improvement as we finished 12th in the league thanks to wins against the likes of Fulham, Burnley, and a 1-1 home draw with Manchester City. Gary Doherty headed the goal for us in that game.



I hope you agree this is a wonderful shirt and one I bet you see at least once on match days! See if you can spot it in the crowd today...



ON THIS DAY

Five goals, two red cards, both goalkeepers injured and one defender stretchered off... the Hatters secured Division One (Championship) safety on this day 30 year ago with a barnstorming 3-2 win under the light against West Bromwich Albion.

In what was the Town's first victory in nine games, David Preece put the Town in front with a 20-yard strike ten minutes before the break.

The visitors, who also needed the points in their bid for second tier survival levelled when Bob Taylor flicked home five minutes after half-time.

Both sides had their keepers substituted in a bizarre spell midway through the second period but the Town hit Albion with a two-goal burst in seven minutes through Julian James and John Hartson to lead 3-1.

Lee Ashcroft pulled one back for the Baggies with 12 minutes left but the Town held on after Mitchell Thomas and Albion's Gary Strodder were sent-off for fighting in injury time.

10,053 watched on in what was the final game in which Town supporters could stand at the back of the Kenilworth Road end.





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Andy Drury fires home during the 5-0 home win over York in January 2011



Andre Gray is congratulated after his early goal in the play-off final at Wembley in 2012



A-Z THE NON-LEAGUE YEARS

**HATTERS HISTORIAN ROGER WASH REMEMBERS OUR
OPPONENTS DURING OUR CONFERENCE DAYS**

Part Seventeen. Y is for York City

We had been playing York City in the Football League from back in the 1960s and apart from our first visit to Bootham Crescent in 1967, which we lost 5-1, we had a good record there.

This continued into our first season in non-League in 2009/10 where we drew 0-0 at Bootham Crescent following a 1-1 stalemate at Kenilworth Road. We finished second in the table that season while York were ten points behind in fifth with the two sides meeting in the play-offs

The first leg took place at Bootham Crescent where, despite dominating the game, we went down to a last-minute Richard Brodie goal. In the second leg York defended with their lives before a George Pilkington clearance cannoned off Martin Carruthers to give the Minstermen an unassailable 2-0 overall lead.

The post-match scenes were unbecoming but on the playing side justice was done in the final with York losing to Oxford and so needing to return to Kenilworth Road in December 2010.

The Kenilworth Road pitch was covered in snow with the ground staff working hard to clear the lines but falling snow, leading to a blizzard, gave referee Andy Hendley no option but to call the game off on 55

minutes with the game scoreless.

Complaints rained in from York that the game should have been postponed long before the team and supporters had set out on the journey, but they had even more to moan about when in the re-played match, a month later, the Town won 5-0.

Minstermen goalkeeper Michael Ingham was sent-off for a foul outside the area after 15 minutes with the Town then scoring five without reply before future Hatter Jonathan Smith was sent-off late on.

The return was an equally feisty affair with York reduced to ten men on 66 minutes soon after Luton boss Gary Brabin was sent to the stands. York's strong-arm tactics won through 1-0 on a disappointing night.

In the following season York truly came into their own beating the Town twice in the League as well as in the FA Trophy semi-final. With the teams finishing fourth and fifth and winning their respective play-off semi-finals they met at Wembley in the final.

Despite scoring first through Andre Gray the Town could not hold on and lost 2-1. York probably deserved their victory but the winning goal, from a blatantly offside position, still rankles. 

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LUTON TOWN LADIES

LUTON TOWN LADIES RUN RIOT IN LOCAL DERBY

Off the back of a convincing 5-1 victory over Needham Market Women, Luton Ladies looked to keep the pressure on league leaders, Real Bedford when they travelled to relegation threatened Dunstable last week.

It only took the Hatters seven minutes to go 1-0 up against their local rivals. Leyah Maddix picked up the ball on the left hand side, drove into the box and squared it for Amber Pearson to tap in.

Maddix was involved again six minutes later, smashing a penalty into the left side of the goal after Tsaianne Leander was tripped in the box.

On 15 minutes Luton netted their third. Shianne Swarres played a magnificent ball over the top, picking out Pearson, who initially saw her first shot saved, before firing in the rebound.

At the other end of the pitch, almost instantly, Dunstable pulled a goal back. A free-kick was whipped in and a Dunstable player headed the ball past Leah Robinson.

Four minutes later, however, the Town extended

their lead one more when Pearson claimed her first half hat-trick. She picked up the ball on the left and did magnificently, with some quick feet, leaving a Dunstable player on the floor to slot the ball past the keeper to give Luton a 4-1 lead.

Dunstable were not helping themselves in the first half and after Maddix intercepted a pass out from the back, she herself one-on-one with the keeper to smash home and give the Hatters a healthy 5-1 lead at the break.



It was a slower start to the second half for the Town, with their first chance coming in the 53rd minute when Elly Wade was inches away from getting her head onto a Pearson cross.

Dunstable looked like a different team in the second half, although they posed little threat to the Hatters goal they were enjoying some spells on the ball.

However the 84th minute then saw the best goal of the game and a goal of the season contender from Gabriella Spillman. She picked up the ball on the left hand side, cut onto her right foot outside the box and curled the ball into the top corner, to give Luton a five-goal advantage.

Two minutes later the scoring was complete when Kiera Palmiero netted the seventh of the match. Elizabeth Sanders played the ball across to Palmiero who tapped the ball into the net to give the Hatters a comfortable victory.



Follow the Ladies on X: @LTFCL_Official

Remember you can watch the Ladies for yourself at Kenilworth Road when they face 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.

So why not come along and watch the team at the Kenny?

LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

CHARITY GOLF DAY IN SUPPORT OF LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

Barth Consulting are set to host a charity golf day at South Beds Golf Club on Friday 14th June.

All proceeds raised from the day will be donated to us here at Luton Town FC Community Trust and be used to support the work we do.

Registration is from 11.30am with bacon rolls available upon arrival. The golf itself begins at 1pm with a shotgun start. The day will be capped off with a meal following the golf, as well as a raffle and charity auction with a host of great items on offer. Entry is open to all, so round up your friends, family and colleagues, or register as an individual and we'll find a group for you.

Louise Barth, Director of Barth Consulting and organiser of the event said: "I'm really looking forward to hosting the golf day. It's shaping up to be a great, fun day, with friends, family and colleagues on a fabulous course right here in Luton. And all this whilst supporting a very worthy charity that does so much amazing work with young people across Bedfordshire."

A four-ball can be reserved for £350, including all of the catering and events throughout the day as described above.

Individual places are £90. There are also sponsorship packages available. For further information please contact louise.barth@barthconsulting.co.uk or if you are ready to book, please complete the online booking form available through www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk.

QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL VISIT

Students from Queen Elizabeth School in Luton were excited to receive a visit from the BBC last week.

As part of their wider piece on the impact on the town since promotion to the Premier League, the BBC were particularly interested to hear that applications for the post-16 Education and Football Development programme had gone from 14 last year to a list of 59 and counting for this coming academic year!

Luton Town FC Community Trust have two members of staff permanently based at the school and have already seen the huge impact their work is having on the school.

Headteacher, Rhoda McPherson said: "The children are so proud and they absolutely love being part of Luton Town FC. To them it's part of their culture. For them it's a real aspiration. It lifts their spirits and for them, they're playing for their community - and that's a huge deal."

PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS

Luton Town FC Community Trust is one of 90 club community organisations to run Premier League Kicks, offering free inclusive football sessions for young people in our communities.

Alongside the sessions, the trust works with other local organisations to offer educational and life skills workshops.



We currently run the following Kicks sessions:

TUESDAY

Goldington Academy, Bedford
7pm – 8pm
Ages 11 – 18

THURSDAY

Lea Manor Recreation Centre, Luton
5.30pm – 6.30pm
Ages 10 – 14

THURSDAY

Beds FA, Dunstable
5pm – 6pm
Ages 8 – 13

FRIDAY

Stockwood Park Academy, Luton
6pm – 7pm
Ages 11 – 13

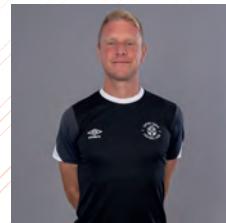
FRIDAY

Stockwood Park Academy, Luton
7pm – 8pm
Ages 14 – 18

For further information please email plkicks@lutontown.co.uk

ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH UNDER-15/16 COACH CRAIG ALCOCK



Good evening everyone and welcome to tonight's match vs Everton, I hope you enjoy the game and the lads can produce a big result.

I'm the Under-15/16s coach, and I have been lucky enough to have been supported this season by Ollie Modeste, who has been excellent to work with and I am sure is someone who will have a bright future in the game.

This season for us has seen a very mixed set of results for the age groups. However, due to some strong personal achievements of the players it has been a very positive season for the groups as a collective.

The Under-15s started off well, finishing top of their Floodlit Cup group, with a particular highlight coming in the form of a 5-1 win away at Watford. Unfortunately, their run was cut short at the quarter-final stage with a defeat away at Plymouth Argyle. On a positive, the team currently sit top of their Under-15s league, with teams such as Leicester, West Ham and Northampton, respectively taking part.

They also more than acquitted themselves well in the Premier League Cup festival at Loughborough University, not losing a game, beating Crystal Palace, Leeds and Newcastle and ending with a 1-1 draw with Blackburn.

Personally, it has been a good season for a lot of the group playing up into the Under-16s on numerous occasions. Particularly for the likes of Finley Evans, Sam Oppong and Nassim El Gourja whom have all

made appearances for the Under-17s in their Floodlit Cup games.

Other particular highlights have been down to the work of Jack Cartwright, who has developed the Under-14s and allowed several of them to make the step up into the Under-15s on a regular basis, most notably Harrison Dunn, Alfie Sharp and Luke McCulloch. It just helps to show the progression and the pathway for the players at the middle stages of the YPD project within the Academy.

For the Under-16s, they started with so much optimism as they entered the first round of the Premier League Cup. However, it was not to be a long run, as unfortunately we fell short on penalties to Bournemouth in the first game. We did though fair somewhat better in the PDL Cup, coming through a group consisting of ourselves, Coventry, Birmingham and Crewe. We again found ourselves unfortunately beaten 3-2 in extra time by Bristol City at the quarter-final stage.

Individually, however, it was a very positive season for some within the age group, as nine have successfully achieved scholarships with Luton Town: Charlie Booth, Lucas Thomas, Kyron Roberts-Edema, Leon Routh, Christian Chigozie, Benedict Benagr, Harry Fox, Archie Shepherd and Sam Hincapie Alfonso. All have played their part regularly in either the Under-18s squad or starting 11. Archie Shepherd recently enjoyed an impact, as in a recent game against AFC Wimbledon he scored all four goals in a 4-2 Merit League victory.

Of these individuals, mentions must go to Leon Routh, Benedict Benagr and Christian Chigozie, as all three have played up in the Under-21s on several occasions. Also, the two goalkeepers – Charlie Booth and Lucas Thomas – have trained regularly with the Under-21s, getting great exposure and influence with Adrian Forbes, Albert Bell and Frank Atwell really pushing them.

Special praise however must be reserved for Christian Chigozie as not only has he had regular game time with the Under-21s in such competitions like the Premier League Cup, but he has also had real Premier League experience with the first team. Due to all the hard work within the Academy, led by Paul Benson, and the trust that Rob Edwards places on the Academy, Christian has found himself not only training on several occasions with the first team, but also managing to make two appearances in the matchday squad on the bench in the Premier League away at Arsenal and Manchester City. This is a testament to his family and Christian as an individual that he has remained so humble and focused on his schoolwork, not letting these experiences detract from what he needs to do to achieve in his exams.

Hopefully these experiences within the whole group stand them in good stead for next season, where they will need to continue to learn and develop under the fortunate tutelage of Alex Lawless, the Under-18s manager.

Good luck to them as scholars and the upcoming Under-15s looking to earn scholarships themselves. All of which will hopefully be playing their football at a Premier League Club next season.

Enjoy the game and come on Luton!



Under-16 Christian Chigozie pictured at the Etihad Stadium on duty for the first team

ACADEMY WHO'S WHO

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

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	TRUSTRAM
GILLINGHAM	FRI 12/1/24	A W 3-2	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	STITT	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	WARREN
BRENTFORD	SAT 20/1/24	H W 5-0	HOCKEY	HARVEY	SCOTT	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	STITT
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	SAT 16/12/23	A L 2-3	HOCKEY	HARVEY	ROUTH	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	STITT
LEYTON ORIENT	SAT 3/2/24	A L 0-1	THOMAS	IOANNIDES	BENAGR	MARTINS	EMERY	KAYIBANDA	LORENTZEN-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	OEGAH	HARVEY	MARTINS	EMERY	TRIALIST A	STITT
OXFORD UNITED	SAT 16/3/24	A L 2-4	BLACKLEDGE	HARVEY	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	CHIGOZIE	TRUSTRAM
LEYTON ORIENT	FRI 29/3/24	A L 0-5	HOCKEY	GIWA	HARVEY	ROUTH	EMERY	TRIALIST	TRUSTRAM
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 W 3-0	HOCKEY	ROBERTS-EDEMA	HARVEY	TRIALIST	EMERY	TRIALIST	IOANNIDES
PORTSMOUTH	SAT 27/4/24	A L 1-2	THOMAS	ROBERTS-EDEMA	BENAGR	STITT	EMERY	TRIALIST	IOANNIDES
CHELTONHAM 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	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	GIWA	PIESOLD	BURGER
CHELSEA	TUE 19/9/23	A L 1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS	BATESON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD
LEEDS UNITED	FRI 6/10/23	A L 1-4	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	PHILLIPS	JOHNSON	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	PIESOLD
NORTHAMPTON TOWN	TUE 17/10/23	H L 2-3	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	GIWA	PIESOLD	CHIGOZIE	KAYIBANDA	LUKER
KEMPSTON ROVERS (BSC)	TUE 31/10/23	H W 8-0	TRIALIST	CHIGOZIE	LUKER	PIESOLD	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	PHILLIPS
COLCHESTER UNITED	MON 13/11/23	A L 0-2	SHEA	PINNINGTON	KAYIBANDA	CHIGOZIE	PHILLIPS	PIESOLD	BURGER
BEDFORD TOWN (BSC)	TUE 28/11/23	H W 2-0	HORLICK	PINNINGTON	BENAGR	PIESOLD	TOMPKINS	FRANCIS-CLARK	HERON
CHELSEA	TUE 12/12/23	H L 1-2	KRUL	PINNINGTON	JOHNSON	TOMPKINS	FRANCIS-CLARKE	ANDERSEN	PIESOLD
COLCHESTER UNITED	FRI 2/2/24	H L 0-2	CAMIS	PINNINGTON	JOHNSON	PIESOLD	FRANCIS-CLARKE	BATESON	HERON
LEEDS UNITED	MON 12/2/24	H 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	TRUSTRAM	TAKAWIRA, IOANNIDES, ROBERTS-EDEMA, BOOTH
LORENTZEN-JONES	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	TAKAWIRA	MARTINS, IOANNIDES, HARVEY, ROUTH, DEAN, TRIALIST,	
IOANNIDES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA, ODEGAH, HOUGHTON, HARVEY, WARREN,	
TRUSTRAM	LORENTZEN-JONES	XAVIER-JONES	HOUGHTON	WARREN, IOANNIDES, AKINYA, SHEPHERD, PIPA	
IOANNIDES	XAVIER-JONES	LORENTZEN-JONES	TRUSTRAM	BOOTH, ANDERSON, SHEPHERD, STITT, ROBERTS-EDEMA	
STITT	ANDERSON	IOANNIDES	TRUSTRAM	PIPA, TAKAWIRA, MARTINS, BENAGR, SHEPHERD	
IOANNIDES	ANDERSON	TRUSTRAM	TRIALIST B	PIPA, TAKAWIRA, HOUGHTON, SHEPHERD,	
LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	ODEJAH, PIPA, STITT, HOUGHTON, HARVEY	
LORENTZEN-JONES	ODEGAH	TRUSTRAM	HOUGHTON	ANDERSON, XAVIER-JONES, KIRBY, KAYIBANDA, PIPA	
KIRBY	ODEGAH	LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	HOCKEY, HOUGHTON, XAVIER-JONES, MARTINS, AKINYA	
I-JONES	STITT	HOUGHTON	SHEPHERD	ODEGAH	PIPA, XAVIER-JONES, ANDERSON, BENAGR, CHIGOZIE
I-JONES	STITT	ODEGAH	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES	PIPA, SHEPHERD, BENAGR, ROUTH, HINCAPIE-ALFONSO
I-JONES	TRUSTRAM	ODEGAH	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES	IOANNIDES, HOUGHTON, TAKAWIRA, KAYIBANDA, ROUTH
I-JONES	TRUSTRAM	ODEGAH	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES	MARTINS, THOMAS, IOANNIDES, TAKAWIRA, EMERY, HOUGHTON, HARVEY
	STITT	ODEGAH	LORENTZEN-JONES	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES, IOANNIDES, WARREN, TAKAWIRA, BENAGR, HOUGHTON
LORENTZEN-JONES	ODEGAH	TRUSTRAM	ANDERSON	XAVIER-JONES, IOANNIDES, TAKAWIRA, HOUGHTON	
LORENTZEN-JONES	HOUGHTON	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	WARREN, THOMAS, IOANNIDES, ODEGAH, ROUTH	
WARREN	ODEGAH	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	FOX, SHEPHERD, TAKAWIRA, ROBERTS-EDEMA	
I-JONES	WARREN	ODEGAH	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	STITT, HARVEY, HOUGHTON, ANDERSON
I-JONES	WARREN	ANDERSON	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	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	TRUSTRAM	XAVIER-JONES	SHEPHERD, THOMAS, ODEGAH, HOUGHTON, TRIALIST	
TRIALIST	TRIALIST	SHEPHERD	XAVIER-JONES	FOX, HOCKEY, TRUSTRAM, ODEGAH, TRIALIST	
TRUSTRAM	ODEGAH	SHEPHERD	XAVIER-JONES	FOX, THOMAS, STITT, HINCAPIE-ALFONSO, TRIALIST	
TRUSTRAM	ODEGAH	SHEPHERD	XAVIER-JONES	FOX, BOOTH, ROUTH, HINCAPIE-ALFONSO, TAKAWIRA	

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

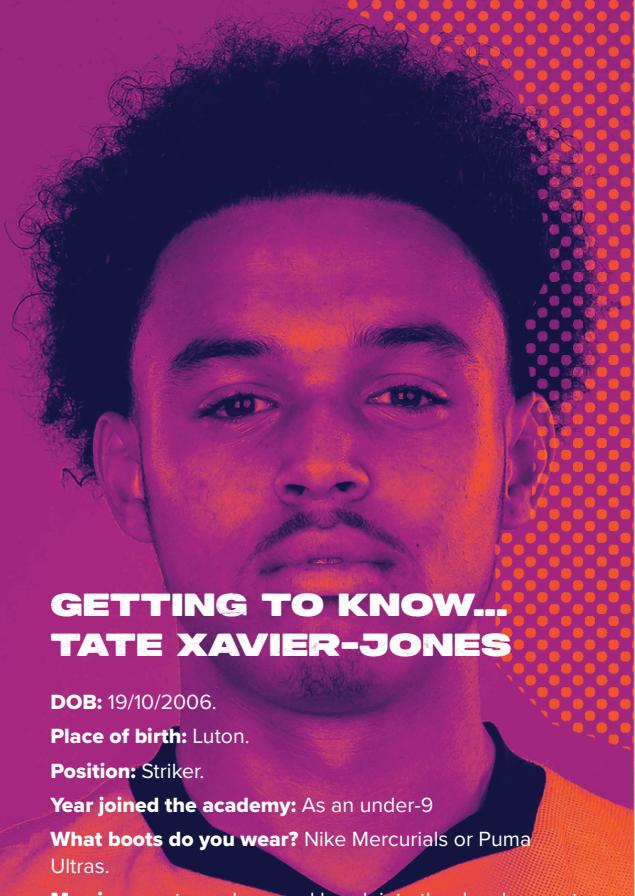
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GETTING TO KNOW... TATE XAVIER-JONES

DOB: 19/10/2006.

Place of birth: Luton.

Position: Striker.

Year joined the academy: As an under-9

What boots do you wear? Nike Mercurials or Puma Ultras.

My aims are to push on and break into the development squad and potentially the first team.

The proudest moment of my career so far is signing my scholarship

In the playground I used to be Leroy Sane, because he reminded me of the myself and the way we both play.

A career outside of football? Either coaching with my license or to be a builder because I could still be involved in the game and help those who enjoy it.

The one teammate who I'd say is the most talented is Joe Johnson. Everyone is talented but JJ has got very good technique.

Of the first team squad, the player I look-up to most is either Carlton Morris or Jacob Brown.

The best thing about Luton Town is everyone involved in the club.

If I was to describe myself... I think I'm a fast and explosive striker that isn't the tallest but has the strength to hold off defenders and beat them. I also know that I am a very good finisher in front of the goal. I just need to build my confidence up more.

life with power



THE LAWLESS REPORT

"Luton boy Tate has been scoring plenty of goals recently, which has been the reward for his hard work this season.

"He joined the club as an under-9 and developed year after year in order to be offered a scholarship.

"Tate's got lots of pace and is a good finisher in and around the box."

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- ✖ Throwing objects
- ✖ Drug use
- ✖ Discriminatory behaviour

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- ✚ Serious injury
- ▬ Automatic club ban
- ✠ Reported to the police
- ⚖ Criminal record
- 🎓 Education and employment at risk

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LET'S GO

LONDON STADIUM
SATURDAY 11TH MAY
KICK OFF: 3:00PM

WHERE?

The majority of Town fans will tick off a new ground next weekend when we travel to the London Stadium to face West Ham. Originally built for the 2012 Olympics, the stadium cost £500 million to build and its capacity was as high as 80,000 during the Games. However, after the Hammers moved in as tenants in 2016, the stadium now seats 66,513. Don't start singing about empty seats: licensing regulations means approximately 63,000 fans can attend Premier League fixtures. We'll have 3,000 fans backing us and the views from the upper and lower tiers of the Sir Trevor Brooking Stand are good – if a little far from the pitch.

HOW TO GET THERE

The stadium has been designated a 'public transport destination' meaning anyone thinking about driving to the ground is actively discouraged. If you fancy chancing it, don't blame us but the postcode is E20 2ST. The best bet, of course, if you're coming from Luton is to take the train, with the ground served by three railway stations: Stratford, Stratford International and Hackney Wick. All are approximately a ten to 15 minute walk to the ground. For our final away game of the season, the Bobbers will also be running coaches. They depart Luton at 11am and the fares are £24 for adults and £22 for concessions. 01234 856542 is the number you need to book.

UPTON PARK AWAYDAYS

Before West Ham moved to the Olympic Stadium they spent 112 happy years at the Boleyn Ground, also known as Upton Park. The Town recorded 12 wins at the Hammers' old stomping ground – the first coming back in September 1905 in the Southern League. Saturday will be the Hatters' first away fixture against West Ham since a goalless draw in a sixth round FA Cup in 1994 and our first in a league match since a 2-2 draw in December 1992 with John Dreyer and Ceri Hughes on target. You have to go back 35 years for the last time a Town team won away at West Ham when goals from Mick Harford, Roy Wegerle and a Danny Wilson penalty secured a 3-0 victory in the first leg of the League Cup semi-final.

THE HAMMERS OF TODAY

David Moyes' side go into this weekend's fixtures in eighth place in the Premier League and still have a shot of making the European spots if results go their way. The Hammers won seven of their first ten games in all competitions earlier in the season but have remained relatively consistent. They reached the quarter-finals of the Europa League, losing to Bayer Leverkusen earlier this month and go into the game against the Town with one win in their last eight Premier League games (D4, L3). Moyes' side last won at home in the league against Brentford at the end of February.



THE HAMMERS



THE HATTERS



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MEET THE FANS

WITH TOWN SUPPORTER KEVIN HARPER

How long have you supported Luton for?

Born in 1982, I've been a Luton fan since I was five, so 37 years.

Where do you sit at home matches?

Kenilworth Upper.

Who is your all-time favourite player and why?

Having only caught the end of Ricky Hill's Luton days it has to be Mick Harford. He was a key player during my early years as a Town fan and has been a constant in various roles since.

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

Everything. I am so proud to be a Hatter. I am of an age where through my school years friends were supporting the Manchester Uniteds, Chelseas and Arsenals of this world but despite peer pressure it was always Luton for me. I now go to every game home and away. My passion for LTFC was the reason for becoming the media officer for the Trust where it is an honour to represent Luton fans.

What are your favourite memories of being a Luton fan?

I was too young to remember 1988 so for me it was always the JPT final in 2009 but that was recently bettered by that famous win over Coventry in the play-off final last May!

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

None of my friends went to matches of the team they supported but I grew up at the start of the armchair era and I was always questioned why I supported a 'lower league' team. As one disappointment followed another, there was plenty of mickey taking!

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

Yes, but largely because everyone has seen in the years since just how passionate I am about the club. All my friends are happy that I'm seeing my team back where we belong.

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

Immense pride. That sunny afternoon at Brighton was what we all waited 31 years for and, while the result wasn't what we wanted, it was magic seeing Luton in the Premier League.

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

The atmospheres aren't always great but going to iconic venues and watching our lads go up against world class players and hold their own is what it is all about.

What is your favourite moment of the season?

The feeling of excitement and scenes around me when Tahith Chong scored at home to Liverpool are memories I will never forget!





LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

...IN CONVERSATION WITH
GARY SWEET, CEO, LUTON TOWN.



THE BIG INTERVIEW PART ONE

It's been an amazing season for all Luton supporters, and we're delighted that Gary Sweet agreed to take time out to chat to us about all things LTFC – and football. You may not know this, but as one of the four signatories to its foundation, Gary was the first member of Trust in Luton, the precursor to LTST - so who better to look to the past, the present...and the future!

The Trust in its various forms has played a key role in the remarkable rollercoaster ride the club has been on, from the dark days and troubled times

to the 2020 consortium taking over in 2008 with Gary at the helm. Back then, one of the effects of dropping out of the Football League was losing all funding for our youth set up – and SoLYD, Supporters of Luton Youth Development, was set up to help bridge the gap with fans chipping in to keep things going.

Now under the auspices of LTST, SoLYD's role has slightly changed, as Gary explained: "Unlike back in those tougher times, the Club now has the capability to fund and grow the Academy fully, as will soon be demonstrated with a further £3 million-plus going into improving facilities to include pitches, medical, education and the long-awaited training dome as

we move towards a higher academy status.

“But that doesn’t mean SoLYD is redundant – far from it! SoLYD makes a significant contribution in areas like trips to tournaments and player welfare – including a hardship fund to assist youngsters who may be struggling with costs like boots and travel. Their work is invaluable.”

Expanding on this point about investment in local youth football and its future, Gary went on to say: “There were a number of areas we felt we wanted to use some of the extra income promotion to the Premier League gave us, not just to boost our own immediate fortunes but to increase our longer-term stability and to benefit the wider town. The Academy is certainly one of the most important areas we could deliver that.”

Moving on to a subject close to all of our hearts, we then asked about progress with the new ground.

“Naturally, most people will think nothing’s more important than Power Court and rightly so – and it was always, always going to be built, regardless of league status,” says Gary. “But within that context, we are now able to think more ambitiously about that too. ‘Bigger, bolder, better’ is the term that’s driving our design team right now, which we’ve recently shared with the Trust. It’s incredibly exciting – we’ll talk more about that next time.”

Pride in our town and communities

There’s so much more good news for the town too.

“Our promotion success has also given a fantastic boost to the town’s profile,” continues Gary. “Our town has always had amazing spirit right across our vibrant diverse communities, and now everyone seems to have so much more confidence and bounce in their step.”

“It’s brought us all together even more closely as proud Lutonians – by birth or adoption! – and to enjoy seeing the other benefits that the Club’s growth is bringing to the town. A new economic impact report, soon to be published, will underline just how massively important this Club is to the town’s identity and well-being – just as football clubs large and small should be to their communities all around the country, of course – and there will be no better example than our own!”

Shaping a brighter future for football

Gary then talked about how the club has been able to share its unique experience over the years to help shape a brighter future for football.

“We – the Trust and 2020 – have always fought for a fairer and more sustainable future for the game for that very reason – and I’m proud of the influence Luton Town has been able to bring as we’ve risen. Above all others, we know what it’s like to be forced to learn the hard way, which ultimately defines us. But we’ve also tried to consistently demonstrate a better or different way of doing things, and we’d like to think our methods have somewhat helped shape EFL thinking and we’ve taken those very values into the Premier League. We’d like to think that we’ve demonstrated ideas and ideologies that have opened a few eyes and minds. ➤

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The Premier League and the ‘football pyramid’

We asked Gary what he could tell about his experience of working within the Premier League.

“Keeping an open mind is vital. The Premier League may sometimes portrayed as a ‘big, bad monster’, but - and this may surprise some – since having the honour of seeing it from the inside, I can assure you that it is a genuine force-for-good, especially given the pressure from global football authorities that challenge our domestic structure.

“There is a true recognition of the value of our football pyramid, and the fact the Premier League is so globally popular brings so many benefits to the wider English game, which is why it is essential to safeguard that. A significant evolution of the game that is unfolding – the most important since the Premier League was formed – and while certain outcomes may seem odd in isolation, the overhaul needs to run its course and I have faith that it will be for the better.

“It has been a privilege, so far, to be at the top table during this process as a shareholder and you can rest assured that we have taken that responsibility seriously and without forgetting where we’ve come from and we would, of course, very much like to continue to be a part of the action next season.”

Why having a strong LTST is so important

Finally, for this session, Gary went on to talk about the importance of supporters and, with us, the Trust as the game moves forward.

“Broadcasters may pay a majority of the bills, as such, but supporters must still be the fabric of football and right at the heart of every decision that’s made. Without fans it’s not worth the airtime. That’s why a strong Luton Town Supporters’ Trust is essential, standing alongside us as we strive to be a positive, effective influence. And like us, the Trust needs to represent every aspect of our communities. Their diversity, their youth, their future. So please join the Trust if you’re not already a member – and more than that, spread the word to fellow supporters who may not be so engaged. Football, I firmly believe, has a really bright future – and you can be part of it. COYRRH!”

Thanks to Gary for sharing his thoughts – look out for Part Two of this interview in the Fulham programme, the last of the season, where he’ll be sharing exciting news about Power Court and its progress. Our new ground is on its way soon, so in the meantime make the most of our beloved, boisterous and uniquely beautiful Kenilworth Road and raise the roof for the lads tonight!

To join the trust, visit [www.lutontownsupportertrust.com](http://lutontownsupportertrust.com) and click on become a member.



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WHO'S YOUR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM?

Tonight, as we fight for our survival in the Premier League in a huge match under the lights, lets flashback to six years ago when we secured our promotion from League Two.

This came after a 1-1 draw away to Carlisle United to get Luton's ascend back up the leagues properly flowing.

Luton were well aware that we were in for a game at Brunton Park against a stubborn Carlisle side that were sitting in a mid-table position prior to the match.

Nathan Jones named a very attacking side like usual, and the attack included the likes of Danny Hylton, James Collins, Olly Lee and Elliot Lee.

Carlisle started the stronger of the two sides as James Shea was called into action multiple times within the opening minutes. Most of these efforts were long shots which Shea could easily deal with.

Twelve minutes in, Carlisle won a penalty. This came after some smart work from United allowed the striker in behind the defence before being brought down by

Shea. Danny Grainger stepped up and scored to give Carlisle the lead.

The Hatters were starting to improve their performance after a shaking start and were beginning to create some chances. Hylton had the best chance after some clever play, but the goalkeeper denied him from close range.

The Hatters equalised just after the hour mark following an effort from Hylton on the edge of the box which was parried as far as Olly Lee who calmly rolled it into the back of the net to put Luton back on level terms.

The Luton pressure continued and there were chances to win the match for the Hatters. But a draw was enough to seal promotion as crazy celebrations were to follow when the referee blew his full-time whistle.

The Hatters were back in League One and were creeping back up the leagues. And we all know what happened the next season!

Massive game today as always, be loud and proud!

COYH

Words by Zac Neal 

2018/19

**League One
Champions**



2019/20

**19th, Championship
Heroic last-day
escape!**



2020/21

12th, Championship



2021/22

6th, Championship



2022/23

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JUNIOR HATTERS TONIGHT'S MASCOTS



Darragh O'Donnell

Age: 7

Hobbies: Playing Football, Watching it and playing FC24
Ross Barkley



Harrison James

Age: 11

Hobbies: Football, Rugby, Cricket
Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer



Teddy Perry

Age: 7

Hobbies: Football, Swimming, Minecraft
Favourite Player: Carlton Morris



Thomas Shanley

Age: 10

Hobbies: Riding his bike, playing rugby, most outdoor sports games and Nintendo switch
Favourite Player: Tom Lockyer, Carlton Morris, Ross Barkley



Louis Minta

Age: 11

Hobbies: Luton Town, Football, Xbox
Favourite Player: Ross Barkley





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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. How many goals have the Hatters scored in the last 15 minutes in the Premier League this season?
2. Which two teams will contest the National League South play-off final this weekend?
3. The Town last beat Everton at Kenilworth Road 1-0 in 1989. Who scored the winner?
4. Goalkeeper Jack Walton celebrated winning a championship winners medal with which club last week?
5. Which club are nicknamed the Pirates?
6. How many assists has Reece Burke made this season?
7. Roots Hall is the home ground of which club?
8. Which two Luton players had the most of touches of the ball in last week's game at Wolves?
9. How many goals did Ross Barkley score in his Everton career?
10. In which year was the first European Championship held?

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 an Everton fan or you're new to this.



ROUND-UP

The race for this season's Premier League title looks to be just down to two after last weekend's results.

Arsenal remain in top spot after holding onto a 3-0 half-time lead against North London rivals Tottenham. The Gunners raced into their three-goal advantage at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and even though Spurs rallied it was not enough and Mikel Arteta's side maintained their place at the top of the table.

Reigning champions Manchester City kept up their pursuit of a historic fourth successive Premier League title by earning a 2-0 win at Nottingham Forest. City did not have it all their own way at the City Ground but goals from Josko Gvardiol and Erling Haaland proved decisive. Pep Guardiola's side remain one point behind Arsenal in second but have a game in hand.

Liverpool's championship aspirations took another hit after they were held to a 2-2 draw at West Ham. Having lost to our visitors this evening in the Merseyside derby the previous Wednesday, Jurgen Klopp's side now sit five points behind Arsenal and four behind Man City having played a game more.

With three games to go for many clubs, the race for the European places remain intriguing with a host of clubs in mid-table still within a chance of playing continental football next term. One of those, Bournemouth, made it 48 points for the season – their highest ever top-flight return – after beating Brighton. The Cherries – tipped to struggled before the season began – sit in tenth place and are five points behind Newcastle in seventh.



At the other end of the table, Sheffield United's relegation back to the Championship was confirmed after going down 5-1 at Newcastle. The Blades took the lead through Anel Ahmedhodzic's fifth-minute goal but Eddie Howe's side stormed back to hit five and make it 97 goals conceded for the visitors.

Burnley's good fortunes continued after a late penalty earned the Clarets a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford against Manchester United. The point keeps Vincent Kompany's side a point behind the Town in the table. The Turf Moor side face two tricky games against Newcastle and Tottenham in their next two but then host Nottingham Forest on the final day.

Premier League									
#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Arsenal	35	25	5	5	85	28	57	80
2	Manchester City	34	24	7	3	82	32	50	79
3	Liverpool	35	22	9	4	77	36	41	75
4	Aston Villa	35	20	7	8	73	52	21	67
5	Tottenham Hotspur	33	18	6	9	67	52	15	60
6	Manchester United	34	16	6	12	52	51	1	54
7	Newcastle United	34	16	5	13	74	55	19	53
8	West Ham United	35	13	10	12	56	65	-9	49
9	Chelsea	33	13	9	11	63	59	4	48
10	Bournemouth	35	13	9	13	52	60	-8	48
11	Wolverhampton Wanderers	35	13	7	15	48	55	-7	46
12	Brighton and Hove Albion	34	11	11	12	52	57	-5	44
13	Fulham	35	12	7	16	51	55	-4	43
14	Crystal Palace	35	10	10	15	45	57	-12	40
15	Everton *	35	12	8	15	37	48	-11	36
16	Brentford	35	9	8	18	52	60	-8	35
17	Nottingham Forest **	35	7	9	19	42	62	-20	26
18	Luton Town	35	6	7	22	48	77	-29	25
19	Burnley	35	5	9	21	38	70	-32	24
20	Sheffield United	35	3	7	25	34	97	-63	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	(11)	9	3	(2)	0	16	(13)	9	1	0	138	41
Mads Andersen	4	(4)	1	2	(0)	0	6	(4)	1	1	0	10	1
Ross Barkley	28	(2)	5	4	(1)	0	32	(3)	5	5	0	35	5
Amari'i Bell	21	(0)	0	4	(2)	0	25	(2)	0	0	0	124	2
Luke Berry	2	(13)	2	2	(1)	0	4	(14)	2	2	0	182	26
Jacob Brown	12	(7)	2	1	(2)	1	13	(9)	3	5	0	22	3
Reece Burke	18	(2)	0	3	(1)	0	21	(3)	0	5	0	81	4
Tahith Chong	17	(13)	4	4	(1)	1	21	(14)	5	4	0	35	5
Jordan Clark	13	(8)	1	2	(1)	2	15	(9)	3	5	0	135	12
Alfie Doughty	31	(3)	1	6	(0)	1	37	(3)	2	5	0	75	4
Ryan Giles	5	(6)	0	2	(1)	0	7	(7)	0	0	0	14	0
Daiki Hashioka	5	(4)	0	0	(1)	0	5	(5)	0	0	0	10	0
Joe Johnson	0	(1)	0	1	(2)	0	1	(3)	0	0	0	6	0
Issa Kabore	21	(3)	0	0	(2)	0	21	(5)	0	7	0	26	0
Thomas Kaminski	35	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	35	(0)	0	3	0	35	0
Tim Krul	0	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	0	0	6	0
Tom Lockyer	14	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	15	(0)	1	4	0	117	7
Sambi Lokonga	13	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	15	(1)	0	3	0	16	0
Teden Mengi	25	(2)	1	5	(0)	0	30	(2)	1	4	0	32	1
Carlton Morris	29	(6)	10	4	(1)	0	33	(7)	10	2	0	91	30
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	11	(15)	0	3	(2)	0	14	(17)	0	1	0	401	23
Marvelous Nakamba	13	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	13	(1)	0	5	0	34	0
Zack Nelson	0	(2)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(2)	0	0	0	2	0
Chiedozie Ogbene	19	(9)	4	5	(1)	1	24	(10)	5	1	0	34	5
Fred Onyedinma	2	(4)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(4)	0	1	0	58	3
Gabriel Osho	18	(0)	2	2	(0)	0	20	(0)	2	2	0	82	5
Dan Potts	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	216	12
James Shea	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	107	0
Andros Townsend	14	(11)	1	1	(3)	0	15	(14)	1	1	0	29	1
Cauley Woodrow	2	(19)	1	3	(2)	2	5	(21)	3	2	0	61	6



DOUBLE FIGURES

Congratulations Carlton Morris on becoming the first Town man since Mick Harford in 1991/92 to hit double figures in the top-flight after his goal at Wolves last weekend.

2023/24 FIXTURES & RESULTS

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

WATCH THE LADIES AT THE KENNY

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 – and fans can buy these online from our eticketing website. 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."



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

SUBSTITUTES

ATT AWAY

NAKAMBA	CHONG	MPANZU	MORRIS ⚽	ADEBAYO	Shea, Francis-Clarke, Berry, Campbell, Doughty, Brown, McAtee, Ogbene, Woodrow	31,872	3,001
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Doughty, Andersen, Ruddock-Mpanzu, Ogbene, Brown, Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Johnson	39,893	3,054
MPANZU	BERRY	WOODROW ⚽	OGBENE	BROWN	Shea, Burke, Johnson, Kabore, Barkley, Chong, Nakamba, Adebayo, Morris	9,468	1,058
NAKAMBA	CHONG	BARKLEY	MORRIS	ADEBAYO	Krul, Berry, Brown, Francis-Clarke, Johnson, Kabore, Mpanzu, Ogbene, Woodrow	10,802	1,151
NAKAMBA	CHONG	LOKONGA	MORRIS ⚽	BROWN	Krul, Adebayo, Berry, Doughty, Giles, Mengi, Mpanzu, Ogbene, Woodrow	24,467	2,701
NAKAMBA	LOKONGA	OGBENE	MORRIS ⚽	BROWN	Krul, Adebayo, Andersen, Berry, Chong, Giles, Mengi, Mpanzu, Woodrow	10,893	1,091
MPANZU	CHONG	BERRY	WOODROW	ADEBAYO	Shea, Ogbene, Morris, Kabore, Burke, Brown, Bell, Burger, Luker	7,360	708
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS ⚽	BROWN	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Mengi, Giles, Johnson	39,289	2,976
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Burke, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Giles, Johnson	10,918	1,126
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Barkley, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Chong, Mengi, Giles, Johnson	10,929	1,151
NAKAMBA	MPANZU	CHONG	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Osho, Barkley, Woodrow, Adebayo, Kabore, Giles, Townsend, Luker	29,361	2,893
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	BROWN	Krul, Woodrow, Adebayo, Chong, Mpanzu, Giles, Townsend, Johnson, Luker	41,785	3,005
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Adebayo, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson, Luker	11,049	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Adebayo, Berry, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson	73,599	3,008
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	TOWNSEND	Krul, Berry, Adebayo, Chong, Clark, Brown, Giles, Nelson, Luker	11,029	1,149
MPANZU	BARKLEY	OGBENE	MORRIS	CHONG	Krul, Adebayo, Clark, Brown, Giles, Townsend, Johnson, Nelson	17,075	1,725
MPANZU	BARKLEY	BROWN ⚽	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Ogbene, Berry, Morris, Chong, Clark, Giles, Johnson, Nelson	11,112	1,151
NAKAMBA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO ⚽	TOWNSEND	Krul, Andersen, Berry, Morris, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Lokonga, Johnson	11,047	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND ⚽	Krul, Andersen, Ogbene, Morris, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Giles	11,042	1,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN	ADEBAYO ⚽	TOWNSEND	Krul, Shea, Andersen, Ogbene, Berry, Morris, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu	31,041	2,362
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	BROWN ⚽	ADEBAYO ⚽	TOWNSEND	Krul, Andersen, Ogbene, Morris, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Clark, Giles	11,041	1,151
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Kaminski, Andersen, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Mpanzu, Clark, Giles, Townsend	10,739	1,609
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	TOWNSEND	Krul, Potts, Berry, Morris, Woodrow, Chong, Burke, Mpanzu, Giles	20,155	1,432
BARKLEY	MPANZU	CLARK	MORRIS	CHONG ⚽	Kaminski, Potts, Berry, Woodrow, Adebayo, Brown, Giles, Bell, Townsend	10,878	751
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	TOWNSEND	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Kaminski, Shea, Potts, Berry, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Johnson, Nelson	37,713	1,699
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Krul, Potts, Berry, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Townsend, Johnson, Nelson	10,994	1,044
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK ⚽	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Chong, Burke, Mpanzu, Brown, Townsend	52,211	3,145
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK ⚽	ADEBAYO	MORRIS	Krul, Berry, Woodrow, Kabore, Chong, Mengi, Mpanzu, Brown, Townsend	11,138	1,350
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS ⚽	Krul, Potts, Berry, Kabore, Burke, Mpanzu, Clark, Townsend, Nelson	11,438	1,389
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	Krul, Potts, Berry, Kabore, Mpanzu, Burke, Clark, Townsend, Nelson	59,896	2,505
CLARK ⚽	BARKLEY	CHONG	WOODROW	MORRIS	Shea, Osho, Mpanzu, Hashoka, Townsend, Johnson, Nelson, Piesold	11,163	1,866
CLARK	BARKLEY	CHONG ⚽	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	Shea, Ogbene, Berry, Woodrow, Mpanzu, Hashoka, Nelson, Piesold	11,594	1,358
CLARK	BARKLEY	CHONG	OGBENE	MORRIS	Krul, Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Mpanzu, Hashoka, Townsend, Nelson, Luker, Piesold	25,103	2,687
CLARK	BARKLEY ⚽	CHONG ⚽	OGBENE ⚽	MORRIS	Krul, Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Mpanzu, Townsend, Nelson, Luker, Piesold, Martins	11,198	1,313
MPANZU	BARKLEY	CHONG	CLARK	MORRIS	Krul, Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Hashrow, Townsend, Nelson, Piesold, Martins	11,630	1,260
BERRY	BARKLEY	CHONG ⚽	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	Krul, Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Hashrow, Townsend, Nelson, Piesold	61,534	3,038
MPANZU	BARKLEY	CLARK	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	Krul, Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Mpanzu, Johnson, Chigozie, Nelson, Piesold	60,262	3,003
CLARK ⚽	BARKLEY	CHONG	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	Krul, Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Mpanzu, Johnson, Harris, Chigozie, Nelson, Piesold	11,779	1,260
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	TOWNSEND	MORRIS	Krul, Shea, Woodrow, Mpanzu, Hashoka, Townsend, Onyedimma, Johnson	53,449	3,065
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	CHONG	MORRIS	Krul, Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Mpanzu, Hashoka, Townsend, Onyedimma, Johnson	11,817	1,314
LOKONGA	BARKLEY	CLARK	CHONG	MORRIS ⚽	Krul, Shea, Berry, Woodrow, Adebayo, Mpanzu, Townsend, Onyedimma, Johnson	31,531	3,012

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.



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HOLD THE BACK PAGE

James Cunliffe, Editor, The Lutonian

Let me tell you something you already know. The Premier League ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place, and I don't care how tough you are, it will beat you to your knees if you let it.

You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life at the top. But it ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward; how much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done!

Now if you know what you're worth, then go out and get what you're worth, but you gotta be willing to take the hits, and not pointing fingers, saying we ain't where we wanna be because of VAR, or injuries, or own goals, or last-gasp heartbreaks. Cowards do that and that ain't us. We're better than that!

The inspirational words of cinematic boxing legend Rocky Balboa, ladies and gents, give or take a few dramatic minor Lutonian adaptions! Artistic licence, let's call it.

Until August, the Hatters had spent the best part of ten years punching above its weight. You could argue Luton still are. And it ain't over.

Unearthing my old newspaper clippings in a bedroom clear-out recently, I was reminded that I wrote my first sentence about the Hatters in 2006 for The Foot-

ball League Paper when the wheels were starting to fall off, again. Jabs turned into what felt like a barrage of blows until the club was nearly knocked into oblivion. Thankfully, those dog days are definitely over, though we must never forget.

Yeah, the top flight ain't all sunshine and rainbows, but even a murky tale of money, skullduggery and controversy can be softened by a fairytale or two.

And there's still ink left for a dramatic Premier League epilogue to the one that was written, not without its trials, at Wembley last year.

Tonight, in the blue corner, Everton arrive with all the swagger of a team that has won three straight games and conceding zero goals while beating their arch-rivals, Liverpool, on their way to securing safety.

And in the orange corner, we have our plucky underdogs fighting tooth and nail - and hopefully with at least one reinforcement tonight - to defy the odds and secure a historic great escape. No team has managed it after 22 defeats. But then, no team until Luton had risen from the non-league to the elite.

That's because this club has been hit before, and harder than anyone since. But guess what? Luton Town kept moving forward!



THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



sky sports



LUTON TOWN

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



EVERTON

1. JORDAN PICKFORD
2. NATHAN PATTERSON
5. MICHAEL KEANE
6. JAMES TARKOWSKI
7. DWIGHT MCNEIL
8. AMADOU ONANA
9. DOMINIC CALVERT-LEWIN
10. ARNAUT DANJUMA
11. JACK HARRISON
12. JOAO VIRGINIA
14. BETO
16. ABDOULEYE DOUCOURÉ
18. ASHLEY YOUNG
19. VITALII MYKOLENKO
20. DELE
21. ANDRE GOMES
22. BEN GODFREY
23. SEAMUS COLEMAN
27. IDRISSE GANA GUEYE
28. YOUSSEF CHERMITI
31. ANDY LONERGAN
32. JARRAD BRANTHWAITE
37. JAMES GARNER
43. BILLY CRELLIN
61. LEWIS DOBBIN
62. TYLER ONYANGO

MATCH OFFICIALS

- ⌚ REFEREE - TIM ROBINSON
- ⌚ ASSISTANT REFEREE - EDDIE SMART
- ⌚ ASSISTANT REFEREE - NICK GREENHALGH
- ⌚ FOURTH OFFICIAL - TONY HARRINGTON
- ⌚ VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - DAVID COOTE
- ⌚ ADDITIONAL VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE - DEREK EATON