

Iron set for record home attendance

Braintree officials expecting up to 2,500 for Luton Town clash

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IT WILL be Braintree Town's biggest home game ever when Luton Town visit the Amlin Stadium on Saturday for the all-ticket Blue Square Bet Premier clash.

Iron officials are expecting a crowd of between 2,000 and 2,500 which will beat the previous high this season when 2,029 watched the New Year's Day 3-2 win over Cambridge United.

Iron manager Alan Devonshire admitted yesterday: "I can't wait for the game - it's what it's all about at this level."

With a full squad available - skipper Kenny Davis has recovered from a leg injury sustained in the last two games - Devonshire knows it will be a really hard game against a side still harbouring a place in the play-offs.

Hard game

"They sacked their manager at the weekend and expect to have a new man in place by this Saturday," he said. "That will be interesting too because the players will want to show the new boss what they can do."

"But it's going to be a hard game as we know and with a good crowd there should be a tremendous atmosphere inside the ground," he continued. "My players will want to compete against them and looking to win the game."



CAN'T WAIT: Alan Devonshire, the Braintree Town manager, is excited to be welcoming a former Premiership side to the Amlin Stadium

He added: "They will also want to put right their poor second half home performance last Saturday behind them and I expecting the right response in the right way."

Devonshire is also wary that the Hatters, who had their Tuesday night game at Gateshead

called off because of a waterlogged pitch, will be fresher having not made the long midweek journey to the North-East.

"My players can enjoy the game too, there's no pressure on us worrying about either relegation or making the play-offs," he said.

"But we still want to finish as high up as we can and end our first season in the top half of the table," he added.

"I hope many people in the Braintree area will come and see the game and see what we've achieved so far."

Club chairman Lee Harding echoed Devonshire's plea adding: "The game is all-ticket and they must be bought before the day of the match and what has been encouraging so far is that we're selling tickets to local people who are not regular supporters," he explained. "They are realising that they have their own local, good football club who have reached the pinnacle of non-league football."

Harding said tickets would be on sale at the ground tonight (Thursday) and on Good Friday afternoon and evening.

"We're expecting a crowd of possibly between 2,000 and 2,500 which will break our current record," he said.

Crowd segregation

"There will obviously be crowd segregation and plenty of security with Essex Police and more than usual numbers of our own stewards on duty."

Harding also confirmed that it would be the first time ever the club had hosted a side that once played in the Premier League.

The Hatters' fans are being allocated the Quag End of the stadium where the all-new open terracing will be used while Iron fans will be using terracing at the clubhouse end of the ground.

There will also be restrictions on street parking around the ground and all supporters are being asked to get to the ground early to avoid the long queues which are anticipated.