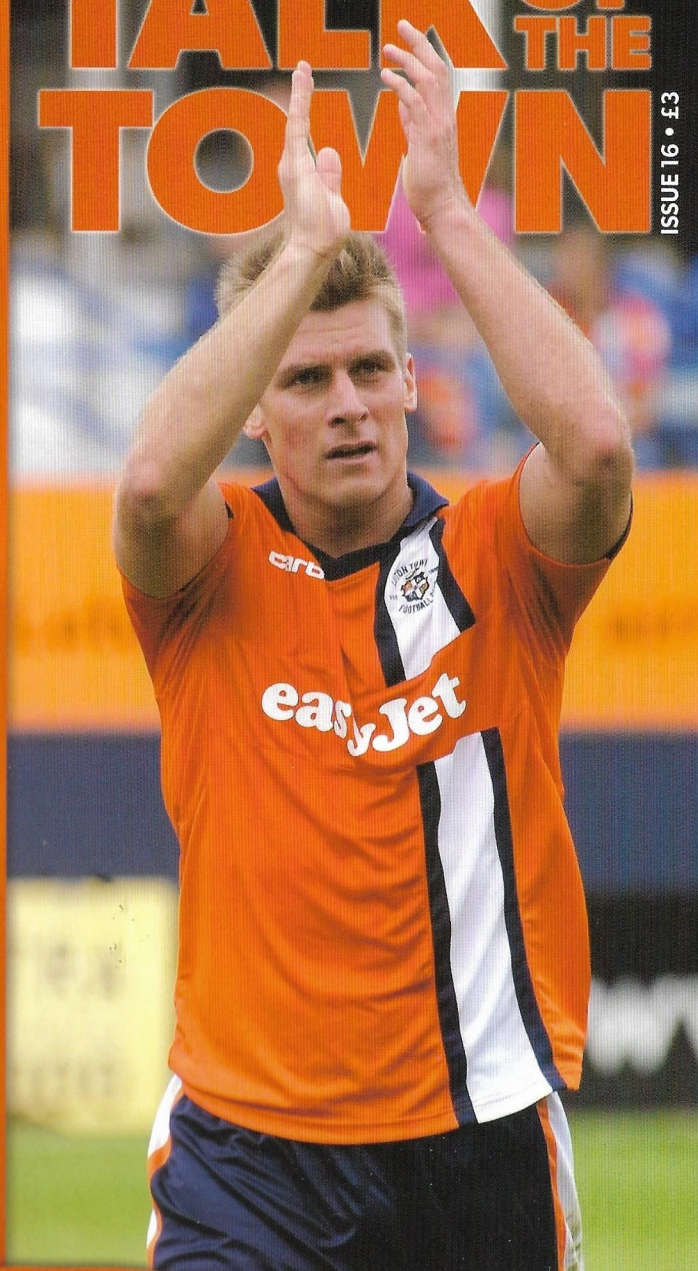


Official Matchday Programme of Luton Town Football Club



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The views in this programme are those

of the contributors and not necessarily

those of the editor and/or Luton Town.

PAUL

BUCKLE

Good afternoon and welcome to Kenilworth Road for what promises to be a special occasion.

We entertain a Wolves side who were in the Premier League last season, in the third round of the FA Cup. It's one of the world's most famous competitions and it pits two clubs with a great tradition in the FA Cup against each other.

It is disappointing to come into a tie of much magnitude on the back of a frustrating defeat at Woking. We had spoken about going on a winning run in the league so to start the year with a defeat was extremely galling, especially in the way in which we gifted Woking two late goals.

In the Blue Square Bet Premier, we seem to take two steps back every time we take one step forward and it's that consistency which we need to improve on in an important second half of the season.

Earned the right

Today, however, attention turns towards the FA Cup. We have earned the right to face a Wolves team blessed with talent having done extremely well to come through and win ties against Cambridge, Nuneaton and Dorchester.

We realise that Wolves are three divisions above us. We know that we face a very strong test and that they need to have an off day for us to win today. But this is the FA Cup and shocks do happen. We will be doing our utmost to ensure that you go home happy this evening with a performance to be proud of; win, lose or draw.

We know that we must not make the same mistakes as we did against Woking. We need to ensure that doesn't happen today because we know we will be punished for making even the slightest error.

We need to be water-tight and work hard but our biggest weapon in our armoury today is you – our supporters. Your backing of this club is remarkable

and today it can play a huge part. There will be times when we will be on the back foot but we need you with us. We need you to roar us along when we are attacking and to act as a barrier for the opposition when we have our own backs to the wall.

Underdogs

It'll be the first time in a long, long while – and certainly the first time since I have been here – that we are underdogs to win a game of football. Today we will play without pressure. The players can relax in knowing nothing will be won or lost today. I will tell those 11 players who cross that white line to go and express themselves.

Nobody will expect us to win today but we have our own standards. We slipped below those standards at Woking and it's up to us to go out there this afternoon and give you a performance. It might not make up for that defeat on New Year's Day but we will give it our best shot.

Great cup tradition

This club has a great cup tradition and myself and the players will be going out to continue that. And, as I have said, with your help we might have a chance of pulling off something special.

Your support has never dwindled in the face of adversity and today is your chance to show the football world that this club is still alive and kicking.

We took almost 1,000 supporters to a non-league match on New Year's Day and that is truly incredible. A huge thanks to each and every one of you who made the trip.

I hope we can reward your loyalty with something to really shout about this afternoon.

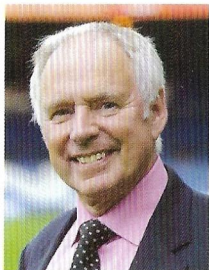
Get behind us and enjoy the game.

Paul



FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



Good afternoon, a very happy New Year to you and welcome to Kenilworth Road for this intriguing cup tie.

I have always believed the third round of the FA Cup is one of the season's very special days when 64 clubs, spanning the divisions, are randomly thrown together in the world's oldest knock-out competition. I appreciate it has lost its glamour for a few clubs at the higher end, but to most of us in the real world it is still a thrilling event when it gets to this stage and beyond.

Compelling tie

As far as we are concerned, it's thrown up a compelling tie against Wolverhampton Wanderers, a club with a mighty history and proud tradition.

When I first became interested in football, in 1958, Wolves were the most successful club in the land. They won the First Division title that year and the next season, before winning the FA Cup in 1960. Their captain was Billy Wright, a man with whom I was to become very closely involved in later life, but, in my early years as a football fan, he was simply a distant hero. Captain of

England, the first man ever to represent his country 100 times and, amazingly, never once booked or sent off.

Football didn't attract the same show business celebrity at the time as it does today, but Billy leapt onto the front pages when he married a top pop star of the day, Joy Beverley of the Beverley Sisters. They were the Posh and Becks of the 50s!

Billy played in a Showbiz XI charity match in my hometown of Berkhamsted in 1959 and I managed to get his autograph. Little did I know then that he would give me my first job in television nearly 20 years later when he'd become Head of Sport for ATV in the Midlands.

I worked alongside Billy for many years in television sport and I loved hearing all his anecdotes about football at the very highest level in the 50s and before. As you can imagine, I particularly enjoyed it when he talked about Luton players he'd known and played against. He particularly rated Gordon Turner, Billy Bingham, Syd Owen, Bob Morton and Ron Baynham, all of whom were playing in the first match I ever saw.

Having worked in the Midlands for many years, either side of stints in London, I have been lucky enough to have made many friends amongst players, staff and supporters of Wolves, so I am delighted to be welcoming the club here today. Plus it'll be good to have Kevin Foley and David Edwards (injury permitting) back here at Kenilworth Road.



Your support will be vital this afternoon - and beyond

But that's where the effusive reception ends. I know there are three divisions between us, but our players will be giving it everything today to show just how good they can be - worthy of playing at least a division higher than they are at the moment.

Our league results lately have been mixed to say the least, infuriating even, particularly against Woking on Tuesday. If you were there, you will know how much of the game we controlled, how we should have gone ahead before they took the match away from us, and how individual mistakes again cost us the points. We could well have won the match, but we didn't, and it is so frustrating.

Mistakes

There's been no end of individual mistakes this season, especially in defence, although not entirely, which have cost us dear. But it doesn't alter the fact we have an excellent squad of players and one that is improving. They all know when they have messed up, they hold up their hands, but they are all together as a team and they KNOW they are good enough to win the title. I can't think of a time this season when we've been played off the park - we just seem to fall foul of some horrendous errors and get punished for them.

The second half of the season starts here, or more specifically on Tuesday against Barrow - let's watch them go and give them our full support as ever. The players want what we all want - promotion and a return to the Football League.

Enjoy this special game today and I urge you to stay positive and supportive for the rest of the season. Your renowned, passionate vocal backing means an enormous amount to the players and this place really rocks at times.

Let's make it rock again today - there's nowhere in the world I'd rather be than Kenilworth Road when the Town are scoring and the stadium is jumping!

Bye for now.

Nick Owen

HONOURS

Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988
Runners-up 1989

F.A. Cup:
Runners-up 1959
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup: Runners-up 1988

Football League Division Two:
Champions 1981/82
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Football League Division Three (South):
Winners 1936/37
Runners-up 1935/36

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One: Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:
Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

United League: Champions 1897/98
Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

Southern Alliance: Runners-up 1913/14

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RONNIE

HENRY

We had hoped to get the New Year off to a great start but it wasn't to be after Tuesday's defeat at Woking.

The dressing room was a low place to be and everyone was really disappointed that we could not turn our dominance and chances into a victory. At 1-1 we had several good opportunities to take the lead, including a Jon Shaw header that somehow the goalkeeper turned onto the woodwork.

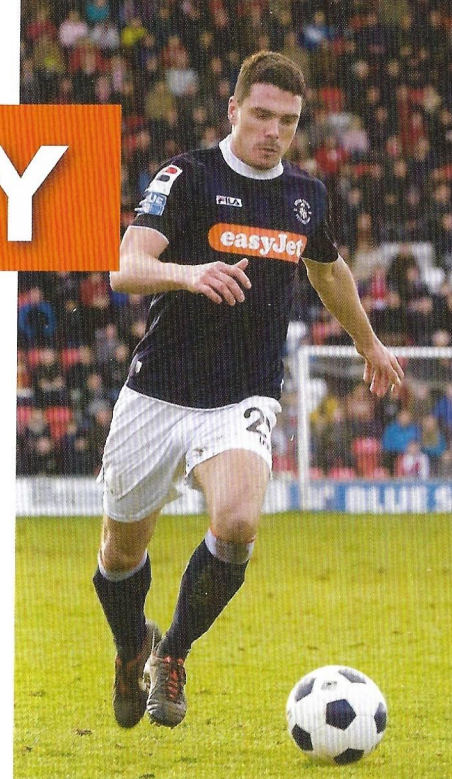
But, as we all know, it's goal that win games and ultimately we were punished for making mistakes and we left empty-handed. Nine times out of 10 I think we would have won that game but we must move on now and learn from what went wrong at Woking.

This afternoon we face an entirely different proposition as we welcome Wolves to Kenilworth Road. There has been a lot of excitement in the camp in the build up to this game because we really fancy our chances.

There is no getting away from the fact Wolves are a class act. They were only in the Premier League last season and have a squad, jam-packed with quality players. Many of them have played at the top level and represented their country.

It's going to be a tall order but what a game it promises to be. Kenilworth Road is going to be absolutely rocking. There won't be a spare seat in the house and I hope you can get behind us like I know you can. I said in my first ever notes this summer that I remember being at the Wrexham Play-Off match at the end of last season and recall how electric the atmosphere was that night. I'm sure that helped the lads play the way they did that night, so here's to more of the same today.

The FA Cup is the most famous cup competition in the world, giving clubs lower down the leagues the opportunity to get one over on some of the big clubs. This afternoon we have that chance. I would say that nobody is expecting us to win but I'd be wrong. As players, we do expect to win. If we didn't then what would be the point? There is no pressure on us to win though, all of that will be firmly on Wolves. But, as I said, we feel as though we can win today. Our home



form in recent months has been good. We've won our last four games here and, despite the New Year's Day defeat, we came into the game in decent form.

We began the season struggling to find our feet at Kenilworth Road but now we're focused on making our home a fortress and the results are beginning to show. A victory this afternoon would go a long way to increase our confidence even further.

Today, though, we will make sure we stay in the game. We've had a penchant for gifting teams the lead this season so it's imperative that we don't do that against Wolves. This is the FA Cup and anything can happen and what I can assure you is that every single player who is involved today – plus the management staff – will be giving their all to ensure we're in the hat for tomorrow's fourth draw.

A win today might not make up for New Year's Day's disappointment but it would give us a huge springboard to go on and succeed in the league, which is of course our number one priority.

Please keep up your fantastic support and a big thanks on behalf of all the lads for your backing at Woking.

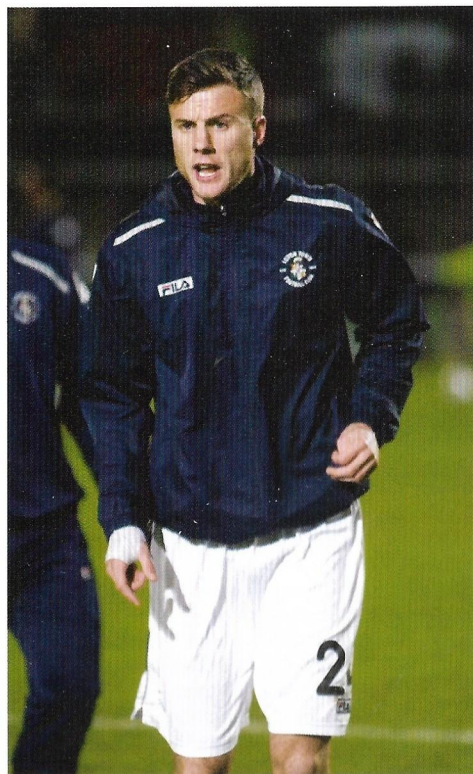
Ronnie is sponsored by Mark Francome and Key Holder Lettings & Management

AROUND TOWN

THE LATEST NEWS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

SMITH SEALS PERMANENT SWITCH

The Hatters were delighted to announce the permanent signing of York City's Jonathan Smith for a fee of £50,000 on New Year's Day.



The 25-year-old arrives back at Kenilworth Road after a successful loan spell, and has put pen to paper on a contract that ends in the summer of 2014.

The midfielder, who scored on his last appearance on loan for the Town against Alfreton on 8th December, became the second player to agree terms with the club in the last fortnight following news that winger Scott Neilson signed a contract until the end of this season after his release from Crawley.

Smith made his debut for the Hatters at Hereford on 6th November and made a total of six appearances under Paul Buckle before he was recalled by York from his loan spell.

A delighted Buckle told Talk of the Town: "It goes without saying that myself, the coaching staff and players, are thrilled to have Jonathan with us permanently.

"In the time he was with us he was fantastic, and it was a shame when he had to return to York because he was really beginning to hit form - as was shown in his last game in which he netted against Alfreton.

"He's a winner, and they are hard to find - especially one who won the League 2 title like he did last season. That kind of experience is invaluable. The same goes for Scott Neilson - he won promotion with Crawley two seasons running.

"These signings once again underline our intent of success, as well as the draw of Luton Town to players.

"These are exciting times and I can't wait to see both Jonathan and Scott in action in 2013."

Jonathan will continue to wear squad number 24, whilst Scott will sport number 20.

EBBSFLEET TICKET ARRANGEMENTS

The club have issued the following information for season ticket and matchday ticket holders following the late postponement of the match with Ebbsfleet United on 29th December.

Season Ticket Holders are required to dispose of voucher 12. This will have been the voucher those supporters handed in had they entered the ground. We will use special match voucher A to allow entry into the ground at a future match to be decided later in the season.

Match day Ticket Holders that had not entered the ground can use their existing ticket for any rearranged fixture. Your allocated seat will not be resold. Tickets are refundable up to 24 hours prior to any rearranged game. Therefore if you find you are unable to attend a rearranged fixture a full refund or exchange to a future game will be given on the return of your ticket. This can be returned either in person or via post to Luton Town Ticket Office, Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds LU1 1DH.

Those match day ticket holders who had already entered the ground will be able to use the original stub to

enter at the turnstiles for any rearranged fixture. Your seat will not be resold. Again, if you are unable to attend the rearranged fixture tickets will be refundable on the presentation of this stub at the ticket office. This can again be handed in by person or sent by post.

Any ticket that had not been collected from the collection point is still available and will remain so until the rearranged date.

Refunds can only be given back in the form of the original purchase i.e. card refund for card payment.

IF IT'S A DRAW

Should the score end level this afternoon it's a trip to the Molineux for the Town on Tuesday 15th January. Ticket details for this potential replay will be released online and in future programmes if necessary.

NEW DATE FOR HYDE & TELFORD

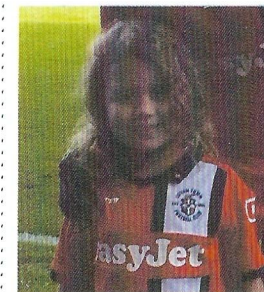
The Town's hectic New Year schedule has got busier with the Blue Square Bet Premier fixtures with Hyde and AFC Telford rearranged.

The game at home to Hyde has been rearranged for Tuesday 29th January (kick-off 7.45pm). The two sides were due to meet on 12th January but the game was postponed due to the Hatters' involvement in the FA Trophy. It means six of the Town's nine fixtures in January will take place at Kenilworth Road, including today's cup tie. Meanwhile, our trip to AFC Telford - rained off before Christmas - will take place on Tuesday 15th January (kick-off 7.45pm).

Luton Town Football Club prides itself on the passion, commitment and loyalty of our supporters. You support the Club in fantastic numbers both home and away and we will always be grateful for that fantastic support. The Club is working hard to introduce a new generation of supporters to watching matches here at Kenilworth Road by encouraging local schools and football clubs to bring groups to our home matches.

For this long-term scheme to be successful we then rely on these young fans asking their parents to bring them back to another match and to do that we need to ensure that Kenilworth Road is a safe and enjoyable environment for them to come to. Therefore the Club seeks the support of our existing fans in

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FAITH!



Happy seventh birthday to Faith Brown who is at Kenilworth Road with dad Isaac.

Isaac writes: "Wishing you a happy seventh birthday, I hope you enjoyed London Zoo, Jamie Oliver's & Les Miserable yesterday

but now the real treat is here - watching the mighty Hatters in the FA Cup! Hope you enjoy, love you so, so much, Daddy xxx"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TRACY!



We'd also like to wish a very happy 32nd birthday to ardent Town supporter Tracy Finlan.

Tracy's favourite player is goalkeeper Mark Tyler and she has been following the fortunes of the

Hatters for over 12 years, rarely missing a home game. Happy birthday Tracy!

doing just that, and one way you can really make a difference and to help us create the next generation of Luton Town fans is to please mind your language.

Foul and abusive language is unacceptable - as is discriminatory language or actions of any kind. To help us eradicate such language and behaviour from our stadium, please report any instances directly to a steward or member of staff.

We want you all to be loud and proud and we also want our younger fans and their parents to want to come back to future games and not be put off by such bad language.

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HOME TICKET PRICES

Adults (22-64) £18, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £13, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £10, Youths (10-16) £8, Juniors (under 10s) £5.



LUTON TOWN v BARROW BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



LUTON TOWN v SKELMERSDALE UNITED FA TROPHY THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY 12TH JANUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Admission prices: adults £10, 65-75 & 17-21-year-olds £6, 10-16 & over-75s £4, under-10s £1. The David Preece, Kenilworth Upper Upper, Blocks F and G in the Main Stand and Blocks H and J in the Enclosure will remain closed for this fixture. Supporters are able to purchase tickets in person from the ticket office or by ringing 01582 416976. Cash turnstiles will also be available on the day of the game. As certain areas of the ground remain closed and unreserved seating applies, automatic cup authorisation forms will not be actioned for this fixture. Any diamond season ticket holder who has not taken their free FA Trophy ticket to date can do so by contacting the Ticket Office.



NUNEATON TOWN v LUTON TOWN BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Admission prices and selling arrangement for this fixture will be released when received from Nuneaton.



LUTON TOWN v LINCOLN CITY BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



LUTON TOWN v STOCKPORT COUNTY BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY 2013, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets are now on sale at normal matchday prices.



Buy tickets online at www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown or call 01582 416976

COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Happy New Year and good afternoon; welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our first match of 2013, one that promises to be our biggest match of the season so far, against Wolves.

From a commercial viewpoint, we have been delighted with the response to sponsorship and corporate hospitality for this match. We have the pleasure of entertaining a match sponsor, matchball sponsor and three mascots today.

2013 promises to be another exciting year at Kenilworth Road as the team continue to push for promotion. Off the pitch we are already busy planning for the end-of-season awards as well as for events next season.

I hope to explain details of these in future programmes but, for now, I'd like to thank all of our corporate guests and sponsors for their support in 2012 and look forward to a positive and successful 2013.

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R.S Robinson Heating Engineers are a family run business who have been trading for over 30 years specialising in the plumbing, heating and gas maintenance service industry for domestic and light commercial customers. A team of engineers cover the areas of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. R.S Robinson can be contacted on 07850 462932. Richard and his team would like to wish Luton Town every success for 2013.

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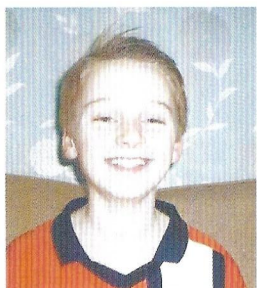
Gibbs & Dandy is a builders and timber merchant with over 30 branches each serving professionals in the local building trade. Founded over 170 years ago, they provide a broad product range, stocked in depth, supported by expertise and a personal service that their customers trust.

Their branches understand their local market and individual customer needs. They price competitively and

ensure that their service is fast and efficient. They focus on saving their customers time and money. Many of their branches have additional specialist ranges and services including bathroom showrooms, electrical and glass.

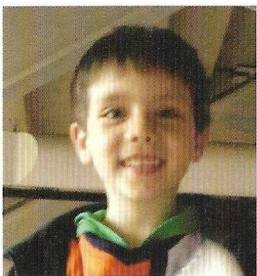
Their Luton branch is situated on Dallow Road and you can contact them on 01582 798798 and luton@gibbsanddandy.com.

COMMERCIAL MASCOTS



We have the pleasure of welcoming three very lucky mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

First up is 10-year-old Adam Fleet. Adam plays for Olney Town Colts and his favourite Hatters player is midfielder Alex Lawless.



Our next two mascots are Thomas and Sophia Toumazou. Thomas is six and plays for Ramsey Manor and his favourite player is striker Stuart Fleetwood. Sophia is five and her favourite player Andre Gray.



All three mascots will get to meet their favourite players in the dressing room before leading the team out onto the pitch before kick-off.



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 JAMES DANCE HOME: Tommy Lennon AWAY: WHOSH	 LEWIS KIDD HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available	 MATT ROBINSON HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Doug Knight	 JAKE WOOLLEY HOME: Ian Gazeley AWAY: Available
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 SIMON AINGE HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 ARNAUD MENDY HOME: Loyal Luton AWAY: WHOSH	 SCOTT NEILSON HOME: Formula Security LTD AWAY: Available	 JONATHAN SMITH HOME: Available AWAY: Available
 ALAN NEILSON HOME: Cleneden Plant Sales AWAY: Ben Gray	 CARL EMBERSON HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 DMITRI KHARINE HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 PAUL CARDEN HOME: Available AWAY: Available
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WELCOME WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS



Cup fever hits Kenilworth Road this afternoon as the Hatters play host to Championship side Wolves.

After dropping through the relegation trap door from the Premier League last campaign, Wolves have had an indifferent start to life in the second tier.

Stale Solbakken was installed to soothe the pain of relegation and pursue an onslaught back into the promised land but it has been anything but a cruise for the Midlands outfit.

Solbakken's men sit 18th in the Championship after a poor run of results that has seen them pick up just three league wins in 10 matches.

Despite their form in the league, Wolves have enjoyed their trips to Kenilworth Road in years gone by as their success overwhelms the home side's in the previous meetings.

In the 16 matches between the two sides in Bedfordshire, Wolves have come out on top seven times, including three wins in the last five against the Hatters at Kenilworth Road.

Wolves and Luton have met just twice prior to this afternoon in FA Cup action; once in 1932 at the third round stage and in 1960 with both occasions seeing Wolves side run out comfortable winners.

It may not be an unfamiliar ground to the Wolves fans, nor will it be to one or two players in the Wolves

dressing room. Kevin Foley rose through the ranks at Kenilworth Road playing an indispensable role in the 2005 League 1 winning side. The Luton-born, Republic of Ireland international full-back, went on to make over 150 appearances during a 12-year stint at the club before making the switch to the Molineux on a three-year contract.

Foley is not the only former Hatter who jumps out on the squad listing, however, as Dave Edwards returns to Kenilworth Road after his departure in 2008. The Welsh international spent just the one season with the Hatters in 2007 before earning himself a move to the Molineux.

Sylvan Ebanks-Blake will be the one to watch for the Hatters this afternoon as the former Manchester United youngster heads into the tie in scintillating form. The Wolves hitman has notched up nine for the season already and will provide a real threat for the Town's back-line to keep an eye on.

He will be the spearhead in an all-out barrage from Solbakken's Wolves as they look to overturn a recent rot that has seen three successive defeats after an impressive 2-1 triumph over promotion hopefuls Blackpool.

Both sides head into the New Year struggling for consistency but on the brink of something magical. Will it be the Town in the hat for the next round or will Wolves rally into round four?

THE WOLVES

AN AT-A-GLANCE LOOK AT THE WOLVES SQUAD

STALE SOLBAKKEN

Norwegian boss appointed in the summer. Enjoyed success as a player with Ham Kam and Lillestrom in his homeland before twice winning league titles in Denmark with Alborg and Copenhagen. Started his managerial career back at Ham Kam, winning promotion to the top division, before going into mastermind five league titles with Copenhagen.

CARL IKEME

Highly-rated goalkeeper who has grabbed his chance following an injury to Wayne Hennessey. Waited patiently for his opportunity having been with the club since 2003.

DORUS DE VRIES

Dutch 'keeper who signed from Swansea in June 2011. Experienced stopper who made 200 appearances for the Swans. A Dutch Under-21 international.

GEORG MARGREITTER

Austrian defender who penned a four-year contract with the club. An Austrian Under-21 international, he made his name at Austria Vienna.

RICHARD STEARMAN

Wolverhampton-born defender who made the move from Leicester in 2008. An England Under-21 international who can play at right-back or centre-half.

JODY CRADDOCK

Hugely experienced centre-half who has been at the Molineux since signing from Sunderland for £1.2m in 2003.

CHRISTOPHE BERRA

Scottish international defender who has been a mainstay in the Wolves side since signing from Hearts in January 2009.

RONALD ZUBAR

Former Caen and Marseille right-back who arrived at Molineux in 2009.

KEVIN FOLEY

No stranger to Kenilworth Road, Kevin joined Wolves in 2007 after making 166 for the Hatters. Gone on to flourish at the Molineux, helping the club to the Championship title in 2009.

STEPHEN WARD

Versatile Republic of Ireland international who joined in January 2007. Is capable of playing in defence, midfield or in attack.

DAVE EDWARDS

Another former Luton man in the Wolves squad. Signed for the club in January 2009 after just seven

months at Kenilworth Road and has gone to represent Wales at international level.

DAVID DAVIS

Product of Wolves' academy, he learned his trade out on loan with Darlington and Walsall before breaking into the first team squad this season.

KARL HENRY

Experienced midfielder at the heart of the Wolves engine room, who signed for his hometown club from Stoke in 2006. Clocked up his 250th appearance for the club on Boxing Day.

BAKARY SAKO

Exciting French winger who has made an immediate impact this season after signing from St Etienne during the summer.

TONGO DOUBIA

French-born Mali international midfielder who signed from Rennes after impressing on loan.

JAMIE O'HARA

England Under-21 international who signed from Tottenham in January 2011 after catching the eye whilst on loan from White Hart Lane.

RAZAK BOUKARI

Pacey winger who arrived at Molineux in the summer from Rennes but a calf injury has curbed his progress this term.

STEPHEN HUNT

Often the heartbeat of the Wolves side, the midfielder has been hit with injuries this term. His goals and never-say-side attitude have made him a fans' favourite.

SYLVAN EBANKS-BLAKE

Prolific striker who signed from Plymouth in January 2008. Fired the goals that won Wolves promotion to the Premier League and already has 10 goals this season.

KEVIN DOYLE

Republic of Ireland international frontman who made his name with Reading, who he scored 55 goals for in four years. Excelled since arriving at the Molineux and signed a contract extension this summer.

FRANK NOUBLE

Former Chelsea and West Ham youngster who signed this summer. Represented England at Under-17 and 19 level and learned his trade with loan spells at several clubs.

BJORN SIGUDARSON

Iceland international striker who signed from Lillestrom on a four year this summer.

GREAT GAMES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH RECOUNTS A CLASSIC ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THE HATTERS AND WOLVES



Bernard Streten gathers the ball

THE BEST GAME EVER SEEN! WOLVES 5-4 TOWN 29/8/56

The Town had successfully survived the 1955/56 season which was their first in Division One (now the Premier League) and along the way had beaten Wolves, then one of the powers in the land, 5-1 at home and 2-1 at Molineux.

The close season had not seen any major signings due to the Board's insistence that the team would be 'homegrown' as far as possible. It was pointed out, however, that if this policy did not work, then money would be made available.

Ron Baynham and George Cummins were carrying injuries and were unable to take their places as the Hatters opened season 1956/57 at home to Sunderland. A sun-soaked crowd of 23,049 gathered to see an emphatic 6-2 win, with homegrown Gordon Turner leading the way with four goals in a display which dispelled any misgivings the supporters may have had with the 'no buy - no sell' policy.

The following Wednesday, Wolves were the visitors to Kenilworth Road and in a highly charged atmosphere, generated by a crowd of 26,715, the visitors, who had won their first game of the campaign 5-1, were seen off by a single goal from local boy Bob Morton.

By the time of the return with Wolves a week later, the Town had won their third game in a row - at Charlton - and were now heading the table. The majority of the 46,781 crowd were therefore out to see the toppling of

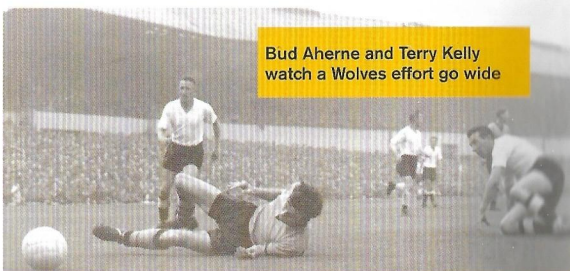
the league leaders and the outfit who had beaten their team three times running.

The Hatters were without captain Syd Owen and John Groves. Terry Kelly and Reg Pearce took their places but this did not appear to affect the team as Mike Cullen and Turner put the Town two up in the first 10 minutes.

Jimmy Murray reduced the deficit five minutes later and then Bill Slater, from the penalty spot, levelled the score. Peter Broadbent made the score 3-2 to Wolves in the 25th minute only for Turner to latch on to another Cullen pass to equalise five minutes later.

Wolves then scored twice to give the half-time scoreline an unrealistic look, but mid-way through the second period, Turner notched his hat-trick goal to set up a pulsating last few minutes as the Town desperately fought for the equaliser which did not come due to some fine saves by England goalkeeper Bert Williams.

The national press went on about the game for weeks with Desmond Hackett of the 'Daily Express' being moved to say that it was the best game he had ever seen and commented that it was a tragedy that either side had to lose and that the match had not been filmed.



Bud Aherne and Terry Kelly watch a Wolves effort go wide

Wolves: Williams, Stuart, Harris, Slater, Wright, Flowers, Hooper, Broadbent, Murray, Booth, Mullen.

Luton: Streten, Dunne, Aherne, Pemberton, Kelly, Shanks, Cullen, Turner, Morton, Pearce, Adam.

THOUGHTS FROM THE OAK ROAD

TALK OF THE TOWN GETS THE INSIDE WORD FROM THE VISITORS' CAMP

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? Andrew Cheeseman

AGE? 46 today!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB?

Since 1973. I fell in love with the kit colour as a Kent schoolboy aged six.

HOW'S LIFE FOR WOLVES POST-PREMIER LEAGUE?

Happier! We have always been a financially sound club with clear budgets, but now we have much more realistic board aspirations. Most fans knew we hadn't spent anywhere near enough to deserve to stay up and Steve Morgan gambled and lost. No-one at Wolves wants to go up and be constantly fighting relegation - we'd rather take our time in the Championship and build from new foundations.

WHAT DO FANS MAKE OF NEW MANAGER STALE SOLBAKKEN?

Fans were delighted to get a fresh face that wasn't just one of the regularly touted names. The guy seems intelligent and dedicated but the jury is out on his tactics at this level and his man-management is definitely being tested.

WAS MICK MCCARTHY HARSHLY TREATED LAST SEASON?

The crowd appear split about the treatment of Mick but I'd say those who say that we should have stuck by him are really just venting current frustrations around our lack of consistency. Mick had to go as he could take us no further and was given more than long enough to prove himself. We will never forget what he did for us - inheriting only 13 professionals from the Glenn Hoddle era (shudder!) and getting us promoted within three seasons. Despite his protestations to the contrary, MM did stand for 'Merlin the Magician' after all.

DID THE MONEY SPENT ON STADIUM EXPANSION COST YOU YOUR PLACE IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE LAST SEASON?

You won't find many Wolves fans who saw the need for expansion - we rarely have a sell-out crowd, and the Steve Bull stand has only been 60 per cent full at best this season. The new North Bank (I am a season ticket holder in the upper tier) is just huge and offers a cracking view of both the whole pitch and indeed the city centre and beyond. Would we still be in the Premier League if we had bought two or three quality players instead? Who would Mick have bought? Personally, I doubt we'd have stayed up.

THERE ARE A FEW LUTON CONNECTIONS IN YOUR SIDE TODAY: KEVIN FOLEY AND DAVID EDWARDS. HOW HAVE THESE TWO PLAYERS GOT ON AT WOLVES?

Kevin has been my favourite Wolves player for many a season. He's got a superb attitude, great awareness and is very much appreciated by the fans. He was our Player of Season a couple of years back and rarely puts a foot wrong. I hope we re-sign him in the summer. Edwards has never really galvanised a regular starting position, with many other players being preferred in the advance midfield spot. However, he too is popular and has repeatedly come off the bench to good effect. Both these players have seen off stiff competition over the past four seasons and I consider them great buys for us.

WHO'S YOUR PLAYER TO WATCH?

Bakary Sako due to his powerful shot and quality at set pieces.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO KENILWORTH ROAD BEFORE?

Loads of times, and I always enjoy coming here, though it's been a while since we had a crackerjack match - a 3-3 in the mid-1990's.

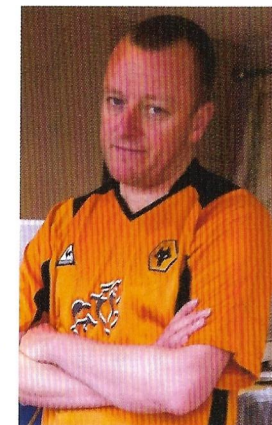
WHAT'S YOUR CLUB'S FAVOURITE CHANT/SONG?

Stevie Bull's A Tatter. We still sing it now as he had the biggest impact on our club of anyone in living memory.

ARE YOU EXPECTING LUTON TO GIVE YOU A CLOSE GAME TODAY?

Of course it will be tough and doubtless close. We don't know your players as well as we used to, and home advantage could tip it for you - but I'll go for an optimistic 3-2 to Wolves.

May the best team win!



CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS 10 POST-WAR WOLVES 'CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS'

1948/49

Stan Cullis guided Wolves to FA Cup final glory in 1948/49. They lost just one of their opening seven First Division games, including a 5-0 win at Bolton, then trounced Huddersfield 7-1 and Sheffield United 6-0 as inconsistent form saw them finish in sixth position. Wolves defeated Chesterfield 6-0, Sheffield United 3-0, Liverpool 3-1, West Brom 1-0 and Manchester United 1-0 in the FA Cup before Jesse Pye – later a Luton player – scored twice as they beat Leicester 3-1 in the final.

1953/54

Johnny Hancocks, Dennis Wilshaw and Roy Swinbourne scored 74 goals between them as Wolves won the League Championship for the first time in 1953/54. Wolves lost two of their opening three games but stormed to the top with an 18-match unbeaten run, with Johnny Hancocks grabbing a hat-trick in an 8-1 demolition of Chelsea. Other notable wins during that period included 3-2 at Arsenal and 2-1 at Newcastle, with Wolves maintaining their challenge by beating Blackpool 4-1, Sheffield United 6-1, Newcastle 3-2 and Preston 1-0. They completed the double over local rivals West Brom and won the title by four points.

1957/58

Wolves won the League Championship for the second time under Stan Cullis in 1957/58. They lost their opening match 1-0 at Everton but then hammered Bolton 6-1 and Sunderland 5-0. An 18-match unbeaten run catapulted Wolves to the top of the table, beating Spurs 4-0 and Birmingham 5-1. Leading marksman Jimmy Murray scored hat-tricks as Wolves also trounced Birmingham 5-1 at Molineux, then triumphed 4-1 at Nottingham Forest. They won 2-0 at Arsenal and 4-0 at Manchester United during the closing weeks and would've equalled Arsenal's record 66 points had they not lost 2-1 at Sheffield Wednesday on the last day.

1958/59

Wolves scored 110 goals as they retained the League Championship in 1958/59. They kicked off with a 5-1 victory over Nottingham Forest and completed the double over Aston Villa before trouncing Manchester United 4-0. Wolves competed in the European Cup for the first time but lost 4-3 on aggregate to Schalke 04. Norman Deeley and Colin Booth grabbed hat-tricks as they hammered Portsmouth 7-0. Wolves lost just one of their last 17 matches, beating Leeds United 6-2 and Arsenal 6-1 as well as slamming five goals past Blackburn, West Brom and the Hatters. They won the title by six points and Billy Wright retired that summer.

1959/60

Stan Cullis plotted further FA Cup final glory in 1959/60. Wolves beat Nottingham Forest 3-1 in the FA Charity Shield and were unbeaten in their opening five league games, winning 6-4 at Manchester City. They defeated Vorwaerts 3-2 and Red Star 4-1 in the European Cup before losing to Barcelona. Norman Deeley scored four times in a 9-0 win over Fulham and Wolves beat title rivals Burnley 6-1, then netted five goals against West Ham and Chelsea but finished runners-up. They defeated Newcastle 4-2, Charlton 2-1, the Town 4-1, Leicester 2-1 and Aston Villa 1-0 in the FA Cup before beating Blackburn 3-0 in the final.

1971/72

Bill McGarry guided Wolves to the UEFA Cup final in 1971/72. John Richards replaced Bobby Gould in attack and formed an exciting partnership with Derek Dougan. Wolves hammered Arsenal 5-1 and won 3-1 at Manchester United during a 10-match unbeaten run that lifted them into the top six. Phil Parkes and John McAlle were ever-present as Wolves finished ninth, ending Leeds United's hopes of the double with a 2-1 win at Molineux. They defeated Academica 7-1, Den Haag 7-1, Carl Zeiss Jena 4-0, Juventus 3-2 and Ferencvaros 4-3 in the UEFA Cup to reach their first European final but lost 3-2 on aggregate to Spurs.



1972/73

Wolves were semi-finalists in both the FA Cup and League Cup in 1972/73. Bill McGarry's side defeated Orient 2-1, Sheffield Wednesday 3-1, Bristol Rovers 4-0 and Blackpool 1-0 in the League Cup before losing 3-2 to Spurs in the semi-final. Wolves beat Manchester United 1-0, Bristol City 1-0, Millwall 1-0 and Coventry 2-0 in the FA Cup before losing 1-0 to Leeds United in the FA Cup semi-final. In the First Division they defeated Liverpool 2-1 as well as hitting five goals past Stoke and Manchester City. John Richards was top scorer with 27 goals as Wolves finished fifth in the top-flight and qualified for the UEFA Cup.

1979/80

John Barnwell managed Wolves to League Cup final success in 1979/80. Former Liverpool and England captain Emyln Hughes was signed during the summer, then Andy Gray arrived from Aston Villa for a record fee in September. Wolves were early pace-setters after losing just two of their first 10 First Division games, hitting three goals past Ipswich, Everton, Manchester United and Arsenal. They defeated Burnley 3-1, Crystal Palace 2-1, QPR 1-0, Grimsby 2-0 and Swindon 4-3 in the League Cup before Andy Gray's goal beat holders Nottingham Forest 1-0 in the Wembley final. Wolves finished sixth in the First Division.

1987/88

Steve Bull scored 34 goals as Wolves won the Fourth Division title in 1987/88. They had lost in the Play-Off final the previous season and Nigel Vaughan scored against his former club as Wolves went top of the table after a 2-1 win over Newport County in October. Steve Bull netted hat-tricks as they remained in pole position, beating Exeter 4-2 and Darlington 5-3. Graham Turner's side clinched the Fourth Division title with a 2-0 win over Hartlepool and also won the Sherpa Van Trophy, beating Bristol City 3-1, Brentford 4-0, Peterborough 4-0, Torquay 1-0 and Notts County 4-1 before defeating Burnley 2-0 in the Wembley final.

2002/03

Dave Jones guided Wolves to First Division Play-Off final success in 2002/03. Notable summer signings included Paul Ince from Middlesbrough and Denis Irwin from Manchester United, with Wolves racing to the top of the table with three straight wins. They revived their promotion challenge with a 10-match unbeaten run, also beating Newcastle en route to the FA Cup sixth round. Wolves slammed four goals past Sheffield Wednesday, Ipswich and Crystal Palace, then hammered Gillingham 6-0. Kenny Miller was top scorer as Wolves qualified for the Play-Offs in fifth position, beating Sheffield United 3-0 in the final.



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TOWN P-P EBBSFLEET



The referee gives his verdict to both managers

WASHOUT FRUSTRATES EVERYONE

Boss Paul Buckle could not hide his disappointment after the Town's game with Ebbsfleet was postponed by the referee 20 minutes before kick-off due to a waterlogged pitch.

Referee Richard Martin deemed the Kenilworth Road playing surface unplayable but Buckle believed the game should have gone ahead. "There's a lot of angry fans and disappointed staff and players," said the boss. "Looking out now the rain is clearing up and there's blue skies. We asked the referee to give it more time but he wasn't willing to do that.

"We were in at 12 noon training on the pitch and it was perfect. The referee spoke to myself and Liam Daish [the Ebbsfleet manager] at 2pm and said he'd make an inspection at 2.30pm. For me the conditions did not deteriorate in that time.

"He's dropped the ball bang inside the penalty area and said the ball didn't bounce but that is normal for this time of year, you are not going to get perfect pitches. The forecast said it would clear up - I just can't understand it. I was speaking with our groundsman and he said the pitch drains quickly. It looks playable now and it's hugely frustrating for everyone."



THE WANDERER RETURNS

TALK OF THE TOWN CAUGHT UP WITH WOLVES' KEVIN FOLEY, WHO TODAY MAKES HIS FIRST RETURN TO KENILWORTH ROAD

There can't have been many Town fans who saw the FA Cup draw live and didn't immediately think of former Hatters Kevin Foley and David Edwards within seconds of the respective balls coming out of the hat.

Of the pair, the tie takes on added significance for Luton-born Foley and it is a game that is long overdue for the defender, who has watched from afar as his own personal career has taken him in an opposite direction to Town since he made the switch to the Midlands.

Making a playing return to Kenilworth Road has long been an ambition for Foley. He has been an infrequent visitor to catch up with old team-mates whenever the chance has arisen since he left in 2007, but the 28-year-old has longed for the chance to run out 'at home' one more time since forcing his way into the first-team at the age of 18.

Bizarrely for someone so keen on a home coming, the Republic of Ireland international admits he was probably the last person to actually find out about the game.

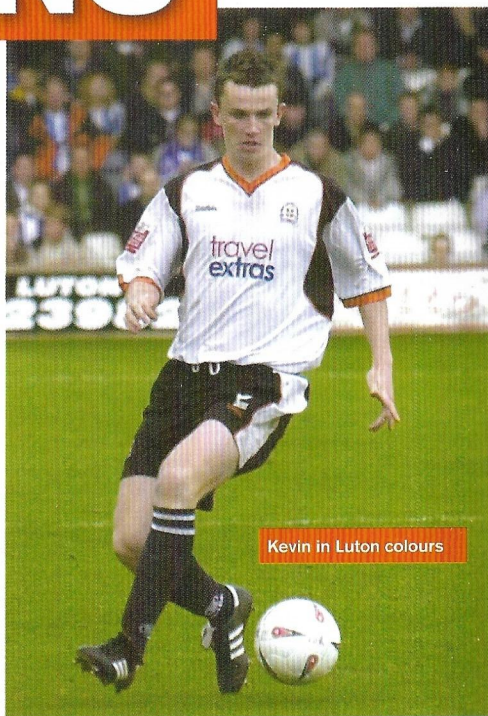
"I had actually forgotten that the draw was taking place so I didn't watch it live," he explained.

"I had about 10 messages in the space of about 30 seconds and people calling me. My friend asked if I'd seen the draw. I was oblivious to the whole thing on the Sunday, I just couldn't believe it.

"If you'd asked me who I wanted, I would have said Luton, to have them away as well where I started my career, it is brilliant, I couldn't have asked for a better draw."

After just over 150 appearances for the Hatters, Foley made the switch to Molineux in the first week of the 2007/08 season, signing a three-year contract. Luton had been relegated from the Championship at the end of the previous season, along with Leeds and Southend, while Wolves had finished fifth and lost out in the Play-Off semi-finals.

Two seasons after promotion to that level, the Hatters were relegated and it took Foley another two campaigns at that level with Wolves, before he could celebrate



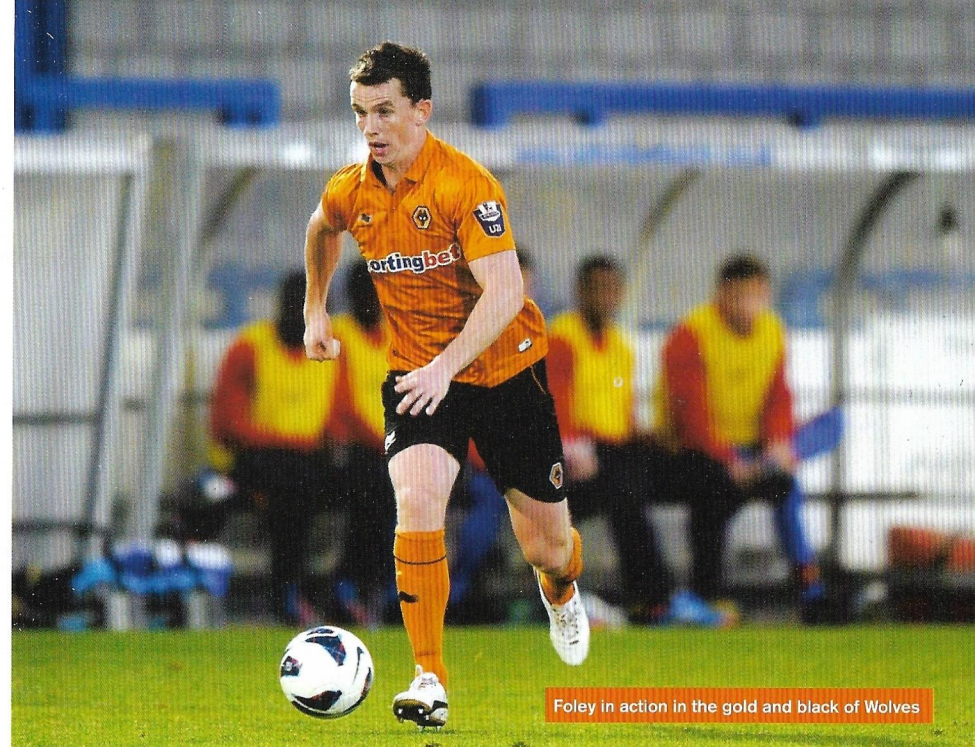
Kevin in Luton colours

promotion to the Premier League. Since then, paths have never crossed in league or cup competitions – until this afternoon.

A survivor of the last game in the 2007 season, Foley was on the wrong side of a 3-2 Wolves win back in March of that year. Nearly six years, later he'll face up to the Hatters in a gold shirt, no doubt hoping for a similar outcome. Before he even gets out on the pitch though, he admits he may find himself wandering down the corridor when he first arrives as old habits die hard.

"It is going to be very strange going into the away dressing room, that's for sure. I'll have to make sure I don't go into the wrong dressing room, but it will be nice to be back.

"Dean Brill is still there and I might know a few of the younger lads plus, of course, Alan Neilson, who I got on really well with. He was one of the first people to contact me about the game.



Foley in action in the gold and black of Wolves

"He has been doing really well and I really hope they can do the business this year. I've been saying that every year recently but he commented that it is very competitive now and a hard league to get out of, but he thinks they have got a really good chance. I only hope that can happen for the club because there are some great people there.

A return to former glories is high on Foley's wish list for the club that gave him his break in the game, nine years after he joined the youth set-up as a nine-year-old. "It is such a shame really with everything that happened after I left; administration, transfer embargos and deduction of points and everything like that. You would never have guessed that we had two years in the Championship six or seven years ago. I think the first year we finished 10th, we were hovering around the Play-Offs for a long time then tailed off towards the end, but that's football.

"You look at the teams that recently have come from nowhere, look at Southampton they were in League 1, Norwich are flying now but were in the bottom half the year Luton went down. It takes a few seasons but if Luton can get back on their feet and win a couple of promotions then I would be delighted to see them back near the top of League 1 and one day aiming to get back into the Championship.

"It's a long way off but I know it's possible because I've been a part of that when I was there."

An upturn in fortunes for his present employers, too, is something he is hoping a new year can bring after a mixed bag of results in recent weeks.

"We came out of a bad run of form at the start of December that didn't see us win in maybe nine or 10 games, we just couldn't put our finger on it. We had some sloppy performances but we also had some good games where nothing we hit went in.

"It seemed at Bristol City that everything we hit in the first half went in the goal and we know we just need to get on a run; get some back-to-back victories. We did that at Birmingham a week later but then couldn't get it going consistently at Middlesbrough, Blackpool, and Peterborough after that.

"The aim now is to make sure this match doesn't go the same way, it's a potential banana skin and everyone loves an upset. A lot of the players at Wolves now have come through the leagues so a lot of the lads would have played at Luton before anyway so I think we're prepared for it.

"For the lads that haven't, I'll be giving them a heads up of what to expect. We haven't really spoken about it much over Christmas but I'm certainly looking forward to it and it should be a good game."



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WOKING 3-1 TOWN



Scott Neilson goes for goal on his debut

NO NEW YEAR CHEER

The Town were made to rue a number of missed chances as they started the New Year with defeat at Woking.

Striker Jon Shaw hit the woodwork twice with the score at 1-1 - and that proved costly as two goals in the final 16 minutes gave the hosts all three points.

In the first half, a fabulous strike from Andre Gray had levelled for the Hatters after Billy Knott had swept the Cards in front as early as the third minute.

But, after spurning a string of opportunities, the Town were punished twice in the final stages to swing the game in Woking's favour. Knott got his second on 74 minutes before substitute Gavin McCullum set-up fellow sub Jayden Stockley for a third, four minutes later.

"Goals change games and mentalities," said Town boss Paul Buckle after he watched his side lose 3-1 at Woking.

Second-half strikes from Knott and Stockley gave the Cards all three points and Buckle felt the hosts' second goal came at a vital stage in the match. Knott's effort - a close range tap-in after Mark Tyler had spilled

a shot from Byron Bubb - restored the home side's lead and came minutes after Shaw saw a header come back off the underside of the crossbar.

And that moment proved crucial according to the Hatters chief. "It was a big moment in the game," Buckle said afterwards. "It was unbelievable that it didn't go in. Woking go up the other end and Mark knows he should hold it.

"99 times out of 100 Mark saves that and it came at a time when we had them on the back foot.

"At the time we were all over them and well on top. The goal gave Woking momentum and whenever we go behind it's always tough because we're such a big scalp for teams.

"We knew today was going to be a fight when we saw the pitch this morning and a mistake was all it took to lift Woking.

"Everything was going to plan but goals change games. It's a cliché, but it's true.

"We've spoken in the dressing room about critical times in games. We've got show up at both ends but today we were well short of that."



WOKING

Knott 3, 74, Stockley 78

3



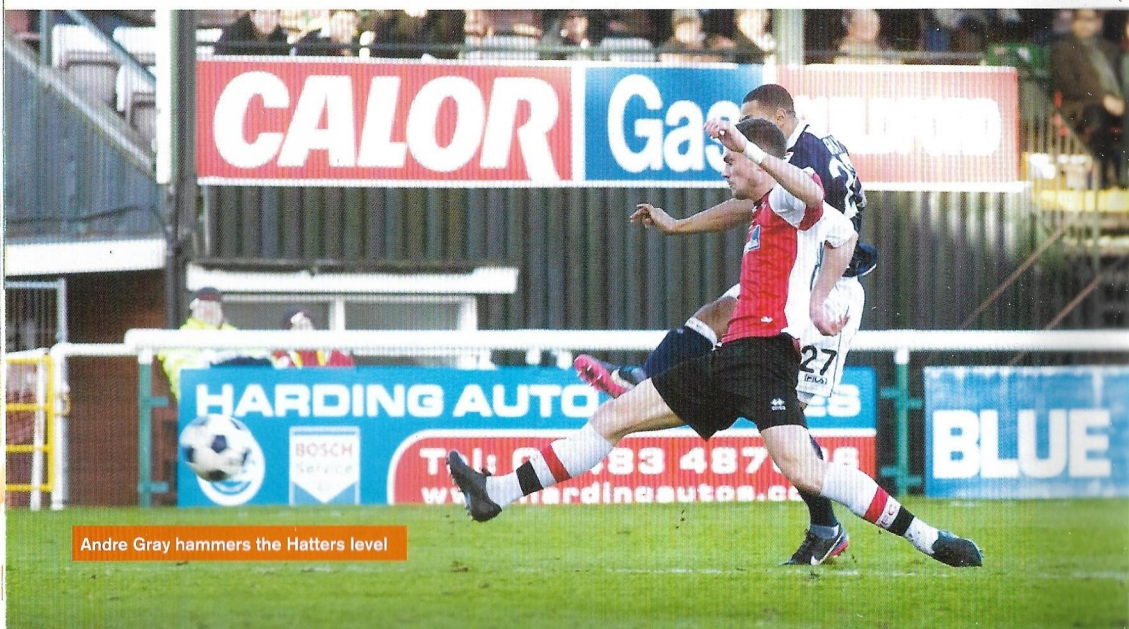
TOWN

Gray 8

1

Scott Neilson shields the ball on his Town debut

Jon Shaw saw this header turned onto the crossbar



Andre Gray hammers the Hatters level



POSSESSION	SHOTS OFF TARGET
50% 50%	3 6
CORNERS	FOULS
3 4	7 11
OFFSIDES	YELLOW CARDS
3 3	2 3
SHOTS ON TARGET	RED CARDS
7 3	0 0

WOKING: Howe, Newton, McNerney (sub McCallum 63), Doyle, Parkinson, Nutter, Ricketts, Betsy, Knott (sub Sinclair 90), Pires (sub Stockley 63), Bubb. **Subs not used:** Little, Mike.

TOWN: Tyler, Henry, Howells (sub Rowe-Turner 84), Ainge, Kovacs, Mendy (sub Smith 79), Lawless, Neilson, Shaw (sub Fleetwood 79), Rendell, Gray. **Subs not used:** Brill, O'Donnell.

ATTENDANCE: 2,961 (989 Luton)

JOHN HARTSON

LUTON IS A SPECIAL PLACE

IN THE SECOND OF A TWO-PART EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH TALK OF THE TOWN, JOHN HARTSON LOOKS BACK ON A CAREER THAT ALL STARTED AT KENILWORTH ROAD

In 1994, a young John Hartson hit the headlines with a goal against Newcastle, Talk of the Town wanted to know more about the impact this media attention had.

TALK OF THE TOWN: AT THAT STAGE WERE YOU AWARE OF THE INTEREST SURROUNDING YOU AND THE HEADLINES YOU WOULD CREATE?

JH: John, go home put a suit on, have a shave, we're going to meet George Graham, and I previously read in the papers that Liverpool were looking at me and I went up to Arsenal with David and we sat in his car with his phone going non-stop from the press trying to get hold of him. We walked into the office, I didn't have an agent at the time and George Graham actually said to me, 'Alan Smith has got injured this morning, Kevin Campbell has turned an ankle - if you sign today you'll be playing out there on Saturday with the England centre forward Ian Wright'. For a young man coming from Luton aged just 19 it was all over the papers and I made my debut on the Saturday having quickly signed. We drew 1-1 at Highbury. Duncan Ferguson got sent off for Everton and Wrighty got our goal and all of a sudden I was an Arsenal player. From having pictures of the likes of Paul Merson and Wright all over my walls growing up, all heroes of mine, I was taking to the field with them. It was quite surreal and it happened quite quickly and I had two very happy years at Highbury.

TOTT: HOW DID YOUR LIFE CHANGE AFTER LUTON? WAS IT QUITE SUBSTANTIAL MAKING THE STEP UP TO A BIG CLUB LIKE ARSENAL?

JH: Your profile gets bigger and everything but in terms of my life I've never changed, I'm still the same John at 37 years of age as I was when I was 16. My mates are still the same, I've played with some wonderful players, I've played for my country over 50 times and I've hit some really big heights in my life and I've hit quite a few lows

as well with my cancer but my friends and family have always been there for me. I'm a Swansea boy through and through and I went on to have this wonderful career but it's never gone to my head, I've never been egotistic or anything like that. I'm proud of my career but I'm still the same John that I was 20 years ago.

TOTT: WHAT ARE THE THINGS YOU THINK YOU LEARNT AT LUTON THAT YOU TOOK ON AND USED IN YOUR CAREER?

JH: I learnt to grow up at Luton. When you leave your parents and live with the family you have to get yourself in and out of the football club every day. It's hard work, it really is difficult because if I'd have stayed at Swansea I would have probably just hung about the street with my friends so you're going into a totally new environment. You have to train everyday, which can be difficult physically because you're not used to that - all you're used to is training in the school holidays with the school, so physically it can be hard. It tests you, the pre-season training used to kill me. I remember me and Kerry Dixon used to do pre-season together but he was my age now when I was 18, 19 and he was still beating me. It was a great time and I learnt a lot from my days at Luton playing with those experienced players. It was just a wonderful time, anyone who has come through the system at Luton and shared those same experiences as me as an apprentice - where you're cleaning people's boots and cleaning the stands and the dressing rooms and you're idolising the first team players at 16 and 17 - will they always say nice things about the club and it's something that is really close to my heart is Luton, and not just as a football club but as a place. When I came back today I spent an hour and a half just driving around. Luton has changed in 20 years. I've gone back to all the other clubs I've played for but never to Luton so I've been looking forward to this for a couple of months now because Luton has been a great place for me.



TOTT: YOU CAME THROUGH THE RANKS AT LUTON, A CLUB WHICH HAS A REPUTATION FOR PRODUCING YOUNG FOOTBALLERS, WHAT MAKES LUTON SO SPECIAL IN THAT RESPECT?

JH: Luton has time for the youngsters and I think the club are now in a position where they have to rely on the youngsters. They don't have millions to go and spend on players any more. They have to make sure the academy system has good kids. I don't know what the relationship is like with Wales now but there was a great scout called Cyril Beech who sent myself, Mark Pembroke, Ceri Hughes and more at the time I was coming through the youth system, to Kenilworth Road. There must have been eight or nine big names that Luton has an affinity with Wales. You look at Mark Aizlewood, and Peter Nicholas - there have been a lot of good Welsh players come through Luton. Cyril Beech is no longer with us but he used to be the scout who sent a lot of good young Welsh boys up to Luton but I think they need to get another scout down to Wales and I'm available if they want me to do a bit of scouting for them.

TOTT: DOES IT SADDEN YOU TO SEE WHERE LUTON ARE NOW IN THE FOOTBALL PYRAMID?

JH: A little bit. I have always followed Luton's results and they came very close a couple of years ago when they got beat by Wimbledon. I had a good couple of years at Wimbledon where I worked under Mick Harford who I looked up to, which was different from when I used to clean Mick's boots at Luton! I wanted

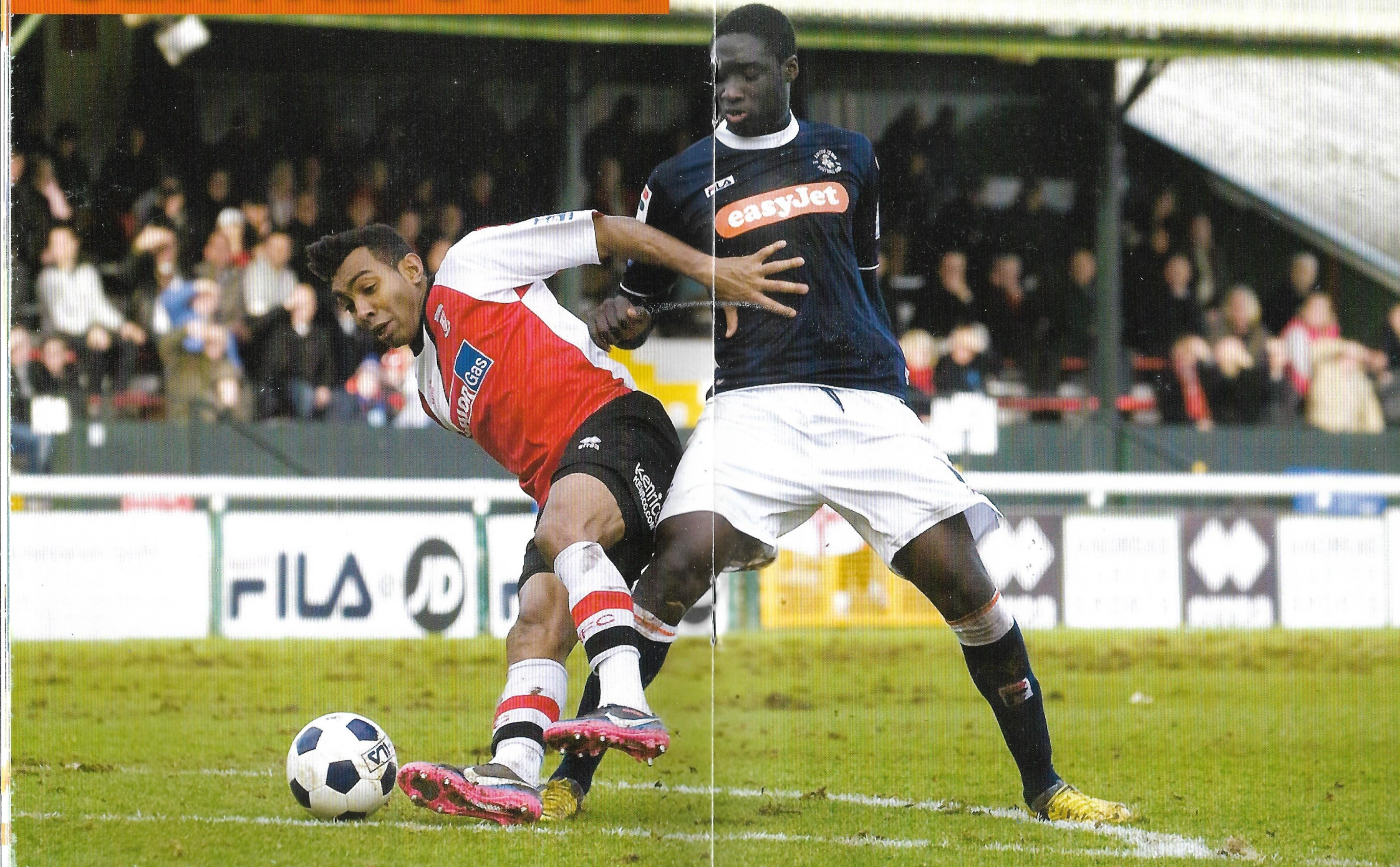
to see Luton come back and when they do I think they will build on that and thrive. It's a very difficult league to go up from, as there is only one that goes up automatically. Paul Buckle is doing a very good job at Luton now and I just hope they can hang around that top five and put a run together and get to the top. It's very, very difficult with there being so many games. Luton has a great history and I think a lot of people would like to see Luton back in the League soon.

TOTT: WHAT IS THE ONE MOMENT FROM YOUR TIME AT LUTON YOU WILL ALWAYS TREASURE?

JH: That has to be my full debut against Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest. I scored the goal, Kingsley Black scored their winning goal in injury-time and obviously my goal against Newcastle which spiralled me into the spotlight. Working with David Pleat who gave me my break at 17, plus all the families that looked after me whilst I was coming back and forth at 17 years of age coming up in the school holidays. John Moore is a great football man and a brilliant coach and Luton through and through. There's too many moments to say just one and it would probably be outside of football if I had to say just one - but it was just the welcome I was given. My parents were always comfortable to see me go up on the train with some of the guys like Hughes, Pembroke and Jason Rees. It was comforting. My dad used to take me down to Swansea train station and I used to meet the guys at Cardiff and go on to Luton. Luton has been a special place and, who knows, I may be back one day.

CENTRE SPOT

Arnaud Mendy battles for possession during the Town's New Year's Day defeat at Woking



PICTURE

THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Lil Fuccillo looks delighted as he nets the Town's second goal during the 2-0 home win over Wolves in March 1977.

A crowd of 19,200 gathered at Kenilworth Road to see if the Hatters side could win their eighth consecutive game as they surged up the old Division Two (now the Championship).

Wolves themselves had gone 12 games undefeated at this point, but it was the Town who continued their record with Jim Husband netting after 35 minutes and Fuccillo doubling the score 90 seconds later.



TOWN

TREASURES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES DEEP INTO HIS VAST COLLECTION OF HATTERS MEMORABILIA

When the fixture list was released for season 1955/56, the Town's first ever season in the top flight, the clash with Wolves was the one most eagerly awaited.

Wolves were the 'team of the 1950's', and a record League crowd of 27,911 was present on 5th November 1955 along with England manager Walter Winterbottom and the Moscow Dynamo team who were due to play at Molineux the following week.

The Hatters had decided to move the versatile Bob Morton to centre-forward in an effort to boost a forward line that had begun to falter, and he enjoyed the game of his life against England centre-half Billy Wright, scoring twice in a 5-1 win.



NEWS OF THE WORLD

Referee: Mr. A. E. MOORE (Lowestoft)

7 Cullen (Outside Right)
 11 Mullen (Outside Left)
 6 Fowers (Left Half)
 10 Booth (Inside Left)
 9 Wilshaw (Centre)
 5 Wright (Centre Half)
 3 Shorthouse (Left Back)
 4 Slater (Right Half)

WOLVERHAMPTON W. Goal

Spectators are asked NOT TO CROSS THE PLAYING FIELD after the match

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Official Programme
 Price 3d.

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 v.
WOLVERHAMPTON W.

Football League—Division 1
SATURDAY, 5th NOVEMBER, 1955

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WOLVES TAMED LUTON FIREWORKS

Key To The Was Success

Luton Town

CORDS went by afternoon when this win in the First League match at Luton Previous ground when Arsenal were here in a Cup-tie

And how the Town celebrated housing this they thoroughly tamed the Wolves, who had drawn in unmistakable style, and all the counting those which drove the match began, came from Luton In a scintillating second-course of which they scored three with reasonable luck would have had the Wolves panic-stricken.

Key to the whole thing was achieved at centre-forward. Not only did he repeat scoring twice in his first game the line-finely, moulded it Morton—Turner combination. Turner also scored twice in his second goal of the season. One of the more satisfactory improvement shown by Adams demoralised.

Time and again he led Adams and Cullen, too, in several roles.

CLUB NOTES

AT last we have the very first pleasure of watching a Luton Football Club match in the new stadium. The Luton Football Club have today been invited to play at Luton. The match will be played on Saturday, 5th November, 1955, at 2.45 p.m. The match will be played at Luton. The match will be played at Luton. The match will be played at Luton.

LIGHTNING LUTON STRIKE—5 TIMES

By FRANK BUTLER

Dynamo get lesson from Luton

By Bob Morley

LUTON 5, WOLVES 1

STERN-FACED Moscow Dynamo representatives watching this thrill-filled match must have visualised their own day just as easily as did the Wanderers' defence next Wednesday when they were made to look foolish by the superb Luton forwards, who sped through the heavy going.

What an inspiration it was for Luton manager Dally Duncan to vestore Bob Morton to centre-forward! Morton certainly gave the team a much needed boost.

NO ACID, ALL PRAISE, THIS WEEK

After their defeat at Bolton on October 29, Luton Town had some harsh things said about them by the national newspaper critics. But after Saturday's great performance the cries shook the acid off their pens and were lavish in their praise.

Bob Morton had a wonderful "Press" and several writers considered that on this form he would be the answer to England's centre-forward problem.

While Morton received the lion's share of the praise, the team as a whole received "bouquets" galore and Ron Baynam was compared favourably with his Wolverhampton counterpart, Bert Williams.

Here is a selection of "quotes": "How did Luton record their best win in the First Division? With exactly the same high-grade, fast-moving and sure-footed soccer that made Wolves the team of last season... Wolves had no answer to these tactics when used against them."—"News of the world."

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who pulled a thigh muscle when he stopped suddenly to avoid running into the youngsters lining the pitch

But I believe that the solid Luton defenders would have held the line even with Swinbourne at full speed

Wolves outside-left, Jimmy Mullen, was easy game for Luton's right-back Seamus Dunne. Inside-left Dennis Wilshaw was marked by Jim Pemberton, yet he was unlucky with one late shot that hit a post.

Inside-right Bobby Mason showed neat touches on his appearance. Luton's first Division goal was scored by Morton (43 and 71 min.), Turner (80 min.) and Williams (80 min.)

MORTON CAUSED A TRANSFORMATION

High-Powered Attack Was Too Much For Wolves

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 5, WOLVES 1

Not until a couple of days before this memorable occasion did Manager Dally Duncan finally decide to do what has been in his mind for some time, and switch Morton into the attack as leader.

That decision had much to do with one of the brightest pages in the long history of the Town club being written, for he brought new power and punch into the front line and gave England's captain, Wright, one of the most uncomfortable matches he has had for a long time.

In fact, so effective was Morton that his display may well have begun a new train of thought at the Football Association headquarters, especially as England team manager, Walter Winterbottom, continued to be the most trusted man in the game.

Fighting back, Wolves equalised in the 18th minute, when HANCOCKS crashed in a terrific shot that simply flew into the corner of the net, but the Town continued to be the more thrumming team and their demoralised forwards were a goal up through Morton. For Wolves with a 1-1 in the 19th minute, they were a goal up in the 19th minute, but they were a goal up in the 19th minute, but they were a goal up in the 19th minute.



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THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES
INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Luton skipper Horace Gager meets his Wolverhampton counterpart Stan Cullis before the Football League (Southern Section) clash at Kenilworth Road in December 1945.

The Town won 1-0, courtesy of a goal from Hugh Billington, and, due to war-time clothes rationing, both players appear to be wearing kit that dates back at least 10 years!

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB



GUEST SPEAKER EVENING

with

RONNIE HENRY, JON SHAW & JJ O'DONNELL

Tuesday 5th February 2013

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- £5 Non-Members



Photos © Gareth Owen

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JONATHAN

SMITH

MIDFIELDER BACK FOR GOOD

Jonathan Smith returned for his second Town debut of the season on New Year's Day, but just like his first debut in Luton colours it ended in defeat.

The former York City midfielder general was well received by Hatters fans upon news he had penned a permanent deal with the club from the start of January.

His return ended in a 3-1 defeat by Woking and the new Town midfielder spoke to Talk of the Town after the full-time whistle had blown to express a "massively disappointing" result.

"I thought we dominated the game, missed a couple of good chances and its criminal to give those chances away like that, it's not good enough," said Smith honestly.

The midfielder started on the bench for the Hatters and was introduced to the travelling away support with time ticking down shortly after the visitors conceded the third.

"I wanted to make an impact," said the 26-year-old. "I wanted to come on and show what I could do. Obviously I'm bitterly disappointed the third goal went in just as I was about to come on but obviously you come on and give your best for the team."

Many of those who attended the game at the Kingfield commented on the poor state of the turf that seemed to cut up and cause the Hatters' flowing football all sorts of problems.

However, a determined Smith said he and his teammates would not be using the playing surface as an excuse for the set-back in Surrey.

"The pitch is disgusting. It's like a park pitch, but you've got to get on with it," said Smith. "We dominated the game, should have had the win but the points have gone down the drain."

"At worst I think we should have come away with a point. You defend what you've got and take the 1-1 but to lose 3-1 it's definitely not good enough."

Smith was recalled by former club York to cut short his first stint at Kenilworth Road after bagging his first goal in his final appearance against Alfreton last month.

Having won promotion with Swindon last season, the Preston-born battler says he is here for one thing only – promotion.



Jonathan is happy to be back at Kenilworth Road

"I just want to help the team and give it my best, I've come to win promotion that's why losing games like this 3-1 to Woking is a massive disappointment to me," Smith said. "I've come to win games and to be at the top of the league and we've got to do that."

"I could have stayed at York. It's close to my home and I could have it easy, but I want to challenge myself. Coming here is a challenge."

"I could have stayed at York and sit in mid-table and play a bit part, but I want to play for something and to win games."

"The club reminds me a bit of Swindon. Everything is set up for the lads to do well; I think we've just got to be tough everywhere as long as we get that toughness in us we can do well."

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ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 5

THE RECORD

As days go, it's not one which you'll find too many Town games played on, as the record of just 11 matches shows.

The Hatters have won three, drawn four and lost four, scoring 22 and conceding 24. It doesn't take a mathematician to work out that the Town have scored on average exactly two goals on this day. 10 of 24 goals came in just two matches following defeats to Derby County (6-0 at Kenilworth Road in 1946) and 5-4 at Notts County in 1952 in the old Division 2 (now Championship).

THE LAST TIME

You have to go back 13 years for the last action on this day, when the Hatters went down 3-0 at home to Walsall in an Auto Windscreens Shield first round tie in front of 1,870 at Kenilworth Road.

It's hardly a match to look back on with fond memories – French strike Herve Bacque missed the chance to score a goal in Luton colours by missing a penalty – but the tie did mark the debut of a certain Emmerson Boyce. The defender was selected at right-back before going onto bigger and better things with Crystal Palace and Wigan. Now 33, he scored his ninth goal in Wigan colours as recently as 29th December in a 3-0 win at Aston Villa.

VICTORIES HARD TO FIND

The Town last tasted success on this day in 1991 in an FA Cup third round tie away at Sheffield United. At the time the Hatters were hovering about the relegation zone in the top flight with the Blades bottom of the

table. United had beaten the Town on Boxing Day in the First Division, but two goals from Danish international Lars Elstrup and one from Sean Farrell earned a 3-1 win and with it a place in the fourth round where the Hatters were eventually knocked out by West Ham after a replay.

That victory at Bramall Lane was the Town's first on January 5th since a 6-2 home victory over Bristol Rovers in 1935. The Hatters only other victory on this day came in 1929 when Exeter City were seen off at Kenilworth Road 4-0.

(NOT) UP FOR THE CUP

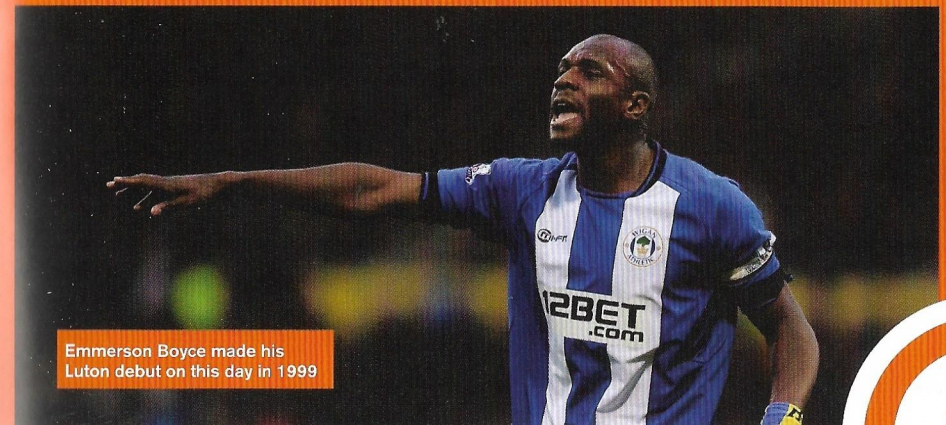
Six of the 11 matches played on this day are FA Cup ties but that win at Sheffield United is the sole victory.

In 1985, the Town drew 1-1 with Stoke City in the third round at Kenilworth Road with a late Steve Foster header earning a replay which the Hatters won 3-2. That year the Town went all the way to semi-finals before being edged out by Everton after extra-time.

In 1980, the Hatters, then in Division 2 (now Championship), were humbled by Swindon, flying high in the division below, 2-0 at the County Ground.

The Town were held to a 1-1 third round draw at Port Vale in 1974 with a Jim Ryan goal six minutes from time earning a replay which was won 4-2. The Hatters went onto reach the fifth round stage where they were knocked out by Leicester.

Finally, the Hatters held Aston Villa to a 2-2 draw in 1957 at Kenilworth Road before coming unstuck in the replay at Villa Park.



Emmerson Boyce made his Luton debut on this day in 1999

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THE **NON-LEAGUE** PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



WITH MATT BADCOCK

Time to be facetious and ask a loaded question: Are some clubs doing enough to get games on when the weather is bad?

Take yourself back to 22nd December – the last Saturday before Christmas. With a long list of presents to get, going to a game of football probably wasn't on the mind of many.

Good job, too. Just eight matches from Steps 1-4 were on with a smattering of games below. Even Northern Premier League Romulus on their 3G pitch failed to beat the puddles.

It is tempting to wonder how many clubs were upset at no game. With a busy festive fixture programme attendances don't tend to be high on that particular weekend anyway. Perhaps more important are the box office fixtures to come.

Non-League football is fortunate that Boxing Day and New Year's Day bring big derby games, unlike in the Premier League where we get not-so-mouth-watering clashes like QPR v West Brom. Snooze.

So for clubs it can often pay to get the local referee down early, lean on him to call it off and let your star striker put his feet up before the local enemy come to town later that week.

Boxing Day football is a bastion of the game in this country – and it helps put cash in the till. Unsurprisingly, despite lots of rain between the largely wiped out Saturday and Wednesday, most games went ahead. Clubs were desperate to get it on and go the extra mile to make it happen. Good for them.

Fast forward to Saturday 29th and, while not as bad as the week before, many games fall victim to the weather once again.

Sunday: rain. Monday: rain. Tuesday: Games off, right? Nope. It's the Boxing Day reverse – time for revenge/do the double. Delete as appropriate.

The year 2013 was seen in with nearly a full programme.

So is it too cynical to think clubs are picking and choosing what games they want on at this stage? That they are boxing clever with injuries and suspensions when the games come so thick and fast?

Probably, but surely more could be done to get games on. The 3G debate will probably go on forever and with a six-figure installation fee it doesn't come cheap – although the benefits of being able to generate income are undeniable.

My colleague on our sister Football League Paper, Chris Dunlavy, reckons he's got a solution – tarpaulin.

He tells the story of a painting his windows in the summer when it, shock horror, started raining. Twelve quid and a trip to B&Q later he had a nice 4m x 5m piece of tarpaulin to protect his handy work.

Now our Chris had enough time on his hands to work out that the average football pitch can be covered by 357 sheets of B&Q tarpaulin at the cost of about £4,284.

Stitch them together, put a few poles down the middle to make a tent and Robert's your dad's brother you've got a better chance of getting a game on.

It would stop pitches becoming completely saturated and just maybe would get more games on than otherwise.

Ridiculous maybe, but if it prevents an afternoon traipsing around the shops when it's not Christmas, it could be worth a go.

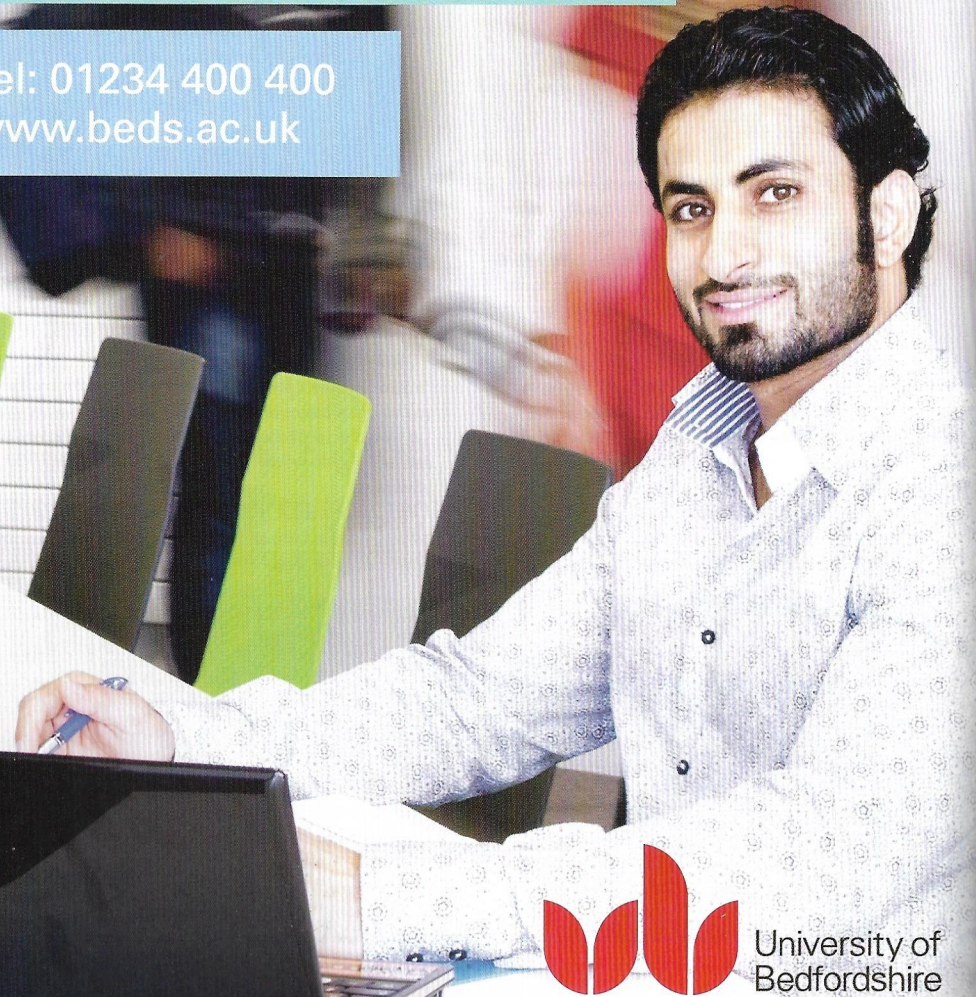
The wet weather has seen a number of matches postponed in recent weeks



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University of Bedfordshire

SCOTT

NEILSON

WINGER ON WOKING DEBUT

It proved to be a frustrating debut for Hatters new boy Scott Neilson who made his first start in a Town shirt since making the switch from Crawley at the end of last month against Woking on New Year's day.

The former Bradford City wide-man spent time on loan at Blue Square Bet Premier leaders Grimsby Town where he attracted the attention of Hatters boss Paul Buckle.

Neilson describes himself as "a direct winger who likes to get at the full-backs and get crosses in" – something the Town strikers will be relishing to see.

Disappointed

Unfortunately for the 25-year-old, it was not the dream debut he was looking for as the Hatters were beaten 3-1 at Kingfield and Neilson spoke of his debut disappointment to Talk of the Town after the defeat.

"I'm very disappointed," said the Town's latest addition. "We started slow, they got a goal and then we got one straight back.

"In the second half we absolutely dominated them and a few sloppy moments have cost us. They say goals change games and it did today. I don't know how we didn't get three points but we've just got to bounce back."

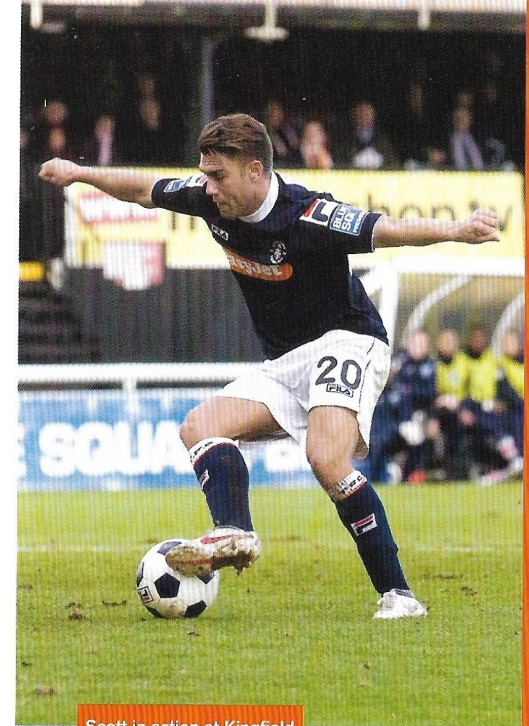
Agonisingly close

Neilson saw his new Hatters team-mates come agonisingly close to winning all three points with Jon Shaw unlucky with a thumping header that thundered off the bar before another looping effort was met also by the woodwork.

"I don't know how they didn't go in," Neilson said. "It's a great header as well and I think it's come off the keeper's leg and hit the crossbar. It just didn't go for us and Woking went and got the second goal which they shouldn't have got and the third goal was bad marking from us, which is disappointing.

"You need to come to these places and get three points and it's disappointing, but that's football."

While he is cup-tied for today's game having played for Grimsby in the competition this season, Neilson



Scott in action at Kingfield

is looking forward to the third round meeting with the Championship side and hopes it can be the springboard for success in the league.

"Hopefully we can put the Woking game behind us," he said. "The pitch didn't help us at all, it's not an excuse but we still dominated the game and we're sure we could have won it. The next game is at home and we've got to kick on from there."

On the move itself, Neilson was delighted to put pen to paper until the end of the season.

"Since I knew Luton were interested it was really exciting," he said. "I'm really chuffed to be here. Luton's a massive club, it's too big to be in this league.

"That why we really need to kick on and get out of this division as soon as we can."

FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH THE LUTON NEWS' MIKE SIMMONDS

Another year has passed then and for Luton Town fans, it was one that promised so much at the start, but once again unfortunately failed to deliver.

After beginning with a bang as Kettering were brushed aside 5-0, the promotion challenge never quite ignited as had hoped.

Champions Fleetwood proved too hard to catch and, after a seven game winless run, manager Gary Brabin eventually ended up paying the price for poor results plus losing the support of the majority of supporters in March.

The lowest point of the year saw the Town humbled 3-1 at the hands of Braintree Town in what was a truly dispiriting 90 minutes for the Luton fans in attendance.

It was done in front of new boss Paul Buckle too, watching on from the sidelines, and his introduction brought about an instant upturn in fortunes including without doubt the best moment of the year for me, the Hatters' 2-0 win over Wrexham in the Blue Square Bet Premier Play-Off semi-final first leg.

A packed house saw Luton turn in quite easily their finest display of the last 12 months and the noise generated when Andre Gray and Stuart Fleetwood found the net will live long in the memory.

Unfortunately as we all know, the campaign was to end in huge disappointment with the Wembley officials failing to spot Matty Blair's blatantly offside goal and York heading back into the Football League.

The summer brought a wind of change unheralded at Kenilworth Road in previous years with Buckle intent and able to bring in his own players.

Out went the long serving Keith Keane and George Pilkington, while Danny Crow, Ed Asafu-Adjaye, Aaron O'Connor and more all moved to pastures new.

In came some serious talent though with Jon Shaw the standout name from the new faces as Hatters put their marker firmly down to end their four year stay in non-league.

Consistency

For whatever reason, the consistency required to win a league has yet to materialise this time, with New Year's Day's hugely disappointing 3-1 defeat to Woking an eighth league reverse of the campaign.

However, unlike previous years, it's not just Luton who are struggling, as no team seems prepared to stick their hands up and take a stranglehold in the title race, with Newport's 5-0 hammering at home to Forest Green Rovers a case in point.

As 2012 came to an end, the Hatters were already again signalling their desire to finally be top of the tree as both Scott Neilson and Jonathan Smith's signatures were secured, while further acquisitions are in the pipeline.

So what's in store for 2013 then? Covering Luton Town, no-one knows!



High point: Andre Gray strikes against Wrexham in last season's Play-Off semi-final.

THE PRESS OFFICE PICTURE

WITH ANDREW BARRINGER

DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER

Goodbye 2012, hello 2013. A New Year and a fresh start might not have got off to the best of starts at Woking on Tuesday but, to quote every man whose ever managed a club, there's a long way to go.

I've always been a glass half-full person and with so many games left to play there's every reason to be optimistic about the rest of the season.

The arrivals of Jonathan Smith and Scott Neilson have further boosted Paul Buckle's squad and that strength in depth will be vital during these winter months – and of course come the business end of the season.

2012 has been a year best remembered for sporting achievement but, from the Town's point of view, it was a case of so near yet so far.

On New Year's Day I returned home from Woking, switched on Sky Sports' Soccer Saturday and winced when Matty Blair popped up to score for York.

My heart sank and memories of Wembley came flooding back. Don't look back in anger...

BUSY, BUSY

The inclement weather in the past month, allied with our success in the FA Cup and FA Trophy, means we're in for a hectic January with nine games squeezed into the month.

It will give the Town a great opportunity to strike up some momentum going into a number of matches, six of which will take place at Kenilworth Road. That means a lot of programmes in a short space of time so if you'd like to help out then please drop me an email on my address below.

PRESSED FOR SPACE

The press box will be packed to the rafters this afternoon as the national media descend on Kenilworth Road to see if we can pull off a cup shock. From Sky Sports, to Talksport, from the Sun to the Daily Mail, it has been a busy week accepting accreditation and organising pre-match interviews with the manager and the players that will appear on television, radio and in newspapers. The influx of press requests for a game such as has increased 10-fold on a usual league fixture. The press box will be a much quieter place on Tuesday when Barrow are the visitors that's for sure.

Manager Paul Buckle will have done plenty of talking before today and will do so again come 5pm today. If we were to win this afternoon then expect him, the team and the club to be appearing all over the press tomorrow and Sunday.

On the subject of dealing with media requests from the various local and national news agencies, I must thank our assistant club secretary Chloe Beggie for collating the names and arranging the press list for this afternoon.

PITCH PERFECT?

It was hugely frustrating that our game with Ebbsfleet was called off just 20 minutes before kick-off but the referee's decision is final. Our groundsman Richard Bird has done sterling work to keep the pitch in the condition it is at this stage of the season. You'll see him and his assistant Richard Osborne working hard on the pitch before, and after and during half-time replacing divots...something nobody was doing at Woking on Tuesday on a pitch that resembled a ploughed field.

Paul Buckle was interviewed by Soccer Saturday's Bianca Westwood on Thursday



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A SEASON'S

STORY

PART SEVEN BY DAVID CAIN

THE LUTON RESOLUTION

We love football for its ambiguity. It is also why we hate it. The game's ever-changing nature leaves you with many questions; how could the team that beat Woking on Boxing Day lose to the same opposition at New Year's?

If you think about it too much it sends you crazy. By the same token, the team that lost to Woking can beat Wolverhampton Wanderers today. The year may change, but our fortunes remain the same.

In search of some sanity, here's my resolutions for the year ahead:

I will try to live a simple life, repelling promptly every thought of Woking, Newport County, Grimsby, or the Play-Offs.

I will not boo the team off, ever. I also promise to keep on supporting the Hatters to the end of every game. Even when we are rubbish. For they are still my rubbish, and by next week I will love them all over again.

I will cultivate charity, especially to opposition defenders scoring own goals. They are the great

comedians of the game, sent to remind us that nothing in life is ever quite as bad as it seems.

I will practice forgiveness to assistant referees who fail to spot opposition midfielders six yards off-side. From now on, I will only make polite enquires as to their need for an eye examination.

I will strive to set a good example at all times to the fans around me. Especially kids. I will sing the songs and support the team, but promise to challenge racist and offensive behaviour by others. We are all Luton Town and we need to take our game back.

I will remember that the players wearing the Town's shirt are better at football than me. That is why they are playing for the Town and I am not. Except in my dreams, where I also dream of playing Watford in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

For as we all know, the cup is for dreamers; and in the cup you never know what might happen. Besides, we are only five games from the final now.

Wembley, Wembley, we're the famous Luton Town and....

Wembley: The promised land?



David Cain is an experienced writer, researcher and follower of the Hatters

YOUTH FIXTURES

PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE UNDER-18 SOUTH-EAST FIXTURES - SEASON 2012 - 2013

AUGUST

Sat 11	Leyton Orient	A	L 0-2	
Sat 18	Dagenham & Redbridge	H	L 2-3	Jibodu (pen), Smith
Sat 25	Stevenage	A	W 3-2	McKenzie-Lowe, (og), Amu

SEPTEMBER

Sat 01	Peterborough United	A	W 2-0	McKenzie-Lowe, own goal
Wed 18	AFC Kempston Rovers	A	W 4-0	McKenzie-Lowe 2, Amu 2
Sat 22	Milton Keynes Dons	A	D 2-2	Amu, Smith (pen)
Sat 29	Northampton Town	H	D 1-1	Davis

OCTOBER

Wed 03	P'boro Northern Star	H	W 6-0	Banton 3, Amu, McKenzie-Lowe, Trotman Smith 2 (1 pen)
Sat 06	Stevenage	A	L 2-3	
Sat 13	Northampton Town	H	D 0-0	
Wed 17	Barton Rovers	H	W 3-1	Amu 2, Smith
Sat 20	Watford	H	L 0-3	
Sat 27	Peterborough United	H	L 2-6	McKenzie-Lowe, Banton
Tue 30	Stevenage	H	L 0-3	

NOVEMBER

Sat 03	Milton Keynes Dons	H	L 2-4	Banton, Amu
Sat 17	Watford	A	W 2-1	Banton, McKenzie-Lowe
Sat 24				In Service Training

DECEMBER

Tue 04	Peterborough United	H	W 2-0	Amu, Nwagala
Sat 08	Northampton Town	A	W 3-0	Jibodu, Banton, Amu

JANUARY

Sat 10	Milton Keynes Dons	H	11.00am	
Sat 19			South Cup 2	
Sat 26	Leyton Orient	H	11.00am	

FEBRUARY

Sat 02	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	11.00am	
Sat 09	Stevenage	H	11.00am	
Sat 16			South Cup 3	
Sat 23	Aldershot Town	A	11.00am	

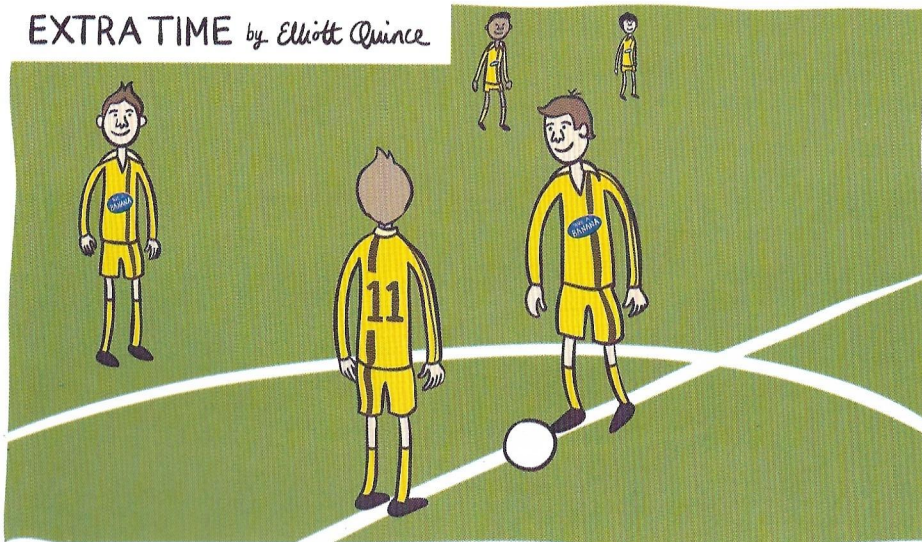
MARCH

Sat 02	AFC Wimbledon	H	11.00am	
Sat 09	AFC Wimbledon	A	11.00am	
Sat 16	Southend United	H	11.00am	
Sat 23	Portsmouth	A	11.00am	

APRIL

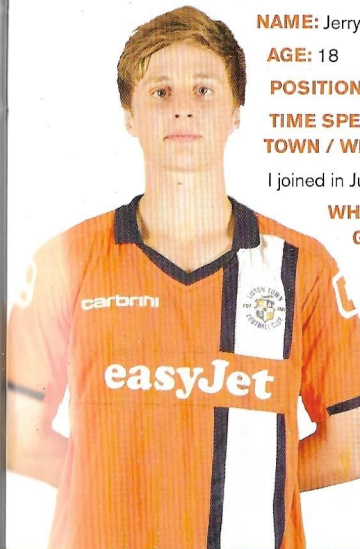
Sat 06	Gillingham	H	11.00am	
Sat 13	Crawley Town	A	11.00am	

EXTRA TIME by Elliott Quince



The kit had been redesigned especially for cup matches to increase the 'potential banana skin' factor

YOUNG STARS



NAME: Jerry Nash

AGE: 18

POSITION: Central midfielder

TIME SPENT WITH LUTON TOWN / WHEN JOINED:

I joined in July 2011.

WHAT PART OF YOUR GAME DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST?

My passing.

WHAT PART OF YOUR GAME DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE THIS SEASON?

Shooting.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT PLAYING FOR LUTON TOWN?

The large fan base.

WHO IS YOUR FOOTBALL IDOL?

Paul Scholes.

WHO HAS HAD THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER SO FAR?

My dad.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?

To earn a professional contract.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ALL-TIME PLAYER?


Lionel Messi.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS THIS SEASON? HAVE YOU SET YOURSELF ANY TARGETS?

To be playing regularly in the reserves.

2012/13 YOUTH TEAM

KIT SPONSORS

 ZANE CHABATA HOME: First Capital Connect AWAY: Available	 TINASH CHABATA HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 LEEROY MAGURASHU HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 AREL AMU HOME: DW Sports AWAY: Available
 JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 IAN REES HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 CHARLIE SMITH HOME: Peter Mitchell AWAY: ZMB	 BEN MCFARLANE-BARNES HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available
 JOSH CARPENTER HOME: Harborough Town Football Club AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available	 JORDAN DAVIS HOME: Lucy Francome AWAY: Available	 JEROME JIBODU HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Doug Knight	 BRETT LONGDEN HOME: Mike Tearie AWAY: Available
 JERRY NASH HOME: Moira Spain AWAY: Available	 ZAK STEPHENS HOME: Available AWAY: Available		



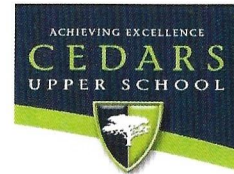
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ACADEMY

UPDATE



CEDARS PROJECT ON THE UP

The Luton Cedars Under-18 Elite Development Programme is based in Leighton Buzzard and runs parallel to the club's other Elite Under-18 group based in Baldock.

The only difference between the Leighton Buzzard-based Cedars Upper Programme and the Baldock Programme is the education options provided. Baldock provides a BTEC Programme for the players, whilst Cedars is one of a very small number in the country that offer a joint Football/A Level Programme giving the players the opportunity to study for a minimum of three 'A' Levels.

Both Elite Programmes provide a minimum of eight hours a week football coaching delivered by an 'A' Licence Coach and both schemes participate in the Football Conference Youth Alliance Under-19 League. They sit below Paul Driver's Professional Under-18 Squad in the club's development pyramid.

In terms of the Luton Town Cedars Programme, after a difficult first year on the pitch, where as a group they were on average two years younger than their opponents, the improvement in football terms has been dramatic.

Opposition includes clubs of the quality of Gillingham, former Blue Square Bet Premier club Grays Athletic and although their first team isn't at the level of Luton Town or Gillingham, Chesham United, who run an excellent programme and are very competitive.

The players have shown good progress; physically, tactically, technically and psychologically. The introduction of Chris White, the club's lead Sports Scientist, to the coaching side of the programme, alongside the development of the schools brand new 4G full size training facility, which allows the coaches the opportunity to work on match specific practices and situations have been significant factors.

Ultimately the aim of this programme is to provide a continued football and academic education for Under-18 players within the Luton Town Youth Programme who have not been offered a full scholarship. It is also to identify players at the same age that may have been missed by other clubs or have

shown signs of being a late developer. These players then have the opportunity of an extra two years in the professional club environment where they can target moving in to Paul's group at a later date or earn a professional contract at the end of the two years.

Luton Town's professional scholars group are now beginning to see the benefits of the hard work being undertaken by the players and staff at Cedars. Kyle Davison-Gordon has been training and playing with the scholars on a day release basis over the last month and Conrad Russo will be going in to be assessed in the very near future.

Cedars Coach Stuart Smith told Talk of the Town: "Kyle is a tall, athletic left-sided central defender who is also versatile and gives both myself, and more importantly, Paul, options as to where he can be played. He has so far played in games against MK Dons, Watford and Peterborough and Paul has been pleased with his performances and how he has responded to the areas of improvement that have been highlighted. Conrad is a full-back but can play anywhere in a back four; he is an outstanding in one versus one situations at our level, it is now up to him to prove he can performance just as well at the higher level."

The New Year will see the start of the recruitment process for next September's intake to the Cedars Programme. In mid-January we will be inviting players we are currently aware of into a Development Group which will commence training once a week soon after. We will also be advertising the programme around Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire inviting players to participate in development squad trials. The Academic entry requirements for the programme are five GCSE passes at A* to C.

If you would like to receive a prospectus and a development squad trial application form for Cedars then please email stuartsmith.lfcb@hotmail.co.uk. Alternatively if it is the BTEC course that appeals then contact Adam Balletta on: adam.balletta@lutontown.co.uk.



Kyle Davison-Gordon

ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH WAYNE TURNER

Six months in and I am enjoying my role more than ever. Heading up the youth set up at Luton Town brings its daily challenges but with my excellent staff we strive to resolve them.



Academy graduate Kevin Foley makes his first return to Kenilworth Road today

With the new EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan) regulations being implemented, we have had massive changes to contend with, but we continue to work hard to deliver a better and safer environment for our eight to 18-year-olds to express themselves while they continue to learn.

We are now at the midway stage for our players and they have all just had their half-term appraisals. All of them have had different reports with different targets. However, all - especially the older ones - would have been asked: "How much do you really want to be a footballer?"

When our Under-16s first set foot inside Kenilworth Road in the summer they have to be ready within a few months to compete against our first team. So when picking that group in six week's time that has to be taken into account.

Focused, determined and talented

Those Under-17 players now have to be getting into the manager's mind as soon as possible, so by the time they are 18 he can see them in his plans. You have to be focused, determined and talented - and in that order.

Can any of our young players help Paul and the team in the next few months? I don't know, but I know you can. Today the Wolves game will be a rare one. For the first time in almost four years we are not expected to win, and I'm sure Kenilworth Road will be pumping.

It's great for you, the players and management alike and it will be brilliant! Can we somehow create that for the remaining league games? If we can I'm sure it will be the difference. You have that power.

Our youth set up is the envy of Football League clubs for miles around, but we want to back on a level playing field, so let's all do our bit.

Good luck and a happy and successful New Year to you all.

YOUTH SYSTEM RECOGNISED

LATEST REPORT HAILS HATTERS DEVELOPMENT

Once again the Hatters' fine reputation for developing young footballers has been internationally recognised in a major report into the production of players plying their trade at clubs in the top five leagues in Europe.

The Town were the only recognised non-league side mentioned in the study - lying in 18th place among all English clubs and 143rd out of the 805 clubs around the world listed in the CIES Football Observatory study.

The study qualifies a 'product' as a player who has spent three years in a club's youth development programme between the ages of 15 and 21, and are currently playing for clubs in the top divisions in England, Spain, Italy, Germany and France.

Matthew Taylor, now at West Ham, Southampton's Kelvin Davis, Wigan captain Emmerson Boyce and Leon Barnett at Norwich, give the Town four so-called 'primary products'. The Town sit above six Premier League clubs - Norwich, Stoke, QPR, West Brom, Wigan and Fulham - whilst only three Championship clubs have supplied more players to Europe's 'big five', according to the report.

Reflecting on the findings, Town managing director Gary Sweet told Talk of the Town: "Luton can feel proud of its heritage of producing such elite talent via its academy.

"We have a lot of work to do to maintain this level of success using this measurement statistic given that the players in question were products or our system some time ago.

"However, after a massive period of change for the youth set-up, we have been producing players who should expect to be playing regular Premier League football at some point in their careers.

"Our aim, of course, is to get the first team back to a level which provides more of an opportunity for our youngsters to develop their careers at Luton.

"This is precisely the reason why we are still investing the significant sums into our academy without attracting a penny from the Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP) programme in grant funding, which is quite simply wrong.

"The fortunes of a club's position in the league pyramid is irrelevant to the standard of talent that club is able to produce through its youth system.

"EPPP grant funding is a lifeline to many academies as it is offered to all Football League clubs, many of which operate an inferior set-up to ours, despite the fact that we have a history of producing such great talent for the game time and time again."

The fact remains the Town continue to nurture talent. In the past three seasons, young strikers Cauley Woodrow and Dave Moli joined Premier League clubs Fulham and Liverpool respectively, whilst midfielder Tarum Dawkins signed for Arsenal and brothers Jay, Cole and Rio Da Silva joined Chelsea.

The Town's Head of Youth Operations, Matt Stannard, paid tribute to support behind the scenes, including the investors of the club - who continue to underwrite the gap - and the funding-raising initiative of Supporters of Luton Youth Development (SoLYD), whose support has been invaluable to the youth department.

He said: "It's a fantastic achievement to be recognised as one of the leaders in youth development in this country and is great testament to the work that is going on behind the scenes. There were major changes in the summer but the aim of the department has not wavered. With the support of the club and SoLYD it is our aim, alongside the EPPP, to develop a system where producing elite, top end players is the norm.

"Our system focuses heavily on the holistic approach to the development of players. We are always growing and looking to improve - but with this comes a significant investment. With no funding received from the Football League, the board support us financially and, with SoLYD's input, we are able to offer foreign tours and top of the range equipment, facilities and coaching for our young players.

"Whilst being in 18th and ahead of some Premier League clubs is a great achievement for a club of our standing, we always want better, and with the current crop of players coming through we sincerely hope that we can push more into the top leagues over the next few years."

MONSTER Creepy Crawlies

30 March - 3 November 2013

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Schools teaching sessions available. See schools@lutonculture.com or visit the learning pages of our website.



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LEAGUE

LOOK

JOE FLEMONS ROUNDS-UP THE LATEST IN THE BSBP

Wrexham began the New Year with a bang, capitalising on slip-ups from both Newport and Grimsby.

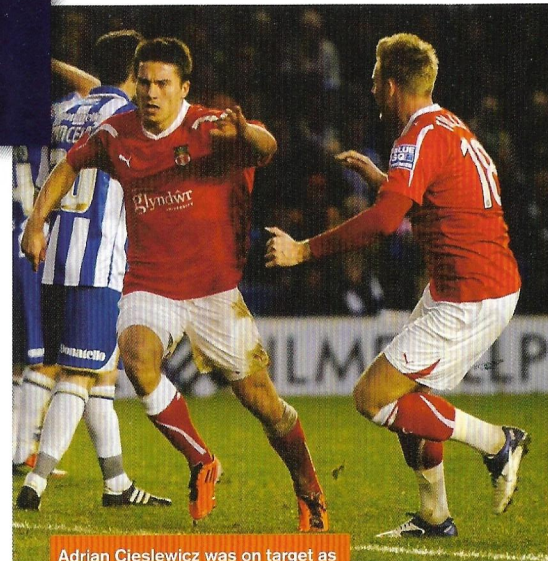
The Red Dragons roared to a comfortable 2-0 win over AFC Telford with Adrian Cieslewicz lashing home five minutes from time to put the gloss on an opening day stroll to 2013.

For Newport County, 2013 could not have started any worse. The front runners for much of the season have fallen off the pace in recent weeks and slumped to their third home defeat of the campaign against fellow promotion hopefuls Forest Green Rovers. James Norwood opened the scoring midway through the first half before Yan Klukowski slotted home on the stroke of half-time. Norwood went on to cap off a memorable hat-trick, wrapping up a 5-0 demolition for Rovers.

League leaders Grimsby staggered into the New Year with a 1-1 draw at home to mid-table Lincoln, who had Alan Power to thank for an early lead. The Mariners fought back, however, and Ian Miller rescued a point for the pace setters with a well-timed header in the first half.

Kidderminster Harriers looked to take their scintillating league form into the New Year as they played host to mid-table Hereford. Things began brightly for the Harriers who, heading into the game, had won seven straight matches in the league, but failed to capitalise on early chances which saw Jamille Matt strike the woodwork. The Bulls then took the advantage from the penalty spot as Josh O'Keefe converted from 12 yards after Chris Sharpe had been upended in the area. Harriers then missed a penalty of their own in the second half with 'keeper James Bittner denying Kyle Storey from retaining their unbeaten run. For Hereford, however, they leap up to 12th after the victory, righting the wrongs of their Boxing Day defeat to the Harriers.

At the other end of the table, Barrow began their New Year's resolution of surviving relegation immediately, grasping an invaluable three points away to Gateshead. Adam Boyes netted less than



Adrian Cieslewicz was on target as Wrexham began 2013 with a victory

a minute into the contest and that proved to be the match-winner for Dave Bayliss' men, who are visitors to Kenilworth Road on Tuesday night.

Unfortunately for the Bluebirds, the victory was not enough to elevate them from the foot of the table as Ebbsfleet secured a point against high-flyers Dartford. Harry Crawford netted his 12th of the season to put the Darts in control at 2-0 up just after half time, but two headed goals from Nathan Elder resurrected the Fleet to steal a point in added time.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

AFC TELFORD v SOUTHPORT

ALFRETON v DARTFORD

CAMBRIDGE v STOCKPORT

EBBSFLEET v LINCOLN

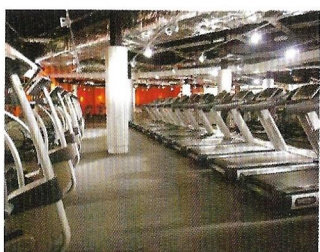
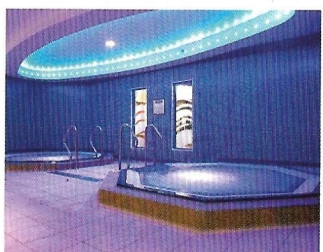
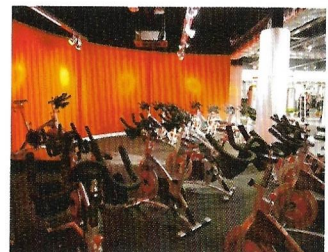
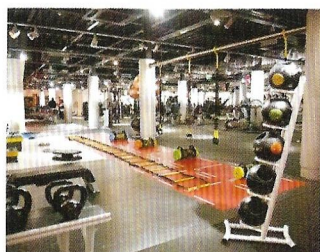
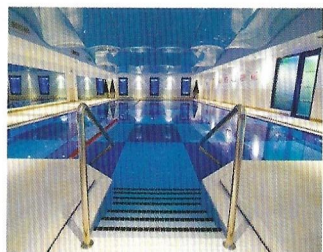
GATESHEAD v NUNEATON

GRIMSBY v HEREFORD

HYDE v FOREST GREEN

KIDDERMINSTER v BARROW

TAMWORTH v BRAINTREE



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IN THE COMMUNITY

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

Our main youth academy has recently received recognition from the International Centre for Sports Studies following a recent survey.

A large part of our academy's success lies in the fully integrated development structure at the Club which starts with players as young as four years old who simply 'pay and play' each week through to our TIPs (Talent Identification Coaching Programme) for boys up to 16 years of age who train on our 10-week coaching programme. In total over 20 of these centres run all year around through our development programme run by the Club's Community Trust.

All of these boys, together with recruited boys, begin their journey for an academy place at our two Centre of Excellence centres in Luton and Dunstable which currently has around 200 boys signed. These two squads which have longer term aims for boys development is the third tier in the Club's development

structure below pre-academy (Tier 2) and academy. The centres are parent funded and the aim is to progress players to pre-academy and academy football by replicating the coaching syllabus and methods used by our academy coaches. The Centre of Excellence boys train with the Club once a week and remain with their local club sides at the same time also playing around eight games a season for the Club against other professional Clubs.

The boys at Centre of Excellence level also attend a three-day residential training camp each season at Stowe School and will also be visiting Belgium in May for their end of season tour. These centres are the lifeblood of the Club's academy, and currently around eight out of every 10 boys who sign full-time come through this system. Already this season almost 50 boys from our development centres have played for the academy.



Under 11s



Under 12s



Under 13s



Under 14s

UP NEXT

BARROW



The games begin to come thick and fast for the Hatters as they come back to Kenilworth Road on Tuesday night when Barrow are the visitors.



BARROW

Who? Barrow. The Bluebirds, from Barrow-in-Furness. The club were founded in 1901 and are officially known as Barrow AFC. If you didn't know, that stands for Association Football Club.

Geography lesson. It's a long way from Barrow to Luton. 255 miles door-to-door from their Holker Street ground to the Maple Road main entrance here at Kenilworth Road. Barrow lies at the tip of the Furness peninsula, close to the Lake District.

Crickey, that's a long way. Absolutely but I bet Barrow are used to it. The nearest club to the Bluebirds in the Blue Square Bet Premier are Southport. And that's just a two hour, 90-mile drive away.

Gooooood morning. It'll be the wee hours before the Bluebirds hit the hay the next day. The Town of course visited Holker Street on a Tuesday night last season, whilst Barrow were the midweek visitors to Kenilworth Road the season before last in a game that was Gary Brabin's first match in charge.

We know you. There's one familiar face in the Barrow ranks and it happens to be the main man, the gaffer, Dave Bayliss. The one-time Town defender made 41 appearances whilst at Kenilworth Road. He took control of the Bluebirds together with Darren Sheridan in November 2007 and the duo – then as player/managers – guided the club to promotion to the Blue Square Bet

Premier in 2007/08. Sheridan left his post in February 2012, leaving the Holker Street hotseat solely for Bayliss.

Down the years. Although this is the first meeting this season, the Town are no strangers to the Bluebirds in recent years. In 2009, the Hatters met Barrow for the first time in 40 years and, overall, the Hatters' record reads nine wins, two draws and three defeats. At Kenilworth Road the Town have won six of the seven meetings, triumphing 5-1 last season. Barrow's 1-0 win at Holker Street last season was their first over the Town since February 1969.

How they doing? Erm, in a nutshell, not great. The Bluebirds may well arrive at Kenilworth Road bottom of the table. Their New Year's Day win at Gateshead was their first league victory since 9th October.

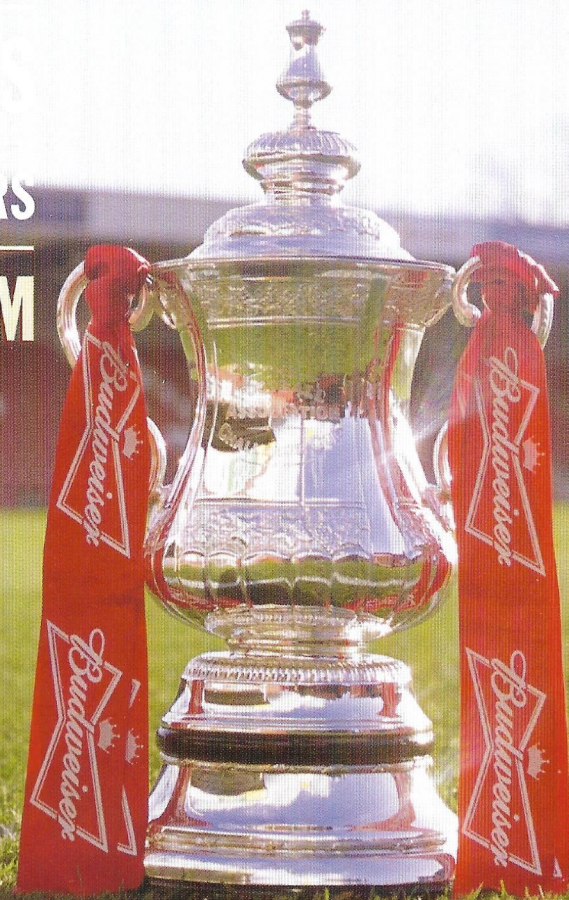
Away the lads. This afternoon Bayliss' boys can do themselves and the Town a favour by nabbing some points at Kidderminster. If anything, the Bluebirds prefer playing away from home, as their record of four wins shows. It's been at home that's been the problem – with just one win at Holker Street in 12 games.

Kissing the badge. Watch out for any Barrow striker giving their shirt a smacker should he score. Like the Hatters', their crest is based on the town coat of arms. It features a submarine – a nod to Barrow's shipbuilding heritage, a red rose and a football. Also, like Luton's, there's a bee – only this one seems to be struck by an arrow. This is said to represent Bee-Arrow – Barrow. Get it??

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TODAY'S TEAMS



LUTON TOWN

Mark Tyler	1
Lathaniel Rowe-Turner	2
Greg Taylor	3
Garry Richards	4
Dean Beckwith	5
Janos Kovacs	6
Alex Lawless	7
Danny Spiller	8
Jon Shaw	9
Scott Rendell	10
Jake Howells	11
Simon Ainge	12
Stuart Fleetwood	13
Arnaud Mendy	14
Adam Watkins	15
Alex Lacey	16
JJ O'Donnell	17
James Dance	19
Scott Neilson	20
Matt Robinson	23
Jonathan Smith	24
Ronnie Henry	25
Andre Gray	27
Jake Woolley	28
Dan Walker	29
Dean Brill	33



WOLVES

1	Wayne Hennessey
4	David Edwards
5	Richard Stearman
6	Jody Craddock
7	Slawomir Peszko
8	Karl Henry
9	Sylvan Ebanks-Blake
10	Bakary Sako
11	Stephen Ward
12	Stephen Hunt
13	Carl Ikeme
14	Roger Johnson
15	Bjorn Sigurdarson
16	Christophe Berra
17	Razak Boukari
18	Frank Nouble
20	Jermaine Pennant
21	Steven Mouyokolo
23	Ronald Zubar
24	Jamie O'Hara
25	Danny Bath
26	David Davis
27	Anthony Forde
28	Tongo Doumbia
29	Kevin Doyle
31	Dorus de Vries
32	Kevin Foley
34	Georg Margreitter
41	Jack Price
50	Jamie Tank

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: G. Eltringham
ASSISTANT: G. Law
ASSISTANT: M. George
FOURTH OFFICIAL: G. Stretton

HERE NEXT

BARROW

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER
TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2013
KICK-OFF 7.45PM

